

# Jay Stacy

- Began volunteering at Nachusa in 1995
- Has created 10 prairie plantings covering 80 acres over 25 years
- Mentored dozens of stewards and volunteers
- Served as editor of the *Prairie Smoke*



## Prairie Steward & Volunteer Mentor

### First Experience at Nachusa Grasslands

“On my first trip I wanted to see a grasshopper sparrow and I heard they also had upland plover here—I’d never seen either bird. I drove up and sitting on the sign was a grasshopper sparrow and he was singing! Before I got out of my car, an upland sandpiper lifted right off the ridge in front of me. That was a real nice beginning.”

### Jay’s Stewardship Areas

“I enjoy my Gobbler Ridge plantings very much because they were done in successional years (2006–2010) and now you can see, right in front of your eyes, just how the plantings mature year-to-year. It’s wonderful!”

### Jay’s Volunteer Hours

“You have to get the job done, you don’t think of it in terms of hours—though it takes about 17 hours per acre per year to weed a newer restoration. My newest planting is 16 acres, so that’s around 270 hours of weeding per year in that planting alone.”



*“Over a quarter century at Nachusa, Jay Stacy has been a mentor to dozens of volunteers and young seasonal crew members. His knowledge and passion for the natural world draws people in, showing them how to create diverse habitat that sings with grassland birds.”*

—Bill Kleiman  
Nachusa Grasslands Project Director

## Why Prairie? Why Nachusa?

“The exciting thing about Nachusa is that, instead of following standard conservation practices and simply protecting remnants, they said ‘We’re going to take corn fields and bring prairie back.’ That was such an exciting, hope-filled ideal! One of the great satisfactions to me is to walk through a new planting and see grasshopper sparrows. This is a reversal to the sad and sorry trend of the last 150 years. These prairies are nursery grounds for soon-to-be-threatened and endangered species. We’re not planting prairie gardens—we’re planting habitat for species that desperately need it. That’s the magic of Nachusa.”

## Follow Jay’s Example

In celebration of the volunteers and stewards of Nachusa Grasslands and as a way to honor their decades of dedication and thousands of hours of stewardship, give today and help us meet our \$100,000 challenge.