

# The Outside Story

newsletter for natural landscapers

Vol. 7 No. 4

July - August 1994

Carol Chew, Editor

## Campaign launched to change pesticide laws

A letter writing campaign is underway! The ultimate goal is to change Wisconsin's pesticide laws to protect citizens and the environment from the hazards of lawn and agricultural chemicals, and to adopt a state policy moving us away from reliance on these substances.

With your help, the offices of the Governor and the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) will be flooded with letters this summer.

Write a letter telling of your feelings and concerns about pesticides. Ask that Wisconsin's pesticide regulations be reexamined and changed, so that the top priority is placed on protection of human health and the environment. The most effective letters are the ones you illustrate with your own experiences.

With this effort, we can begin to kick Wisconsin's chemical dependence on poisons that threaten our children, pets, wildlife, soil and water. Persuade fellow environmentalists neighbors and friends to write.

(Letters, page 3)

## Join summer front yard tour

Learn about natural landscaping by visiting a variety of yards on the annual bus tour. This year as usual it will be held on the first Saturday of August. Call Schlitz Audubon Center (414/352-2880) at more information about this popular event. The sign up early as spaces fill up fast. You'll learn from excellent tour guides.

## Alternatives to lawn chemicals suggested

A recent article in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* mentions the deaths of a Pennsylvania man in April and a California woman in February as raising questions about the safety of common pesticides. Although both cases are being investigated, exposure to toxic chemicals is suspected as a factor in the deaths.

The editor in chief of *Organic Gardening*, Mike McGrath, doesn't think that homeowners can safely use pesticides. They tend to use several times what farmers do.

"If it's available in the local garden store, it's safe, and if it's registered by the EPA, it must be OK. Those are two biggest myths of safety that exist in the marketplace. Federal and state laws that govern chemical usage are very weak," according to Jay Feldman, executive director of the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides.

Both McGrath and Feldman say it is nearly impossible to know what inert ingredients (or carrying agents) are in individual pesticides. On an EPA inert ingredient list, approximately 100 are considered carcinogenic or toxic.

"It's rare you find a pesticide with less than 60% inert ingredients. Some are as high as 90% to 95%. And the public has no way of knowing what those ingredients are," Feldman warns.

McGrath offers these tips:

- \* Set up a birdbath. Birds are among the best insect controls.
- \* Damp, shady spots, especially where pests are a problem, attract toads, which eat three times their weight in insects every day. Since toads eat only things that move, they will never eat a vegetable or flower.
- \* Grow some herbs and allow them to flower. Flowering herbs attract beneficial insects.
- \* Get out of the habit of applying chemicals. You can save money and time by making your garden a more natural place that invites birds, toads, and beneficial insects.

(For more information, contact: The National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides, 701 E Street SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.)



## Wildcare...

**July/August: POTS & PLANTERS** can support certain prairie plants. One grower suggests wild petunia. Share your container experiments with our editor or at a meeting.

**SEED COLLECTING GEAR** should theoretically always be at hand or in your car trunk. Bags, marker, gloves and a hand clipper.

**JULY SEEDS** to scout for: angelica (*Angelica atropurpurea*), wild garlic (*Allium canadense*), early New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus ovatus*), shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*), yellow pimpernel (*Taenidia integerrima*), wild hyacinth (*Camassia scilloides*), spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*), bastard toadflax (*Comandra richardsoniana*), vetch (*Vicia angustifolia*). Collect as close as possible to your home. **LATE JULY COLLECTIBLES** include frostweed (*Helianthemum canadense*), downy phlox (*P. pilosa*), and downy wood mint (*Blephilia ciliata*).

**LEAF PRINTS** made now can help with tree ID classes later this year. Leaves are in better condition while they are green. Many leaf projects which use tree leaves will work for herbaceous plants as well--could give more variety to craft items.

**TREE CIRCLES** are wood chipped areas around a tree where the lawn is kept away to give the tree a fighting chance. In natural yards it's better to make those areas irregular in shape. Keep the location of low branches in mind when forming the shape.



