

The Outside Story

newsletter for natural landscapers

Vol. 6 No. 3

May - June 1993

One Dollar

Government to look at concerns about wild plant sales

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is being urged to clarify nursery labels and catalog descriptions to indicate whether native plants have been collected in the wild.

Specifically, the FTC is being urged to amend Guide 6 in their 1979 *Guides for the Nursery Industry*, which allows nurseries either to remain silent about the origin of plants or to call them "nursery grown" if they have been grown in the nursery row for one growing season before being marketed.

Petitioners are asking that the FTC replace the term "nursery grown" with "nursery propagated" and that propagated be defined as plants grown from seeds, cuttings, callus

(continued on page 2)

National Institutes for the Environment proposed

A research institute that would be beholden only to environmental science, not to commercial interests, is being backed by a number of scientists. Among those supporting the idea are astronomer Carl Sagan, Stanford professor Paul Ehrlich and Nobel laureate Linus Pauling.

The proposed agency, "National Institutes for the Environment," would be patterned after the National Institutes of Health, and would have the power to fund broad research. The U.S. government spends about \$6 billion a year on biomedical research, but less than half that on environmentally-related biological and physical sciences, according to an article in the *Wisconsin State Journal*.

(continued on page 2)

Changes in plant law allow public involvement in rare species recovery

Recent revisions in the administrative rules governing endangered and threatened (listed) species will allow greater public participation in rare plant recovery. Botanists, restoration ecologists, native plant nurseries and gardeners have been becoming increasingly interested in growing, selling and using listed plants for a variety of reasons. Those who plan to use the plants for scientific, education or preservation purposes may now be able to receive an endangered species permit for growing, selling or using certain listed species. The permit process will allow interested persons to work cooperatively with Wisconsin Bureau of Endangered to plan for and monitor rare plant recovery efforts.



Permits will be designed to meet the needs of the individual applicant, and to take into account the rarity and geographic range of the species involved. Some species which are rare in Wisconsin but more common elsewhere, such as pale purple coneflower

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Wild Leek

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tissue, spores, bulblets, single cells, leaves, or other propagules under controlled conditions. "Controlled conditions" would be defined to include open beds as long as the propagator is making efforts to promote propagation and growth the plants, for example, weeding; fencing out deer, rabbits, etc. watering; or providing fertilizer. The petition was endorsed in principal by the American Association of Nurserymen (AAN) in May 1992.

Recently the FTC published a notice in the *Federal Register* asking for comments on whether to change its 14-year-old nursery guidelines. The FTC is requesting detailed answers to a lengthy list of questions pertaining specifically to the petitioned changes. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the AAN plan to submit joint comments in response and ask that others with concerns also respond.

"If you have tried to find out whether certain plants were of wild or propagated origin, and if you came away baffled or frustrated at your (or the retailer's) inability to find out the answer to this question, please let the FTC know. It is important that the Federal Trade Commission understand that customers do want to know, but that they cannot find out with the regulations reading the way they do now," suggests the NRDC.



Swamp Milkweed

(continued from page 1)

Hugh Iltis, UW-Madison botany professor, is among those who have urged support of the proposal. Dr. Iltis is a winner of the prestigious National Conservation Achievement Award by the National Wildlife Federation for his work as co-discoverer of Mexico's wild, perennial ancestors of corn and for his outspoken advocacy of nature. A taxonomist, he was one of the first professional systematists to publicly plead the case of biological diversity.

Iltis recently sent a letter to Senator Herb Kohl stating, "The NIE is a concept long overdue. Today, there is still no agency of the U. S. government that independently conducts research directed toward understanding the workings of the environment."

Research at the NIE wouldn't be aimed at commercial gains, but it could provide some. For example, "pure-science" in the work done by Iltis and others on corn species a decade ago turned up an old, strong strain that can be cross-bred with modern corn to combat corn disease.

Create an endless supply

Useful plant markers can be made from vinyl miniblind slats. Cut them with scissors to the desired length and label with a permanent marker. Use the excess from your shades, or buy one just for this purpose (maybe in woodgrain to blend with outdoors) for a lifetime supply. - Mandy Ploch

Traditional springtime treat

Brats (Italian, are good choice) wrapped in young leaves of a wild leek plant are especially delicious this time of year. - tip from several Wild Ones members.

The NIE, as envisioned by Iltis and others, would fund broad research, provide help for highly motivated students, and have a central library providing information on environmental matters to federal agencies and the public.

Your contributions welcome

Prairie is the theme of the July - August issue of *The Outside Story*. The September - October issue will have articles about insects and animals.

We're looking for material from all Wild Ones chapters and would like to see many members' names included in our newsletter. Please send writings, drawings, tips, clippings (include name, address, and phone number of publication and date), suggestions, or experiences you'd like to share to the editor: Carol Chew, 8920 North Lake Drive, Bayside, WI 53217.

Note: Ginger and Joe are on vacation this issue, but will return to the pages of "The Next Generation" in our next newsletter. Look for them and all their adventures!



RANDY POWERS
PROPRIETOR

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Lorrie's Notes . . .

Environmental classes announced

UW - Waukesha summer classes include: Lake and Pond Ecology, Backyard Birding, Prairie Restoration for the Beginner, Prairie Restoration Field Trip, Prairie Restoration in Waukesha County Parklands, Identification and Ecology of Southeastern Wisconsin Trees. Fees vary from \$10 to \$20 for each topic. For more information call 414/521-5460 or write: Don Bracco, Continuing Education Coordinator, UW- Waukesha, 1500 University Drive, Waukesha, WI 53188.

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of us
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to read. Her

She spurs us on to
replace the sterile, contrived, inherited landscaping fashions which have been so detrimental to the diversity of life on our planet. She even suggests tax abatements geared to the number of native species reproducing themselves on the property.

Noah's Garden by Sara Stein (Houghton Mifflin, 1993) is a nifty book! Sara is there for all who need help to escape the tyranny of tidy minds store the health of our land. She has read, studied, assembled information in chapters which are a delight writing is educational, interesting and inspirational. She even suggests tax abatements geared to the number of native species reproducing themselves on the property.

