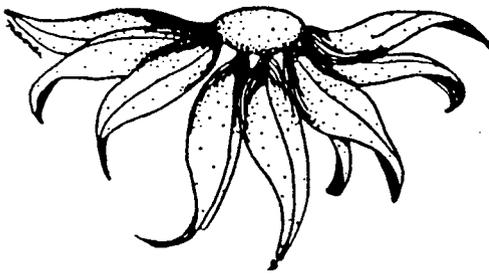


wild ones



# The Outside Story

newsletter for natural landscapers

Vol. 6 No. 1

January-February 1993

One Dollar

## Scientists issue world warning

"Human beings and the natural world are on a collision course," begins the four-page "World Scientists' Warning to Humanity" issued by a worldwide collection of 1,575 scientists recently.

"No more than one or a few decades remain before the chance to avert the threats we now confront will be lost and the prospects for humanity immeasurably diminished," says the group which includes 99 Nobel Prize winners. Among those signing the report was Georges Charpak of France who won last year's physics award.

Greatest dangers are listed as ozone depletion, air pollution, farmland damage, waste of water, poisoning the ocean, deforestation, loss of plant and animal species, and population growth.

"The earth is finite," the scientists said, "Pressures... from unrestrained population growth put demands on the natural world that can overwhelm any efforts to achieve a sustainable future."

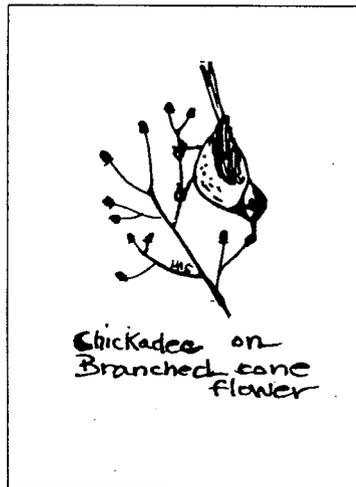
### In this issue

|                                    |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Lorrie's Notes</b>              | <b>3</b>  |
| <i>Attend the February seminar</i> |           |
| <b>Trillium propagation</b>        | <b>8</b>  |
| <i>Tips for multiplying blooms</i> |           |
| <b>The Next Generation</b>         | <b>11</b> |
| <i>Fun seed activities</i>         |           |
| <b>Chapter news</b>                | <b>14</b> |

## Experiment with cold weather seed sowing

Native seed can be sown outdoors during winter months and even into very early spring. The combination of cold weather with ice and snow provides natural stratification conditions needed for germination which occurs during warmer spring weather. (*Stratification* refers to chilling seeds which have absorbed some water.) Wild plant seed often requires a period of one to four months *dormancy*, when the seed is alive but inactive. Protective seed mechanisms, such as thick coverings or germination-inhibiting chemicals, assure that young plants won't sprout during fall rains and freeze in winter. Cold weather and repeated exposure to moisture softens seed coats and dissolves inhibiting chemicals when conditions are optimum.

To do winter planting, find an area in your yard that has bare, humus-rich soil and is free of snow. (If you have special types of seeds you'd have trouble replacing, reserve a portion to "winter" in the refrigerator and plant later in flats or use for reseeding, if needed.) Then mix seed with vermiculite, sand, or saw dust so the light color makes the planting area more visible and the bulk helps in even spreading. Sow the seed mixture evenly by hand in two directions for good soil contact. Since the ground will probably be frozen or wet it might not be possible to set seeds by raking. Birds may relocate seeds to new unplanned areas (which may add to your pleasure) so some experts cover the planted site with hardware cloth to keep out wildlife.



Remember that wildflower seeds, unlike uniform commercial hybrid seeds, vary in appearance, hardiness, growth patterns, and germination rates. They have adapted over long periods of time to specific sites and climates, such as moist or dry, sunny or shaded, acid or alkaline. Keep in mind wildflower biodiversity and try seeds in different spots until you find the best places.

Some seeds suitable for winter planting include: New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*), golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*), goldenrods (*Solidago*), iris-blue flag (*Iris versicolor*), Joe-Pye weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*), purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*), spiderwort (*Tradescantia*), violets (*Viola*), and turtlehead (*Chelone*).  
- Lucy Schumann and Carol Chew



## From the President:

Greetings. . . After a mere four years my tenure as your president is now over. What a ride!!!! This certainly has not only been a memorable experience but I truly will never be the same again!!! I'd like to thank each and everyone of you for allowing me this part in a wonderful organization. At one time we thought of ourselves as a small North Shore garden club, but now I think we all recognize that this is the cutting edge of a cultural movement. We have had the good fortune to build the beginning support system for it, and with our newsletter we have given it a voice. The growth and the direction this group has taken has made it an exciting experience for me, and I can assure you, for the rest of the outgoing officers as well. I would like to publicly thank our vice president, Lucy Schumann, whose advice and counsel helped make this team a good working one, and it is indeed a privilege to call her a friend. Likewise, to Kristin Summerfield who stuck it out the whole term and whose contribution as a writer of the happenings of this group encouraged others to come along. Both deserve our appreciation.

I must tell you I have another calling as well. Several months ago, I worked feverishly in my yard to make it ready for our board's visit. My children watched as I did "my thing" and they offered their services. I suggested that they might start clearing up their playground. They did, only to return to me and ask my opinion about what was growing around the flagpole...indeed, it was wild geranium, asters, and a variety of wildflowers. They wanted to have their own prairie and I granted them permission. It was amazing how hard they worked putting in paths and getting rid of aliens. The next day they formed a new club and hung a sign: "The Calm Ones"!!!

Oh, I have learned so much from Wild Ones and I hope to continue to contribute to the newsletter and in any area where I'm needed. Who knows what the next stop will be for our group, but as I board this 'ole boat, I know a new adventure is just beginning!! All aboard and thanks again. - Deb Harwell

**Editor's note: A big thank you, Deb, for your energy and innovations. During your term, we've gained an impressive display which has been seen by thousands at shows; our newsletter has evolved to laser desktop publishing and we've added underwriting; our membership has grown impressively and we've added two new chapters in Green Bay and Northern Illinois. Wild Ones has achieved national recognition through articles, books, and radio and television programs. That's a lot to be proud of!**

## Guidelines for gardeners:

Use native plants or seeds that originate in your bioregion and are adapted to its climate, soil, insects, animals, and disease.

Remember that exotic (non-native) species may escape cultivation and interfere with growth in native habitats.

Walk carefully through native plant communities being so as not to disturb wild flora or fauna.

Only dig plants in the wild when a site is slated for destruction and always get permission to do so beforehand.

When collecting native plant seeds, leave some behind for natural dispersal and for animals and birds which depend on them for survival.

Purchase native plants from nursery-raised stock which have not been taken from wild areas. Ask to have your bill marked "nursery propagated."

Use natural means to improve soil, control pests, and eliminate weeds, rather than chemicals.

