

# The Outside Story

newsletter for natural landscapers

Vol. 8, No. 1

January - February 1995

One Dollar

## 'Sense of place' is theme for 15th Natural Landscaping Conference

Ripon College President William R. Stott, Jr. will be the Julie Marks/Wild Ones' keynote speaker at the Natural Landscape Conference on Saturday, February 11, in the Wisconsin Room at UWM's Union.

His topic, "Reconnection and Restoration: The Need for a Sense of Place", will focus on the concept that study of the natural world richly demonstrates the interdependence of all living things. As a species, however, we have often acted at odds with this reality. This has been detrimental to both our health and the health of our environment. Stott asserts that a renewal of our sense of place is necessary to restore a proper relationship to the natural world.

Other sessions in the day-long event will cover: "Planning Your Home Landscape" (Don Vorpahl,

landscape designer); "Innovative Concepts in Prairie Plantings" (Randy Powers, Prairie Future Seed Company); "Prairie Restoration for Wisconsin Schools" (Molly Fifield Murray, Earthkeeping Program, UW-Madison); "All About Wisconsin Ferns" (Carl Taylor, Curator of Botany, Milwaukee Public Museum); "Native Plants for Native Critters" (Pat Armstrong, ecologist and consultant); "Propagation of Native Wildflowers" (David Kopitzke, Bureau of Endangered Species); "Maintenance of Natural Yards" (Evelyn Howell, Chair, Department of Landscape Architecture, UW-Madison); "Woodland Landscaping" (Cole Burrell, Co-author, *Rodale's Illustrated Book of Perennials*); "Principles of Plant Ecology Applied to Prairie Restora-

tion" (Neil Diboll, Prairie Nursery); "Butterfly Gardening" (Ann Swingel, Xerces Society); "Plant Propagation of Native Woody Trees and Shrubs" (Michael Yanney, Johnson's Nursery).

Preregister by mail until February 1, 1995, by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope with a \$20 check to: Milwaukee Audubon Society, 12248 N. Farmdale 99W, Mequon, WI 53097. For more information and a brochure with the day's schedule, call 414/238-9930.

## Fox Valley now has Wild Ones group

A seventh Wild Ones club, known as the Fox Valley Chapter, has been formed in Wisconsin's Appleton and Oshkosh areas. The group is alternating monthly meeting sites between the two cities.

New officers for the club were elected in October and are: Donna Van Buecken, president; Steve Maassen, vice president; Mary Hungerford, secretary; and Susan Forbes, treasurer.

If you're interested in forming a Wild Ones group in your area, contact Mandy Ploch (414/242-2723) for a chapter start-up packet.

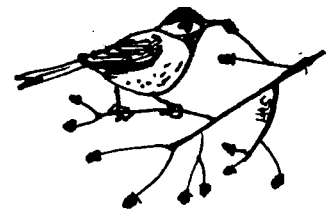
## Pretty packages no substitute for patience, local seeds

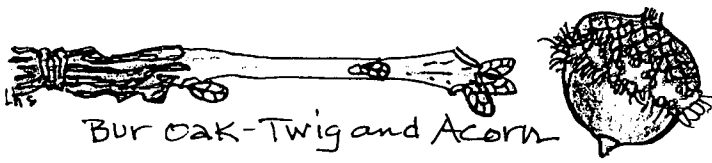
If we as "Wild Ones" would like to see our seeded wildflowers bloom more than a season, we need to be aware of the difference between generic wildflower mixes and native, locally obtained seed, whether it's purchased or privately collected. When our friends and neighbors decide to change their carpets of green to carpets of knee-high flowers, we'll be able to help with a word of caution and an understanding of native seeding dynamics.

Advertisers know that the toughest temptation to resist is the promise of instant satisfaction. Inexpensive seed packets with

colorful photos of western annuals are accompanied by "easy" directions. Cheap and labeled "Midwestern" or "part-sun" or "damp area mix" — how much can you lose? They appear in catalogues of both seed and outdoorsy clothing. There are conventional landscapers who try to satisfy customer demand by buying common, western seeds and installing them at inflated prices.

Because of bright annuals, some of these plantings can be attractive, at least at first. They may even produce a second-year carpet of (*Pretty packages, page 2*)





Bur Oak-Twig and Acorn

## the FRONT FORTY

What does a Front Forty project and a potato chip have in common? You can't have just one! Curt opened up two new planting areas last fall. Luckily, we'd rescued some branched coneflower, Culver's root, whorled milkweed, and little bluestem during an October bulldozer alert. These little darlings are now wintering comfortably in our vegetable garden-turned-nursery.