**WEEDING STRATEGIES:** Wear gloves and use a tool (weeding by hand is inefficient). Concentrate first on weeds forming seedheads, then those in flower and those that spread by runners. Newly planted areas should also be a priority as well as areas facing the street and neighbors. Don't forget "disaster" weeds, such as garlic mustard. - Barb Glassel

## There is Something About a Lawn I Cannot Love

by Penny Pritzl

maybe it's the desperation of design  
artificial symmetry  
no room for overlap

maybe it's the shiny blue spheres  
plopped atop bird baths  
impeding free flight

maybe it's the obsession with boundaries  
inevitable hedges  
the priority of lot lines

maybe it's the fawn  
a perfect herd  
cast in plastic

maybe it's those silly city squirrels  
compromising dignity daily  
for a fast food fix

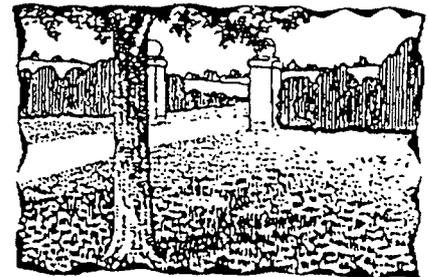
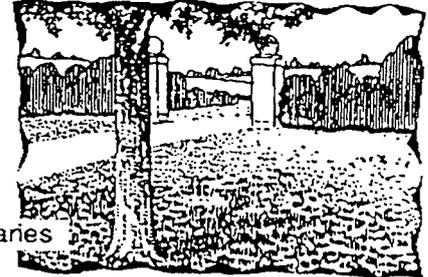
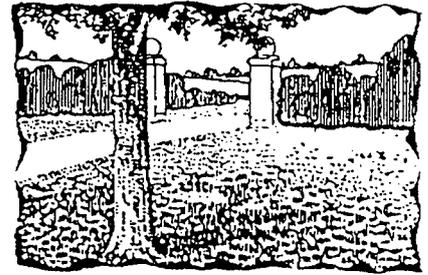
maybe it's the hours of clipping, pruning, plucking  
grass which will not be done with growing  
heckling the mower

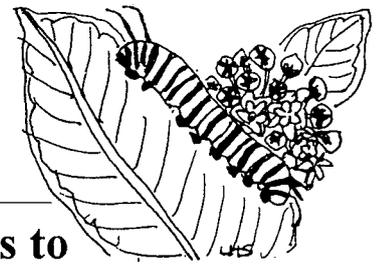
maybe it's the ghosts  
prairie grasses groaning -- a lost sea  
which we will never know

*Reprinted from Zink, a monthly publication found in Milwaukee coffee shops. Used by permission.*

**Volunteers needed now:** We need help getting our model natural landscaping project ready for the Wisconsin State Fair held from August 4 to 14. This is the second year we've worked at an area located in the Department of Natural Resources space. This year the DNR will be publishing a brochure which will include information about Wild Ones. We need people to help pass these out and answer questions about native yards. We'd love to have Wild Ones from Green Bay, Madison, and Illinois, as well as Milwaukee. Please call Barb Glassel (414/354-8018) to find out more.

**Use the Green Tree Garden as a resource:** Located at Schlitz Audubon Center, this extensive garden is well-labeled and worth checking every month as plants develop and flower. It contains many woodland and prairie plants rescued on Wild Ones' digs. Self-guided tour information is available.





Monarch larva on Milkweed

(Letters, from page 1)

Make three copies and mail one to each of the following:

Governor Tommy Thompson  
P. O. Box 7863  
Madison, WI 53707-7863

Secretary Alan T. Tracy  
Department of Agriculture,  
Trade & Consumer Protection  
P.O. Box 8911  
Madison, WI 53708-8911

Lori Schwingshaki  
Citizens for a Better  
Environment  
647 W. Virginia St. #305  
Milwaukee, WI 53204

Questions? Please contact CBE at 414/  
271-7280. - Lori Schwingshaki

## Entomologist reveals ways to lure butterflies to your garden

The butterfly world is all aflutter over the divulgence of their intimate secrets by Sue Borkin, entomologist at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Her initial advice on how to entice the delicate creatures into yards is simple--explore your surroundings. Are there prairie, woodland, great areas of sun or shade? Get familiar with trees, plants and shrubs that attract butterflies. Learn the life cycles of the species and their needs.

Borkin explains moths are night creatures or nocturnal while butterflies are day-loving or diurnal.

The adult of both needs nectar. A successful butterfly garden must provide plants with leaves that attract caterpillars and flowers that contain nectar for adults.

Common milkweed is the food of the Monarch butterfly. Joe pyeweed and purple coneflowers appeal to all species. Woodland phlox, monarda and vervain are sought after by the colorful fritillaries.

Ash trees, choke cherry and black cherry trees attract tiger swallowtails. Shrubs such as the white spirea and dogwood entice all species.

