

PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOUNDATION DONATIONS LEAD TO 1,300 ACRE ADDITION

Last year Nachusa Grasslands nearly doubled in size growing from 1,500 to 2,500 acres, with an additional 300 acres of land protected with a conservation easement. The additional 1,000 acres is a result of a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation and a gift given in memory of Dewitt Holland from an anonymous donor.



DeWitt Holland

The 300-acre conservation easement is a donation from the family of the late Thomas R. McMillen.

“Nachusa Grasslands is one of those rare places where people can see Illinois as it once was. Our support of The Nature Conservancy’s efforts to protect and expand this valuable natural area preserves this treasure for everyone in Illinois,” said James Mann, Executive Director of the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. “This is one of the largest natural areas conservation grants the foundation has made,” Mann continued “All told, Foundation grants have protected nearly 7000 acres of habitat across the state.” The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation provides grants and works with local communities across Illinois to improve energy efficiency, develop renewable energy resources and to preserve and enhance natural areas and wildlife habitat.

DeWitt Holland was a farmer most of his life. He lived close to the land and valued the beauty as well as the productiveness of Illinois’ native prairies. Nearly 20 years after his death, DeWitt Holland’s enduring love for native Illinois landscapes inspired his friends to donate

more than 2 million dollars in his memory for prairie conservation at Nachusa Grasslands.

The new tract is comprised of two main units; named Clear Creek Knolls, which is east of Lowden Road and DeWitt Holland Memorial Prairie, which is west of Lowden. Both tracts are mostly agricultural with the winding Clear Creek and its wetlands flowing through both units. There are also several remnant prairie and savanna areas. For the first time, a land deal of this size includes a large contribution to a stewardship endowment and a modest habitat restoration fund.



The first workday at Clear Creek Knolls

The restoration fund will help pay the salary of the Restoration Ecologist, Nathan Hill, and provide for 3 additional summer crew who will collect and process seed needed for the plantings each year. The restoration is scheduled to occur over the next ten years. Just this past year the summer crew collected nearly 875 pounds of forbs to plant 26 acres of cropland on the site that surrounds the prairie remnant, named Dropseed Hills, 5 acres of wetland and 5 acres of savanna. Normally funds for restoration are sought after a property is purchased, leaving stewardship goals in limbo as funds are gathered.

The new acquisition will become additional critical habitat for many rare grassland birds like bobolinks, dickcissels, grasshopper sparrows, northern harrier, and meadowlarks. For grassland birds, Nachusa Grasslands is one of the bright spots on our national map. The restoration of this additional 1,000-acre of habitat will continue to bolster the grassland bird populations at Nachusa.



Managers Notebook

By Bill Kleiman, Preserve Manager
Nathan Hill, Restoration Ecologist

Seed Harvest: 2005 saw another bumper crop for seed harvest thanks to our hardy volunteer stewards and staff. The total bulk weight of seed was 3,500 pounds from over 200 species of plants. Of this total, volunteers collected about 1,800 pounds. The crew collected around 900 pounds of forb seed from 175 species. The combine and seed stripper reaped 800+ pounds of grass seed, mostly big bluestem and Indian grass. The crew and stewards got both quantity and diversity with significant weights of almost every species. Our goal for next year is for the crew to collect 1000 pounds from 200 species.



Kelly and Katie collect false toadflax and porcupine grass.



Steward David Edelbach building another seed drying rack.

Weed Work: We worked hard to fight invasive weeds like multi-flora rose, honeysuckle, birdsfoot trefoil, king devil, and parsnip. We took a huge chunk out of the birdsfoot trefoil population south of Doug's Knob but next year we will be back there, hopefully reporting much less of this challenging legume. Our seasonal crew and many stewards work day after day on weeds all summer long and we thank them for their steadfastness and good cheer.



Nate Hill and Bill Kleiman

Fire: We had a good fire season with 13 fires and about 1100-acres burned at or around Nachusa. We also assisted on four fires in the region. One of the reasons we have had successful fire seasons is because we work hard all year to have good fire breaks. Our fire break work started in the early summer when our hired crew used a stump grinder to take down hundreds of tree stumps from miles of fire breaks. This made fall mowing of the breaks much better, and during the fires the heavy water-laden vehicles took less of a pounding. We also used a tractor mounted leaf blower to blow leaves off



Fire crew on line.

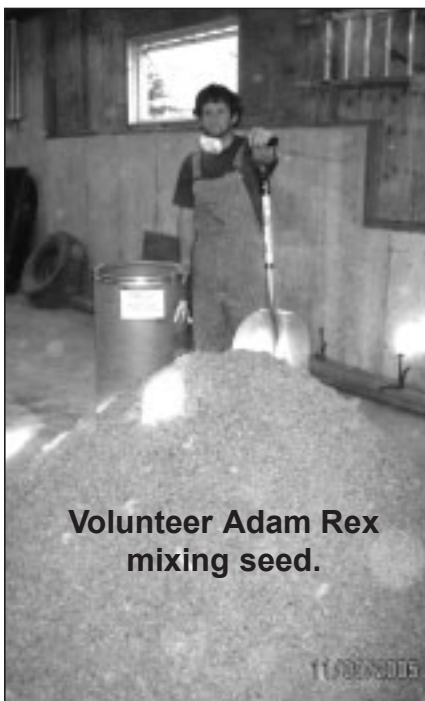
about 3 miles of woodland fire breaks. On our grass fire breaks we mowed the tall vegetation and then used a hay rake to move the thatch off the break. This made for faster fire line work with less water used. Our fire crew of volunteers and a few staff continue to do all our fire work. With the help of a Conservation 2000 grant, we just purchased two new vehicle mounted water sprayers that will be used during prescribed fires.

