

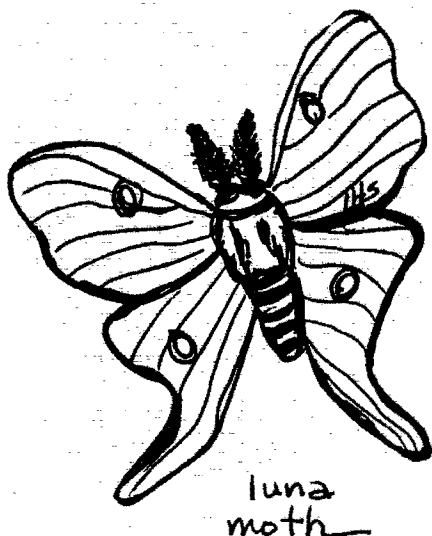


The Outside Story

September - October 1992

Birds, children created school natural area

As children return to Bayside School, a natural area, planted 18 years ago, turns brilliant with fall color. Here two strips make a whole. One is for the birds and was planted by them. The other is a meadow decorated with wildflowers by children.



Village wants wildflower image

According to a recent article in *The Herald*, manicured grass along roadways and medians in River Hills, Wisconsin may soon give way to wildflowers and natural vegetation. The village is looking for a new visual image and lower maintenance costs. They are particularly interested in native Wisconsin plants and feel that this would be something to set the village off and enhance River Hill's scenic beauty.

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The birds' ribbon of land is only two feet wide along a 150' border where a protective berry hedge once grew. At the northern end, birds introduced wild grapes. On winter days blue splatter in the snow tells us how seeds are transported. Along the old playground edge, they dropped one blue berry from a red cedar tree which grew to provide food and nesting places among its prickly branches. A blue jay brought an acorn, now a small white oak. Cedar wax wings may have planted mountain ash trees where they now gorge themselves on great clumps of orange berries. A white-berried red osier, a choke cherry, a black cherry, and an alder-leaved buckthorn were all "pooped out" as seeds by birds thriving on wild fruits. Elms, maples, a white birch, and a magnificent purple-leaved ash can also be added to the bird list. Native common juniper, so desired by natural landscapers, was once a berry deposited as a cleaned seed a decade ago. Growing through this clump of aromatic foliage is a euonymus. By nature's design, these companion plantings grow as one.

On May 6, 1974, fifty children and several garden club members worked to turn two bleak, long, mowed plots into a natural landscape that could be enjoyed inside or outside classroom windows. Ten children were sent on bikes to the village landfill with instructions to dig any sprig or rosette of greenery. They collected tansy, yarrow, Queen Anne's lace, monarda, asters, goldenrod, sunflowers, black-eyed Susans, branched coneflowers, fleabane, milkweed, red clover, and ferns. The first three plants were introduced by pioneers: tansy as an insect repellent and air freshener; yarrow as a useful herb to stop bleeding; and Queen Anne's lace for its beauty. The other plants found all celebrate our country's heritage. The children

(continued on page 10)



Fourth grader, Kate Jeppesen, enjoys a summer day at her easel in Bayside School's Natural Area. (Photo by Lorrie Otto)

Entice butterflies with these native wildflowers

The following prairie forbs are recommended for butterfly gardens:

wild garlic	<i>Allium canadense</i>
nodding onion	<i>Allium cernuum</i>
prairie onion	<i>Allium stellatum</i>
lead plant	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>
bluntleaf milkweed	<i>Asclepias amplexicaulis</i>
green milkweed	<i>Asclepias hirtell</i>
swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>
prairie milkweed	<i>Asclepias sullivantii</i>
common milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>
butterfly milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>
whorled milkweed	<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>
heath aster	<i>Aster ericoides</i>
smooth aster	<i>Aster laevis</i>
savory-leaf aster	<i>Aster linariifolius</i>
New England aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>
aromatic aster	<i>Aster oblongifolius</i>
frost aster	<i>Aster pilosus</i>
white aster	<i>Aster ptarmicoides</i>
silky aster	<i>Aster sericeus</i>
American bell flower	<i>Campanula americana</i>
New Jersey tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>
prairie field thistle	<i>Cirsium discolor</i>
sand coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>
coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>
pale purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>
purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>
rattlesnake master	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>
Joe-Pye weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>
boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>
ox eye daisy	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>
golden aster	<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>
blazing star	<i>Liatris aspera</i>
dwarf blazing star	<i>Liatris cylindracea</i>
gayfeather	<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>
bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>
dotted mint	<i>Monarda punctata</i>
white prairie clover	<i>Petalostemum candidum</i>
leafy prairie clover	<i>Petalostemum foliosum</i>
purple prairie clover	<i>Petalostemum purpureum</i>
prairie phlox	<i>Phlox pilosa</i>
marsh phlox	<i>Phlox glaberrima</i>
mountain mint	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>
long-headed coneflower	<i>Ratibida columnaris</i>
prairie coneflower	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>
wild rose	<i>Rosa carolina</i>
black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>
tall coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>
sweet black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia subtomentosa</i>
branched coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>
groundsel	<i>Senecio pauperculus</i>
star silphium	<i>Silphium asteriscus</i>
rosin weed	<i>Silphium integrifolium</i>
compass plant	<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>
cup plant	<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>
prairie dock	<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i>
grass-leaved goldenrod	<i>Solidago graminifolia</i>

continued on page 3

Butterfly gardening helps increase insect habitat

Attracting butterflies can be very rewarding and easy to do if you garden according to their needs. Butterflies are not only beautiful, they fill a principal role in being the second most important pollinators.

Butterflies are sun-loving creatures, so locate your butterfly garden in a sunny area. Protection from strong winds is appreciated and should be considered when site selection is made. Make your garden large enough to create quite a show of color, because that is what initially lures them.

