The ongoing reduction of the world's natural and biological resources has been well-documented for many years. Plants and animals often find themselves pushed out of their native homes as their ecosystems are destroyed in the name of expansion and development. Scientists and environmentalists alike have begun to challenge developers and landowners to restore naturalness to the landscapes they control. The restoration of degraded landscapes, along with the preservation of existing ecosystems, will help to preserve biodiversity worldwide.

What is a native landscape?
A key facet of any native landscape restoration effort is sustainability. A sustainable landscape can survive indefinitely with minimal interference from humans. Sustainability in restored landscapes helps to maintain the diversity of plants and animals while protecting entire environmental communities. Native plants have little need for special watering, ground preparation or maintenance, making them an economically beneficial option as well as an environmentally sound one.

Native landscape restoration techniques can be used to transform degraded sites into vital ecosystems. Areas with restored native landscapes help to improve groundwater quality by naturally filtering out many pollutants.
GOLF COURSES
(continued from previous page)

-tants while reducing the debilitating effects of soil erosion. While naturalized landscapes are being planned and constructed, public education programs can work to expose regional residents to the benefits of these restoration techniques. Enhanced public awareness of the ecological repercussions of landscape design will serve to spread the word that native plant restoration is a viable and worthy goal.

How does native landscape fit on a golf course?

As green space in our cities and towns becomes increasingly limited, we must look for new ways to maximize the environmental benefits of such areas. Golf courses are undeniably high-maintenance landscapes, but when incorporated with native landscape techniques they can act as valuable habitats for native plants and animals. Golf courses designed in conjunction with local forest preserves and parks can act as ‘green-links’ by connecting native landscapes throughout the region.

The concept of the golf course as a completely man-made landscape is gradually being replaced with the notion that courses which maintain the area’s natural contour and ecosystem are most desirable. The economics of naturally landscaped golf courses make them extremely attractive to planners and developers. Courses that require massive amounts of earth moving, plant removal and planting are extremely expensive to build and maintain.

Sustainable native landscapes, however, require comparatively little in the way of maintenance costs. Greens, tees and fairways will always need to be extensively managed, but the large amounts of surrounding native landscaping can largely be left alone.

Golf courses also benefit aesthetically from the introduction of natural landscaping. Since no course development is built in a vacuum, opportunities for native vegetation to screen views of unattractive or intrusive development can be explored. The beauty of native trees, grasses and wildflowers around a course reinforces its place as an important environmental haven. Proponents of native landscaping support golf courses that maximize the existing or restored natural landscapes rather than those which manufacture new ones. Harmony between the heavily managed greens, fairways and tees with the surrounding natural areas is the ultimate objective.

Southampton, New York’s century-old Shinnecock Hills, the site of the 1995 Men’s US Open, exemplifies some of these native landscape techniques. Shinnecock’s greens are located on pre-existing plateaus and in natural hollows. This intentional incorporation of the existing landscape dates back to the origins of the game of golf in Scotland, where the first greens were nestled in wind-sheltered hollows.

Modern-day golf courses are also making valuable contributions to the global health of the environment. The Greystone Golf Club in Romeo, Mich., for example, was built on a transformed gravel pit. Years of extensive mining at the site resulted in a severely degraded landscape with seemingly endless topographic, wetland and soil problems. Creative golf course architects were able to plan the course around the existing wetlands while also surrounding them with buffer zones of natural vegetation to reduce any risk of contamination from golf course runoff. The site’s intense topographic changes were incorporated into the course design as elevated tees and greens. The project helped turn a disappointing community problem into profitable and environmentally valuable green space.

Courses such as Greystone are springing up across the country. The Santa Clara, Calif., Golf and Tennis Club (built on a landfill) and the Heritage Bluff Golf Club in Channahon, Ill. (built on a sand and gravel pit), are two other examples of recent environmental reclamation efforts involving golf course design. Their success is a tribute to the importance of native landscape restoration worldwide. New courses can not only work in concert with the existing environment, they can also help transform man-made eyesores such as mining areas and landfills into valuable habitats for plant and animal life.

Why is native landscape important in the Midwest?

The pre-settlement landscape of the Midwest was primarily prairie and savanna. The restoration of these areas around golf courses will help to preserve these valuable local ecosystems for future generations. A golf course surrounded by native plants will provide golfers and residents alike with a changing backdrop of color through the seasons.

The Midwest is not home to the spectacular vistas that are featured in some other parts of the country. As a result, Midwestern courses can make valuable use of the aesthetic benefits of native landscaping. Gently rolling waves of wildflowers and native grasses provide an idyllic setting for golf in the Midwestern region.

—Michael J. Fenner
Research Associate, TD&A

The Spiderwort (Tradescantia ohiensis) is Lucy Schumann’s seasonal art for this issue’s page numbers.
Seventy years ago, my favorite treat was a wild flower walk with my grandmother. It was egg salad sandwiches in a cool woods among an abundance of delicate blossoms. And then there were the little buttercups in the pasture, and the Pasque Flowers on top of the hill. She called them “Easter flowers.” On summer Sunday afternoons the old Ford with the gas feed on the steering wheel was our carriage along country roads just to view the wild flowers. During the drought of the early '30s when the pastures became brown and crisp, we herded the cows along the old Middleton road where they ate the prairie grasses and flowers. Many years later, when I was a young mother, I walked through thousands of Shooting Stars in Chiwaukee Prairie. Today, I'm wondering what is a wild flower.