We also have seeds biding their time in our refrigerator (in a sand/water mixture). Soon I'll get out the pots, trays, and soil so I can coax (worry?) these little seeds to life.

We'll purchase others, hoping they will do as well as pale purple coneflowers (*Echinacea pallida*) did last summer when two plants became 13. I'm especially proud because they're on Wisconsin's Threatened Species List. The Front Forty lends itself well to raising them. It's easier to track plant progress in a small area and their visibility makes people more aware of them as well. Check out endangered species in your area. Are plants available from a reputable nursery? If so, you may want to try them. In Wisconsin, you MUST contact the Bureau of Endangered Resources, DNR, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707, for a permit to raise these rare plants — Judy Crane

(Pretty packages, from page 1)

black-eyed Susans, if the preparation has been careful. But the long-term perennials, suited to the environment, are mostly missing. One problem for preservationist is the introduction of non-local genotypes: if our stiff coreopsis is already scarce, it may disappear when a more vigorous western strain appears nearby. Native landscapers worry about the berms of bull thistle and curly dock; the patches of Old World pasture grass sparsely dotted with non-hardy annuals; and three years later, the monocultures of alien daisies, yarrow, or Queen Anne's lace that are left. The promise of maintenance-free and ecologically sound beauty has not become reality, and the disappointed sower may cut it down and go back to grass, this time for good!

The truth is, creating a little piece of self-sustaining ecosystem is not easy. After all, it has taken many years and millions of dollars in mowing machines, earth-movers, herbicides, and public works salaries, to eliminate almost all the native habitat from road and trackside, field and suburb. Why should all that diversity come back overnight, at low cost? Restoration takes time and knowledge. Local native seed is expensive because it's difficult to collect. Diversity is essential to success, but unpredictable. When a planting is done right from the start, however, the payoff comes after three or four years, when enough different flowers and grasses have succeeded to provide interest at all seasons, and no one species has been able to dominate all others.

To successfully change lawn to "prairie meadow" there are three essential requirements: realistic expectations (wet clay grows tall plants, dry sand grows short ones); good preparation of a truly weed-free planting area; and a seed mix of *at least* two - three dozen species which are exactly suited to the area and balanced between nurse species and pioneer, early succession and climax species. Coming up with such a mix demands knowledge of the local environment and experience with native plant needs that cannot be approached by any "magic in burlap" or "meadow-in-a-can" type mix. Details in the next issue. -- Wendy Walcott

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SHAGBARK HICKORY and Nut

### Want to attract butterflies?



Attracting butterflies to your garden can be as simple as adding sweet nectar flowers and caterpillar food plants to your existing plantings. During January's cold and snow, see butterflies through the eyes and cameras of expert gardeners, biologists, and botanists. Take home tips to make your wildflower garden bloom.



Master Gardener Gertrud Zoeller, Nature Photographer Janice Stiefel, and Botanist/Zoologist Mariette Nowak will give a program on Saturday, January 21 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Greendale Public Library, 5647 Broad Street, Greendale, Wisconsin. A pre-registration fee of \$4 is required. Call 414/423-2790 or write: Greendale Park & Recreation Department, 7000 Greenway, Greendale, WI 53129.



### Lorrie's Notes . . .

Deb Harwell's house was empty. Two enormous moving vans were parked beside her beautiful front yard of native plants. Her children were saying their last good-byes to school friends. And can we guess where the former president of Wild Ones was? She was appearing before the board of the Green Tree Garden Club, pleading for funds to build a wetland-prairie behind Indian Hill School. This passionate woman left for her new Kentucky home with the tail of her comet burning brightly!


Sometimes it is difficult to remember the pre-Harwell days. In 1988, Wild Ones was a small, natural landscaping club with brand-new newsletter dubbed *The Outside Story*. The community newspaper announced our monthly meetings as well as our summer tours of "wild yards". One day Deb Harwell visited the nature center where we meet and admired a yellow flower which she was informed was a buttercup. She replied she, "just loved wildflowers". A long-time member, the late Isabel Cash, suggested she join Wild Ones. Within a year Deb became president--but not before she participated in a bulldozer alert where she dug day lilies and daisies--aliens which she later discarded. As she freely admits, she "knew nothing" when she joined. Now her four-year term is explosive history.

