



THE outside Story

Northern Illinois Chapter Receives \$5,000 Grant to Establish

SCHOOL PRAIRIES

by Ted Lowe

Wild Ones member and former AT&T employee

IT ALL STARTED WITH A PHONE CALL BACK IN FEBRUARY. Alison Pikus, of AT&T Public Relations Chicago, called me to discuss a possible project for the upcoming Earth Day.

Alison called me because she had heard that I was an active member of the Northern Illinois AT&T Environmental Club (located in Naperville) and wondered if we might be interested in collaborating in some sort of environmental outreach program. I told her that our club had not yet planned anything specific for this year's Earth Day, but would be very interested in working with her on "something."

A quick e-mail message to our 150 environmental club members found four more interested volunteers to help create some sort of program. We met as a committee and conference-called Alison to discuss the framework of the program. During the call, Alison mentioned that there might be up to a \$10,000 grant available to pursue an environmental outreach program.

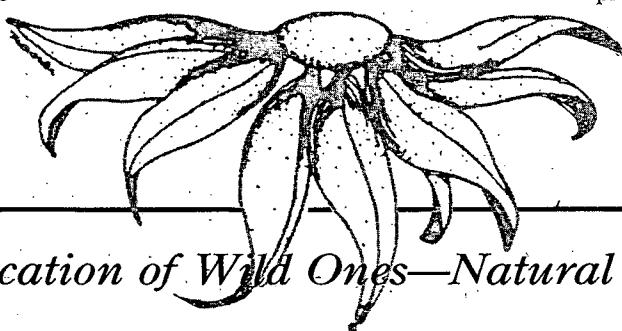
Our eyes lit up with the proverbial dollar signs (and prairie plants)!

Since our AT&T campus had recently planted 48 acres of native prairie on its corporate grounds, we decided to stay with that theme and continue the outreach to local schools. Our environmental club could not receive the grant, since it does not have tax-exempt status, so we needed to find a collaborative (not-for-profit) partner to work with. We selected the Wild Ones—Natural Landscapers, Ltd. and the Conservation Foundation of DuPage County because these organizations had very consistent charters, and we had good connections to people in these organizations as well.

Each partner received \$5,000 to administer the project. We worked as a team to plan the details of the project that was named "Little Prairie By The School." We used e-mail and word-of-mouth to communicate to the 7,000 or so local AT&T employees and Wild Ones members. Our initial communication identified about 20 local schools that would be interested in receiving up to a \$500 grant each in order to purchase native prairie plants and seeds for the establishment of a prairie on their grounds.

Currently, three of the 20 schools have already planted their prairies, with many others planning to do so soon. We are taking lots of notes and pictures during this wonderful project, so please stay tuned for updates in the future. Also, please feel to contact me if you would like further information:
(708) 260-0424, trl@mcs.net

wild onesSM



The official publication of Wild Ones—Natural Landscapers, Ltd.

The Common Council of the City of _____ do ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE PURPOSE: It is important to recognize that a variety of landscapes adds diversity and richness to the quality of life in _____. There are, nonetheless, reasonable expectations regarding the city's landscapes which, if not met, may decrease the value of nearby properties, degrade the natural environment, or threaten the public health and safety. It is therefore in the public interest, and within the purview of this legislation, to provide standards for the development and maintenance of the city's landscapes, whether corporate, private, or public.

Within this context, the city recognizes the peoples' rightful interest in the traditional forms of managed turf grass landscapes. At the same time, it also encourages the preservation, restoration, and management of native plant communities and wildlife habitats within its boundaries. It recognizes that the use of wildflowers and other native plants in managed landscapes can be economical, lower in maintenance, effective in soil and water conservation and genetic preservation, and may preclude the introduction of toxic pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and other pollutants into the environment. It further acknowledges the peoples' need to enjoy and benefit from the variety, beauty, and practical values of natural landscapes; and seeks to guarantee citizens the freedom to employ varying degrees of natural landscaping as viable and desirable alternatives to other conventional modes of landscaping. It is not the intent of this legislation to allow vegetated areas to be unmanaged or overgrown in ways that may adversely affect human health or safety, or pose a threat to nearby agricultural activity. In such instances it has provided remedies to deal with specific problems.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS: Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms shall have the stated meanings.

Landowner—One who owns or controls land within the city, the city itself, as caretaker of all municipal properties such as parks, recreation areas, municipal-building sites, and right-of-ways.

Stability—Used in an ecological sense, it suggests a state of good health and vigor; as opposed to one of impairment and decline.

Turf Grass—Grass commonly used in regularly cut lawns or play areas, such as, but not limited to bluegrass, fescue, and ryegrass blends.

