

The Outside Story

newsletter for natural landscapers

Vol. 8, No. 3

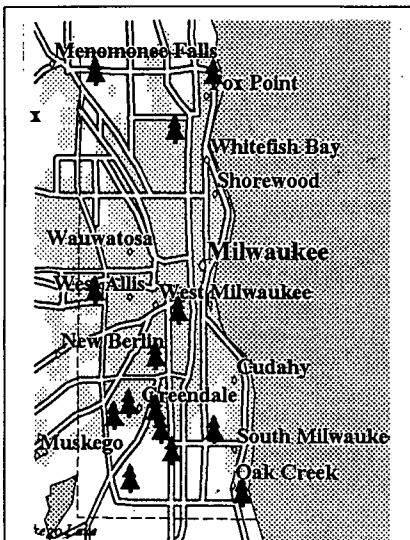
May - June 1995

One Dollar

Invasive plants threaten park natural areas

As most members know, Foreign Invasive Plants (FIP) are aggressive species from other continents that can out-compete our native plants and consequently reduce the diversity of both plants and animals in our natural areas. While FIP's prove troublesome in our natural yards, they are devastating most natural areas of the Milwaukee County Park System as my initial survey last year shows. Our parks contain the largest remnant of natural areas left in the county and, therefore, the ecological health of these lands should be a major concern for environmentally-conscious residents.

I surveyed 13 different parks on foot (one park was surveyed by Mark Feider and Margot Fuchs—thanks!) in widely scattered locations around Milwaukee County.



Map shows general locations of surveyed county parks which are marked with pine trees.

Because most of our natural areas are woodlands, I concentrated the survey mainly on the four worst woodland FIP's: common buckthorn, glossy buckthorn, honeysuckle, and garlic mustard. Their density was noted on a diagram of the park being surveyed and rated on a 1 (light) to 5 (severe) infestation scale. Then an overall average of the different levels of infestation was estimated for that park. Admittedly, some parks have minuscule natural areas, but they were surveyed, nevertheless, to determine if FIP's are present in all parts of Milwaukee County.

In brief, FIP's are found in all parts of the county park system and the problem is severe. Of the 14 parks studied, in only two (Cudahy Preserve and Falk) can FIP's be easily controlled since they are lightly infested. Three other parks (Grobschmidt, Franklin, Bender) require large amounts of work due to the parks' sizes, but it may be feasible. The other nine require heroic measures since the infestation is so dense and widespread. (Even a level 3 means that many specimens and a large seed bank are present.) Most county natural areas seem headed toward a future as scrub thickets of buckthorn, honeysuckle, and garlic mustard since even shade-tolerant native species are being crowded out. At the same time, of course, our wildlife and insect life will suffer.

Park staff acknowledges the seriousness of the problem, but admits that a volunteer work force is the only solution because of budget restraints and personnel shortages.

(Invasives, page 2)

Fairy tale or truth?

A shopping center that considers nature

Once upon a time, community activity centered around the "green," a large open space. Forced into extinction by suburban sprawl and the automobile, village commons were replaced by two of modern society's more pernicious contributions, the "mall" and the strip shopping center. In the words of Joan Baez, a shopping center developer lives by the motto, "tear down the trees—put up the parking lot."

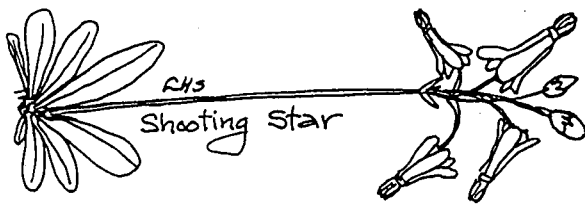
However, Bannockburn Green in Bannockburn, Illinois, shows that developers can accept the natural features of the land and work with the topography and vegetation.

Secluded behind century-old red oak, white oak, and elm trees, it would be easy to miss except for a subtle entrance sign. The main drive winds in a half-mile long path which terminates at an island of tall oaks and shrubs. A walkway, reminiscent of a covered bridge, leads from store to store. Halfway around there is an open park, two ponds, and a wooden wheel moving water from an upper pond to a lower one. Instead of concrete-lined drainage ditches, wetlands have been preserved. Cattails provide cover and food for birds and small mammals.

One tenant, Newport Coffee, takes special advantage of natural surroundings. Customers can sip lattes on a quaint stone veranda, set in a oak grove.