Deb began by insisting we have monthly board meetings and demanding we publish bi-monthly newsletters. She produced a traveling, folding display with laminated, color photos which was taken to a number of large public events. She succeeded in making our organization's non-profit status official and suggested we have other chapters in the Midwest. So far six more have mushroomed. During her term, the name Wild Ones began appearing nationally in newspapers, magazines, and coffee table landscaping books.

In the meantime, Deb was converting her extensive mowed lawn into borders, strips, patches, and finally, large sections of woodland and prairie plantings. After she helped plant the Julie Marks berms on Bayside's East Brown Deer Road, she suggested to the principal of her children's school that rather than an English cottage garden at the school entrance there should be an American native plant garden. As a result, there is no other school in the state where students can walk through the billowing beauty of so many blooming asters and goldenrods. We've often observed youngsters squatting beside bottle gentians watching bumblebees dart in and out of closed flowers. Children have also done their share of gathering monarch and black swallowtail chrysalises. This school project is surely a model for others to follow. (For those who want to learn more, Indian Hill School's principal, Karen Winicki, will be at our January Milwaukee meetings to show how teachers and students use their outdoor classroom.)

This summer, as a final gift to her church, Deb designed a landscaping plan and with the help of her husband, father, and two grade-school children, planted over 2,000 trees, shrubs, and wildflowers. Woodland species came from Art Lonergran while prairie plants came out of Neil Diboll's cooler in Westfield. Barerooted plants were put in on August 1 and were in bloom in October! The work is so impressive that we'll be adding this restoration to the Schlitz Audubon Center bus tour next August 5.

Today, Deb is planning a forest for her front horse-pasture lawn in Kentucky. Milwaukee friends will miss her very much. However, hundreds of people will be grateful for the models this remarkable woman built for us in the time she lived here. — Lorrie Otto




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## The Father of Modern Botany

### Carolus Linnaeus

(Born: May 23, 1707—Died: Jan. 10, 1778)

**The Early Years:** Carolus Linnaeus (lin-nay-us) was born in the south of Sweden, where his father was the pastor of a country village. Since he was a pastor's son, he was destined for the ordained ministry of the church. However, he managed to evade this expectation. From the time he was able to run, Linnaeus showed such a liking to being out in the fields and dislike for any sort of schooling, that his father was advised to apprentice him to a tailor or cobbler. A local doctor stopped this idea by taking him into his own house and encouraging him to study medicine. So, when Linnaeus went to the University of Lund, he studied medicine, not theology.



**The University Years:** Linnaeus' year at the University of Lund and the following year at the larger University of Uppsala, were quite difficult. He was a poor country boy who didn't even have enough money to have his shoes mended. Often they were patched with folded pieces of paper. He was usually hungry. Fortunately, his potential was recognized by "doctors of comfortable circumstances" at the university. He was given board and lodging and the use of their extensive library. As a token of his appreciation, Linnaeus tutored one of the doctor's son in botany, and when he (Linnaeus) discovered that he had a gift and aptitude for teaching, he instructed his fellow undergraduates. University officials were so impressed with this man, that they appointed him Professor of Botany before receiving his degree. Shortly after that appointment he was elected to explore and hunt plants in Lapland. Being young and inquisitive, he delightfully accepted the election and set off on a journey of hundreds of miles through unmapped territory. During this time he wrote in his journal each day, collected over 100 "hitherto, unknown," dried plant specimens, and developed in his mind a system for classifying all created things with the two-name system of "Genus" and "Species." He went on to establish his reputation as the author of *Flora Lapponica* and to fall in love with a "sweet young girl who adored him in return."

**The Courtship Deal:** The girl's father would not allow her to marry a penniless botanical collector. Linnaeus had to take his degree, get a good job and settle down. The father provided the necessary expenses and, as the money was available, Linnaeus decided to see a little more of the world and go to a foreign university.

**An Unappreciated Discovery:** While plant hunting through northern Europe, this young man's zest for scientific accuracy created a problem in Hamburg. The city fathers were custodians of an ancient and prized "seven-headed hydra," a relic of the Crusades of the Holy Land. As a modest student, Linnaeus asked for permission to examine this great marvel. His thoroughness established that seven weasel heads had been skillfully sewn together, attached to two clawed feet and

covered with snakeskin. The triumph of this scientific discovery failed to please the city fathers, who, up to that time, had enjoyed a small but regular income by putting the creature on display. Linnaeus wisely and quietly left town.