Preservation, or Restoration Area—Means a biologically diverse area managed to preserve or restore native Wisconsin grasses and forbs, native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and aquatic plants; an old-field succession of native and non-native plants; or a combination of these.

Weeds—The following plant species are defined as "noxious weeds" under Wisconsin law (66.96, Wis. Stats.); *Cirsium arvense* (Canada thistle); *Convolvulus arvensis* (field bindweed); *Euphorbia esula* (leafy spurge). Two species are defined as "nuisance weeds" under Wisconsin law (66.955 Wis. Stats.); *Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife); *Rosa multiflora* (multiflora rose). Other particularly invasive, or allergen-producing species such as certain *Arctium* sp. (burdock), *Cirsium* and *Carduus* sp. (thistle), *Ambrosia* sp. (ragweed), and *Alliaria petiolata* (garlic mustard), may also be declared as "noxious," or "nuisance" weeds through local legislation.

This sample ordinance was prepared under auspices of Milwaukee Audubon Society, Inc. Members of the drafting committee were:

Don Vorpahl, Hilbert (Chairman)
Greg David, Watertown
Lorrie Otto, Bayside

Jane Carpenter, Grafton
Martyn Dibben, Glendale
John Vandlik, Milwaukee

Carol Chew, Bayside
Mark Feider, Glendale
Rochelle Whiteman, Glendale

SECTION 3. LANDOWNERS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- (a) This ordinance shall apply equally to all landowners, including the City of _____.
- (b) Every landowner shall be responsible for creating and sustaining a condition of stability of the landscape on every parcel of land which he/she shall own or control, whether this be accomplished by traditional means (feeding, watering, cutting), or by the preservation or restoration and management of native plant communities.
- (c) The ordinance recognizes the fundamental right of every landowner to develop and manage his/her landscape in the manner of his/her choosing, insofar as it does not present a hazard to the public health or safety, or to the agricultural environment. [Here, the ordinance should be crafted to speak specifically to such concerns as the use of toxic chemicals on lawns and other parts of the landscape; use of prescribed burns for maintenance of prairie and certain other landscapes; mitigation and control of mosquito-breeding caused by standing water in the landscape; the proliferation of gas-driven vehicles and other similar equipment used for landscape maintenance.]
- (d) Every landowner possessing lawns of the conventional turf grass type shall be responsible for managing the turf grass at a height not to exceed _____ inches.
- (e) Every landowner shall be responsible for the destruction of all noxious or nuisance weeds on every parcel of land which he/she shall own or control. The term "destruction" means the complete killing of plants, or effectively preventing such plants from maturing to the bloom or flower stage.
- (f) No person shall permit plants of any sort, whether they be traditional exotic or ornamental varieties, noxious or nuisance weeds, or native wildflowers, grasses, or woody plants growing on that person's property to invade adjoining properties.
- (g) It shall be lawful to grow native plants, including, but not limited to ferns, grasses, forbs, aquatic plants, trees, and shrubs in a landscape when these plants were obtained not in violation of local, state, or federal laws.

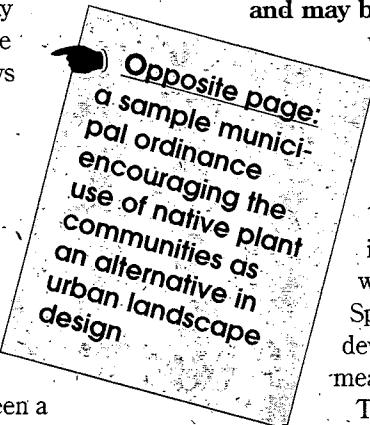
SECTION 4. CONTROLS: No commissioner or other agent of the (town, city, village, county, etc.) may undertake to damage, remove, burn, or cut vegetation on a native-plant preservation or restoration area, or in any other landscape for which that agent does not have management responsibilities, or in any other landscape incorporating native or non-native plants, except those species prohibited herein (see Section 2, Weeds), and except on order of a court of record following a hearing at which it is established (1) that noxious or nuisance weeds specifically named in the landscape ordinance exist in such preservation or restoration area or other landscape; or (2) that a condition creating a clear and present hazard to public health or safety has arisen; or (3) that the condition is a threat to the agricultural economy; or (4) that the conditions of Section 3, entitled Landowners' Rights and Responsibilities, have not been met. A court order under these subsections shall provide that the destruction, cutting, or removal of the offending vegetation shall be selective so as not to harm that vegetation which is compliant with the law. In all such cases, the cost of the undertaking shall be attached to the landowner's tax statement.

FROM AWFUL TO LAWFUL

Remember the days when people who shear and poison their yards would usurp power over the natural landscapers via weed laws? Those ordinances were used as conformity laws and were copied from one municipality after another, often amended along the way to discourage wildflower meadows and naturally graceful woodlands.

