

PRAIRIE SMOKE

Newsletter of Nachusa Grasslands

Issue 37



Summer 2000

A WALK WITH THE SHRUBS OF NACHUSA GRASSLANDS

By Tom Mitchell



Shrubs are important prairie components along with grasses, sedges, forbs (flowers) and trees. By definition a shrub is a woody plant with several stems, unlike a tree, which has a single trunk. The plant list at Nachusa Grasslands counts 34 native shrubs.

This count includes, among others, two each of roses, raspberries, blackberries and cacti, five willows, three dogwoods, black haw, low shadblow, bladder-nut, and meadowsweet. Many shrubs species bloom colorfully in the spring. A rich variety of these shrubs can be seen along the fence-line on Naylor Road.

So, let's begin our walk with the shrubs from Robbins Road to the oak savanna on the Jay Meiners Wetland Unit of Nachusa Grasslands.

First up is a sizable population of ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) that has persisted despite road building on one side of the fence and grazing on the other. Ninebark is an upright shrub with a shredding, peeling bark, that makes it easy to identify in any season. It has umbels of small, white flowers around June 1. It can grow in a wide variety of soil conditions. The wet/dry ditch bank topography, that has been cleared of competitors during the last two winters, is suitable for ninebark to form a colony. This shrub, like other conservative plants, prefers remnant habitat. Thus, it is rather scarce. However, this species, and similar ones, are often planted as ornamentals.

Beyond the ninebark is a narrow patch that includes a rare, upland beauty-lead plant (*Amorpha canescens*). Miners in the 1820's, in the driftless region, found this under-three foot striking shrub with gray-green leaves growing on limestone outcrops where they found lead. So, by association, the common name evolved. Sod-busters, who first plowed the prairie soil, heard its roots snap and called it the "devil's shoestrings". Lead plant is found only in remnant patches of the great prairies, it is the most conservative shrub at Nachusa Grasslands, and it is not easy to re-establish. Lead plant in bloom in June is a vibrant contrast of violet spikes with golden stamens. It has a taller sister, the indigo bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*), found

Walk with the shrubs *Cont'd on page 2*

11th ANNUAL AUTUMN ON THE PRAIRIE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2000 10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

Autumn On The Prairie celebration is an excellent opportunity to explore and learn about Nachusa Grasslands. It's free, too! The many, and variety of, guided tours are the backbone of the celebration - they begin every 15-20 minutes. A self-guided plant identification trail is also available - at your leisure. This year two special tours will be led by Raymond Wiggers who wrote Geology Underfoot in Illinois. Wiggers has been a curator at the Illinois State Museum, environmental geologist for the Illinois EPA, and a National Park Service botanist and educator. His interest in plants gives a twist to helping you discover the secrets of the local geology.

There will also be horse-drawn wagon rides on the prairie. And, at-atl spear throwing - yes, you get to throw the spear. A Children's tent with wonder-filled activities will be open for ages 1 to 100. Displays will interpret birds, butterflies, geology, plants, and the stewardship of Nachusa Grasslands. Live music by Heritage Strings will entertain you. Lunch will be available to purchase. Local artists demonstrating painting will have works for purchase. Raffles of donated prizes will be conducted several times during the celebration - Good Luck to all. Also, nature books, T-shirts, mugs and other memorabilia will be available for sale. All purchases help support the celebration of Autumn On The Prairie and, of course, Nachusa Grasslands.



Young seed collector at
Autumn On The Prairie
- Photo by Hugh Sakols

Come on out for a very pleasant day. Be caught up in a breezy, colorful, natural part of Illinois!

Walk with the Shrubs *Cont'd from page 1*

elsewhere on the preserve in a wetter environment. Both *Amorphas* are legumes, members of the Pea Family.

As we go to the top of a hill, we find a thicket of American plum (*Prunus americana*) trees that are as short as shrubs. The adaptive capacity of these colony-formers is evident during a prescribed burn. The outer ring of trees absorbs and deflects the fire, protecting those trees on the inside. These "insiders" are then able to grow taller creating an appealing rounded shape. There is an exemplary plum grove on the southwest slope of Doug's Knob and several others on Main Unit knobs.