**The Marriage:** After receiving degrees in medicine and botany, he returned to Stockholm to marry the girl waiting for him. But neither marriage nor doctoring suited him. The sweet, young girl turned, almost overnight, into a dragon. All his life he was to regard her "with respect and terror." As far as being a physician, he said he was "fonder of meddling with plants than with patients."

**His Contribution:** His most enduring contribution to the scientific world was his idea of giving two names to all created things. He undertook to name and classify everything "from buffaloes to butterflies." His work on indexing plants, published later in his life in 1753 as *Species Plantarum*, "made something orderly out of the casual, chaotic botany of preceding years and stabilized nomenclature forever."

**The Later Years:** Teaching, sharing his own pleasures and savoring the company of adoring students was to fill the rest of Linnaeus' life and make him supremely happy.

**Author's Note:** It is, indeed, difficult to squeeze the vast accomplishments of this brilliant man into one small column. But because his name is woven through all my research of plants and insects, I've always wanted to pay my "humble" tribute to him. He possessed unfathomable knowledge and each Greek or Latin name was given as a description of the species, e.g. hairy, rough, beautiful, or in honor of the discoverer of the particular flora or fauna. His great sense of humor was reflected in many of the names. I have a special admiration for Linnaeus because of the adversities he endured and that he was able to rise above all of them. In my life, personally, there have been modern-day Linnaeus.' The intelligent, wonderful people who have graciously shared their knowledge with me over the years has been appreciated beyond words. To name a few:

Neil Luebke (plants) and Kevin Lyman (mosses, liverworts, lichens), of the Botany Section at the Milwaukee Public Museum; Dr. Sami Saad, Prof. of Biological Sciences, U-W West Bend (fungi); Andy Larsen, Director, Riveredge Nature Center (insects); Les Ferge, Madison (moths); Dr. William Burger, Botany Dept. Chairman, Field Museum, Chicago (plants); Phil Pellitteri, UW-Extension Entomologist (insects); David Kopitzke, DNR, Office of Endangered Species (plants); Dan Boehlke, Botanist, Boehlke's Woodland Gardens, West Bend, (plants); and the inspiration and enthusiasm of Lorrie Otto and the members of WILD ONES.



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Wild Ones Membership Survey  
January 1995

Please take a few minutes to help us by answering the following questions. Make a check **before** the item.

Affiliation:  Fox Valley  Green Bay  Milwaukee  Milwaukee-Wehr  Northern Illinois  
 Ohio  Rock River  Member-at-large

1. I am interested in more learning about:  prairie wildflowers  butterfly gardens  
 ponds & water gardens  woodland wildflowers & ferns  native trees, shrubs, and vines  
 wildlife habitat  natural landscape design  native plant propagation  yard maintenance  
 composting, mulching, natural pesticides & fertilizers  other \_\_\_\_\_

2. My site, lot, property, yard, or acreage can be described as:  a residence  a vacation home  
 an apartment patio  a city lot  a suburban yard  a several acres in a semi-rural area  
 a woodland  an open country field  a business or institution  new home construction  
 an established lawn with trees & shrubs  being rocky or sandy  having heavy, clay soil  
 being densely shaded  having wet areas such as a creek, pond, or marsh  
 being steeply sloped  other \_\_\_\_\_

3. I'm  just starting  in the process  well-established in my natural landscaping projects.

4. I  do my own work  use a maintenance service.

5. My favorite wildflower identification book is: \_\_\_\_\_

Other helpful books or resources are: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

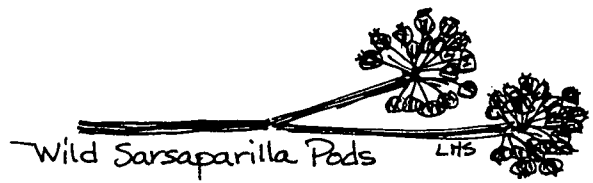
6. I've received information about alternative, naturalized landscaping from:

Wild Ones meetings  electronic media  print media  garden clubs  
 Natural Landscaping Conference  friends/neighbors  other \_\_\_\_\_

7. I've been interested in natural landscaping since (year) \_\_\_\_\_. Factors that influenced me were:

8. My neighbor's (or community's reaction) has been:  admiring  indifferent  
 curious  hostile  changing as plants and native landscaping has matured.

