

PRAIRIE SMOKE

Newsletter of Nachusa Grasslands

Issue 36



January 2000

WINTER "TOUR" OF NACHUSA GRASSLANDS

By Susan Kleiman

Editor's Note: This is a first in a series of written "seasonal tours" to highlight the diversity, beauty, and spirit of Nachusa Grasslands.

The first thing you notice when you pull up to the preserve on this winter day is the striking, burnt-orange color of the little bluestem grass. As you walk through hip-high ocean-like waves of it, your eyes search the horizon for the hawks you might encounter today. Soon you spy a rough-legged hawk, a winter resident, with slightly longer wings than the red-tailed hawks that are here year round. You recognize it by the dark "wrist" patch and white tail with a dark band near the end; it hovers while hunting. Don't get this hawk confused with the northern harrier (also known as a marsh hawk), which now glides low, just above the grasses; it has a large white patch at the base of the tail. The female harrier is brown above and whitish below. The male is soft gray above, white below, with black wing tips. This hawk, of prairie and open marsh, is considered the most beautiful in North America by those who know and love raptors. The northern harrier is endangered in Illinois due to loss of habitat and, therefore, has much lower breeding numbers than were historically noted in our prairie state. The harrier resides at Nachusa Grasslands from about September until May.

As you walk farther into the grasslands you pass small thickets of American plum. Each clump appears to be small individual trees but, are more than likely clones of the first one to grow in that spot. The rounded nature of these thickets, with the shorter and younger members on the edge, is encouraged by the prairie fires. The thickets provide nesting habitat in the summer to several species—Bell's vireo and Yellow-breasted chat, for example. This winter day you notice several lovely American tree sparrows taking cover there. You recognize them by the dark spot in the center of their bright gray breasts.

Near the larger bur oaks, bordering the prairie pot-holes, you see other noteworthy shrubs—American hazelnut and wild gooseberry. The hazelnut was mentioned in the historic 1830's survey notes as being in extensive groves. These groves probably developed on the leeward

side of creeks where fires didn't always burn. The hazelnuts are edible, if you get them before the squirrels; they are just like the ones available in stores. The shrub can be as tall or taller than you; it retains the male catkins into the winter and the nuts are enclosed in a papery, frilly husk. The stems of the wild gooseberry shrubs are covered in many fine thorns which you notice have caught the parachute-like seeds of the whorled milkweed. There are seven species of milkweed on the preserve; four are rare, one is extremely rare. The fluffy seeds bring to mind two other similar, wind-carried, rare plant species at Nachusa—Hill's thistle and Swamp thistle. (The Hill's thistle grows at Nachusa Grasslands in good numbers; blooming at only a foot tall in June. The swamp thistle blooms August through October in the fen and sedge meadows.)

Suddenly a northern shrike flies past you and lands on an old hawthorn tree; it carries a small rodent in its beak. This winter resident hunts insects, rodents, snakes and small birds; lacking talons it impales the rodent on a thorn of the tree. It would be exciting to see this lovely black-masked, gray and white bird eat this rodent but, as shrikes often do, it flies off. Shrikes frequently store their prey this way, using the thorny hawthorn as a pantry, returning later to eat.

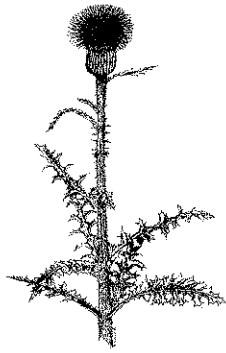
As you walk up to the top of the hill you admire the view of the large, stately bur oaks and St. Peter's sandstone out-cropping. The bur oak is a true prairie native; its thick, corky-winged bark is able to withstand most fires, if it's big enough, or re-sprout as an oak "shrub." When

The Nature Conservancy acquired Nachusa Grasslands the oaks were in danger of being lost. The long absence of fire had allowed fire intolerant, shade-loving trees to grow up into the lower limbs of the oaks (some examples of these invasive trees—wild black cherry, elm, and box elder). The shade of these trees had begun to cause a slow death to the branches of the mature oaks and prevented sun-loving oak saplings from growing. As



Short Eared Owl

Winter Tour *Cont'd* on page 2



Hill's Thistle

Winter Tour *Cont'd from page 1*

you can see, these invaders have been removed and the mature oaks are re-growing branches and oak saplings abound around their skirts.