One regrets that there is not an ordinance which would compel all managers and landowners to read her book. Surely garden clubs should devote annual meetings to discussing Stein's philosophy. And all of us could have her imagined goal from page 244 pasted on our refrigerators:

"Some time in the future, the value of a property will be perceived in part according to its value to wildlife. A property hedged with fruiting shrubs will be worth more than one bordered by forsythia. One with dry stone walls that provide passageway for chipmunks will be valued higher than one whose walls are cemented stone. Buyers will place a premium on lots that provide summer flowers and fall crops of seed. Perhaps there will be formal incentives: tax abatements geared to the number of native species; deductions allowed for lots that require neither sprays nor sprinklers. A nursery colony of bats might be considered capital improvement. There could be bonuses for birdhouses. Oh, brave new world!" - Lorrie Otto



Lorrie Otto is known internationally as a teacher-naturalist, environmental consultant, and lecturer. She lives in Bayside, Wisconsin.



Prairie white-fringed orchid rarity linked to wetlands loss

Before wet meadows and moist prairies were drained and tilled for agriculture, the prairie white-fringed orchid was more common. Its spires of white flower swayed amongst the surrounding grasses in mid-summer.

When in full flower (late June to early August), this native can reach a height of more than three feet! At the base one finds long, green, spear-shaped leaves coming off the stalk. The top four to eight inches consists of a spire of creamy white, each blossom measuring from one to one and three-quarters inches in diameter, and each trailing a graceful two-inch long nectar tube. Adding to the beauty is the dramatically fringed three-parted lower petal.

This wild orchid is so rare that it is listed as an "endangered" plant by the State of Wisconsin. The Federal government lists it as "threatened," also a very critical status. There are many reasons for this rarity. Primary among them is a loss of habitat as moist, deep-soil prairies have been lost to agriculture, commercial, and residential development. Where prairies are pastures, the orchid is destroyed by graz-

ing. Herbicides responsible for much loss, and insecticides have eliminated many hawk and sphinx moths, the only pollinators of the plant. As if these threats were not enough, the orchid also faces destruction by scientific or private collection of the flowers or even the entire plant. It is hoped that the prairie white-fringed orchid is the beneficiary of our increased appreciation of the values of wetlands. We have much to learn about how best to manage land to bring back higher populations of rare plants. - David Kopitzke, Landowner Contact Specialist, Bureau of Endangered Resources, D. N. R., Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 608/264-6039



DNR booklets available for private landowners

A booklet designed to give general information about protecting remnants of native plant and animal communities held by private owners has recently been published by the DNR.

Topics covered include: conservation easements, deed restrictions, temporary agreements, donations, selling, and placing conditions on titles. Lists of nonprofit conservation organizations and land trusts, stewardship funds, as well as other programs are given.

Protecting Your Land (#ER058 920) is available from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

If you own forest land, your local DNR forester can give you information about the Forest Stewardship Program, the Stewardship Incentive Program and the Managed Forest Law. Ask for the publication *Whose Woods These Are: Spreading the Roots of Private Forest Stewardship* (#FR-072) or contact the DNR Bureau of Forestry, Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707.

Committee formed to study landscaping ordinances

Do you feel your community might not accept your efforts to naturalize? Do you want your community to encourage environmentally-sensitive land practices and ordinances?

If you answer yes to either of these questions, we hope you'll join the Wild Ones/Milwaukee Audubon Educational Resource Committee. We're working to formulate community policy and ordinances which are favorable to natural landscaping. We need representatives from each Milwaukee area community.

The next meeting is Wednesday, May 5 at 4:30 p.m. at Rochelle Whiteman's, 6919 N. Ironwood Lane, Glendale, Wisconsin. Call Margo Fuchs (414/352-0531) or Becky Rush (414/375-9809).

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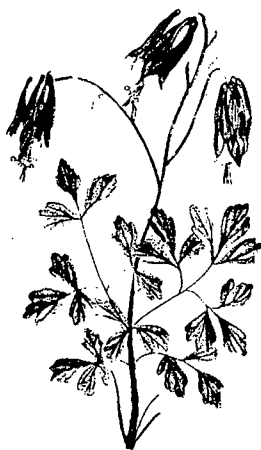
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WILD COLUMBINE

(*Aquilegia canadensis*)

Buttercup Family



OTHER NAMES: Rock Bells, Lion's Herb, Bells, Canadian Columbine, Rock Lily, Cluckies, Honeysuckle, Meeting Houses, Jack-in-Trousers.

HABITAT: Open to wooded, rocky slopes.

FLOWERING: April to July

HEIGHT: 1 to 2 ft.

COMMENTS: A committee was formed at one time to make the Wild Columbine our national flower. The name is similar to the District of Columbia and includes the Latin word for eagle, *aquilegia*, our national bird. However, the idea sparked little interest and the committee was disbanded.

A handwritten drawing of the Wild Columbine was found on the border of a 15th Century manuscript, proving that many of our wild plants have been appreciated and used for hundreds of years. Emerson knew the Columbine well when he wrote:

—A woodland walk
A quest of river grapes, a mocking thrush
A wild rose or rock-loving Columbine
Salve my worst wounds.

Our native Columbine was once sent as a gift from the Virginia colony to John Tradescant, botanist to King Charles I, who introduced it to the Hampton Court Gardens. Shakespeare referred to the Columbine quite frequently in his sonnets.

MEDICINAL USE: Columbine contains prussic acid and may have a narcotic effect on some people. The entire plant was used by ancient herbalists to treat a variety of ailments such as jaundice, abdominal pains, measles, smallpox, and to reduce swelling in the liver. American Indians used minute amounts of crushed seeds for headaches, as a love charm and for fevers. Seeds were rubbed into hair to control lice.