In a fortuitous turn of events, the center's natural landscaping fits within a larger prairie preservation

(Green, page 3)

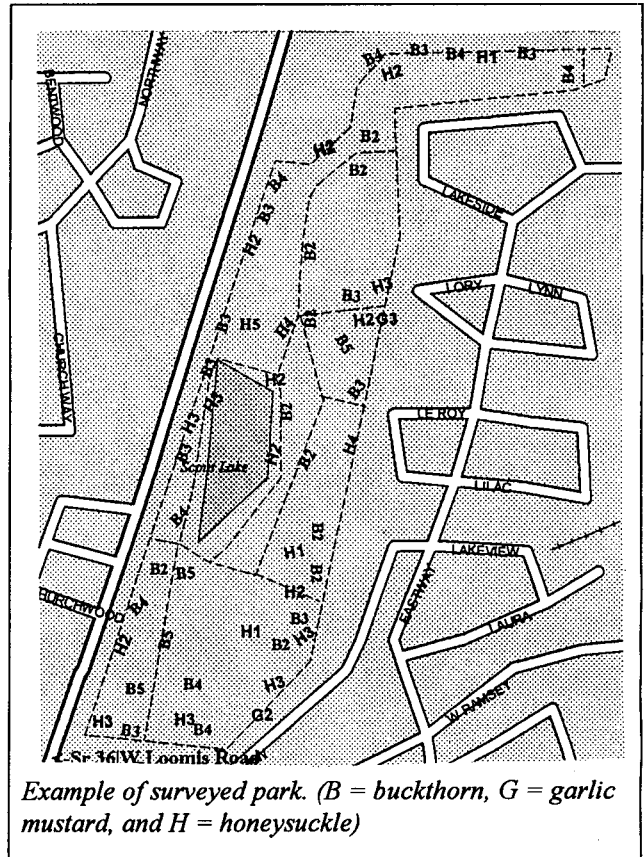


(Invasives, from page 1)

Concerns about the future of park natural areas can be sent to: Sue Baldwin, Milwaukee County Park Director, 9480 Watertown Plank Road, Wauwatosa, WI 53226, or call your county board member. I've been told by several members of the park staff that it is rare for anyone show interest. Most complaints regard golf courses, softball diamonds, and other recreational areas. Consequently, these are the areas that get attention.

As we all know, even the best naturalized yard is only big enough to be visited by a small number of creatures. If we don't pay attention to surrounding, larger natural areas where animals live, our own yards will be a little more silent.

If you'd like more information on how to identify and remove FIP's (whether you live in Milwaukee County or have concerns about parks in other parts of the Midwest), send a SASE to: The Sisyphus Project, P.O. Box 373, Greendale, WI 53219. — Ken Solis, MD



Example of surveyed park. (B = buckthorn, G = garlic mustard, and H = honeysuckle)

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the Front Forty . . .

One lament I often hear from those living in new subdivisions is the lack of mature trees. People feel that without them they can't enjoy woodland flowers. Well, we live in a new housing area, but we don't deny ourselves the joy of trillium. On the north side of our home, Curt planted shrubs far enough away from the house to allow planting of woodland flowers.

We planted arborvitae at the corner where there is a strong prevailing wind. Until this plant is big enough to shield flowers, I make an artificial windbreak with a five gallon bucket filled with water or a piece of plastic stretched between two sticks. My Canada mayflower (*Malanthemum canadense*) is so well shaded it doesn't bloom until June. It's happily multiplied from last year's single plant to five this year.

Food for thought: We know the first step to a natural yard is to give up pesticides, but what about fertilizers? Test yourself by placing one granule of fertilizer in a gallon of water. Would you drink it? How about adding it to 5, 10, or 15 gallons of water? When you finally hit your personal safety point, would you then think about giving that water to a child? — Judy Crane



(Green, from page 1)

effort by the Lake County Forest Preserve to restore several hundred surrounding acres, known as Prairie Wolf Slough, to native prairie, wetland, and woodland.

Preservation of trees and other natural features within the center area work with, rather than against, the adjacent Slough project. Marsh areas in the preserve will operate as natural water purifiers for the shopping center water runoff, helping to reduce contaminants, such as salt and road grime, before they reach a nearby stream. John Rogner, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department, believes that the plan will serve as a model.

As with all good stories this, too, has a moral. Developers are not all bad. Natural surroundings, trees, and plants can be viewed as assets. Aldo Leopold taught we are all connected—meaning a shopping center should be designed to work in harmony with nature. The lesson of Bannockburn Green is that shoppers, tenants, birds, and other critters can live happily together. — Bret Rappaport

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Lorrie's Notes . . .

