

# Mike Adolph

- Began volunteering at Nachusa in 1989
- Served on the Autumn on the Prairie planning committee from 1994–2017
- Helped build Nachusa’s HQ barn in 2000
- Friends board member — 2009–2015



## Steward of the Hamill-Winter Prairie

**First Experience at Nachusa Grasslands**

“My first work at Nachusa was one afternoon in ’89, destroying multiflora roses that were more than six feet tall and would take three people joining hands to surround. It’s no exaggeration to state that more than 10,000 roses have been removed from my unit!”

**Mike’s Stewardship Unit**

Hamill-Winter Prairie runs along Lowden Road from the Visitor’s Center area to Isabel’s Knob. The area one sees from the road is among Nachusa’s best remnant prairies. To the west of Isabel’s is the original purchase area: seven beautiful knobs with fine vistas to the north.

**Mike’s Volunteer Hours**

Including the labor of my several co-stewards, we’ve put in maybe fifteen thousand hours over more than two decades.



*“Mike has done just about every task at Nachusa, from stewarding a unit with weekly visits, being on fall festival committee, leading tours to making donations, helping build our headquarters barn, and being on the fire crew. Mike was there and always cheerful and offering more. Mike said he got the most out of the deal.”*

—Bill Kleiman  
Nachusa Grasslands Project Director

## Why Prairie? Why Nachusa?

Nachusa’s prairie is actually a very rare ecosystem. So much is rare. Oh, the vistas: the patches of a single blooming species, the mix of several. I’m especially happy when I come across the red of our poppy mallow—it jumps out. The same for deep blue prairie gentian. I go out of my way to see the foot-long cream yellow flower stalks of baptisia, so big they must lie in the grass.

Life has become much more worth living as I’ve gotten to know something of the plants and animals, seen the improvements on the land, and wondered why things happen as they do—or don’t.

## Follow Mike’s Lead & Lend Your Support

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.