

The Outside Story

newsletter for natural landscapers

Vol. 8, No. 2

March - April 1995

One Dollar

Part II:

Pretty packages vs. patience, local seeds

You've decided to set aside some of your land for the natives: birds, butterflies, insects, small mammals, leaf litter creatures, and the plants that they all require to thrive. You know the promise of "easy" is false; you don't mind doing work, as long as it pays off in a truly low-maintenance planting. So your preparation has been thorough, by whatever method, and you have an area of known HABITAT (size, moisture level, sun exposure, and soil type), that is free of weeds and dormant weed seed.

You've also decided to use seed rather than plants for this project. (Plants give faster and more "garden-like" results, but they are expensive unless you have room and time to start them yourself.) You want more variety and a more natural relationship among the species that eventually establish themselves, especially in a larger area. **What seeds are right for the project?** The answer depends on the habitat and the long-range goals. It is important to have a list of native sun-loving and forest-edge species in front of you. There are good catalogues available from wild plant growers.

Annuals, cover or nurse crop

Most of the flowers in pretty-package "generic" mixes are annuals from southwestern states. They are adapted to bloom quickly in short periods of moisture or warmth. In our damper, colder climate, they will not re-appear in profusion. By the second or certainly the third year, either their seeds freeze out, or the space is taken by the deeper roots of our native forbs and grasses: the tall-

grass prairie. We have very few native annuals; agricultural annuals may be used as a nurse or cover crop, but sparingly. Rye grass, for example, is allelopathic: too many rye plants suppress germination of other plants. Good cover choices are annual flax, annual rye (be careful not to get perennial), oats and, for fall seeding, winter wheat. Seeds come in better under a mixed cover crop; the cover crop itself "takes" in different proportions depending on weather and season of planting. Avoid monocultures. Some non-native annuals (like cosmos, a Mexican, or possibly scarlet flax) might add color without causing future problems. More experimenting is needed.

Pioneering plants

A second-year prairie seeding usually shows a carpet of whatever pioneering plants were included in the mix. Our native rye grass, *Elymus canadensis*, looks pretty the first and second year, providing just enough protection from drying wind and sun for the tiny prairie seedlings. Biennials often take two years to bloom from seed, but some may bloom the first season. Typical pioneers for wet-mesic sites are native wild rye, black-eyed Susan,

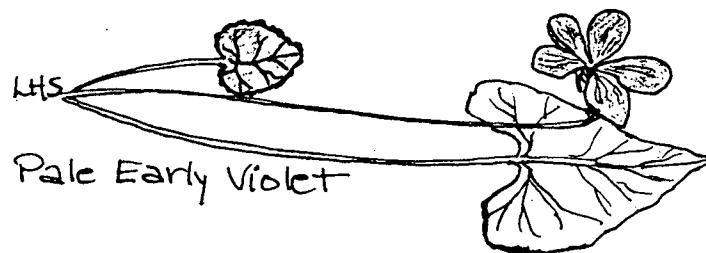
(*Seeds, page 3*)

Author Sara Stein to speak on March 30

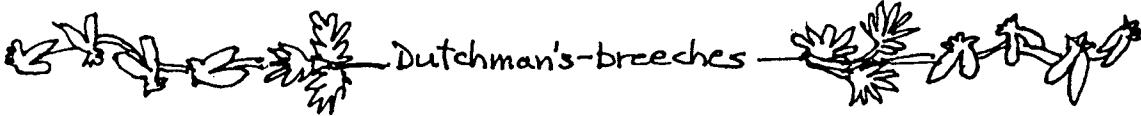
In *Noah's Garden*, Sara Stein describes how she and her husband spent summers clearing brush, vines, and rocks from their land to create "an expanse of landscaped grounds and gardens that seemed to us like Eden. Then it hit. I realized in an instant the full extent of what we had done: we had banished the animals from this paradise of ours." She came to see that "ecology is a far cry from horticulture."

For those who would like to meet and hear the author, a reception (at 6 p.m.) and dinner (at 7 p.m.) will be held on Thursday, March 30 at the Milwaukee Yacht Club, 1700 North Lincoln Memorial Drive (located near McKinley Marina).

Mail a check (\$25 per person) made out to *Wild Ones* to Rochelle Whiteman, 6919 North Ironwood Lane, Glendale, WI 53217. Include a preference of Chicken Captiva (grilled chicken breast topped with shrimp, bacon, and mozzarella on angel hair pasta), Broiled Fresh Lake Superior Whitefish with parsley boiled potatoes, or Pasta Primavera with red peppers, broccoli, carrots, and cauliflower. Entrees include salad and beverage. Send your name, phone number, and number of reservations (including entree selections) with your check.