Examples are:

- a non-refundable filing fee** (a penalty just for *planning* a bird and butterfly habitat!)
- a map including a "detailed description of the vegetation types"** (would any board member know what they were or could they tell the difference between a silphium or a petalostemum or any other prairie flower?)
- no natural lawns within 10 feet of abutting property owner unless waived in writing, and any subsequent owner may revoke this and require the removal of an approved natural yard in a 10-foot strip next to his property line** (no rules for lawn people with their privacy borders of honeysuckle, buckthorn, garlic mustard, burdock, ragweed and poison ivy)



the village notifies neighbors within 300 feet of the proposed natural lawn and if 51 percent object, "the Village Manager shall immediately deny the application" (ahh, wouldn't the property rights congressmen like this one!)

—**the permit shall expire one year after issuance and may be reapplied for** (another \$25 fine—

wonder if a new official might suggest that they pay the nature lover a reward for not using well water or herbicides or noisy machinery)

Oh, how frightened those early officials must have been. They even imagined fire and varmints (undesirable wildlife) in our suburban yards. Ants? Spiny caterpillars or the hickory horned devil or the woodland deer mouse or the meadow vole?

The scary thing would be if we did *not* have a community healthy enough to support these creatures! What chance do they have in shorn, polluted, poisoned, noisome suburbia? Twenty-five years have passed since the Madison ordinance reflected the hysteria of the times. Today, modern statues encourage diverse landscaping [*note MAS example of February 1994*], and the fashion is bursting forth from landscaping books in all of the stores!

And Wild Ones, which began in Bayside, Wis., has now gone national. Wow! •

—Lorrie Otto

Don't let that membership lapse! You won't want to miss any issues next year

President Bret Rappaport has developed exciting new features for *The Outside Story*.

Beginning in January, your newsletter will contain recurring articles such as:

"Up Front with ..."—an interview or comment from a prominent person in the natural landscape movement

"Butterfly's Garden"

"Wild Ones You Should Know"—a bio about a member

"The Chapter Speaks"

"Book Nook"—reviews

You can also still look forward to Lorrie Otto's sage commentary and your other favorite columns, such as

"The Inside Story" and "The Front Forty"

plus...our chapter calendar and letters to the editor

Make a
'tele-visit' to
Lorrie's yard
on Jan. 25,
1996, by
watching
Wisconsin
Public
Television's
"Outdoor
Wisconsin."
Check local
listings for
times.



The Inside Story

Other Names: Ground Juniper, Fire-Tree (Greek), Low Juniper, Dwarf Juniper, Juniper Berry, Juniper Bark, Juniper Bush.

Habitat: Poor rocky soil, pastures, etc.

Description: This is an evergreen, shrub-like tree growing low to the ground, forming large mats; often several feet in diameter. The leaves are up to $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long, straight or nearly so, sharp-pointed and with a white stripe above. The fruits are up to $\frac{3}{8}$ in. in diameter. Their taste is sweet and pleasant, then bitter.

Height: up to 5 ft.

Comments: Although no longer generally considered as a spice.

Juniper is still an important flavoring for certain preserved meats, liqueurs and especially gin. In Sweden, a beer is made from the plant that is regarded as a healthy drink. In hot countries the tree yields, by incision, a gum or varnish. At one time the bark was used for weaving mats and for house building. In 1475 writings it was recorded that if a fire is covered with the ashes of Juniper, it will keep alive for almost a whole year.

Medicinal Use: A month before her child was born, the Indian woman made a tea of boiled Juniper twigs and drank about a half cup every

morning to promote muscular relaxation. This remedy is still used in some tribes today. The berries and twigs have been used for hundreds of years for sore throats, toothaches, fevers, venereal diseases, kidney and urinary problems, cystitis, improving appetite, relieving rheumatic pain, hair loss, and a myriad of other health problems. Juniper berries are also a good preventative of disease. When exposed to contagious diseases, the berries chewed or used as a gargle (in a strong infusion form) will serve as an effective immunizer. **Caution:** Do not use the first-year berries which are green and acid; use only the second-year berries which are dark and almost deep purple. They should be gathered in autumn and may be preserved for longer periods of time by drying or in the tincture form. For fumigating a room occupied

by a patient with an infectious disease: a solution of the berries, used as a spray, destroys all fungi.

Name Origin: The Genus Name, *Juniperus*, is the old Latin name for this plant. The first Species Name, *communis*, means "common or general." The second Species Name, *depressa*, means "depressed or flattened," referring to the tree's growth pattern.

Author's Note: Common Juniper grows quite prolifically in Door County. In fact, if one would harvest the Juniper berries, it might provide a substantial income. They are not cheap when purchased from a health food store. I can understand why—they are very hard to pick. With each berry you gather, you prick your fingers (rubber gloves are too bulky). I would not want to collect them commercially—it's painful enough for my own use.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN INTRIGUING, documented account of the mother of Elizabeth J. Barney who was traveling with a wagon train in the early 1900s. The story is found in N. B.