The St. Peter's sandstone outcrops support a wonderful array of plants that grow well in the sandy, shallow soil that forms around them. The uncommon shrub *Aronia* (or *Pyrus melanocarpa* or black chokeberry) grows here. The name chokeberry is a mystery since the berry tastes better than the common choke cherry. The rare succulent called *Talinum rugospermum* or fame flower also abounds in this desert-like soil. (Its rose-purple flowers rise up on delicate, almost invisible, stalks from tiny clumps of narrow, fleshy leaves. Each flower blooms once from about 3 to 7 PM. The plants bloom all summer and attract a variety of insects). One of the many reasons to return for a summer tour.

You are now on the north side of the knob, on this hill, and you hear a curious sound. The sound is a meadow vole tunneling under a patch of snow. This rotund, short-tailed, short-eared denizen of the prairie stays active year round. During the Summer it makes its runs just above ground through the grasses. In the winter it digs tunnels under the snow to get from one choice food source to another.

As evening approaches you see two short-eared owls flapping about, low over the grasslands-what a lucky sighting! Their flight is erratic and bouncy compared to the smooth glide of the harriers. They hunt chiefly at dusk and dawn and often call out with their raspy, high, barking sound. Due to loss of prairie and open wetlands, these owls are endangered in Illinois. Once, at Nachusa Grasslands, five were seen together. At times one or two have been seen hunting along with harriers. Short-eared owls choose resting spots on the ground. Several times hiker, and owl alike, has been spooked.

Walking back to your car, you become aware of the setting sun briefly turning the grasses into a mirage of prairie fire. Coyotes yip and yowl in the distance. Your pace slows, your sense of place is comforting. The chilly breeze forgotten in the memories of an enchanting walk in the native landscape of Nachusa Grasslands.

"Been here a thousand times and it gets more beautiful every time."

Matt Christensen and Kristen Preventass,
August 1999

NACHUSA GRASSLANDS RECEIVES \$100,000

Tellabs, Inc., an important communications business head-quartered in Lisle, Illinois, has donated \$100,000 to Nachusa Grasslands. Tellabs' equipment and services are used to transmit data, video, and voice signals. Thank you Tellabs and thank you, John Santucci, for encouraging this donation.

NACHUSA GRASSLANDS SUPPORT THANK YOU TO:

Gail Perkins - for slides of the preserve.

Roger Hotham - for donation towards our new mower and newsletter expenses.

Denis Kania - for artwork.

Dot Wade - for donating the sales proceeds from books sold at AOTP.

Ann Haverstock - Annual update of the Nachusa Plant List.

Mike Adolph - for the beef roasts for our re-enactors at AOTP.

Rich Markeloff - for taxonomy book on amphibians and reptiles of Illinois.

Max Baumgardner - for making the barnwood frames for the Art Print.

Dwight Heckert - for setting up the self-guiding plant identification tour at the entrance and for his terrific start on the herbarium (over 200 plants this year)!

Laura Busch - for production of the new butterfly T-shirt.

Ron Ingraham - for brand new Stihl, pole chain saw.

Thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter, and for everyone who participates in the stewardship and support of Nachusa Grasslands.

ADOPT-A-PLANTING

Next summer we would like to have some new volunteers to adopt 5 to 15 acres on the preserve for a two month period. Volunteers would need to come out about twice a week, as your schedule permits, for eight weeks. You will see many different plants and birds as you walk around your "adopted" acres. While walking you can clip or pull weeds, not hard work, enjoyable work within an area of reasonable size. A short-term commitment, long-term results. Don't miss the opportunity! Interested? Reserve early while choice acres are still available. Give us a call (815) 456-2340.

Already we have Jenna Sanders and John Schmadeke making adoptions. Thanks!