Learn about native flora and fauna, including rare and endangered species, to increase your own understanding; add to our collective knowledge by keeping accurate records.

Consider planting native plants which are attractive to uncommon birds, butterflies, and moths.

Promote education and conservation to increase the preservation and restoration of natural habitat.

Share your knowledge, plants, and seeds with others.



*Landscape Lady Ltd*

personalized continuous service  
organic gardening practices  
landscape design and installation  
natural landscapes  
annual and perennial gardens

*Quality in the Tradition of Fine English Gardens*

Gloy Jacobson

264-2357

## February seminar speaker highlights

Cole Burrell is a garden designer, writer and photographer who has publications by Rodale Press, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, and Time/Life Books. He was curator at the U.S. National Arboretum.

Bonnie Harper-Lore earned degrees in landscape architecture from UW-Madison. She has held positions with Minnesota DOT, National Wildlife Research Center, and University of Minnesota.

Babette Kis is an architect who works for the City of Milwaukee. She has had extensive work propagating gentians.

David Kopitzke founded Little Valley Farm, a native plant nursery. He currently is with the Wisconsin Bureau of Endangered Resources.

Lorrie Otto is program chair for Wild Ones. Her well-known garden has appeared in numerous publications, including Jim Wilson's *Landscaping with Wildflowers*, Ogden Tanner's *Gardening America*, and Verey-Samuels' *The American Woman's Garden*.

Joyce Powers received her M.S. in Natural Resources Journalism from UW-Madison. She founded Prairie Ridge Nursery & CRMEco Systems specializing in native plants.

Donald Vorpahl owns a landscaping and environmental planning firm. He was a consultant to Ortho Books, *Landscaping with Wildflowers and Native Plants* and others.

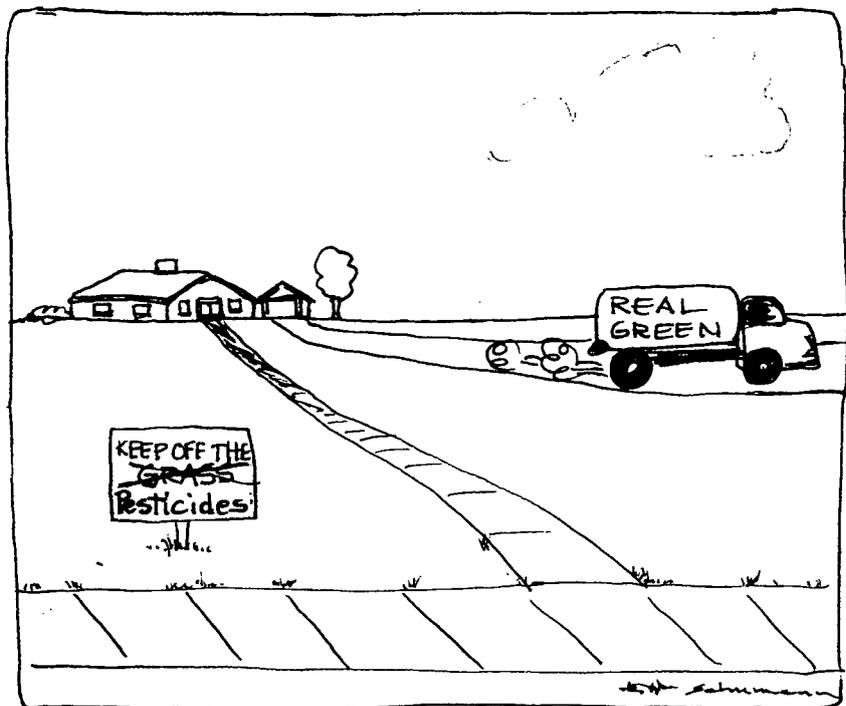
Rochelle Whiteman is an artist and Wild Ones member who is involved in her own and many community native landscaping projects.

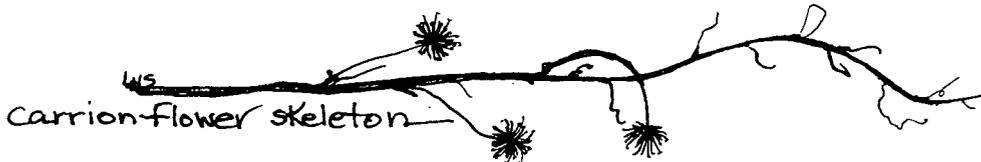
## Lorrie's Notes ...

### Mark your calendar for Natural Landscape Seminar

To be a member of Wild Ones Natural Landscaping Club one need only pay annual dues of \$15. To get one's money's worth, one should attend all of the monthly meetings. In the Milwaukee area these are held on second Saturdays. (Mark your new calendars.) Of all the meetings, though, the most beneficial is in February when the annual seminar will again be held at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee Union. The fee for this all-day event is \$20. (See enclosure for registration.)

Here you will have a choice of three different speakers throughout the day. You'll walk the long, wide hall to enjoy displays and visit with plant experts who bring them. You'll see 700-800 people who share your enthusiasm and expectations. Beginners who wish to garden as a life-long hobby will have the inimitable David Kopitzke to start you on your way. Joyce Powers will show us portraits of prairie plants suitable for the wet areas or others suitable for the dry places in your yard. Cole Burrell will show us how design and ecological concerns fit together. Bonnie Harper-Lore, recipient of the Julie Marks Memorial Award, will explain why natives should be our landscaping choice. If you are a mite worried about community interface or displeasure with your new yard, Rochelle Whiteman's panel will comfort and delight you. If you are advanced enough to want propagation and planning help, you'll scramble to attend Babette Kis' and Donald Vorpahl's hands-on opportunities. And if you are truly a beginner and have not seen my slide collection of natural landscaping in the front yards of southeastern Wisconsin, then bring your lunch and munch in the auditorium as I show-and-tell. It will be another great conference for all of us! - Lorrie Otto





## Court of Appeals hears argument on validity of Chicago weed law

The three judge panel that heard oral arguments on the validity of Chicago's weed ordinance indicated they understood issues facing natural gardeners, according to Attorney Bret Rappaport. Rappaport is representing several homeowners who are fighting the lawn ordinance. (See his article the May - June 1992 issue of *The Outside Story*.)

Judge John W. Reynolds, former Wisconsin governor, noted that as a child he enjoyed wildflowers along Door County roadsides. Judge Manion of Indiana asked the City of Chicago if they would prosecute homeowners who grew native plants in pots or defined beds, rather than throughout their yard. The City answered that they would not. This, Judge Manion stated, doesn't seem to make any sense. The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals is the highest court ever to address this issue. Their opinion is not expected to be handed down for several months.

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF), representing 5.2 million members and supporters, filed a *Brief of Amicus Curiae* with the court supporting the natural landscapers. In it, the NWF described its Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program which educates people to the value of indigenous plants as a

superior wildlife habitat. These plants also tend to survive and prosper with a minimum of supplemental water or use of chemicals.