Adult butterflies feed on nectar, the sweet liquid in flowers. Popular nectar-rich flowers are purple coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, and butterfly weed. Butterflies are active from early spring through late fall, so plan for continuous bloom throughout the growing season. Clustered flowers or flat-topped flowers afford a better "landing pad" or perch on which butterflies can land and feed. Single flowers are preferable over double flowers because the nectar is more accessible.

Butterflies use their wings as solar panels and are often seen basking in the sun. This activity raises their body temperature to the 80 degrees necessary for flight. Include flat stones in your garden to attract basking butterflies.

Female butterflies can be lured to your garden to lay their eggs if you include food plants for caterpillars. The egg will be laid upon the type of plant the developing caterpillar will need for feeding. Monarch caterpillars eat only milkweed plants which make them very distasteful to birds. Butterfly weed, mentioned earlier as a nectar-rich plant, is a type of milkweed. If you are lucky enough to find yellow, black, and white striped caterpillar on your butterfly weed, let it graze, or move it to some



Monarch larva on Milkweed

common milkweed where it will be just as happy.

Many otherwise ideal butterfly gardens lack invited guests due to pesticide use.

Like birds, our butterflies are suffering from the loss of their natural habitat. We can help these beautiful "flying flowers" with the addition of butterfly gardens in our yards. -- Jean Palm

Swamp Metalmark threatened by loss of wetland habitat

A tiny, copper-brown butterfly with a three-quarter inch wingspan, metallic silver streaks, and golden yellow underwings is listed on Wisconsin's registry of threatened species.

The species only lays its eggs on the underside of the swamp thistle leaves where they stay through the winter before hatching in the spring.

"Like all organisms, even this specialized and inconspicuous butterfly occupies its niche in the food pyramid. As the butterfly larvae feed on the thistle, lace wings, spiders and mice feed on the metalmark caterpillars. Modern scientists believe that the collapse of many small building blocks such as this eventually could undermine even those of us at the tip of pyramid," according to Ann Celi in a recent *Milwaukee Journal* article.

continued from page 2

Dyer's weed	Solidago numerialis
Riddell's goldenrod	Solidago riddellii
common goldenrod	Solidago canadensis
stiff goldenrod	Solidago rigida
showy goldenrod	Solidago speciosa
prairie spiderwort	Tradescantia bracteata
spiderwort	Tradescantia ohlensis
blue vervain	Verbena hastata
hoary vervain	Verbena stricta
ironweed	Vernonia fasciculata
Culver's root	Veronicastrum virginicum
bird's foot violet	Viola pedata
prairie violet	Viola petatifida
Alexanders	Zizia aurea
heart leaf Alexander	Zizia aptera

(List supplied by Prairie Future Seed Company of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin)

Butterfly resources

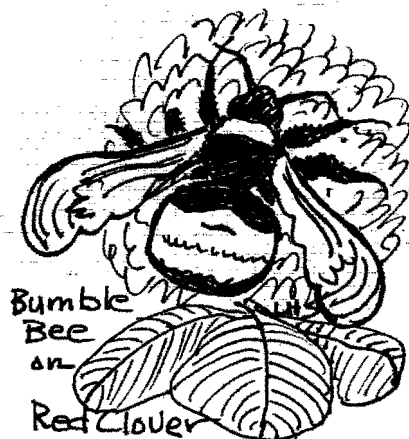
The Audubon Society Handbook for Butterfly Watchers by Robert Michael Pyle (1984) \$17.95

The Butterfly Garden by Matthew Tekulsky (1985) paper \$8.95

The Butterfly Book by Donald & Lillian Stokes, Ernest Williams (1991) paper \$10.95 Beautiful color pictures of butterflies & caterpillars, range maps, good information.

Butterflies of Wisconsin by James A. Ebner (1970) Excellent reference, all pictures b & w. Published by Milwaukee Public Museum.

A Golden Guide to Butterflies and Moths by Mitchell & Zim (Rev. 1987) One of the best for caterpillar identification.



Lorrie's Notes ...

The following article was first published in *The Outside Story* in September 1990. It is being reprinted because of repeated requests.



Bug Zappers

Nasty, noisy killing grids. What do we know about the electronic bug zapper?

This morning a lovely, little girl in my neighborhood brought the cocoon of a polyphemus moth to my door. As we identified it, I was remembering a quote from entomologist Wally Morse:

"Under the trap there were lunas and cecopias flopping all over the ground. They fly into these things and burn a wing."

Years ago, my son was the youngest member of the Milwaukee Entomological Society and lunas were his love! Those were the days before our communities began helicopter spraying with DDT.

The occasional bug zapper isn't nearly as ubiquitous in its destruction, but it can diminish species locally by disrupting food chains. Birds and bats are deprived of food for their young. Important predators such as the caterpillar hunter beetle and tiny parasites that control threatening moth populations could topple out of balance in a bug-zapping landscape. The annoying, spitting, crackling devices burn many beneficial insects while not contributing to the comfort level of the homeowner, unless it is in his or her imagination.

Biting insects are drawn by smell to carbon dioxide, humidity, and chemicals in mammalian sweat. **Science 85** reported in two controlled experiments that the devices did nothing at all to decrease the number of mosquito bites.

The brilliant, electric light does attract pollinators of showy, flowering plants. This may decrease the seed production in our prairie restorations. And, because the zappers attract more insects than they can possibly kill, pest species and their egg masses might concentrate near our native gardens.

In our abysmal ignorance, we are depleting the diversity of life in so many ways. One would hope that at least a few big, beautiful moths from George Otto's time could be protected to delight the Lindsay Cunninghams of today.

-- Lorrie Otto

Wild Ones meet the press

Prominent articles this summer have focused on Wild Ones' members. On Sunday, June 28, Lorrie Otto, was the subject of a cover story in *Wisconsin, The Milwaukee Journal Magazine*.

"The Blooming of Lorrie Otto" by Paul G. Hayes described her emergence as a national voice in opposition to DDT and her advocacy of prairie yards.