STEWARDSHIP HAPPENINGS

By Bill Kleiman

This Fall's sunny and drought conditions provided for a fantastic prescribed burn season. Here, at Nachusa Grasslands, three large woodland units, totaling approximately 180-acres were burned. On south-facing wooded slopes, where we usually have flames "mosey" up the hill, large flames barreled up slopes burning much of the downed limbs on the forest floor. The heat of the fire swirled around the uphill (downwind) side of the trees as if the trees were rocks in a rapid river. Many trees were scorched black on the uphill side, some waist-high, others higher than you could reach. This scaring tends to kill thin-barked trees like box elders, elms and cherries and to favor the thicker-barked oaks and hickories. The dried, downed, logs burned hot leaving ghostly-gray ash marks on the woodland floor. This is still nothing like the fires that occur in the coniferous forests of our Western states where the trees themselves are the fuel supporting the fire. In our hardwood forests, fallen leaves, limbs, and dried herbaceous plants fuel the fires, as a result, the fires are less intense. Ecologically, a fire season like this one equals a dozen moderate fire seasons.

The downside of a drought fire season is that the fires can be hard to control. Large logs are dry to the center. Standing dead trees easily catch fire and can drop little not "greetings" to the neighbor's dry oak leaves. There comes a point during a drought cycle, when a fire leader begins to get nervous, works harder at fire preparation, begins dreaming of fancy water pump units, envisions larger crews, is found raking fire breaks at odd hours of the day, and finally, if the drought continues, will suspend the fire season until a rain comes.

As you walk the woodlands you can see they are opening to oak savanna. The 1939 aerial photos, and the 1839 land survey notes, clearly indicate the presence of oak savanna. Due to our reintroduction of fire and brush thinning, the sapling, mid-level canopy, and upper canopy are much thinner today than a decade ago. Eventually, as the canopy continues to open, the savanna will support a profusion of oak and hickory which need sunlight to thrive. Other wonderful savanna plants will come up from the existing seed bank or from the plantings of seed we have completed over the last several years; plants like butterfly weed, thimble weed, sky blue aster, calico aster, Short's aster, woodland brome, pale Indian plantain, blue cohosh, shooting star, wild coffee, hazelnut....

Kevin Kaltenbach has been a great fire-crew leader for us this Fall, demonstrating his keen fire intuition and good cheer. Thanks also to Todd Bittner, Damian Considine, and Larry Creekmur—who worked hard one day controlling a smoky woodland burn. Also, thanks to other fire crew members including Howard Fox, Terry Day, Wes Herwig, Gerald McDermott, Mike Adolph, Jay Stacy, Dave Breen, Max and Sally Baumgardner, Don

Homer, Gene Miller, Mel Hoff and friends.

Other stewardship: Jay Stacy, John Schmadeke, Ron Ingraham, Gene Miller, Don Homer, and Mike Engel are thinning shade tolerant trees from a fully degraded former savanna in the West Heinkel Unit. They collected an amazing rich seed mix and have planted it in this area. It already looks great; an opened savanna is a wonderful place to walk.

Welcome to our new Eight Oak Savanna steward, Jan Grainger. Jan is an instructor of biology at Kishwaukee Community College and, our butterfly monitor. Also, welcome to Barbara Baker who is the new steward of the East Coneflower Unit. Barbara's vocation is as pianist and organist for her church and her occupation is as an R.N. with a family physician in Hampshire. Already this Fall, she has collected and planted seed in the area just above the main entrance.

More roadside areas have been planted by Tom Mitchell and friends. With the careful weed management, seed harvesting and planting which have been done this season—the roadsides indeed look cared for!

Energized work continues at Hook Larson Prairie (H.L.P.). Lots of seeds have been harvested from its beautiful dry prairies by Dave Breen, Jay Friberg and local college students these instructors have encouraged to help us. Many weed trees are being thinned from the prairie areas. Within the next few years, the western part of H.L.P. will be planted in oaks and hickory to extend the savanna.

