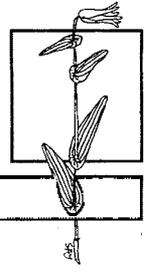
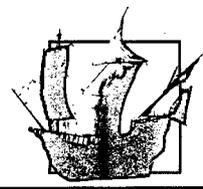


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A VOICE FOR THE NATURAL LANDSCAPING MOVEMENT

MARCH/APRIL 1998 • VOLUME 11, NO. 2

# Wild Ones®

# Journal

## CONSIDER THE SOURCE

While it is ridiculously easy to buy azaleas from faraway Asia or primroses from the Himalayas, it can be surprisingly difficult to buy goldenrods native to the next county. The hunt for native plants suitable to your region and the microclimate of your own garden can be a challenge, but it is one that adds spice to gardening. While the local garden center may stock a few tried and true, super-popular natives—dogwood, asters, phlox—unless you are lucky enough to live near a good retail native plant nursery, you'll have to track down others from more specialized sources—usually through the mail. This involves that most

delightful of winter gardening chores: browsing through catalogs until they are dog-eared, the only gardening that can be done in bed.

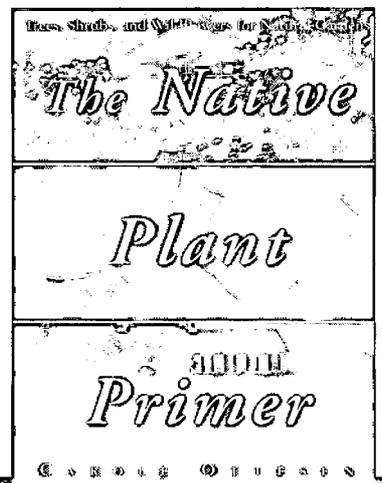
While nursery propagation is the best and most efficient means of producing most natives, in the past wild collection has been the principal means of acquiring others—particularly bulbs and woodland ephemerals, which take years to go from seed to flowering size.

A sense of being at the eleventh hour in terms of preserving species has made some native plant societies take a firm stand on the issue of wild collection. The New England Wild Flower Society's pamphlet *From the Garden* states: "The collection of wild plants by nurserymen and gardeners has seriously diminished or even eliminated local colonies of native wildflowers from their natural habitats. In particular, wild orchids,

trilliums, and some fern species have been badly victimized by this practice ... purchasing wild-collected wildflowers generally equates with paying for their removal from the wild!"

If you're buying from a walk-in retail nursery, you can tell something about a plant's origin. There are some

(continued on next page)



## CONSIDER THE SOURCE

(continued from front page)

signs that a plant is nursery propagated. It is likely to be young rather than mature and will be growing in a grow mix with a neat, centered-in-its-pot position. You won't find other wildlings in its pot. If you look around, you'll probably see row upon row of the same species in the uniform sizes of plants started at the same time.

If you buy from a catalog, you may find a statement that the nursery propagates its own natives. If not, there are other indicators. Price is one, because it reflects the time and work that has gone into nurturing. For example, the price of a White Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*), a plant that is easily propagated but requires five to seven years to go from seed to flowering size, should be, at the very least, the going rate for a perennial plant. Expect to pay two or more times as much for a blooming-size plant. Be wary when the prices of woodland ephemerals are just too good to be true. They are probably wild collected.

Beyond ethical considerations,

there is the simple fact that collected plants do not travel, transplant, or fare as well as nursery-grown plants whose roots haven't been disturbed. Finally, collected plants were often collected too far from your region to make an easy transition.

Most natives do best if they remain close to home. Although there are numerous plants that are widely adaptable, finicky ones perform best in your garden's microclimate if their provenance is local.

*Provenance*—the place within a plant's range from which it originated—is a word that comes up when horticulturists speak of native plants. They know there is much variation within a species and that pockets of differentiated populations exist within the range. Like Darwin's finches, plants of the same species will have evolved slightly different characteristics that are advantageous under the conditions of their microclimates.

A plant with a huge range—such as redbud, found in the wild from New Jersey all the way to Florida and west to Missouri and Mexico—looks a little different in Texas than it does

in Virginia. Differences might be a darker shade of flower, shorter stature, or a smaller spread. And there are also important differences that can't be seen. Trees from Illinois might be hardier than those from around Jacksonville. And the ones from Jacksonville, while more tender, might be more resistant to disease.

**The very nature of natives—plants appropriate only to a particular region—means that knowledge about them will be limited to a particular region. Big national firms tend to market only those plants with a very large range. A native plant nursery concentrates on a specific region or habitat. It can be small and intimate enough to allow the personality and idiosyncrasies of the owner to shine through, adding to the pleasure of purchase.**

The sometimes quirky route to finding the natives that will flourish in your garden makes the hunt for them an adventure. Acquiring an elusive, longed-for plant becomes a great victory, watching it take off in your garden a deep satisfaction. ☺

## Editress ephemeros

This issue marks the emancipation of **Babette Kis** and **Kerry Thomas** from their generous responsibilities as editor and art director of *Wild Ones Journal*. (You are so appreciated, dears.) Were it not for their considerable labor, I don't know how we readers would have gotten the benefit of the past six issues.