Parsley, carrots, dill will bring the black swallowtail. Turtlehead plants are hosts to the Baltimore butterfly. Its one-half inch caterpillar spins a protective tent and winters in curled up leaves. Often they freeze in blocks of ice, according to Borkin. During spring thaw, they come to life.

She recommends plantings that ensure successions of blooms from May through October. This diversity guarantees food for many species of butterflies. Flowers should be the types that provide platforms for the insects to land. Avoid blossoms that are double petaled.

Bright colors may lure butterflies. Choice flowers are bergamot, false dragonhead, boneset, butterfly weed, cardinal flower, columbine, milkweed, dense blazingstar, hoary vervain, ironweed, lavender, hyssop, showy goldenrod, turtlehead, stiff goldenrod and asters.

For yards with a shortage of nectar-producing plants, nectar can be made by bringing to low boil one part white sugar to eight parts water. Cool and put into a commercial nectar feeder. Wash out every three to five days and replace with fresh nectar.

Stands of weeds are attractive to butterflies. Sedges, grasses, wetland vegetation and thistles are sought-after habitats. Even a small weed area, distasteful as it might be to humans, brings in numbers of them.

In addition to plants, butterflies need other elements in their environments. For example, fences provide some shelter from winds. Wooden planks, large flat stones or shredded bark serve as landing platforms or basking areas. Basking in sunlight is essential for the insects to increase their body temperatures in order to fly. Cool temperatures cause butterflies to become very sluggish and vulnerable to predators.

Duration of life varies from species to species. Monarchs and mourning cloaks live for several years. Monarchs migrate to Mexico for the winter. Mourning cloaks hibernate. During January thaws, if temperatures reach 50 degrees, it is possible to see them outdoors in the snowy landscape, Borkin explains. They frequent trees such as willow, poplar or elm. Red admirals also survive Wisconsin winters, if mild.

(Butterflies, page 6)



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Anne Meyer, Owner

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Rockford Area

by Janice Stiefel

## The Inside Story

### WILD BLUE LUPINE

(*Lupinus perennis*)

Family: Leguminosae (Pea)

**Other Names:** Maid's Bonnets, Sundial Plant, Wild Bean, Blue Bean, Quaker Bonnets, Perennial Lupine, Old Maid's Bonnets, Wild Pea.

**Habitat:** Dry open woods, clearings and openings.

**Description:** In an upright, elongated, terminal cluster on an erect stem with palmately-compound leaves, are blue, pea-like flowers. The flowers are around  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. long. The 7-11 leaflets are up to 2 in. long and radiate from a central point. The fruit is a 2 in. long, hairy pod. **Height:** 8-24 in.

**Flowering:** April-July

**Comments:** Wild Blue Lupine can thrive in dry, poor soil, but *prefers that soil to be sandy*. The leaves follow the sun's path from morning until dusk, finally folding completely together at night. This reduction in the surface area of the leaves prevents unnecessary chilling from the night air. An eastern relative of the Texas Bluebonnet (*Lupinus texensis*), it was grown at the Oxford (England) Botanic Garden as early as 1658. Since the Lupine is advantageous to pastures because of its nitrogen-fixing ability, it is a useful source of green fodder. It was used as food to fatten horses and make them "spirited and full of fire."

The seeds are considered poisonous. Some Lupines are toxic, others are not. Even botanists may have difficulty distinguishing between toxic and nontoxic species.

**Medicinal Use:** According to a 13th Century herbalist, the Lupine was useful in healing the spot left after an infant's umbilical cord was cut. American Indians drank the cold leaf tea to treat nausea and internal hemorrhage. They also used the plant for treating sterility and believed it helped in childbirth.

**Name Origin:** The Genus Name, *Lupinus* (loo-pine'us), comes from the Latin word, lupus, meaning "wolf." It was thought that the Lupine robbed the soil of its richness, just as wolves robbed the shepherds. Actually, as a member of the legume family, Lupine puts nitrogen into the soil,



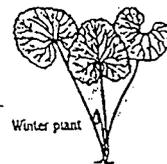
leaving it richer than before. The Species Name, *perennis* (per-en'is), is Latin for "perennial."