Pale Early Violet



Dutchman's-breeches

the Front Forty . . .

In many of the books on landscaping I've read, the term **cultivar** is frequently mentioned. Most authors feel one should give up on finding true natives and select some good-looking cultivars of native species. True, most cultivars are pretty, after all, that's the reasoning behind them. However, the New England aster cultivar is so weak-stemmed it has to be staked, unlike its tough, native cousin which can stand up to strong Midwest winds.

Wondering about the genes in our natives and how we are altering them for the sake of beauty, I consulted Robert Ahrenhoerster, owner of Prairie Seed Source, who had lots to say about the subject. One good example he gave me is the native, orange butterfly weed which the Dutch are working to develop into red and yellow varieties. These will be attractive to humans, but will these changes effect the nectar and ultra violet color so important to insects that feed off and pollinate that plant? Could these altered traits breed back into the native species? In creating cultivars we may be changing unknowns. Ahrenhoerster feels if we

continue to tamper with these plants we should set aside large tracts of native plants to preserve their purity.

Looks like it's natives for this Front Forty, so hold the cultivars please.

New York Times writer Anne Raver recently interviewed Penelope Hobhouse, well-known garden author, who had just visited Milwaukee where 'everyone is using native plants!' I have to take exception to Hobhouse's advice about not limiting yourself to native American plants. Now that our country has passed its 200th birthday, it is time that we become comfortable with our native plants and learn to use them correctly.

If Hobhouse wanted to see native landscapes in Milwaukee at their finest, she should have arranged to be here in August, when Schlitz Audubon Center conducts its tour of naturalized yards. As for her comments on California ('I've seen native plant gardens in California that look beautiful for three weeks in the spring and after that, they're completely burnt up. Whereas if they would mix the natives with Mediterranean plants, they would look good in all seasons.'), exotics being brought into that area are causing extinction of natives at an alarming rate.

I like to think that we who choose to use our wonderful native plants, are not just designing landscapes, but creating ecoscapes. The true beauty of plants must be seen and enjoyed by all species, not just the human species.

Hobhouse says she is a self-educated garden designer. I think she needs to educate herself on our native American plants. — Judy Crane"

Sign-up deadline near for pesticide registry

March 1 is the deadline for Wisconsin homeowners to register with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to receive advance notification of commercial pesticide spraying near their homes.

If you would like more information on the lawncare registry, now in its third year, contact Karen Fenster, Registry Coordinator, DATCP, P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911, 608/224-LAWN.

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... columbine ... flowers ... pods ... seeds ..

(Seeds, from page 1)

gaura, and evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*). By the third year, the early-succession perennials will begin to bloom, breaking up the carpet effect. Ecologically, pioneering plants are speedy colonizers of disturbed spots. They help stabilize the soil and are compatible with the future perennials. They also preempt the non-native, super-successful colonizers: WEEDS! Queen Anne's Lace and Canada thistle are in the weed category, all-too successful biennials that make it hard for natives to get established, but will die out in time. Your mix should include two or more NATIVE biennials or pioneering plants, that are right for your habitat.

Early succession forbs

Yellow prairie coneflower, bee balm, stiff goldenrod, New England aster, and thimbleweed are among the good competitors that fill your newly rescued space with color and enthusiasm. These are also the natives that have been best able to survive the destruction of habitat over the years. They have resisted mowing and smothering by Eurasian turf and agricultural grasses. They are familiar to some as "weeds" but they **only become problems when a planting is out of balance**. By the third year, they will be adding variety to the pioneer blooms, yet the more unusual seeds will still be able to come in, when their time comes. All the seeds will have a better chance if planted at once, however. It is difficult to add species from seed once the pioneers have covered the bare ground.

Perennials in balance

By the third and fourth year, you should be getting bloom from some of the perennial grasses and forbs native to original prairies. Those suited to the habitat will thrive. The choices are wide, and you should have included as many as possible in your original seeding. Limits are cost

and/or availability. This is the point at which "generic" seed mixes fail, because the long-term native perennials are not available to mass growers. They are in limited supply, hard to come by and hard to grow. Of the few perennials in those "generic" mixes, one species has usually become dominant by the fourth year, resulting in a non-native monoculture that blooms only for a few weeks. Shasta daisy is a commonly-used weedy horticultural. Bachelor's button and baby's breath have caused problems in some Wisconsin areas. One of the worst choices is dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*), a Eurasian mustard. This plant may not be a problem in California, Oregon, or Vermont, but it is so successful in damper, shadier spots that it entirely dominates and destroys our native forest edge species. Yet it is a leading filler in so-called "Midwestern" wildflower mixes, because it is cheap and showy. Phlox-like flowers are familiar to all. Chickory, bouncing bet, and Eurasian yarrow are other dominators. Our own Canada goldenrod (but not other goldenrods) and *Achillea* can become too aggressive. They are best left out of seed mixes or included very sparingly. BEWARE!