Brush Clearing Update: At Clear Creek Knolls the contracted Geoboy brush mower cleared underbrush so the crew could get in and remove a patch of invasive black locust. With chain saws and help from the C-2000 funded track loader we were able to cut around 10 acres of invasive brush and trees and grind the stumps thus making

the site easier to restore in the future. We will continue to follow up with spot herbicide spray treatments and mow the site to prepare it for prairie planting.

Several nice remnant prairie areas were identified at the new Clear Creek Knolls, one chock full of the rare fame flower (*Talinum rugospermum*), and another with prairie petunia (*Rueelia humilis*). Steward Mary Vieregg has been working hard at Dropseed Hills removing brush and over-seeding with hand collected seed from the preserve.

Plantings: We planted 16 acres of mesic and 10 acres of dry prairie seed on the corn field around the Dropseed Hills at Clear Creek Knolls this year, once again using a contracted fertilizer truck with a 60 foot boom that uses air to broadcast seed. In addition we were also able to plant 5 acres of wetland along the Creek where the crew cleared brush. We broadcast 50 pounds of savanna mix nearby under several big bur oaks.



**Volunteer Adam Rex
mixing seed.**

Ecological studies in progress:

What makes for a successful prairie planting? by Mike Hansen of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Mike gathered his data this last summer and is in the process of interpreting the results. Our early view of his data suggests that the successful plantings were done on ground formerly in row crops, and the prairie seed mix was abundant and diverse. More on this next year.

Ryan Klopf, another former seasonal staff here, just started graduate work at SIUC, but he will be working at Konza Prairie in Kansas. Ryan is planning to look at the composition of seed mixes used to restore tallgrass prairie and how they affect ecosystem structure and function.

Amy Toth and **Chris Hauser** discovered a huge cadisfly un-common enough to have no common name, *Hydadophyllax Argus*. Later, Ed DeWalt of INHS and Maria Lemke of TNC sampled in Wade Creek and found hundreds of the same species. Nachusa is the only sight in Illinois for this species. Ed and Maria plan to do more surveys of the small cold water creeks at Nachusa.

Todd Bittner of IDNR and **Patti Vitt** of Chicago Botanic garden - monitoring grazing effects on prairie bush clover. These two have worked hard for this rare

flower that seems to want a small amount of grazing and prescribed fire. Our data shows modest increases in the plants from the grazing we did with our single Jersey cow in 2000. Jay Stacy also had several plants flower from seed planted in his prairie planting. We want this endangered plant blooming in many more places on the preserve and will continue to work towards this goal.

Doug Taron of Chicago Academy of Sciences. Restoring *Aphrodite fritillary* butterflies to Glacial Park, McHenry County from Nachusa. The *Aphrodite* (*Speyeria Aphrodite*) is an uncommon butterfly of moist to mesic prairies in Illinois. The species ranges across much of North America, from the Maritime Provinces of Canada south to Georgia, and west to central Arizona and southeastern British Columbia.

Rarity of *S. aphrodite* in Illinois is likely related to rarity of its habitat. The species is restricted to remnant prairies. It receives a heritage ranking of SU (unrankable) in Illinois, and of S2 (imperiled) in Indiana. Larvae feed exclusively on violets (*Viola*). Flight times have been recorded from June through early September. Eggs are laid from mid-August onward.

In an attempt to restore *aphrodite fritillaries* to Glacial Park in McHenry County, several attempts were made to collect them at Nachusa Grasslands. Finally, on September 29, 2004, three butterflies were netted. Doug's report reads, "I set up each of the females in an oviposition cage. Egg laying began almost immediately. Two of the females produced in the neighborhood of 60 eggs each. The third female died shortly after being confined, but not before producing 6 eggs. A total of 127 ova were obtained in this way." On October 13, 2004, the new larvae were transferred to Glacial Park. Larvae were placed on host plant leaves, which were already senescing for the winter. No aphrodite were seen in 2005 but we will continue to look for them.

Stacie Voss of NIU - breeding birds.

Stacie worked with volunteer monitor Ann Haverstock to analyze over a decade of data that Ann has carefully assembled. Stacie is looking for patterns of change in bird populations as related to our habitat restoration work. Her thesis will be published soon.

Stacie reports that birds in Nachusa's restored prairie plots were similar to native prairie plots in numbers and diversity of birds observed. Restored prairie plots were in fact better at attracting sensitive grassland birds like Henslow's Sparrows. Savanna and edge habitat held greater numbers of birds and bird species due to the variety of microhabitats offered. Grasshopper sparrow populations had a significant negative population trend over the 14 year period, however, overall they were the most commonly seen bird. Burning did not have an effect on species richness or species diversity.

Nicolet Cagle of Duke University - snakes of prairies.

As early Illinois settlers traversed our native grasslands, interactions with snakes, including state endangered massasaugas and threatened western hognose snakes, were an integral part of their prairie experience.

These snakes, although often misunderstood and feared, provide valuable ecosystem services as food for hawks and owls and by controlling rodent and insect populations. Today, snake populations are declining globally, but the cause of this decline is largely unexplored. To determine why snake population sizes have decreased in many areas of northern Illinois, and to promote future snake conservation, I am studying the relationship between microhabitat characteristics (e.g., amount of vegetation cover, animal burrow densities), landscape features (e.g., road densities, surrounding land uses), and snake population attributes like weight to length ratios and survival rates.