Last week I was cruising through garden centers looking for native plants for schoolyards when I saw a sign: “Wildflower Sods-$7.99.” I stood. I stared. I was distressed. They didn't match my memory or my concept of wild flowers, and I was surprised when only one was familiar to me. So, I asked the clerk to identify them. She could not. I asked the owner. He could not. On the back of a plastic tag there was a list beginning with Basket of Gold, two cresses, English Daisy, Wall Flower, two different poppies ... and “others.”

Hoot! I thought that was funny, but the proprietor did not. I said that most people wouldn't and shouldn't believe these were wild flowers of our country. He said that the big, national company that sold these surely ought to know and that he trusted them. And since a local newspaper had recently run an article about wild flowers, they had a great demand for these.

Couldn't he change the sign to read “flowering groundcover?” “You are fooling people; you are cheating,” I murmured as I left to drive to another garden center. There I found the same “Wildflower Carpet,” but it cost $2 more. I asked the salesperson how he defined wild flower. He answered, “Look it up in the dictionary. But why are you asking me? You know more about this stuff than I do.”

I returned home and opened my international edition of the Heritage Dictionary. First, I found the word weed. “One growing where it is not wanted ... any of various usually abundantly growing plants.”

The suffix ‘cide’ means killer... as in herbicide, insecticide, biocide, etc.

The headline in the June issue of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum newsletter reads: “Native Plant Sale A Sizzling Success on A Chilly Day.” They sold almost 8,000 native plants. They had over 100 native species. N-A-T-I-V-E is the catchword! Always insist on it. And for all of you who are beginners, please play safe and buy your restoration vegetation from a nursery that specializes in growing native plants. They often advertise in Wild Ones Journal. They are the ones who provide the native wild flowers at the nature centers, arboretums, schools, Wild Ones sales. And, as Mandy Ploch warned us in the previous issue, beware of sacks of wild flower seeds sold at garden centers and feed stores.

Arm yourself with the wonderful catalogs from our native plant nurseries. Buy Jim Zimmerman’s book Wildflowers and Weeds. Fassett’s Spring Flora of Wisconsin should also be in your library. Have fun! Go native! 

—Lorrie Otto
In those not-so-long ago days, it was already obvious that our native flora were threatened by population pressure. Now, with most of our flowers surviving in precious, tiny wild remnants, we try to plant them in our yards and our public spaces, in the hope that we can re-create a bit of lost habitat.

Picking is unthinkable!

At first, then, I rejected the idea of picking any of my newly available ‘wild’ flowers. They had been poked into my old perennial border as young plants, and had taken two years to bloom. I wanted them to attract the butterflies and hummingbirds, which they couldn’t do as the centerpiece for my next buffet. I wanted the seeds, as well, which meant the flowers had to be left alone to make the seeds.

I wanted some ripe seeds to fall to the ground, as a deposit in the seed bank that has been so thoroughly destroyed in our time. Some day, when we and our buildings are gone, I imagine patches of Big Bluestem and splashes of native Sunflower marking spots where wildflower gardens were once started. I also wanted to collect seed, to trade to growers for more young plants. I’ve had no luck starting Turtlehead from seed, for example, but my plants like their location and are doing well. And of course, I wanted to see the birds feeding on the seed in fall and winter, and the spent stalks holding air space under the snow for the voles, so I didn’t pick the second year.

The third year, the natives surprised me. Early in June, the Prairie Smoke and Groundsel sent up so many blooms right by the front walk, it seemed miserly not to bring a few in for the table. As summer progressed, the taller flowers began to send up multiple stalks of bloom. Purple and Yellow Coneflowers that had had a stalk or two their second year, now in a garden situation had six or seven stalks. Grasses that had been wispy were looking more like the clumps, many years of age, seen in true remnants. Foxglove Penstemon was almost too vigorous—I feared for the little Lead Plants and Purple Prairie Clovers that I knew would be slower to claim their root space.

It was clear I would have plenty of seed even if I picked a few Penstemons.

I learned that native tallgrass prairie forbs make spectacular cut flowers. Strong of stalk, their weather-proof flowers are bright and long-lasting. Some species, like the Vervains, need to be groomed and massed together for effect, but with a field full of Vervain and Bee Balm, that was now okay by me. My Cardinal Lobelia may not persist for many years, but it made enough spires of bloom the third year for the hummingbirds, the seed collection, and the occasional flower arrangement. (Cardinal Lobelia likes to grow in light soil and light shade near a stream; I confess to dumping a bucket of rain water on mine now and again.)