If your original custom mix included 2 - 3 nurse species, 2 - 6 pioneers, 6 - 10 early succession flowers or grasses, and 20 - 30 SITE-SPECIFIC NATIVE grasses and forbs, you should have a planting well on its way to self-sufficiency, stabilized by the diversity of its members. — Wendy Walcott (*Thanks to Randy Powers of Prairie Future Seed Company for his advice.*)



Coalition directory available

In the summer of 1992, well-known religious leaders and scientists gathered to address the "pain and helplessness felt at the crisis in the environment brought on by destruction and pollution". Direction for the powerful, new network came from an understanding that love of creation, and faith in our own personal and congregational powers would lead us in a curative direction.

One specific outcome was the Directory of Environmental Activities and Resources in the North American Religious Community. If you would like to have your congregation join the coalition or would like the directory write: Joint Appeal by Religion and Science for the Environment, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10025 (212/316-7441)

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BLOODROOT

(*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

Family: Papaveraceae (Poppy)

Other Names: Red Puccoon, Coonroot, Red Root, Sweet Slumber, Snakebite, Indian Paint, Tetterwort, Paucon, Puccoon Root, Tumeric, Corn-Root, White Puccoon, and Sang-Dragon.

Habitat: Rich woodlands and along streams.

Description: Growing beside a lobed basal leaf that curls around a smooth stalk, is a solitary white flower with a yellow-orange center. The roots and stem are filled with a reddish-orange juice that is unpleasantly sharp. The flowers are 1½ in. wide and have 8 to 10 petals (with alternate ones slightly narrower). There are numerous golden stamens (male part) surrounding a single pistil (female part). The leaves are bluish-green, scalloped, 5 to 9 lobes.

Height: to 10 in.

Flowering: March to May

Comments: This native, fragile spring flower develops and rises from the center of its curled leaf, opening in full sun and closing at night. It lasts for a relatively short time. The red juice was used by the Indians as a dye for baskets, clothing and war paint, as well as an insect repellent. Legend says that a bachelor of the Ponca Indian tribe would rub a piece of the root as a love charm on the palm of his hand, then devise a way to shake hands with the woman he desired to marry. After shaking hands, the girl would be found willing to marry him in 5 to 6 days.

Medicinal Use: Pioneers used a drop of the sap on a lump of sugar as a cough medicine. The sap had to be used sparingly when taken internally, though, because the roots are slightly poisonous. The rhizome was dried and sold as a stimulant and was reported to be helpful in curing rattlesnake bites. The fresh juice is caustic and has been used against warts.

At one time, Bloodroot was prescribed to clear mucous from the respiratory system in cases of chronic bronchitis, bleeding lungs, pneumonia, whooping cough, colds and similar ailments. One of the most interesting medicinal claims for Bloodroot lies in its therapeutic effects on cancers, particularly skin cancers. The Indians who lived

along the shores of Lake Superior were the first to use the sap on cancerous growths. One writer said, "Few medicinal plants unite so many useful properties, but it must be administered with skillful hands, and may become dangerous in empirical hands."

Name Origin: The Genus Name, *Sanguinaria* (sang-gwi-nair'ee-a), comes from the Latin word, *Sanguis*, meaning "blood." The Species Name, *canadensis*, means "from Canada." The word Puccoon is from an Indian word, pak, meaning "blood" and refers to the plant's use for dyeing.



Author's Note: The following quote comes from the June 1988 *Northern Nevada Native Plant Society Newsletter*: "A new use for Bloodroot has been found. Sanguinarine, an extract, from the plant, could be the most important discovery for dental care since fluoride, according to a recent issue of *American Health*. This substance interferes with bacteria's ability to convert carbohydrates into plaque, a gum-eating acid. It also blocks the enzymes that destroy gum tissue. A mouthwash and toothpaste (Viadent) are now on the market which lists sanguinaria extract as an ingredient. Unlike chemical-based anti-plaque treatments, the sanguinarine products do not stain the teeth." It is my sincere hope that this plant is being grown commercially and not being dug from the wild to provide the ingredients for this toothpaste and mouthwash. Since the habitat of our native Bloodroot is being destroyed inch by inch in our country, it is not as prevalent as it once was. As you walk in the woodlands this spring, please give it your respect and admiration—remembering it's role in the lives of our ancestors and how abundant it was when the Indians used it for their people. Unfortunately, our civilization has progressed beyond the point where we can collect this plant for medicine, dyeing or "fun things" like war paint and baskets. Now we must strive to protect it!"