In praise of disheveled parks

City planners in a neighboring community have been pondering the best use for 15 acres of land turned over by a developer. The area consists of wetlands, dogwood and green ash thickets, and an old field meadow with large trees.

At public hearings, use suggestions have ranged from developing kiddie playgrounds with adjacent parking lots for parents, to laying out baseball diamonds and soccer fields, to creating a nature preserve in this deer-ravaged landscape. Some secretly wished it be set aside for birds, since before the land was subdivided a short time ago, bob-o-links, meadow larks, song sparrows, vesper sparrows, red-winged black birds, and yellow warblers sang their songs here. Now there is only this surviving island amid monster houses and shaved, poisoned lawns. (Do birds have "rights"?)

Is there a city planner who remembers childhood rites of passage? Can we have places where young people learn about nature by experience? Today's children are thwarted and channelled by warnings such as: "Don't touch" . . . "Stay on the path" . . . "Watch out for poison ivy" . . . "Don't pick" . . . "Bees will sting you!" . . . "Ants bite!" . . . "It's too muddy to play" . . .

Imagine 15 acres of land where children are free to explore, experiment, and even suffer minor injuries in the adventure! Instead of groomed paths, they are at liberty to follow deer and raccoon trails or make their own. What about poison ivy? The resulting rash may be the badge of a young naturalist. We can only imagine youngsters finding stinging nettles and challenging a bully to touch the bristly-haired stems or a child kicking down a large ant hill to see what will happen. Maybe after getting bitten and running away, he or she will look back to see a song sparrow or robin seize an ant and rub it on its wing. At a nature center, kids can discover why ant hills shouldn't be disturbed, and why we think some birds "ant." How enriched learning experiences will be, if, for example, children recall seeing first-hand a close-up view of the mottled, spiny caterpillars that become red admirals. They may remember one of these white-spotted, black and orange butterflies hugging the south side of a black rock in early spring and warming their bodies before flying back to its winter hiding place.

If a children's natural park lacks rocks scattered about, surely a city maintenance department could bring a load rather than hauling them to a landfill. Children will use them to build forts or piles will shelter snakes or conceal a mouse being chased by a weasel. Pretty scary stuff, but a visit to a nature center can help kids learn more about these wonderful creatures. No need to be afraid of snakes, though, since we don't have poisonous ones in our part of Wisconsin. Three acres of wetlands should give youngsters opportunities to find salamanders, frogs, or toads. Of course, large bush piles could be added to this adventureland. Children might find long branches for a wigwam or small ones for a lean-to. Many youngsters delight in expressing their "nesting impulses" like this. On the other hand, a young boy could use the thick limb stub to sock a bald-faced hornet's nest. He may be smart enough to stand absolutely still as he watches his playmates run and get many, many stings. Big lesson. In the fall, he might discover that lethargic wasps can be held in his hands.

Lately, I've been interested in asking adults where and how they played outdoors as children. One woman told me she played in an empty lot and described her house of pressed-down grass and a path she made leading up to it. This was a quiet, hiding place where she could be by herself. Perhaps children living near the proposed park area need a place to "just hide" from the surrounding sterile landscapes of their new suburban homes. — Lorrie Otto

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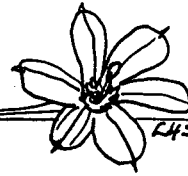
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Wildcare . . .

May: NEEDLINGS NUMBER—that's an estimate of the number of seedlings needed for bare soil spots in your natural areas. Cover those areas with chips or mulch. Back indoors, write that number down, but divide it into groups: sunny & shady, wet & dry, whatever helps. These "needlings numbers" are good motivation for spring seed collection. PRAIRIE SEEDS gatherable in late May include: pasque flower (*Anemone patens*), prairie smoke (*Geum triflorum*), and field pussy-toes (*Antennaria neglecta*).

SPRING-PRODUCED SEEDS should be popped directly into flats or outdoor seedbeds, skipping refrigeration. Because they are less work, they are a good school or summer project for children. Try to site outdoor seedbeds close to a downspout water barrel or other water source.

OBSERVE NATURE'S spring design patterns. Many spring wildflowers are singles and small groups, tucked in sheltered spots, tentative rather than showy. Others form carpets—but note edges drift and vary, petering out, mostly a single species, but dotted and mixed with others. Remember which ones mass when you collect seed, you may want to concentrate on wild geranium (*G. maculatum*) or bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*). Check Marie Sperka's *Growing Wildflowers* for seed-collecting and propagation tips. Many spring woodland seeds should be planted immediately, and some need to be depulped or nicked to imitate natural processes, or speed them up.