On Sunday, August 9 two featured Home section articles appeared—one in *The Milwaukee Journal* and the other in the *Chicago Tribune*. The Milwaukee paper told about Jean Palm's butterfly gardening with large colorful photos. Chicago's story had photos and quotes from Vicki and Ron Nowicki. Another article on the same day in the *Daily Herald*, a northern Illinois paper, featured the Wild Ones organization.

Rochelle Whiteman was Jan Weller's guest on WHA's one hour broadcast from the Wisconsin State Fair. Benefits of native plants were discussed during the live, call-in show.

Volunteers needed for site

Glendale's Natural Areas Committee is working with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to develop a demonstration site on busy Port Washington Road. Volunteers are needed for the project. They will receive training in various planting techniques. This is a good chance to improve our roadsides visually and learn more about natives. Call 351-2291 as soon as possible.

Acknowledgments

A special thank you to Judi Ficks who has been serving as our treasurer. She is turning over that position to Dorothy Boyer, but will continue to get our newsletters ready to mail.

We want to thank the Wisconsin Department of Transportation who made available this issue's insert.

Testimony sways council; native yard approved

At a Glendale (Wisconsin) City Council meeting, two homeowners who maintain traditional grass lawns testified in favor of allowing another resident to go ahead with his plan to develop an all-native, natural yard. Their support helped to win over council members who were struggling with an ordinance which doesn't permit natural yards if 51% of the neighbors object.

One self-proclaimed "mowaholic" said, "I can't as yet give up my lawnmower, but life is beautiful when you live on a block that is increasingly going native."

Another homeowner admitted, "I paid plenty for my (conventional) landscaping, although sometimes I don't know why. I really enjoy living across the street from a natural yard. I see the amount of work that goes into them. My last tax bill shows no lowering of my property values."

An owner of naturalized property revealed, "I wake up each morning with all the cares of the world on my mind.

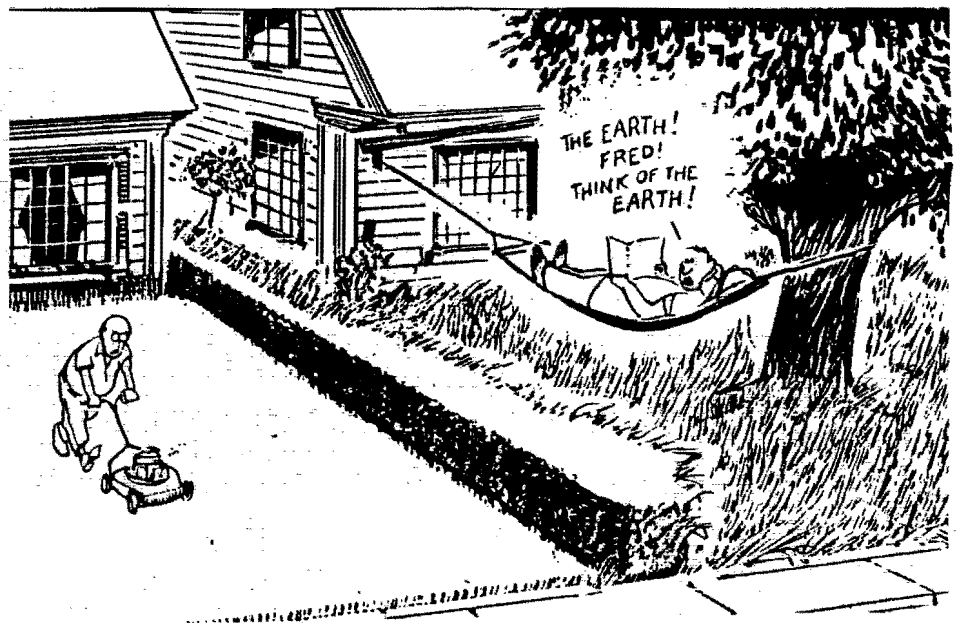
I think about all the national and international problems, then I look outside and realize I'm living in a bouquet!"

Slides showing the progression of development of natural yards were shown, as well as those existing side-by-side with traditional lawns. The idea of neighbors learning to appreciate and live with diversity in a democratic society was stressed. Also on exhibit were potted native grass specimens.

Glendale, which on one hand promotes natural yards through conservation and beautification awards, was required to hold the hearing because of ordinance restrictions currently on the books. In 1989, the city adopted a law which allowed natural lawns if a permit was filed, a fee paid, and neighbors notified.

The city's Natural Areas Committee is working on the restoration of an historic Indian prairie and other projects. A new ordinance, modeled after one in Long Grove, Illinois, will be submitted to the council.— Rochelle Whiteman

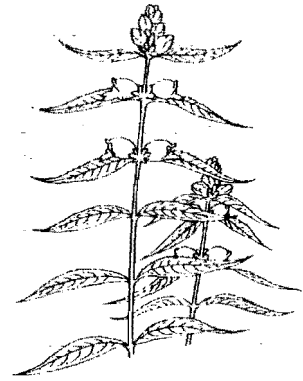
THE EPA SAYS LAWNMOWERS ARE MAJOR POLLUTERS



The Inside Story

Compiled by
Janice Stiefel

TURTLEHEAD
(*Chelone glabra*)
Snapdragon Family



OTHER NAMES: Balmony, Snake-Head, Fishmouth, Shellflower, Salt-Rheum Weed, Hummingbird Tree, Turtle-Bloom, White Chelone, Cod Head/Mouth

DESCRIPTION: This is a smooth plant with tight terminal clusters of white, tubular, 2-lipped flowers that resemble a turtle's head. Sometimes they are tinged with pink or lavender. The flower heads are about 1 to 1½ in. long with the upper lip arching over a hairy lower lip; inside are five stamens with one being shorter and sterile. The leaves are 3 to 6 in. long, opposite, lanceolate, and sharply toothed. **Height:** 1-3 ft.