Wild Quinine is an interesting and hardy white flower. So is Rattlesnake Master, but mine were not ready for picking the third year. Oxeye “Daisy” or Early False Sunflower Helianthoides and the Silphiums have showy, abundant yellow blossoms. Because Canada Goldenrod is so dominant, we never see the more beautiful, brighter species, but Showy Goldenrod is well-named. Riddell’s Goldenrod is endangered in Wisconsin through loss of habitat, but with 15 big blooms along the driveway, from three or four plants, perhaps a few can be sacrificed. After all, only grass was growing there two years ago.

Other good species for cut flowers, always depending on habitat, are Boneset, Ironweed...
"The flowers are Nature's jewels, with whose wealth she decks her summer beauty."
—Croly

"Earth laughs in flowers."
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

(fabulous blue-purple color), Coreopsis, Prairie Loosestrife, Flowering Spurge, Blazing Star and Gayfeather, and Bottle Gentians.

And finally, the grasses: The varying shapes of the Side Oats, Little Bluestem and Prairie Dropseed clumps are an essential part of the wild flower habitat. The forbs stand up better and look much better when mixed with the grasses. An arrangement of cut summer wild flowers is complete, for me, only when it gets a crown of tall grass stalks, with their flowering or fruiting seed heads and gently curving blades serving, as they do in nature, as contrast to the bright, upright blooms.

Instead of saving every bloom for the birds and flies, I now let them share a few with me. ~ Wendy Walcott

"Humans cannot live very well without the biological diversity of nature, and especially without the beauty and pattern of plants to view, to explore, to be stimulated by."
Hugh Ilitis, professor emeritus UW-Madison, Wis.

"Orchid" (Greek origin) refers to a part of the male body, "vanilla" (Latin origin) relates to the female body.
The gray skies of western Washington bring a gentle climate that has me puttering in the garden in February, when daffodils and crocuses begin to poke through the dirt. Evergreen trees, rhododendrons and lawns are green year-round; by mid-March, flowers and trees explode into bloom and Cabbage White butterflies first appear.

Having spent my childhood wandering the woods and meadows an hour’s drive from Seattle, I now garden on a small city lot. Nearby a zoo and two parks give habitat to Western Tiger Swallowtails, Lorquin’s Admirals and Mourning Cloaks, among others.

Summer afternoons often find me in the shade of the pear tree, watching the sun-drenched Buddleia* and surrounding flowers. My west-facing butterfly garden occupies a long stretch of flowerbed that extends six feet into the yard. A small pond, with a hollow log, rocks and wet sand, attracts dragonflies, birds and an occasional raccoon. For several glorious weeks in early summer, Western Tiger Swallowtails glide through the yard on bright yellow wings.

In my newsletter, Butterfly Gardeners’ Quarterly, I use the motto “If you plant it, they will come.” Too optimistic? A friend laments the loss of the willow tree where he rents a house. The Lorquin’s Admirals he used to see disappeared with the tree. Last year, he added Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis) to his butterfly/hummingbird garden, and a hummingbird appeared as if by magic. Had hummingbirds always been in the area and suddenly responded-glide through the yard on bright yellow wings.

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It depends on which butterflies are still around in an area bustling with retail and housing development. A survey done 50 years ago by Ben V. Leighton put the Puget Sound region’s butterfly count at 47 species; today’s numbers are fewer than half that.

Because of our cool, cloudy weather and the relative scarcity of local butterflies (as well as my urban setting), I can’t afford to be subtle. I’ve planted four varieties of Buddleia, along with tried-and-true flowers like Aster, Purple Coneflower, Phlox, Liatris, Verbena, Marigold and Zinnia.

white Buddleia irresistible. While I don’t grow the Red Admiral’s host plant (Nettles) on my small lot, I’m sure that some stands exist in the park.

In this park, Mourning Cloaks put on a spectacular show when they awaken in spring. I know they won’t stray from their ravine, so I make a point of walking there frequently. I’m also delighted by the Satyr Anglewings and Spring Azures that are so abundant along this trail. The anglewings undoubtedly share the Red Admirals’ Nettle patch, while the blues gather on the trail next to a historic apple orchard. While I’m not actively gardening for these beautiful butterflies, I try to visit their ‘garden’ often.

Likewise, backpacking trips into the Cascade Mountains allow me to see the many species that aren’t likely to visit my yard, no matter what fabulous offerings I set out. Last year, we found ourselves by a mountain lake during summer’s one rainy week. When the skies cleared for a few hours, we rambled up the slopes of Mt. Stuart and came across a meadow full of Milbert’s Tortoiseshells nectaring on Mountain Valerian (Valeriana sitchensis). These medium-sized butterflies sport vertical stripes of brown, orange and yellow; the effect of seeing them in such numbers was spectacular.

As a Northwest native, I can’t imagine living anywhere else. When the clouds part, I’ll stroll up the ridge behind my house and gaze at the Olympics, the Cascades and Mount Rainier. Then you’ll find me in my garden, tending the flowers and herbs that will beckon swallowtails, skippers and honeybees.

This year I’m adding a hummingbird section of red tubular flowers to my butterfly garden: Salvia coccinea, Lobelia cardinalis, Agastache Firebird (native Agastache is foeniculum), Mimulus cardinalis (native Mimulus are ringens, alatus,) and Monarda Marshall’s Delight and Gardenview Scarlet (native Monarda include didyma, fistulosa, and media). Will they come? I’ll be watching from my lawn chair under the pear tree, taking notes and enjoying the many creatures who seek food and shelter in my backyard habitat. 