MAPLE SEEDLINGS should be identified early in spring; teach yourself, so you can pull out the Norway, box elders, and silvers. Preserve or share seedlings of giant old sugar maples. Larger specimens nearby may help I.D. Neighbors may try to raise bluegrass lawns right up to tree trunks. Stake out an area nearby to raise seedlings

under any overhanging limbs. Pile on composted leaves, add shade from fast-growing scrub ash or native viburnums such as highbush cranberry. This may take a few years, but a few sugar maple seedlings will achieve dominance, the rest growing slowly. I've plugged many wildflowers into my front yard wild area, but the sugar maple seedlings lured from neighbors give me the most pleasure.

NEWER HOME? Savannahs are the native plant communities which many "pre-enlightenment" home yards resemble. A few shade trees, and the rest fairly open and sunny. One approach to planning is to visit a few savannahs—there are lots in SE Wisconsin. Ask at a nature center to find locations.

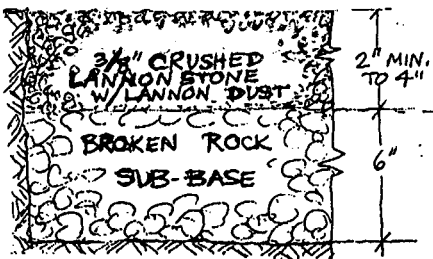
GRAVEL DRIVEWAYS are drastically better for the environment than paved ones. Before broaching the subject with other family members, do research. Be armed with none-but-excellent examples in your area. My favorite is a beautiful curving private drive off Mequon Road used by Trees for Less Nursery. Dick O'Malley's grandfather built it in 1948, with a solid compacted base topped with crushed lannon stone. Checked each spring for any needed fill-in, and re-scraping with

a small blade, this gravel drive is in enviable condition.

June: COLLECT SEEDS from alum-root (*Heuchera richardsonii*), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium campestre*), columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), two-flowered Cynthia (*Krigia biflora*), and balsam ragwort (*Senecio pauperculus*).

DRIER AREAS may yield wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*), and needle grass (*Stipa spartea*). Wetter sites could have swamp saxifrage (*Saxifraga pennsylvanica*) ready to harvest toward the end of the month.

CHOOSE only species appropriate to your natural area, from a site as close as possible, and with the owner's express permission—Barb Glassel



The driveway diagramed above is created by removing topsoil and laying a six-inch base of broken rock. Then a compacted mix of 3/8" crushed Lannon stone and Lannon dust is packed over the base to a depth of two to four inches.