Using drift fences associated with funnel traps and sheet-metal, I have captured snakes at twenty-two locations in six Illinois prairie preserves, including Nachusa Grasslands. Using the snake capture data collected over the past two years, as well as GIS analysis of landscape characteristics surrounding each site, I have determined that snake species diversity is associated with habitat fragmentation, but each species appears to have a different reaction to these landscape components. For example, garter snakes seem robust to the effects of nearby urban land use, but less impervious to agricultural land use. Two more seasons of data collection will allow me to determine the relationship between microhabitat features and snake survival, and whether compositional changes in snake populations are more closely aligned with microhabitat or landscape characteristics.

Nachusa Celebrates 20 Years

Can you believe it! Since 1986 The Nature Conservancy in Illinois has been working at Nachusa Grasslands to protect and enhance grassland and savanna habitats. We would like to take this opportunity to begin reflecting on our history by forming a Nachusa History Team. The Team will work to record the story of how we came to protect and restore this land. The focus is on the people who have contributed hours of dedicated work over the years. You can help us by sending stories, photos or by participating on the History Team. The group could meet over the summer and we hope to develop a document or video for Autumn on the Prairie.

Stewards Journal

Clear Creek Knolls - Dropseed Hills

By Mary Viereg

The Dropseed Hills have been Discovery Hills this year. An area of five knolls extending east of Clear Creek in the new 2005 acquisition east of Lowden Road, they at first seemed to harbor only a very few native species. After



Mary Viereg

geoboy clearing early in the spring and ongoing tree and brush clearing, scores of native species have revealed themselves.

Each knoll has its own secrets to share. Approaching from the southwest, the first small hill was used as a borrow pit so it looked like a giant had taken a large bite out of it. Its original shape is gradually being restored with sandy loam, and a prairie reconstruction will be accomplished with time and effort and lots of seed.

The second knoll has a respectable population of the unit's namesake, dropseed, along with several other native surprises. Woody growth didn't advance as far onto this knoll as onto the others, and its prairie community is surprisingly diverse even though non-native brome grass has colonized parts of it.

The third knoll is a depauperate sand prairie. On its west face, bare sand near its brow cries out for the seed of sand-loving plants. A few puccoon, lens grass, skullcap, sand bracted sedge, and white-haired panic grass individuals have managed to survive the woody invasions over the last sixty years. On top, little bluestem, junegrass, and sideoats have held the fort during the siege.

The large swale between the third and fourth knolls is a riot of *Rubus sp.* and fallen trees. Its true identity remains hidden as it awaits the relief columns of tree removal and rubus control. The fourth knoll itself harbors a hillside of cowering pasture rose, leadplant, and spiderwort as well as several small black oaks.

The fifth knoll rewards the visitor with an array of pale purple coneflower and its associates as well as a beautiful view of the surrounding landscape.

We are only beginning to discover the innate potential and identity of Dropseed Hills. What secrets will unfold as tree and brush removal continues allowing the sunlight to warm the soil once again?

Big Woods

By
Hank & Becky Hartman



Hank & Becky Hartman

The year saw another major effort to make Big Woods into a safe haven for the Red Headed Woodpecker. We are restoring more of the area to savanna by thinning brush which would normally not survive fire. Given the almost total lack of spring ephemerals, one can almost certainly conclude that most of the area became heavily shaded only recently. Over seeding continues with seeds harvested at Nachusa - over 300 pounds in 2005.

Plants discovered during the year in Big Woods include: carrion flower, pale indian plantain, sand milkweed, sand bracted sedge, kitten tail, prairie gentian, glade mallow, yellow star grass, vanilla grass, sand violet, low shadbush, stiff aster, canada milk vetch, white forget-me-not. While none of these plants are new to Nachusa, they were previously unknown in Big woods.

The kitten tails plants are from seeds planted by Al and Mary Meier, with three separate colonies of about 50 total plants.

Flat top aster, white wild indigo and sweet indian plantain have greatly increased in numbers and area due to harvesting and planting of seeds. In our photographic archives we found a picture taken on Big Woods in 2003 of Wood Betony. We plan to verify the sighting this spring, since this would be a new plant for Nachusa.



Al Meier

Dot and Doug Wade Prairie

By Al Meier

Stewardship on the Dot and Doug Wade unit got an early start in 2005 as we celebrated New Year's Day by clearing brush in the Shabbona Savanna. Several large oaks had fallen in recent years, and around them thickets of multiflora rose, rubus, and honeysuckle had flourished, choking out the native savannah species. With the help of several other stewards, we cleared out one of the downed oaks and the brush around it and had a great bonfire to keep us warm on that cold winter day.

Work on the Shabbona Savanna continued for several months, culminating in a spring workday where many friends helped with the brush clearing effort. As the year progressed, it became apparent what a difference we had made—the Shabbona again looked like a savanna, freed from the invasive brush which had nearly overwhelmed it in recent years.

In the summer months we battled against birdsfoot trefoil and parsnip using herbicide and spades in an effort to rid the unit of these insidious plants. The birdsfoot trefoil was encroaching the high quality prairie remnants of Doug's Knob, and we hope that we have helped stem this incursion, although we know that continued work will be necessary.