Two homeowners involved in the legal action, Jack Schmidling and Larry Clark, are participants in the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program along with thousands of others across America. NWF is concerned that weed ordinances are significant barriers to the project's expansion and doesn't believe the challenged ordinance is rationally related to issues of public health and safety as claimed.

Moreover, NWF contends the Chicago law and others like it seriously infringe on the freedom of people to express themselves and their concern for wildlife and the natural environment. "Natural gardening," they state, "is a form of speech protected by the First Amendment. It can only be infringed upon by showing a compelling governmental interest. Since the ordinance challenged has not been shown to be rationally related to any legitimate governmental interest, much less a compelling one, it is unconstitutional."

### Minnesota natural yard gets national media attention

Marjorie Kline, a wildlife biologist, has recently received national attention for the dispute over her natural landscaped yard in suburban Minnetonka, Minnesota. City officials have attempted to have her half-acre lot mowed, but she has slapped restraining orders on them. Using a legal provision that allows pasture for grazing animals, Kline has added two miniature goats, named Lewis and Clark. The city attorney maintains, "Marjorie simply wants to let her grass grow. A pasture is removed from a house and doesn't contain flowers, shrubs and a vegetable garden."

According to the *Los Angeles Times* news service, some 11 of 19 neighbors on the block have signed a petition asserting the yard is unsightly and decreases home values. So far Kline has won her case, but the judge has urged mediation. In the *Star Tribune*, she is quoted as saying, "I'm trying to be a protector and caretaker of the little piece of earth under my control." She is creating a prairie area and a court list shows a variety of trees, shrubs, wildflowers and vines on the property which adjoins a trail system.

**Nursery Grown Wildflowers**

- Native midwestern plants of woodlands, prairies and wetlands
- Perennials, shrubs and vines
- Books on natural landscaping

For a catalog please send 50 cents and your name and address to:

**Little Valley Farm  
Dept. WO  
Route 3 Box 544  
Spring Green, WI  
53588**

---

*"The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant: 'What good is it?' If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is good, whether we understand it or not. If the biota, in the course of aeons, has built something we like but do not understand, then who but a fool would discard seemingly useless parts? To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering."*  
- Aldo Leopold

# The Inside Story

## BALSAM FIR

(Abies balsamea)  
Pine Family



**OTHER NAMES:** Fir-Tree, Fir-Pine, Blister-Pine, American Silver Pine, Eastern Fir, Single Spruce, Balm-of-Gilead, Canada Balsam, Canada Fir Tree, Balsam Spruce, Fir-Balsam, Balsam Tree, Blister Fir, Silver Pine, Aninandak.

**HABITAT:** In moist woods and swamps, coniferous woods; often in pure stands.

**DESCRIPTION:** Evergreen with narrow, pointed, spirelike crown of spreading branches and aromatic foliage. The needles are 3/8" to 1-1/4" long, shiny dark green, flat with rounded tip and broad circular base, and two narrow whitish bands on the underside. Twigs are rather smooth after needles are removed.

The bark is brown, thin, smooth, with many resin blisters, becoming scaly. The cones are 1" to 3" long, upright and fleshy, falling apart when ripe; leaving a central core, purplish to green with short, hidden bracts between the scales.

**Diameter:** 1' to 3'

**Height:** 40' to 60'

**COMMENTS:** This is the only Fir native to the northeast. It ranges from the Yukon Territory and northern Alberta, east across Canada to Newfoundland and Labrador, south to New England, eastern New York, west to Minnesota and northern Wisconsin; at high elevations south to Virginia. At timberline it may grow as a low mat-like shrub. In its normal habitat, it often grows with the White and Black Spruces, which resemble its shape. However, the Spruces have sharp-pointed needles and pendant cones. The Balsam Fir has blunt needles and erect cones.

This is one of the best-loved Christmas trees. Grouse, red squirrels and mice eat its seeds; moose and deer browse on the needles and twigs. Balsam Fir is a major pulpwood species. It has also been used for interior knotty pine paneling, Christmas wreaths, and balsam pillows (utilizing the aromatic foliage). It can be used as an emergency food. The pitch contained in the blisters in the bark is a concentrated food and can be used in times of need, however, it is not very palatable. The soft inner bark, or cambium, can be dried and ground into meal. Mixed with flour, it can extend food supplies. In 1718, a complaint was made that flour sent from Canada to the French West Indies, packed in barrels made from Balsam wood, imparted a disagreeable odor and taste.

Canada Balsam, an aromatic oleoresin obtained from swellings or resin blisters in the bark, is used for mounting microscopic specimens and for optical cement. It is one of the finest of the pine turpentine.

**MEDICINAL USE:** Icelandic writings in 1475 indicate that it was used to brighten the eyes, heal earaches, swollen nipples, dysentery, fractures, and wounds that "bleed much." It was said to strengthen man's memory and heal whatever fire has injured (burns). Turpentine made from the sap was used externally for sciatica, chronic rheumatism and paralysis.

Balsam Fir has also been used as an ingredient in antiseptic healing salves and as a root-canal sealer. Leaf tea was used internally for colds, coughs, asthma, etc.

**NAME ORIGIN:** The **Genus Name**, Abies (Ah'bee-ayz or Ay'bees), is the classical Latin name of the Fir. The **Species Name**, balsamea (ball-sam'ee-a), means "balsamic," leaves which exude a fragrance; soothing, healing, restorative, balmy; a medicinal preparation. The Chippewa Indian name for this species is, "Aninandak."

**AUTHOR'S NOTE:** It is my hope that the Balsam Fir will always be allowed to flourish somewhere in northern Wisconsin and the remainder of its range, untouched, in its natural habitat. The demise of our eastern forests has received much less attention and concern than the tropical rain forests. Even though our forests have been reduced to patches of fragments, they have very little regulatory protection at the federal, state or local level. They have been systematically eliminated — replaced by trimmed shrubs and lawns; held back with herbicides and mowers; and paved with asphalt. Ironically, it is in our home landscape that we are first introduced to our cultural contempt for the patterns and natural growth of native species.



## Outdoor classroom construction starts

Teachers, parents, and students have recently begun a three-year project to develop an outdoor classroom in Grafton Elementary School's courtyard.

Principal Mike Wifler says, "Science curriculums are changing to more of a hands-on approach."

"We're creating a microcosm of all the types of landscapes we have in Wisconsin," parent volunteer Mark Gray says in an article by Janet Staszewski in the *News Graphic*. Gray has made a plan which features wood chip paths dividing woodlands, wetlands and prairie spaces next to a picnic table area.

Recycled aluminum can have provided the funding used for the project so far.

An existing greenhouse adjacent to the courtyard area will be utilized to grow vegetables for a planned garden.

## Tips for getting wild seeds off to a good start

Many Wild Ones members gathered seeds in October or picked them up at holiday exchange meetings. For those, new to natural landscaping, who want more information on what to do next here are tips from David Kopitzke who will have a workshop at the Natural Landscaping Seminar.