KETTLE MORaine NATURAL LANDSCAPING



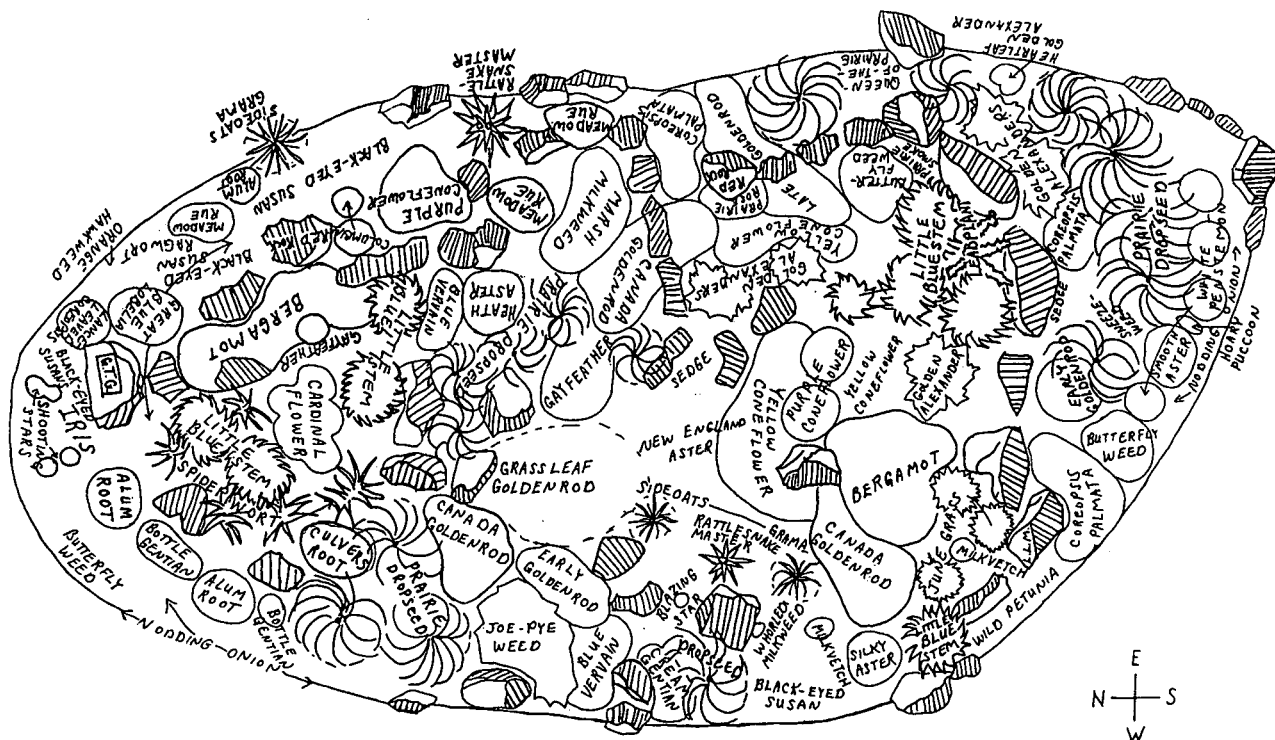
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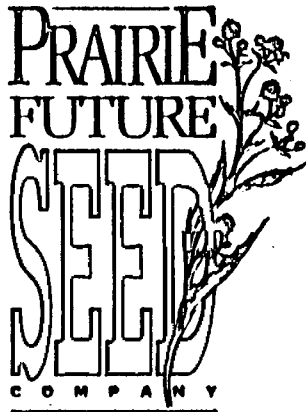
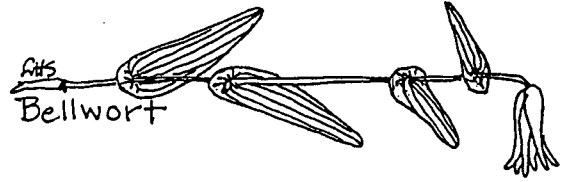
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To change the map, I place a sheet of tracing paper over the original map and trace the plantings that will not change. Then, I draw in the new plantings on the tracing paper map and photocopy it to produce an up-to-date map. For planning purposes, I tape a piece of opaque paper with drawings of tentative plantings over the area to be changed and then make a new photocopy of the map. — L. M.



Prairie Hill Area of the Green Tree Garden
Schlitz Audubon Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin



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Ways to prepare for a bulldozer alert/plant rescue

If you are part of a phone tree that alerts you to rescuing native plants endangered by road-building or other development, here are some tips:

Have a site at prepared at home, if possible. This means less work on dig day and allows prompt replanting when you bring plants home. For a fall dig, use your vegetable garden space to heel in for spring planting.

Allow for enough time and energy. Sprinkle plants with water, if replanting can't be done at once.

Note soil type, exposure, companion plants at the dig site and mark accordingly. Don't try to force transplants into conditions too far from their original situation.

Take enough soil so as to disturb roots as little as possible. Put plant into snug carton or bag so soil isn't disturbed during transport.

Wear clothing with long sleeves and long pants, sturdy work boots and gloves, visible colors if digging near a busy road, and cap with visor or rain gear, if necessary.

Carry sunscreen, insect repellent, drinking water, and a snack.

Bring brightly marked tools—sharp shovel, pruning shears, collapsible saw, plastic toboggan or rectangular laundry basket with comfortable handle which can be maneuvered over rough terrain. Also bring marking pens, plastic bags or boxes for temporary holding and an old shower curtain to protect your car.

Know what poison ivy looks like in its various forms. If you think you may have contacted it, wash exposed areas with Fels Naptha soap ASAP.

Be sure your tetanus booster is up-to-date every eight years.



Mailbox . . .

Thanks to Sharon Wank, Mary Lou Findley, and Wild Ones, I participated in a dig last spring. The North Lake site teemed with trillium, wild geranium, blue cohosh, and my great favorite, *Uvularia grandiflora*, bellwort or merrybells. The last time I went to the area was the day before bulldozing was to begin. Even on that final day, I found quantities of bellwort, a plant whose beautiful foliage makes it as much of a treasure after it blooms as when it displays long, yellow bell-shaped flowers.

I checked propagation methods in Marie Sperka's *Growing Wildflowers*, since this plant is rarely found in nurseries. Fortunately, her clear instructions are simple. Sow seeds when ripe, but be patient, for seedlings may not bloom until the third or fourth year. She advises dividing by "pulling them apart carefully and planting each separately . . . merrybells benefit from transplanting."