**Author's Note:** Many butterflies and moths use the Wild Blue Lupine as a host plant for their caterpillars. From my personal research alone, the following species include it as *one* of their host plants: Toothed Somberwing Moth (*Euclidia cuspidata*), the Orange Sulphur Butterfly (*Colias Eurytheme*), Painted Lady Butterfly (*Vanessa cardui*), American Painted Lady Butterfly (*Vanessa virginiensis*), and the Eastern Tailed Blue Butterfly (*Everes comyntas*). Wild Blue Lupine is the *only* host plant for the caterpillar of the endangered Karner Blue

Butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*). This tiny blue butterfly was named to the Federal Endangered Species List in December 1992. It joined other Wisconsin endangered species including the Timber Wolf, Peregrine Falcon, Piping Plover, and Kirtland's Warbler.

The butterfly lives in the sandy pine-oak barrens of central Wisconsin. Over the last 15 years, its numbers have dramatically declined. Last summer my husband and I were privileged to be part of a Nature Conservancy field trip in Waupaca County to observe the Karner Blue Butterfly. We saw many of them flying around the Lupine plants and were able to obtain some good pictures of them. They are very similar to the Eastern Tailed Blue, so having an expert point them out to us was very helpful. Hiking in that part of the state means you will probably come home with some extra baggage – Wood Ticks! Knowing that they will drill into your skin and suck your blood, if they have the chance, gives a somewhat creepy feeling. As soon as you find one crawling on your clothing your imagination starts to work overtime. Every itch becomes a potential tick. This has a tendency to take away the fun of exploring in tall grasses and woodlands. We are so grateful they are generally not found in our area. During our 24 years in Plymouth we have found only one – imbedded in our son's back and, as I recall, it was not easy to remove.

© 1994 Janice Stiefel



Winter plant

## Methods to control aggressive garlic mustard explained

### What is Garlic Mustard?

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) was introduced from Europe by early gardeners for its supposed medicinal properties. It is now a rapidly spreading woodland weed that is displacing native woodland wildflowers. Unlike most weeds that invade disturbed habitat, garlic mustard readily spreads into high quality forests. It is very aggressive and completely dominates the forest floor, replacing native wildflowers. This pest is a major threat to the survival of Wisconsin's woodland herbaceous plants and the wildlife that depend on them. It is spreading rapidly because it produces abundant amounts of seed only two years after sprouting. Seeds are spread on the fur of larger animals such as deer or horses, by flowing water, or by human activities.



Flower

### Identification

The unique characteristic of garlic mustard is the strong onion or garlic odor that its leaves and stems give off when crushed. Flowering (second year) plants are about 1 to 2 feet tall when in bloom; fruiting plants reach 2 to 3.5 feet in height. Numerous white flowers are about 1/4 inch in width and have four separate petals which occur in clusters at the top of the stem. Fruits are slender capsules 1 to 2.5 inches long that produce a single row of oblong black seeds. Stem leaves can be 2 to 3 inches across and are triangular in shape.

### Habitat

Garlic mustard tends to grow in dense stands or beds. Green winter plants make it possible to check for the presence of this pest all year long. It generally needs at least some shade and is not a severe pest in sunny, hot places. The invasion of garlic mustard usually occurs first along the wood's edge, then penetrates via streams, campgrounds and trails. This species grows in upland and floodplain forests, savannah, and along roadsides. Known distribution in Wisconsin is currently concentrated in southeastern counties but the plant has been found in some northern counties.

### Life History

Garlic mustard is an herb with a two year life cycle. For the first year, plants do not flower. They start growing again in the spring, and bloom from May to early June. Fruits begin to ripen in mid-July and last through August. Each plant dies after it flowers. Seeds lie dormant for up to 20 months prior to sprouting and may remain viable for five years. Seeds germinate in early April. These plants remain green through the following winter.

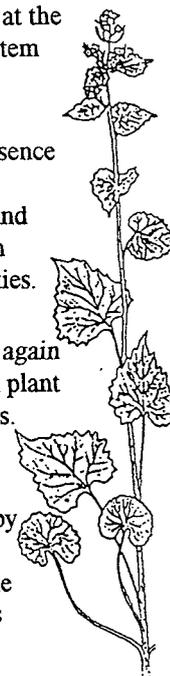
### Controlling Garlic Mustard

**Cultural Method** Minor infestations can be eliminated by hand pulling at or before the onset of flowering, or by cutting it at within a few inches of the soil surface just as flowering begins. It is important to wait until flowering begins, as cutting prior to this time may promote resprouting. A scythe or power brush cutter may be helpful if the infestation covers a large area. If the plant has flowered long enough to have viable seeds, the cut or culled plants should be removed from the area.