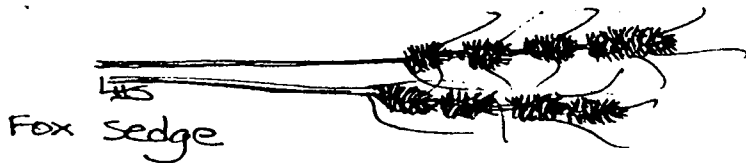
NAME ORIGIN: The **Genus Name**, *Aquilegia* (A-kwee-lee'ji-a), is from the Latin word for eagle, referring to the spurred petals that suggest an eagle's claw. The **Species Name**, *canadensis* (kan-a-den'sis), means "from Canada."

The name, Columbine, is from the Latin word, *colomba*, meaning "dove," for to some people the spurs look like dove heads in a circle. The name Rock Bells is because of its natural habitat and the shape of the flower. It was called Lion's Herb because, according to an old myth, lions ate the flowers early in spring in order to grow stronger.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: Wild Columbine grows in little nooks and crannies amongst the rocks along the Mullet River which rushes past our house on its way to the Sheboygan River and, ultimately, Lake Michigan. In addition, to the various insects that visit this plant for its nectar or pollen, the rather uncommon Columbine Duskywing Butterfly has adopted it as a food plant for its caterpillars. In the future, I must be much more observing when it comes to those tiny little critters who are eating our plants. Maybe someday I'll find one of these butterflies and be fortunate enough to have my camera ready.

DESCRIPTION: A nodding, salmon and yellow flower with 5 upward-spurred petals alternating with spreading, colored sepals and numerous yellow stamens hanging below the petals. The leaves are light green, long-stalked with 3-lobed leaflets.

The fruit is a beaked, dry pod, splitting open along the inner side.



Fox Sedge

Butternut trees face serious fungus threat

Wisconsin's butternut trees are at risk from a deadly fungus, according to a DNR survey reported recently in the *Milwaukee Journal*.

The disease is a canker which opens sores on the branches and bark of the tree and often kills it. Ninety-one percent of the state's trees are stricken, the Department of Natural Resources study says. Wisconsin has about 58% of the nation's butternuts, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*), a type of walnut, is highly prized for wood carving and furniture-making. Its superior, aesthetically valuable wood is much lighter brown than black walnut but considered equally as valuable. The tree is native to much of the United States east of the Mississippi River.

Some experts suspect the canker may have originated in Asia. So far it has nearly destroyed all butternuts in the Carolinas and heavily damaged them elsewhere. The species is not considered a numerous one.

Some butternut trees are being studied to discover why they have remained healthy in the midst of stricken trees. Twigs from healthy-appearing trees are being grafted onto laboratory seedlings to produce new plants. Not enough is known about the disease at this time to produce a vaccine.

The Forest Service says trees are rarely placed on the endangered or threatened species lists, but the butternut is becoming a "decreasing component" of northern hardwood forests and its survival is threatened by the spreading disease.

R.R. right-of-way project aims to protect native remnants

The Bureau of Endangered Resources, in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Landscape Architecture and the Prairie Enthusiasts, is starting a program to systematically protect high quality natural vegetation remnants along railroad rights-of-way throughout the state. The first step is building a computerized inventory to locate plant communities and rare species. Work will then begin to protect sites from destruction and to arrange active management

Some projects have already started with the assistance of owners.

Forms are available to make reporting information as easy and complete as possible. If you know sites and would like to assist in this effort, please contact Kelly Kearns or Chris Neumann at: Railroad Right-of-Way Project, Bureau of Endangered Resources, Department of Natural Resources, P. O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 or call 608/249-5750.

Switchgrass could be new energy source scientists say

Native switchgrass and poplar trees grown on idle land could provide new energy sources to replace coal and reduce air-polluting emissions.

Deep-rooted switchgrass once dominated the tallgrass prairie. A warm season grass, it grows in large bunches by vigorously spreading numerous creeping rhizomes. It is recognized by its large, panicked seed head, often exceeding 18 inches wide. Seeds are produced at numerous branch ends. Leafy stems range from two to four feet high. Switchgrass prefers lower, more moist parts of the prairie, but will do well in drier places also. It has been used as winter hay and is a recommended soil cover for land in the federal erosion control program.

"Once established, a stand of switchgrass will remain productive for many years," says a report presented recently by the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Burning switchgrass or poplar would cut the release of carbon from coal into the atmosphere. Burning coal continually adds carbon dioxide to the air, which traps heat and contributes to global warming. Combustion of crops would simply recycle carbon already in the air. The plants absorb carbon dioxide, and release it when they burn, the scientists say.

Wisconsin farmers could harvest 11.3 million dry tons of switchgrass annually on land not used for food crop production, says a *Milwaukee Journal* article.



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 -PRAIRIE (*Trillium recurvatum*) \$4.99
TURTLEHEAD-WHITE (*Chelone glabra*) \$2.99
 -PINK (*Chelone obliqua*) \$2.99
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VIOLET-BIRDSFOOT (*Viola pedata*) \$2.99
 -WILD BLUE (*Viola papilionacea*) \$2.99

All native plants are nursery grown from seed, division, or cutting. Plants are then container grown in 4 1/2 inch pots. Some advantages of container grown wildflowers are:

1. Plants are available and can be transplanted the entire growing season
2. You get a plant with it's entire root system ... Less transplant shock
3. Plants establish themselves faster
4. You select the plants that look best to you

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Learning about wetlands . . .

One way to discover what to do in your yard or field is to visit wetlands and marshes. Some examples are:

Horicon Marsh, Dodge County, Wisconsin. The state-owned wildlife area is adjacent to a larger federally-owned section. Call 414/485-3000 or 414/485-4435 for DNR information or 414/387-2658 for the national refuge.

Cedarburg Bog, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin. Tours can be arranged in this area which is not open to the public. Contact Jim Reinartz, manager, at 414/675-6844.

Vernon Marsh, Waukesha County, Wisconsin. Mark Anderson is the contact here at 414/594-2135 in this Southern Kettle Moraine region.