Babette brought a markedly greater scientific mind to the *Journal* than can I. Fortunately, **Pat Armstrong** will keep me from embarrassing myself as she will proof the *Journal* before it goes to press. Pat is a biologist/ecologist and owner of Prairie Sun Consultants. [See page 11 for Pat's new cookbook.] Thank goodness, too, **Mandy Ploch** continues to nurture this publishing process, and **Bret Rappaport** directs manuscript traffic with the agility of a downtown Chicago cop.

Since last I had the privilege of addressing you as editor, I've been filing materials into Wild Ones' library. After reading a goodly number of gardening and envi-



ronmental publications, I now appreciate what a special niche *Wild Ones Journal* fills. There were, however, some periodicals I thought might be of interest to you, and they are highlighted on pages 10-11.

**THIS ISSUE BRINGS SOME NEW REGULAR COLUMNS:**

- **The Afterlife**—a before-and-after photo pairing that is meant to encourage those of us who are far from seeing our yards yet complete. If you have before-and-after photos of your landscape, or some special project, *P-L-E-A-S-E* send them to me at my Big Bend address (along with an SASE for their return).
  - **The Landscape That Was** introduces us to historical accounts of the American landscape. Contact your local historical society, museum, courthouse and/or library for early documents about *your* area. You could make a significant contribution to this column—as well as to your own education about your property! Again, *P-L-E-A-S-E* send your findings to me.
  - By joining *Wild Ones*, you have become a representative of the natural landscaping movement, and in each issue you will find a **greeting card** to inspire some form of outreach [see inside back cover]. Use the card or just the idea, but do continue your ambassadorship! ☺
- Joy Buslaff (*Editress resurrectus*)

**W**ild Ones is really on a roll, and it's due to the selfless contributions of so many. Mandy Ploch, Babette Kis and Kerry Thomas worked tirelessly to make the *Wild Ones Journal* the voice of the organization, and their efforts have led to the organization securing its first grant—\$6,000 from the Liberty Prairie Foundation to support publication for the next three years. Pat Brust continues to keep the books straight as secretary, and Dorothy Boyer manages to manage the ever-increasing stream of checks into and out of the organization. Then there's Nancy Behnke (who I don't think ever sleeps) who adds and deletes names as membership director. And there's dear Lorrie Otto who continues to be our spiritual compass.

Last year a new name joined National's 'brain trust': Nancy Aten took over the Seeds for Education Fund. She has handled the second year's applications, revamped the evaluation forms and, working with Annette Alexander and others, enrolled the Seeds For Education Program in the Milwaukee Foundation [see page 9]. Carol Tennessen and Chris Reichert have undertaken the task of securing grants to fund an executive secretary position and for other projects.

Thanks to the efforts of many individuals we are able to boast these many accomplishments:

### MEMBERSHIP'S UP 30 PERCENT

New chapters in Ann Arbor, Lake-To-Prairie, and Oklahoma continue to grow strong. In 1997, we started a new chapter in Menomonee Falls, Wis., under the leadership of Jan Koel.

### WE SNARED A SPOT ON THE WEB

After the *Wild Ones Handbook* made its appearance to raves from members, the US Environmental Protection Agency published it on its Green Landscaping homepage. Members from the Ann Arbor Chapter and Joy Buslaff were instrumental in working with the EPA to make this happen.

### WE CONQUERED ENGLAND

This year British Channel 4 sent a crew across the ocean to profile American landscaping, and Wild Ones members were front and center. Carol Tennessen offered her yard for

the natural landscaping makeover that was the centerpiece of the story [see page 9]. Lorrie and others were featured along with a wonderful overhead shot of Rochelle Whiteman's yard.

Other stories about the organization appeared in *House Beautiful*, the *Detroit Free Press*, *Chicago Tribune*, and other papers in Oklahoma, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

### NATIVES NOW ON NATIONAL NEWSSTAND

*Wild Garden* magazine has hit the stands. This periodical should help to push the natural land-

scape movement to the next level of acceptance. Recognizing the tremendous contribution Wild Ones has made, the publisher agreed to run an ad in the first year's issues for free. Kerry did a great job on the ad, with the quote supplied by Rochelle.