—Claire Hagen Dole

For your clarification, note that flowers mentioned above in bold face are available in native varieties.

*Buddleia, a native of China, is called butterfly bush for an obvious reason: Its fragrance and nectar are irresistible to butterflies. Native alternatives include Joe-Pye Weed (Eupatorium purpureum), Lantana and Ironweed (Vernonia noveboracensis).
INDIAN PAINTBRUSH
(Castilleja coccinea)

Other Names: Painted Cup, Scarlet Painted Cup, Indian Pink, Prairie-Fire, Red Indians, Election-Posies, Bloody Warrior, Nose Bleed, Winaboojo’s Grandmother's Hair.

Habitat: In peaty meadows, prairies and damp sand and gravels.

Description: Yellow or scarlet-tipped, fan-shaped bracts grow in a dense spike. Hidden in the axil of these bracts are the actual flowers, which are about one inch long, greenish-yellow, tubular, with a two-lobed upper lip arching over a shorter three-lobed lower lip. The basal leaves arranged in rosettes are one to three inches long, elliptic, and untoothed. The leaves on the stem are stalkless and divided into narrow segments. Indian Paintbrush is parasitic on the roots of other plants. Flowering: May to July. Height: 1 to 2 feet.

Folklore: Legend tells of an Indian boy who was smaller and weaker than the rest of the children in his tribe. Unable to keep up with the stronger, more athletic boys, he spent his time painting on baskets, stones and scraps of leather. His one dream was to paint a picture of the sunset, but the colors available to him were much too dull. One night the Great Spirit revealed to the young Indian boy that the paints he desired would be given to him if he would go to the place where he watched the sunset. The next evening he went to that special hillside and waiting for him, among the blades grass, were many beautiful brushes filled with paint—all colors of the sunset. Quickly the boy painted his picture, using one brush and then another. With happiness and pride he took his treasured painting down to his people, leaving the brushes behind. The next day the hill was alive with color. The brushes had taken root and multiplied into plants of vibrant yellows, oranges and reds and brown that time on the plant known as the Indian Paintbrush filled our land with its beauty.

Medicinal Use: Indian Paintbrush was used to sooth the burned skin and to ease the burning sting of the centipede. Indian women drank a concoction made from the roots to dry up menstrual flow. The weak flower tea was used for rheumatism and female diseases. It was also used as a secret “love charm” in food and as a poison “to destroy enemies.”

Name Origin: The genus name, Castilleja (cas-til-LEE-ya), is dedicated to Spanish botanist Domingo Castillejo. The species name, coccinea (kok-SIN-ee-a), means scarlet.

Author’s Note: Our native Indian Paintbrush is often confused with the alien Orange Hawkweed or Devil’s Paintbrush (Hieracium aurantiacum). You are more apt to find this plant growing in your lawn or wild area than you are the true Indian Paintbrush. Orange Hawkweed blooms from June to August. As I drive along our rural roads, I have a special feeling of appreciation for the homeowners who allow this plant to bloom in their otherwise-manicured lawns. A closer look reveals that the mower is just guided around the patches of Orange Hawkweed. Even though it is an alien and a despised weed of farmers, it certainly is hard to destroy when its lovely orange blossoms are in full bloom.

When my husband, John, and I first saw the land we ultimately purchased in Door County, Wis., several years ago, it was in late summer and early autumn. We had no idea the surprise that was waiting for us the following spring. We arrived one sunny May morning to hundreds of Indian Paintbrushes in full bloom. They were scattered throughout the property—in the open meadow and in some of the semi-shaded areas throughout the forest. It was a spectacular sight and a benefit we could have never perceived when we bought the land the previous fall.

All those Indian Paintbrushes did pose a problem for us, however. We wanted to cut pathways though the property in order to protect the vegetation from being trampled by haphazard hiking. There was no way we could avoid every Indian Paintbrush or make the trail go around each one. We moved many of them to different locations along the route, but we eventually abandoned that ambitious task and mowed the plants that were in the way of our 'progress.' Many of those plants keep coming back even after they are cut, making me feel all the more guilty.

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MOSS IS BOSS

Moss is a landscape feature rarely enjoyed. But what's not to love about a plant—actually a metropolis of plants in a spoonful—that's gloriously green, textured like velvet, and requires very little attention. Some form of it grows in almost every part of the world, and moss gardens are especially popular in Japan. Yet, in this country, many a homeowner strives to wipe it out in favor of sod.

If you would like to encourage a moss carpet in your yard, keep in mind where it likes to grow—a shaded or semi-shaded area that may be somewhat acidic due to decaying forest matter, with enough moisture to prevent its drying out (if exposed to drought conditions, moss will go dormant and return with the rains). It can grow on soil, trees, and even rocks.

