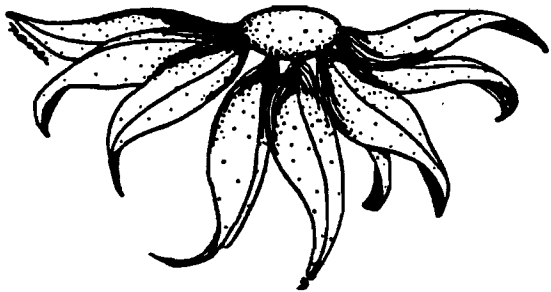


the wild ones



The Outside Story

newsletter for natural landscapers

vol. 3 no. 1

January-February 1990

Bayside, Wisconsin

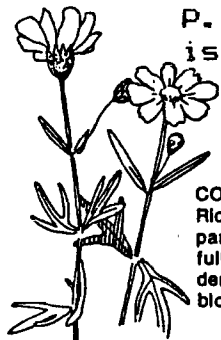
Mark Your Calendar! Set February 17 aside for our famous annual natural landscaping seminar. Bring your friends, mates, mothers, dads, your grown children, new acquaintances, or neighbors. Bring someone who has land, or will have land, or can influence anyone who owns land.

Seminar section choices will be based on an individual's previous experience or on the opportunity which his yard affords. John Diekelman will be heard by all and he will set the tone for the day. (Our December video of John concluded with his comment that people should care about the earth because, "It is such fun to care.")

For the remainder of the morning the choice will be between David Kopitzke's beginner demonstrations and the dynamic Vicki Nuzzo offering advice on the management of natural yards once they have been planted. David's presentation is so popular that he must repeat it every year, and even then, we have requests to give him an extra hour. Some of you may wish to spend the noon hour with him or come see my extensive slide collection of naturalized mid-west front yards.

Concurrent afternoon session will concentrate on specifics. Neil Diboll will come from his Westfield nursery to speak to the sunny section of our yards. Landscape architect Carol Bangs will give us ideas for the shady areas. JoAnn Gillespie will have suggestions from her wetland nursery in Muskego. Donald Vorpahl will be your choice if you feel a need for some basic planning before developing communities of native plant species. He promises "easy and joyous ways to surround your home with the beauty and bounty of nature in Wisconsin." There will be displays, book and seed sales, and expert advice available. The Wisconsin Room holds 600 and the Union will provide a beautiful setting.

P.S. Maps showing how to reach the seminar are in this issue. If you need more information, call (414) 964-4990.



COREOPSIS *Coreopsis palmata* PRAIRIE
Rich yellow daisy-like blossoms on 2-3 foot stems. A particularly drought-tolerant plant that does well in full sun and in poor soil. A few plants can form a dense patch in a couple of years. A perennial that blossoms in July.

Our Secretary Notes: Our NOVEMBER meeting began with a review of how to properly store prairie plant seeds over the winter:

> Hang seeds (out of reach of little critters) in a paper bag in the garage (not freezer).

> In the spring, place seeds in the refrigerator for 2 - 4 weeks.

> Mix seeds with sand and scratch into the dirt when the soil is warm (prairie seeds need warm soil).

> Do not store woodland plant seeds, get them into the ground right away!

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is formulating a policy on maintaining roadsides on state highways. They are considering no mowing policy until August to allow for growth of wildlife habitat. They are also considering purchasing no new herbicides and switching to spot spraying instead of broadcasting herbicides. Weed commissioners and farmers are fighting this. Once again, we urge everyone to write the DOT letting your views on herbicides and mowing be known, and asking that prairie plants be planted on Wisconsin roadsides (including city areas). The address is: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, 4802 Sheboygan Avenue, Box 7916, Madison, WI53707. Ask for their prairie poster.

Our speaker was Dan Boehlke of Woodland Gardens in Germantown. Dan shared a tremendous amount of helpful information, urging us to get out in the woods and learn from nature. See where various types of plants grow, the type of soil, neighboring plants, etc. He suggested reading John Curtis' Vegetation of Wisconsin to help learn native plant communities.

Preparing the bed for your woodland plants is extremely important. There is a great need for organic matter. If you are starting with a plot of grass, Dan suggested putting a foot of organic matter, wood chips, and leaves on top of the grass and waiting until all the grass dies off. Begin with hardy transplants. Wait 2 - 3 years to allow the wood chips to rot down before putting in any seeds or small, delicate plants. (Be advised that depending on where you get your wood chips, you may be picking up bad weed seeds as well, such as buckthorn or honeysuckle. Chips in the spring will have less seeds than chips in the fall.)