Store seeds in a dry, cool place in paper bags or jars.

Activating seeds for planting requires stratification. This simple process is done eight weeks before planting. Mix a teaspoon of seed and a teaspoon of moist sand.

Rub sand and seed together for a minute to expose the seeds to moisture. Seal the bag, label, date, and refrigerate it.

Eight weeks later, clean a flat with a 10 percent bleach and 90 percent water solution and fill it with moistened,

sterile potting soil.

Spread the refrigerated seed/sand mixture on the surface of the soil. Cover with vermiculite and mist with water.

Label the tray with the plant name and date. Cover with a sheet of paper (not plastic) and place where warmth will enter from the bottom and place a light over the tray.

The top surface of the refrigerator is an ideal out-of-way place for the tray with room for a lamp.

In a couple of weeks seedling will sprout. Replant them into six-pack trays with one plant to each section. Allow growth until they have developed three or four leaves and then move to larger containers.

David Kopitzke's topics will also include planning landscaping, transplants, care of plants, and other valuable tips.

## Article features Midwestern wildflowers and tall grasses as new garden favorites

"Let a thousand prairies bloom" is the enchanting title of Barbara Damrosch's (November 1992) *House Beautiful* article about Neil Diboll and his work with native plants.

"It takes a special, patient client to plant a prairie landscape," he explains, "someone who is willing to forgo the instant gratification of immediate color."

Diboll sees prairies as a part of our American heritage. However, he continues, "Prairie is the most persecuted

ecosystem in North America." Much was lost in the period settlers moved west, when it was thought a limitless resource. Now only tiny remnants remain. The Curtis Prairie at the UW-Madison Arboretum, inspired by Aldo Leopold, was the first prairie restoration every attempted through the efforts of the 1930's Civilian Conservation Corps.

*The Inside Story* subscribers will be receiving a copy of Neil Diboll's latest catalog in the near future.

**PRAIRIE  
FUTURE  
SEED  
COMPANY**



**RANDY POWERS  
PROPRIETOR**  
P.O. Box 644  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53052-0644  
414/491-0685

## Members receive Glendale award

Evelyn and Donald Brocher are the winners of a first-place Beautification Award from the City of Glendale for the natural landscaping at their West Greenwood Road home. Brocher says he started his relandscaping project in 1989 in order to cope with a steep front yard slope. One project led to another and soon the back yard was included. This is not the couple's first award, however. The front yard won two years ago.

Woodchip paths curve around the dozens of varieties of native plantings that the Brochers have added to the yard that originally had only hawthorns and lilacs. Bird watching is an enjoyable activity for them now that work of putting in the plants is done. "The seed-eaters winter here, the bug-eaters go south," Evelyn Brocher is quoted as saying in an article by Eric Ingman in the *Herald*, a suburban Milwaukee community newspaper.

A judge commented, "They started from scratch, and they truly did it themselves. It is a vernacular landscape they did with found materials. Neighbors are learning from it. Everyone shares in it and that increases the beauty of it."

## Couple works with tissue culture propagation

Scott Weber and his wife, Martha Barrett, are using modern research techniques, as well as traditional ones, to cultivate native plants on their rural Baraboo land, known as Bluestem Farm.

"It's difficult to reconstruct what these areas might have contained," Weber says in an article by Pam Chickering in Baraboo's *NewsRepublic*. "About 95 percent of plants along today's roadsides originated in Europe or Asia."

The couple uses tissue culture which produces a genetic copy of the original plant for certain species that won't grow under regular conditions. They grow six species of native orchid in-vitro. These are plants with seeds so fine they store almost no energy and require a fungus to open and supply nutrients.

Tissue culture helps preserve plants in the wild from depletion, but methods used are so new that they are still in the research and development stage. Sterile seed or tissue is sown under a protective hood that keeps the emerging plants in a bacteria-free environment to assure a maximum survival rate. A medium of minerals, salts, and gelatin-like auger, which may contain some sugar and nutrients, is tailored to the particular plant. Still, Weber says there is only 50 percent survival rate.

"It really isn't damaging to the diversity of the genetic pool. Say, there's only one place a native prairie plant grows in Sauke County. We take a sample of every plant in the patch, and then establish a number of different lines, each from a separate individual. In that way we're preserving all the genetic information that was already in the area," Weber says.

Weber does consulting for the nearby International Crane Foundation and Aldo Leopold Reserve. They have a cooperative project to develop seed banks for restoration use. Their farm contains remnants of all four native biomes: maple woodland, wetland, savannah, and prairie. Even though their prairie restoration is started, he feels they still have a long way to go and that it will never really be finished. "Some plants just don't come up in 10 years. We want to restore the full range of plants." They burn the prairie one section per spring to protect animals.



**Bayside Garden Center**  
Complete Garden Needs

400 E. Brown Deer Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53217

*We have your native plants.*

414-352-6159

## Prairie Moon Nursery

Route 3 Box 163  
Winona, MN 55987  
(507) 452-1362



**Native Plants and Seeds**  
**Wetland - Prairie - Woodland**

## Here are ways to increase your enjoyment of trillium's beauty

Everyone loves trillium. Interest in this plant must be grounded in sound convictions of conservation. Many states have laws that protect trillium on public and private land.

Any wildflower should be left in its natural habitat so that the ecological web remains intact. Removal of one element puts all the rest out of balance. However, if wildflowers are in danger of being destroyed by "developers" who plan to bulldoze a site, rescue is desirable. Be sure to get permission before rescuing any plants.

If you purchase trillium from a nursery, be sure to find out where the plant came from. If it was collected in the wild, look for stock elsewhere. Find a nursery which propagates their own plants, rescues plants from development or destruction or purchases from collectors who legally obtain stock.

Once you legally obtain trillium, you can increase your stock while learning what the plant does underground.

The root system of a trillium consists of a two to four inch rhizome with many root hairs. The rhizome produces one or two flowering stems each spring. The terminal bud secretes a hormone that inhibits the growth of any more lateral buds. So each rhizome will produce two flowers at most.