I am running out of space but, other work is going on! Gene St. Louis and Barb Regan are removing non-native honeysuckle, multiflora rose, and buckthorn from a wetland. Harvesting and planting of seed on the Schafer Unit has been done by David Edelbach, Gerald McDermott, and Ray Derksen. (We can't restore habitat without seed!) Mike Adolph is out every week working with Jay Stacy or Bob Shone on the Main Unit. West Chicago Prairie Stewards did a bunch of great savanna thinning at Kittentail Unit. Prairie Preservation Society of Ogle County members have kept at multiflora rose and other weeds at Clear Creek Unit.

We have a vigorous volunteer-stewardship program that makes us proud. Even so, each Unit Steward would welcome more help. Please try to come out, and convince someone else to join us also. Thank you.

Editor	Susan Kleiman
Associate Editor	Thelma Dahlberg
Associate Editor	Dot Wade
Associate Editor	Bill Kleiman
Associate Editor	Gerald McDermott
Manager of Mailing	Ellen Baker
Mailing List Manager	Chris Pfoutz (Crest Foods, Inc.)

"The gem of Illinois—the best we've seen in this state yet!"

— four visitors from Reno, Nevada, 9/5/99

AUTUMN-ON-THE-PRAIRIE 1999 A GIANT SUCCESS

This year's Autumn-On-The-Prairie celebration attracted approximately 900 people to Nachusa Grasslands, about 200 more than past celebrations. Two factors influencing the growth—Sally Baumgardner's gargantuan effort with publicity and, not to forget mother nature, fine sunny weather.

Thanks to the following folks for volunteering their time and energy to make the 1999 Autumn-On-The-Prairie a success.

Leadership Team:

Mike Adolph - Chairperson
Sally Baumgardner - Publicity
Tonya Bittner - Raffle Tent
Ron Ingraham - Welcome Tent
Bill Kleiman - Site manager
Susan Kleiman - Childrens' Tent
Gerald McDermott - Vendors & Displays
Gene St. Louis - Nachusa Grasslands Displays
Bob Shone - Tours

Thanks also to the tour leaders who make our celebration very special: Mike Crowe, Sally Baumgardner, Dean Weidman, Dave Breen, Rich Markeloff, Howard Fox, Barb Regan, Kevin Kaltenbach, Todd Bittner, David Edelbach, Jay Stacy, Dwight Heckert, Bob Shone, Gene St. Louis, Tom Mitchell, Mike Adolph, John Schmadeke, Chris Bronny, and Al Roloff.

Thanks, really big ones, to Ed Collins and the Temporal Anomalies for their 1800's historical interpretations and to Jim Kanas and Mike Crowe for their entertaining musical renditions.

Thanks to the folks who helped in the Childrens' Tent: Gerald McDermott, Hazel Reuter, Brandon Meiners, Sally Bowers, Howard Fox, Sally Baumgardner, and Gina Cox. A big thank you to Jan Grainger, Issac Stewart, Rich Markeloff, and Mike Adolph for the butterfly expedition. Special thanks to Gene Gryniewicz for his storytelling and to his wife, Celeste, for face painting and the beautiful butterfly crafts.



Gene Miller

Thanks to Jeannine Esmonde, Gene Miller, Bethany Wiltshire, Katie Beilfuss, and Todd Bittner for assistance setting up, selling tickets and working the Raffle Tent.

Thanks also to those who brought items to raffle (all proceeds directly support Autumn-on-the-Prairie): Mike Adolph, Max Baumgardner, Sally Baumgardner, Todd and Tonya Bittner, Books on First; Dixon, IL, Byron Forest Preserve District, Jeannine

Esmonde and Rich Markeloff, Genesis Nursery; Tampico, IL, Celeste Gryniewicz, Ann Haverstock, Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Jack and Aggie Kleiman, Bill and Susan Kleiman, Gerald McDermott, Gene Miller, Tom and Jenny Mitchell, The Natural Garden; St. Charles, IL, Hazel Reuter, Gene St. Louis, Starved Rock Audubon Society, Dot Wade, Windrift Prairie Shop; Oregon, IL, Harlan Walley, Greg Wermers, The Wild Ones-Rock River Valley Chapter, Bethany Wiltshire, and Dave Breen.