Wildcare . . .

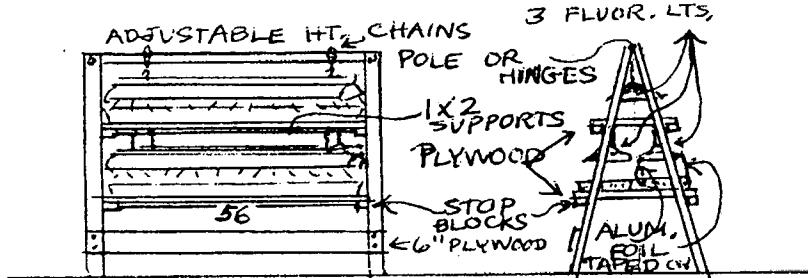
MARCH: BASIC CARPENTRY skills can produce special seed propagation shelves. Use chains at each end of fluorescent light fixtures, so they can be raised as seedlings grow taller. Once plants have sprouted, most seedlings need up to 14 hours a day of light, so a simple timer can be useful. Special heating pads give that recommended "bottom heat," & can be put on the same timer. No need for any special "growing lights"—regular fluorescent are just fine. Several spring gardening magazines feature drawings & photos of typical shelf arrangements—one in *Country Living Gardener* is an attractive triangular shape, wider at the base. If we can figure out how to hinge the vertical supports at the top, we may be able to make it easier to store it when plants are moved outdoors.

REMEMBER THE IDES OF MARCH means time for burning in parts of some prairies. Some fire departments need to practice: Ask!

APRIL: TAMARACK SELECTION TIME, by mail, phone, or in person. A very narrow window of opportunity exists for digging native tamaracks: after frost has moved out of the ground, but before buds break open. If rains hit or the digging crew gets the flu, that's it for tamarack-digging for an entire year. Even if you want to move a small one from one part of your property to another, this same rule holds. So, do your research on conditions needed: full sun and moist, but well-drained soil.

Try to see a few for placement ideas. There's one (planted "for the joggers" by Virginia Brennan) in the terrace between the sidewalk & Lake Drive, just south of Silver Spring. They can become quite large, 40' to 80' tall x 15' to 30' wide. The fresh green spring needles are soft as a baby's skin and the autumn gold is truly striking, especially in groves. Shapes can vary, sometimes they seem a bit oriental, but basically pyramidal. After the golden needles turn browner and then drop off, a neighbor will often come over to say, "It's too bad your tree died," & your kids get to say, "No, it's not dead, it's supposed to shed every year!"

BUYING TAMARACKS anywhere means politely avoiding the Japanese & European varieties sold in many nurseries, and tracking down the few growers wise enough to provide *Larix laricina*, also known as American or Eastern Larch. In the northern Milwaukee area, Fransee's Garden Center in Saukville expects to have a good number of them this spring & Art Lonergan (3048 Paradise Drive, West Bend, WI 53095 414/334-3812) might be another contact. John Lamm of Jackson, west of Cedarburg, does have a few and would probably appreciate a call as to size, etc. Pricing is about \$20 to \$27 for 1" to 1 1/2" diameter, 2' to 8' tall. NOTE: If you know additional sources for natives like tamaracks and witch hazel, please share them.—Barb Glassel



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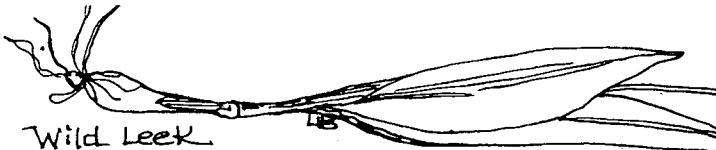
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Wild Leek



New ground rules preserve natural landscape in building site

When Gerald and Rosalie Cyrier first saw an unspoiled, heavily wooded half acre lot in Bedford, Texas, it was love at first sight. There were half a dozen lots at this site, all crowded with post oaks, blackjack oaks, American elms, Texas mulberries, as well as a lush groundcover of Virginia creeper. This was how this part of the state—the Eastern Cross Timbers—had once looked, before the invasion of suburban neighborhoods, shopping malls, and office complexes.

The Cyriers made two promises that day: They would buy the lot and build their dream home upon it. And, in doing so, they would preserve as much of the natural landscape as possible. The couple had never heard the term, "building envelope," yet they instinctively understood it.

