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now!

Wild OnesSM

Journal

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S NATIVE FLOWER EFFORTS

Often, when I drive through southern Wisconsin with my family, I remark how the natural flora along the roadside truly enhances the quality of travel. The presence of wildflowers indigenous to Wisconsin reminds me that I am indeed traveling through the great Midwest. When the roadside reflects what naturally occurs there, I can imagine the farms and fields that existed centuries ago before the development of public roads.

Natural vegetation along the roadside is a relatively new phenomenon that has been heralded by the federal

government. In past decades, roadsides were landscaped with grass. State Departments of Transportation spent a lot of time and money maintaining the grass, cutting it short and often. Another shortcoming of the high-maintenance grass was that it made roadsides throughout the nation look the same; without road signs, weary travelers would have no clue that they were away from home.

In 1973, as the nation became more environmentally conscious, the federal government began Operation Wildflower. Operation Wildflower is a volunteer cooperative program between the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., the state highway agencies, and the Federal Highway Administration. The garden clubs provide the seed and/or seedlings and the state highway agency supplies the land, labor and equipment to install and maintain the wildflowers. As people became more concerned about the

(continued on next page)



"VIGOROUS GROWTH"

Hello and welcome to our new Wild Ones members in Kansas who bring our chapter count up to nine—in four states! That, in case you're wondering, translates to about a thousand individual Wild Ones.

The Kansas contact person is Michael Almon, and he can be reached at (513) 832-1300.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

(continued from front page)


care of our Earth, it was only natural to begin to restore the natural vegetation along our roadsides.

Congress strengthened Operation Wildflower in 1987 with a provision found in the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act (STURAA). This act includes the requirement that one-quarter of one percent of a project's landscaping budget must be used to plant native wildflowers whenever federal funds are involved. As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I oversaw the further expansion of the STURAA requirement by mandating that all enhancement projects completed under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act be subject to the native wildflower requirement.

In 1994, President Clinton gave perhaps the biggest boost to the federal effort to restore natural vegetation along our roadsides. Based on Al Gore's National Performance Review, the President issued an Executive Memorandum recommending the use of regional native plants, less fertilizers, pesticides, and irrigation on federal grounds, lands, and federally funded landscape projects. In addition, demonstration and research should be analyzed to better establish and manage native vegetation in all regions in the country. This memorandum gives great support for environmentally conscious roadside decisions.

Federal efforts to encourage the growth of native vegetation along the roadsides is an excellent example of

how government can better the environment and save money at the same time. Wildflowers are beautiful and economical (low-maintenance) and environmentally sound.

It is a win-win-win situation. As a congressman and as a traveler, I'm glad wildflowers and native vegetation have returned to our roadsides. 

IN CELEBRATION OF LORRIE

All members of Wild Ones are invited to join distinguished guests to honor Lorrie Otto on April 27, 1996. Join us as a magical and memorable evening unfolds while we formally pay tribute to Lorrie, the heart and soul of the natural landscape movement! Wild Ones will be hosting the evening with a reception beginning at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. accompanied by tributes and 'story about Lorrie' with slides.


The cost of the dinner will be \$30 per person, and seating is limited. Please send in your check ASAP to reserve a seat. Make checks payable to Wild Ones and mail to Jane Carpenter at the address below. You may also call Jane at (414) 377-1087 with any questions about the dinner.

[Note: We are looking for slides of Lorrie 'in action.' If you have any, please send them to Rochelle Whiteman at the main P.O. box. Mark your name on the slide frames and we will return them after the program.]

THE OTTO EDUCATION FUND—Planting the Seeds of Hope

To honor Lorrie, we will select a school, educational institution, place of worship, teacher or educator whose efforts reflect Lorrie's life-long message of planting natural landscapes to foster a greater understanding of humankind's proper role in the web of Nature. The recipient will be honored at our annual dinner with the "Lorrie Otto Award." Along with the award, the honoree will receive a check from Wild Ones as 'seed' money to assist in carrying on their natural landscaping efforts.

The Otto Fund will be officially announced at Lorrie's dinner, and the first honor will be given in 1997. All Wild Ones members are invited to submit nominations.

In order to endow the Otto Fund, we invite you to consider a contribution. All monies donated to the Otto Fund will be used only for that purpose and, simply put, the more we have the more we can give away and the more good that can be done. As with your dues, all contributions to the Otto Fund are fully tax deductible. Make checks payable to "Wild Ones/ Lorrie Otto Fund" and send them to 

The Otto Award will stand as a fitting tribute to the ongoing life work of a wonderful lady.

JANE CARPENTER
RESERVATIONS
1937 CEDAR DR.
CRAFTON,
WI 53024

YOU MAY MAKE A FACSIMILE OF THIS FORM
IF YOU WISH TO AVOID CUTTING YOUR NEWSLETTER.

Please make _____ reservation(s) for the dinner
honoring Lorrie Otto on Saturday, April 27, 1996.

List entree selections below by number:

1—Chicken Marsala, 2—Poached Salmon, 3—New York Strip Steak, 4—Vegetarian Pasta

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____ Entree _____

Whether or not you attend
the dinner, we hope you take
this opportunity to send a
contribution to the Lorrie
Otto Education Fund

Amount enclosed for dinner(s) at \$30 each: _____

I (We) wish to make a tax-deductible
contribution to the Lorrie Otto
Education Fund in the amount of: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

My plan is to create a short, non-threatening, natural and native landscape that will be unattractive to grazing mammals. It saddens me to look over my deer-ravaged yard where once pink plumes of Queen-of-The-Prairie were interspersed with Turk's Cap Lily and flanked with other tall flowers and their attending insects. Most of the spring ephemerals in the ravine have been extirpated. The diversity and mystery of the woodlands which years ago so enchanted me are gone for my lifetime and perhaps for that of my children.

The call of the natural landscapers has always been that we match our vegetation to the circumstances in the environment: Soil? *Mine is clay.* Light exposure?

Mine is partial shade. Water? *Thirty inches of rain.* Drainage? *Variable, plus a Turfstone driveway.* Deer? *Too many.* What could I do to ameliorate the pathetic appearance of my tattered property?

Last spring we began with a long, serpentine path. Garner Owen Greaves cut the numerous flagstones and embedded them in a layer of sand thereby constructing a low-maintenance lane from the front door to the back with a diagonal out to the mailbox. One of the delights for me was its shape with its varying width as it swings from curve to curve catching the rhythm of my land. Years ago I had converted the original flat lawn into an undulating landscape by carefully carving low spots for Robins to bathe in after spring showers. Other areas were raised into shallow terraces to make the yard look more interesting in the snow, and also to sustain plants which respond to drier soils.