At the east end of the plum thicket, near a bluebird box, is another distinctive shrub, the American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*). Early land surveyors found the hazelnut everywhere in the almost extirpated savanna landscape. It is believed dense shade provided little plant growth under the hazelnuts and therefore, protected oaks and hickories during prairie fires by slowing the wall of flame, and even preventing it from continuing. Many people consider the nuts as the most valuable of mast to native animals. Hazelnut can be identified after autumn by its light yellow catkins. These catkins enlarge in late winter to form the male staminate flowers. The very small crimson female pistillate flowers typically bloom the first week in March, before leaves emerge. Small populations of American hazelnut can be found in places along this roadside, as well as in other places on the preserve.

As we walk along the ditch, east of the Meiners Unit parking area, we find elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), a common roadside shrub with white flowers and dark purple fruit. Closer to the road is Carolina rose (*Rosa carolina*), a low wild shrub, with pink flowers that bloom in June. At the fence is a prickly ash (*Xanthoxylum americanum*), a thorny shrub with opposite leaves. Also known as the "toothache tree" due to past medicinal use, prickly ash is a member of the citrus family, its berries can be used as a flavoring agent. This plant has rust colored buds, green flowers, and red fruit with black seeds.

The smooth sumac clones (*Rhus glabra*), common shrubs, stretch from the fence, to the "Jay Meiners Wetland" sign. The sumac has pointed clumps of red berries which hang-on into winter. Among these sumacs, and elsewhere down the road, are dense, sometimes impenetrable, tangles of black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*), easily distinguished by its arching and rooting branches. The black raspberry is described by one author as a "landscape tramp". Common blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*) with tall, ridged stems is also found here.

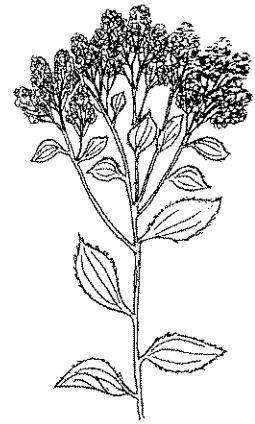
Heading downhill we see four large bur oak trees. Inside the drip-line of their crowns is found wild black currant (*Ribes americanum*), an early blooming shrub found in both flood plains and upland woodlands. Wild gooseberry (*Ribes missouriense*), a weedy and thorny plant, the first shrub to leaf out in spring, is also seen here.

Hiking back up the hill to the parking area, we become aware of many bird songs. (A recent study reported by the Morton Arboretum linked non-native shrubs, for instance the pervasive and exotic honeysuckles and buckthorns, with the decline of wood thrushes. Also, it was indicated, that robins seemed to fare better with nesting success in native arrow wood and hawthorn.)

We can rest assured that the variety of native shrubs at Nachusa Grasslands provide nesting sites for many birds, such as, the brown thrasher, yellow warbler, yellow breasted chat, Bell's vireo, blue-winged warbler, lark sparrow, gray catbird, loggerhead shrike, yellow-billed cuckoo, orchard oriole and cedar waxwing. Shrubs not only benefit birds. Nuts and berries of shrubs provide food to all wildlife.

According to the Illinois DNR publication Rock River Area Assessment, humans have also been longtime gatherers of native shrub yields. The publication attributes the following quote to pioneers describing the shrubby character of the region: "For fruits the people had crab apples, wild-plums, thorn apples, blackberries, grapes and raspberries." With gratitude for conservation efforts, in many places, we still enjoy the native shrubs.

Author's Note: Additional shrubs at Nachusa Grasslands: nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*) a woodland shrub with buds of two sizes; low shadblow or serviceberry (*Amelanchier humilis*), a rare shrub that forms colonies on the northeast and southwest slopes of Doug's Knob; another rarity, black chokeberry (*Aronia prunifolia*), one population dominates Coyote Point and another grows on Potowatomi Ridge with prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia humifusa*); the common wafer ash or hop-tree (*Ptelea trifoliata*), a tall shrub with distinctive papery seed capsules; prairie willow (*Salix humilis*), also scarce, is found on dry, sandy soils; meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*) is a summer bloomer in the wetlands; red osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) whose bare red branches are quite visible in March; bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*) has striped bark and seeds that rattle inside inflated papery pods; and blackhaw (*Viburnum prunifolium*) an elegant woodland shrub with berries used by pioneers for jams and jellies.



