

Candidates for Friends of Nachusa Grasslands Board of Directors

1. For a two-year term replacing the incumbent Betty Higby:

Heather Herakovich:

Heather began grassland bird research at NG beginning in 2013 as part of our second class of science grantees. Awarded a PhD in Biological Sciences in 2019 from NIU, after graduating she began working in nature education and outreach at two park districts in the suburbs. She is currently doing field stewardship at NG Workdays, including Schaefer Knob, and occasional docent work.

Heather is working on a Smith fellowship proposal with Elizabeth Bach to create a database that summarizes current practitioner knowledge of restoration techniques. She is looking forward to adding a scientific perspective to the board and giving back to the organization that allowed her to do the research she wanted to do.

2. For the final year of the term of the incumbent Jeff Cologna:

Heather Baker:

Heather served on the Nachusa summer crew in 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2014; she worked at Pizzo Native Plant Nursery as a Nursery Tech/assistant production coordinator/company photographer. She has continued to serve as volunteer doing habitat stewardship.

Early this year she has taken on the T-shirt program and executed a wonderful t-shirt design; she has written for our Annual Report and brought her unique prairie-inspired artistry to the community – many volunteers have her works in their homes.

3. For another two-year-term: Mike Carr

Mike has served on the Board since 2018.

He has been active managing Big Jump Prairie, including the very successful Illinois Clean Energy (ICE) grant program. He is currently co-leading the 2020 ICE program at Stone Barn Savanna.

Mike started the newsletter program and has provided leadership in building our development efforts.