Each year, thousands of acres of uncultivated, natural land—woodlands, desert habitats, savannahs, and prairies—are transformed into homesites. Some are purchased by people like the Cyriers. Most are purchased by developers eager to tap into a ready market of people anxious to escape homogenized suburban developments and urban congestion. The irony is that by the time the moving vans pull up in front of these brand new country homes, the natural beauty that first attracted the buyers—the character and personality of the land—has been destroyed.

The reason is simple: traditional construction methods focus on building the home and not conserving the property. Bulldozers scrape land clean of indigenous understory trees, shrubs, wildflower, and grasses. Often, a few shade trees are saved, but many die the first few years because of damage inflicted upon them during construction. When the home is completed, top soil is trucked in, bringing surprises of noxious, invasive weeds. Finally, of course, the property is landscaped anew, using standard nursery stock that has little or nothing to do with what had originally grown there.

The good news is that, today, all over the country, concerned landscape architects and designers, homeowners, and yes, even builders, are rethinking this destructive practice. Their response is the "building envelope." The term came about because the home and driveway are in effect "enveloped" by the surrounding natural landscape. Construction is undertaken in such a way that the integrity of the natural area is preserved; the home looks as if it had been placed gently down in the midst of its undisturbed surroundings.

One benefit of this approach is that a true "sense of place" is maintained; the home's landscape reflects the character and original look of the region. Another is that,

unlike conventional landscapes, the natural landscape reflects the region's character and original look. Another is that, unlike conventional landscapes, the natural landscape is a hospitable habitat for wildlife: butterflies, songbirds, hummingbirds, etc. But the homeowner gets one other enormous advantage by using the building envelope—very low maintenance. The preserved mature natural landscape surrounding the home is the easiest, most foolproof gardening imaginable. In its simplest terms, the building envelope is done in the following way:

1. The site is surveyed and divided into three zones: **private area, transition area, and natural area.**
2. The first zone or **private area** is the exact location of the home and driveway.
3. Next, a buffer zone or **transition area**, of 10 to 25 feet is marked around the private area. This is where all the construction takes place and where all the materials and equipment are stored.
4. All important plant materials that fall within the private and the transition areas are dug up, boxed, and carefully taken away for later planting. During the duration of construction period, they are kept on a drip irrigation system. Even the soil within the envelope is preserved. While this may seem an extreme step to take in the name of preservation, it should be remembered that the soil is full of nutrients and seeds that are natural to the site, and important to its future vitality. If a tree in the area is too large to be replanted, it is incorporated into the overall design, if possible.

5. The area outside the fence is the **natural area** and it is sacrosanct! All major plants within this zone should be tagged with their market values and their protection should be part of the contract with the builder. If workers destroy a forty year-old tree, the owner is paid the price of the mature tree, not the cost of a five gallon sapling.

6. When construction is completed, boxed plants and original soil are used to revegetate the transitional area.

While the building envelope plan adds about five per cent to total construction costs, this is much more than made up for by eliminating the need to have the property landscaped from scratch.

The result is a home that looks as if it has been set down gently into a natural, undisturbed setting. This landscape is extremely low maintenance and provides a welcome home to songbirds, butterflies, and a host of other desirable wildlife.—Andy Wasowski (*Andy is a freelance writer and photographer. He is co-author with his wife, Sally, of Requiem for a Lawnmower. The above article and the one on the following page were used with the permission of the author.*)

'Landscaping' costs found to be significant

When a bulldozer destroys the indigenous flora on a undisturbed property prior to construction, the cost to the owner is high. There is, of course, the lost aesthetic value of having a mature, established landscape in place. But there's also the significant dollars-and-cents value attached to the plant material destroyed—this is something many property owners don't consider.

To find the actual value of the original vegetation, University of Georgia graduate student Tamara Graham Calabria, under the supervision of Prof. Darrel Morrison of the School of Environmental Design, studied a residential community under construction—Newpoint in Beaufort, South Carolina. The land was still, in many areas, undisturbed and full of native flora.

Analyzing a typical ten meters square plot, Calabria found, literally, a wealth of indigenous plant species—canopy trees, understory, groundcovers, and wildflowers—over forty different species in all. (Contrast that to the five or eight plant species found in a typical suburban

landscape.) She determined the replacement cost of each plant, factoring in not just its size, but the cost of installation: labor, mulch, fertilizer. Because her study was conducted in winter, many dormant deciduous species weren't included.

The entire 10 meter area was found to contain plants with an estimated replacement value of \$18,000. Projecting that figure to reflect the amount of landscaped area on the development's quarter acre lots, the cost of replacing native habitat becomes \$58,000. Clearly, she concludes, it is prohibitively expensive to recreate a comparably mature forest habitat once it has been cleared. It is far better to preserve the original landscape.