Howard Fox

Thanks to the folks who provided displays and presentations: Dwight Heckert (self-guided plant tour), Bob Parenteau, Gene St. Louis, Thelma Dahlberg, Chris Kodani, Fran Lowman, Rick Toomey, Tom Grimes, and the Atl-Atl Group of Franklin Grove (Lynn and Don Asp, and Jack Kelly).

Thanks also to Dot Wade, Larry and Ellen Schaffer of Windrift Prairie Shop; Ann Meyers for donating plants to sell; Snow White Deli for keeping us fed; Jim Wolber for horse drawn wagon rides; and the artists-Suzanne Shedosky, Pat Lathe, Dan Letourneau for demonstrating their talents; and Art Sinden for signing prints from his original painting of Nachusa Grasslands 1999. Thanks to Farming Heritage for selling kettle-popcorn. The fellows who helped pop the tasty mix were: Max Baumgardner, John Nicholson, Ken Wise, Tony Schaneberg, Roger Taylor, Ron Colson, Del Schafer, and Jack Kelly.

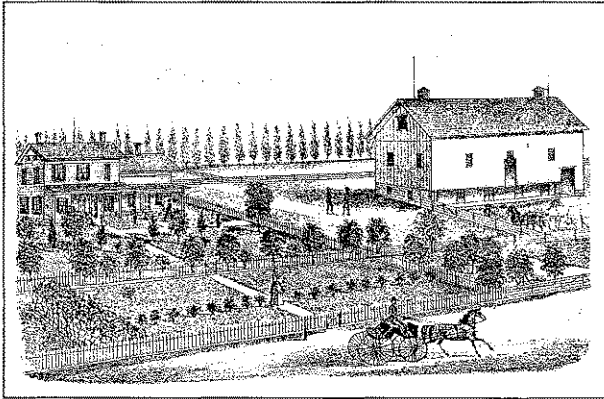
Thanks, last but not least by any means, to the following volunteers who helped with everything from set up to selling T-shirts to shuttle service to parking to whatever needed doing: Gene and Diane Rod, Gene Miller, Beth Wiltshire, Dave Breen, Jenny Mitchell, Rob Wise, Greg Wermers, John and Cindy Schmadeke, Ray Derksen, Tom Cartwright, Paul Harmon, Todd Tucker, Steve and Cindy DeHart, Jim Grove, and Jay Stacy.



Jim Kanas

**Thanks, Thanks, Thanks, and yes,
Thanks again to all who joined in
the celebration!!**

UPDATE ON THE BARN HEADQUARTERS



We have raised over half the funds for the new stewardship headquarters barn and we will be breaking ground for the foundation in April. During this winter we will be finishing the plans, gathering estimates, and waiting for the ground to thaw.

[Nachusa Grasslands is relocating an historic barn from nearby Ashton to the preserve. The barn is an 1868 timber frame, bank barn. It's in beautiful shape. It will have a workshop for equipment repair, storage for equipment, vehicles and seeds, meeting room, resource room for field guides and herbarium, restrooms, break room, and the preserve office. The drawing above is the barn as shown in the 1872 Lee County Atlas.]

IT'S NOT TOO LATE !!! TO GET YOUR NAME ON THE BARN BUILDERS PLAQUE

Yes, I can help with the historic barn building project. Enclosed is my check for \$_____.

I understand that for a donation of \$50 or more I can have my name or designated name(s) on the plaque. The name(s) I want on the plaque is (up to 36 characters including spaces):

My name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CLIP AND MAIL!

Mail to: Nachusa Grasslands, 2055 Lowden Rd.,
Franklin Grove, IL 61031 • **THANK YOU!**

NACHUSA GRASSLANDS LIMITED EDITION ART PRINT FOR SALE TO SUPPORT BARN HEADQUARTERS



Art Sinden painted the hills of Nachusa Grasslands in their autumn colors with a Northern Harrier and Oak saplings in the foreground. We had 400 prints made. They are signed by the artist and have the words 'Nachusa Grasslands 1999' in the border below the painting. The print is 27 1/4" x 15".