Recently, I returned reluctantly to where we had dug. A new blacktop road runs through the area, now "properly" graded, gravelled and barren. Pipes protrude in places once overgrown with native plants. Now I'd welcome poison ivy as an attractive plant. — Nancy Matthisen

Upcoming events . . .

Saturday, May 6 (9:15 - noon) Learn about wetlands in SE Wisconsin at the *Bogs, Bugs, & Bureaucrats* conference at the Milwaukee Public Museum. Pre-registration advised (\$2). Call 414/246-3724.

Saturday, May 20 (10 - noon) Join Lorrie Otto on a tour of *Little Wild Yards in the City*. Call 414/964-8505.

Saturday, May 20 (9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) See the Garden Expo at Amundsen H.S., 5110 N. Damen, Chicago. Wild Ones are co-sponsors. Call 708/386-9055 (information) or 219/659-2701 (registration.)

SOLOMON'S SEAL

(*Polygonatum biflorum*)

Family: Liliaceae (Lily)

Other Names: Seal of the Blessed Virgin, Sealwort, Smooth Solomon's Seal.

Habitat: Dry to moist woods and thickets.

Description: On an arching stem, hanging from the leaf axils, are several (often 2) greenish-white, bell-like flowers. The flowers are about ½ in. long, 6-lobed with 6 stamens. The leaves are 2 to 6 in. long, lanceolate to ovate, untoothed, stalkless, light green and smooth on both sides. They are parallel-veined. The fruit is a blue-black berry.

Height: 8-36 in. **Flowering:** May to June

Comments: A drawing of Solomon's Seal was found in a 16th Century herbal. The plant was known then as *Sigillum benedictae virginis*, or Seal of the Blessed Virgin.

Just as you can tell the age of a tree by counting the rings, so you can tell the age of a Solomon's Seal by counting the number of stem scars on the root. For each year, there is one circle. The language of this plant is *concealment and discretion*.

American Indians crushed the roots to make flour and made pickles out of sections of the root. Both the roots and shoots are edible if gathered in early spring. It was reported that the plant was used as food by the half-starved French colonists who had settled on our shores. Even today, some woodsmen eat the tender shoots, which are said to taste like asparagus.

Since Solomon's Seal does not grow in profusion, it would not be wise to gather it for food, except in an emergency. Even then you would have to be very knowledgeable on the identity of young shoots. The only way I can tell is because I have them marked and know where they should be coming up. Maybe the Indians did likewise.

Medicinal Use: Indians claimed that when the roots of the plant were crushed and applied to a wound, it would take the black-and-blue out of a bruise. They also used this crushed root as a poultice for wounds and skin inflammations. A tea made from the crushed leaves was used as a contraceptive, and juice from the crushed rhizomes was used to treat earache and sunburn.

The British herbalist, John Gerard wrote of the Solomon's Seal: "The root of Solomon's Seal stamped while it is fresh and Greene, and applied, taketh away in one night, or two at the most, any bruise, black and blew spots gotten by falls or womans wilfulnesse, in stumbling upon their nasty husbands fists or such like."

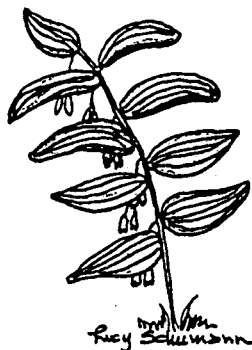
Name Origin: The most widely accepted origin of the Common Name is that it comes from the scars on the rhizome left by earlier flower stalks. These were thought to resemble King Solomon's official seal. King Solomon was a 10th Century King of Israel, who was very knowledgeable about

medicinal herbs. It was believed that he put his seal of approval on this plant.

The Genus Name, *Polygonatum*, comes from the Greek words, poly and gonum, meaning "many jointed," referring to the number of joints in the rootstocks. The Species Name, *biflorum*, refers to the flowers, which hang down from the stem in pairs (often there are 3 or more).

Author's Note: Solomon's Seal is not growing in abundance where I live, so when I find it, my adrenaline starts flowing—almost like finding a clue in a treasure hunt. I feel very strongly that if we are to have any of these plants left for future generations to observe and study, we are going to have to make an effort to protect the habitat our native flora need to survive.

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In print . . .