Now the new path has just the right slicing accent to knit it all together, including a crescent-shaped old Blommer bench. [*Blommer made the first ice cream in Milwaukee.*]

We scavenged last year's leaves from a neighbor's dump in a ravine, and spread them over the compacted clay. This made the yard look like a deciduous woods in summer, however, when the scorching heat of this 1995 season subsided and the rains came, we added the non-threatened, low-growth vegetation.

Violets can lose their blossoms to the deer because they have cleistogamous flowers which never open, but yet they self-pollinate and produce seeds close to the ground.

Wild Strawberries spread by runners as well as by seeds. I've even discovered seedlings in the squares of

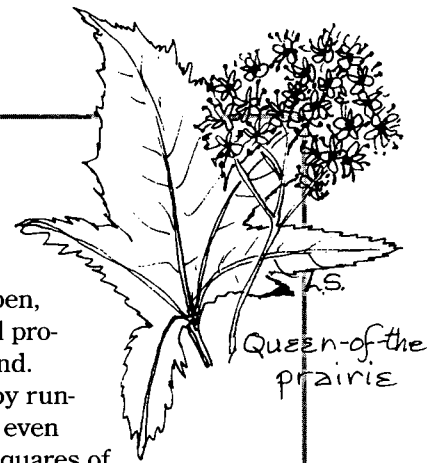
my Turfstone driveway! Cedar Waxwings no longer flock down to feast, and there are barely enough berries for chipmunks and the neighborhood children, but even with twin and triplet fawns here every day, the ground remains green with strawberry plants.

Virginia Waterleaf loses most of its flowers to the deer in late May. However, it is such a rapid, vigorous grower that we still can enjoy the white-splotted first growth of spring and then its burst of luxuriant green leaves which follow. When they die back in mid-summer, the poisonous plants of **May Apples** stand defiantly in place. **Jack-in-The-Pulpit** and others which fail the deer taste-test are: **Wild Ginger, Nodding Onion, Wild Leek,** and the iris leaves of **Sisyrinchium.** (I have just a few of these to accent the edge of the path). **Ferns** are also unmolested.

Today as I sit here writing, I can see the dried, feathered, fertile fronds of the Ostrich Fern and the blackish-brown beaded clusters from the Sensitive Fern, while the stiff little stalks of the onions and leeks with their umbels are making shadows in the snow. Lovely patterns scattered on either side of the 90-yard path. 🍄

—Lorrie Otto

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ... Park People, Friends of Milwaukee County Parks, are organizing to remove Garlic Mustard from Grand, Jacobus, and Lake parks May 18-June 9. Training sessions to educate you about invasive plants will be held at Lincoln Park Pavilion, 1301 W. Hampton, March, 9-10:30 a.m. or Sunday, April 21, 2-3:30 p.m. For more information contact Park People, P.O. Box 17513, Milwaukee, WI 53217 or call (414) 332-7275.



Queen-of-the prairie

"Land, then, is not merely soil; it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants and animals."
—Aldo Leopold



Think globally, act locally

"Humanity, in the desperate attempt to fit 8 billion or more people on the planet—and give them a higher standard of living—is at risk of pushing the rest of life off the globe. And that's really what it comes down to. All the other problems, like overheating the globe for a period, vicious little wars, nuclear terrorism—these may be forgotten in the centuries ahead, but not the depletion of biodiversity. That's the one irreversible thing ... (but) we're moving toward an era of environmental awareness that could be widespread and intense enough to make a difference."

This powerful quote is from Pulitzer Prize winner E.O. Wilson, a Harvard University professor of Natural History who has been called "perhaps the planet's most effective spokesperson for conservation" by the Audubon Society which awarded him the 1995 Audubon Medal for his environmental advocacy.

Although E.O. Wilson would never propose that individual initiative alone can affect global conservation issues, he is heartened by "the trend towards environmental awareness." He states, "There is a huge difference between environmentalism directed at the greenhouse effect and toxic pollution on one side and environmentalism directed at biodiversity on the other. With one, you preserve the house you live in—that's necessary, but it's just a holding action. On the other hand, the more we try to make use of biodiversity, the more material wealth [natural resources] we can unlock."

And what is your visceral response to the above quotations? My gut-level reaction is one of agreement, mixed with frustration and a feeling of personal helplessness to affect positive change. But wait, E.O. Wilson cautions that he does not want to be painted as an optimist "because people can't afford to relax right now ... but if people think that it's hopeless ... you might as well just write off the world's biodiversity ... that's the worst attitude to take."

A more proactive response might be: How can we tap into the wonderful resources and energy we have right here in our local, state and national Wild Ones membership? We may not speak in a unified voice on all environmental/conservation issues, but we can educate ourselves and each other with shared information on current pending legislation, court cases, seminars and workshops, petitions and academic opportunities. This column will be your opportunity to share information directly, and indirectly affect native landscaping. It will be my task to organize this input from our members into a bimonthly column tentatively titled "Think Globally—Act Locally." This may seem a well-worn cliché, but as a group, we do think very locally—as close as our back yards and

front yards, too. We encourage biodiversity, not only by attempting to control exotic invasive species, but also by attempting to 'recreate' natural diverse ecosystems. I would like this column to be an opportunity to present diverse resources that impact on that shared philosophy.

As E.O. Wilson has stated, "Environmentalists have been looked on as the dreamers of the world ... in fact they're the realists." This column is your opportunity to share information about some harsh realities in order to try to facilitate positive change.

This column will be your bulletin board for education and legislative issues—globally and locally. So send in your letters, clipped news articles or cartoons.

NOXIOUS WEEDS VS. NUISANCE WEEDS

Does Wisconsin have effective legislation that bans the selling, distributing or planting of nuisance plants? Yes and no. There are no simple answers.

I wanted to know if exotic, invasive species such as Purple Loosestrife, could legally be sold in garden centers. The answer to that was "No" as any non-native member of the genus *Lythrum* (Purple Loosestrife) is included in the prohibition against selling, distributing or planting nuisance plants or seeds of these species. However, the current list of nuisance weeds under state statutes is *very* short: Purple Loosestrife and Multiflora Rose.

Another chapter (23.23) in the conservation section of the state statutes further details the responsibilities of the Department of Natural Resources to control Purple Loosestrife (Cooperative Extension Programs). The statutes controlling 'weeds' falls primarily under the Department of Agriculture, but enforcement processes are inconsistent, confusing, and are often geared to crop production rather than habitat preservation, which is where the DNR is involved.