Moss does not flower; it spreads by spores or by division—that's where you come in. You'll probably have the greatest transplant success by harvesting moss that's already growing in your neighborhood. Go hunting around your yard or volunteer to take some from neighbors who are trying to rid themselves of it. [You can also order moss from We-Du Nurseries, Rt. 5, Box 724, Marion, NC 28752; (704) 738-8300.]

Transplant the moss slabs onto well-tilled soil—or purée moss with buttermilk! This goo can be poured or painted where you want moss to grow. Be sure to keep the miniscule transplants well moistened until they're established. In a few weeks you should start to see a thin, green film forming. Over time, you'll learn whether you need to do any supplemental sprinkling to keep the moss growing in the spot you've chosen for it or whether you'll need to move it to a shadier, damper location.

In the first year or two you will have to do some hand weeding. Thereafter you'll need only do a small amount of weeding in the spring. Fortunately, moss can handle light foot traffic, but you might like the contrast of raspy stepping stones over the peach-fuzz terrain. In fall, you may also need to rake off leaves as the moss will not thrive under a layer of them. All in all, that's very little maintenance for this novelty native.

If you have the room and the desire, your moss garden can stretch over dozens of square yards—a vista that is host to meditation. And while you're sitting amongst these Lilliputian plants, reducing your pulse to a metronomic whisper, you may witness a grateful Phoebe collecting moss to line its nest. —Joy Buslaff

The best gardening tool for starting a natural landscaping project is a camera. First, take pictures of your home—front, sides and back. Next, take pictures of your neighbors' front yards. Then go to the corner and shoot down the street toward your home.

By comparing these pictures, you'll notice how much vegetation is in the community. If the only thing you can see is mowed lawn, you might want to go easy on your natural landscape. You could start with some planting beds of flowers and grasses, or some islands of shrubs and trees. Neighbors will see how nice a yard looks with structure and texture and they will begin to add these things to their yards. As the neighbors' yards start to fill in, you can then peaceably add more beds to your own yard. Now, for those pictures of your yard ... enlarge the snapshots at a quick-copy printer (usually about $2 for an 8x10 color enlargement). On these prints you can sketch where you want your beds and islands. Use colored pencils to give you a feel for the colors these plants will add to your landscape.

Finally, don't forget to photograph the yards of fellow Wild Ones for all the good ideas you can use in your own yard. —Judy Crane
Remnants and restorations

“We can’t design gardens that will equal the order, complexity, integrity, and beauty of the typical undisturbed natural landscape. However, there is great value in studying natural landscapes and native plants in the field, where one can hear, see, smell, touch, and even taste them.”—Darrel G. Morrison, Dean of the School of Environmental Design at the University of Georgia

What is the difference between an old farm field that has ‘returned to nature’ and a small plot where native vegetation has escaped the plow and the bulldozer? They have a very different look, even to the unpracticed eye. After a few field trips to view the real thing, an abandoned field looks boring indeed compared to the subtle diversity of the quality preserve. Don’t know your native plants? Combine the field trip with a visit to one of the restorations in progress at many nature centers and arborets. They have books, posters and labeled sample plants growing outdoors. Southwestern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois are rich in small, but precious, native remnants and very good nature centers. If you go, remember to tread lightly, stay on the paths if possible, and don’t collect—there are fines for taking any vegetation from a state natural area!

[We would like to recognize additional remnants and restorations throughout the United States worthy of ‘ecotourism.’ Your contributions to this column are welcome. Write to the address on page 11.]

Retzer Nature Center and the Scuppernong Prairie of Waukesha County, Wisconsin

Retzer Nature Center is just west of Waukesha at the intersection of Madison Street and road DT. The goal of Retzer’s senior naturalist, Jerry Schwarzmeier, is to create a native planting that is as authentic as research and hard work can make it. Retzer’s plants are all local genotypes, which means that they have been grown from seed collected within a 50-mile radius. The eradication of exotics (non-native species) is a big part of the project. The Center is free and open from dawn ‘til dusk. Building hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day. Phone (414) 896-8007.

The Scuppernong Prairie remnant is south of Wilton Road, just where it makes a ‘T’ with county road N. After leaving Retzer, go west by any route until you hit state road 67, then go south. Look for Wilton Road to go west from 67. If you go into Eagle, you’ve missed it! The Seeger map of the Milwaukee Metro Area and Southeastern Wisconsin is very helpful on these prairie explorations. The Kettle

Moraine State Forest Map, available at DNR offices, is even better.

The Scuppernong is a wet mesic prairie with myriad species, beautiful in all seasons. In the spring, it is full of yellow flowers: Golden Alexanders (Zizia aurea), Wood Betony (Pedicularis canadensis), and Yellow Star Grass (Hypoxis hirsuta) are set off by magenta Prairie Phlox (Phlox pilosa). There are rare orchids, including the Showy Ladyslipper and the Prairie Fringed, but the plant lover has to have sharp eyes to find them. The Prairie Cream Indigo is spectacular. The grasses are still in the green shoot stage, and the young leaves of Prairie Dock and other fall bloomers are just getting started. It’s true that to see a prairie, one must look into it, not at it. Scuppernong is beautiful even from the road, but it is amazing at ground level.