To obtain a copy of Tamara Calabria's research paper, "The Landscape at Newpoint," contact Rene Shoemaker, The School of Environmental Design, H.B. Owens Resource Center, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. Include \$10 to cover copying, postage, and handling. — Andy Wasowski

Upcoming events:

"Yard Fest '95" will be held Saturday, March 18 at Glen Hills Middle School, Glendale, Wisconsin.

See Wild Ones' entry garden display for the Trend House at the Realtors' Home & Garden Show, Wisconsin State Fair Park (Friday, March 24 - Sunday, April 2).

Sara Stein and Lorrie Otto will be featured speakers at a Madison workshop on Saturday, April 1 at the UW Union. Call Molly Murray (608/262-5522).

Second Annual Earth Day Walk-A-Thon on Saturday, April 22 will raise money for free environmental

education programs for urban children. Call Riverside Environmental Center (964-8505) for pledge sheets and more information.

"Pitch-in for Port & Eco-Fest" is a clean-up day for Port Washington, Wisconsin (Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. until noon).

Friends of the UW-Madison Arboretum hold their native plant sale on Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. near McKay Center.

Lorrie Otto leads a urban wild yards tour on Saturday, May 20 from 10 a.m. - noon. Contact Riverside Urban Environmental Center (414/964-8505).



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Iron lion or lepidopterist?



Winston Churchill: part of England's natural garden movement

England has long had a love-affair with natural gardening. That long tradition is evidenced by gardens—both famous and not-so-famous. For example, Sissinghurst Castle in Kent is surrounded by a natural landscape planted between 1930 and 1961. Now maintained by the National Trust, it is probably the most visited garden in Britain. Another well-known natural garden is at Hidcote Manor where plants are allowed their freedom to grow and there is a wild area in the valley called "Wilderness".

Natural landscaping is being practiced today at some of Britain's most treasured landmarks. In Surrey, Sutton Place, built by Henry VIII, originally contained formal gardens now has a complex of gardens with natural features. There is a 25-acre lake that attracts mallards, tufted ducks, pochard, and little ringed plovers that nest on the banks, while mandarin ducks find a home among old willows. Meadows are left free to blossom each year with a startling array of wildflowers.

Perhaps England's most famous natural landscaper was Sir Winston Churchill. In the gardens of his country home, Chartwell, he created pools of water and used tons of rock to naturalize 170 acres of land which attracted wildlife. Around Chartwell's red brick country home fields with patches of uncut meadows and hardwood forests. The home and garden walls run thick with vines.

Of all of nature, Sir Winston loved butterflies best. He became a full-fledged lepidopterist, as well as statesman, historian, writer, artist, and politician. His interest went back to butterflies he watched while exercising in a camp yard while a prisoner during the Boar War.

During the 1930's, he made his land more receptive to butterflies by planting both host and food species. He planted lavender and grew buddleia. Early on he learned that native plants must be included in the landscape to increase the likelihood of successful butterfly breeding. He eschewed roses because they didn't provide nectar. Fennel was planted to attract swallowtails; stinging nettles grown for the Venessee butterfly.

When he returned to Chartwell after WWII, he raised and released between 1,000 and 1,500 butterflies yearly. He spend days gazing as they fluttered from flower to flower. The brick summer house was converted to a butterfly roost with caterpillars raised on wooden benches. Sir Winston would sit for hours watching the emergence of the chrysalides and then release them into his garden. One special, native butterfly was the black-veined white, extinct in England where it had fallen silent victim to the poison sprays used to control orchard insects. Churchill, along with L.W. Newman, pioneer entomologist, determined to use Chartwell to reintroduce the species. He reestablished a core population by planting hawthorn and placing nests of larvae in the host plants.

"How wonderfully the Almighty takes care of the creatures of his creation," he mused at age 75 while examining a pair of American oak silk moth cocoons. Churchill, too, took care of those creatures. He recognized the need for and beauty of the elements of nature and took steps to preserve and protect them. —Bret Rappaport