For larger infestation, fall or early spring burning is effective. The evergreen first year plants are killed by fire; however, dense stands of these green plants will not burn without additional fuel. Dense population may best be burned in autumn when new leaf fall provides adequate fuel. Spring burns should be done early to minimize possible injury to surviving spring wildflowers. Severe infestations will require several years of burning and should be followed by hand pulling or cutting of remnant populations.

**Chemical control** Applications of 2% Roundup® (glyphosate) to the foliage of individual plants and dense patches is effective in fall and spring. At these times, most native plants are dormant but garlic mustard is green and vulnerable.

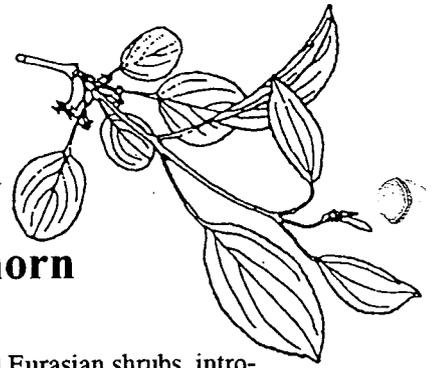
If herbicide is used, care should be taken to prevent contact with nontarget species. Herbicide should be applied by working away from the areas already treated. By law, herbicides may only be applied according to label instructions and by a licensed herbicide applicator on public property.



Fruit

Seed

Information adapted from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Exotic Species Manual. Illustration from *Illustrated Flora of Illinois*, Southern Illinois University Press.



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## Tips on identifying and eradicating exotic buckthorn

### **What are the Exotic Buckthorns?**

Common (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and glossy buckthorn (*R. frangula*) are two closely related Eurasian shrubs, introduced to North America as ornamental plants. They are well established and rapidly spreading in Wisconsin. Once established in an area, both species have the potential to spread very aggressively in a large number of natural areas, because they thrive in a great variety of habitats. They can grow in habitats ranging from full sun to shaded understory. Both cast a dense shade as they mature, having a particularly destructive effect on grassy and low shrub communities. They may also prevent tree seedlings from getting established. Exotic buckthorns are still sold and planted as ornamentals as sale or propagation is not currently restricted.

### **Identification**

Both common and glossy buckthorns are tall shrubs or small trees that reach 20-25 feet in height and 10 inches in diameter. Most often they grow as a large shrub with a few to several stems growing from the base. The shrubs have spreading, loosely-branched crowns, gracefully curving branches, and grey to brown bark. Cutting a branch of either species exposes a yellow sapwood and a pinkish to orange heartwood. Common buckthorn has dull green, oval shaped leaves which are smooth on both surfaces and have tiny teeth along the edges. Glossy buckthorn has thin, glossy, oval shaded leaves with smooth edges.

### **Habitat**

Common buckthorn has become a problem in the understory of oak, oak-beech, and ash woodland communities. It also occurs in thickets, on rocky sites, and in hedgerows and pastures. It aggressively competes with native plants, mainly on well-drained soils. Glossy buckthorn aggressively invades primarily wet soil and has become a problem in wetlands ranging from acidic bogs to calcareous fens. The glossy buckthorn is capable of growing in both full sun and in heavy shade. The species also occurs in a wide variety of upland habitats.

### **Life History**

Buckthorns reproduce entirely from seeds. Under full sun conditions they begin to produce seed after only a few years of being established. In shaded habitats, fruit production may be delayed 10 to 20 years. Common buckthorn flowers from May to June and its fruit ripens from August through September. Glossy buckthorn blooms from late May through September and the fruit is ripe from early July to the first frost. Birds readily eat the fruit and efficiently disperse seeds. Seedlings establish best in high light conditions, but they can also germinate and grow in shade.

Exotic buckthorns have very rapid growth rates and resprout vigorously after they have been cut. They sprout leaves very early in the growing season and retain their leaves late. The first few individuals established in a natural area are usually from seeds transported by birds. Once these first few individuals produce seed, the buckthorns can quickly form dense thickets. Thickets dramatically affect the shrub, sapling and ground layer level of the communities they invade.