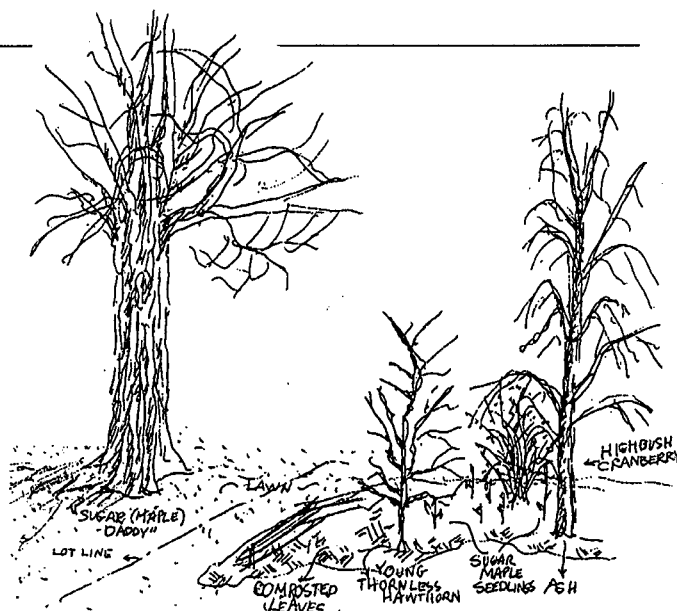
Move animals? An *Environmental Perspective* reader asks about the reappearance of squirrels he has relocated. The answer given is: "You shouldn't relocate squirrels or any other wildlife . . . moving wildlife may contribute to the spread of disease. A second reason is that the introduction of individual animals to a habitat already at its carrying capacity for that species sets up stresses to the entire population. In this case, for example, resident squirrels will fight the newcomer, disrupting their normal food gathering and storing routine. The newcomer's survival potential is reduced since even if it does find a niche to occupy, it isn't likely to be able to store enough food to survive the winter."

Risk factor? A study by University of North Carolina researchers found a fourfold cancer risk among some children whose yards were treated with herbicides. The study adds to the growing concern that home pesticide use may be associated with some cancers. — "Pesticides may raise risk of child cancers" from *Milwaukee Journal*

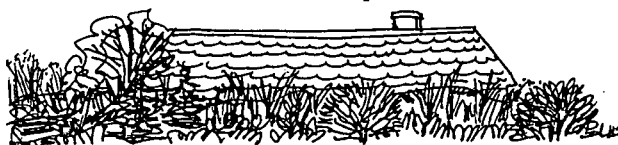
Learning to use less: "Groundskeepers from public schools, golf courses, and parks in the Milwaukee metropolitan area are being enlisted in a campaign to prevent pollution of urban rivers and ponds by reducing their use of pesticides and fertilizers. Nearly two dozen volunteers are expected to participate in a two-year effort, known as the Green Thumb Project, to learn to maintain healthy lawns without using chemical weed and insect killers." — *Milwaukee Journal*

Consider this: A letter addressed to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (and published in *The Waukesha County Environmental Action League Newsletter*) asks the WDOT, "Can you show instances where past mitigation plans have resulted in viable restored or recreated wetlands? . . . how (do) the results measure up in terms of water level, plant communities, invasion of alien species, etc.? Are there documents showing annual progress on these restorations?" The newsletter also notes the average national cost to construct a restored wetland is \$2,200 per acre.

Remember the Pesticide Registry? "In a report to the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Landscape Federation (WLF), Griff Mason, president of the McKay Nursery company has outlined a new role for the Forestry/Right-of-Way/Turf Coalition . . . Mason says this new alliance 'will provide better co-ordination of effort and greater depth of capability in protecting the opportunity to continue the use of pesticides in the very broad world of landscapes, lawn care, and right-of-ways as well as general agriculture.'" — Wisconsin Landscape Federation, Inc., March 1995



Starting sugar maple seedlings: Do you have a sugar maple on your property or at your lot line? You'll find the ground under overhanging limbs an ideal place to start these native seedlings. Barb Glassel nurtures them in an area of composted leaves and among young thornless hawthorn, ash, highbush cranberry, and other viburnums. Read more about it on page 5.

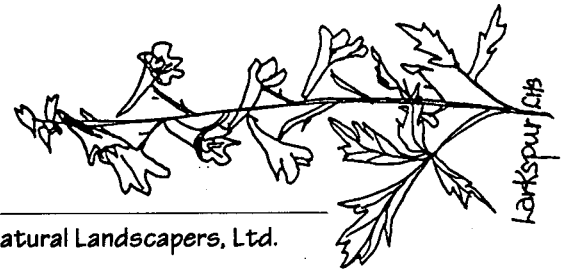


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natural landscaping using native species
in developing plant communities.