Vegetation
of
Wisconsin

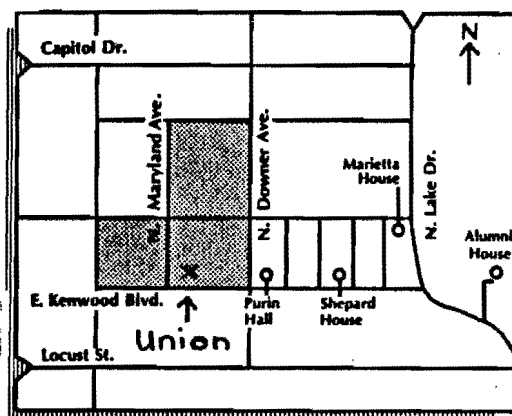
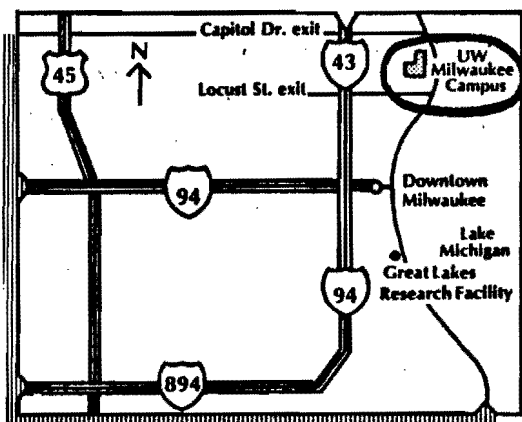
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Dan's slides illustrated that even if you have an "old field," you can have natural plant succession that will later reach a native climax forest by simply letting things grow. Cultural information on raising 37 woodland plants was given.

Sharing seeds and holiday food was part of our DECEMBER meeting. Windright Prairie Shop in Oregon, Illinois is no longer accepting orders. Dorothy Wade is forwarding all names to her son, Alan, at: Prairie Moon Nursery, Route 3, Box 163, Winona, MN55987. Rae Sweet read a passage about lawn snobs from Ellen Goodwin's book. An Outdoor Wisconsin segment about The Wild Ones was shown as well as a John Diekelmann video (he will be a seminar speaker.)

.....
January Preview: Tom Pellon will have a wonderful wildflower presentation. Writer Janis Stiefell will share her knowledge of the history and folklore of wildflowers.

Directions to get to the UWM Union for the February seminar:



.....Cut Here.....

Remember to pay 1990 dues. Send checks (\$12 per address) made out to The Wild Ones to: Sue Hurda, 4528 W. Hiawatha, Mequon, WI53092.

Name _____

Address _____

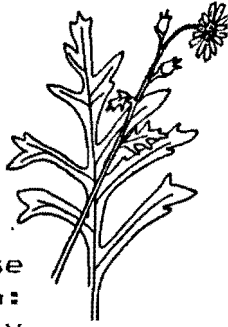
Phone _____

Circle responses below:

Committee interests: Planning committee, Finding digging sites, February seminar, Newsletter, Other _____

New member: Yes No

COMPASS PLANT *Silphium laciniatum* PRAIRIE
Bright yellow sunflower-like blossoms appear all summer long, each flower about 3" in diameter. The interesting deeply lobed leaves are often oriented north and south, hence the name Compass Plant. Grows 5 to 6 feet tall in ordinary garden soil. An easy to germinate perennial.



See What Letters Can Do! Deb Harwell received this response to her letter to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation: "Thank you for your interest in our road-sides and especially in our efforts to bring back the "natives". I am pleased to inform you the daffodils you referred to will not be planted, but will be replaced with more native plants."

.....

April 22 is Earth Day.

.....



The Wild Ones - Natural Landscapers

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pres. Deb Harwell 351-4253 | Meetings: 2nd Saturday, |
| V. Pres. Lucy Schuman 352-0313 | 9:30 a.m. at Schlitz |
| Sec. Kristen Summerfield 375-1230 | Audubon Center, 1111 E. |
| Treas. Sue Hurda 242-5910 | Brown Deer Rd. Milwaukee, |
| Newsletter: Carol Chew 351-0644 | WI53217 - 414/352-2880 |
| Mentor: Lorrie Otto | Dues/Newsletter \$12/year |

.....

the wild ones



The Outside Story

newsletter for natural landscapers

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Milwaukee, Wis.
Permit No. 4016