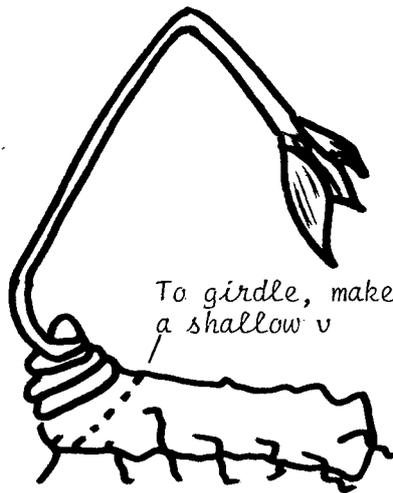
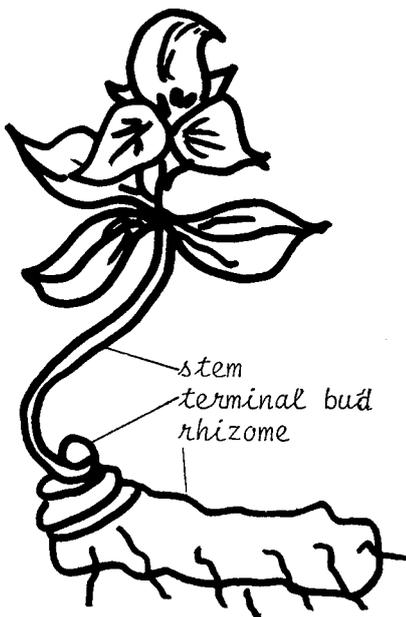
It is possible to stop the growth-inhibiting hormone. After the trillium has bloomed, take up the clump and girdle the rhizome an inch below the new season's growth. This is done by making a shallow v around the rhizome with a knife. Dust the wound with fungicide and replant to original depth.

By the next season lateral buds will have developed rhizome branchlets.

Wait until the parent plant has finished its bloom. Take up the clump again and remove the new rhizomes. Replant the parent and offshoots under the following: sugar maple, red maple, hemlock, yellow birch, white birch, basswood, ironwood, red oak, white ash, or beech. Water thoroughly. New blooms appear in one or two years. - Dorothy Boyer

Information taken from *Growing Wildflowers* by Marie Sperka, *Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers* by Harry R. Phillips, and *Vegetation of Wisconsin* by John T. Curtis and Fred Case of the University of Michigan Botanic Gardens. Appreciation given to Jim Reinartz of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station for reviewing this article.

*Note: For information about Wisconsin's endangered and threatened plants write: Bureau of Endangered Resources, P.O. 7921, Madison, WI 53707 (608/266-7012). Report violations to Wisconsin Emergency Hotline: 1-800-847-9367*



---

## Try these favorite plant combinations in your wild garden

Last issue we confessed landscaping mistakes we'll try never to repeat again. This time we'd like to share our favorite companion plantings.

Lorrie Otto loves the combination of nodding onion and liatris. She also recommends using ostrich fern with Virginia bluebells because the fern covers the bluebells as they finish blooming. Some of her other favorites are violets with prairie smoke or pale purple coneflowers with butterfly weed and spiderwort. Bloodroot loves being under maples.

Jan Koel likes purple coneflower with daisy fleabain and has had good success with liatris and butterfly weed.

Dorothy Boyer favors bloodroot with mayapple and in sandy areas, lupine with an evergreen backdrop.

Delene Hanson likes poison ivy!!! With anything!! Sneezeweed, with its late yellow bloom, looks good with any old vegetation. In the spring, trillium, buttercup, and violets are her favorites.

Prairie smoke and spring beauty is a favored combination for Isabel Cash.

Kristin Summerfield loves the fall colors of goldenrod and asters. They're especially handsome on roadsides and it's unfortunate when they're mowed down.

Irena Macek plants anything together that was gathered on a Wild Ones' dig.

Mary Ann Kniep combines obedience plant, gray coneflowers, asters, sawtooth sunflowers and liatris for their fall colors.

Thimbleweed goes with anything, Barb Glasses feels. She also suggests Marie Sperka's book which has many other combination ideas as well.

Mandy Ploch enjoys bittersweet, but warns it will rip off shutters if not tended. She notes that Virginia creeper climbing an ash tree is a great combination as is witch hazel and evergreens. Sideoats grama looks good with anything!

Lucy Schumann loves the gold and purple of branched coneflower (*Rudbeckia triloba*) and New England aster.

Blue flag and wild geranium look nice together in the spring, I think. My favorite blooming spot at that time of year has hepatica and spring beauty. In summer, penstemon and spiderwort complement one another. Virginia creeper and bittersweet are beautiful fall tree climbers. - Deb Harwell

*Do you have tips and ideas to share about woodlands and shade-loving plants? We'd love your input for our next issue. Send to: The Outside Story, 8920 N. Lake Dr., Bayside, WI 53217.*

---

### Second season growth



After the parent plant has finished blooming, remove the new rhizomes formed by the lateral buds.



## Wildcare...

**January:** WILDFLOWER SKETCHES can convey more information than jotting down notes during slide presentations. Practice quick drawing while watching nature programs, such as *The Victory Garden*. Do 10 or 20 sketches in a row and you'll soon be ready for the landscaping seminar. Concentrate on main shapes, and keep asking, "What strikes me here?" and "What do I most want to remember?" Drawings are great for showing plant combinations, and faster than writing out *Liatris pycnostachya*.

**BUSINESSLIKE** plant propagation means setting up a "tickler file" to remember the correct dates to schedule cold stratification and seed planting. As each batch of seeds is handled, move its index card on to the next date for the next step: transplanting, cold frame, hardening off and direct planting in its spot/plant community. You may want to note page numbers from Rock, Sperka, Smith, Birdseye or a regional-wildflower grower's catalog. A few seeds may take more than a year, so note the full date.

**February:** DEER & RABBITS like young shrubs and trees, so keep on checking protective measures. Two short deer fences, about 3 feet apart, and parallel are more effective than high fences. Rabbits can kill a tree by chewing completely around it, since the circulatory system is just under the bark. Remember a snowdrift can make any trunk vulnerable, even 3 or 4 feet off the ground. Chicken wire is easy to wrap around plants, even in cold weather.

BRUSH PILES and logs make excellent animal shelters and add to the enjoyment of watching backyard wildlife.

WINTER OBSERVATION yields different perspectives on prairie edges, paths, even driveway layouts. Some lines become totally invisible in snow-while other textures and shapes become more noticeable. Lay tracing paper over your garden plan, and note features that are "winter-prominent." Then use info from your reading and the landscape seminar, Feb. 13, to make changes that will improve views next year. You may want to keep a separate "winter landscape plan."

DITCHES may be somebody's only daily contact with native plants. Unless a jogger or dogwalker is enlightened as to the deliberateness of a natural front yard, he/she may be less than respectful. A littered area is a magnet for more litter, so check your ditch often. Try a sign which indicates a plant community, such as "Oak Opening," "Lake Beach," or "Southern Sedge Meadow." Consider angling a path or vista through your wild area, to imply that somebody inside the house can see all the way to the street. - Barb Glassel

### Seed Search

Seed Needs:  
Light  
Soil  
Time  
Warmth  
Water

Seed Movers:  
Bird  
Fox  
Wind  
You

R E T A W H  
B E M I T T  
D I X M S H  
N E R O E G  
I A I D F I  
W L Y O U L





# WILD ONES — THE NEXT GENERATION

## Wintertime:

Are these plants dead?



**No**

This plant is a winter-sleeper. It will grow again in spring from its roots. Can you guess another way new plants will grow from this one? (Answer below)



**Yes**

This plant dies in winter. Can you guess how new plants will grow in the spring from this dead one? (Answer below)

Answer: both kinds of plants make seeds that can grow into new plants.