Lundwall's book, *Assorted Gems of Priceless Value*. Elizabeth's mother was about to die, during a pioneer journey, of a longstanding kidney ailment. The wagon caravan stopped because of her condition and made camp for the night, intending to bury the rapidly declining woman in the morning. A stranger suddenly was seen approaching the camp, and he went directly

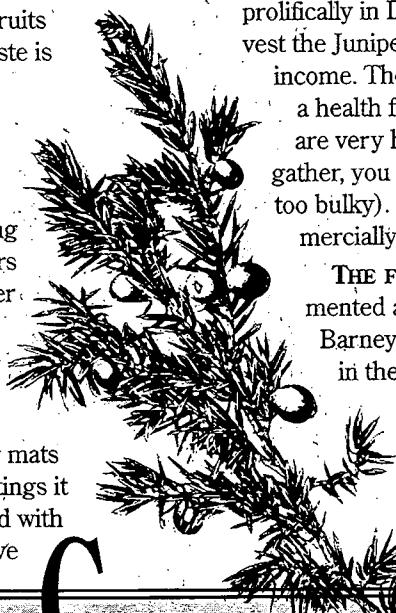
to the dying woman's husband. He told him he was aware of his wife's illness and that he (the husband)

"...should gather Juniper berries and leaves growing in the vicinity and mix them together, steep them and give them to your wife and you can be on your way within an hour."

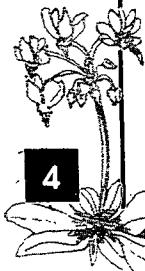
Then the stranger said he had to go, and at that moment something drew the people's attention away and during that instant the stranger disappeared. The prescription was obeyed, the woman revived miraculously, helped prepare breakfast, and continued on the journey completely healed.

The writer commented: "So you will find that these herbs will not only repair the body as with a 'divine touch,' but they restore our faith in the Supreme Maker!"

© 1995 Janice Stiebel



Common Juniper *(Juniperus communis depressa)* Family: Pinaceae (Pine)



Seldom does a book qualify as a reference manual, a coffee table picture book, and a good old read. Add the qualification that the author would also create a stunning television series of the same script, and you have come to understand the value of Sir David Attenborough and his latest creation.

Attenborough will tell you that you cannot "think like a plant" because plants don't think—but they do see, feel, count, have sex, communicate, capture prey, travel, gamble, sacrifice and struggle socially.

The point most people miss is that all this goes on in a different time scale than we are used to running.

I had the opportunity to describe my plans for a backyard prairie with this critically acclaimed writer/filmmaker when he visited, by phone, with Wisconsin Public Radio's Jean Feraca early in October on WHAD. I also mentioned the concept that a prairie takes a thousand years to 'hit stride' (which is, of course, why prairie remnants are so much more valuable than a newly established plot). Here is what Attenborough had to add:

"We tend to think that the world, as it were, is static—that the prairie is static or the tropical rain forest is static, except when we turn up and knock it down. But in fact hardly anything in the natural world is static. In the long eye of eternity, over centuries and millennia (as against months) the world is changing—lakes are filling up, cliffs are falling down, mountains are being eroded, and the population of plants that occupy these changing circumstances also change. So that a hundred years in the life of a prairie is really a flicker of time."

"After we have done the sort of actions which you described [putting in native seed], it will take time for the prairie to re-establish itself. But if there are a lot of local plants around, in time those things will get themselves planted, and in the end will survive the extremes of climate that you get in Wisconsin and win out."

The Private Life of Plants TV series premiered in the U.S. Oct. 9, 1995, on TBS, and commercials aired at that time indicated you could order the videotape and book package for \$99.98 plus S&H by calling 1-800-544-9090. You may also enjoy Attenborough's other popular books and television series: *Trials of Life*, *The Living Planet*, and *Life on Earth*.

*Sir David Attenborough has produced a new book and TV series entitled **The Private Life of Plants***



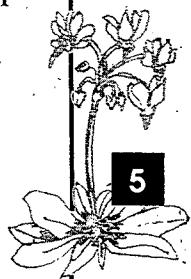
In *The Private Life of Plants* we expand our knowledge of the workings of the plant world beyond our American experience. While in this country we argue the merits of prescribed burning of prairie or forest for a number of reasons, I learned from Attenborough's book about a peculiar function of fire in western Australia's bush:

"As all the vegetation goes up in flames, great quantities of ethylene gas are released. This permeates to the heart of the grass trees and causes a major change within them. A few months after the fire has passed and the leaves have regrown, a vertical green rod emerges from the centre of the leaves. It grows taller and taller until it may double the plant's height. Then, along its length emerge a multitude of tiny white flowers. It may be the production of ethylene on a vast scale following the fire that cues the flowering of almost all the adult grass trees in the bushland."