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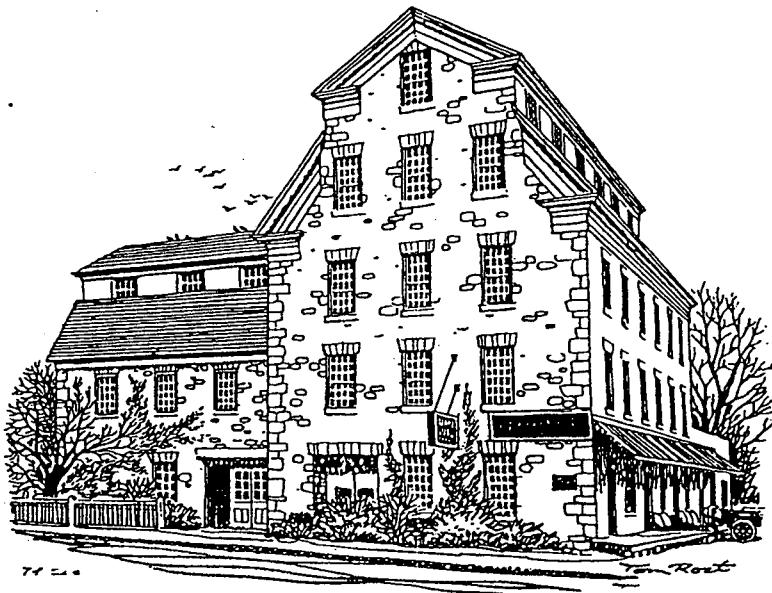
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Children involved in native plants at school

"Tell me, I'll forget; show me, I'll remember; involve me and I'll understand". This philosophy underlies the restoration project at Indian Hill School. There, where Karen Winicki is principal, native plants and the ecosystems they support provide a basis for study that the entire school uses. At a recent Wild Ones' meeting, she emphasized the commitment we should show to our communities to get into schools, spread the word, and support this type of project. The best time to teach children about the environment is when they are young.

In 1990, students at her school dug 110 wildflowers and planted them in prepared beds on the north side of the school. Many more plants

were donated or bought with grants and fundraisers. The youngest of the original planters will see his or her efforts are well-rewarded as the project enters its fifth year. More mature natural gardens have provided valuable environmental learning tools. Many parents have also naturalized their own properties.

Currently, a model outdoor classroom is planned on acreage south of the school. A bridge over a pond will feature a Plexiglass viewing-floor. Soil conservation will be taught via an excavation pit that will show layers of earth. Peep holes will allow wildlife to be viewed without interruption so more children will learn the importance of living with nature. —Jan Koel

Mailbox . . .

It's Saturday morning, I should be there. I've got my sweatshirt on . . you know the one. When my kids see me wearing it they say, "Will you be home today?"

It's Saturday morning and they'll all be there. Collectively sighing when they see another beautiful slide. This group celebrates nature's beauty every second Saturday and craves ways to bring it closer to their homes. I should be there!

Karen will tell how she and the teachers educate children in reading, writing, and environment. It has always been there, but now it's concentrated just outside their front door. Lorrie gives me some credit for the project but she did it 30 years ago when there wasn't a support group or a fairy godmother who watered, weeded, and planted when I was nowhere around. She was always there for me when I needed someone to talk to when things weren't moving fast enough.

Karen will probably credit a "neighbor" for the project. Little

does she know how much the "neighbor" learned, grew, and had her life changed by having the opportunity to contribute in some small way. *I really should be there!* There's so much to learn. I may have a pretty high energy level, but being with you gave me a new charge! I'll have to be satisfied to read about it in the newsletter. Just reading it helps me stay on track and be better informed. . .my fix of *Wild Ones* for another month.

It's Saturday morning and I wish I could be with you. You all gave me more than I can say. One of my new neighbors asked if I would talk to her friends about natural landscaping in a couple of weeks. I said, "any Saturday morning will be fine with me."

But today is Saturday and I miss you. By the way, did I say "thanks" for all you did for me? Hope so. I know I didn't say "goodby" and never will as long as there are those wonderful Saturday mornings.

—Deb Harwell (*now living in Kentucky*)

Wild Ones- Natural Landscapers, Ltd.

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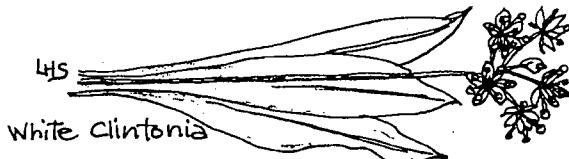
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Pat Brust 414/529-4101

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

The Outside Story is published bimonthly by Wild Ones - Natural Landscapers, Ltd.® Material for newsletters is welcomed and should be sent one month prior to publication to: Carol Chew, 8920 North Lake Drive, Bayside, WI 53217. Advertising: Joan Laux, 1739 - 11th Avenue, Grafton, WI 53024. Distribution: Delene Hansen, Art: Lucy Schumann

Please check your mailing label for expiration. Send a \$15 check (covers all in household) to: *Wild Ones, P.O. Box 23576, Milwaukee, WI 53223-0576*. Notify us if you move so we can update your address, as bulk mail is not forwarded.



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President's Corner . . .