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9. I've been involved in promoting the use of native plants/natural landscaping by: \_\_\_ encouraging neighbors, relatives, and friends; \_\_\_ working in community projects or education; \_\_\_ sharing plants and information; \_\_\_ becoming a member of Wild Ones.

10. I feel it is important to choose native plants over non-natives. \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

11. I attend Wild Ones meetings \_\_\_ almost always \_\_\_ sometimes \_\_\_ never. My suggestions for programs are: \_\_\_\_\_

12. I read *The Outside Story*: \_\_\_ almost always \_\_\_ sometimes \_\_\_ never. My suggestions for articles and features are: \_\_\_\_\_

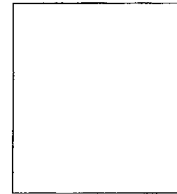
13. I've patronized our advertisers. \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

14. I'd be willing to help with Wild Ones organization or functions. \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ maybe  
If yes, please give your name and phone number \_\_\_\_\_

15. I'd welcome others to visit my natural landscaping project. Attached is a map or directions to my address which is: \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THE SURVEY. (Please mail form or bring to the next meeting.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

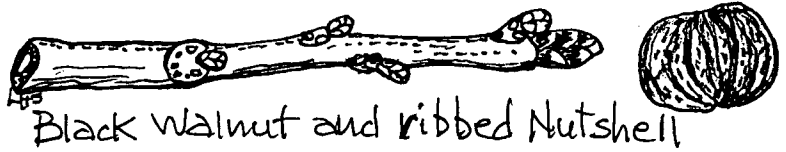


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Black Walnut and ribbed Nutshell

## Meander a prairie/woodland at Wisconsin's five-star resort

Less than an hour's drive from Milwaukee lies the renowned American Club. As my wife and I celebrated ten years of marriage there in mid-October, we strolled the winding nature paths and dined in a log cabin restaurant set in the midst of a wildlife preserve.

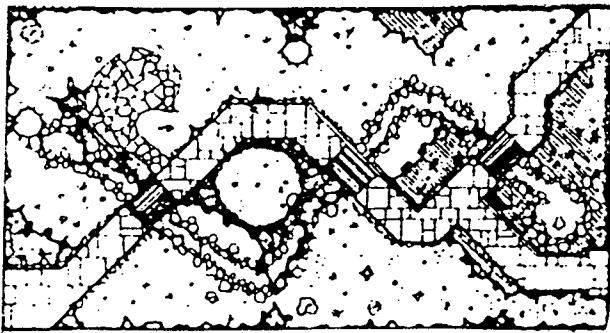
Many resorts are in or near natural areas; that's not what makes Kohler special. What is different is that the company has methodically and carefully crafted a resort on the banks of the Sheboygan River that promotes Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic by showing appreciation for nature and humankind's proper role within it.

It all started in the late 19th century when the company's founder moved his foundry for the manufacture of plumbing fixtures to new surroundings in order to give employees the best environment in which to work and raise families. In 1918, Kohler built the stately, red brick American Club (now listed on the National Register of Historic Places) to house immigrant employees. In 1981, the building was converted to a world-class hotel with four interior courtyard gardens.

The first garden, located off the main hotel entrance, is the formal Gazebo Court which is used for special occasions such as weddings. The second garden is the Fountain Court, a social gathering place adjacent to the hotel's ice cream parlor.

Appearing secluded are two naturally landscaped gardens planted in 1993, the Lantern Court and the Prairie Woodland Court. The Lantern Court has a bluestone path edged with leaded-glass copper lanterns hung from hand-hewn cedar poles.

Herbert V. Kohler, grandson of the founder and the company's chairman of the board and president, along with John Green, landscaping director, wanted to create



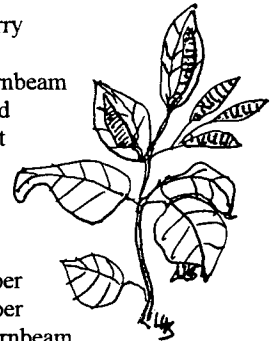
Kohler's American Club Prairie Woodland Court

a slice of Wisconsin within the walls of the American Club. Thus was born the idea for the Prairie Woodland Court. Constructed around a flowing stream, the garden starts on the north with native eastern Wisconsin prairie. Big bluestem (*Andropogon scoparius*) and side-oats grama (*Bouteloua curipendula*) are mixed with dozens of common and not-so-common forbs including red baneberry (*Actea rubra*) and snakeroot (*Cimicifuga racemosa*). As you follow the path, the existence of the three-story hotel that surrounds the prairie fades from conscience. Cross a bridge and the garden melts into woodland. Turk's cap lily (*Lilium superbum*), hepatica, and Virginia bluebell (*Mertensia virginica*) stretch back from the path to the dogwood and beech trees. Some unplanned species are growing, the result of chunks of native prairie salvaged from sites slated for development and replanted in the garden. Prairie gardening requires patience. Next year there will be more plants to attract butterflies and birds.