New Jersey Tea
(*Ceanothus americanus*)

Tom Mitchell "birding" at
Nachusa Grasslands



BUTTERFLY MONITORING AT NACHUSA GRASSLANDS

By Jan Grainger

Butterflies are admired by everyone. My admiration for them stems not only from their beauty but also because of the special link they have to the vegetation of an area. The entire cycle of their life is tied closely to the health of the plants on which they feed. Last summer was my first season monitoring butterflies at Nachusa Grasslands. I followed a route that had been established previously which cut across the main unit for much of its length. I must say its hard to get a perfect day for monitoring—little or no wind, cloudless skies and warm temperatures are required. The day I saw the Regal Fritillary for the first time was ideal but much more than warm (95 degrees!). This magnificent butterfly is unmistakable with its vivid orange forewings contrasting with black hindwings. It requires a relatively large, high-quality prairie remnant because its primary host plant is the bird's foot violet.

Host plants are the plants on which the eggs are laid and subsequently the caterpillars feed. Adult butterflies may enjoy nectar from a variety of plants, however the caterpillar host plants are crucial to their continued survival.

Another beautiful fritillary which is dependent on the violets of the prairie is the lovely Aphrodite. This species is aptly named for the goddess of beauty and love. While walking my route last summer, I was very pleased by the abundance of this species in the main unit.

The official season for the Butterfly Monitoring Network begins in June. I've been doing some preliminary scouting this spring. A remarkable butterfly I've seen this May is the Giant Swallowtail. The Swallowtails are all large butterflies with fairly slow flight so they can be enjoyed easily. With a wingspan of up to six inches, this butterfly (along with the female Tiger Swallowtail) is the largest in North America. It floated effortlessly and gracefully through the air as it passed close by me. Its black wings are distinctively marked with yellow bands. This butterfly is described as "landscape dwelling" since its host plants are the prickly ash and the hop-tree; plants that are not confined to high quality remnants of natural areas. Further south this butterfly is more common where it also uses citrus plants. Citrus growers may consider the caterpillar (called the "orange dog") a pest. In contrast to the showy butterfly, the caterpillar resembles a large fresh bird dropping as an ingenious strategy to avoid being eaten.

A group of butterflies not known for their beauty are the skippers. They are small and many are nondescript to say the least. And ... there are many different kinds! The skippers however are valuable indicators of the quality of the habitat since many are highly reliant on grasses found only in the rare remnants of our natural heritage. For example, the Ottoo Skipper relies on little



**Aphrodite butterfly (Speyeria aphrodite)
on pale purple coneflower
(Echinacea pallida)**
— photo by John Schmadeke

bluestem and is an Illinois Endangered Species.

Monitors are expected to follow strict rules in order to make the data collected useful. Netting is allowed but only one specimen at a time and the specimen should be very quickly released after identification. Although presently I am a novice in butterfly identification, I find that each day I roam around Nachusa I become more familiar with the common species and add new species to my personal checklist.

Wish List

- Help with the barn. Looking for anyone who can hammer, drill, paint, or do electrical and plumbing.
- 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.
- Research Projects (graduate research opportunities!)
- Donate your old vehicle for trade-in (1990 or newer) towards a 4-wheel drive truck.

BARN-HEADQUARTERS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The barn in Ashton (donated by Gladys Voss and family) was taken apart by several volunteers and a professional timber frame crew in May. It was amazing to see the pros crawl all over the barn to prepare it for disassembly. Equally amazing was watching the crane take off roof sections and swing timber frame sections (called bents) down to the ground. Volunteers and summer staff labeled each joint while the barn was still standing, and after the bents were on the ground took them apart. They also knocked the rafters off the roof sections once they were on the ground, pulled up floor joists and boards and pulled many a nail.

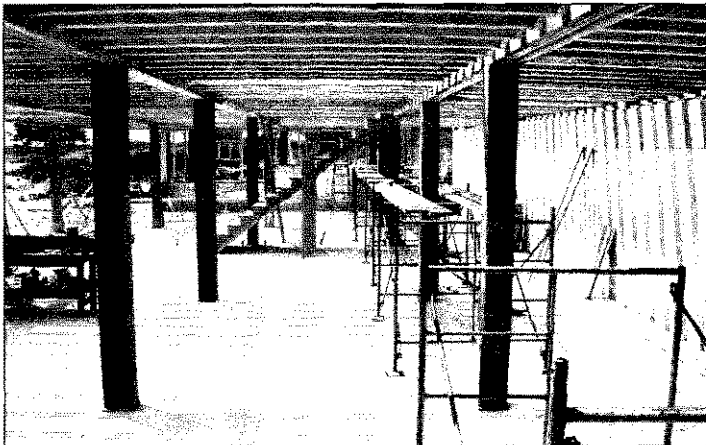


Nailing joist hangers for barn floor. Front to back: Mike Hansen, Dave Schoenholtz, Garrett Meiners, Dave S. Jr., and out of view, Erin Jones.