## How Wild Can You Get? Be a real seedy character!

- Use books, seed catalogues, and looks in your friend's garden to find out which plants you want to grow from seed and . . .
- Learn how to store seeds and make them ready to grow.
- Collect seeds carefully from friend's gardens. Don't trample the plants!
- Take just a few seeds from each plant —leave some for nature to plant.
- Help your seeds get a good start — be sure they get water and light.
- Draw or photograph your plants as they grow. Show off your plants to your friends. Be proud — you helped a tiny seed become a plant!

## Wild Wonders

Seeds are little packages of life. They have everything they need to make a new plant — just add warmth, water, soil, and sunlight.

## The Bean Seed Story

Color the seed coat brown.



1. A hard cover (seed coat) keeps the seed from freezing or drying out until spring comes. Warmth, water, and time make the seed coat fall off.

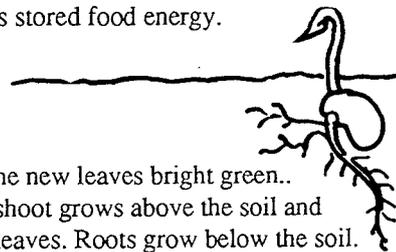
## Stored energy

Color the embryo light green.

Shoot →



2. The baby plant (embryo) starts to grow, even in the darkness underground, using its stored food energy.



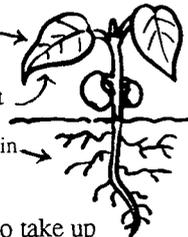
Color the new leaves bright green..

3. The shoot grows above the soil and makes leaves. Roots grow below the soil.

Sunlight in →

Air in and out

Minerals in Water in →



## Food Factory!

4. Now the plant has roots to take up water and minerals from the soil, and leaves that are made green by a chemical called chlorophyll. Do plants eat like you do? No, they make their own food so the plant can keep growing. Chlorophyll helps the plant use water, minerals in the soil, and energy from the sun to make food. The plant grows on its own — the little seed has done its job!

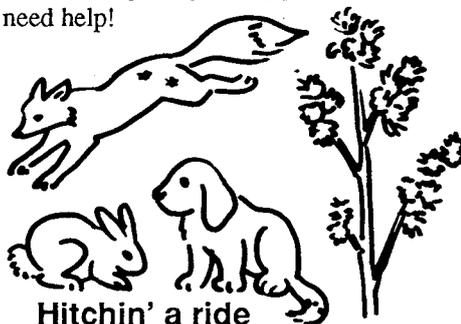
## Plant Pals

Can plants walk around to put their seeds in good growing places?  
No, seeds need help!



### Blowin' in the wind

Draw more fluffy milkweed seeds "flying" to new growing places.



### Hitchin' a ride

Draw more sticky biden seeds on the fur or these animals which will carry these seeds to new growing places.



### Just droppin' by

Draw berries for the bird to eat. The hard seeds in the berries will land in new growing places when they come out in the bird's droppings.



### People are plant pals, too

Draw yourself collecting seeds from a friend's garden to plant in yours!

- Judee Hansen, Cathy Pawlowski, and Edie Emmenegger



## The Bookshelf . . .

Peg Cadigan manages the largest selection of nature books in the Midwest at Schlitz Audubon Center's bookstore (414/352-2880.) With access to 5,000 titles and the ability to search out and ship hard-to-find books, Peg is a valuable resource. We asked her for some recommendations on books dealing with plant seeds and propagation. Here are some suggestions:

Marie Sperka's *Growing Wildflowers: A Gardener's Guide*, (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, paper - \$13.95) first published in 1973, this classic is helpful to beginners. Well-organized with complete individual plant descriptions and soft pencil illustrations, this is a favorite guide for many Wild Ones. One member suggests heavy use warrants getting the hardcover edition. (Caution: purple loosestrife, now considered a wetlands threat, is mentioned.)

Nancy Bubel's *The New Seed-Starters Handbook* (Emmaus, Pennsylvania: Rodale Press, paper - \$14.95) has current research on starting seeds indoors, moving them outside, and saving seeds. An extensive encyclopedia has more than 200 plants, including wildflowers, vegetables, herbs, and trees. This is a very information-filled and easy-to-understand guide covering a wide variety of topics.

Harry R. Phillips' *Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, paper \$16.95) is full of information for raising native plants from seeds, cuttings, and divisions. Detailed descriptions of individual wildflowers and ferns make up a large part of the book. They are illustrated with excellent line drawings. There is a calendar of blooming dates, color photo section, and suggestions for organizing plant rescue efforts. Although it deals mainly with plants found in the eastern United States, mid-western native plant enthusiasts will see much that is familiar.

Additional titles from Peg include: *Let it Rot: The Gardener's Guide to Composting* by Stu Campbell (Storey Publications, paper - \$8.95) and *Soils: Handbook #110* (Brooklyn Botanic Garden Record - paper \$5.95) *Worms Eat My Garbage* tells how fat, healthy garden worms can be raised under the kitchen sink and transported to work in garden and compost areas. Advanced gardeners may want to check *Garden with Native Wild Flowers* by Samuel B. Jones, Jr. & Leonard E. Foote and *Seeds of Wildland Plants* by James A. Young & Cheryl G. Young.

SCHLITZ AUDUBON CENTER

of the

National Audubon Society



## Readers' Questions

"Does anyone know a good source for identifying which trees and shrubs that are native to Wisconsin? I would like to concentrate on native species for our property, but am not always sure which plants are or are not native."  
- Mary Lou Findley, Hartland, Wisconsin

We asked Kim Gorenc, District Urban Forest Coordinator of the Department of Natural Resources for her suggestions. Kim's job covers eight counties in southeast Wisconsin and she helps everyone realize that forests extend from "backwoods to backyards." (She'll have more about this for our March - April woodlands issue.)

The best news, Mary Lou, is that some information is available for free and a couple of books are very inexpensive. The DNR has a booklet, *Forest Trees of Wisconsin: How to Know Them*, which identifies trees by leaf, cone or seed. Two handy pocket guides are available for \$2 each from Nature Study Guild: *Tree Finder* by May Theilgaard Watts and *Berry Finder* by Dorcas S. Miller. The U.S. Forest Service has *Important Trees of the Eastern United States* which has colorful illustrations showing full tree height, bark texture, leaves, seeds, cones, etc. State locator maps show the range for each species. *Michigan Flora, A Guide to the Identification and Occurrence of the Native Species* by Dr. Edward Voss is a two-volume set published by The Cranbrook Institute. At \$12.50 for each hardcover book, it is a good value with excellent regional information. However, it is written for the reader who has some familiarity with botany terms.

If you have a general interest question you'd like answered in one of our next newsletters, please send it to: *The Outside Story*, 8920 North Lake Drive, Bayside, WI 53217.