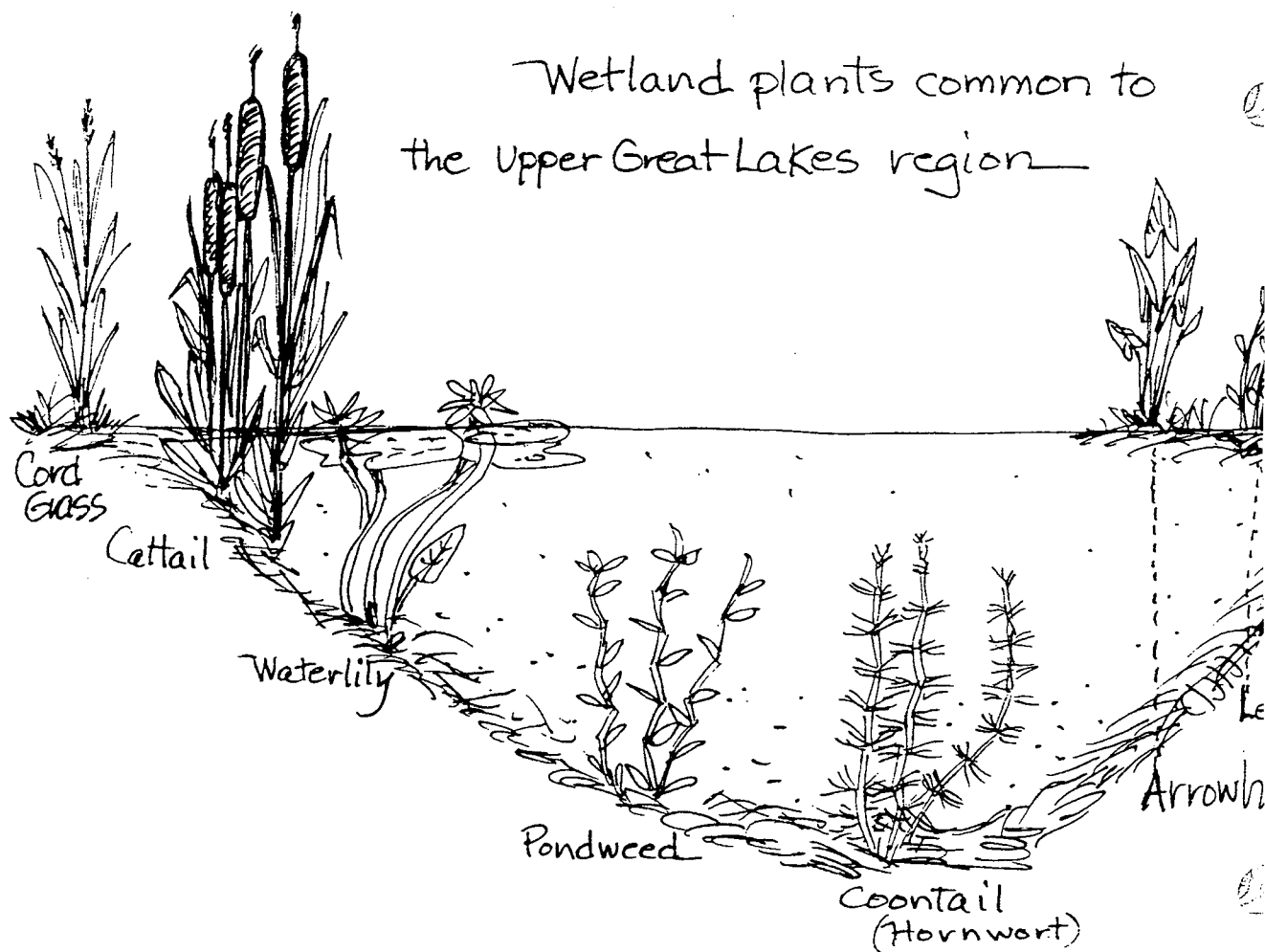
Three varieties of wetlands can be found in Northern Illinois: Volo Bog in Lake County, Nelson Lake Marsh in Kane County, and Spring Bluff Fen near Elgin.

Look into books and publications. Many are available through Schlitz Audubon Center (414/594-2135) either by stopping by their bookstore or requesting titles by mail.

Pond Life (Golden Guide, \$4.95) is an excellent, pocket-sized reference to plant and animal life around water areas. Easy and colorful enough to interest beginners.

Wetland Plants and Plant Communities of Minnesota & Wisconsin (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, \$10) is highly recommended for material that is specific to the upper Midwest. Color illustrations show individual plants and their communities.

Common Marsh, Underwater & Floating-leaved Plants of the United States and Canada by Neil Hotchkiss (Dover, \$8.95) Nearly 300 plants are grouped and illustrated for accurate and quick identification.



Walking in the Wetlands: A Hiker's Guide to Common Plants and Animals of Marshes, Bogs, and Swamps by Janet Lyons and Sandra Jordan (John Wiley & Sons, \$14.95) Attractive line drawings illustrate individual listings of 100 flora and fauna found in U.S. freshwater wetlands. Descriptions are written as short informative essays.

Northern Prairie Wetlands edited by Arnold Van Der Valk (Iowa State University Press, \$42.95 hardcover) examines various aspects of the ecology of the North American prairie pothole region. Experts discuss hydrology, water chemistry, vegetation, wildlife, and food chains. Illustrations include drawings, graphs, charts, and photos.

Earth Ponds: The Country Pond Maker's Guide to Building, Maintenance and Restoration (The Countryman Press, \$16.95) gives all you need to know about planning, sculpting, and living happily near your own body of water. Fascinating reading as well!

The Places We Save (Wisconsin Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, \$15.95) describes a number of wetland sites and how to obtain permission to visit them.

Wetlands of North America by William A. Niering with photos by Bates Littlehales (Thomasson-Grant, \$24.95) explores the variety of wetlands in the U.S. It is a richly illustrated, coffee table-type book with good locator maps.

Wetlands, Wonderlands is a colorful, very informative publication is available through the Wisconsin DNR. It gives historical views of wetlands, reasons for saving them, a guide to plants and animals, places to visit, and other resources. The following definitions are taken from the booklet:

"SWAMP- A forested or shrub-dominated wetland (conifer swamps, bottomland forests, alder and willow thickets are types of swamps).