There is off-road parking a few hundred yards south of Wilton on County N. The Forest Headquarters Visitor Center of the Kettle Moraine Southern Unit are on Highway 59 just east of Z. Phone: (414) 594-2135. They have nature trails, maps and information about other remnants for people who ask. Because the remnants are so fragile and many of the plants are endangered, their locations have not been publicized. Again, tread lightly, and good luck! —Wendy Walcott

Excerpt from Stephanie Mills’ In Service of The Wild

Ecological restoration is the art and science of repairing damaged ecosystems to the greatest possible degree of historic authenticity. The discipline’s fidelity to the original ecological communities of the places being restored is a profound obeisance to Nature. There is a tremendous range of restoration activity—many hundreds of projects across the United States and abroad in a wide variety of ecosystems, reefs, salt marshes, arid farmlands, prairie potholes, Alpine meadows, mangrove swamps—the list is about as long as the list of the kinds of ecosystems that have been wounded by human activity.

(Reprinted by permission of Beacon Press)
Searching for her way home, Dorothy followed the yellow brick road. Do you remember the scene where Dorothy and friends, trembling with fear, crept through the forest—“lions and tigers and bears, oh my!” The fearful troop came forth onto a field of poppies and, off on the horizon, the Emerald City.

Much the same was tested as we traversed State Rt. 120 through West Gurnee, Ill. Nothing but an explosion of shopping centers, gas stations, fast food joints and a gazillion stoplights. My son needed a rain coat ... we pulled into a Target parking lot. The parking lot was a scary place—“carts and cars and arrows pointing every which-way, oh my!” Then we headed west and turned into Prairie Crossing just before noon.

Located on 667 acres, 40 miles north of Chicago, Prairie Crossing sits on what had been farmland for 100 years. We natural landscapers and conservationists preach that we all must learn to live harmoniously with Nature. To date, natural landscapers have faced the daunting task of changing the landscapes of existing homesites in established communities. Going against the establishment is difficult and often costly. Moreover, the results are muted since the benign effects of naturally landscaping one home in a neighborhood can be squelched by the mono-turfed, exotics-filled, pesticide-laden yard next door. By contrast, Prairie Crossing preaches and teaches natural landscaping subdivision-wide and a holistic approach to living with Nature in concept, design and practice.

Conceptually, Prairie Crossing draws inspiration from the work of Frederick Law Olmsted and the philosophy of Aldo Leopold. A “thing is right when it tends to preserve the stability, integrity and beauty of a biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise,” wrote Leopold. Conservationist Gaylord Donnelley envisioned a community based on preservation of rural character: large fields, community areas and open space. Ecology was a first thought for Prairie Crossing, not an afterthought.

After Donnelley’s death, his nephew George Ranney, a Chicago attorney, took over. A list of guiding principles include “environmental protection” and “learning and education.” Victoria Post Ranney, George’s wife, heads up the planning and makes the day-to-day decisions. Coincidentally, Mrs. Ranney is a landscape historian. She insisted that homeowners know the natural history of the site and not be served up superficial notions so often handed out at subdivisions named for far off lands. The streets of Prairie Crossing, for example, carry the names of native forbs. An old dairy barn from a nearby property is being restored for use as a community meeting hall. Mrs. Ranney muses, “I hope that people living here develop a sense of place. It is my hope that we learn to live with the land, not off the land.”

Prairie Crossing’s design fits with the land. The 317 homesites are clustered on 132 acres, the balance being open space. Homes are energy-efficient. There is a 22-acre lake, 13 acres of wetlands and 160 acres of restored prairie. To minimize run-off and pollution, Prairie Crossing uses a “treatment train system.” Stormwater first accumulates in swales along roadsides planted with natives as initial filters. Next, the water flows through prairies, which slowly convey the run-off to a wetland bordering the lake. The prairies and wetlands act as ‘Nature’s kidneys,’ filtering sediments and pollutants. Engineers estimate the system will reduce runoff by 65 percent and non-point source pollution by 85 to 100 percent, much like the natural process that operated before the countryside was altered.

Homeowners are not only permitted but also encouraged to go natural. Mike Sands, the resident naturalist, has designed his landscape (lot 37) with native forbs, grasses and shrubs. Mike explains it this way: “It’s a big step for most people. They need to be comfortable in their gut. We hope that when they can see real examples, they’ll jump for it.”

Other homeowners have also naturally landscaped their lots. The Malins on lot 313 have a yard comprised of a meadow mix (Purple Coneflower, Prairie Coreopsis, Aster, Sweet William, Baptisia), Hackberry and Hawthorn trees, a Bur Oak and Witchhazel shrubs.

In practice, Prairie Crossing seeks to inculcate Leopold’s land ethic. The use of pesticides and fertilizers is strongly discouraged. There is an organic farm, and members of the community-supported garden get a half bushel of fresh vegetables each week during summer. There is a commuter train station at the edge of Prairie Crossing.

Miles of walking trails meander through the site and will continue onto an adjacent 2,500-acre open space preserve.

As we pulled out, my wife Jina and I looked at each other—“Prairie Crossing, oh my, oh my!”