## Mitaegeer's 1993 Spring PERENNIAL GARDENS WISHBOOK

Send \$1.00 for your Spring '93 catalog mailed in January. You'll also receive our Fall '93 catalog in early summer.

Mitaegeer's  
GARDENS  
4838 Douglas Avenue W01  
Racine, WI 53402-2498  
1-800-669-9956

Our 80 page catalog features over 950 carefully selected varieties of perennial flowers, roses, ornamental grasses, native prairie wildflowers and decorative vines.

## Founding president recalls how Wild Ones took root and grew

The following account is from "A Brief History of the Wild Ones Natural Landscapers" by Gini Lindow which was found in our secretary's box. We hope that those who were initially involved will enjoy seeing these recollections and those who are newer members will learn how our group was formed.

The organization of the Wild Ones was a direct outgrowth of a natural landscaping workshop offered by the Schlitz Audubon Center. We had a nucleus of nine people who were intensely interested in this new concept of native plants as an alternative to lawns. A camaraderie developed over the lectures, tours, and digs, but it was two years later that an organization sprouted. Gini Lindow had a "wild" idea that blossomed into the Wild Ones Natural Landscapers. We are no common "garden variety" garden club, but a society for encouraging natural yards. A sensitivity to land use in harmony with plants and animals is of high priority. Our membership grew from nine in July 1979 to 65 in 1983.

Our resident expert, Lorrie Otto, has taught us much about the natural landscaping philosophy. She organized yard tours to help us with our visual planning and reorganization of our yards and gardens. Winter programs include experts in prairie restoration, woodland plants, and how-to-do-it sessions. In the spring and summer we are out on yard tours, woods excursions, and digs. Digs are on private property by owners' invitation. Late summer is the best time to view prairie restorations and make note of where we want to return for seed gathering in October. Occasionally, our meetings are "on-the-spot" visits for constructive assistance. Especially popular are the July and August natural yard tours.

Workshops at the Schlitz Audubon Center are very well attended. We have sponsored workshops jointly with the Milwaukee Audubon Society which are planned around our needs. The format is usually slide lecture, special interest small groups, and panel discussions. Many members live in an area of compacted clay soil, so a slide lecture on conversion to a well-drained natural area was of high interest. Rainwater management and plantings for low spots completed the half-day program. Other workshop topics have included: prairie plantings and management, soil preparation, native woodland plants, weed ordinances, and disease and pest control the natural way.

Where do we get our plants? There are many reputable native plant and seed companies that have taken "root" in the last few years. Several of these plant experts have presented slide lectures at our meetings and brought along plants for sale. We also have a members' plant and seed exchange.

"Bull-dozer alert" brings out the shovel crew. Knowing that an area is going to be totally devastated is alarming news, so we go out there and try to save as many species as we can by transplanting them to another natural habitat.

## Butterfly enthusiasts form new group

The North American Butterfly Association (NABA) has announced its formation. The group is interested field identification, listing, gardening, and conservation. A journal, *American Butterflies*, will be published quarterly beginning in February. NABA will conduct the Fourth of July Butterfly Counts with the cosponsorship of the Xerces Society.

To join, or to get further information, contact: Dr. Jeffery Glassberg, 39 Highland Avenue, Chappaqua, NY 10514.



## Native Wildflowers for Prairies & Meadows

### SEEDS & PLANTS

Super-Hardy \* Wisconsin Grown

Perennial Wildflowers & Ornamental Grasses  
Plants For Butterflies & Songbirds  
Custom Seed Mixes  
Professional Design & Consultation

## Prairie Nursery

608-296-3679

Send \$3 for 2 a year subscription to our color catalog.  
P.O. Box 306, Dept. WO, Westfield, WI 53964

Bottle brush sedge



### Prairie expert's program highlights unique regional ecology

Pat Armstrong, co-chair of the Northern Illinois group, spoke to meetings at Schlitz Audubon Center and Wehr Nature Center in November. Along with her slide presentation, she affirmed the need for prairie restorations and told how unique this ecology is.

Drought, glaciation, and fire are the foundations for prairies. As moisture is dropped on the west side of the Rockies, dry air masses flow to the east. Where moisture is low there are short grass prairies, as moisture increases, prairies are mid-height and then to tall grass. Glacier silt settled and dispersed with melting, leaving a soil bed ready for developing seeds. Fire prevented woody shrubs and trees from establishing themselves and large open spaces were retained.

Pat has been actively pursuing her studies of prairie ecology. Her Naperville home is surrounded by prairie flora, mostly grown from seed, on the east, south and west sides. Woodland vegetation is planted on the north, more shady side. Not only do the plants provide color and texture to the landscape, but invite the other beneficial aspects of naturalizing: birds, butterflies, beetles, moths, etc.

Fire, to Pat, is absolutely essential. "Burn and scatter seeds, burn and scatter seeds," she told us. "A prairie can never burn enough," she says and recommends burning every year, at any time. Her April 1 burn lasts about ten minutes which is long enough to control woody and alien species but short enough to protect insect cocoons.

After the burn takes place plants thrive and insects and birds find a habitat they can call "home." Her yard "sings" passers-by have told her. Mother Nature provides instruments for the orchestra; we must build the theater. Pat fired us up by sharing her expertise.

In December we exchanged seeds and holiday goodies. Lorrie Otto's program and slides informed us about her long-term interest in the natural area at Bayside Middle School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. - Jan Koel

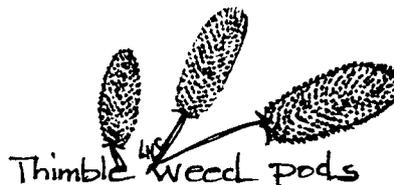
### Illinois group activates diverse committees

Plant rescue, video, photography, demographics, graphic arts, landscape design, landscaping for wildlife, lists, weed laws/community relations are some of the committees formed by an active Northern Illinois chapter.

Since April, volunteers have been organized into a number of special interest groups. Plant rescue members look for places where native communities are being destroyed and, after obtaining permission, inform the club of dig dates. One project of photography and video committees is to record yards for use in displays at fairs. The demographics group will computerize questionnaire data in order to keep track of member needs, interests, and yards to visit. Signs for yard identification are being produced by the graphic arts committee. If you are interested in joining a committee, call Pat Armstrong at 708/983-8404 or Vicki Nowicki at 708/852-5263.

### Board positions open

Like to help others know about what Wild Ones is all about? Or want to help save native plants before they are lost in development sites? Community relations and plant dig chairs are needed. Call Irena Macek (414/242-7769) for more details.



Thimble weed pods

### Green Bay club visits prairie and elects new officers

Green Bay's natural landscaping club participated in a seed gathering during their September meeting at Jack Swelstad's prairie. They enjoyed a walk through the area while he identified plants and gave them information. His mesic area is four years old and he also has a small, dry prairie plot.