HABITAT: Streambanks, low ground, wet thickets.

FLOWERING: July-September

COMMENTS: Turtlehead is a true American native perennial. The Bumblebee is one of its regular visitors. When he enters the flower and disappears inside, seeking nectar, his movements and the resulting vibration of the flower give the appearance that the bee is being consumed by the Turtlehead blossom.

The Baltimore Butterfly is often found hovering near this plant. Indeed this butterfly occurs only where the Turtlehead grows and rarely wanders farther than a hundred yards. Not that the butterfly visits the blossoms; it does so only on rare occasions. The reason it stays close is that the caterpillars feed on the leaves and do so almost exclusively. They feed on the plant in a communal web until autumn, then hibernate in the web, and in the spring continue their feeding until it is time to pupate. The emerging butterflies mate, the females lay their eggs on the leaves, and the cycle is repeated.

MEDICINAL USE: Present recommendations are that the leaves are used for reducing inflammations and as a remedy for worms. Its tonic and slightly laxative qualities assist the removal of toxic sludge from the stomach and intestines, that so often leads to indigestion and debility of the digestive tract. As an ointment, it is used for inflamed tumors, irritating ulcers, inflamed breasts, piles, etc. It also has value in liver conditions. In 1859, an herbalist wrote, "It is a valuable medicine in diseases of the liver, and in jaundice tends to remove the yellow tinge from the skin and eyes. An even teaspoonful is a dose."

The Malecite Indians of the maritime provinces of Canada used Turtlehead for prevention of pregnancy.

NAME ORIGIN: The **Genus Name**, *Chelone* (Kel-lo'nee), is from the Greek word, *chelone*, meaning a "tortoise," the corolla resembling, in shape, the head of a reptile. The **Species Name**, *glabra* (glay'bra), means "smooth."

AUTHOR'S NOTE: I made an observation this spring that has led me into another field of photography and research. As I was guiding a friend along our wetland/woodland path, we noticed that a stand of Wood Betony (*Pedicularis canadensis*) was being devoured by some orange and black caterpillars. Having just heard all the talk about the destructive Gypsy Moth, we immediately thought it might be the Gypsy Moth caterpillar and were very tempted to destroy them. Not knowing what the Gypsy Moth caterpillars really looked like, we almost made a horrible mistake. I took several of them back to the house so that I could try to identify them by looking through my insect books. I discovered they were the larvae of the Baltimore Butterfly and that they were eating the wrong host plant. Those caterpillars munched away on that Wood Betony for over a week and then they started to die. Their little bodies were laying everywhere — on the leaves and on the ground. They never found their way to the Turtlehead plant that would have provided the nourishment for them to survive. I wasn't excited about having the Turtleheads chewed up, but it did give me a better understanding of why so many of the plants look like they've been through a war.

The following quote from the Newsletter of the National Wildflower Research Center was responsible for my new-found insight: "Reintroducing natural landscape elements into urban and suburban neighborhoods may be one of the greatest contributions to ecosystem conservation that we can make. Butterflies and native plant species depend on one another to survive. While butterflies pollinate the flowers, the plants provide butterflies with food, housing, and sometimes chemical protection. Eggs are laid on specific host plants, whose leaves provide ample food for the larvae. Judiciously selected nectar plants provide fuel for adults in their quest to find mates and reproduce."

Because we had been so quick to condemn the "strange-looking" caterpillars, assuming they must be harmful, I decided to make an effort to observe, photograph, identify, and research the insects I come across every day. They are not easy to identify if they aren't in the field guides, encyclopedias, etc. We need more books on insects! I have slides of creatures that may have never been photographed. Instead of fictional novels and mysteries, we need more books that help us understand the environment in which we live.

Butterflies flock to sunny gardens where colorful blossoms grow



By EDITH BRIN of The Journal staff

West Bend — Jean Palm's gardening days started in childhood when she followed along behind her mother, who was planting marigolds in a nice straight line, and pulled them all out, one by one.

"I guess I just didn't like the straight line," Palm says. "I still don't like straight lines. They're not natural."

From there it was just a short skip to Palm's becoming a garden expert with a degree in horticulture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and butterfly gardener extraordinaire who tends more than 10 small areas in her yard — each a slightly different collection of seductions for the butterflies she hopes to attract.

Palm has gone to considerable trouble to make these "flying flowers" welcome. But it pays off.

"I get such a rush," she says. "I'll just be sitting here, dead heading, and I'll see a butterfly and get so excited. One day I saw a buckeye [brown wings with a border of

large eyelike circles and bands of orange and black]. The only other place I ever saw one was in Florida. I actually got goose bumps.

"My other big thrill was seeing a giant swallowtail nectaring on my cup plant in the back yard. The only other time I saw one in Wisconsin was when I was hiking on the Scuppernon Trail."

Palm chose the butterfly route six or seven years ago after seeing a segment about butterfly gardening on "The Victory Garden" on TV. Her previous year's project, a hummingbird garden, hadn't exactly hummed.

Palm's front garden, not much bigger than a bathtub, is ideal butterfly bait. Bright colors send out inviting messages.

"A large area of color draws them in initially," Palm says, "then they swoop down to check it out. The area needs to be in the sun from 10 to 2 — that's when they're most active."

The flowers — surrounded by big flat stones because butterflies bask on them to warm themselves — include pale purple

coneflowers, zinnias, coreopsis, scabiosa, purple prairie clover, yellow marigold, yellow lantana, yellow creeping zinnia. Yellow flowers also draw the human eye, Palm says.

"This garden just went in last June," Palm says. "The only time this spot was visited before was with a lawn mower. We'd rather see *this* from our living room window. By last August I had seen 15 kinds of butterflies I could identify and lots of others I couldn't."

She doesn't exactly admit to a high quotient of labor investment, but does admit that going out to get the mail is not a two minute venture.

