

The Outside Story

newsletter for natural landscapers

Vol. 6 No. 2

March - April 1993

One Dollar

Register now for pesticide notice

If neighbors on your block or an adjacent block use a commercial company to spray their lawns with pesticides, you now have the right to be notified, if you live in Wisconsin.

Pesticides are poisons; "cide" means kill. According to a Sierra Club bulletin, "They are harmful not only to weeds, but to lawncare customers, their neighbors and visitors, children and pets, postal workers and others. Twelve of the most commonly used pesticides are suspected human carcinogens. Others can cause damage to the nervous system producing symptoms like headaches, mental confusion or drowsiness. Pesticides can also cause irritation to the eyes, throat, respiratory system and skin. Registering will give you advance notice so that you can plan to minimize exposure to your family, friends, and pets."

To register and receive advance notification, send your name, address, and phone number with a list of neighbors.
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Urban forests benefit the majority of us

When we hear the word *forest*, we may visualize huge tracts of tree-covered land in a far-away state or national preserve. However, most of the nation's forests are not miles away but in our own or neighbor's yard; along streets; around schools; apartments, and businesses; in community parks; in empty lots; and along waterways and roads. Chances are you, like the majority of Americans, live in an *urban forest*.

The term, urban forest, may seem confusing or contradictory because cities are not hospitable places for trees and other vegetation. Trees must survive such stresses as: soil compaction, drought, salt, construction, disease, crowded spaces, impact by vehicles and lawn mowers, and pollution.

Yet trees not only give us the beauty of color, form, and texture but the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide which sustains our lives. Moreover, they regulate temperature by the shade and transpiration (cooling through the evaporation of gallons of water) and provide winter wind shelter. Trees planted to conserve energy can save up to 30% on cooling bills and 15% on heating bills. Nationally, urban trees now save an estimated \$2 billion dollars in energy use each year. Trees clean the air by filtering air-borne particles, reduce glare, control erosion, and attract wildlife. Trees can provide a wonderful classroom for children, teaching them the relationship between nature and people.

Urban forestry is the planning, establishment, protection, and management of trees and other plants within communities. You know that trees are important, but do you know if your community has an urban forestry program to care for its public trees?

In Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources recently initiated an Urban and Community Forestry Program to help communities, like yours, properly manage their trees. Communities are encouraged to form Tree Boards to help care for trees
(continued on page 2)



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where people live and work, to develop a Tree Ordinance to determine public tree policies, to set up a Community Forestry Program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per person, and to establish an Arbor Day Observance. These steps can help a community attain Tree City, U.S.A. status. All of these activities help promote wildlife in your neighborhood, shade your home, and clean the air.

Recommended books that will help you understand more about native trees in our public and private urban forests are: *Vegetation of Wisconsin* by John T. Curtis (UW Press, rev. 1971), *Natural Landscaping* by John Diekelman (McGraw Hill, 1982), *Plants of the Chicago Region* by Swink, Floyd, Wilhelm (Morton Arboretum, 1979) - Kim Gorenc, Urban Forester, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

"Bulldozer Alert" sites needed for May digs

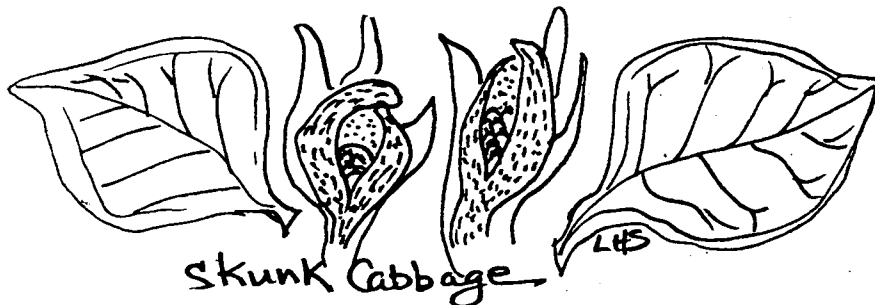
Locations of construction sites where wildflowers are in danger of being destroyed, if not removed, are needed so permission can be obtained for "Bulldozer Alerts." Contact Irena (414/242-7769) or Mandy (414/242-2723) for the Schlitz Audubon Chapter or Mariette or Karen (414/425-8550) for the Wehr Nature Center Chapter.

Wild Ones to be at Home Show

Wild Ones will have a booth at the Home and Garden Show in Waukesha from Thursday, March 4 to Sunday, March 7.

Plant sales are planned for May

Wehr Nature Center is scheduling native plant and seed sales for Sundays, May 9 and 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Seminars:

Glendale's Yard Fest '93 will be held on Saturday, March 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Glen Hills Middle School, 2600 West Mill Road (intersection of Range Line.) Since state law now prohibits yard waste from being landfilled, workshops will focus on taking the waste out of yard waste through natural landscaping, wise yard management practices, and municipal composting. The restoration of Indian Prairie is another workshop topic. The program is free.

"Prairies and Meadows: The Ecological Gardens of Yesterday and Tomorrow" is Neil Diboll's topic at the Marsh Haven Nature Center Prairie Workshop on Saturday, April 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. He will cover a range of topics including the history and characteristics of prairies and the procedures for creating beauty and habitat on your property. Cost for the day is \$40 which includes lunch. Pre-register by March 20 by calling 414/386-2182 for a registration form. The center is located three miles west of Waupun on Highway 49 at Horicon Marsh.

Landscape Lady Ltd is offering a Natural Landscaping Course consisting of five two-hour sessions plus one on-site consultation. Call 414/264-2357.

(See page 14 for the Madison Seminar.)



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(continued from page 1)

hood addresses of concern to: DATCP, Land Application Registry, Agricultural Resource Management, P.O. Box 8911, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8911.

When you are registered, which must be done annually, the commercial applicator must notify you at least 12 hours in advance of any spraying or mail you a notice no less than two business days prior to application.

Apartments, schools, businesses, parks, golf courses are exempt from the registry notification process. Another state regulation requires that they must post a warning sign which says: "Pesticide Application - Please Keep Off."

For more information call the Lawn Care Hotline (608/266-5296.)

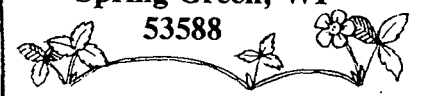


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Horrie's Notes ...