Pretty fantastic stuff. This book gives you a good science fix, unique photos, and verbal ammunition for your next ecology debate.

—Joy Buslaff

The Private Life of Plants hardcover book is over 300 pages in length, and nearly every page gives you color photographs of rarely seen plant life. Published by Princeton University Press, the book retails for about \$25.



The Front Forty

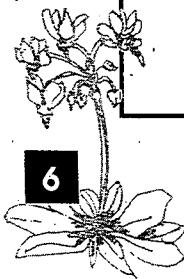
The metal of our native plants was really tested this year. Our prairie coneflowers decided to flower in July and were completely done by Aug. 1. When we needed sun, we got rain; when we needed rain, we got sun. We probably could have prolonged their season if we had watered, but that defeats the purpose of a natural landscape. We won't really know what damage, if any, was done 'til next spring.

Now it's time to start thinking of holiday shopping and winter reading. If you're thinking along those same lines, I'd like to pass on some ideas. For someone who is starting a native garden, how about Sara Stein's *Noah's Garden* or Stevie Daniels' *The Wild Lawn Handbook*. They are both great for beginners and old pros. If you know anyone interested in trees (and you want to spend the money), Gary Hightshoe's *Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines for Urban and Rural America* is an absolute must-have. Of course, you can always give a gift membership to Wild Ones!

—Judy Crane

Scheduled for Nov. 5, 1995, "The One Earth—Interreligious Perspectives on The Environment" is a program comparing and contrasting how different congregations put the 'theology of ecology' into practice. Held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 3022 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, the event is sponsored by the Task Force on the Environment and the Milwaukee Association for Interfaith Relations. Contact Rochelle Whiteman, (414) 351-2291, for further information.

6



WILD ONES MEMBER WINS PHOTO AWARD

Janice Stiefel, author of this newsletter's "The Inside Story," was recently awarded the prestigious Frederick W. Hainer "Best of Fair" trophy award at the Milwaukee Public Museum's 12th Annual Mushroom Photographic Competition. Janice has entered this contest for several years and has won first, second, and third place standing in all divisions of the competition.

IN PRAISE OF GRAVEL DRIV

One day, on one of those rare occasions when I swing in my hammock, I pondered my gravel driveway.

If I looked at it from one direction, I could see it connects me with my workplace, my grocer, my friends, and, in fact, the rest of the world. Viewed from the other direction, it leads to only one place—the doorstep of my home.

I pondered, from a more practical standpoint, the washouts I have to fill every spring; the hump in the middle that tickles the belly of my car, threatening to take off my muffler if I bounce too hard; the dust that somehow always settles on my dashboard; and the gouges sharp

stones make in my tender bare feet. I contemplated what it would be like to put a shiny, new blacktop cover over this dirty gravel—I wouldn't have to put up with the washouts, the hump, the dust, or the sore feet. And people would raise their eyebrows and exclaim, "My, what a nice driveway you have!"

But do I really want that? Should I make this drive a smooth connection between my doorstep and the rest of the world? It's the same little dirt road that has served oxen, horses, threshing machines, tractors, milk trucks, a Model-T Ford, tricycles, bicycles, and series of latter-day cars. It has served the residents of my house for 150 years.

Wild Ones is fortunate to have many members who are willing to donate their time to help in many areas. Since we are a totally volunteer organization, without such members' generosity, we could not continue to exist. On a national level we need assistance with:

NEWSLETTER REPORTING, WRITING, INDEXING

CHAPTER PROMOTION AND LIAISON WORK

ARCHIVAL AND HISTORIAN SERVICES

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICITY

MAILINGS

TYPING

Chapters are always needing assistance with short- and long-term projects and positions. Please get involved and help Wild Ones to continue to be a first-class organization by lending a hand.

—Remember: If you know of land development plans which will affect existing

This year's winning photo depicts the vivid colors of a pinkish-orange beautiful-colored cort (*Cortinarius callisteus*) emerging from a large lump of lime green sphagnum moss with the red berries of the bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*) alongside the mushroom.

Janice also won a first place position in Division II—Documentary with her photo of elegant stinkhorn (*Mutinus elegans*). All the winning entries were on display at the Milwaukee Public Museum's Mushroom Fair this past Oct. 1.

VAYS

Should I be the one to say it's not good enough for me?

I thought further. What else would I lose—besides a legacy—if I covered my driveway with tar?