For \$20 you can have this beautiful print sent to you (unframed) in a special mailing tube (postage included), write a check to Nachusa Grasslands and mail it to us at 2055 Lowden Rd., Franklin Grove, IL 61031 and include your mailing address.

For \$100 you can have it mounted with glass and framed in antique barn wood. You can pick it up at the preserve, call to pick up or order one: (815) 456-2340.

DONATIONS TO THE BARN FUND-RAISER

The following are additional donors to the Barn Fund-raiser:

Brent Johnson gave a large donation
John & Barbara Rutherford
Roger Hotham
Joe & Margaret Pasteris
John & Joan Culley
Arkell & Norma Wisely
Charles W. and Alice L. Buyers
Max and Sally Baumgardner
Arold T. Anderson Descendants
Louise M. Kennedy

THANK YOU!



Clarence Heinkel perched on the new memorial rock overlooking the part of Nachusa Grasslands that he purchased for us in 1992. That part of the preserve is named after his wife, Edith, and daughter, Anna.

Wish List

- Volunteers for weekday stewardship crew. Looking for volunteers who can come once a week, 8 am -12 (pick a day Monday through Friday) call 815-456-2340.
- Volunteers needed for Saturday and Sunday stewardship workdays. We have ambitious stewards who need help. See calendar.
- Volunteer needed to help maintain equipment - once a week for a few hours.
- An Office Volunteer - one day a week.
- Additional volunteers to expand the Prairie Smoke newsletter Team
- Research Projects (graduate research opportunities!)
- Donate your old vehicle for trade-in (1990 or newer) towards a 4-wheel drive truck.
- Snowmobile (1990 or newer)

NACHUSA GRASSLANDS UNIT STEWARDS

STEWARDS

Clear Creek Unit

Prairie Preservation Society of Ogle County

Coneflower Unit East

Barbara Baker

Dot & Doug Unit

Gene St. Louis

Eight Oak Savanna

Jan Grainger

East Heinkel Unit

Mike Crowe

Fen Unit

Kevin Kaltenbach

Hook Larson Prairie Unit

Dave Breen

Kittentail Unit

West Chicago

Prairie Stewards

Main Unit

Mike Adolph

Roadsides &

West Meiners Uplands

Tom Mitchell

Rolling Thunder Unit

Sally Baumgardner

Schafer Unit

David Edelbach

West Heinkel Unit

Jay Stacy

Science Stewards:

Bird Monitoring

Butterfly Monitoring

Herbarium Steward

Outreach Volunteers:

Publicist/Educator

Youth Stewards Leaders

CO-STEWARDS

Mary Blackmore
Terri Clarke

Barb Regan

Todd Bittner

Jay Friberg

Mel Hoff

Bob Shone

Jenny Mitchell

Max Baumgardner

Gerald McDermott

Gene Miller,
Ron Ingraham
John Schmadeke

Ann Haverstock
Jan Grainger
Dwight Heckert

Sally Baumgardner
Howard Fox
Hazel Reuter
Ron Ingraham
Mike Adolph
Sally Baumgardner
Sally Bowers
Barb Rutherford

NACHUSA GRASSLANDS STEWARDSHIP CALENDAR 2000

January

- 8 Sat: Dot & Doug Wade Unit
- 15 Sat: East Heinkel Unit and **POTLUCK GATHERING**
- 22 Sat: Hook Larson Prairie
- 29 Sat: Schafer Unit

February

- 5 Sat. Fen Unit and Kittentail Unit
- 12 Sat. Brush Clearing Bash! On East Heinkel Wetland
- 13 Sun. Dot & Doug Wade Unit
- 19 Sat. East Coneflower Unit (rain date for Kittentail Unit)
- 20 Sun. Schafer Unit
- 26 Sat. Hook Larson Prairie