According to "Noxious Weeds in Wisconsin" (an article in *Agronomy Advice*, published by UW-Extension), the legislature has declared only three perennial weeds as legally noxious in Wisconsin. These include Canada Thistle, Field Bind Weed and Leafy Spurge. However, the law is open-ended in that any other species can be declared noxious: "as the governing body of any municipality or the county board of any county by ordinance or resolution declares to be noxious within its respective boundaries." Hmmm.

Well then, how come I saw an exotic invasive species, the Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), on sale at my local garden shop—for \$9.99 per bush. Is this legal? Yes! The Common Buckthorn is currently not regarded as 'nuisance weed,' i.e., not prohibited for sale as the Purple Loosestrife is. However, it is not on the noxious weed short list either. Confusing?

In response to my confusion, Ms. Kelly Kearns of the DNR, Bureau of Endangered Resources, offered to meet





This column will focus on a plant species that is valued by birds found in the upper Midwest.

Information will be offered on plant characteristics, plant requirements, why it is valued by the birds, and which species of birds it is likely to attract. Each submission will focus on a plant that is in its prime during the time you are likely to be enjoying this publication. Our first winner is:

AMERICAN Highbush CRANBERRY (*Viburnum trilobum*)

Late winter and early spring offer the greatest challenges to avian friends as this is the time when natural food is at its shortest supply. Highbush Cranberry is most attractive precisely at this time. Repeated freezes and thaws help make this shrub's berries palatable. The berries are persistent into March and April when the last of winter's wrath can take a toll on birds with our last snowstorms of the season. The importance of plants that provide food and shelter during this crucial time cannot be underestimated.

Characteristics: American Highbush Cranberry is a low-growing shrub that may be pruned easily. Foliage is an attractive deep green. Flowers are fragrant, white and a welcome sight to any early arriving hummingbirds. This shrub can provide windbreak benefits, serve as an ornamental species, help control erosion, and serve

as birds' protection from predators. One additional plus is deer do not find it to be one of their favorite meals. Viburnums can be maintained to almost any height, but at most may grow to a height of about 15 feet. These shrubs seem to look most appealing when planted in natural-looking clumps of three, five, or seven plants.

This Plant Needs: Full sun to partial shade, but will tolerate moisture conditions anywhere from wet to dry. American Highbush Cranberries can tolerate all that Wisconsin winters can throw at them and are rated past planting Zone 3.

Who Benefits: Many forms of wildlife enjoy the dense cover these shrubs provide. But to be specific: Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Eastern Bluebirds, wintering Hermit Thrushes, Northern Bobwhites, Cardinals, Northern Flickers, House and Purple Finch, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and White-throated Sparrows all can be helped by viburnums.

Brown Thrashers, Catbirds, Robins and Cardinals have also been known to nest in these shrubs.

One additional note that pertains to Cardinals—Northern Cardinal males seem to have benefited from the carotid chemical in these bright red berries. Males seem to have developed brighter plumage, and therefore, been more successful in attracting healthy available female Cardinals. This is one factor in the range expansion and population increase in one of our favorite backyard birds.

The bottom line is if you have the space, make a place for this colorful, fragrant, bird-friendly shrub. The birds will let you know just how much they appreciate it, by filling your yard with enough color and song to brighten even the darkest of late winter days. —Steve Mahler

This column is written by Steve Mahler, owner of The Wild Bird Center, Menomonee Falls, Wis. Steve welcomes your comments and suggestions at (414) 255-9955.

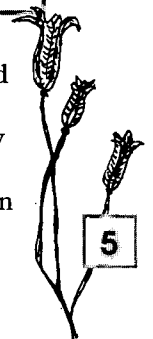
with members of Wild Ones who would like to further educate themselves regarding noxious vs. nuisance weeds to a goal of broadening and strengthening—and clarifying—present statutes.

It has been proposed that a Public Awareness Committee be formed to address these issues that impact on native landscaping/biodiversity philosophies. Each chapter could elect a chairperson who would organize members who would like to work on these types of proactive projects. At a proposed educational seminar, possi-

bly at the state meeting, Ms. Kearns has offered to work with these committee chairs/members to prioritize and strategize. What an opportunity to learn more about more effective control of noxious/nuisance weeds. If you are interested in being a member of the Public Awareness Committee in your chapter, please contact me.

Mary Kedzie

Wild Ones Journal, 4820 Gunderson Road
Waterford, WI 53185



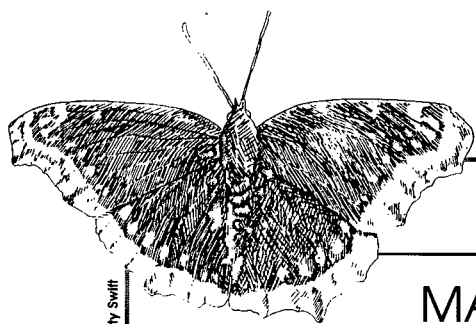


Illustration: Betty Swift

Butterfly's garden

MAGNIFICENT MOURNING CLOAK

"Flashing open its bark-black cowl, the butterfly revealed its inner wings—maroon and chocolate, blue spotted, with a butter-yellow border ... Gliding in and out of the dappled shade of cottonwoods, this chimerical creature appeared, disappeared, and reappeared. I followed it back and forth, its wings closing into ashes, spreading into live cinders, and seeming to pause before my eyes momentarily as if it were mounted on the air."

—Robert Michael Pyle, *The Thunder Tree*, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1993

Although writer/naturalist Pyle writes of a boyhood experience in Colorado, he's spent many hours watching butterflies in the Northwest. We share a fondness for a ravine in north Seattle where Mourning Cloak butterflies are abundant each spring. What accounts for his lyrical tribute to this particular butterfly?

More than other species, the Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*) wears an aura of majesty and mystery. Perhaps it's the name, conjuring up an image of a dark-garbed creature gliding silently by.

But there are other names, too, suggestive of a different reaction: Yellow Edge, Camberwell Beauty, and (most fanciful) the Grand Surprise. Resting against a tree with its wings folded, the Mourning Cloak is well camouflaged. Its ragged wing edge and mottled underside open up to reveal a rich purplish-brown hue, bordered by blue spots and a yellow band—truly a grand surprise!

The Mourning Cloak has other surprises to offer, as you know if you've ever witnessed one flying around on a warm winter day. The brush-footed* butterfly hibernates as an adult, with the unusual lifespan of 10 months or more. Look for Mourning Cloaks in winter under the eaves of houses and sheds, in a wood pile or brush pile.

