

# Heritage Heroes Testimonials

## Karla Brandt

### *A Place Where Conservation Dreams Come True*



Photo: T. Mitchell

Nachusa was Karla's first stop on a tour to check out places with bison. After one day of helping to collect seed, she felt such deep passion for the conservation dreams coming true here that, instead of continuing to tour, she spent most of her vacation volunteering at Nachusa...sometimes venturing deep into the wet woods with the crew, sometimes exploring on her own to once and future prairies.

Karla "tips every hat I have to the energetic and vastly knowledgeable staff, interns, volunteers, and researchers at Nachusa." In fact, she designated her bequest to funding research on bison conservation. She believes that her bequest will not only be honored, but that it will be valued.

What's her favorite outdoor activity? It would be what she calls "treasure-hunting at Nachusa," more commonly known as seed collecting. "A close second is watching American swallow-tailed kites. May they return to Nachusa someday," a place where dreams do come true.

## Kirk and Katie Hallowell

### *Relishing the Cycle of Prairie Life*

We are passionate about the annual cycle of restoration...managing invasives, harvesting seed harvest, planting, and conducting prescribed fire. This cycle of restoration follows the natural progression of life. We are enthralled to see the results of these efforts in restored prairie. Kirk especially enjoys leading volunteer workdays, which are an outstanding opportunity to join with others in a common cause with immediate visible impact. The comradery and time outdoors are delightful. Friends of Nachusa Grasslands brings a dynamic social aspect to the project which is mirrored in our dedicated and talented volunteer community. The story of Nachusa is an extension of our own values and beliefs.



Photo: Kirk Hallowell

## Tim Sherck

### *Conserving Land for Birds, People, and So Much More*

Birds first brought Tim to Nachusa Grasslands in 2008. He was thrilled to find grassland birds flourishing on high quality habitat of protected remnants and planted prairies. As he spent more time on the site, he learned this is also true for many rare insects, reptiles and small mammals. It was also good for people.

Including Friends in his will was a natural fit with his goals: to assure that Nachusa will thrive and expand in the future, and that the scientific research supported by Friends will continue to advance sustainability and environmental protection for all denizens of the planet.



Photo: Dee Hudson