- photo by John Schmadeke

A special thanks to Mike Adolph, Ron Ingraham, Howard Fox, Steve Covello, Gerald McDermott, Max Baumgardner, and John Schmadeke for giving so much in terms of hours, brain power and sweat. Thank you also to the following individuals and businesses for their donations: John Nicholson, for use of an electric generator and pressure washer; Clyde Gelderloos of Lee County Disposal Service in Rochelle for dumpster service; Crest Foods, Inc. for covering the cost of hiring the crane.

We have installed the septic, electricity, well, and spigots. The foundation is completed. As this is being written we are just finishing the construction of the main floor that will support the timber frame.



Lower floor of barn under construction

Thanks to the following volunteers for helping in the project so far: Jim Grove, Jack Kelley, Eric and Sandy Brubaker, Javier Tapuerca, Jean and Vic Guarino, Ray Derksen, Beth Wiltshire, Todd and Tonya Bittner and Kelly Webster.

The summer crew has also put in many hours. Many thanks to Mike Hansen, Garrett Meiners, and Erin Jones. Three of our cooperative education students deserve thanks: Sieg Schwirblat had experience that helped in taking the bents apart and Kendra Hlobil and Seth Brown pulled boards and nails. Sorry if we missed someone, let us know who.



Howard Fox, barn builder

However, this is just the beginning.

We need a lot of help to prepare the timber frame for re-erection, nailing siding boards, installing insulation, wiring, plumbing, building internal walls, lofts, laying the stone foundation facade, etc.

Only you can make it possible to have the barn ready. Please join us. Call the preserve to let us know when you're available (815) 456-2340.

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!**

STEWARDSHIP HAPPENINGS

By Susan Kleiman

Our vigorous winter work of brush clearing on what has become known as John's Creek, after John Schmadeke, in the East and West Heinkel Units has reversed the deadly effects of shading to this creekside meadow. The areas opened to sunlight are already showing robust growth of sedges, rushes and for the first time, this spring, hundreds of blue flag iris (*Iris virginica shrevei*); a native more dainty than the garden variety.

This spring we planted a new portion of the agricultural field at the Hook Larson Unit and over-seeded new species in last years plantings. We also over-seeded in plantings in the uplands at the Jay Meiners Wetland Unit and at the Hotchkiss tract. Stewards have over-seeded in many other areas as well, for example, the Dot and Doug Wade Unit plantings, East and West Heinkel plantings, Schafer Knob gravel pit restoration, and Rolling Thunder Prairie. We are preparing additional areas for restoration at the Hotchkiss tract, Meiners uplands, Roadsides, and Hook Larson Prairie.

The reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) at Meiners Wetland Unit has once again been engaged in battle, this year, by John Schmadeke and Tom Mitchell. Each year there is less of it in our areas of concentration. We continue to see big declines in reed canary grass along Wade Creek and Prairie Potholes. The sweet clovers are having an abundant year in some of the areas we didn't burn this season. Similar declines in the main population of birdfoot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*)



Volunteers at brush clearing day along John's Creek at East Heinkel Unit. Back row l to r: Jay Stacy, Jenna Sanders, Mike Crowe, Gene St. Louis, Tom Mitchell. Front row l to r: Tim Keller, Barb Baker, David Edelbach, Mike Adolph.

are probably due to herbiciding with Stinger. The repeated mowing and pulling of poison parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) by Tom Mitchell on some of the roadsides has prevented it from going to seed. Due to our concentrated efforts, over the last three years, there has been a major decline in field devil (*Hieracium pratense*).

Our thanks go to our summer crew - Erin Jones, Mike Hansen, and Garrett Meiners - who are working hard to reduce the number of weeds that go to seed and have begun collecting native seed.