When the tattered survivors from last sum-

mer come out in the spring, they're as likely to dine on tree sap as on flower nectar. Break off a twig of oak, maple or birch to release the scent of sap if you want to draw them to your yard's edge. For the occasional winter visitor, an early-blooming shrub like Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis* sp.) or Pussy Willow (*Salix discolor*) can be a potent attractant.

Time is critical to the awakening butterflies, who need to mate during the brief couple of weeks left to them. Males establish their territory near a clearing and perch on a branch to await passing females. Strong fliers, they chase away other butterflies and even birds. They prefer to stay at woods' edge, where tree sap is plentiful, but may visit gardens to sip nectar from Milkweed (*Asclepias* sp.) or Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*). They're also fond of rotting fruit, even carrion and animal scat (because of their long lifespan, they need the additional nutrients).

After mating, females lay clusters of eggs around branches of Willow, Elm, Cottonwood, Birch, Poplar, Aspen, Hackberry, and Hawthorn. The resulting spiny, black/orange caterpillars then eat with abandon, often lining up in groups along a leaf edge. They have been known to defoliate entire trees; move them to another spot if their greedy appetites threaten the host plant. Their conspicuous markings and spines serve as a warning to birds to look for dinner elsewhere, but also make the caterpillars easier to spot.

When the larvae are about to pupate, they become restless and march off in all directions. After an hour or so, they look for something vertical—a tree, wall, or fencepost. They climb up, attach themselves and form a chrysalis. Light brown and thorny, the solitary chrysalis is as well camouflaged as the larva was conspicuous.

In about two weeks, a new generation of Mourning Cloaks begins a cycle which may or may not carry the individual butterflies into the next spring. Common throughout most of North America, the species produces one to three generations per year, depending on locale.

Here in my wooded ravine, I'm awaiting these Rip van Winkles of the butterfly world. I'll happily spend a spring afternoon watching them glide along the trail, as they look for love and a sunny spot to bask away their final days. ☼

—Claire Hagen Dole

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*Brush-footed butterflies are so named because their shortened forelegs are covered with tiny hairs. They're members of the large family Nymphalidae, which includes tortoiseshells, anglewings, admirals, fritillaries, painted ladies and crescents, among others.

SPRING BEAUTY

(*Claytonia virginica*)

Family: Portulacaceae (Purslane)

Other Names: Mayflower, Grass-Flower, Good Morning Spring, Wild Potato, Fairy Buds, and Ground Nut.

Habitat: Rich woods, thickets and clearings.

Description: This plant grows quite close to the ground. There is usually a single pair of leaves midway up the stem; they are opposite, dark green, linear, and tapering at both ends. The pink or whitish flowers, striped with pink, bloom in loose clusters. They have two sepals, five petals and five stamens with pink anthers. Preferring light, they close up at night and during cloudy weather. The fruit is a short three-valved capsule which contains several tiny, shiny black seeds enclosed by the two sepals. Sometimes the seeds can be propelled with enough force to carry them inches from the plant itself. **Flowering:** March-May

Comments: Spring Beauty is the embodiment of the spring flower. It is dainty, fragrant and delicately lovely. The flowers and leaves are eaten by elk, moose, deer, and sheep. The edible roots are also tasty, not only to people but to rodents and, in the west, Grizzly Bears. Used raw, they have a sharp taste like radishes. However, when boiled or baked, they have the flavor and texture of baked potatoes. They have been described as being a cross between a very good baked potato and roasted chestnuts. Due to the plant's dwindling habitat and the pressure of feasting deer and rodents it is best not to use this plant as a food source, unless you are on the verge of starvation or trying to survive in the wilderness.

Spring Beauty's chromosomes have been studied and researched by botanists. Chromosomes carry the genes or units of inheritance of an organism. This plant is peculiar because the number of chromosomes it carries varies substantially, in contrast to most organisms where the number is constant.

Medicinal Use: There is no known medicinal use.

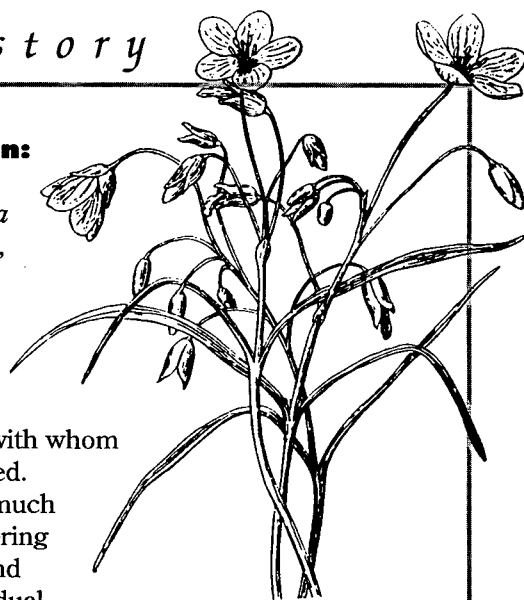
Name Origin:

The genus name, *Claytonia* (clay-TOE-ni-a), was given by Linnaeus in honor of early American botanist, John Clayton, with whom he corresponded. Clayton spent much of his life gathering plants, seeds and studying individual plants. Many of his specimens were sent to England and other parts of Europe, eventually being included in his *Flora of Virginia*, published in 1743 by Dutch botanist Johann Gronovius. Today those specimens are in the British Museum. Clayton died in 1773, but his name will live on in our memory each time we encounter a Spring Beauty blossom. The species name, *virginica*, means "from Virginia."

Author's Note: For many years, as I drove along the highway in early spring, I admired a spectacular stand of Spring Beauties decorating the floor of a local woodland. One year they were so enticing that I stopped the car, gathered my camera and tripod, climbed the farmer's fence, and strolled among the thousands of flowers. I was careful to watch my steps so as to not damage any of the delicate plants. They were a sight to behold and I didn't want to leave. I remember thinking, "How can I preserve this wonderful phenomena of nature for future generations to admire," as I was at that moment in time.

Unfortunately, last spring I noticed that the woodland was taken over by junked cars, old farm machinery and cows wandering around looking for something to eat. I believe there was even a cow watering tank added to the mess a few months later. The Spring Beauties were replaced by man's progress. Since they couldn't speak and they had no one to fight for their survival, they disappeared into oblivion, like so many of life's simple pleasures. I have often wondered if I was the only one who noticed their demise. ☹️

© 1996 Janice Stiefel—Plymouth, Wis.



"Every single species of the animal kingdom challenges us with all, or nearly all, the mysteries of life."
—Karl von Frisch



"Future historians may well be amazed by our distorted sense of proportion. How could intelligent beings seek to control a few unwanted species by a method that brought the threat of disease and death even to their own kind?"