"I'll stop," she says, "and pick off the dead flower heads."

Neighborhood Benefits

Having chosen to be a stay-at-home mom for her two sons, ages 8 and 4, Palm says she extends her gardening enthusiasm to her friends and to her part-time job at the Prairie Future Seed Co. in Menomonee Falls.

Look down her quiet neighborhood street in either direction and you'll see islands of color she helped create — butterfly gardens for her friends.

"They come to me with problems, but it's not suppose to be that tough. It's suppose to be a pleasure. If you pick the right things and put them in the right place, it is a joy."

Her talents also benefit Riveredge Nature Center, a natural-landscape organization called the Wild Ones and the West Bend Beautification Committee, where she's helped design gardens for the city.

"And I always slide in some butterfly flowers," she says.

Their house had a low area in the back yard.

"My husband wanted to re-tile and gravel it. I said, don't fix it."

A Place For Monarchs

The result — a wet garden. Here grow cup plant, joe-pye weed, marsh milkweed, common milkweed.

Monarch butterflies eat only milkweed, lay eggs only on milkweed. The milkweed makes them toxic to the birds.

"They're so easy," Palm says.

To attract the butterflies, she tries to use mostly native plants. "natives," she calls them. But there also is the alien garden on the west side of the house, filled with non-natives. The butterflies like these too: gailardia, dame's rocket, day lilies, Shasta daisies, garden heliotrope, cosmos.

"Though I lean heavily toward natives, I'm not a purist," Palm says.

And are you wondering about this gardener's name? Too fitting to be true?

"When I got married I was working at a plant rental place in Chicago," she says, "Did they give me a hard time!"

More Tips For Butterfly Gardeners

Check out the new *"Peterson's Field Guide to Eastern Butterflies."* It describes 524 species with excellently detailed color paintings and color photographs to help with identification. A chapter on butterfly gardening lists recommended nectar plants and caterpillar hosts.

Horticulturist Jean Palm recommends these flowers for a butterfly garden:

- **Perennials:** purple coneflower, butterfly weed, New England aster, sedum, yarrow, phlox, candytuft, butterfly bush.
- **Annuals:** cosmos, sweet alyssum, ageratum, lantana, marigolds (single), Mexican sunflower, impatiens, zinnias, and verbena.
- **Native and wild perennials:** joe-pye weed, wild bergamot, goldenrod, common milkweed, ironweed, black-eyed Susan, grey-headed coneflower, wild rose and culvers root.

A few other helpful tips from Palm:

- Try to place your butterfly garden in a place protected from the wind.
- Provide food plants for caterpillars. Some take to leaves of parsley, dill and carrot. Others appreciate violets, willows, oaks, poplars and asters.
- Avoid pesticides.
- Don't attract birds by feeding them in summer; many have a taste for insects.



... Why?

It was a woods.

A place where you could go - to be there.
A place with brambles and hawthorns
and paths leading to clearings with
boulders where you could sit with your
friends or your dog or yourself.

It was a woods.

I was five when we discovered it.

My sister and I -

we took our cousins down the paths to
the clearings. We found a tree house and
a sign - it said,

"NO GIRLS ALLOWED!"

We went anyway. I was five.

We - my sister and I -

we had a favorite tree -
an apple tree.

There was a boulder there,
in front of the tree.

We'd sit on it.

We felt like we owned the world.

Our world. Full of brambles and
hawthorns and meadowlarks and crows
and a red fox and a mama rabbit with
baby wild ones.

Our world.

Near the woods was a pond.

A stagnant pond, yes, and yet a pond.
In winter it was ice.

You could skate on the frozen pond, and
remember the summer when there were
frogs singing their song.

"Jug o'rum, jug o'rum!"

That was *our* pond, near the woods.

Then came the digger-machines and
concrete and metal and tar and gravel
and they built a road.

By this road they put a school.

On yes - to learn, for the children.

And yet - a chunk of our woods was gone.

And the fox was alarmed.

But he didn't go - yet.

And the mama rabbit knew. She felt it -
She'd have to teach the little ones.

"Hurry, mama rabbit, hurry!" She knew.

Then came more gravel and tar and
metal and concrete. The road cut our
woods in half. It was a path, they said.
To keep the children safe. Yet -

The fox was no longer alarmed.

He knew. He left.

And mama rabbit knew, too.

But she didn't go - she couldn't go -

She must stay with her children.

And the new path cut our woods in half.
Gone was the tree house and the sign -
"NO GIRLS ALLOWED!"

We - my sister and I - we didn't feel it.
For years now there had been this "path"
and we could still sit on our rock and feel
like we owned the world.

Then the digger-machines came again.
They dug a sort of trench.

They put a pipe from our pond to their
trench. And there was an island. And hills
of dirt.

We compensated. It was still pretty.
An underground spring, a place to climb.

After all - we still had our rock and our
apple tree, where we could sit and feel
like we owned the world.

And mama rabbit knew.
Her children were old enough now.
She left. Her children went with her.

They flattened the hills of sand and clay
that we had run upon.

They planted it with seed.

And there were new signs,
"KEEP OFF THE GRASS!"

They said it was a park.

They said it was progress.

We still had our rock and our apple tree,
where we could sit and feel like we owned
the ...

... world?

They drained the old pond.

The frogs left ... or died

They flattened the trees.

Planted more seeds, planted more signs,
"KEEP OFF THE GRASS!"

I went there today.

There are no hawthorns,
no meadowlarks.

The fox ...
is gone.

The rabbits ...
have gone.

Our rock ...
is gone.