Time to think about the deer problem again

Deer problems? Yes! Our property near the shore of Lake Michigan north of Milwaukee has been our home for 40 years. For the first three decades, wooded ravines and meandering stream banks which lead on to the Nature Conservancy's upland woods were so diverse and of such historic value that it was designated a "scientific area." Today, the expanding deer population is grazing the vegetation beyond its capacity to renew itself. In spite of many mature trees, there is not a single young birch or white pine in the entire area. Where there were once hundreds of yellow lady slippers, there were only five blooming plants found on our 1992 Mother's Day tour. We have photographs from years ago when trilliums covered the spring woods like a fresh blanket of snow. From these thousands of plants we found only seven as our families walked the paths last year. In the 1960's when UWM science classes studied here, hepaticas carpeted the ravines and uplands. The three-lobed mottled leaves from the previous summer's growth would form tough saucers of splotched purple bases beneath furry-stemmed flowers. We had pink ones, blue ones, and white ones with some sepals only margined in white. Nestled down at ground level, new leaves were only tiny bundles of fuzz. Unfortunately, these bursting crowns are a nutritious and favorite food of white-tailed deer which easily found them as they pawed through the snow. Today, it would be most unusual if they found any at all! Native shrubs are also suffering the same depredation. No longer do we have the downy, caramel-colored mapleleaf viburnum decorating our autumn landscape. The only witch-hazels are the tall, dry old ones with fresh shoots at their bases or young plants anywhere. It has been several years since we've seen any arrowwood which once offered its fruit and grooved seeds to wildlife.

We've removed alien honeysuckles and buckthorns. Even garlic mustard is being held in abeyance with bi-annual "pulling parties." It is only deer that truly threaten the integrity and diversity of our land which will soon be as bare as a public park.

Most municipalities have opted for cruel controls: crippling, maiming, and death by automobiles. We've had one injured doe drag her bleeding body back to her triplet fawns where she died as they nursed. They in turn succumbed, bleating like sheep, so thirsty before they expired. A large buck lived quite well with his three legs until he was dragged down by dogs on our beach. Some cities have yielded to the Bambi protestors and at considerable expense trap and transport terrified animals to deer farms where some die of fright. Those which survive the trauma live on to be "harvested" by hunters.

Animal rights? Birds are animals, yet deer have superior rights when they eat leaves that shelter nests and when they devour flowers that provide seeds and fruits that sustain migrating birds. When the vegetation which supports soft-bodied insects is gone so are the tiny nestlings of even the seed-eating parents. In the future we may scatter exclusion pens about the land in an attempt to save viable seed banks and allow some of our botanical specimens to survive. At the Madison arboretum sharp shooters control the herd. It is instant eternal sleep. Is there a better way to protect birds, small mammals, insects, and wildflowers? - Lorrie Otto

Here are some how-to's for pruning native trees and shrubs

Pruning can be a very satisfying part of tree and shrub care. You can gain a feeling of artistic accomplishment and a real sense of caring for your woody children. However, a lot of pruning in a high maintenance landscape can become quite a chore. Fortunately, those of us with natural landscapes should have just the right balance of pruning in our maintenance cycle.

Native plants, placed in the proper location, should need very minimal pruning, possibly just the removal of dead wood. Proper location must be stressed. You should know a plant's ultimate height and width, and allow that much space in your planting plan. Even if the area looks under-planted at first, you'll save many hours of pruning in the future. Exceptions to this rule can occasionally be made when you *just have to have* that lovely native shrub and only have one small spot to put it in. Pruning can be done to keep the plant in bounds to a reasonable degree, but be sure it's a plant that will respond positively to regular pruning.

Keeping a plant in bounds does not mean giving it a haircut once or twice a year. Actually, the haircut or shearing approach should never be used on native plants and should seldom be used on non-native plants unless they are in a very formal garden or where a formal hedge is concerned. There are plants that can be cut back to almost ground level (rejuvenative pruning) but the "haircut" is something different. Haircut pruning is usually done with a manual or electric hedge clippers and involves the even shaping of a plant into a neat unnatural form such as a rectangle or round ball.

Form is an extremely important element in landscape design - especially in

this area where winters are long. For many months, form is the plant's dominate characteristic. Most of our natives have distinctive and highly ornamental forms which should be enhanced, not destroyed.

What can you do to properly prune your native woody plants?

*Prune in late winter or early spring when you can most clearly see the branch structure. Exceptions to this are bleeders such as birch, pine, dogwood, and maple which will ooze sap if pruned in spring. Also, spring bloomers set their flower buds on last year's growth. For maximum bloom you might choose to prune these plants after flowering time.

*Keep tools clean and sharp.

*Angle the cut so water will run off.

*Leave a 1/4" stub at the base of the branch being removed.

*Cut back to a branch or bud that is facing in the right direction.

*Remove dead and/or diseased wood.

*Remove crossing branches that can rub against each other and create openings for disease and insects. Save the strongest and best located branch.

*Remove wrong way branches (those growing in an uncharacteristic direction.)

*When keeping a shrub in bounds, selectively cut tallest stems by holding the stem and reaching way down into the shrub to cut the stem back. Even yews, which are not native, but are used extensively in the landscape, can be pruned in this selective manner and will acquire a more graceful, feathery appearance as opposed to a sheared, geometric form.

*Pruning should be hardly noticeable. A plant should look neat and tidy but still natural and unpruned.

Pruning can be a rewarding activity in the landscape, and with the proper tools and knowledge, you can do a great job on your own. However, if you're really not comfortable with the task and decide to hire a professional, do be very picky. It can take plants an average of three years to recover from one day of improper pruning. Get referrals from knowledgeable friends. Be sure the person who will be doing the actual pruning has experience with
(continued on page 13)

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The Inside Story

COMMON WILD STRAWBERRY

(*Fragaria virginiana*)
Rose Family



OTHER NAMES: Garden, Scarlet, and Virginia Strawberry.

HABITAT: Edges of woods and open fields.

DESCRIPTION: The fruit of this Strawberry has its seeds sunk in pits on its surface. It is a low, creeping plant which forms runners and produces several small, white flowers with 5 sepals, 5 roundish petals, and numerous stamens and pistils. The leaves are 3-parted, long-stalked; leaflets are 1" to 1-1/2" long, toothed, and with hairy stalks.

Height: flower stalk, 3" to 6".

FLOWERING: April to June

COMMENTS: The domestic Strawberry originated as a hybrid between this Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*), and *Fragaria chiloensis*, a Chilean species. These two species were introduced to France, where in the mid-18th Century, a natural hybrid was found with unusually large, fragrant fruits. It had originated from a plant of *Fragaria chiloensis* pollinated by *Fragaria virginiana*. The Chilean species was cultivated by the Mapuche and Huilliche Indians of Chile so, in its own right, it was already a domestic species. However, its qualities were greatly improved by crossing it with the Common Wild Strawberry of North America.