MARSH - An open, unforested wetland dominated by herbaceous vegetation such as cattail, sedges, and native grasses (sedge meadows, wet meadows, wet prairies, and potholes are types of marshes); water may be up to six feet deep or may not show above the surface.

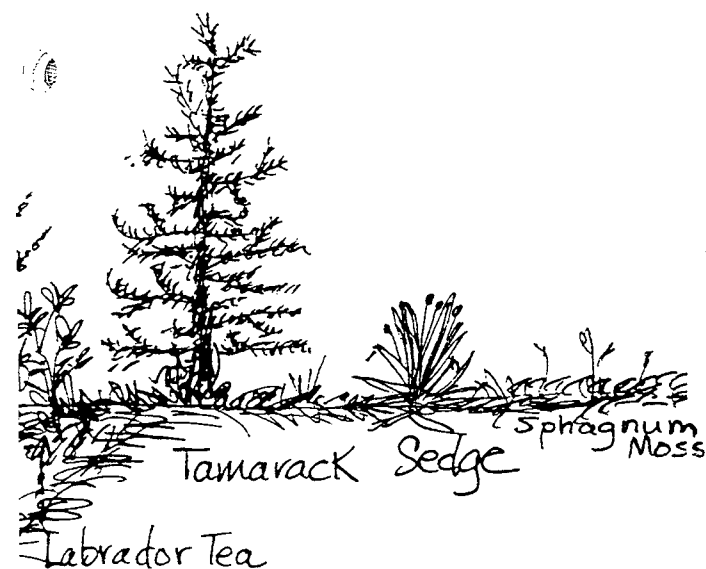
BOG - A peaty wetland that has no significant water movement in or out of it (muskegs and peatlands are usual alternative names).

FEN - A very rare marsh type wetland whose water source comes in part from mineral-rich groundwater."

Plan a garden pond for frogs, fish, and water-loving plants. Contact Schlitz Audubon Center for a sample of their pond water to inoculate your new pond.

Watch Audubon's *How to Make a Difference Video: Wetlands* to learn what makes wetlands so important, what tools to use to save the wetlands in your community, and more. Help stop the annual loss of 300,000 acres of precious wetlands in the U.S. (Available at Schlitz Audubon Center.)

- Mary Ann Maki, Pat Armstrong
Illustrated by Lucy Schumann





Blueflag Iris

(continued from page 1)

and wild petunia, will likely be available for commercial sales and use. Globally rare species may only be available for experimental propagation and recovery work, and will not be available for sale. Permits will have specific requirements detailed to assure the maintenance of local ecotypes and prevent over-collection of seeds from wild populations.

The majority of people buying listed plants will be using them for gardens or backyard plantings. These people will not be required to have a permit or submit documentation. However, buyers as well as permit holders, will be asked to provide BER with documentation of any plants or seeds planted into natural community remnants or restorations. This documentation will be important for several reasons. It will allow botanists to distinguish between wild and planted populations. Monitoring of the plantings will then be possible to determine survival and reproductive capacity of rare species in planted settings.

In order to protect natural populations of rare plants and the integrity of remnant natural areas, the Bureau of Endangered Resources advises that rare species **not** be planted into natural areas or adjacent restorations. Any efforts to augment an existing endangered or threatened species population should be done as a research project in cooperation with the BER.

People interested in working with endangered or threatened plants should contact the Bureau of Endangered Resources, Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707, to receive further information and a permit application. - Kelly Kearns, BER Native Plant Program Coordinator. Article and page 1 illustration are from the BER newsletter, *The Niche*, Spring 1993. Used by permission.

Some natives Pacific Northwest gardeners are planting

"Can Your Yard Look Like Tryon Creek? Go Native," urges an urban state park newsletter, *Trillium Times*, in Portland, Oregon. Listed are woodlands ground covers which are appropriate to that region of the country. Among them are:

Wild ginger, a native evergreen with dark green heart-shaped leaves and purple-brown flowers, which grows well under Douglas fir or vine maple.

Oxalis, a dense, rapidly growing, deciduous ground cover with a white flower which faces upward.

Pacific water leaf, a very invasive but pretty native, which will choke out other plants, even bulbs.

Native violets, also called Johnny Jump-ups, are yellow and may take five years to form clumps a few feet in diameter.

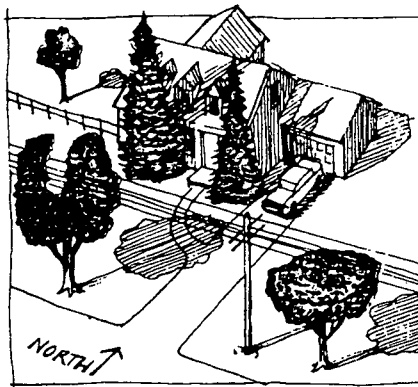
And trilliums, of course.

TREE TIP: Plant the Right Tree In the Right Place

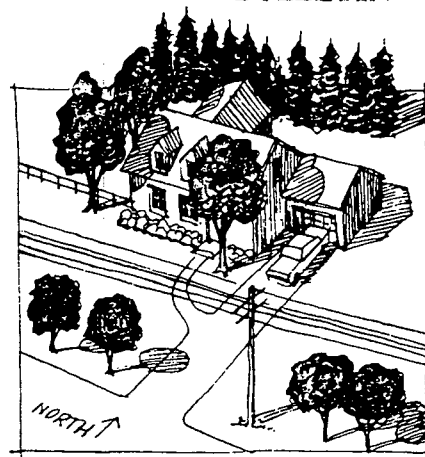
From the



TREE CITY USA
BULLETIN



Wrong Planting large trees under utility lines often means mutilated trees. Large evergreens close to the house on the south block warming winter sunlight.



Right Short flowering trees don't clash with overhead utility lines. Large deciduous trees on the southeast, southwest, and west provide cooling shade in summer, and don't obstruct the low winter sun. An evergreen windbreak on the north blocks cold winter winds.

Wildcare . . .

May: WETLANDS & LOW AREAS need special care this spring. Spread boards for walking in newly planted spots, to avoid soil compaction and stress to roots. Sticking to the same path each time is best for the first year or two...In established beds, deliberately choose a different footpath each time you go out, to prevent bare spots.

