



PRAIRIE SMOKE

NACHUSA GRASSLANDS NEWSLETTER
SPECIAL ISSUE
JULY 1991

NACHUSA NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS SPECIAL VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION, JULY 13

We believe almost everyone wants to contribute to a better future for our planet. Could it be that your involvement at Nachusa Grasslands could help you meet your desire to contribute? If so, we are asking you and every person on the Prairie Smoke mailing list to take action! We desperately need to beef up our corps of volunteers! There are many, many different and exciting activities, so there's almost certain to be something for you!

A special volunteer orientation will be held on Saturday, July 13, 1991 at 10 AM. Meet at the Nachusa Grasslands sign on Lowden Road. See map.

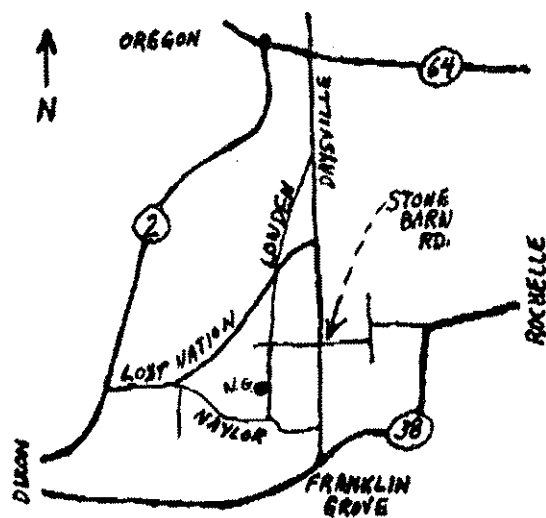
We will explain the reconstruction and restoration of native prairie plants at Nachusa. We'll show you how seeds are gathered and scattered and why. We'll explain why and how woody plants and old fences are being removed. We'll identify the weedy "enemies" of the prairie and show how we wage war on them. The subject of controlled fire (prescribed burning) will be discussed, and why. We need to triple our present corps of fire people.

FREE TOUR OF THE PRAIRIE IN THE FULL BLOOM OF SUMMER!

Here's what YOU can do: (1) Come to Volunteer Orientation. (2) Bring friends and relatives. (3) After you read this, give it to an interested person or group, or (4) hang this up on a bulletin board at work, school, church, etc., or any conspicuous place such as a light pole! In addition, we need YOU to recruit new Friends for Nachusa Grasslands.

"Work days" usually consist of 1.5 to 2 hours of activity, then a short guided walk to see what's in bloom.

On July 13, we will be finished by noon.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL SALLY BAUMGARDNER AT 708/655-4295, OR AMY PROSSER AT 815/453-2561.

Some of you, in the past, have volunteered for work at Nachusa and, for a variety of reasons, have not been contacted. Please accept this as **YOUR PERSONAL INVITATION** to attend this Volunteer Orientation.

MEET AMY PROSSER INTERN

A summer internship with the Nature Conservancy is of course a challenge. An internship at Nachusa, however, is an adventure. The adventure takes on new meaning for one who is a novice of the prairie. Seemingly sublime and gentle, the prairie always has a few tricks up its sleeve, just to keep things lively. Gopher holes, plants that untie shoelaces, a version of quick-sand and seeds that have an almost magnetic attraction to natural fibers. Yet, it is all in good fun and much more interesting than a paved walk-way could ever hope to offer.

This is my first time living in Illinois, having grown-up in St. Louis and spending the last four years in Des Moines where I recently graduated from Drake University with a degree in Earth Science. My heart and mind have always been inspired by the natural world, learning from its quiet words that are so often silenced by our industrialized world. For me, the most important aspect of Nachusa is having the opportunity to take part in reversing cultural attitudes towards the natural

world by working with, not against it. I consider the coneflowers, butterflies, birds and rocks as my co-workers. All of us working together trying to reach a new understanding.

These first weeks I've spent here have been not only an introduction to the art of prairie restoration, but also to the family of dedicated individuals who work together towards the common goal of restoring Nachusa to its natural state. The truly wonderful aspect of this site is how much of the work has been volunteer effort.

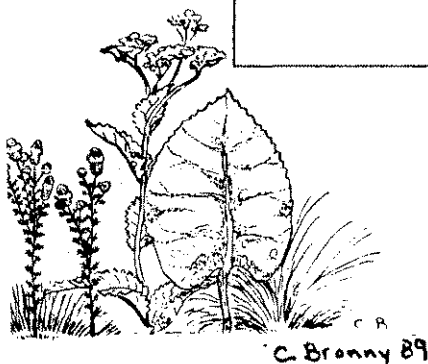
I was fortunate to arrive at Nachusa at a time when the fruits of the past years labor can be seen in many outstanding areas of the preserve. Both Dot's and Doug's Knobs are truly inspiring this year.

Seeing the countless coneflowers in bloom along side flowering lead plant, all swaying in the wind, dancing freely again, made it obvious to me why this place is special. I invite all to visit these areas if your inspiration needs a boost, to experience first-hand the great wonders Nachusa has in store for all of us and the generations to come.

My goal this summer is to establish a solid volunteer community to continue the effort well into the future. There is still much work to be done that requires a large number of workers. I also hope to put together a video history of Nachusa to be used as a future tool for introducing others to the land. What other reason do you need to volunteer than to have the opportunity to become immortal on video tape and to be a part of history in the making?

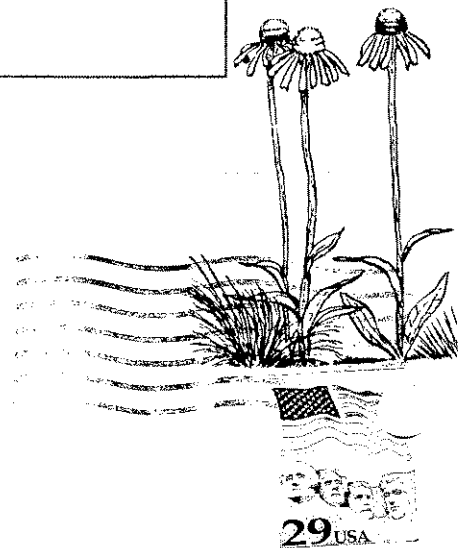
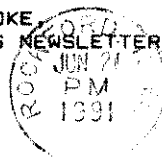
My thanks to everyone I've met so far, all of whom make me feel at home here and serve as my personal inspirations. I hope to live up to the legacies the previous interns and volunteers have left for me to follow. Looking forward to working and meeting with you.

☆ AUTUMN-ON-THE-PRAIRIE ☆
Saturday, September 21, 1 to 5 PM
prairie tours, lectures, and stories
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
FREE ADMISSION.



The
Nature
Conservancy

BRINGS YOU PRAIRIE SMOKE
THE NACHUSA GRASSLANDS NEWSLETTER.



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