Also collecting seed this growing season is Shannon Neuendorf. We have a researcher this July, Chris Hauser, setting up monitoring transects for Nachusa Grasslands for his Masters Degree. He will be here again next summer.

BUILDING PRESERVATIONIST WILL BE MISSED

A friend of the Franklin Grove community, Ron Nelson, passed away recently. An historic building preservationist, he had given good advice about our barn relocation and conversion. He was instrumental in the restoration of the H. I. Lincoln Building in Franklin Grove. He also helped with an early prairie restoration at Knox College. His good nature, friendship and knowledge will be missed by many.

Prairie Smoke, Issue 37, Summer 2000
Editor Susan Kleiman
Associate Editor Gerald McDermott
Additional editing Thelma Dahlberg, Bill Kleiman, Dot Wade, Sally Baumgardner
Mailing Manager Ellen Baker
Mailing List Manager Chris Pfoutz
(Crest Foods, Inc.)

THANK YOU!

DONATIONS TO THE BARN

Charles C. Haffner
Mike Adolph
Dick and Jill Brennan
gave large donations
Lincoln School in Rochelle
Dean T. and Eloise E. Van Hise
Nancee and Nick Huges
Mr. and Mrs. David B. Lowe
Nick and Jeanne Vogelzang
Wilbert and Wayne Weitzel Families
Mark Liechty and Laura Hostetler
Gerard, Andrea, Erin, Emmett, Liam Breen
Robin Soderberg Read
for Bruce and Marion Soderberg
Mike and Terry Clarke
Joe and Betty Wood
Donald and Cherril Homer

THANK YOU !

SIGHTINGS

By Susan Kleiman

Henslow's sparrows - We have so many singing males this year that they seem to be heard in most areas of the preserve! This rare sparrow resembles the grasshopper sparrow in profile with the head and beak being almost a continuous slope. It is more likely to run on the ground, in the undergrowth, than to fly. It can be seen singing its two-note, insect-like song, from atop stiff plants or shrubs.

Blanding's turtle - We used live traps to see if we could locate this rare turtle. We found one in the large pond that borders our neighbors property (John Bivens) and the Schafer Unit. It was an adult female. All of the claws were missing on its right rear



Blanding's turtle
(*Emydoidea blandingii*)

foot. We took photographs of her top (carapace) and underside (plastron) and released her exactly where we caught her. These dark turtles, with yellow flecks, have a somewhat domed shell and a bright yellow throat. It is a shy turtle, not inclined to bite. It eats both plant and animal food. Blanding's turtles used to occur in all of northern Illinois where there were extensive prairie wetlands. It was probably common before the marshes were drained. This turtle needs water and sandy uplands for egg laying. In many places in its range, the turtle is preyed upon, or run over, trying to cross roads to reach both habitats. Nachusa Grasslands has both water and sandy uplands, adjacent to each other, therefore, necessary protection can be provided for this interesting species.

Prairie Bush Clover - I came across an unknown group of prairie bush clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*) on the Dot and Doug Wade Unit, facing west on Rachel Carson Knob south of Doug's Knob. Six plants were seen, all about to flower. This is our rarest plant. It is smaller and more delicate than the native, but common, round-headed bush clover (*Lespedeza capitata*). It is on the Federal Threatened Species List. It is endemic to the Midwest. The largest Illinois population can be found at Nachusa Grasslands.

Seed collection is underway. Most days you will find Jay Stacy, and often other volunteers, combing the swells and swales for elusive violets or snipping the seed heads of species from *Allium cernuum* to *Zizia aurea*.

Come on out!! Join us!!!

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

The
Nature
Conservancy
Saving the Last Great Places

CO-STEWARDS

Mary Blackmore
Terri Clarke

Barb Regan

Todd Bittner

Jay Friberg

Mel Hoff

Bob Shone

Jenny Mitchell

Max Baumgardner
Sally Bowers

Gerald McDermott

Gene Miller,
Ron Ingraham
John Schmadeke
Don Homer

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 2000-2001

August

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

BARN RAISING
Tentative date August
12-13, call the
Preserve to confirm.
(815) 456-2340

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 (IMPORTANT, please participate)**

January 2001

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

BARN WORKDAYS

For the new Stewardship Headquarters Barn. We need YOU to help. Please call the preserve and tell us when you are available.

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. 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.

Thank You

Maxine Simpson and Cindy Tilsy for helping Ellen Baker with mailing the Prairie Smoke in January.