In the summer and fall we collected nearly two hundred pounds of seed—representing about 65 species—some of which was used to oversee the 1994 Dot and Doug planting and some to oversee the Shabbona Savanna. The rest of the seed is being saved for planting new prairie on a portion of the unit currently in row crops.

2005 stewardship on the Dot and Doug Wade Prairie ended on a bitterly cold late December Sunday—when I arrived at 8 a.m. the temperature was four degrees and reached a high of only twelve degrees by mid-afternoon. I had the preserve all to myself that day. As I cleared brush along Wade Creek, I contemplated the beauty of Nachusa, with the reddish-brown bluestem grass peeking through the freshly fallen snow on Doug's Knob, and the brilliant blue, cloudless sky above. And, of course, I built another great bonfire to keep me warm.

Whether working with fellow stewards or alone to ponder the wonders of the natural world, Nachusa is a great place to be in any season. My thanks go out to my

fellow stewards and to all the supporters of Nachusa Grasslands for making 2005 a great year.

Prairie Potholes Unit

By Chris & Jennifer Hauser



Jennifer Hauser

This past year, Jennifer and I spent little time in the Potholes Unit. Instead, we spent much of the summer and fall harvesting seed under contract with the Prairie Preservation



Chris Hauser

Society of Ogle County (PPSOC). Overall, we harvested about 100 dry and mesic prairie species, with a final weight totaling about 480 pounds. We used a variety of harvesting techniques, using sickles and scythes for harvesting some species, and using the Nachusa seed stripper for other species. In December, we spread this seed over about 5 acres in a soybean field on the Clear Creek Unit on the south side of Stone Barn Road.

Our stewardship in the Potholes Unit will continue next spring when we will be planting several thousand plants of 3 species: 314 plants of prairie coreopsis (*Coreopsis palmata*), 1200 corms of prairie blazingstar (*Liatris pynostachya*), and 760 plants of prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*). The plants were generously grown by Larry Creekmur, a commercial native plant grower, who grew the plants from seed that we had collected from Nachusa in 2004. It will likely take several spring workdays to get all these plants into the ground, and we will be praying for moist spring weather, so wish us luck!

Rolling Thunder Prairie

By Sally Baumgardner

Each time I went outdoors in September, I fashioned a "picture frame" with my hands in front of my face, over large patches of brilliant prairie wildflowers. There I would find a multitude of Monarch butterflies, feasting on nectar to fuel their long journey to Mexico. Not simply "a lot" of Monarchs, but hundreds and hundreds each day, for over three weeks.

We invited friends to see what we think may have been a peak year for Monarch populations in migration, and no one was disappointed. A guest asked about dragonflies, and suddenly they, too, were present! How many more members of the wild world had a boom year in 2005? Do our efforts at restoration really make a difference? It seems so.

Let's watch for them again this autumn. Will you be the



Sally Baumgardner

first to notice the brilliant goldenrods and blazing stars, with Monarchs moving like music over the land?

Thelma Carpenter Prairie

By Tom & Jenny Mitchell



Tom & Jenny Mitchell

We're another year closer to completing the first phase of restoration at Thelma Carpenter Prairie. The third of our four plantings wound up with 80 species and 200 pounds of bulk seed mix, plus 25 pounds of little bluestem. Mary Scott joined us for 75 or so collecting trips, from May 18th (pussytoes) through the end of November (asters and goldenrods).

Thanks to Katie and the crew for mowing and burning the corn stubble that we planted northwest of the remnant at TCP. Thanks to Neil Chapman and Jennifer Williams for their help both collecting and planting. We were fortunate that rain or snow followed each planting



Tom Mitchell, Mary Scott and Jay Stacy

session. Next summer we hope to finish up by planting the remaining 7 acres to the northeast, nearest the pine trees along Carthage Rd. New plants in the third year (2002) planting included dropseed and heart leaved golden alexander's. The second year planting did not have too many weeds.

All the cedars are gone from the 30 acres of hills that comprise the best parts of the unit, only a few osage orange and cherry trees remain. Three common non-native plants, sweet clover, parsnip, and wild carrot likely will be around longer than any of us. The pond dried up for the third year in a row. Three sand milkweed plants appeared in 2005, but there were no Hill's thistle plants this year.

The fire history of TCP in 2005: the crew burned the east burn unit in the fall, the third prescribed fire there since 2001. Some of the plantings also burned. The west burn unit was lit up in fall of 2004 and resulted in a

bumper crop of seeds on the western most hill. Our hope is that continued use of fire for the next 50-100 years will complete the next phase of restoration work at this unit.

Brush Clearing Grant Update

The Geoboy brush mowers were humming again around the state and here as well. We have managed this TNC/ U. S. Forest Service grant for brush clearing at natural areas around Illinois from our preserve office. Miles of fire breaks and nearly a thousand acres of invasive brush have been cleared at over three dozen sites throughout the state.



Pine Rock Nature Preserve before geoboy clearing.