I recalled some of the little episodes I've witnessed involving the creatures with whom I share this piece of gravel. Just today I saw two chipping sparrows taking a dust bath. After the last rain, a puddle served as a bathtub for a redwing blackbird and a drinking fountain for a robin.

It dried, barn swallows picked up wads of mud to build their earthy nests on the side of a beam in the barn. Every summer flickers have come to the drive to lap up a hundred or more ants with their long tongues. In winter, when all else is covered with snow, birds have found the grit they need to grind the seeds they have taken from my feeder (my gravel grit doesn't have salt added like that found on the shoulders of public roads). The list of creatures sharing my driveway goes on—butterflies congregate at the edge of puddles sucking water and minerals through their soda-straw mouths; mud-dauber wasps

gather wet mud to construct a nursery for their young; and painted turtles use the moist sand along the shoulder to incubate their eggs.

I wonder how many hundreds of other episodes I've missed. Certainly other animals make more use of this drive than I do. If I would cover this gravel with tar, I'd be taking away an important part of their life and maybe be forcing them to go elsewhere (if indeed there is an elsewhere). Moreover, if I lose those priceless glimpses into their world, my life would be poorer for it. The cost to me would be too great.

I shall keep my driveway ... gravel.

—Marlin Johnson

Marlin Johnson is Associate Professor of Biology for the University of Wisconsin Center-Waukesha and director of the campus Field Station in Waterville, Wis. He authored the introductory chapter for the book From Farmland to Freeways: A History of Waukesha County, Wisconsin.

ARE YOU TIRED OF MANICURED LAWNS?

[Survey reported in the Sept. 12, 1995, *Chicago Sun Times*]

Yes 54%

No 46%

YOU ASKED FOR IT...

...now it's here: a collection of "The Inside Story" articles by Janice Stiefel will be included in a limited edition book about to be published by Cornerstone Press of Stevens Point. Publication date is Nov. 21, 1995.

As *The Outside Story* goes to press, plans are being made to have the book available at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center and Wehr Nature Center bookstores. If those distribution plans don't come to fruition, you can direct your orders or inquiries to Cornerstone Press, 2132 Ellis St., Stevens Point, WI 54481; telephone (715) 346-2849. Cost is expected to be about \$12. The working title for this long-hoped-for book is:

*Selected Wisconsin Wild Flora:
Facts, Legends and Virtues*

Nature's Glory



UNBELIEVABLE PROPERTY IN RED BRAE FARMS OF MUKWONAGO

Sitting on the crest of a hill and overlooking 3 acres of glorious nature; wildflowers galore for an ever-changing spectrum of color. Kingsway-built cape with 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, atrium-like kitchen with wraparound deck, walk-out basement with wood-burning stove and a bathroom. You must see this stunning paradise! \$329,900.

W337 S9726 Red Brae Drive
Call Susan Dakins at (414) 789-9557

native plants, please contact your chapter president or rescue coordinator.—

MONET: THE IMPRESSIONS OF A NATURAL LANDSCAPER

How we view and feel about the world, and in turn treat her, is directly influenced by the world we view.

Sterile, 'landscaped' yards with a sea of exotic turf unfortunately constitute the world many of us view. Having to view such scenery inevitably yields, I believe, a sterile and uncaring population. But, it need not be that way. A world, altered in the last half century to create that monotonous lawn, can in the next half century be 'uncreated' to allow the native flora to return.

Strolling through the Monet exhibit at Chicago's Art Institute, I was reminded of the effect and power one person can have in 'uncreating' a sterile yard. You see, Claude Monet was a natural landscaper who transformed a worn-out country estate into a living studio which inspired his most-treasured works.

Although Monet had visited the small hamlet of Giverny, 75 miles outside Paris, over the years, it was not until he was 50 that he bought a homesite on the outskirts of the town. The estate had belonged to a rich tradesman who, consistent with the times, maintained prim and formal gardens. Bushes were clipped to a box. Two long, stiff flowerbeds ran along the main walk. Monet hated anything that looked formal, and the gardens, as they were, had to go.

Monet and his colleagues enjoyed a passion for robust, 'wild' gardening. His friend Octave Mirbeau once wrote Monet about their mutual love of gardening:

*"Art and literature are all nonsense.
Earth is the only thing that matters ...
I can spend hours at a clod of earth ...
I love humus like a woman."*

—Octave Mirbeau

Monet took to creating his living studio. Although the flowerbeds were laid out geometrically, the formality of the typical French garden was gone. Rectangles and straight lines of flowers were vanquished. Spreading areas of wildflowers, nasturtium, wild geranium, aubrieta and saxifrage fostered an endless visual rhythm. Foxglove, plumes of grasses,

poppies and eschscholtzias flowed to create harmonies of yellow, crimson, and azure. Although not necessarily all native plants, Monet's gardens radiated a wild, yet inviting splendor, paying homage to Nature on her terms.