Whether a guest wanders through the prairie garden or merely peers out a hotel window to the view below, the message is clear — Wisconsin's native flora is a sight to behold. Kohler is exposing and educating its guests to the notion that we are part of nature, rather than apart from it. — Bret Rappaport

### Plant selections from Kohler Prairie/Woodland Courtyard: Woodland trees and shrubs:

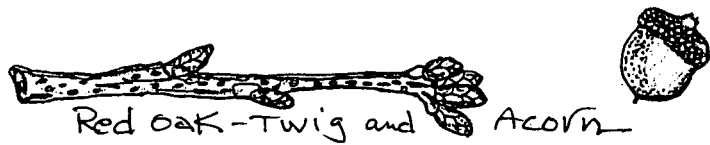
*Aronia melanocarpa* Black chokeberry  
*Betula nigra* River birch  
*Carpinus caroliniana* American hornbeam  
*Cornus alternifolia* Pagoda dogwood  
*Corylus americana* American filbert  
*Dirca palustris* Leatherwood  
*Fagus grandifolia* American beech  
*Fraxinus americana* White ash  
*Hamamelis virginiana* Witch hazel  
*Juniperus communis* Common juniper  
*Juniperus horizontalis* Creeping juniper  
*Ostrya virginiana* American hophornbeam  
*Tsuga canadensis* Canadian hemlock  
*Virburnum acerifolium* Mapleleaf viburnum



### Woodland/wetland forbs and ferns:

*Adiantum pedatum* Maidenhair fern  
*Anemone canadensis* Canada anemone  
*Antennaria plantaginifolia* Pussytoes  
*Aquilegia* Columbine

(Kohler, page 7)



## Prairie garden replaces cut-away front yard sod; Children gain backyard wildflower paradise

Annette Alexander naturalized her family's Whitefish Bay yard to, as she said, "calm myself and make Earth a better place." Her slide presentation recently at Milwaukee chapters described her efforts.

"Begin with a good plan," Annette stresses, "it's 50% of the work." When a well-thought out plan is used one can set priorities and do as little or as much as a budget, time, and strength allow. Hers was also known as a "treasure map" to her young children.

Three years ago, front-yard sod was removed and leaf mulch, peat, sand, manure, and soil added. At the time, Annette thought the area would include trees and so woodland

wildflowers dug from a plant rescue were used. Wild geraniums and wild strawberries flowered early to provide a pleasant sight. As time went on, Annette realized the small site needed a lower scale and she changed her woodland plan to prairie flora. Cinquefoil was planted as a low-growing border out of respect for a neighbor. Prairie smoke, one of her favorites, has been added each year. Bittersweet, liatris, coneflowers, Indian grass and big bluestem add color, texture, and habitat.

Annette showed excellent slides of her backyard. Sandy areas were transformed from a childrens' play area to a wildflower nursery. A pond draws attention, but doesn't distract from the flow of coneflowers and grasses around it. She used rocks, paths, logs, and sawed-off utility pole rounds to delineate areas without separating them. As the landscape matures it's always in transition as she learns what works and what doesn't. — Jan Koel

## Wild Ones- Natural Landscapers, Ltd.

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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.*

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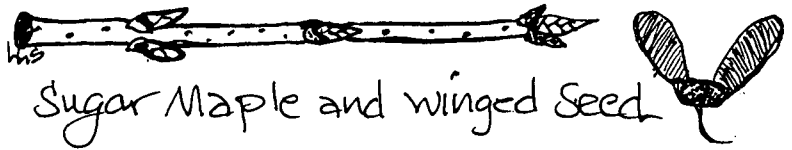
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## Sugar Maple and winged Seed

(Kohler, from page 5)