### AND MORE ...

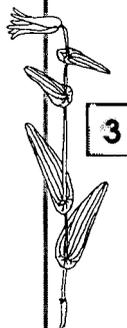
Further accomplishments include: partnership with the USEPA to publish the *Source Book on Natural Landscaping for Local Officials*; membership in the Native Plant Conservation Initiative; selection of honorary directors; a closer working relationship with the Canadian Wildflower Society; and formalization of a national meeting format and annual meeting.

This is all in addition to the great work being done at the chapter level. From digs to seminars to showing your neighbors what to do and how, Wild Ones members are making a difference. Lorraine Johnson's new book, *Grow Wild*, is perhaps the best and most recent testament to the impact this group has made and continues to make. The book, which is wonderfully written and photographed, displays the yards of many Wild Ones. Members are quoted, the mission statement is recited, and Wild Ones member Helen Vandenburg's yard (designed by Pat Armstrong) is featured on the cover.

**What's ahead? We look forward to new chapters in Minnesota, Chicago, and Kentucky. It is the chapters that are the essence of this organization. We must never lose sight of the fact that we are most effective yard-by-yard, acre-by-acre and village-by-village, in working to change the collective face of the front yard of America.** —Bret Rappaport

## WILD ONES GAINING GROUND

Lucy Schumann's page number art represents the fragrant yellow Perfoliate Bellwort (*Uvularia perfoliata*) that flowers in woodlands in spring.



# The landscape that was

Thousands of pieces of correspondence recorded explorers' and settlers' impressions of the land and people of this hemisphere. But for all that has survived, most of us are familiar with little more than the journals of Lewis and Clark. This new column seeks a view of that world before Kodachrome, through early written records.

We begin, quite literally, at the beginning of documentation. Columbus' letter was first printed in Spanish at Barcelona in 1493, according to Wilberforce Eames, who edited the letter for the Lenox Library of New York in 1893. *This excerpt is not as vegetation-specific as future entries to this column will be.* But be patient, Wild Ones, we've much to learn.

Now, let's peer through the mists of time to understand *the landscape that was.*

**505  
YEARS  
AGO**

Because my undertakings have attained success, I know that it will be pleasing to you: these I have determined to relate, so that you may be made acquainted

with everything done and discovered in this our voyage. On the thirty-third day after I departed from Cadiz, I came to the Indian sea, where I found many islands inhabited by men without number, of all which I took possession for our most fortunate king, with proclaiming heralds and flying standards, no one objecting.

To the first of these I gave the name of the blessed Saviour,<sup>1</sup> on whose aid relying I had reached this as well as the other islands. But the Indians called it Guanahany. I also called each one of the others by a new name. For I ordered one island to be called Santa Maria of the Conception,<sup>2</sup> another Fernandina,<sup>3</sup> another Isabella,<sup>4</sup> another Juana,<sup>5</sup> and so on with the rest....

This island is surrounded by many very safe and wide harbors, not excelled by any others that I have ever seen. Many great and salubrious rivers flow through it. There are also many very high mountains there. All these islands are very beautiful, and distinguished by various qualities; they are accessible, and full of a great variety of trees stretching up to the stars; the leaves of

which I believe are never shed, for I saw them as green and flourishing as they are usually in Spain in the month of May; some of them were blossoming, some were bearing fruit, some were in other conditions; each one was thriving in its own way. The nightingale and various other birds without number were singing, in the month of November, when I was exploring them.

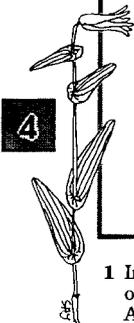
There are besides in the said island Juana seven or eight kinds of palm trees, which far excel ours in height and beauty, just as all the other trees, herbs, and fruits do. There are also excellent pine trees, vast plains and meadows, a variety of birds, a variety of honey, and a variety of metals, excepting iron. In the one which was called Hispana, as we said above, there are great and beautiful mountains, vast fields, groves, fertile plains, very suitable for planting and cultivating, and for the building of houses.

The convenience of the harbors in this island, and the remarkable number of rivers contributing to the healthfulness of man, exceed belief, unless one has seen them. The trees, pasturage, and fruits of this island differ greatly from those of Juana. This Hispana, moreover, abounds in different kinds of spices, in gold, and in metals.

For if anyone has written or said anything about these islands, it was all with obscurities and conjectures; no one claims that he had seen them; from which they seemed like fables. Therefore let the king and queen, the princes and their most fortunate kingdoms, and all other countries of Christendom give thanks to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who has bestowed upon us so great a victory and gift. Let religious processions be solemnized; let sacred festivals be given; let the churches be covered with festive garlands. Let Christ rejoice on earth, as he rejoices in heaven, when he foresees coming to salvation so many souls of people hitherto lost. Let us be glad also, as well on account of the exaltation of our faith, as on account of the increase of our temporal affairs, of which not only Spain, but universal Christendom will be partaker. These things that have been done are thus briefly related. Farewell. Lisbon, the day before the ides of March [March 14, 1493]. ☛

— **Cristóbal Colón** (*Christopher Columbus*),  
**Admiral of the Ocean Fleet**

*"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes."*  
—Marcel Proust, 1871-1922, French novelist



1 In Spanish, San Salvador, one of the Bahama Islands. It has been variously identified with Grand Turk, Cat, Watling, Mariguana, Samana, and Acklin islands. Watling's Island seems to have much in its favor.