Much of the overgrowth is comprised of invasive species. Excessive brush keeps sunlight from reaching other plants that provide excellent habitat for native

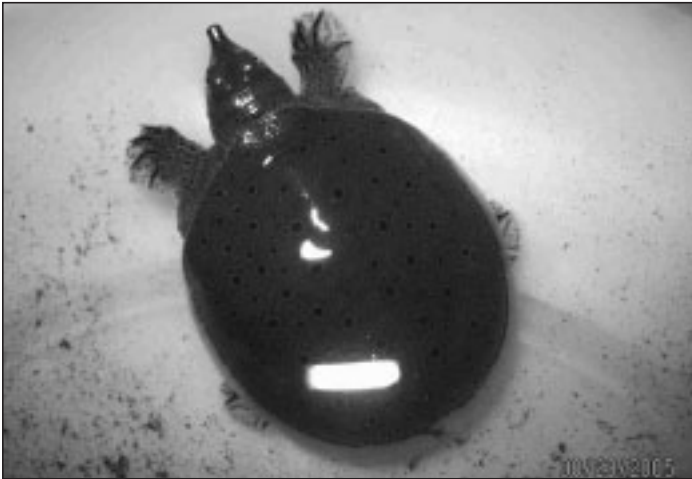


Pine Rock Nature Preserve after geoboy.

birds, amphibians, reptiles, insects and mammals. This work will help us save many of our best remaining natural areas in Illinois. Once brush has been cleared, prescribed burns will be used to maintain these lands in a way that benefits native plants and animals by providing healthy habitat.

New Discoveries

With the addition of Clear Creek Knolls to the preserve we added more land. We also added a new species to our list of residents here at Nachusa. An interesting turtle was found sunning along the creek near the ford. Upon further examination by staff and stewards we were able to identify it as an eastern spiny softshell turtle. So keep a look out along Clear Creek and you may just find one again.



Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle

C-2000 Grant Funded

The Nature Conservancy was awarded a \$16,000 grant by the Conservation 2000 program for the purchase of two new water sprayer units and some fire safety equipment. As a match to the grant funds Nachusa will host a workshop on woodland fire for local landowners and promote the restoration and management of local natural areas by conducting prescribed fires. For more information on the C-2000 Ecosystems Program, contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, 217/782-7940, <http://dnr.state.il.us/orep/C2000/index.htm>.



Barred Owl at Autumn on the Prairie.

AUTUMN ON THE PRAIRIE

17th Annual Celebration at Nachusa Grasslands
Saturday, September 16, 2006, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

A free event with fun for the entire family: guided walking tours of the preserve, paintings by local artists, children's activities, gift raffle, horse drawn wagon rides, live music, and good food.

From the Visitor's Book

Last year visitors from Bloomington IN, Harvard IL, Ft. Madison IA, Bidelsdorf Germany and Sweden visited the preserve and contributed to the visitors book. Next time you are out visit the kiosk and add your thoughts.

"Escaping from the corporate drudgery for a day to enjoy the prairie"

"Gave me an idea of what the first people saw here!"

"Our first visit here, of what we know will be many visits"

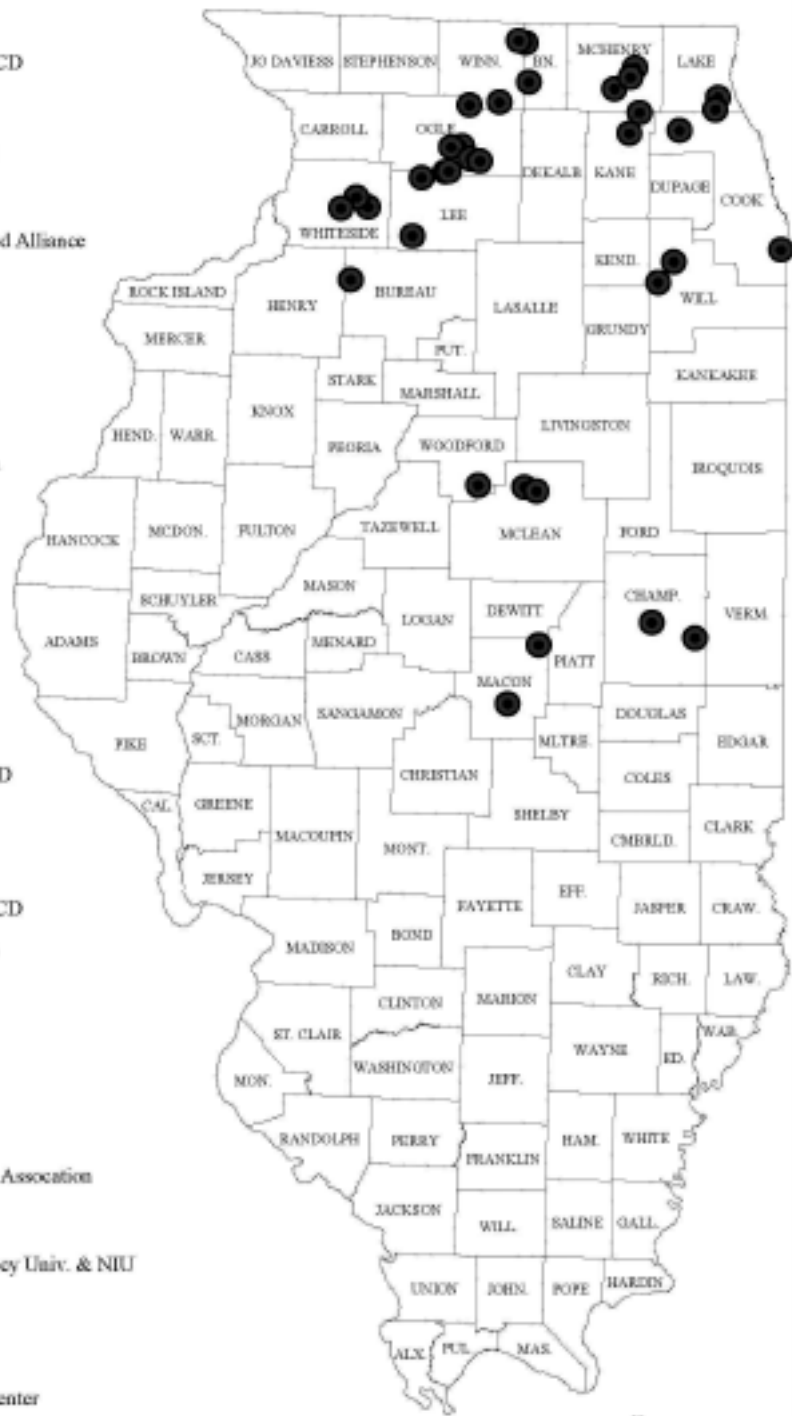
"Beautiful and peaceful"