—Rachel Carson

CALL TODAY!

In Wisconsin, the **Landscape Pesticide Application Advance Notification Registry** provides a chance for renters and homeowners to be told in advance of landscape pesticide applications being made by lawn or landscape companies—allowing you to close windows, confine pets or children indoors, and keep laundry off the line. All you have to do is provide a list of any properties on your block or adjoining blocks that you want prenotification of landscape pesticide applications. If a company applies pesticides at those addresses, it must notify you at least 12 hours in advance by phone or by delivering or mailing a notice to you. The notice will have the name and phone number of the lawncare firm, the address to be treated, and possible pesticides used. In addition, companies must post signs on lawns or by trees and shrubs that have been treated with pesticides. They are not, however, required to give advance notice or post signs for fertilizer-only applications. If the firm applies a fertilizer/pesticide blend, then they must post signs and give notice.



WISCONSIN'S REGISTRY DEADLINE IS **MARCH 1!**

**Contact: Landscape Registry Coordinator, DATCP, P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911
608-224-LAWN (608-224-5296)**

You can leave a message after hours and weekends. If you do not already have such a program in your area, you might pattern one after the Wisconsin version.

[You must renew your registry listing each year. This information is not considered confidential and may be subject to open records requests. Libraries and environmental groups have requested copies, for instance. The department is required to send the registry to commercial application businesses and any commercial pesticide applicator who requests a copy.]

NEW BOOK MAKES RECOMMENDED READING—

Always, Rachel: the letters of Rachel Carson and Dorothy Freeman, 1952-1964; Beacon Press, 1995.

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REMEMBERING RACHEL

We called him the Mosquito Man. The white smoke he sprayed into our faces from his truck smelled weird, but not unpleasant. Mostly, we loved racing through it, calling out each other's names, daring each other to dart closest to the truck where the billows were so thick you couldn't see your own outstretched hand. One of my friends used these occasions to wear his father's World War II gas mask. But that was for laughs, not because the smoke bothered him. Our parents' only warning was to watch out for traffic.

That was in the early 1960s, when the government routinely sprayed pesticides in neighborhoods, schoolyards, playgrounds and parks all across the country, because the chemicals were so effective at killing bugs. Few bothered to ask how they worked or what their long-term effects might be. Few stopped to consider that they might be harmful to humans—including the millions of kids like me who played in them—much less birds and other wildlife.

I thought about the Mosquito Man as I watched a PBS documentary about biologist Rachel Carson, whose 1962 book, *Silent Spring*, changed the way we think about the world. How ironic, I thought, that many of the safety regulations put into place as a result of that book are now under attack—33 years later. It seems a good time for conservationists to revisit Carson's story. We could benefit from her model of courage and perseverance, and her confident belief in the rightness of her cause. Then, as now, people who expressed concern for the environment were labeled alarmists and long-haired punks.

In the 1940s and '50s, when Carson first began to speak out about pesticides, women scientists were more often ridiculed than respected. Carson, an accomplished biologist, had published three best-selling books on the environment; yet when *Silent Spring* came out, she was vehemently and viciously attacked. Opponents had difficulty attacking her facts, which she had researched meticulously, so they tried to discredit her personally. Some asked, what does a woman know about chemicals? "I thought she was a spinster," remarked one government official. "What's she so worried about genetics for?"

Rachel Carson, born in 1907, grew up on a small homestead near Pittsburgh, Pa. The family had little money, but Carson's parents, especially her mother, instilled in her a deep respect for the land. She began writing books at the age of 10 and, at 18, enrolled in the Pennsylvania College for Women intending to be a writer. She later switched to science, after taking a hands-on biology course. Her teachers discouraged the move, arguing that writing was a more realistic career choice for women. But she was determined. She went on to earn a Master's Degree in zoology from John Hopkins University and eventually landed a job with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for \$2,000 a year.

She never married, but raised two generations of children, her late sister's two daughters and the son of a niece who died. She considered it one of her missions to keep a

sense of wonder alive in children. Another was protecting the Earth from the "heedless arrogance of man." World War II had proven the effectiveness of pesticides such as DDT against diseases spread by lice and mosquitoes. When the war ended, the U.S. Department of Agriculture put DDT to civilian use on a massive scale, particularly in rural areas. The government endorsed it, the chemical industry promoted it, and those who warned of its potential dangers were mostly ignored.

It was a good friend, conservation writer Olga Owens Huckins, who persuaded Carson to investigate the effects of DDT and other chemicals on the environment. In 1957, Huckins had noticed that birds in a nearby sanctuary were dying at an alarming rate. She believed the cause was DDT. When officials scoffed at her request to end the spraying, she wrote to Carson, who was moved to action by "the thought of a spring silent of birdsong."

The four years it took her to write the book were among the worst in her life personally. Her mother, with whom she had lived since the Depression, died then, as did a beloved niece. Carson suffered arthritis, sinusitis, ulcers, and in 1960 she was diagnosed with the breast cancer that ended her life at the age of 56 in 1964. Radiation treatments often made her too sick to work, but she researched and wrote when she could. She built her case carefully, mindful of the controversies that would ensue. The book's appendix has 50 pages of references.

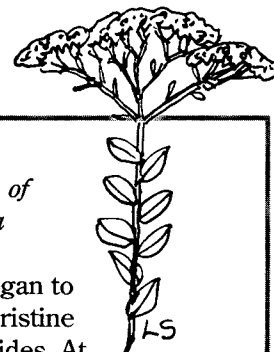
The basic argument of *Silent Spring* was that advances in modern science had given human beings the capacity to destroy, in just a few years, life forms that had taken eons to evolve. If mankind doesn't change its ways, she warned, "soon our springs will be silenced, our streams will be empty and our lives will be threatened by strange and incurable illnesses."

The book was revolutionary in concept and consequence. DDT was eventually banned in the U.S., more than 40 pesticide-regulating bills were introduced in state legislatures, and chemical manufacturers were, for the first time, held responsible for the safety of their products. The public began to rally to the environmentalist's cause.

Now we're being called upon to rally again. In the first few months of 1995 the U.S. Congress quickly passed major bills that, if signed into law, would dismantle some of our most prized environmental protections. Recently, the House of Representatives approved a revision to the 1972 Clean Water Act that would open most of our remaining wetlands to development and threaten the cleanliness of our lakes, rivers and streams. Those of us who oppose these backward steps are called 'environmental whackos' with little understanding of sound economics.