We're electing our first regional board of directors

Happily, Wild Ones has grown substantially over the past few years. To this point, the original Milwaukee chapter has been functioning as the organizational hub for the entire membership. At the suggestion of our legal advisor, Bret Rappaport, we are restructuring Wild Ones to meet present and future needs and to enhance communication among chapters. This month we ask for your vote for a board of directors for a three-year term. The board will be comprised of nine elected at-large members plus each chapter president.

In August, this board, in turn, will appoint corporate officers for 1996—president, vice president(s), secretary, treasurer, program director, and

and membership director—who will implement the board's directives and guide chapter operations. The corporate officers will probably meet quarterly. If anyone is interested in serving in this capacity (one-year term) or wants more information, please let me know.

Special thanks to Delene Hansen for her help mailing many past issues of our newsletter. Also thanks to Nancy Eckstrom and Carol Wetch for volunteering to take over bulk mail distribution. Are there any other Brookfield area members who may want to help these two every other month? — Mandy Ploch

Please mark **nine** selections (you may write-in names) for three-year terms of At-Large Members for the Board of Directors of Wild Ones - Natural Landscapers, Ltd.

- Dorothy Boyer, (Cedarburg, Wisconsin) - Milwaukee Chapter Treasurer - School Psychologist
- Curt Crane (Germantown, Wisconsin) - Milwaukee Chapter Member - Owner of Sales Company
- Judy Crane (Germantown, Wisconsin) - Milwaukee Chapter Membership Chair - Homemaker
- Mark Feider (Glendale, Wisconsin) - Milwaukee Chapter Member - Science Teacher
- Margo Fuchs (Glendale, Wisconsin) - Past President of Milwaukee Chapter - Volunteer
- Lorrie Otto (Bayside, Wisconsin) - Milwaukee Chapter Program Chair - Natural Landscaping Educator
- Rae Sweet (Bayside, Wisconsin) - Past President of Milwaukee Chapter - Speech Pathologist
- Don Vorpahl (Hilbert, Wisconsin) - Fox Valley Chapter Member - Environmental Designer
- Rochelle Whiteman (Glendale, Wisconsin) - Milwaukee Chapter Member - Natural Landscaping Educator

Write-in candidates:

Name	Address	Phone	Chapter

Return by Friday, March 31 to: Wild Ones Vote, P.O. Box 23576, Milwaukee, WI53223-0576. Thank you.

LHS

Hoary Puccoon

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

Saturday, April 8: Josh Skolnick will discuss methods of CONTROLLING AGGRESSIVE ALIENS.

Saturday, May 13: NATIVE PLANT SALE and, if possible, we'll have a dig.

Saturday, June 10: HELP ME DAY. We'll visit yards to offer advice.

Green Bay, Wisconsin Chapter
Call Kathy Meyer (414/434-6309) for information about upcoming chapter meetings and events.

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

Saturday, March 4: WONDERFUL WETLANDS is an all-day workshop at Elgin Community College, Advanced Technology Center, 1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin, Illinois. Call 815/338-0393 for information.

Thursday, March 16: John Shiels discusses how STEWARDSHIP BEGINS AT HOME. Choices made for home yards should be a part of our overall care for the earth.

Thursday, April 20: Connor Shaw from Possibility Place Nursery will discuss NATIVE WOODY PLANTS IN THE LANDSCAPE.

May meeting: TBA Call 708/983-8404 for information.

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

Thursday, March 16: EARLY SPRING MANAGEMENT including seeding, transplants, garlic mustard control, and prescribed burning.

April & May meetings: TBA Call Josh Skolnick (815/234-8535).

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

Saturday, March 11: Paul Matthews will give a presentation on BACKYARD WILDLIFE.

Saturday, April 8: Jim McCormac, botanist for Ohio Department of Natural Resources, will share information on RARE OHIO native plants, including trees, shrubs and prairie plants.

Saturday, May 13: Ron Barnes will lead a workshop on NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY followed by hands-on learning session at the arboretum. Make sure to bring your camera and plenty of film.

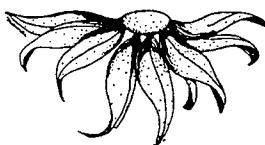
Fox Valley, Wisconsin Chapter alternates sites between UW-Fox Valley Center (FVC) and Oshkosh Town Hall (OTH).

Thursday, March 23 at 7 p.m. (FVC) Neil Diboll talks about PRAIRIES.

April and May meeting TBA but may include a burn or touring a natural area. Call Mary Hungerford (414/738-9525) for information.



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The Outside Story

newsletter for natural landscapers

Wild Ones - Natural Landscapers, Ltd.

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