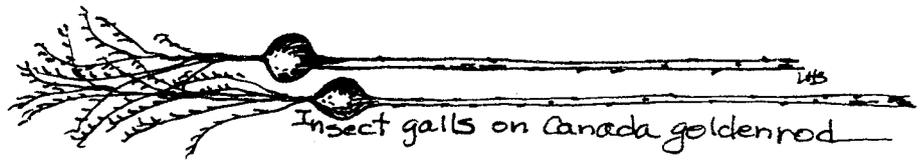
In November, the 70-member group elected officers. Jim Jerzak is the new president; Charles Muehlethaler is vice president; Mary Lou Kramer is secretary/treasurer. They also shared seeds and reports on natural landscaping projects. A slide show on prairies was given.

### Country Wetlands Nursery & Consulting Ltd.

- ✧ Wetland, woodland and prairie restoration, installation, management and enhancement
- ✧ Provision of native seed and plant materials
- ✧ Certified wetland delineation, assessment and evaluation

We work with ecologists, engineers, administrative agency representatives and environmental advocates to create cost-effective and functional landscapes.

Country Wetlands Nursery & Consulting Ltd.  
575 W20755 Field Dr.  
Muskego WI 53150  
414-679-1268  
FAX 414-679-1279



## Calendar

### *Wild Ones - Natural Landscapers, Ltd.*

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| President: Irena Macek                              | 414/242-7769 |
| Vice President: Mandy Ploch                         | 414/242-2723 |
| Secretary: Jan Koel                                 | 414/251-7175 |
| Treasurer: Dorothy Boyer                            | 414/375-3913 |
| Program: Lorrie Otto                                | 414/352-0734 |
| Membership: Jean Palm                               | 414/334-3956 |
| Hospitality: Barb Glassel                           | 414/354-8018 |
| Display: Leslie Grove                               | 414/351-3239 |
| Newsletter Editor: Carol Chew                       | 414/351-0644 |
| Green Bay Chapter Contact:<br>Jim Jerzak            | 414/499-5944 |
| Northern Illinois Chapter Contact:<br>Pat Armstrong | 708/983-8404 |
| Wehr Chapter Contact:<br>Pat Brust                  | 414/529-4101 |

*Wild Ones - Natural Landscapers, Ltd. is a non-profit organization with a mission to educate and share information with members and community at the "plants-roots" level and to promote bio-diversity and environmentally sound practices. We are a diverse membership interested in natural landscaping using native species in developing plant communities.*

*The Outside Story* is published bi-monthly by Wild Ones - Natural Landscapers, Ltd. Material for newsletters should be submitted by the first of the month preceeding the next publication date to: Carol Chew, 8920 North Lake Drive, Bayside, WI53217. Send change of address to: Jean Palm, 625 Orchard Street, West Bend, WI53095. Advertising rates and back issues at \$1 each are available from: Deb Harwell, 8712 Spruce Road, River Hills, WI53217.



**North Milwaukee and Wehr Nature Center Chapters:** (Note that the North Milwaukee Chapter meets at 9:30 a.m. at Schlitz Audubon Center, 1111 East Brown Deer Road, Milwaukee, WI 53217. Program repeats at 1:30 p.m. at Wehr Nature Center, 9701 West College Avenue, Franklin, WI 53132.)

Saturday, January 9: "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Indian Hill School." Deb Harwell tells about her suburban primary school natural landscaping project.

Saturday, February 13: Natural Landscaping Seminar at UWM. See more details in Lorrie's Notes on page 3.

Saturday, March 13: "The Making of a Woodland Garden" is Dan Boehlke's topic.

Saturday, April 10: Landscape Lady, Gloy Jacobson, will share pruning tips and experiences from her yard.

Saturday, May 8: THE DIG. Our annual "bulldozer alert" saves threatened plants.

Saturday, June 12: Bring your questions to HELP ME DAY.

Saturday, July 10: This time we tour area prairie yards.

Saturday, August 14: Our field trip this month is to a gentian expert, Babette Kis.

Saturday, September 11: We'll visit Noor Morey's yard in Mequon.

Saturday, October 9: It's time to gather prairie seeds and dig asters.

Saturday, November 13: Lucy Schumann describes how she developed a woodland garden in her small front yard.

Saturday, December 11: Our holiday seed and goodie exchange.

(continued on page 16)

### 1993 Wild Ones Membership Dues

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$15 (includes meetings, plant digs, seed-gathering, six newsletters)

Please make checks payable to: Wild Ones.

Mail to: Jean Palm, 625 Orchard Street, West Bend, WI 53095

(continued from page 15)

**Northern Illinois Chapter:** Wednesdays, January 13, 20, 27 at 7 p.m. The Natural Garden, St. Charles, Illinois. A three-evening workshop on landscape design will be given by Kerry Leigh, Wild Ones member who is on the staff of The Natural Garden. Call to register (708/584-0150) as there are only 20 spaces available. Fee: \$30.

Thursday, January 21 at 7 p.m. College of Du Page. Student Resource Center, Room 1024A. "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Indian Hill School," will be given by Deb Harwell of Milwaukee Wild Ones.

Thursday, February 18 at 7 p.m. College of Du Page. Student Resource Center, Room 1024A. "Seed Propagation" for all those seeds you picked up at the seed exchange! Speaker TBA.

Thursday, March 18 at 7 p.m. College of Du Page, Student Resource Center, Room 1024A. "Choosing Services and Professionals" given by Karla Lynch, a landscape designer.

Artist: Lucy Schumann Additional art:  
Dorothy Boyer, Barb Glassel, Edie Emmenegger

**Green Bay Chapter:** Saturday, January 23 from 10 a.m. - noon. Master Gardener's Club will sponsor a prairie class led by Neil Diboll. Fee is \$20. Call Paul Hartman for information (414/391-4615).

The new board will be meeting during January to plan further programs.

**UW-Waukesha Extension** offers several classes of interest to Wild Ones:

"Prairie Restoration for Beginners," "Insects of the Prairie," and "Prairie Restoration Field Trip" are lead by Robert Ahrenhoerster, naturalist.

"Tree and Shrub Identification Workshop" will meet with instructor Larry Kascht of Retzer Nature Center.

"Wisconsin Spring Wildflowers" is a way to learn to identify woodland flora with Professor Nancy Dernehl.

For registration information, call 414/521-5460 or write: Donald Bracco, UW-Waukesha, 1500 University Drive, Waukesha, WI 53188.

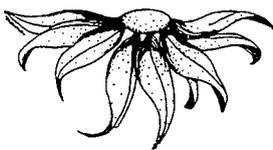
PRAIRIE RIDGE NURSERY



SEEDS & PLANTS  
for  
WETLANDS, WOODLANDS  
& PRAIRIES

9738 Overland Road  
Mr. Horeb, WI 53572  
608/437-5245

wild ones



*The Outside Story*

newsletter for natural landscapers

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Permit No. 4016



RECYCLED