I hope I can be as courageous as Carson was when she faced such criticism. I can't rewrite my childhood, when I unwittingly exposed myself to the Mosquito Man's poisons. But I can make sure he never sprays in my neighborhood again.—**Nanette S. Bulebosh**

This article is reprinted by permission of Ms. Bulebosh and the Elkhart Lake, Wis., Depot Dispatch. It appeared July 1995.



— BILTMORE — *What Natural Landscaping Is All About*

As we passed under the guardhouse archway, a long and winding road (to borrow Paul's phase) gradually laced its way up the hill for five miles toward Biltmore House near Asheville, N.C. Biltmore holds the distinction of being the largest private house in America—a 250-room French provincial mansion. George Washington Vanderbilt began to develop Biltmore in 1888. He purchased 125,000 acres in the North Carolina Mountains and retained Frederick Law Olmsted as the landscape architect. Olmsted, the father of American landscape architecture, designed New York's Central Park, the Boston Park system, and Chicago's Jackson Park. Olmsted believed people needed relief from the pressure and commotion of city life, and that salvation could be found in Nature. It is Nature that he recreated in his landscapes.

Olmsted took his task at Biltmore to create a testament to the art of natural landscaping, not at the main house and its gardens which are more formal, but in the surrounding 8,000 acres which had previously been comprised of many over-cut forests and worn-out farms. There is a 250-acre deer park and meadows, glades, native forests, and a series of lakes and streams, including the six-acre bass pond. We walked down to the bass pond. Uneven stone steps led to a rustic wood bathhouse built on a pier on the pond's edge. Trees gently arched over the pond from small islands in the middle. What a fishing spot. The bass pond led into a small stream that cascaded over a waterfall and then disappeared into the forest.

But of all Biltmore's landscaping features the three-mile Approach Road is a crowning achievement, and Olmsted's natural landscaping genius is manifest in the subtlety of its message.

The Approach Road runs along the Swananoa River, across a field and turns left to enter a narrow stream valley. Olmsted outlined his concept to the Approach Road in a letter to Mr. Vanderbilt:

The most striking and pleasing impression of the estate will be obtained if an approach can be made that shall have throughout a natural and comparatively wild and secluded character, its borders rich with varied forms of vegetation, with incidents growing out of the vicinity [sic] of springs and streams and pools, steep banks and

rocks, all consistent with the sensation of passing through into remote depth of a natural forest.

The land upon which Olmsted began to create the Approach Road was not pristine but rather clear-cut and eroded hillsides. At Biltmore, and elsewhere, Olmsted restored Nature for man's sake, and for Nature's state.

Native species were central to the Approach Road plan. Tens of thousands of *Rhododendron maximum* plants were raised in nurseries on the grounds and then installed on the Approach Road as background plantings. Throughout the 8,000 acres surrounding the house, native trees and shrubs were planted. Contours were natural. Rock and water were added to the Approach Road mix. The road took three years to build.

Bill Alexander, the landscape curator for the last 18 years and caretaker of Olmsted's masterpiece, has been true to the legacy that viewed natural landscapes as therapy for urbanites, weary from the clutter and confusion of civilization. Alexander, like Olmsted, believes that in Nature is solace. Native plants are propagated and planted throughout the 8,000 acres. Although in decades past Biltmore had lapsed into a habit of using biocides to control insects, Alexander has promoted a policy that eschews biocides. Integrated pest management (relying on beneficial insects and a variety of plants) is used as much as possible. Where insect infestations become a problem nontoxic solutions, like soap, are used wherever possible. As Asheville has grown, and grown, Biltmore's native habitat has become more and more important as a sanctuary for birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

In the end, more than its grand mansion, Biltmore's significant societal contribution is its land use. It is also a testimonial to the importance of private landowners who preserve and protect native plants and employ natural landscaping. Decades ago, Olmsted's successor at Biltmore planted a grove of *Torreya Taxifolia* (Florida Torreya or Stinking Cedar). Now nearly extinct in the wild, the grove at Biltmore is the largest mature stand of seed-producing trees left anywhere.

As we left Biltmore, my wife, Jina, turned to me and commented on the beauty of the Approach Road. "How nice it was," she said, "for them to save it the way it was before the mansion was built." I agreed, thinking as she that the Approach Road was cut carefully through the existing countryside. Truth is, Olmsted created the countryside, salvaging ravaged land, for the betterment of visitors and Nature. Isn't that what natural landscaping is all about?

—Bret Rappaport

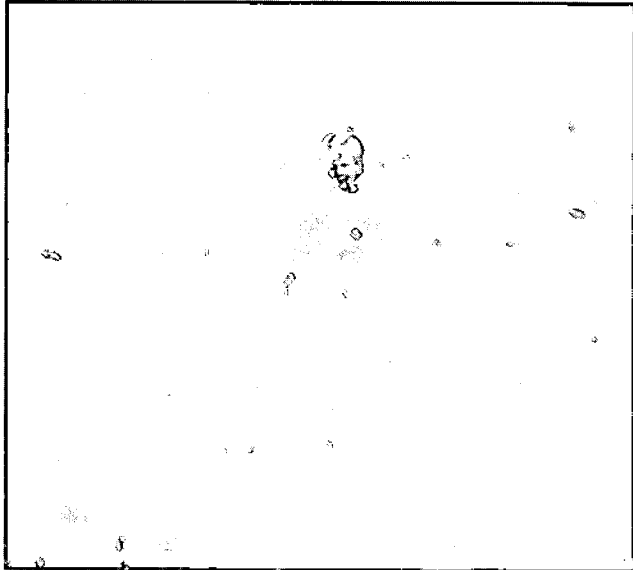
THE EXTINCTION OF EXPERIENCE*

We live in a rural area of Wisconsin. A farm sits a quarter mile over in that direction, and forest lies just a quarter mile the opposite way. There are very few apartments in our school district, and almost everyone has a quarter acre or larger lot. Our offspring out here are not 'city kids.'

So imagine my dumfounded surprise as I heard my daughter's two 14-year-old friends conversing in the kitchen. "I stayed home sick today," said the girl, "we didn't have anything but crackers and Mountain Dew, so that's all I ate." I told my daughter to dish out some scalloped potatoes from the oven and put out some pineapple. The visiting girl instead opted for a pear from our ever-present fruit platter. "What's that?" the teenage boy asked. "It's a pear," the girl replied, seemingly not surprised at the question. "Oh, I never had one," he said, then explaining that he has had pears from a can.