Monet later turned his attention to a small pond where wild water lilies and kingcups flourished. Becoming perhaps the first water gardener (a now growing branch of the natural landscape movement), Monet began to remodel the pond and grew aquatic plants along its banks. A single arc bridge, without piers, crossed the pond. Weeping willows graced the pond edges, which were thick with iris, azalea and rhododendron.

The garden and ponds served as Monet's inspiration for 30 years, until his death in 1926. The growing plants, combined with the variations of light and seasons made the Giverny grounds a never-ending source of continuously changing subject matter. Monet was an *impressionist*—employing a style of painting that seeks to capture the instantaneous feeling visited upon a viewer of a scene.

One aspect of Monet's work that stands out is that he often painted the same scene at different times of the day or year. The variations of light left him with different impressions, and hence different paintings were rendered. For example, in an early work he painted the footbridge in whites, pinks and greens with primarily vertical brush strokes. In another painting, Monet reproduced the same bridge; this time using yellows, reds and greens with short dabs of paint. At one time his wild irises and water lilies were rendered in blues and purples, later Monet recreated those same flowers in greens and pale yellows.

The Monet exhibit dramatizes the splendor of Nature's flora and the abilities of one man to convey his feelings about it with paint and brush.

Natural landscapes, like Giverny, are special not just because they invite and accept Nature, but also because they inspire. Ever-changing yards, resplendent in native flowers, grasses and trees, present a resource to feed butterflies and birds, and to nurture the soul—a soul that can heal the planet.

—Bret Rappaport



—Editorial Page—

LAWN—

WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?

I AM SO FORTUNATE AS TO LIVE JUST A HOOT-N-HOLLER AWAY FROM GWEN ELLIS . . .

Years before I met Gwen, I had, as a youth, read her husband's column in the Sunday *Milwaukee Journal*. Mel Ellis wrote of forests and wildlife and pets. (Sadly, Mel passed away before more of us had the pleasure of his acquaintance, but you may still get to know him by his books and columns.)

What do you love—*native flowers, tall trees, birds, moving water?* Gwen's has it all. And I've analyzed what makes the views of the trees reflected in her fishing pond so extra special, why investigating an understory of bloodroot and wild ginger is so inviting there: It's *the paths* leading to these venus. Not narrow, single-file trails—I'm talking about generous swaths of mown grass, wide enough for two or more companions to saunter as they share the wilds. Gwen admits to spending a good portion of her time just mowing the foot route. As a visitor, I appreciate the work.

THIS YEAR I FINALLY BEGAN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING 2,000 SQUARE FEET OF OUR BACKYARD FOR PRAIRIE PLANTING . . .

When I asked Bob Ahrenhoerster, owner of Prairie Seed Source, what I should do to prevent a fenceline of lilacs from invading the prairie-to-be, he told me to mow a path between the two because that would chop off the lilac suckers before they could become a problem. When I asked him how near I dare let a prairie burn get to a line of spruce on the northern edge of our half-acre lot, he told me to mow a wide path to act as a firebreak.

So, this year we got rid of the riding lawnmower and just push-mowed paths and patches. The land's personality changed. New vistas arose. And we were encouraged to mosey around the yard every day because a path beckons you to follow as it wends around a corner.

Now, instead of thinking of grass cutting as a mind-dulling chore, I think about how I'm laying out a red green carpet for my guests to wander.

Still learning . . .

—Joy Buslaff

CHANGES

SEPTEMBER BROUGHT RESIGNATIONS from two hard-working Wild Ones members. Because of personal time commitments, both Editor Carol Chew and Membership Chair Judy Crane have had to reassess their priorities.

Carol has produced 37 issues over the last seven years and developed *The Outside Story* into the wonderful publication it is today. We thank her for her dedication and will miss her intelligent input.

Judy has toiled for the last several years to bring our membership records to a most efficient point. She will continue to serve our organization as a board member and a source of good suggestions for our operation. Thanks, Judy.

What initially seemed to be a crisis situation in finding replacements for these two vitally important positions was soon remedied by three members volunteering their time and talents. New member Joy Buslaff is a magazine designer who will assume the duties of editor. Ann Ploch and Nancy Behnke are sisters who will take charge of membership. We thank them for their willingness to assist Wild Ones. Both Carol and Judy will help to ensure smooth transitions.

Thanks also go to Milwaukee-North Vice President Dean Klingbeil and graphic designer Lynn Schoenecker who have designed a yard sign that promotes the Wild Ones' mission. The signs should be available for members to purchase at the December meeting.