*Aralia nudicaulis* Wild sarsaparilla  
*Arisaema triphyllum* Jack-in-the-pulpit  
*Asarum canadense* Wild ginger  
*Athyrium filix-femina* Lady fern  
*Baptisia leucantha* White false indigo  
*Caltha palustris* Marsh marigold  
*Caulophyllum thalictroides*  
 Blue Cohosh  
*Clematis* Clematis  
*Dodecatheon meadia* Shooting star  
*Erythronium americanum*  
 Yellow fawn lily  
*Eupatorium maculatum* Joe-Pye weed  
*Gaultheria procumbens* Wintergreen  
*Geranium maculatum* Wild geranium  
*Iris cristata, I. versicolor*  
 Dwarf crested and blue flag iris  
*Lobelia cardinalis, L. siphilitica*  
 Cardinal and great blue lobelia  
*Lupinus perennis* Wild lupine  
*Maianthemum canadense*  
 Canadian mayflower  
*Mitella diphylla* Bishop's cap  
*Monotropa uniflora* Indian pipe  
*Osmunda cinnamomea* Cinnamon fern  
*Phlox divaricata* Wild blue phlox  
*Podophyllum peltatum* May apple  
*Polygonatum biflorum* Solomon's seal  
*Pteridium aquilinum* Bracken fern  
*Sanguinaria canadensis* Bloodroot  
*Trillium cernuum, T. grandiflorum*  
 Nodding and large white trillium  
*Viola pedatum, V. pubescens* Birdfoot  
 and downy yellow violet

### Prairie plants:

*Andropogon scoparius* Little bluestem  
*Asclepias incarnata, A. tuberosa*  
 Red milkweed and butterfly weed  
*Aster azureus* Sky blue aster  
*Echinacea pallida, E. purpurea*  
 Pale purple and purple coneflower  
*Eryngium yuccifolium*  
 Rattlesnake-master  
*Filipendula rubra* Queen-of-the-prairie  
*Geum triflorum* Prairie smoke  
*Liatris aspera* Prairie blazing star  
*Penstemon digitalis* Smooth penstemon  
*Petalostemum purpureum*  
 Purple prairie clover  
*Ratibida pinnata* Yellow coneflower  
*Rudbeckia hirta* Black-eyed Susan  
*Silphium laciniatum, S. perfoliatum,*  
*S. terebinthinaceum* Compass plant,  
 cup plant, and prairie dock  
*Solidago speciosa* Showy goldenrod  
*Sorghastrum nutans* Indian grass  
*Veronicastrum virginicum* Culver's root

## Wildcare . . .

**January: CLIP COLOR** Photos from old wildflower catalogs. Seal in plastic for propagation filecards or for a garage wall reference chart. Use them in a "My Native Plants" scrapbook. Include a visitors' section, not just for humans, but for paw-print autographs as well.

**CHAIN-SAW CONTAGION** in your neighborhood lately? If a tree is slowly dying, but not dangerously near a building or road, it still can be saved as a home for wild creatures like an authentic "snag".

**RECYCLE** holiday evergreens for mulch in newly planted/seeded areas.

**PROPERTY TAX** key numbers can be used to start research on your site's natural history. Might help you determine which "marker trees" existed on or near your land at the time of settlement. Whether your house is old or new, get a correct description of where it is in the particular section or township. Rob Nurre often does a great program at the UW Arboretum as "the surly surveyor" impersonating an early Wisconsin civil servant—who had to be mathematician, botanist, geologist, and physically fit. Records may give quite precise clues to large trees and sometimes have other comments about native plant communities. Yes, many of these marker trees are still in existence and knowledge could prove useful if a tree or successor community is threatened. Could this be a school project combining math, physical geography, and science?

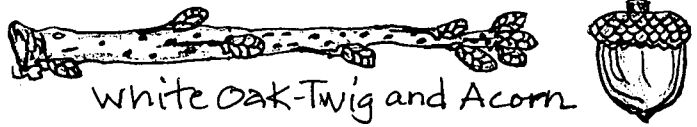
**BEGIN DESIGNING '95** yard changes with plant communities in mind. Use John Curtis' *Vegetation of Wisconsin* or similar book for your area to find abbreviations for them, such as SM for Southern (Wisconsin) Mesic Forest. Then lists such as *Plants that reach their peak in SM* or *Other plants often found in SM*. You may want to transfer this information to your seed labels or notebook.

**BABY FOOD** or spice jars with screw-on lids are great for seed storage. Divide a large one-species batch into several jars if you're experimenting with various propagation methods.