In his TRAVELS, in June of 1776, William Bartram wrote:

"...We enjoyed a most enchanting view — a vast expanse of green meadows and strawberry fields, a meandering river gliding through, turfy knolls embellished with parterres of flowers and fruitful strawberry beds, flocks of turkeys strolling about them, herds of deer prancing in the meads or bounding over the hills, companies of young, innocent Cherokee virgins, some busy gathering the rich, fragrant fruit. Others, having already filled their baskets, lay reclined under the shade of floriferous and fragrant bowers...disclosing their beauties to the fluttering breeze and bathing their limbs in the cool, fleeting streams whilst other parties, more gay and libertine, were yet collecting strawberries, or wantonly chasing their companions, tantalizing them, staining their lips and cheeks with the rich fruit..."

MEDICINAL USE: This plant has the power to enrich the bloodstream with its quickly assimilated major minerals — sodium, calcium, potassium, iron, sulfur, silicon, and the associated citric and malic acid. The fruit has also been a useful tartar-removing dentrifice, its freshly expressed juice serving to remove discoloration by being allowed to remain on the teeth a few minutes and then rinsed off with warm water. A cut Strawberry rubbed over the face immediately after washing will whiten the skin and remove slight sunburn. For a badly burned face, it is recommended to rub the juice well into the skin, leave it on for half an hour, and then wash off with warm water to which a few drops of simple tincture of benzoin have been added; no soap should be used.

The famous Swedish botanist, Linnaeus, first demonstrated that the berries were an excellent remedy, or near cure, for gout and rheumatic disorders. Fruits are an outstanding source of Vitamin C, which today is vitally needed for the prevention and treatment of scurvy. Strawberry is also of great value in removing respiratory mucous, dissolving stones, healing sores throats and mouth sores.

NAME ORIGIN: The Genus Name, *Fragaria* (Fra-gair'i-a) is from the Latin word, *fraga*, for fragrance, in allusion to the pleasantly aromatic fruit. The Species Name, *virginiana*, means "from Virginia."

The Chippewa Indians used this plant for infantum cholera. They called it "odeiminidjibik," meaning "heart berry root."

AUTHOR'S NOTE: When I discovered William Bartram's quote, in my mind's eye, I immediately formed a scene of his most eloquent description. It is how I've always hoped heaven would be — a rippling brook; lush, green vegetation; colorful butterflies flitting about; tranquility and peace. There would be no desire, on my part, for streets of gold.

Perhaps, if all people were privileged to experience the beauty and serenity of such a place; drugs, crime, hate, and violence would no longer be a part of our vocabulary. We need a wild sanctuary to escape the insanity of the real world — a place where the streams flow with pure, clear water; and trees, grasses, wildflowers, mosses, fungi, lichens, and liverworts are allowed to flourish. Maybe we would have more tolerance and appreciation for one another if we had the benefit of sharing ourselves with the lesser and more vulnerable inhabitants of our environment: the plants, animals and insects.

School wants to change landscaping to bring natives closer to classrooms

The following is from Dorothy Boyer's memo to officials at Dunwiddie School in Port Washington, Wisconsin, on the subject of natural landscaping.

"As a member of Wild Ones - Natural Landscapers club, I have found native flowers beautiful and self-sustaining when placed in the right environment. When I plant them around my home I feel I'm contributing to the healing of the earth. Native plants require no fertilizer. Rain and dew provide all the moisture needed. Each time I create another plant bed, I am reducing our mowed-lawn area. We've cut our mowing time from three hours to one. When you think of it, pollution by our eight-horsepower lawn mower has also been reduced and replaced with plants that purify the air while providing food for native birds, insects, and mammals.

Helen Mitchell, principal at Dunwiddie School, shares my interest. Her mother was a naturalist, and Helen's appreciation for native plants began when she was young. Helen and I thought, "Why not naturalize the areas around the school buildings?" She asked if I'd present this idea at the next faculty meeting.

Meanwhile, I took pictures of the Dunwiddie property and Indian Hill School in River Hills, Wisconsin. The Indian Hill project is in its second year and the New England asters, golden rod and black-eyed Susans were in full bloom. I pasted a color copy of the Indian Hill's project over a copy of Dunwiddie's to help visualize it "naturalized."

Response to the project idea was extremely encouraging. Initially, the secretary, custodian, and six teachers volunteered to be on the Nature Center Project. When the concept was presented to the Parent Advisory Group there were three volunteers.

Jane Moeller, art teacher, made the observation that as the open spaces around the school are being developed, we need to bring native plants closer to the classrooms. Sally Evans, who transferred from Saukville School, misses that school's nature center and wants to establish one at Dunwiddie.

During the first committee meeting, four more teachers joined. We shared our project fantasies and discussed soil preparation. I suggested that the children could plant seeds indoors and transplant seedlings outdoors on Earth Day.

Predictably, during the first year the area will look more like a construction site. A sign will let passers-by know while promising a beautiful future view.

Networking is beginning as we talk of seeds, sources, funding, and donations. Enthusiasm is catchy in this wintry time of year. Visions of purple and yellow coneflowers lighten our hearts during cold, dark months.

Prior to our next meeting, committee members will have an opportunity to attend the annual Natural Landscaping Seminar at UWM. Registration will be paid for those wishing to attend. Our next teacher inservice day will feature a session given by Deb Harwell, past president of Wild Ones, who will show through slides how she spearheaded the Indian Hill School project. Our discussions have moved along so smoothly, I'm convinced the time is right for naturalizing the Dunwiddie grounds."



Bloodroot

Milwaukee Public Museum announces photo competition

Parlez-vous Francais? Even if you don't speak French you'll be happy to know that spring is coming when you see the April-blooming **pasqueflower**. (Pasque, is also the name for the Easter holiday in France.) Native Americans were known to use the plant's roots as a remedy for a common health problem - nosebleeds.

It's easy to spot pasqueflowers. As part of the buttercup family, they characteristically have five to seven large petal-like white or blue-violet sepals covered with silky hairs. They are found on the dry prairies in such states as Wisconsin and Illinois.