Another graphic designer, Kerry Thomas, has offered her services to update and coordinate the look of other Wild Ones printed materials. We anticipate seeing those changes early next year. ☺

The Outside Story is published bi-monthly by Wild Ones—Natural Landscapers, Ltd. Material for newsletters is welcome. Please send typed manuscripts to:

Joy Buslaff
S89 W22630 Milwaukee Ave.
Big Bend, WI 53103

If material is to be returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

A note to Carol Chew from reader Joan Mosling:

*The Outside Story
is exceptional!
Thanks for all
the hard work!
Joan*



Lupine (Lupinus) is a host plant for the Silvery Blue butterfly.

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION SEEDS•SUPPLIES•SERVICES•SUPPORT

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DUES INCREASE DOLLAR SAVINGS!

On Jan. 1, 1996, Wild Ones dues will increase to \$20 per basic membership. The full amount of membership is tax-deductible. Subscriptions to *The Outside Story* are a benefit of membership.

Along with the dues increase comes an opportunity to assist Wild Ones on either a national or local level. All membership monies are split 60/40 per cent, chapter/national basis. Thus, by remitting your dues at a higher level, you benefit Wild Ones more and are able to take a larger tax deduction next April. Additionally, targeted donations can be made (and will be greatly appreciated) to the national organization or your local chapter.

GO WILD!

Give a creative gift this holiday season—a membership in Wild Ones. It will introduce someone to a whole new environment:

—Really Terrific Field Trips—Cool Friends—
—Informative Guest Speakers—Nifty Newsletter—
—And A Great Education—

A membership is a great idea for family, friends, neighbors, and clients. It could be a welcome housewarming gift. Give a membership to an organization or business to encourage their going native in their plantings!

THE MEETING PLACE



ILLINOIS

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER

No meeting in December.
November 18 (note this is a Saturday), 7 p.m.—Seed exchange and holiday party, COD, Building K, West Commons. Bring seeds, envelopes and food.

ROCK RIVER CHAPTER

No meeting in December.
November 16, 7 p.m.—Annual meeting, potluck, and seed exchange.

OHIO

COLUMBUS CHAPTER

Meet in Rm. 116, Howlett Hall unless otherwise noted.
November 11, 9:30 a.m.—Program TBA.
December 9, 9:30 a.m.—Annual holiday party and seed exchange. Bring seeds, envelopes and food.

WISCONSIN

FOX VALLEY CHAPTER

No meeting in December.

November 16—Mike Brander of Bubolz Nature Center will discuss bats.
January 25—Seed exchange meeting.

GREEN BAY CHAPTER

No meetings December through February.

MADISON CHAPTER

Regular meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month (no meeting Dec. 28) at the McKay Center in the UW Arboretum. Call Laura Brown for more info: (608) 274-9367.

November 30—Seed starting, seed exchange and holiday party. Bring seeds, envelopes and food.

MILWAUKEE-NORTH CHAPTER

Meetings held at Schlitz Audubon Nature Center unless otherwise noted.

November 11, 1:30 p.m.—Greg David, Prairie Dock Farms, will share his ecological practices in landscaping and vegetable gardening.
December 9, 1:30 p.m.—Holiday gathering and seed exchange. David Kopitzke presents basic info on native plants and natural landscaping. Bring seeds, envelopes and food.

January 13, 1:30 p.m.—Richard Barloga will tell us about the 40 easiest plants to grow in loamy clay soil.

MILWAUKEE-WEHR CHAPTER

Meetings held at Wehr Nature Center unless otherwise noted.

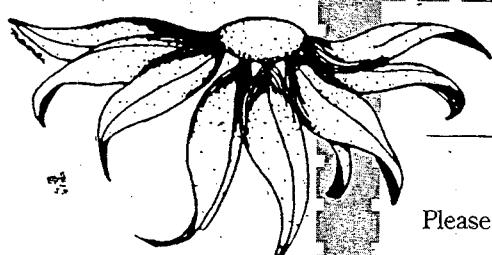
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Election of officers
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January 13, 1:30 p.m.—Richard Barloga will tell us about the 40 easiest plants to grow in loamy clay soil.

OF SPECIAL NOTE:

February 10, 1996—Milwaukee Audubon Society's Natural Landscaping Seminar at UW-Milwaukee Student Union.

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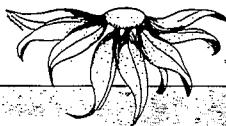
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Wild Ones—Natural Landscapers, Ltd. is a non-profit organization with a mission to educate and share information with members and community at the 'plants-root' level and to promote biodiversity and environmentally sound practices. We are a diverse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

Wild Ones—Natural Landscapers, Ltd. was incorporated in 1990 in the State of Wisconsin, under the Wisconsin Non-Stock Corporation Act for educational and scientific purposes. Wild Ones is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is publicly supported as defined in Sections 170(b), (1)(iv) and 509(a). Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

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