**VEGETABLE GARDENERS** divide seeds into groups **not** by how long germination time is, but by **when** they plan to plant them, whether in flats or directly in the soil. Mike Yanny uses one page in a propagation notebook for each species. You may want to use one page for each batch. Count backwards from your target outdoor planting date. Do this by adding the probable length of seed germination + growing time to the second set of "true" leaves + a few days for "hardening off" (setting the flats out for a few sunny hours and bringing them back in at night). Note exact date you plan to seed each flat right on the jar label and on the calendar. Arrange on shelves according to dates: early (peas); regular (most); and late (tomatoes and tender herbs). Much greater germination is reached if you do flats indoors (good winter sport).

**WEATHER FRIEND** calendars will be available for \$5 each at the January Wild Ones meeting at Schlitz Audubon Center and at the Natural Landscaping Conference until they run out. It's a phenology almanac designed for all of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Sorry, no mailed ones this year.

**DIALOG** is needed between members of various chapters about growing techniques: Are we covering questions you have about your native plants and natural areas? What's different (or similar) in Northern Illinois or Ohio? Can we help each other find answers to plant community and weed ordinance questions? Please comment on the enclosed survey or send ideas to me at our box number. — Barb Glassel



white oak-Twig and Acorn

## Calendar

**Milwaukee & Milwaukee Wehr Chapters' program is given at Schlitz Audubon Center, 1111 E. Brown Deer Rd., Milwaukee, at 9:30 a.m. and repeats at Wehr Nature Center, 9701 W. College Ave., Franklin, at 1:30 p.m.)**

Saturday, January 14: Interested in expanding your expertise into community projects? Learn what schools are doing with outdoor classrooms. Ideas for your own yard as well.

Saturday, February 11: NATURAL LANDSCAPING CONFERENCE at UWM. Hear and meet the experts.

Saturday, March 11: Joyce Powers will share expert advice on PRAIRIE plants. A good time to think ahead to plant selection and care.

**Green Bay, Wisconsin Chapter Remember to attend the Natural Landscaping Conference in Milwaukee on Saturday, February 11 at UW-Milwaukee. Call 414/434-6309 for information about the March meeting.**

**Northern Illinois Chapter meets at 7 p.m. in Rm. K157, Building K, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn.**

Thursday, January 19: Vicki Nowicki helps GETTING STARTED.

She'll explain five approaches to get rid of lawns and begin native plantings.

Saturday, February 11: All-day Natural Landscaping Conference. Call 414/238-9930 for information.

Thursday, February 16: TABLE TOP DISCUSSIONS. Come and network with your peers on timely topics of concern to natural landscapers.

Thursday, March 16: John Shiel tells how STEWARDSHIP BEGINS AT HOME and how to be good to your land.

Thursday, April 20: Connor Shaw shares knowledge and experience about NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS.

**Rock River, Illinois Chapter meets at Jarrett Prairie Center, Byron Forest Preserve, unless noted.**

Thursday, January 19 at 6 p.m. NATURAL LANDSCAPES IN WINTER. Share photos, dried plant material. Information on selected natives for wildlife and winter beauty.

Saturday, February 11: Chapter car/van pool up to the annual NATURAL LANDSCAPING CONFERENCE at UW-Milwaukee. Leave Byron at 6 a.m. and return by approximately 6 p.m.

Thursday, February 16: Discussion and reflections of what we learned at the Natural Landscaping Conference. Presentation on seed propagation.

Thursday, March 16: EARLY SPRING MANAGEMENT of natural landscapes: seeding, transplants, garlic mustard control, and introduction to prescribed burning.

**Columbus, Ohio Chapter meets from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in Rm. 139, Howlett Hall, 2001 Fyffe Ct., Agricultural Campus, Ohio State University.**

Saturday, January 14: Kenzel Coultter tells about Claybourne Prairie.

Saturday, February 11: Jim Stahl, Resource Manager for Columbus Metro Parks, will show wildflower slides.

Saturday, March 11: TBA

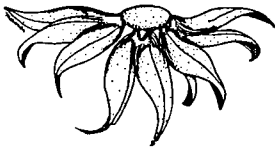
**Fox Valley, Wisconsin Chapter alternates sites between UW-Fox Valley Center (FVC) and Oshkosh Town Hall (OTH).**

Thursday, January 26 at 7 p.m. (FVC) Landscaping Consultant Don Vorpahl is our speaker.

Thursday, February 23 at 7 p.m. (OTH) Dick Nicolai, Outagamie County DNR Agent, will present our program.

Thursday, March 23 at 7 p.m. (FVC) Our topic is PRAIRIES. Speaker TBA.

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