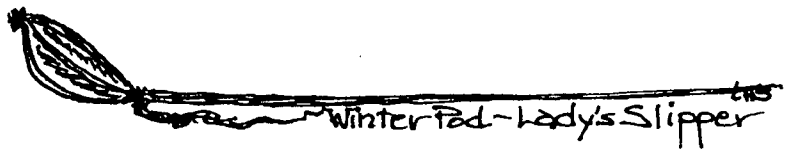
So look up your prize photos and call 414/278-6141 or 414/278-2700 for an entry form. Winners in the 1993 Milwaukee Public Museum Wildflower Photo Competition will be displayed on Sunday, June 6 at the museum. This year's theme is preservation and conservation of native flora.



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New subdivision neighborhood decides on wildflowers and prairie

Last summer, Becky Rush surveyed the 3 1/2 acres around her new Grafton home with the guidance of Rae Sweet and Rochelle Whiteman. "They helped me identify some species which were undisturbed by encroaching civilization--wild geranium, May apple, and, of course, unwelcome buckthorn. Nothing was particularly rare, but previously I wasn't able to identify *any* plants. Importantly, they showed me 'bad guys,' such as various clover varieties, thistles, and ragweed, which seek disturbed soil."

"During this initial consultation, they asked about my neighbors' interests in natural landscaping and about local ordinances. I knew the area was zoned 'agricultural,' but they reminded me about those who had had confrontations with their neighbors and communities in the process of naturalizing their yards. As this thought became a 'planted seed,' I took a few hours off work and drove to the Registrar of Deeds where I transcribed names and addresses of 11 potential homeowners."

As a result, Becky and her husband, Barry, invited all the new neighbors to a social and educational evening. The invitation suggested that "if you, too, have considered a wildflowers and native prairie concept, or if you'd simply

like to know about what we have in mind" attend a presentation by Rae and Rochelle. According to Becky, all new owners there had a similar "natural look" in mind. Questions ranged from "To burn or not to burn?" "Do I need to spray?" "How much start-up maintenance is required?" "How much tilling is needed to prepare the soil?" Rae explained that sometimes there are no "perfect" answers; much of this learn-

ing is evolutionary. Make informed choices and do what is "right for you."

"It was truly exhilarating to share my passion with people who will be so close and to have that passion reflected back," Becky relates. "'Before' photos are in process. We'll wait and see what 'after' beholds - what wonderful things a little neighborhood like ours can do!"

Book on exotics tells about garlic mustard and more

"It's a mustard," naturalist Richard Barloga said back in the '70's when I brought a new plant to him that I had discovered in my woods. He crushed a leaf and held it to my nose. "Smells like garlic, doesn't it?" he pointed out, providing a clue to its identity. Though it was an alien, I wasn't alarmed for a year or two.

Since then, botanists have conducted much research into the control of garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*.) *The Natural Areas Association Compendium of Exotic Species*, published in October 1992 in loose leaf form, includes all 43 papers previously published in the *Natural Areas Journal* over the last 11 years. Some of these papers are broad in perspective, such as "The Effects of Exotic Plant and Animal Species on Nature Preserves" by Susan P. Bratton and "Exotic Shrubs: A Potential Problem in Natural Area Management in Illinois" by John E. Ebinger. Other papers are species specific, with papers reporting current research into the control of purple loosestrife, multiflora rose, reed canary grass, bittersweet, Japanese honeysuckle, buckthorn, white and yellow sweet clover. Some articles address effects of fire specifically, while others include comparative results of various methods of control.

cutting were studied by Victoria A. Nuzzo in "Experimental Control of Garlic Mustard in Northern Illinois Using Fire, Herbicide and Cutting." While fire and chemicals proved effective, she reports, "cutting flowering stems significantly reduced survival, stem height, and total seed production" and "plants cut at ground level experienced 99% mortality while plants cut at 10 cm experienced 71% mortality." However, the surviving 94 plants cut at 10 cm produced a total of 21,238 seeds, a prodigious reproductive potential for this biennial whose seeds may germinate from two to six years after they are produced!

Such detailed information, with accompanying graphs and charts, is invaluable for managers and homeowners with natural landscapes. I won't dread quite as much the inevitable appearance of garlic mustard seedlings this spring, knowing that ground level cutting is the proper course of action. I highly recommend *Compendium of Exotic Species*, which can be purchased by sending \$22 (including shipping costs) to: Natural Areas Association, 108 Fox Street, Mukwonago, WI 53149. - Ellen Genrich in *Waukesha Environmental Action League, Inc. newsletter*, January 1993. Used by permission.



The results of burning, spraying, and

With the coming of spring,

a fallen tree begins a new cycle of life . . .

Countless new microbes, plants, and animals take up residence to begin the process.

A dead tree may become more valuable to the forest than when it was alive as it breaks down into rich soil and teems with new beginnings.

Devouring insects bore tunnels where new root growth thrives in a nutrient and moisture-rich environment.

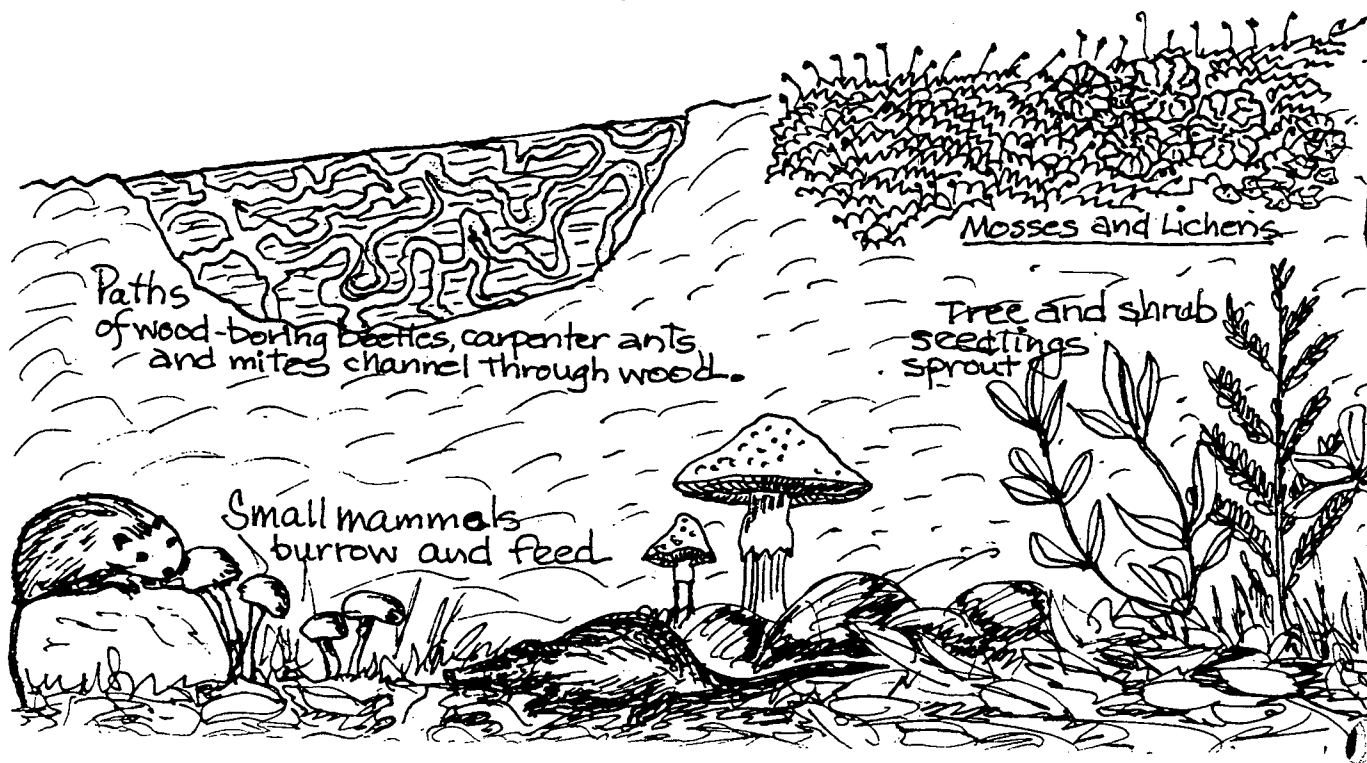
Lichens and mosses form on the surface and capture rainwater passed through the tree canopy.