I flashed back to last week's grocery shopping. As usual, the young cashier had to ask me to identify some produce. This happens frequently. I can understand that kumquats and kiwi and bok choy might be unfamiliar. But I've also had to I.D. leaf lettuce, artichokes and beets. This tells me that not only has this young woman not been exposed to these vegetables at home, apparently customers are not checking out with this produce frequently enough for her to have learned of them that way either.

I won't even dwell on the obvious nutritional drawbacks of these sad, sad circumstances. I'll just take this opportunity to remind you how important it is to open your yard to tour groups from your area schools. Many children don't get exposure to any kind of vegetation education. But if you want to really change the world, con-



"Come forth into the light of things, Let Nature be your teacher."
—William Wordsworth

tact area schools and suggest a prairie planting (or woodland or wetland, if circumstances permit).

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum offers a terrific guide for teachers (or any of us Wild Ones). It's a book-and-binder combination called *Prairie Restoration for Wisconsin Schools*. It covers every subject you would hope—cultural history, definitions, climate and weather, grasses, insects, birds, mammals, ecosystems, food webs, soil analysis, biodiversity, restoration, land ownership, mapping skills, plant immigrants, pollution, site preparation, observation and keeping a journal, research, and more!

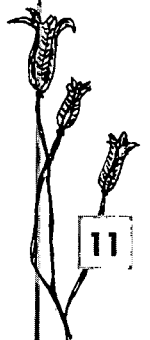
Anyone can order *Prairie Restoration for Wisconsin Schools* for \$18.90 plus \$3 shipping (Wisconsin residents add \$1.10 to cover sales tax). Order from and make checks payable to:

**UW-Madison Arboretum
1207 Seminole Hwy.
Madison, WI 53711**

Prices are subject to change, so if you don't order promptly, check the price by calling (608) 262-2746. ☺

—Joy Buslaff

Wild Ones Journal is published bi-monthly by Wild Ones—Natural Landscapers, Ltd. Material for newsletters is welcome. 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.



*Claire Hagen Dole tells me the expression "extinction of experience" should be credited to Robert Pyle, author of *The Thunder Tree*.—J.B.

SEEDS • SUPPLIES • SERVICES • SUPPORT

TOP 10 REASONS FOR BUYING SEEDS OR PLANTS

- 1 - Saves you labor.
- 2 - Prevents depleting wild resources.
- 3 - Speeds the start-up of your natural landscaping.
- 4 - Delivers all materials when you're ready to plant.
- 5 - Permits access to species not available by other means.
- 6 - Provides planting instructions (Mother Nature does not!).
- 7 - Makes available expertly blended seed mixtures or plant groupings.
- 8 - Gives you properly treated and stored seeds (i.e., *stratified*: chilled to break natural dormancy) that germinate better.
- 9 - Encourages commerce in natural landscaping—an industry we want to have grow so more consumers will have access to native plants.
- 10 - ... And it supports our advertisers who support *us* with their advertising dollars. **Tell them you're a Wild Ones member when ordering so they know their advertising dollars were well spent!**



Note: Many of our advertisers sell only seeds and plants native to Wisconsin and the surrounding area. Some sell seeds and plants native to the Midwest, but which may not be specific to your area. Some may also sell non-native species. In an effort to promote the use of native plants, Wild Ones suggests using care in selecting seeds and plants from nurseries selling non-native species.

As new editor, I mistakenly ran a Prairie Ridge Nursery ad where I should have placed a CRM Ecosystems ad. To make amends, I asked this advertiser to set us all straight.

CRM Ecosystems/Prairie Ridge Nursery has been supplying the public with bare-root plants and seeds native to the Great Lakes region for over 20 years. They offer over 150 different prairie, wetland, and woodland species through mail order. Potted plants are also sold during their open house (June 29 this year). You are invited to join them that day for tours, speakers and refreshments. And, as with every one of our advertisers, you are encouraged to phone or write for complete ordering information. —Joy Buslaff



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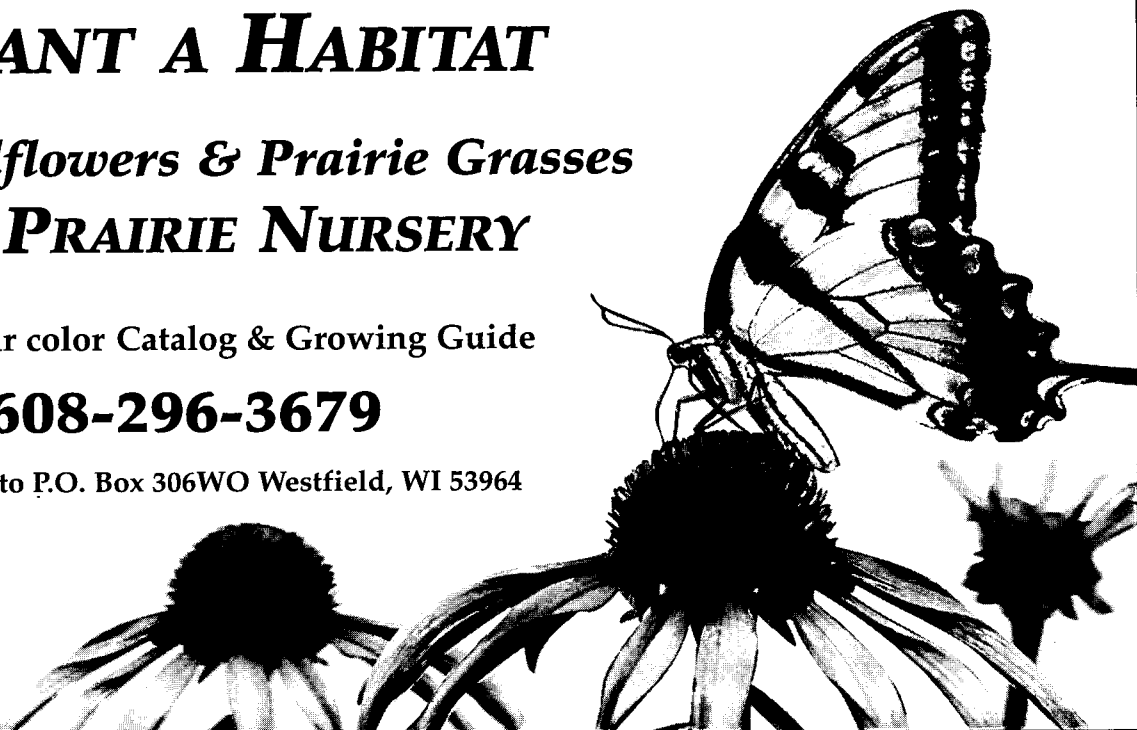
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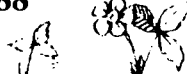
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Native Landscaping Conference

March 23, 1996

**Wisconsin Memorial
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(8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.)