Steward Jay Stacy stands next to his successful planting.

USFS BRUSH CLEARING GRANT 2006

| Site | Ownership |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Agnew | Whiteside County SWCD |
| Alessio Prairie | Will County FPD |
| Atwood Prairie | Rockford Park District |
| Bird's Junction Marsh | Will County FPD |
| Boloria Meadows | Boone Creek Watershed Alliance |
| Burnidge | Kane County FPD |
| Burr Oak Valley Preserve | NLI |
| Bussey Woods | Urbana Park District |
| Chinquapin Bluffs | TNC |
| Camp McCormick | Girl Scouts of America |
| Dixie Fromm Briggs Prairie | Dundee Township |
| Distillery Conservation Area | BCCD |
| Floresheim Park | V. of Lincolnshire |
| Franklin Farm | Franklin Farm |
| Friend's Creek | MCCD |
| Green River Conservation Area | DNR |
| Homer Lake Forest Preserve | Champaign County FPD |
| Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area | BCCD |
| Kyte River Bottoms | NLI |
| Lyndon-Agnew Railroad Prairie | Whiteside County SWCD |
| McCune Sand Prairie | Bureau County SWCD |
| Meadows Park | Dixon Park District |
| Nachusa Grasslands | TNC & DNR |
| Nachusa Grasslands-Sand Farm Unit | TNC & DNR |
| Parklands Merwin NP | Parklands Foundation |
| Patterson Nature Preserve | Vernon Woods Owner Association |
| Paul Douglas Forest Preserve | Cook County FPD |
| Pine Rock | Bd. of Regents Rengeny Univ. & NIU |
| Piros Prairie | Sheryl Piros |
| Pleasant Valley Conservation Area | MCCD |
| Resurrection Center | Resurrection Retreat Center |
| Sand Creek Recreation Area | MCCD |
| Sand Ridge Forest Preserve | Cook County FPD |
| Skare Park | Rochelle Park District |
| Spring Slough | Whiteside County SWCD |



Key to Features

- County Line
- Brush Clearing Site Location



Date Created: January 18, 2006
 Projection: NAD 83 UTM Zone 16
 Source: EONL USFS, US Bureau of the Census, etc.

The Nature Conservancy provides the information "as is." TNC makes no guarantee or warranty concerning the accuracy of information contained in this geographic data. Josh Thompson



Clear Creek



Bur Oak in Winter

Nachusa Grasslands *is great year round.*

Check the stewardship callendar for future hike dates.



SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH



Coyote Point Group



James Mann, ICECF Director – June 15, 2005

THANK YOU DONORS

\$100,000 and above

Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation

Nancy Hamill Winter

Tellabs Foundation

\$1,000 and above

Excelon

Anonymous

M. R. Bauer Foundation

Genesis Nursery - AOTP Sponsor

Becky and Hank Hartman

David Fox

Gerald McDermott - 2 new chainsaws

Al and May Meier

Wish List

- **MORE VOLUNTEERS!** Each unit on the preserve and every aspect of our operation would welcome additional stewards. Volunteers are empowered to do as much stewardship as they wish. Check the stewardship calendar for a Saturday workday or just come out to the preserve and learn more.
- **ANOTHER HARDWORKING SEASONAL CREW!** Each year Nachusa Grasslands provides an excellent opportunity for recent graduates and passionate conservationists to work at the preserve. Seasonal Assistant Stewards are needed for prairie and savanna management and restoration including weed management, seed harvest, and general maintenance. Keep an eye on TNC's career webpage for the formal job announcement - <http://nature.org/careers/index.html> or forward Nate a resume. nathan_hill@tnc.org
- **CLEAR CREEK RESEARCH** - We are still looking to find a researcher to take on base line monitoring of Clear Creek. Gauging stations and macro invertebrate studies are much needed. How will our restoration efforts reduce sediment and help improve aquatic habitat over time?