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Landscapers, Ltd.®

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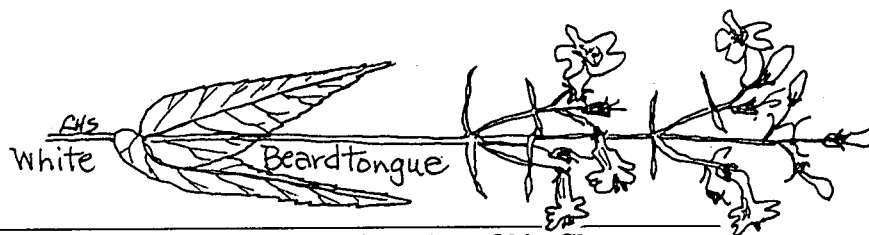
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Calendar

Milwaukee & Milwaukee Wehr Chapters: *The following meetings are for members only.*

Saturday, May 13: Meet at Indian Hill's School parking lot (Brown Deer Rd. & I-43) at 9:30 a.m. for PLANT SALE by Boehlke's Woodland Gardens and Prairie Future Seed Co. Want to RESCUE PLANTS? Come prepared for weather and with equipment needed for dig. Be prompt.

Wehr Chapter meets at 1:30 p.m. (9701 W. College Ave., Franklin) for WOODLAND WALK.

Saturday, June 10: HELPMEDAY. Meet at Schlitz Audubon Center (1111 E. Brown Deer Rd., Milwaukee) at 9:30 a.m. and we'll plan which yards to see.

Wehr Chapter meets at 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 8: Combined chapter FIELD TRIP to Kettle Moraine nursery in Campbellsport. Bus leaves Brown Deer Park & Ride/I-43 at 9:30 a.m. and the Good Hope/I-45 Park & Ride at 10 a.m. Back by 2 p.m. BYO lunch. Pre-paid reservations \$4 by June 24.

Green Bay, Wisconsin Chapter:

Saturday, May 6 from 10 to noon: WILDFLOWER RESCUE.

Wednesday, June 7 at 7 p.m.: Visit to Carol & Bruce Haskin's property.

Northern Illinois Chapter: Call Vicki Nowicki 708/852-5263 for program information.

Sunday, May 7 at 2:00 p.m.: Tour Virginia Umberger's yard.

Tuesday, May 30 at 1:00: Field trip to The Growing Place in Naperville.

Sunday, June 25: All-day trip to see Beth Laubach's Turk's-cap lilies.

Thursday, June 29 at 7 p.m.: Tour Pat Armstrong's yard in Naperville.

Saturday, July 22: OPEN HOUSE. Tour 6 - 10 yards open to visit.

Rock River, Illinois Chapter: Meets at Jarett Prairie Center, Byron Forest Preserve, unless noted.

Thursday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m.: Car pool to site of chapter service project (bike path in Byron). Bring tools to weed and plant.

Saturday, June 24 at 8:30 a.m.: Car pool to Nachusa Grasslands. Learn to identify and control invasive plants in prairie areas.

Sunday, July 23 at 9 a.m.: HELPMEDAY. Pack lunch and tools to trip around to members' homes to help with landscape problems. Call 815/234-8535 to get on list if you need help.

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

Saturday, May 13: Ron Barnes leads a NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY workshop followed by hands-on learning session at the arboretum. Bring your camera and plenty of film.

Saturday, June 10 at 9 a.m.: Field trip to Sue Nelson's home, 130 Longfellow Ave., Worthington, and then see her brother's garden in Oberlin.

Sunday, July 9: Private tour of a cranberry bog guided by a DNR official.

Fox Valley, Wisconsin Chapter:

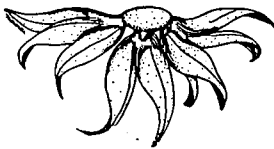
Wednesday, April 27: Dan Boehlke tells about WOODLAND PLANTS. Location is Evergreen Center, Oshkosh.

Saturday, May 13: Trip to see SPRING FLOWERS in bloom. Charter bus will leave Oshkosh and stop in Appleton to pick up members.

Saturday, June 24: Visit RIDGES Sanctuary and other Door County natural areas. Bus leaves Oshkosh and picks up Appleton members.

Thursday, July 27, 6 - 8 p.m.: Tour of Larsen Trail prairie area just north of trail parking lot on Winnebago County Trunk GG (W. Mears Rd.) Led by UWO botanist Neil Harriman.

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