PLANT DIRECTLY in outdoor flats the ripe seeds you can now collect from Jack-in-the-pulpit, green dragon, wild calla, skunk cabbage, great merrybells, wild oats, trilliums, and the four native lilies (Turk's cap, wood, Canada, and Michigan).

WATERING TRANSPLANTS is just as important in a "wet spring." Gradually taper off the frequency, but monitor general conditions all season. **RAIN GAUGES** seem less expensive and more widely available this year, and they can be quite useful (for changing the subject, if nothing else!)

TUCK NATIVES into your conventional plantings to help blend your landscape into a more cohesive whole. Picture woodland spring ephemerals in the shade of your foundation shrubs. Bloodroot, ferns, and violets spread out naturally, while columbines and Virginia bluebells pop up here and there. Sunny areas can host purple coneflowers; even a narrow strip between garage and sidewalk can be as glorious as Gloy's (our April speaker). How to echo a wetland? Try a small pond, or line a whiskey half-barrel with heavy plastic and repeat blue iris, sedges, and arrowhead from your wetland. Consider downspout runoff as a place to nourish turtlehead, Jacob's ladder, or even shrublike St. Johnswort.

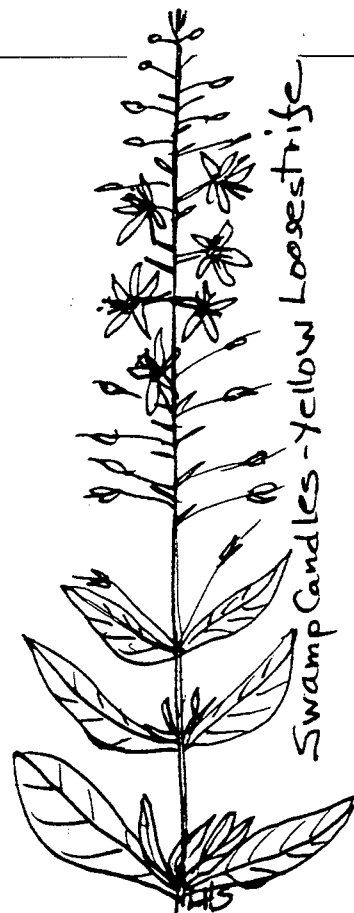
JUNE: SEED-COLLECTING starts early with prairie plants. Pasque-flower, prairie smoke, and field pussy-toes will be ready soon. Following those collect

wood betony, plantain-leaved pussy-toes, and twinleaf.

ELEVATED BOARDWALKS added as part of your pathways can give that "nature center" feeling to either larger wetlands, or even in drier prairies. Study how they are used in well-planned natural parks. One idea would be to match the board size and color of an existing deck for continuity.

CAMERA TIME for monarch and other butterflies. Check out the Milwaukee Public Museum's wildflower photo contest entries for ideas. (Sunday, June 6)

PAPER BAGS & MARKERS make seed collecting more organized while you harvest alum-root, blue-eyed grass, columbine, two-flowered Cynthia, wild geranium/cranesbill, wild lupine, needlegrass, balsam ragwort, and swamp saxifrage. - Barb Glassel



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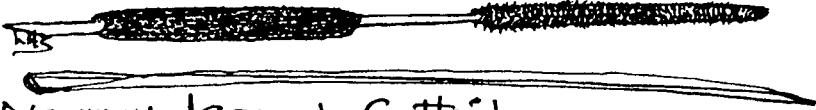
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Narrow-leaved Cattail

Plan a backyard frog pond and marsh

A small pond can be a tranquil and fascinating addition to your yard. It can give you a close-up glimpse of the lives of birds, ducks, frogs, toads, salamanders, dragonflies, and many mammals.

Check municipal codes before you dig. Keep the pond area away from shading trees and falling leaves which combine to produce stagnant water. Provide a variety of depths from one and one-half to two feet. A preformed pool or heavy plastic liner can be used to hold water. The pond doesn't need to be bigger than eight to ten feet. Add pots of plants or cover the plastic liner with soil for native aquatic plantings. Make sure your garden hose reaches the pond for adding water during dry periods. Dripping or flowing water is more attractive to wildlife than still water so you may want to add a pump. Flat native rocks can stabilize the edges. If you want ducks, keep one side of the pond edge mowed so they can see approaching predators when sunning themselves.

The pond can be allowed to overflow constantly at some point to create a marsh. Only a little water is actually needed to accomplish this. Natural marshes, are in fact, well drained and aerated.



PRAIRIE PLANTS FOR MOIST SOILS

Add a splash of color and interest to pond edges, streambanks, and other wet areas with attractive native wildflowers! These plants are right at home in wet soils that cause problems for most other plants. Choose from the delicate Shootingstar and Canada Anemone of early spring to the blazing Cardinal Flower and New England Aster of late summer. Mix them with the graceful Prairie Cordgrass to help create wildlife cover on wetland edges. These fine plants will grow well in soils that have standing water (for a brief time) in early spring, and then maintain subsoil moisture throughout the summer. They will also thrive in rich garden soil that is supplied with sufficient moisture. Not recommended for acid peat soils.

Canada Anemone
Red Milkweed
New England Aster
White False Indigo
Turtlehead
Illinois Bundle Flower
Canada Tick-Trefoil
Shootingstar
Joe Pye Weed
Queen of the Prairie
Bottle Gentian
Alum Root
Wild Iris
Prairie Blazingstar
Rocky Mountain Blazingstar
Turk's Cap Lily

Cardinal Flower
Great Blue Lobelia
Bergamot
Leafy Prairie Clover
Yellow Coneflower
Sweet Black-Eyed Susan
Rosinweed
Cupplant
Prairie Dock
Stiff Goldenrod
Spiderwort
Ironweed
Culver's Root
Big Bluestem
Prairie Cordgrass

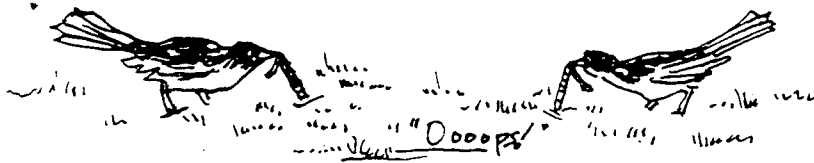
- from the Prairie Nursery catalog

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Many thoughts on the subject of dandelions. . .