### **Controlling the Exotic Buckthorns**

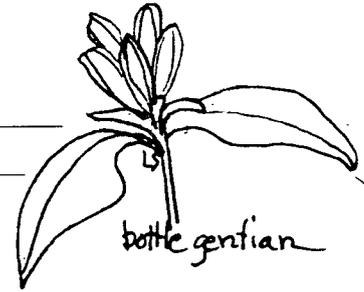
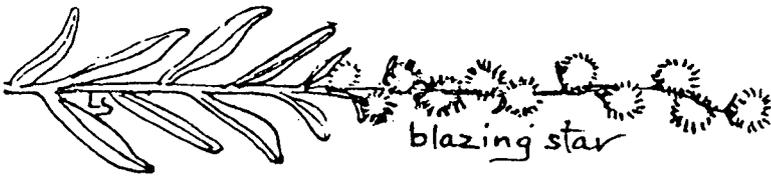
**Cultural Methods** The most effective control of buckthorns in natural areas is to recognize their appearance early and subsequently remove the isolated plants before they begin to produce seed on the site, avoiding a severe infestation. Small plants up to 1/2 inch in diameter can be pulled. Larger plants 1/2 inch to 1-1/2 inch in diameter can be dug or pulled using a lever device which clamps onto the stem.

**Chemical Control** At present, the best proven, selective control for larger plants or more severe buckthorn infestations can be obtained by applying 25-33% Roundup® (glyphosate) herbicide to freshly cut stumps. The highest percent mortality is probably obtained when Roundup® is applied to stumps cut late in the summer or autumn, but effective control (at least 75% elimination of resprouting) can probably be obtained by using this method at any time of year. Foliar application of Roundup® are effective, but less selective unless they are made carefully with a wick applicator.

If a herbicide is used, care should be taken to prevent contact with nontarget species. Herbicide should be applied by working away from areas already treated. By law, herbicide may only be applied according to label instructions and by a licensed herbicide applicator on public property.

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*Information adapted from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Exotic Species Manual. Illustrations from Norman C. Fassett's Spring Flora of Wisconsin.*



## Couple gets number

The National Wildlife Federation just issued Backyard Habitat Certificate #13,279 to Jan and Dick Koel. The award reads: "This habitat is certified in the National Wildlife Federation's worldwide network of mini-refuges where, because of the owner's conscientious planning, landscaping, and gardening, wildlife may find quality habitat--food, water, cover, and places to raise their young."

Since 1988, Dick and I have been naturalizing our yard to create a more earth-friendly environment for us and wildlife.

This program is perfect for the Wild Ones since it establishes a purpose for the nonconforming yard that is more easily recognized by neighbors and the local weed patrol. Many Wild Ones are already certified, but if you aren't, write: The National Wildlife Federation, 1400 - 16th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036-2266. Cost is \$15. Be sure to specify Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program and WILD ONES!! - Jan Koel

## the FRONT FORTY

Curt, my husband, and I decided not to let any grass grow under our feet when it comes to the "Front Forty". The first thing he did was to remove grass and turn over clay. In a spring with little rain, this left us with huge clumps which could not be broken down.

We decided to call our Rototiller man and have him work it out. He smiled a little, but did not laugh outright when he saw our lumpy, clay mess. After half an hour of grinding, he had smoothed it enough for planting, I thought.

Curt, however, wanted the soil more friable, so he brought in buckets of compost from our city recycling center which he worked in one gallon per square foot to a depth of eight inches. Was the bed ready now? Not yet! He wanted to turn it over a few more times to make sure everything was broken down.

Finally, the day came when he felt it was OK to order plants. So, I sent off my order to Prairie Nursery only to be told a few days later that most of the plants I wanted had been sold. I guess you can't wait until the last week of May to order spring plants. Not to be discouraged, we drove around to some local nurseries until we found some beautiful plants at Bauer's Garden Center. At home, I filled buckets with water to warm in the sun and burn off the chlorine.

On the bright and sunny morning of June 5 at 7:30, I planted my little bit of prairie. That evening we had our first rain in almost a month. As we stood looking out at the rain, I told Curt I'd heard a voice that morning saying, "Plant it and it will come." **Food for thought: In a year when watering bans are being strongly enforced why do we still have to argue for natural landscaping ordinances?** - Judy Crane

*Note: We are still interested in learning where residents of the City of Milwaukee are doing (or interested in starting) native landscaping. Please call 351-0644 and leave a message about your project. Thanks.*



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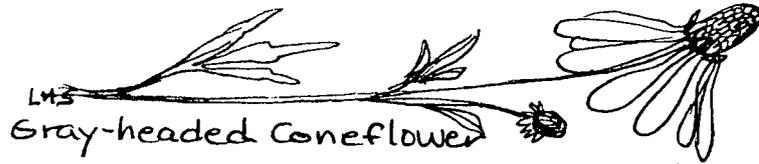


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**Bayside Garden Center**  
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Gray-headed Coneflower

(Butterflies, from page 3)

Borkin says each year we see fewer species of butterflies. Their decline in numbers alarms zoologists.