Fungi and bacteria decay wood and provide nitrogen for thriving new plants and food for beetles and mites which in turn become feasts for spiders.

Larger plants and seedling trees grow in symbiotic harmony with fungi in the cracks and crevices of the "nurse" log.

Small animals burrow into the softened wood and feed on plants and mushrooms. Downed trees shelter wildlife. If they fall in water, fish spawn in their pools and are nourished by trapped sediment.

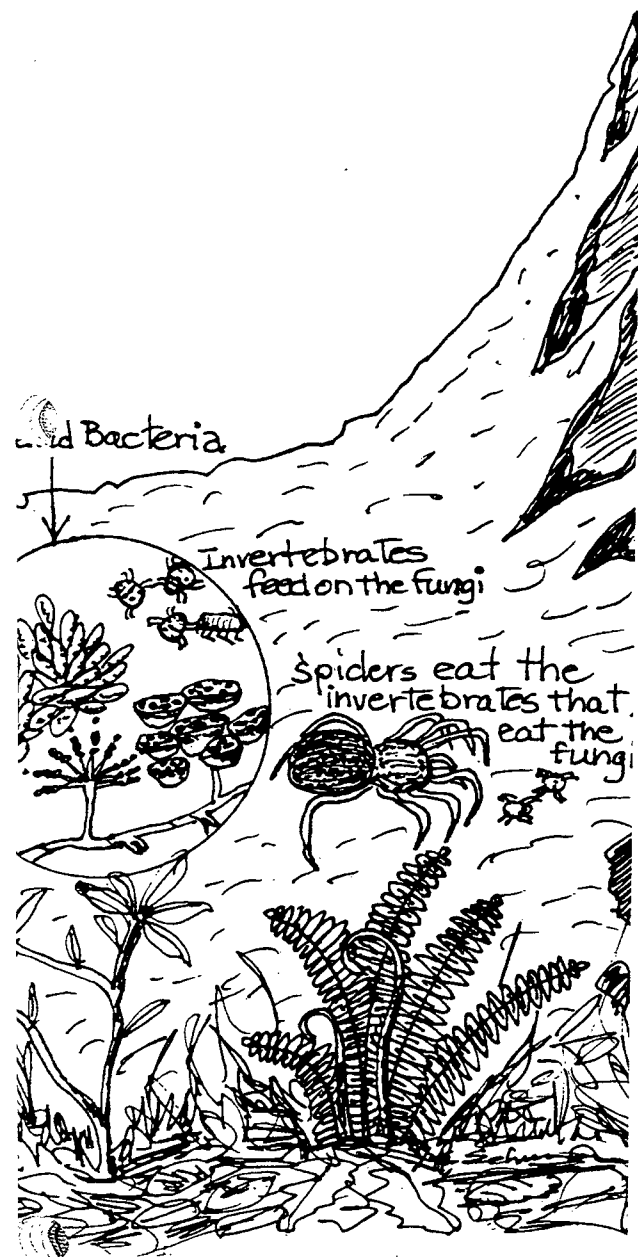
Fallen logs control erosion by holding soil along stream banks and wooded slopes.



Dead trees absorb carbon dioxide which curbs the pace of global warming.

Trunks hold great volumes of water which sustains new plants in drought periods.

Decaying trees provide a collection of life and nutrients greater than the sum of parts of the original living tree.



What do you do with leaves and stalks in your native yard?

"I like to leave everything where it stands at the end of the season. I've had evening primrose stems persist for three years and love how they, and other plants, look in the winter. In the summer, old culver's root and yarrow stems help hold up other wildflowers. Coneflowers provide winter beauty and bird food. - Jan Koel

"Ruth Stout and Richard Clemence's *No Work Garden Book: the Secrets of the Famous Year-Around Mulch Method* (Rodale Press) has been my inspiration to do top composting. I recycle wood chip paths by going down a foot to dig up rich dirt. Then I get more free chips from the city to replace them. Leaves and stalks are piled near where I rake them in my woodsy front yard. They don't show behind the growing plants and soon decompose to form excellent areas for new plant beds." - Rochelle Whiteman

"I have a small electric shredder that handles stalks and limbs up to 1 1/2 inches. These are then composted and used as mulch. Leaves are left on unmowed areas and disappear under a mulching mower in mowed areas. Larger limbs are burned in the fireplace or piled for critter habitats. - Mandy Ploch

"Leave them where they fall." - Delene Hansen

"Compost them in my yard." - Irena Macek



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Wildcare . . .

March: RECYCLE wildflower seed catalogs. Clip photos & drawings for school or community prairie projects. Some could be turned into flashcards to help others learn to identify various wildflowers or types of native grasses.