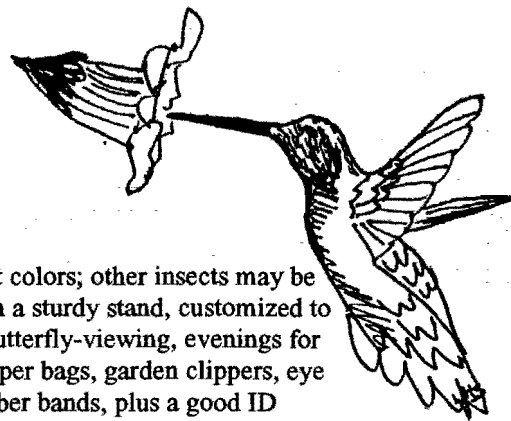
The apple tree still stands ...

I went there today.

... I wish I hadn't.

- Nancy Kippenhan wrote this story
while she was a student at Cedarburg
(Wisconsin) High School in 1977. She is
currently an artist living in Florida.

Wildcare . . .



SEPTEMBER/First Week: Many butterflies won't mind if you wear bright colors; other insects may be startled by sudden movement. Why not improve your observation area with a sturdy stand, customized to hold your camera, field glasses, or drawing pad? Sunny days are best for butterfly-viewing, evenings for moths... Prepare for seed collecting in quantity. Markers, small & large paper bags, garden clippers, eye protection, and gloves will help. Take along spring-clip clothespins, or rubber bands, plus a good ID book. Goal: No bags marked "Mixed" or "?" Before hanging bags in a dark, well-ventilated location, such as an unheated garage, strip all leaves off... Wetland seeds to collect in early September: boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*); Joe-Pye weed (*E. maculatum*); and glade mallow (*Napaea dioica*). Dry and mesic (medium) prairies: Roundheaded bush-clover (*Lespedeza capitata*); pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*); prairie blazingstar (*Liatris pycnostachya*); creamy wild indigo (*Baptisia leucophaea*); and milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*). Three silphiums are ready: compass-plant (*Silphium laciniatum*); cup-plant (*S. perfoliatum*); and rosin-weed (*S. integrifolium*).

Second Week: Dividing sedges (*Carex* species) now may be easier than gathering their seed. Mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*) is ready for seed-collecting, as are smooth penstemon or beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*); side-oats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*); and woodland sunflower (*Helianthus strumosus*).

Third Week: When gathering seeds, leave at least 50% on the plant, on general ecological principles. If they suit your site, collect seed from: rough blazingstar (*Liatris aspera*); big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardi*); butterfly-weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*); coreopsis or tickseed (*Coreopsis palmata*); Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*); bottle gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*); and ironweed (*Vernonia fasciculata*).

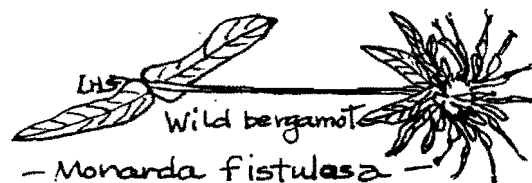
Fourth Week: In wet areas, seed may be ripe on swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) and turkscap lily (*Lilium superbum*). Other areas: smooth phlox (*Phlox glaberrima*); prairie-dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*); rattlesnake-master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*); bigtooth or sawtooth sunflower (*Helianthus grosseserratus*); western sunflower (*H. occidentalis*); long-headed thimbleweed (*Anemone cylindrica*); and Canada tick-trefoil (*Desmodium canadense*).

OCTOBER/First Week: Check seed to see how well it is drying. Eliminate all other plant parts, then put seed in rodent-proof glass jars. Transfer all data onto jars' labels including date collected and type of site/soil. Store in an unheated area until spring.... Look for the biggest, mealiest hawthorn berries, and make jelly, chutney, or wine.

Second Week: Find a sunny, sheltered spot convenient to water, for nurturing next spring's seedlings. This is an ideal time to build one or more cold frames. Recycle strong old windows for the tops, by hinging one side. Plan how many standard flats will fit in each one... 100 seedlings per flat...

Third Week: Read Roger Swain's editorial in *Horticulture* (August 1992), a strong reminder of the effects of a "gentle rain". Since erosion *can* occur in winter, cover any bare topsoil on your property with a layer of bark mulch (free for the hauling from many public works departments).

Fourth Week: Bob Ahrenhoerster told us there are 1,000 spiders in a prairie acre, all beneficial and most all in hiding. There must be a lot less in our suburban settings, partly due to chemicals. Keep a few rescue jars with hole-punched lids around the house. We can imitate the English who feel it's only "cricket" to relocate spiders back outdoors. (Incidentally, Bob reminded us that only two poisonous spiders are found in Wisconsin. They are the black widow and the brown recluse--both rare in populated areas.) --Barb Glassel



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Department of Transportation urged to test eradication of crown vetch near native plants