"We must accept the challenge to reverse these trends toward extinction." Borkin warns, "It's up to homeowners to take areas of monotonous green lawns and transform them into biodiverse habitats that butterflies and moths need to survive." - Shirley Stevens, *used with permission of CNI Newspapers.*

**Volunteers help scientists learn more about butterflies by participating the annual Fourth of July Butterfly Count. For more information, send a SESE to: Ann Swengel, Vice President, North American Butterfly Association, 909 Birch Street, Baraboo, WI 53913. Contact your local nature center to see if they participate.**

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**Mandy Ploch is new president**

Mandy Ploch succeeds Irena Macek as Milwaukee Wild Ones president. Mandy has been serving as vice president and has lead programs.

We thank Irena for her time and enthusiasm. She says her family has "personally learned to appreciate the beauty and interest contained in the diversity of a naturalized yard throughout the seasons". Irena's Wild Ones connection was featured in a *Milwaukee Journal* article.

The Milwaukee chapter is searching for a new vice president, advertising manager, and other volunteers.

**Information for new chapters**

Procedures for organizing a Wild Ones - Natural Landscaping chapter are available by writing to our post office box number with a request.

We welcome the new chapters now forming in Madison and the Rock River area of Illinois.

We will soon have Wild Ones t-shirts available, thanks to Chris Reichert and Lucy Schumann.

**Learn to identify prairie seedlings, grasses, and forbs**

Prairie Ridge Nursery, Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin is the site of two classes which will teach plant identification.

"Identification of Seedlings" will show how to recognize prairie plants and weed species in your plantings. The meeting date is July 9 at 10 a.m.

"Identification of Warm Season Grasses and Fall Flowers" will focus on helping participants recognize major prairie grasses, asters, goldenrods. Information on what grows where and how to plant will be given. Class meets on September 10 at 10 a.m. To find out about these and other classes, call 608/437-5245.

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

*President*

Mandy Ploch 414/242-2723

Secretary Jan Koel 414/251-7175

*Treasurer*

Dorothy Boyer 414/375-3913

Membership Judy Crane 414/251-2185

Program Lorrie Otto 414/352-0734

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*Rock River, Illinois Contact:*

Josh Skolnick 815/234-3268

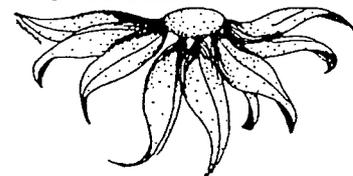
*Wehr Chapter, Milwaukee Contact:*

Pat Brust 414/529-4101

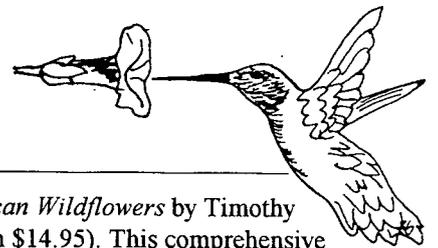
*Wild Ones - Natural Landscapers, Ltd. is a non-profit organization with a mission to educate and share information with members and community at the "plants-roots" level and to promote bio-diversity and environmentally sound practices. We are a diverse membership interested in natural landscaping using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

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## Mailbox . . .

The following is an excerpt from a letter written to Lorrie Otto:

I can see from reading *The Outside Story* articles that Wild Ones interests coincide nicely with mine. Like many of your members, I chose to live on a lot that the previous owner left wild with Eastern Mesic type forest with Dominant White Oak and about 20 other species of deciduous trees. Over the past two years I've been battling buckthorn, a little bit of honeysuckle and crown vetch, while increasing native diversity. I am glad to see your newsletter has ads for nurseries that carry native species.

I have a special interest in helping to control exotic, invasive plant species and I am actively studying the little material that's available. I attended a 3/4 day long seminar at the Wehr Nature Center where representatives from the UW Arboretum and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) gave lectures on the topic.