BURN parts of your prairie around St. Patrick's Day, if snow is gone. (See *The Outside Story*, March/April 1992 for substitute burning methods.) The ashes' blackness absorbs sunlight, warming seeds hidden in the soil before competing weeds emerge. Can't burn? Lop off stalks, adding them to compost.

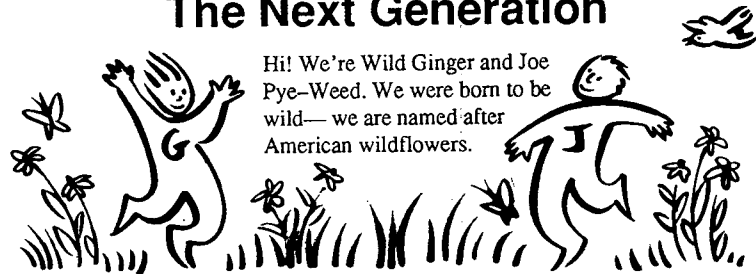
PHOTOS help record when combinations of woodland wildflowers bloom each year. Be sure to add precise dates for annual comparisons.

DRY AREAS or memories of drought may prompt you to read *Xeriscape Gardening: Water Conservation for the American Landscape* by Connie Ellefson, Tom Stephens, and Doug Welsh (Macmillan, 1992.) You'll have to be careful about sorting out regional advice, since this was written for the U.S. I'm intrigued by "Ben Wofford's Worm Bed" in the soil improvement section. This method should work well for problem soils such as heavy clay, depleted soils, and thin topsoil.

April: INVITE a neighbor for a walk in your yard or an outing to see spring ephemerals in their forest setting. Pick a date with a showy carpet of bloodroot, spring beauty, or trillium. Many of us started in natural landscaping this way.

SEED PROPAGATION SELF-HELP GROUP: Like to exchange ideas on growing forbs and grasses? Meet at 8:45 a.m. before Schlitz Audubon Center Wild Ones' meetings on March 13 and April 10. - Barb Glassel

The Wild Ones— The Next Generation



Hi! We're Wild Ginger and Joe Pye-Weed. We were born to be wild— we are named after American wildflowers.

Let's All Share OUR Wild Adventures!

What did you see in your backyard that told you that spring was here? Write your adventure below, then cut it out and send it by March 15, 1993, to: Ginger and Joe's Mailbox, 12404 Algonquin, Palos Park, IL 60464 for printing in the April issue of *The Wild Ones: The Next Generation*!

Dear Ginger and Joe,
I saw a

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

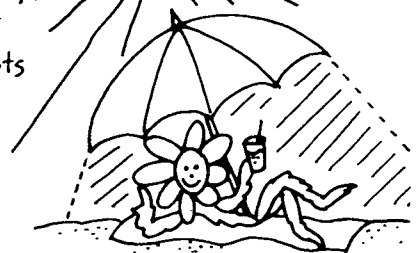
It's Not Easy Being Green— If You're a Flower on the Forest Floor!

All plants need at least *SOME* sunlight, water, and fertilizer. Without these things they can't make food, grow, or make new plants for the future.



Trees have lots of roots that suck up rain and nutrients (fertilizer) too.

Like rain and beach umbrellas, trees keep sunlight from reaching the plants underneath.



How Do Little Wildflowers Survive Under Big Trees?



They are early bloomers!

Plants need the most water and sun when they are making flowers and seeds. Woodland plants bloom before the tree leaves out—sun and rain get through then.

Color the spring beauties pink and the violets blue-purple.

They are made in the shade!

Most woodland plants actually need shade—they get droopy in a hot, sunny place.

Color lots of leaves on this tree to shade the wildflowers through the summer.

They know what to do with litter!

Woodland plants get water and fertilizer from “litter”—the dead leaves and wood that drop from the trees. As the litter rots, it makes a rich, wet bed for the wildflowers.

Color in plenty of rich brown rotting leaves around these wildflowers.

Hey, there's also good news about living under trees!

Strong winds and quick temperature changes can hurt plants. Trees protect wildflowers from both these things.

How Wild Can YOU Get?

Got a tree in your yard big enough to shade you from the sun? Then you can have a woodland garden! Have a grown-up help you with these steps:



- Pick a tree that loses its leaves in the fall.
- Cover the whole garden area with a 10-page layer of newspaper.
- Spread 3 inches of rotted leaves and 3 inches of wood chips on the garden.
- Plant woodland flowers from a friend's garden or from a company that grows them for sale. Never take plants from a wild area—so few of these areas are left, we must protect them.
- Cushion your plants with several inches of rotted leaves. Replace the cushion each spring as the old layer rots down into the soil.
- Put fallen logs around your garden. They'll keep people from trampling the flowers. Logs also are homes for nifty bugs that will help the litter rot down into fertilizer.
- Be sure to make a seat for yourself. Sit and enjoy spring flowers, summer shade, bugs, birds, and gentle breezes!

- Judee Hansen, Cathy Pawlowski, and Edie Emmenegger



Winter twig - Leatherwood

The Bookshelf. . .

Tree books are our focus this month and Peg Cadigan of Schlitz Audubon Center Bookstore (414/352-2880) has given us a whole shopping bag of selections about trees and shrubs to check. Some favorites are listed below:

Winter Tree Finder by May Theilgaard Watts (Nature Study Guild, \$2) is a handy pocket guide for discovering trees in early spring by selecting an identifying twig. *The Tree Identification Book* by George W.D. Symonds, companion to *The Shrub Identification Book* (Symonds, \$17.95), is a larger sized book with complete photographic keys to recognize leaves, twigs, fruit, seeds, bark, thorns, cones, needles, pods, and overall size easily.

The Book of Forest and Thicket - Trees, Shrubs, and Wildflowers of Eastern North America by John Eastman (Stackpole Books, \$14.95) gives background about a plant's habitat, companions, lore, and which animals depend on it for food and shelter. Beautifully illustrated by Amelia Hansen, it is written in non-technical language and will enrich both knowledge and appreciation. Another book showing relationships between trees (and other plants) and animals is *American Wildlife & Plants - A Guide to Wildlife Food Habits* by Martin, Zim, and Nelson (Dover, \$9.95.) It is illustrated with maps showing the U.S. range of individual trees, shrubs, weeds, and herbs with descriptions indicating which birds and mammals feed on them.

Trees of the Eastern and Central United States and Canada by William M. Harlow (Dover, \$4.95) is a small, concise guidebook giving detailed information on 140 different trees. *North American Trees, Fourth Edition* by Richard J. Preston, Jr. (Iowa State University Press, \$20.95) is also an excellent identification source. Maps show tree range and included are detailed drawings and descriptions. *A Natural History of Trees of Eastern and Central North America* by Donald Culross Peattie is a talented writer's classic and enjoyable description of native trees. This comprehensive guide details each tree in clear, non-technical language and follows with fascinating histories of peoples' relationship to them.