Fee: \$20 (Friends of
the Arboretum pay
\$18)

Sessions will
include prairie species
selection, woodland
plantings, wetlands
and ponds, planting
for wildlife, plant prop-
agation, and more.
Keynote speaker is
Prof. Darrel Morrison
of University of
Georgia School of
Environmental
Design.

Call (608) 263-7888
for registration infor-
mation.

The meeting place

Illinois

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER

*Meetings held at 7 p.m.,
unless otherwise noted.*

March 21—President
Bret Rappaport addresses
everything you always
wanted to know about vil-
lage ordinances. COD,
Bldg M, Room 165.

April 18—Expert nature
photographer Jim Nachel
tells how to photograph
your natural yard. COD,
Bldg K, Room 157.

April 27—Jan Smith
Prairie.

May 16—Carol Stream.
Jan Smith is organizing
work days for those who
seek prairie maintenance

experience. Call her at
(708) 653-3958.

ROCK RIVER CHAPTER

*Meetings held at Jarrett
Prairie Center in Byron
Forest Preserve, 7 p.m.,
unless otherwise noted.*

March 21—Do it yourself
prairie plant propagation
with Todd Tucker, BFP
naturalist, and Jon Jonakin.

April 18—Prairie burn
tactics & tools with Todd
Tucker, BFP naturalist.

Kansas

New chapter forming.

Ohio

COLUMBUS CHAPTER

*Meetings held in Rm. 116,
Howlett Hall on Agriculture*

*Campus/Ohio State Univer-
sity, unless otherwise noted.*

March 9—Tom Sheley of
Wild Birds Unlimited will
give a slide presentation
on Hummingbirds.

April 13—A workshop to
help plan our area in the
wildflower garden at the
arboretum.

May 11—Bret Rappaport
will present "How to
Naturally Landscape with-
out Alienating Your
Neighbors."

Wisconsin

FOX VALLEY CHAPTER

*Meetings held at Evergreen
Community Retirement
Center, Oshkosh, 7 p.m.,
unless otherwise noted.*

Bits & pieces

It's not a sign: Wild Ones yard signs are
not yet available. We are seeking an alternate
supplier after being disappointed by the sign
printer we first contacted.

Distribution: Wild Ones is now using a mail-
ing service (and the bugs are being worked
out, dear, patient members) for its newsletter
distribution. We will no longer be stamping a
"Renewal Due" reminder on your *Journal*, so
please check the month/year expiration date
on your label.

Wild Ones thanks the following people who
worked so diligently all last year to distribute
the newsletter in a timely manner: Carol
Wetch, Nancy Hill, Dean Klingbeil, Lynn
Schoenecker, Nancy Eckstrom, and Mandy
Ploch.

House for sale: Wild Ones members Noor
and John Morey are moving and will be selling
their home and gardens in Grafton, Wis., later
this year. The property extends over five acres
on the Lake Michigan shoreline.

It is a magical piece of land (site of Wild
Ones tour in September 1993), home to an

abundance of native wildflowers and wildlife.

The owners would like to find a buyer who
understands and appreciates the landscaping
and who will want to keep it intact. For serious
inquiries, leave a message for Noor or John at
(414) 377-7315.

The Ides of March. This is the time of year
when Eurasian weeds start to appear, which
makes it one of those times you might want to
do a prescribed burn of your prairie.

A Wild Ones sourcebook: We are plan-
ning a special annual directory that will contain
basic information on natural landscaping,
national and chapter officers and directors, a
membership listing, and compilation of
providers of natural landscaping products and
services. We plan to include members'
addresses, but not phone numbers. Those
members who wish to have their names
excluded from publication should let us know.
We believe this will become a handy and
important resource guide that you'll use year
'round. We hope to send this out in December,
so please let us know your thoughts.





IF YOU LEARN OF DEVELOPMENT THAT WILL AFFECT EXISTING NATIVE PLANTS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT OR RESCUE COORDINATOR.

March 28—Landscaping to attract butterflies by Anita Carpenter.

April 25—Plants of Winnebago County by botanist Katherine Rill.

May 5—Spring flowers tour & edible plants luncheon at home of Todd Close, New London. Reservations required. Call Carol (in Oshkosh) 233-4853 or Donna (in Appleton) 730-8436.

GREEN BAY CHAPTER

Meetings held at Green Bay Botanical Garden, 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

March 6—Don Vorpahl, landscape designer, will discuss natural landscape design and implementation.

April 17—Gene Tiser, Department of Natural

Resources, will speak about endangered species and habitat diversity.

May 11—Plant rescue.

MADISON CHAPTER

Meetings held at McKay Center in the UW Arboretum, 6:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

March 23—You're encouraged to attend the Arboretum's Native Landscaping Conference. (No March meeting.)

April 27—Garden tours. Meet at McKay center at 9 a.m. to carpool.

MILWAUKEE-NORTH CHAPTER

Meetings held at Schlitz Audubon Center, 9:30 a.m., unless otherwise noted.

March 9—Northern Illinois Wild One Vicky

Nowicki presents her slide show "Going Wild in DuPage County."

April 13—Pat Armstrong* presents "Weeds: the plants you love to hate."

May 11—Participating in plant sale at Indian Hill School.

MILWAUKEE-WEHR CHAPTER

Meetings held at Wehr Nature Center, 1:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

March 9—Northern Illinois Wild One Vicky Nowicki presents her slide show "Going Wild in DuPage County."

April 13—Pat Armstrong* presents "Weeds: the plants you love to hate."

Give a gift:

We had a great response to the holiday gift membership suggestion, but don't forget your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers or customers—they all have birthdays, you know. Give a membership to Wild Ones!

*Pat Armstrong will be showing pictures of her famous yard which was featured in *Fine Gardening* magazine (May/June 1991) and Pamela Wolfe's *Midwest Gardens* book.

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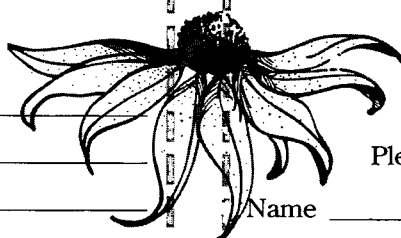
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Wild Ones—Natural Landscapers, Ltd. is a non-profit organization with a mission to educate and share information with members and community at the 'plants-root' level and to promote biodiversity and environmentally sound practices. We are a diverse 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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