In contrast to the article written by Mary Lou Findley (see May - June issue), both the DNR and the Nature Conservancy recommend that Buckthorn be cut in late summer or fall when the sap tends to run from trunk to root rather than vice versa in the earlier growing season. That way Roundup is more effective when applied to the stump. It is true that seeds are produced by late summer, but unless it is the first year the tree is producing seeds, there are already many seeds present in the ground and the sprouting probably occurred due to the absence of shade from the mature tree more than anything. A new, expensive herbicide called "Garlon" is also used very effectively on Buckthorn, but it is applied differently and must be used at temperatures under 75 degrees, due to its volatility. Also, their literature states buckthorn spreads almost exclusively by seed, not by vegetative means -- which coincides with my experience. - Ken Solis, MD

## Wildflower books . . .

Extensive research has gone into *The History and*

*Folklore of North American Wildflowers* by Timothy Coffey (Houghton Mifflin \$14.95). This comprehensive book lists 700 plants by common, botanical and vernacular names. It delves into the multiple and varied uses of these plants in past American life. The unique nineteenth-century botanical drawings accentuate this book's historical view.

New, 1994 editions of *Wildflowers of Illinois Woodlands* and *Wildflowers of Indiana Woodlands* by Sylvan T. Runkel and Alvin F. Bull (Iowa State University Press \$20.95) are now available. These non-technical identification guides list over 120 plants in their approximate order of flowering time. Photos, often full page, are featured. The book includes some uses by Indians and pioneers as well as other tidbits of information. (Note: The same species are listed in each book.) Other books in this series include *Wildflowers of Iowa Woodlands* and *Wildflowers of the Tallgrass Prairie - The Upper Midwest*.

Books are available at the Schlitz Audubon Center Bookstore which has the largest collection of nature books in the Midwest. Special orders are always welcome. Call MaryAnn Maki at 414/352-2880 (FAX is 414/352-6091)

## Native Wildflowers for Prairies & Meadows

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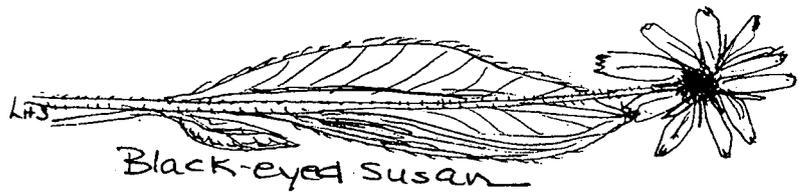


## Dig Designs

Naturalized Design  
Landscape Renovation  
Consultations

MANDY PLOCH

414/242-2723



## Calendar

### Schlitz Audubon Center & Wehr Nature Center Chapters:

*(Note the same program is given at Schlitz Audubon Center, 1111 E. Brown Deer Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53217 at 9:30 a.m. and Wehr Nature Center, 9701 W. College Ave., Franklin, WI 53132 at 1:30 p.m.)*

Saturday, July 9: We'll carpool to several WATER GARDENS. Bring your camera or sketch pad for ideas you can use in your own yard.

Saturday, August 13: Just before school starts, we'll visit SCHOOL NATURAL AREAS to see what they can teach us for our natural yards.

Saturday, September 10: NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS are featured in this Michael Yanny tour. We'll learn about how these plants are propagated in a nursery.

**Green Bay Chapter: Call 414/434-6309 for more information about chapter events.**

**Northern Illinois Chapter has several summer field trips.**

Thursday, July 7 at 10:30 a.m. Tour an AQUATIC NURSERY and see frogs being reared. Pat (708/983-8404) can give you directions to Bob Steinbach's in Elgin.

Saturday, July 16 at 10 a.m. Visit Vicki and Ron Nowicki's prairie, herb, vegetable, and flower garden. Call Vicki (708/852-5263) for directions.

Saturday and Sunday, July 16 & 17 Aquascapes' annual GARDEN POND TOURS. Call 708/690-7095 to register. Fee is \$5.

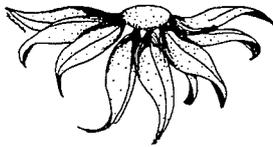
Saturday, July 23 at 10 a.m. See a NO-LAWN YARD with many treasures adjacent to a fen. Call Jan Smith (708/653-3958).

Saturday, August 6, All day natural yards bus tour. Call early for information on getting tickets to Lorrie's annual event. Call Vicki for details.

Sunday, August 21. We will spend the day with Marcy Stewart Pyziak in the Manhattan-Monee area and see NATIVE PLANT NURSERY and three native yards. Call Vicki.

Sunday, October 2 at 2 p.m. View prairie grasses, asters, goldenrods and native shrubs in their FALL COLOR. Call Pat for directions.

wild ones®



## The Outside Story

newsletter for natural landscapers

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

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