Prairie Crossing represents validation for those of us who seemed like voices in the wilderness. To be economically successful, in the long term, society in general and subdivisions in particular must be ecologically successful.

Economy and Ecology have the same Greek root—it means home. And it was for home that Dorothy searched and it is home for which we’re looking as we strive to be a part of Nature, not apart from Her. \*: —Bret Rappaport
July and August can test a bird’s ability to survive in years of drought. Cup plant uniquely satisfies the needs of birds and insects alike. As is the case with many native flowers, its substantial root system finds water when many non-natives cannot.

**Characteristics:** Cupplants are a substantial, attractive species that seems to tower over many neighboring prairie plants. When mature, these plants can reach over seven to eight feet in height and approximately two feet across. By June the leaves are visible in my garden and as the month progresses, this plant wastes no time in making progress toward the sky. It offers deep green foliage that complements well the large nectar-rich yellow flowers that begin to make their debut by late June and early July.

**This plant needs:** Full sun to partial shade. Moisture-wise it is at its best where there is a fair supply of water. It will, however, tolerate somewhat dry conditions as well. Even winters as harsh as our 1995-96 deep freeze will not hamper this plant’s performance. Loam soil would be this plant’s first choice, but again it will tolerate a wide range.

**Who benefits:** Many bird species and insects find Cupplant to be a life-saver. For the nectar lovers *Silphiums* provide plenty of it. Hummingbirds, bees and butterflies will devour the nectar from the moment it is ready. The tall orientation of this flower allows for easy viewing of its visitors. The unique structure where the leaves meet the stalk creates miniature water reservoirs for use by insects and birds. Small birds, like finches, have even been known to bathe in these natural baths. The insects drawn to Cupplant are, of course, sure to attract even more birds. In fall this plant produces such delightful seeds that Goldfinches, Chickadees, and Nuthatches will stand in line to take turns at the flowerheads. In my opinion, no garden should be without a few of these show-stopping flowers. —Steve Mahler

An effort has been under way to encourage Peter Jennings, news anchor for “ABC World News Tonight,” to select Lorrie Otto as his Friday “Person of the Week.” A great deal of information (news articles, etc.) has been sent to him already, but you may be able to help as well. If you have been inspired in some way by Lorrie, have an interesting story to tell about her, or simply want to send a short reminder to Mr. Jennings telling him that Lorrie would be a great candidate for this honor, send your comments to:

Mr. Peter Jennings, ABC World News Tonight
77 W. 66th St., New York, NY 10023
August would be a great time for his reporters to see her yard, so don’t delay! Thanks.

—Betty Czarapata, (414) 679-4996.
Wild Ones has designed a weatherproof aluminum yard sign that proclaims "Ibis Land Is in Harmony with Nature." The sign is enameled with a white border, beige background, black printing and a scratchboard-effect coneflower over a purple field. The vertical sign measures 7"x10" and has two mounting holes top and bottom for securing to a support with screws or ties (such as wire or cording). No hardware is included.

Each sign costs $18 (plus $3 shipping and handling). Checks for $21 should be made payable to Wild Ones. Mark the envelope "Sign" and mail to Wild Ones, P.O. Box 23576, Milwaukee, WI 53223-0576. Signs will be sent by first-class mail.

Bulk orders will be accepted from chapters only—not a group of individuals. For bulk orders, remit $20 per sign to the same address. Bulk orders will be sent to one address.

Signs will be sent promptly if in stock. Our turnaround time for production of additional signs is short. You will be notified only if there will be a significant delay.

Wild Ones gratefully acknowledges the donation of time and talent by graphic designer and Milwaukee-North member Lynn Schoenecker for her valuable contribution. Thanks also go to Milwaukee-North President Dean Klingbeil for his efforts which made this project a reality.

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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.

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The Canadian Wildflower Society
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Illinois
NORTHERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER
July 21—1 p.m. See Vicki & Ron Nowicki's multi-faceted, lawnless landscape. Call Vicki to register: (708) 852-5263.

Aug. 4—All Day. Summer Member’s Open House. Call Sheri Moore to sign up, (708) 393-4279.


ROCK RIVER CHAPTER
Meet at various locations. Call Jarrett Prairie Center, Byron Forest Preserve at (815) 234-8535 for info.

July 18—6:30 p.m. Home prairie tour. Meet at Ender's Greenhouse, Cherry Valley.


August 15—6-9 p.m. "Natural landscaping with wild flowers, shrubs, and trees" by Alan Branbhagen. Cnty HQ Center, sack supper at 6 p.m. Call 234-8535 for further information.

Kansas

Ohio
COLUMBUS CHAPTER
Meetings held in Rm. 116, Howlett Hall on Agriculture Campus/Ohio State University, unless otherwise noted.

July 13—Meet at the home of Ron and Shirley Barnes, 3672 Westbrook Dr., Hilliard. Directions will be passed out for additional gardens we’ll be visiting.

Aug. 10—9:30 a.m. Meet at Olentangy River Wetland Research Park, 352 Dodridge St., Columbus. Dr. Mitsch will give a tour.