Equipment Needs:

- Single Beds with bedding for crew housing
- Kitchen Supplies (pots, pans, knives, coffee maker)
- 5 watt hand held radios for fire crew
- 110 volt welder

STEWARDS OF NACHUSA GRASSLANDS

Bruce Boyd

Bill Kleiman

Nathan Hill

State Director

Project Director

Restoration Ecologist

STEWARDS

Big Woods

Hank & Becky Hartman

Committee for the
Preservation of Wildlife

Clear Creek Prairie

Prairie Preservation Society
of Ogle County

Mary Blackmore
Terri Clark

Clear Creek Knolls

Dropseed Hills

Mary Vieregg

Jim Vieregg

Dot & Doug Wade Prairie

Al Meier

Barb Regan

Edith & Anna Heinkel Savanna

East Unit

Mike Crowe

Cassie Krueger

West Unit

Jay Stacy

Don Homer, Gene Miller
Mary Scott

Eight Oaks Savanna

Jan Grainger

Fen Unit

Kevin Kaltenbach

Josh Sage

Kittentail Savanna

West Chicago Prairie

Stewardship Group

Steve Sentoff

Hamill Winter Prairie

Mike Adolph

Bob Shone

Prairie Potholes

Chris Hauser

Jennifer Hauser

Roadsides & Jay Meiners Wetlands

Tom Mitchell

Jenny Mitchell

Rolling Thunder & Harold Walkup Prairies

Sally Baumgardner

Max Baumgardner

Sand Farm

Russ Brunner

Schafer Prairie

David Edelbach

Ray Derksen

Tellabs Savanna

Ron Ingraham

Jan Grainger, Bob Shone

Thelma Carpenter Prairie

Tom Mitchell

Jenny Mitchell

Barn Steward

Jenny Mitchell

Autumn On The Prairie 2006 Chair and Co-Chairs:

Becky Hartman, Al Meier, and Mary Meier

Science Stewards:

Bird Monitoring

Ann Haverstock

Butterfly Monitoring

Jan Grainger

Herbarium Steward

Dwight Heckert

Insect Collector

Chris Hauser

Lespedeza leptostachya monitor

Todd Bittner

Photo Monitor

Open

Outreach Volunteers:

Publicist/Educator/Presenters Sally Baumgardner, Gene Miller, Dwight Heckert

Youth Stewards Leaders

Mike Adolph, Sally Baumgardner, Susan Kleiman, Ron Ingraham

Seasonal Assistant Stewards: Cody Considine, Ryan Klopff, Andy Muth, Adam Rex, Katie Schoenfeldt, Austin Saylor, Kelly Weise

CALENDAR FOR STEWARDSHIP WORKDAYS 2006

Volunteer Stewards and Co-stewards lead workdays. New volunteers are always welcome to come learn and have fun with us. Start time is 9:00 A.M. Meet at the Preserve Headquarters (red barn) at 8772 S. Lowden Road. Volunteers break for lunch at the Barn and then sometimes continue stewardship or go for a hike in the afternoon as the group desires or weather permits. We also have stewardship during the week (give us a call at 815 456-2340).

March - Brush, Planting and Fire Season

- 4 Schafer Prairie
- 11 Big Woods
- 18 Rolling Thunder Prairie - Walk 2 P.M. Pasque flowers
- 20 Vernal Equinox
- 25 Kittentail Savanna

April - Brush, Planting and Fire Season

- 2 East Heinkel Savann
Introduction to Fire Workshop
- 8 Prairie Potholes
- 15 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie
Walk 2 P.M. Jack-in-the-Pulpit
- 22 Hamill Winter Prairie
(*Autumn On The Prairie (AOTP) Committee Meeting at noon*)
- 29 Rolling Thunder Prairie

May - Weed Season

- 6 Tellabs Savanna
- 13 Schafer Prairie
Introduction to Woodland Fire Ecology 10-2
- 20 Prairie Potholes
Potluck Gathering (meal at 12:30)
Walk 2 P.M. Wetlands on the west
- 27 Sand Farm & Rolling Thunder Prairie

June - Weed and Seed Collecting Season

- 3 Schafer Prairie
- 10 Eight Oaks Savanna
- 16 Resource Managers Open House
- 17 Fen
(*AOTP Committee Meeting at noon*)
Walk 2 P.M. Top of the knobs
- 21 Summer Solstice
- 24 West Heinkel Savanna, Thelma Carpenter Prairie
- 25 Sunday Clear Creek Prairie

July - Weeds and Seeds

- 1 Pine Rock Nature Preserve
- 8 Kittentail Savanna - Walk Silphiums at 6:30 P.M.
- 15 Schafer Prairie
(*AOTP Committee Meeting at noon*)
- 22 East Heinkel Savanna & Clear Creek Prairie
- 29 Sand Farm

August - Seeds

- 5 Big Woods
- 12 Prairie Potholes & Rolling Thunder Prairie
- 19 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie
- 26 West Heinkel Savanna & Thelma Carpenter Prairie
(*AOTP Committee Meeting at noon*)
Walk 2 P.M. Tim's Half Knob - Blazing Star

September - Seeds

- 3 Schafer Prairie
- 9 Fen
AOTP Preparation Workday
- 16 **Autumn On The Prairie Celebration**
Nachusa is 20 years old. The Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy turns 50!
Walks and other activities - 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.
- 23 Tellabs Savanna
Autumnal Equinox
- 30 Hamill Winter Prairie

October - Seeds

- 7 Eight Oaks Savanna
- 14 Kittentail Savanna - Walk 2 P.M. Seed Picking
- 21 Rolling Thunder Prairie and Thelma Carpenter Prairie
- 28 Clear Creek Knolls

November - Brush, Planting and Fire Season

- 4 Rolling Thunder Prairie
- 11 Big Woods
- 17-19 Shotgun deer weekend
- 18 **Seed Mixing Celebration & Potluck Gathering**
Walk 2 P.M. Seed Celebration Tour
- 25 Schafer Prairie
- 30 Shotgun deer weekend