March

- 4 Sat. Dot & Doug Unit
- 5 Sun. Fen Unit
- 11 Sat. **POTLUCK GATHERING**
(if weather is good we can burn).
- 18 Sat. Schafer Unit
- 19 Sun. Hook Larson Prairie
- 25 Sat. Rolling Thunder Prairie

April

- 1 Sat. East Heinkel Unit
- 9 Sun. **ANNUAL SKUNK CABBAGE TOUR** with Tim Keller. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM This is a moderate hike to search for spring wildflowers
- 8 Sat. Rolling Thunder Prairie
- 9 Sun. Dot & Doug Wade Unit
- 15 Sat. Hook Larson Prairie
- 16 Sun. Schafer Unit
- 29 Sat. Eight Oaks Unit

May

- 6 Sat. West Heinkel (garlic mustard pull)
- 7 Sun. Dot & Doug Wade Unit
- 13 Sat. **POTLUCK GATHERING**
- 20 Sat. Schafer Unit
- 27 Sat. Seed Planting Day for various locations on the preserve, bring the kids!

June

- 3 Sat. Roadsides
- 10 Sat. East Heinkel
- 17 Sat. Dot & Doug Wade Unit
- 18 Sun. Schafer Unit
- 24 Sat. East Coneflower Unit

July

- 8 Sat. **ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND POTLUCK 5:30 PM to Dark**
- 15 Sat. Schafer Unit
- 16 Sun. Dot & Doug Wade Unit
- 22 Sat. East Heinkel Unit
- 29 Sat. Rolling Thunder Prairie

August

- 6 Sun. Main Unit
- 12 Sat. West Heinkel Unit
- 13 Sun. Schafer Unit
- 19 Sat. Roadsides
- 26 Sat. Dot & Doug Wade Unit

September

- 2 Sat. Roadsides
- 9 Sat. East Heinkel Unit and **ATOP Prep. And POTLUCK GATHERING**
- 10 Sun. Schafer Unit
- 16 Sat. **AUTUMN ON THE PRAIRIE 10 AM to 5 PM**
- 23 Sat. West Heinkel Unit
- 24 Sun. Hook Larson Prairie
- 30 Sat. Eight Oaks Unit

October

- 1 Sun. Main Unit
- 7 Sat. Eight Oaks Unit
- 8 Sun. Dot & Doug Wade Unit
- 14 Sat. Hook Larson Prairie
- 15 Sun. Schafer Unit
- 21 Sat. West Heinkel and Kittentail Units
- 28 Sat. Rolling Thunder Prairie
(National Make a Difference Day)

November

- 4 Sat. Schafer Unit
- 11 Sat. **"STONE SOUP" SEED PROCESSING PARTY and POTLUCK GATHERING**
- 18 Sat. Dot & Doug Wade Unit
- 19 Sun. Hook Larson Prairie

December

- 2 Sat. Hook Larson Prairie
- 3 Sun. Dot & Doug Wade Unit
- 9 Sat. Fen Unit
- 10 Sun. Schafer Unit
- 16 Sat. **NEW EVENT—Planning/Brainstorm Day for Stewards**

January 2001

- 13 Sat **POTLUCK GATHERING**
- 14 Sun. Dot & Doug Wade Unit
- 20 Sat. Roadsides
- 27 Sat. Hook Larson Prairie