"The common dandelion has gumption, getting nuked every spring as it does with weedkillers such as 2,4-D that give dogs cancer if they roll around too much on the lawn. . . We trust a dandelion that is wrapped in plastic, stacked on a produce shelf and sold for a lot of money. But if it is growing wild and free outside the door, it awakens suspicion. . . Stop spraying the lawn. Not only will you save some species, including yourself, but you can go out and graze on the dandelions." - Ann Raver in the *New York Times*

"Helen and I first gathered six quarts of flowers on a warm, dry spring day, and placed them in a clean 6-gallon crock. It is important to note that the flowers should not be washed. Next, Helen filled the crock with fully boiling water and allowed the blooms to steep overnight, covered with muslin.. The following day, she strained the liquid to the crock (discarding the flowers.) To the liquid she added 4 sliced lemons, 4 sliced oranges, two 12-ounce boxes of (dark) raisins, 2 cakes yeast and 6 pounds sugar. She stirred together all ingredients, covered the crock with a lint-free towel and set the crock in a warm, draft-free location, stirring the contents once daily for seven days or until the bubbles stopped rising, always careful to skim off the scum. Then she left the contents undisturbed for one day to allow the sediments to settle. On the ninth day, she siphoned the wine into cork-stoppered bottles and allowed it to mature at least six months." - Pamela Jones describing the making of dandelion wine in her book, *Just Weeds* (Prentice Hall)

Taraxacum officinale, dandelion's scientific name, was derived from "taraxos" meaning "disorder" and "akos" meaning "remedy." "Officinale" means "producing a medicine."

"Uses: Fresh root tea traditionally used for liver, gall bladder, kidney, and bladder ailments; diuretic (not indicated when inflammation is present). Also used as a tonic for weak or impaired digestion, constipation. Dried root thought to be weaker, often roasted as coffee substitute. Dried leaf tea a folk laxative. Experimentally, root is hypoglycemic, weak antibiotic against yeast infections (*Candida albicans*), stimulates flow of bile and weight loss. All plant parts have served as food. Leaves and flowers are rich in vitamins A and C. **Warning:** Contact dermatitis reported from handling plant, probably caused by latex in stems and leaves. - Steven Foster and James A. Duke in *Peterson Field Guides: Eastern/Central Medicinal Plants*

Dandelions improve the flow and flavor of milk in cows and offer nectar to hungry honey bees. . . Dandelions even help improve soil by transporting minerals, especially calcium, to

the surface, enriching it for the benefit of shallow-rooted plants... Juice from dandelion roots, which could be obtained year round was the treatment used by herb doctors (to prevent winter deaths from diseases caused by vitamin deficiencies). Early European emigrants... taught Native Americans the value of tonic tea prepared from the leaves or roots... Dandelion greens are an excellent source of vitamins A, B1 (thiamine) and C, protein, riboflavin, niacin, potassium, iron, calcium, magnesium and fiber. Flowers are rich in vitamin B." - Jessica Wade in the *Los Angeles Times*.

Recipes in Elizabeth Schneider's *Uncommon Fruits and Vegetables: A Commonsense Guide* include *Salad of Dandelion and Fresh Goat Cheese*, *Rice with Dandelions*, *Dandelion Frittata*, and *Dandelion Casserole*.

"The species embraces approximately 150 microspecies that are not always readily distinguished... Identification is a very exacting task and even the distribution of these microspecies is not definitely known." - Eliska Tomanova in *The Wild Flowers Book* (Galley Press)

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Woodlands, urban naturalizing are topics

Dan Boehlke spoke about woodland gardens at the Milwaukee Wild Ones' March 13 meetings.

"Woodland plants are not as adaptable as prairie plants," he told us, "they can only tolerate a 10% moisture loss in their tissues." Soil must be rich and moist; noontime sun must be partial or dappled. Trees and shrubs protect leaves from drying winds during the growing season and prevent frost from penetrating soil during winter.

Although woods need clay subsoil, the top foot of soil is where 80% - 90% of the hair roots are located and where nutrients are absorbed. Loose, light organic matter such as wood chips maintains a healthy root base. Disturbing this layer greatly impacts trees.

When you begin a woodland area put down a foot of woodchips and let them rest a year. The following year start with a quick cover plants such as wild strawberry, Virginia waterleaf, or violets. During the second year also add "young forest" plants such as Solomon's seal or columbine. Add trillium, Jack-in-the-pulpit, etc. when soil is black and holds moisture.

Dan cautioned against using peat because it is harvested out of bogs which are thousands of years old. Using it not only destroys other natural areas, but peat breaks down very quickly when it is in contact with alkaline soil. Instead, use bark and chips. Don't worry about nitrogen being tied up during decay. He stressed that decaying wood is essential for woodland ecosystems.

"The Joys of Creating and Living with Natural Landscapes in an Urban Environment," was Gloy Jacobson's April program. She recommends layering newspapers, at least 10 inches thick, before planting. Then add a woodchip

topping before setting in trees and shrubs. Let the landscape rest for two years.

When choosing native trees or shrubs for the urban landscape, repeat the same species for continuity, but don't overcrowd. A large number of shrubs will mean a great deal of pruning.

Maintenance includes edging, pruning, and weeding. Create subtle curves by using an edger annually. Prune long branches to the ground on dogwood-type shrubs. Remove dead, diseased, damaged and rubbing branches. Gradually, over a period of years, prune some branches back to make a formal hedge look natural. Careful pruning will help you and your neighbors enjoy your yard more. - Jan Koel

Green Bay club learns lore and shares know-how

A good-sized group attended Barb Naniot's March program. She shared many wildflower facts and lore with her beautiful slide collection. Did you know that the fruit of the mayapple is edible when ripe - but poisonous if it isn't? Or that tea really can be made from the dried leaves of the Labrador tea plant?