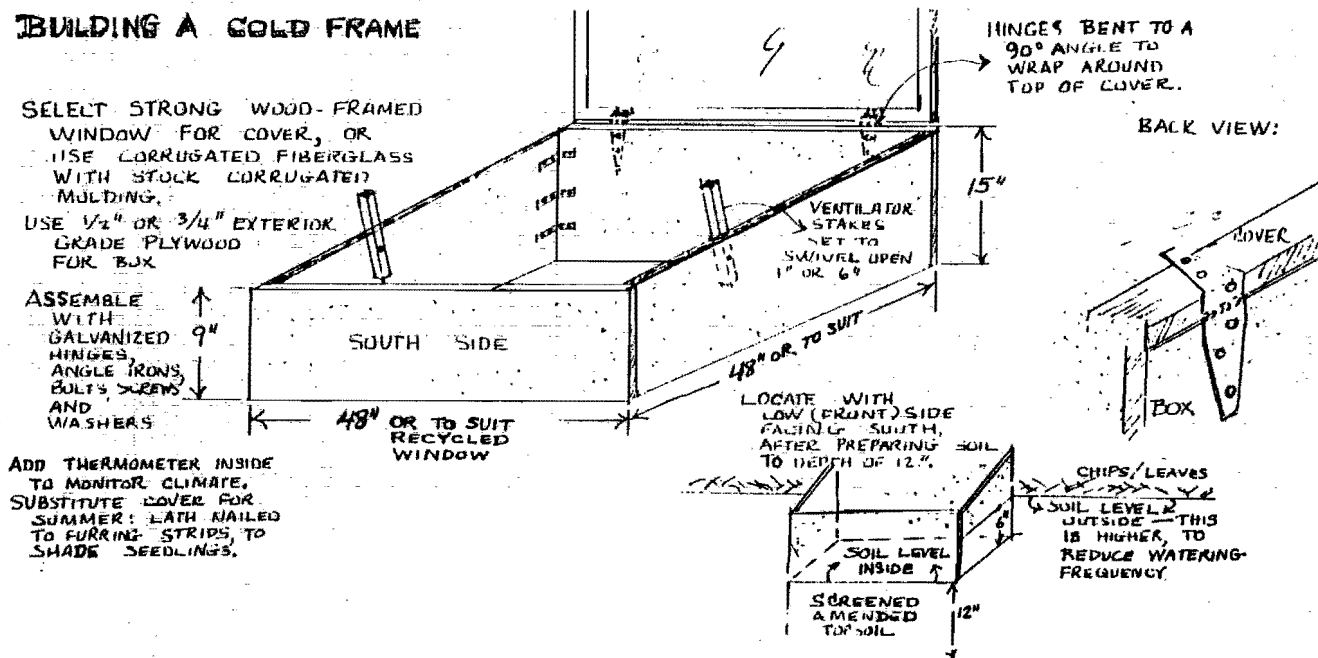
Naturalist Richard Barloga is concerned about emerald crown vetch which was used for highway planting, especially when it wound up near native species. "It was originally planted to stabilize slopes. However, it's probably not better than other erosion-control plants, such as the typical highway mix of grasses or little bluestem. Crown vetch forms a persistent and difficult to eradicate, non-native monoculture. Its effect on open upland landscapes is similar to purple loosestrife or reed canary grass in wetlands. A plant community that would have contained 50 or more species per acre is displaced by one."

"I personally worked on a prairie restoration where the homeowner planted emerald crown vetch on adjacent slopes. The vetch moved from 10 to 20 feet a year across the prairie. While this destruction is relatively small, the same thing is happening to the intact prairies of the South Kettle Moraine. All that is left of Eagle Prairie, a railroad corridor remnant, is encroaching crown vetch."

"An area where emerald crown vetch seems highly inappropriate is along the Highway 59 corridor from the Village of Eagle west to the county line and also along portions of Highway 67. These plantings exist close to irreplaceable state natural areas and emerald crown vetch is now expanding."

Barloga says the Wisconsin Department of Transportation should be urged to eliminate crown vetch in a test area from Eagle to State Forest Headquarters. DOT says it discontinued planting it three years ago. Questions remain about how to eradicate the species. Will one herbicide application control it or will it re-establish after an initial elimination of the adult population? Areas need to be staked and mapped where the largest population existed. Then monitoring for dominant seed regeneration should be carried out for five years or so after herbicide application. Others should also be discouraged from planting it along rural properties. He says, "In the 50's the state promoted multiflora rose, which it is now spending money to eliminate. It's time to see if emerald crown vetch can also be eradicated."

BUILDING A GOLF FRAME



Informative prairie trip is summer treat

In July we were privileged to visit Robert Ahrenhoerster's North Lake property where we were treated to lemonade in his wonderfully creative home.

Robert's prairie was converted from old field a section at a time. He recommends plowing and disking the top couple of inches of soil several times in preparation to get rid of the weed seed bank. Cover crops are now thought by some to produce a toxin that can inhibit plant growth.

Of the 250 - 300 native prairie species in Wisconsin, Robert has about 140 represented in his plantings. In contrast, areas restored by the state have about 15. Four types of milkweed (common, whirled, butterfly, and blunthead) and five types of goldenrod are found in the prairie. He pulls out Canada goldenrod as it forms large clones and is too aggressive.

We walked single file through the plants because fanning out compacts more soil and promotes weed growth.

It was noted that we know almost nothing about prairie micro fauna and flora. Also, we must remember that original prairies had an estimated five billion prairie dogs, countless bison, as well as other grazing animals. Without natural grazers and spring burns, we are selecting certain species.

We were reminded to be very careful when we gather seeds. Canada wild rye, a short-lived plant, can be killed by collecting too much seed, for example.

A former glacier river bottom or *esker* was the last area we checked. Here, Robert estimates there are over 800 pasque plants, as well as lupine, flowering spurge, butterfly weed, and prickly pear cactus. As we walked, Robert shared many interesting facts:

Members of the silphium family are

probably the most deeply rooted prairie plant. Going down fifteen feet into the soil you can still find 1/2 inch thick tap roots. A six to eight foot root profile is average for prairie plants. Long roots held soil in place. This contrasts with six to eight inches for Kentucky bluegrass.

Despite the fact we've been told hummingbirds are attracted to red, they also like the foxglove's white blossoms.

Japanese use spiderwort to measure nuclear site leakage by checking radiation in plant cellular change.

Goldenrods and prairie grasses fix nitrogen in the soil as well as the legumes.

Robert is currently creating a large dragon-shaped mound which will be planted with prairie seeds. We left feeling that visitors will never know what creative surprise awaits them when visiting the Ahrenhoerster home!

August was our "Help Me" program. Afterwards Dan Boehlke provided great shopping by bringing an array of native grasses and forbes from his nursery. -- Kristin Summerfield

Chapter tours woods, prairie

Green Bay's Natural Landscaping Club spent part of an evening touring Mary-Lou and Bob Kramer's trail under a tree canopy. Another stop was at Bev and Dale Conant's where they discussed the removal of non-native species. It was stressed that woodland is made up of top story (trees), middle story (shrubs, small trees), and understory (wildflowers, ground covers).