"Why are there trees, I never walk under but large and melodious thoughts descend upon me?" - Walt Whitman

"I am sure that the finest privilege of the privileged is to live among trees. . . Gardening for us was the shepherding of trees - much of what I know of tenderness comes from planting with my father." - William Bryant Logan

Readers' Questions

"I'd like to do something 'different' around my new house. Can you give me some ideas? The soil is heavy clay, but the builder did put some black dirt on top. There are a couple of trees and a few lilacs." - Sharon Folcey, Sparta, Wisconsin

Dan Boehlke of Boehlke's Woodland Gardens has some suggestions for you. First, allow the land around your new house to settle for a year. This means you'll be ready to start this growing season if your home was completed last summer. Spring is the ideal time to begin, but wait until the ground is no longer muddy.

A thick layer of top soil (leaves, sawdust, or woodchips) should be added. Plan to start a mesic prairie if the land drains fairly well. No matter what your future plans may be, in two to three years you'll have a good display of wildflowers, while a woodlands takes 10 to 30 years. It's like getting two for the price of one - you can have prairie first, and later woodlands. Make plans for shade plants later, if you wish. If your builder left about an inch of topsoil on the clay, check and fill where needed as usually a quick job has been done. What you now have is "young" soil not unlike that formed a century after the glaciers came through. A rough rule of thumb is that about one inch of top soil was formed every 100 years over the last 10,000 years. Now you need to rebuild six to ten inches. If adding that much seems too much trouble or expense all at once, start with small portions of your yard. (Remember, also, that your municipality may have free woodchips or leaves available.)

Dan recommends visiting the UW Arboretum or the Minnesota Arboretum to study prairie and woodlands to get an idea of what you want. He reminds us that during our lifetimes your garden will always be in transition. We don't live long enough to see the full succession of what we start.

Prairie Moon Nursery

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



Native Plants and Seeds
Wetland - Prairie - Woodland

(continued from page 4)

native plants and knows their natural growth habits. Request to see some photos or actual landscapes where that person's pruning ability is demonstrated.

Some recommended sources for pruning information are: "The Organic Gardening Guide to Perfect Pruning," *Organic Gardening*, February 1993 and *The Complete Guide to Landscape Design, Renovation, and Maintenance* by Cass Turnbull (Better Way, 1991). Although, this book discusses many plants that don't grow here, pruning procedures are clearly described and can be easily applied to all woody plants based on growth habit. - Gloria Stupak of Landscape Lady Ltd (Editor's note: Cass also has an informative and entertaining newsletter, *PlantAmnesty*, with a goal "to end the senseless torture and mutilation of trees and shrubs caused by mal-pruning. Specifically, it seeks to effect a significant change in the way King County prunes, thus proving it can be done elsewhere in the nation and the world." The newsletter address is: *PlantAmnesty*, 906 NW 87th Street, Seattle, WA 98117)



Native Wildflowers for Prairies & Meadows

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Updates . . .

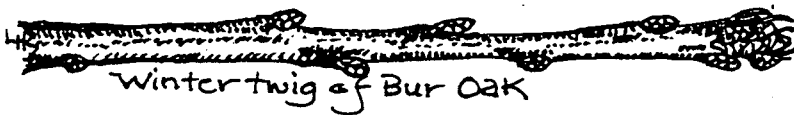
"Interest in natural landscaping is global," according to Bret Rappaport. After recent articles (*Natural Areas Journal*, October 1992 and *Wildflower*, Fall/Winter 1992) reviewing the history of community weed laws, he has received several dozen requests for more information. Some have come from as far away as Germany and Australia. Bret is a commercial litigation attorney and a former Illinois assistant attorney general. He has natural landscaping on a large portion of his suburban yard and gives volunteer legal services to several environmental causes. As reported in earlier newsletter issues, he is currently involved in a federal court battle over Chicago's weed law. He can be reached at Schwartz, Cooper, Kolb and Gaynor Chartered, 20 South Clark, Suite 1100, Chicago, Illinois 60603-1803.

One hundred acres will support 90 to 95% of the invertebrate population, reports Andy Larson about a winter conference on the subject of prairies and insects. The last 5% are much harder to restore and take much larger parcels of land. He quoted the work of Ron Panzer of Illinois. Andy also suggested that the use of fire needs to be carefully considered. Non-uniform application of burning (leaving some areas unburned each year) is desirable to keep a diversity of insect and other life. Mowing may be a good alternative.

Try mosses with woodland plants

Woodland wildflowers look so beautiful with mosses interspersed. Some of them have taken over a century to form in the wild, so it's important to treat them with respect they deserve. My favorite mosses are Hedwig's fringe moss (*Hedwigia ciliata*), woodsy moss (*Mnium cuspidatum*), and fern moss (*Thuidium* spp.). Investigate the mosses that are native to your area. If you don't have any growing naturally on your property, and you have the correct habitat, maybe you could introduce some. They are now being propagated by a small nursery in North Carolina (We-Du Nurseries, Route #5, Box 724, Marion, North Carolina 28752 704/738-8300.) They have about five species in their catalog that are found in our area. - Janice Stiefel





Winter twig of Bur Oak

Illinois chapter learns about Indian Hill Project

Deb Harwell was the featured speaker at the January meeting of the Northern Illinois chapter held at the College of Du Page Resource Center. Her topic was "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Indian Hill School." (See *Milwaukee chapter notes* below.)

Pat Armstrong, co-chair, announced a Chicago Botanical Garden meeting on the ethics of seed collecting and February workshops: an all-day natural landscaping seminar at UW-Milwaukee, an integrated pest management seminar at Hinsdale Community House, and a conference on oak savannahs at Northeastern Illinois University. A new Junior Wild Ones Committee has been formed and is headed by Diane Barnett. Treasurer Jean Lydall reported that the current balance is \$872.32. - Diana Bonanno

How do you start a school natural area? Two experts share their varied experiences

In December meetings of Schlitz Audubon and Wehr chapters, Lorrie Otto described her efforts to naturalize Bay-side School areas over several decades.