Judy Snyder for donation of two file cabinets and loppers and bow saw.

Heather Swensen-Hagenyager for seed from several species of prairie plants.

Tom Lawson for a donation, in memory of his father, Russell Lawson.

George Dilling for donation, in memory of Paul "Deacon" Jackson.

Jane Balaban for donation of fold away bed (in use by a researcher staying here this summer).

Gene St. Louis for a new chain saw.

Jan Grainger for butterfly monitoring.

Ann Haverstock for another season of bird monitoring.

Ann Myers of Ender's Greenhouse for growing many plants for us from seed from the preserve.

Larry and Sandy Creekmur of Country Road Greenhouse for starting plants for us for the propagation gardens to be located at the new barn.

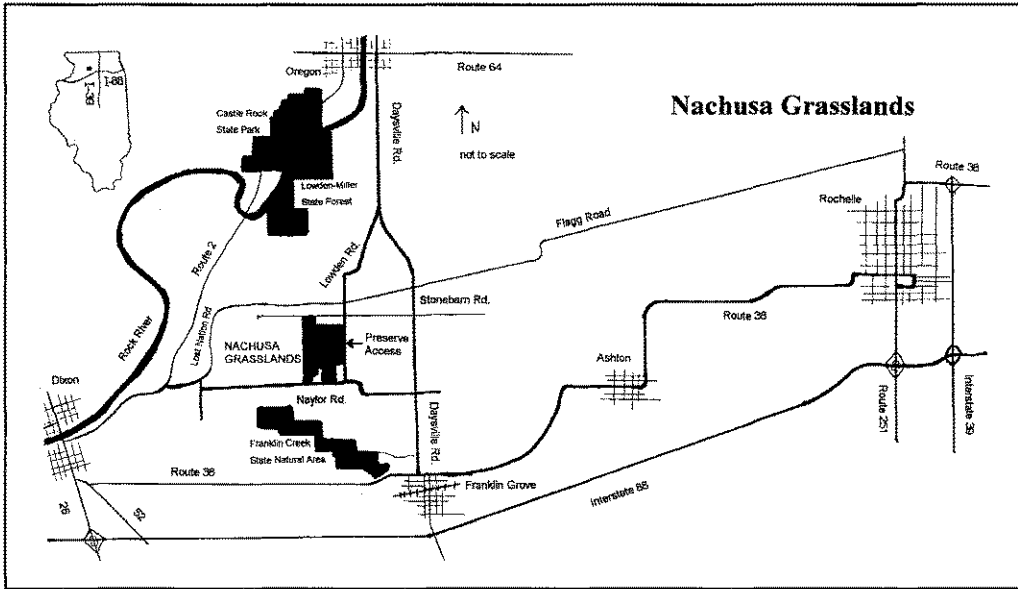


HE KNEW WHERE THE PLANTS GREW

By Sally Baumgardner

James B. Long, from Amboy, an early contributor to the Prairie Smoke (1992-1994), died last January. He was 73. Mr. Long wrote detailed descriptions of the native plants of Lee County. He donated hundreds of pressed specimens to the Illinois State Museum over a span of 50 years. The Amboy News often carried his natural history articles. Though we never met, I am especially grateful to him for helping me better understand the Hypericums (St. John's worts).

Editor's Note: James B. Long had an amazing knowledge of local plants. He helped protect them in the larger Green River area, by sharing their location with Hazel Reuter, one of our volunteers; Todd Bittner, Heritage Biologist with Illinois DNR; and Gerould Wilhelm, co-author of Plants of the Chicago Region.



From Route 64: At eastern edge of the city of Oregon, turn south on Daysville Rd. (towards Lowden-Miller 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

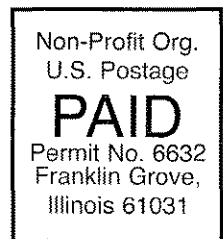
From I-88 (East-West Tollway): Exit at Rt. 251 North (Rochelle), to Rt. 38 West. Travel through Ashton and into Franklin Grove (approx. 16 miles), turn right (north) on Daysville Rd. Travel 1.5 miles north to Naylor Rd., turn left (west) and go 2.2 miles to Lowden Rd., turn right (north) and go 1 mile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

Visit our web page at: www.essex1.com/people/nachusa/

The Nature Conservancy

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



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.