December - Brush and Planting Season

- 1 Shotgun deer weekend
- 2 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie
- 2,3 Shotgun deer weekend
- 9 Hamill Winter Prairie - Walk 2 P.M. Beaver Ponds
- 16 East Heinkel Savanna
- 22 Winter Solstice
- 30 Clear Creek Knolls

January 2007 - Brush Season

- 6 Tellabs Savanna
- 13 Schafer Prairie - Walk 2 P.M. Heinkel Hollows
- 20 Dropseed Hills
- 27 Eight Oaks Savanna

February 2007 - Brush Season

- 3 Fen
- 10 Sand Farm
- 17 Dropseed Hills
- 24 West Heinkel Savanna - Walk 2 P.M. Savannas

March 2007 - Brush Season

- 31 Midwest Burn Crew Training

AUTUMN ON THE PRAIRIE

17th Annual Celebration at Nachusa Grasslands
Saturday, September 16, 2006, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Issue 43, March 2006

Editor Nathan Hill
Associate Editor Bill Kleiman

REACHING NACHUSA GRASSLANDS

The preserve is open to the public. The main trail head to the preserve is at the Visitor Entrance with the kiosk. All volunteer workdays meet at the Preserve Headquarters red barn (located 1/2 mile north of Visitor Entrance) at 8772 S. Lowden Road up a long driveway.

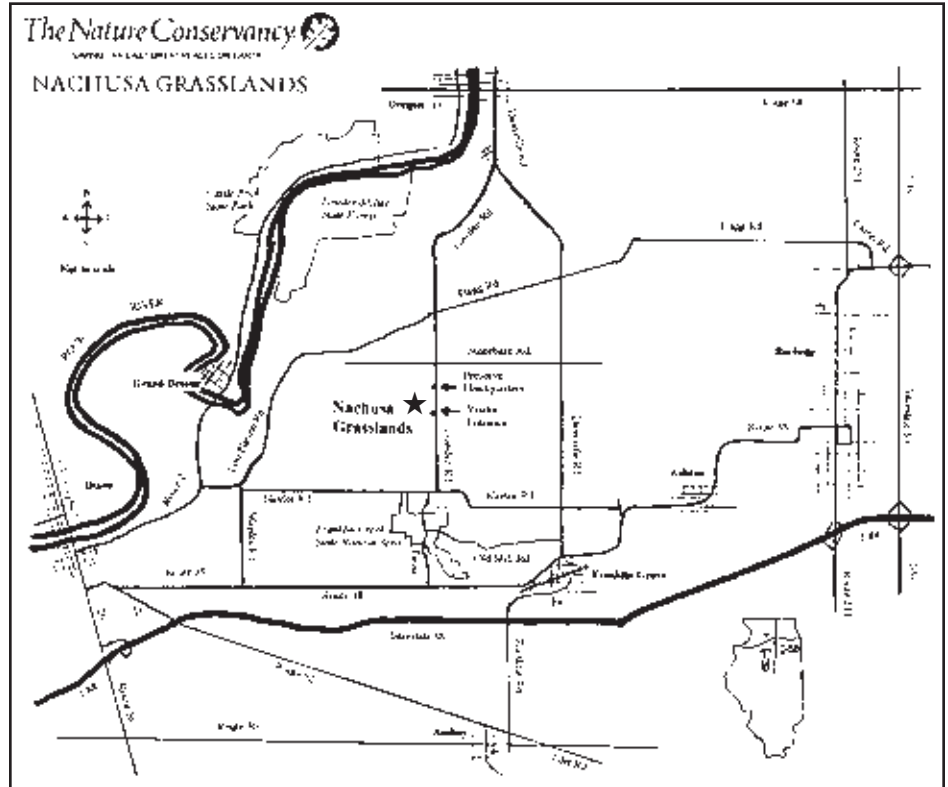
From I-88 (East-West Tollway): Exit at Rt. 251 North (Rochelle), to Rt. 38 West. Travel through Ashton and into Franklin Grove (approx. 16 miles), turn right (north) on Daysville Rd./1700E. Travel 1.5 miles north to Naylor Rd./1950N, turn left (west) and go 2.2 miles to Lowden Rd./1500E, turn right (north) and go 1 mile to Visitor Entrance (on the left with kiosk).

From Route 64: Just east of the Rock River in Oregon, turn south on Daysville Rd./1700E. Travel approx. 2.5 miles and turn right (45 angle) on Lowden Rd./1500E (Lowden-Miller State Forest). Travel south 5 miles to a 4-way stop at Flagg Rd. Continue south another 2 miles to the Visitor Entrance (on the right with kiosk).

From Dixon:

Option 1: Take Rt. 38 East into Franklin Grove then turn left (north) on Daysville Rd./1700E. Travel 1.5 miles north to Naylor Rd./1950N, turn left (west) and go 2.2 miles to Lowden Rd./1500E, turn right (north) and go 1 mile to Visitor Entrance (on the left with kiosk).

Option 2: From downtown (Rt. 26/Galena Ave.) take Rt. 2 North two miles, then turn right (east) on Lost Nation Rd. Go one mile to Maples Rd./1150E, turn right, then left immediately onto Naylor Rd./1950N. Go east for 3.5 miles to Lowden Rd./1500E. Turn left (north) and go one mile to Visitor Entrance (on the left with kiosk).



Nachusa Grasslands is owned and operated by The Nature Conservancy, a private, non-profit group whose mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

The Nature Conservancy 
SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

The Nature Conservancy

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