In April we met at Heritage Hill State Park to share the basics of starting woodland or prairie projects. Members with native landscaping experience helped answer questions.

Fallen Timbers Environmental Center near Seymour (414/984-3700) is one of Wisconsin's sixty plus nature centers. It is a complex woodlands environment with eight miles of trails, a study pond, celestial observatory, and wildlife observation tower to explore. Courses are given on topics such as spring wildflowers and weather forecasting.

"After every winter, there comes a day when the first frog begins to sing, when the first killdeer's nostalgic cry rings out over the still snow-patched meadows, when the vanguard of the redwings sign from the willows . . . and the caroling of robins and the keeing of mourning doves fill the village evenings between sundown and dark.

"The sere, snow-covered earth gives way to green, the green makes place for the deep yellow of buttercups and cowslips, the blue of squills, pasqueflowers, irises and violets, and leaves spill their subtle musk into the sunny afternoons, and life burgeons again."

- August Derleth

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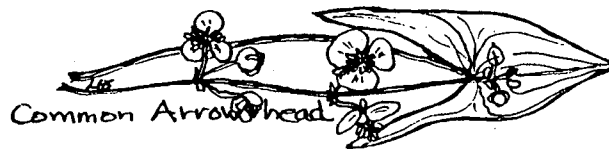


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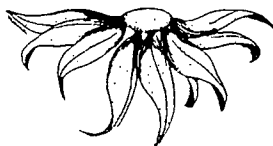
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Wild Ones - Natural Landscapers, Ltd. is a non-profit organization with a mission to educate and share information with members and community at the "plants-roots" level and to promote bio-diversity and environmentally sound practices. We are a diverse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

The Outside Story is published bimonthly by Wild Ones - Natural Landscapers, Ltd.® Material for newsletters is welcomed and should be submitted eight weeks prior to publication to: Carol Chew, 8920 North Lake Drive, Bayside, WI 53217. Send change of address to: Jean Palm, 625 Orchard Street, West Bend, WI 53095. Advertising rates and back issues at \$1 each are available from: Melissa Cook, 6838 North Range Line Road, Glendale, WI 53209. Distribution Coordinator: Delene Hansen. Artwork: Lucy Schumann.

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Check out special spring plant sales

Monday, May 3 at Crystal Lake Nature Center (Call 815/338-0393 for directions.) A sale of seed-grown native plants by the McHenry County, Illinois, Wildflower Preservation and Propagation Committee.

Sunday, May 9 (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.) at Lac Lawrann Conservancy, Schmidt Road east of West Bend (about 3/4 mile north of Highway 33 and 1/4 mile south of Highway 144.) A once-a-year native plant show featuring wildflowers from the conservancy grounds. Horticultural instructions will be available for each type of plant sold. Funds raised will be used to purchase environmental education materials.

Saturday, May 8 and Sunday, May 9 (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.) at University of Wisconsin Arboretum, 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison (608/262-2746 or 263-7760). Friends of the Arboretum plant sale is open to the public.

Sunday, May 9 (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.) at Wehr Nature Center, 9701 West College Avenue, Milwaukee (414/425-8550). Little Valley Farm will provide a variety of prairie, woodland, and wetland plants and seeds. Shrubs and vines will be available along with a wide collection of books on planting and growing wildflowers. Buy Mon a plant for Mother's Day. Checks accepted.

Sunday, May 15 (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.) at Wehr Nature Center. Bauer's Garden Center will have numerous native plants for sale. The plants will be of blooming size in 4 1/2" containers. Come in early for best selection!

Sunday, June 6 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.) at Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 West Wells Street, Milwaukee (414/278-6141). Mark your calendars for this sixth annual celebration of wildflowers. Booths will offer information on identifying 300 different natives, as well as preserving plants in their habitats and growing natives in the home landscape. Activities for children and the whole family are planned. Native plant nurseries will have a selection of prairie, woodland, and wetland species for sale.

1993 Wild Ones Membership Dues

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Chapter _____

Dues are \$15 (includes meetings, plant digs, seed-gathering, and six newsletters.) Please make checks payable to: Wild Ones. Mail checks to: Jean Palm, 625 Orchard Street, West Bend, WI 53095.



Calendar

Schlitz Audubon Center 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 Wehr Nature Center, 9701 West College Avenue, Franklin, WI 53132 at 1:30 p.m.)*

Saturday, May 8: Annual "dig" to save endangered native plants. Be sure your membership is current to participate.

Saturday, June 12: Bring your questions to the annual "Help me" program.

Saturday, July 10: Join us for a tour of prairie yards. You'll pick up lots of ideas for your own yard!

Saturday, August 14: Visit the yard of gentian expert, Babette Kis.

Green Bay Chapter:

Saturday, May 8: Plant Rescue Day. Contact Marylou Kramer (414/826-7520) or Jim Jerzak (414/499-5944).

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

Wednesday, June 9 at 7 p.m. "Help me" program. We will visit members' woodland sites.

Wednesday, July 14 at 7 p.m. We'll spend a summer evening at the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay Prairie.

Madison Chapter:

Saturday, May 8 and Sunday, May 9: Sign up for the new chapter at the UW Arboretum plant sale.

Northern Illinois Chapter:

May field trips: Call Pat Armstrong (708/983-8404) for registration information. 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 Skillman.

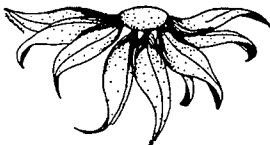
Sunday, June 20 at 2 p.m. "Onions and Garlic" with John Swenson of Glencoe. See his collection of alliums from all over the world and learn about the plant that named Chicago. Call 708/835-4239 to register and for directions.

Saturday, June 26 from 10 a.m. - noon. Visit Pat Armstrong's native yard.

Saturday, July 10 from 10 a.m. - noon. Tour Vicki and Ron Nowiki's yard.

Saturday, July 17 from 10 a.m. - noon. Learn about Perle Olsson's yard.

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