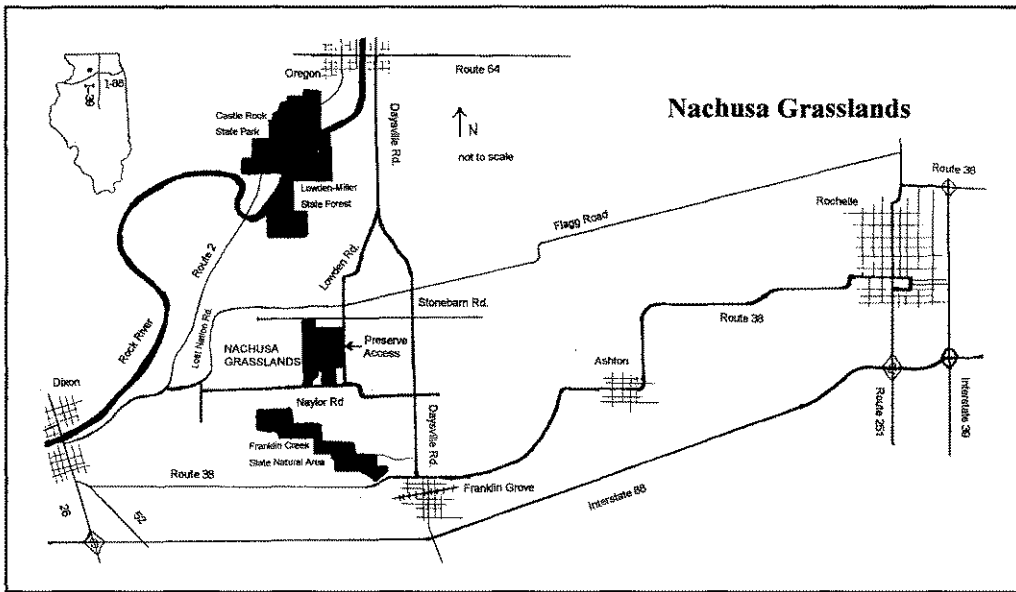
BARN WORKDAYS

There will be workdays for the new Stewardship Headquarters Barn scheduled by Max Baumgardner periodically throughout the year. He will call those who he knows are interested a week or two ahead of time. If you are interested and you don't think Max has you on his list you can call him at (815) 456-2083.

STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND WORKDAYS mainly involve brush clearing in the winter, weed removal in the spring and summer, and seed collecting in the summer and autumn. Often there is a hike afterwards. All workdays and events start at 9:30 and end about 1:30 unless otherwise noted. Bring a lunch and work gloves. Meet at the Stewards' Barn at 2055 Lowden Rd. Extreme weather conditions will sometimes cause a steward to cancel a workday.

POTLUCK GATHERINGS also start at 9:30 with a time for learning or hiking together, or even a prescribed burn in spring. Food is then shared at noon.

We also have on-going **STEWARDSHIP DURING THE WEEK** throughout the year. Call Bill or Susan Kleiman at the preserve **(815) 456-2340**.



From Route 64: At eastern edge of the city of Oregon, turn south on Daysville Rd. (towards Lowden-Miiler State Forest). Travel approx. 2.4 miles to Lowden Rd., turn right (angle) still following State Forest sign. Travel south approx. 5.3 miles (past State Forest) to a 4-way stop at Flagg Rd. Continue south another 2 miles, the preserve entrance is on the right (west).

From Dixon: Option 1: Take Rt. 38 East into Franklin Grove then turn left (north) on Daysville Rd. Travel 1.5 miles north to Naylor Rd., turn left (west) and go 2.2 miles to Lowden Rd., turn right (north) and go 1 mile to preserve entrance on the left (west).

REACHING NACHUSA GRASSLANDS

From I-88 (East-West Tollway): Exit at Rt. 251 North (Rochelle), to Rt. 38 West. Travel through Ashton and into Franklin Grove (approx. 16 miles), turn right (north) on Daysville Rd. Travel 1.5 miles north to Naylor Rd., turn left (west) and go 2.2 miles to Lowden Rd., turn right (north) and go 1 mile to preserve entrance on the left (west).

Option 2: Take Rt. 2 North (approx. 2.3 miles from Rt. 26/Galena Ave.), turn right (east) on Lost Nation Rd. Go one mile to Maples Rd., turn right, then left immediately onto Naylor Rd.. Go east for 3.5 miles to Lowden Rd. Turn left (north) and go one mile to preserve entrance on left (west).

The Nature Conservancy

Nachusa Grasslands
2055 Lowden Road
Franklin Grove, IL 61031
(815) 456-2340

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 6632
Franklin Grove,
Illinois 61031

To Our Friend or Current Resident:



Nachusa Grasslands is owned and operated by The Nature Conservancy, a private, non-profit group whose mission is to protect plants and animals by protecting the land and water they need to survive.