Wisconsin
FOX VALLEY AREA
CHAPTER
Meetings held at Evergreen Community Retirement Center, Oshkosh, 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

July 25—Early evening tour of wild yards in Oshkosh area.

Aug. 22—3:30 p.m. Caravan to Westfield for Prairie Nursery tour.

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

July 27—10 a.m. Prairie Nursery private guided tour with Dave Martineau, Westfield.

Aug. 14—7 p.m. Field trip to member Martin Jacobson property, 5733 Abts Rd.

Sept. 7—10 a.m. Botanical Garden and Bret Rappaport, Wild Ones nat’l president.

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

July 27—We'll join master gardeners on a tour of Prairie Nursery. Meet at Shopko on Zeier Rd. (next to East Towne Mall) at 9 a.m. For reservations call Joe at (608) 837-6308 or Jan at (608) 238-2826.

Aug. 29—Tour local gardens. For more info call Laura at 274-9367

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

July 13—Tour Dorothy Boyer's Cedarburg yard and school project.

Aug. 10—See below.

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

July 13—Tour Dorothy Boyer's Cedarburg yard and school project.

Aug. 10—See below.

Aug. 24—Visit Loretta Hernsay’s yard and church project.

WILD ONES
ANNUAL MEETING, Aug. 10, 1996

All chapters are encouraged to attend. Business meeting at noon followed by lunch and wagon ride nursery tours. Box lunches available by reservation only or bring your own.

Milwaukee chapters will be taking a bus. Pickup will be at 9 a.m. sharp at I-43 and Brown Deer Road park-n-ride lot for north members. Westside pickup at 9:30 a.m. at I-94 and 84th Street park-n-ride. $10 per person prepaid reservation must be received by Aug. 1. Northside pickup reservations call Karen Jordon (672-7160); westside reservations call Mary Ann Kniep (421-3824).

Schlitz Audubon Center, Milwaukee, Natural Landscaping Tour. August 3. Ten yards are included in this year's itinerary. Registration is limited. Call (414) 352-2880.
MAY 1995: A small but fearless band of explorers met at the big yellow school bus—and the weather was cold and rainy. The inclement weather and macho mosquitoes could not dampen our spirits as we trekked through 30 acres of woods belonging to one of our Appleton members. The woods were simply bursting with spring flowers including Trout Lilies, Rue, Bishop Miter, Wild Ginger and many more. The front yard was highlighted by some rare Purple Trillium. Our guide revealed that the woods had been wiped clean of wild flowers by grazing cows but all the vegetation had returned after the “cows went home.”

Following a stop at McDonald’s, the cold and weary group continued on to Tellock’s woods, a state-owned area, and it was a fairyland. Every square inch was packed with Dutchman’s Breeches and Squirrel Corn in full bloom, alternating with ferns, Anemones, and Blue Cohosh. It finally quit raining and those of us who dared to trek to the swampy end of the woods were treated to Marsh Marigolds, Horsetails, and the lusty songs of many birds.

JUNE 1995: Another small but hearty band of explorers met at the K-Mart parking lot and it did not rain. We headed out for a trip to the Ridges Sanctuary in Door County. The day was perfect, except for the monster mosquitoes, and we were able to view some of the rare orchids found at the Ridges, plus Wood Lilies, Indian Paintbrush, Twinflower, and many more examples of woodland and desert plants found at the Lake Michigan shore.

After a bountiful lunch at the Wagon Wheel Resort, we continued our trip with a stop at the Mink River Estuary to view Showy Lady’s Slipper and some endangered ferns.

JULY 1995: Remember that drought we had in early summer and all those 100-degree days? Well, that all came to an abrupt end the evening of our tour of the Larsen trail with Professor Neal Harriman of the UW-Oshkosh.

Another small, but intrepid (and some may say crazy) band was greeted by wind, rain, and lightening with a post storm show of deer grazing nearby. The professor regaled us with tales of the trail and the Latin names for all the plants. We escaped to our cars with inverted umbrellas, just ahead of the next storm.

AUGUST 1995: Donna VanBuecken (chapter president) and I ventured south to Milwaukee for the tour of home gardens and it rained on the trip to Milwaukee. The day of the tour was bright, clear and extremely warm, and it did rain in Appleton. We visited 15 to 20 gardens at homes, churches, and schools, spanning prairies, woodlands, and some yards lucky enough to contain both settings. It was an inspiring day.

This was followed by our own Fox Valley Area Chapter tour of home gardens and once again, it rained. A larger band of intrepid visitors viewed the gardens of several of our members and the Covenant Christian Reformed Church.

NOTE FOR NEXT YEAR: Do not plan any picnics, window washing or car washes for Wild Ones meeting days ...

Regretfully, the summer ended, but a small and intrepid group, not always the same group, but always small, had some educational experiences, got some exercise, and enjoyed a few laughs. We are hoping that this coming summer we will have a larger, but equally as brave group of travelers willing to put on their duck shoes and rain ponchos for a really good time with the Fox Valley Wild Ones.

—Sue Forbes
Wild Ones—Natural Landscapers, Ltd.

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.

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