At first she lacked experience to deal with a custodian who wanted a manicured lawn and rows of flowering bulbs and crabapple trees. After \$1,000 (a large sum in the 1960's) was raised to buy native plants and trees selected for curriculum studies, the disgruntled groundskeeper sprayed chemicals which destroyed most of them. Assaults to the understory growth have also occurred over the years so that little remains of the original plantings which were intended to create a woods around the large school yard.

A natural area that was planted by children and volunteers next to classrooms nearly 20 years ago recently almost met a similar fate when school officials were about to transform it into a manicured lawn. By coincidence, Lorrie learned of the wild garden's potential destruction and found she had some major campaigning to do to save it. She soon found an interested teacher and began an education effort utilizing school display cases to show through words, photos, and objects the history and importance of the unsprayed area. Soon parents, teachers, neighbors, and others came to her

aid to write letters of support. She emphasized considering any such public project a long-term commitment which needs continued support.

In contrast to Lorrie's early efforts, Deb Harwell told our January meeting of the creation of a natural area surrounding nearby Indian Hill School. Deb drew up a plan which she presented to the school board in October 1988. The principal was very receptive to the idea and the board did not oppose it. They had an idea of "reforestation," but Deb redefined it as a prairie planting project. No sooner had it been ok'd than Deb was faced with the "How to?" "When?" "How much?" questions. Step-by-step the project unfolded. First students covered grassy areas with newspapers, then a load of sand was donated, then kids participated in a wildflower dig, and by mid-November plants were resting in beds ready to greet students in the spring.

Deb applied for grants for a wet-land area to solve a drainage problem. She arranged family weeding nights, had a "burn," held fund-raisers, and continues to supervise the "gardens." Both Lorrie and Deb emphasized getting the whole school involved. Deb's advice is "just go for it." - Jan Koel

Madison seminar soon; New chapter planned

Madison's 4th Annual Natural Landscaping Seminar is scheduled for Saturday, March 13 at the Wisconsin Center.

Featured speakers and panelists are: Rae Sweet, Rochelle Whiteman, Neil Diboll, JoAnn Gillespie, Molly Murray, Randy Powers, Evelyn Howell, Scott Craven, David Kopitzke, and Dave Egan. Call 608/262-9591 for seminar details.

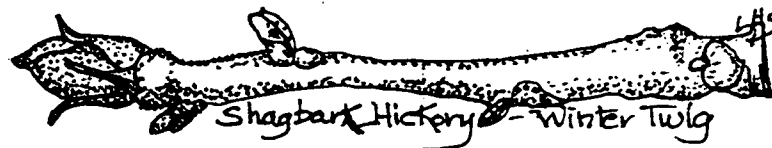
Wild Ones' membership information will be available as Madison forms the fifth Wild Ones' chapter. Two chapters are located in Milwaukee, one is in Green Bay and another is in Northern Illinois.

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Northern Illinois Chapter Contact:
Pat Armstrong 708/983-8404

Wehr Chapter Contact:
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 is welcomed and should be submitted six weeks prior to 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. Distribution coordinator: Delene Hansen. Artwork: Lucy Schumann.

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From our mail...

Dear Editor: We have been developing a native garden for the past eight years. When we first moved into the subdivision - called "Woodlands," all that was left of the forest was grey glacial till. Over the years we have planted native spruce, birch, mountain ash, larch trees, juniper blueberry, red-osier dogwood, and wild rose bushes along with a variety of wildflowers. In a 25' x 40' space there is very little room left for grass after you put in a few paths and a large boulder or two.

On September 16, 1992 after a complaint from a neighbour, the city served us with a notice giving us two days to make our front yard conform to the property standards bylaw. This reads "property must be kept clean and free from growth of weeds and grass that are detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of the occupants or the public or that by reason of not being cut regularly are excessive when compared with neighbouring properties." When I asked for an interpretation of this I was told that it means that the front of our house must look the same as everyone else's.

We were not willing to put in a lawn, so we asked to appear before the planning committee to defend our position. We explained the environmental importance of restoring native habitat for birds and insects. After a discussion they recommended to the city council that we be allowed to keep the garden. The council then voted 5 - 4 in our favour. The mayor who cast the deciding vote felt that residents should be able to landscape their gardens in whatever style they chose. Phew.

The Canadian Wildflower Society sent me a copy of your Jan/Feb newsletter with the article about the validity of the Chicago Weed Law and the case of the Minnesota woman. Perhaps some of your readers could share examples of bylaws that they feel are effective at protecting the rights of those of us who wish to create urban wilderness areas. Here in Newfoundland we don't have problems with "noxious weeds" such as poison ivy, so the issue is one of aesthetics, and how do you legislate that! - Cathy Smallwood & John Bell, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

Dear Editor: Many thanks to the Wild Ones for leftover seeds from the December exchange. They will be used in our school's nature area. Which native wildflowers will be easiest for school kids to start from seed and transplant? -Wes Weinhold, P.T.O. President, Farmington Elementary School, Boltonville, Wisconsin

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

Calendar

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

Saturday, March 13: "The Making of a Woodland Garden" with Dan Boehlke.

Saturday, April 10: Gloy Jacobson shares pruning and landscaping tips.

Saturday, May 8: Annual "dig" to save endangered native plants.



Green Bay Chapter:

Wednesday, March 17: Spring wildflower slide show with Barb Nanoit, naturalist, at the Wildlife Sanctuary near Bay Beach Park. Meet in the Estuary Room (cafeteria) at 7 p.m. Take East Shore Drive to Sanctuary Road.

Wednesday, April 7: "How-to" questions and answers program with information from members. Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the Heritage Hill Visitors' Center.

Saturday, May 8: Plant rescue day. Contact Marylou Kramer (414/826-7520.)

Tuesday, May 11: Spring Wildflower Walk in UWGB's Cofrin Arboretum from 6 - 8:30 p.m. led by Gary Fewless. \$3 - adults. Call 414/465-2102.

Northern Illinois Chapter:

Thursday, March 18 at 7 p.m. in the Student Resource Center, Room 1024A, College of Du Page: "Let Heaven and Nature Sing" is Perle Olsson's topic as she describes her prairie and woodland.

Thursday, April 15 (same time and place as above): "Choosing Services and Professionals" given by Karla Lynch, landscape designer.

May field trips: Call Pat Armstrong (708/983-8404) for registration and details. Dates are Sunday, May 2 at 2 p.m. to tour Virginia Umberger's Elgin garden; Thursday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m. to visit O'Hara Woods; Saturday, May 22 at 11 a.m. to learn about "Gardens in the City," with Martha Stillman.

wild ones T.M.



The Outside Story

newsletter for natural landscapers

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