In August the group toured a prairie at Barkhausen Preserve. Their next program will be collecting prairie seeds.

(continued from page 1)

learned about shopping for plants, digging, mulching, and transplanting under the helpful supervision of the Ravine Garden Club. Bittersweet and grape vines planted by them now form tents of greenery on the trees. Traditionally, the principal is given a gift of grapes from the wild garden. Children are sometimes allowed an outside trek through the nature area on their way to or from classes.

This is the place to observe small wild things: a wonderful ant hill can be found near the pussy willow; birds hunt insects in dead tree trunks; children watch a rabbit family from their classroom; a father and son look for insects.

After many years, meadows of this kind become forest. This is called "old field succession." Volunteer help has kept young seedlings from overtaking open spaces. Buckthorn, honey suckle, and crab apple shoots are removed. One bi-annual thistle is saved for the larva of the painted lady butterfly. In late winter old flowering stalks are cut. Grass has not been mowed here for nearly two decades and trees are not maimed by pruning shears. Neither has the area been chemically poisoned. The quiet, gentle meadow has suffered abuse over the years during building renovations, but this has also been an opportunity for studying plant regeneration.

The Bayside Natural Area is featured in Cari Taylor-Carlson's *Milwaukee Walks* (pages 79 - 80.) Lucky are the teachers, students, and alumni who need no map to find this home of birds and butterflies! --Lorrie Otto



Turk's cap and Michigan Lily

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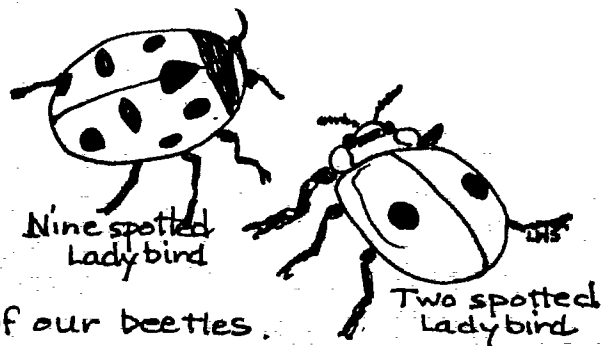
From our mail . . .

Dear Editor:

We added a 13' x 6' free-form pond to our home landscaping last June. It is about 21" deep at the lowest point with a bridge from our deck and ledges for plant pots at both ends. We have a small recirculating pump with two "outlets" for a "spitting" frog and an old hand pump. The pond is lined with the heavy rubber sheeting used on flat roofs which was installed according to directions given us at the Home Show. About a ton of fieldstone is laid around it and nearby native plants are ferns, Joe-Pye weed, blue flag iris, wild geranium, and columbine. The pool, with its 18 goldfish, water lilies, and other aquatic plants is surrounded by low-voltage lights (on a timer) so we may enjoy seemingly endless insects attracted by the illumination.

To achieve the size liner we wanted we had to bond two pieces of sheeting. This was no problem with instructions from a local roofing company. We haven't had any leakage, and we've been assured we will have no problem with expansion/contraction during the winter or with critters like raccoons fishing in it. It took us about two days to dig our hole and install the liner, the electrical "things" and fill it with water. In a week's time we added the water plants and fish (which were very happy to get out of their temporary home and into a new one!)

The pond has been a great source of wonder and entertainment to our new neighbors and family. We have taught our 4, 5, and 6 year-old grandsons to sit quietly and watch the frogs, fish, and insects—*quite* an accomplishment for them!) The wildlife it attracts is wonderful (especially the hummingbirds and butterflies!) I would recommend this project to anyone who might have thought it was too complicated or costly and might need encouragement to begin. --Joan Fedkenheuer, Baraboo



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Complete Garden Needs

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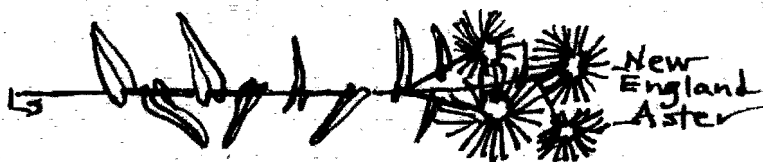
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Calendar

North Milwaukee and Wehr Nature Center Chapters: Saturday, September 12. Car pool for yard tour. Plant sale at Audubon.

Saturday, October 10. Annual seed gathering for members.

Saturday, November 14. Pat Armstrong will be the guest speaker.

Saturday, December 12. Annual holiday meeting. Program about Bayside School Natural Area.

North Milwaukee group meets at 9:30 a.m. at Schlitz Audubon Center, 1111 E. Brown Deer Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53217. Wehr Group meets at 1:30 p.m. at Wehr Nature Center, 9701 W. College Ave., Franklin, WI 53132.

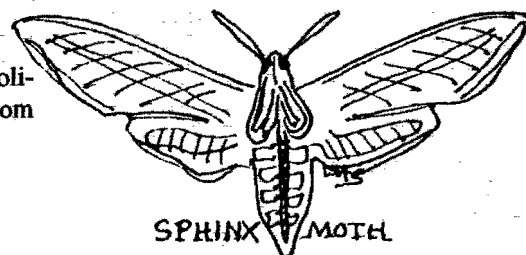
Northern Illinois Chapter: Thursday, September 17 at 7 p.m. "Plants for Wildlife." Room K157, College of Du Page, Twenty-second Street, Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137 708/983-8404

Thursday, October 15 at 7 p.m. "New American Woman's Garden" presentation by Lorrie Otto. Room SRC 1024A, College of Du Page.

Thursday, November 12 at 7 p.m. Holiday Seed Exchange and Party. Room SRC 1024A, College of Du Page.

Green Bay Chapter: Saturday, September 26. Field trip for prairie seed collection.

Wednesday, November 11 at 7 p.m. Seed exchange. Call Sue Barry for details (414/494-7811)



Drawings in this issue by Lucy Schumann



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