2 Perhaps Crooked Island or, according to others, North Caico.

3 Identified by some with Long Island; by others with Little Inagua.

4 Identified variously with Fortune Island and Great Inagua.

5 The island of Cuba.

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## TRAILING ARBUTUS

*(Epigaea repens)*

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**Family:** Ericaceae (Heath)

**Other Names:** Mayflower, Gravel Plant, Gravel Weed, Ground Laurel, Moss Beauty, Winter Pink, Mountain Pink, crocus, Shadflower, Joy o' the Mountain.

**Habitat:** In sandy or rocky woods, especially on acid soil.

**Description:** Sweet-scented pink or white flowers grow in terminal and axillary clusters on hairy stems of a trailing, evergreen plant. The flowers are 1/2 inch wide. They have a tubular corolla (a collective term for the petals of a flower) that is hairy within and flaring into five lobes, each as long as the corolla tube. The leaves are 3/4 inch to 3 inches long, oval, leathery and with hairy margins. The fruiting capsule splits open into five parts, exhibiting whitish pulp covered with tiny seeds.

**Flowering:** March to May. **Height:** Creeper.

**Comments:** Trailing Arbutus is the state flower of Massachusetts and the floral emblem of Nova Scotia. The flower is found on many states' rare and protected plant lists. It has not only been extensively gathered and consumed, but it also seems particularly sensitive to environmental disturbances, such as grazing and lumbering. The trailing stems are hard to transplant, so cultivation is difficult. Even if a stand is established, it can take up to three years or more before it adorns the area with its delicate, scented flowers.

**Medicinal Use:** The plant has been used as a diuretic in all urinary disorders. It is especially useful in preventing the formation of stones or gravel in the kidneys, which explains why it has been used to treat nephritis and cystitis. The Shakers sold this plant as "Gravel Plant." In addition, the Indians used the leaf tea as a blood purifier and for stomachaches.

The Seneca Indians used it as a tonic and the flowers and leaves were used to treat malaria. The leaves contain arbutoside, ericoline and ursolic acid.

**Name Origin:** The genus name, *Epigaea* (ep-I-JEE-a), is from two Greek words, *epi*, meaning "upon," and *gaea*, meaning "earth." Used together, they describe the trailing habits of this plant. The species name, *repens* (REE-penz), means "creeping." The family name, Ericaceae, is pronounced: e-ri-KAYsee-ee.

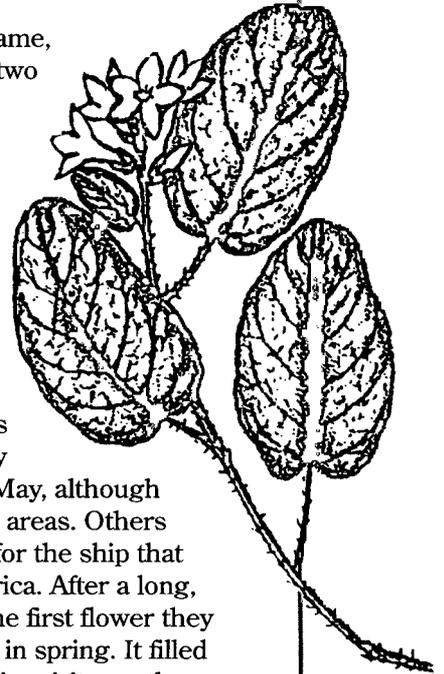
One of the alternate names of the Trailing Arbutus is Mayflower. This is probably because the plant blooms in May, although it can be even earlier in some areas. Others believe the plant was named for the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America. After a long, harsh, cold winter, this was the first flower they found blooming in the woods in spring. It filled them with hope and lifted their spirits, so they named the flower after their ship. The name, Arbutus, is from the Celtic word, arboise, meaning "rough fruit."

**Author's Note:** The only place I've ever found this plant flourishing in abundance is at the Ridges Sanctuary, Baileys Harbor in Door County, Wis. It does not appear on our land in Plymouth, nor have I found it on our land in Door County, which is only four miles north of the Ridges. Obviously, it has a specific soil and temperature requirement. I can certainly understand why it gave the Pilgrims hope for milder weather. To find a blooming Trailing Arbutus nestled close to the ground, amongst other vegetation, really does "lift your spirits." I trust that it will always be possible to walk along the paths of places like The Ridges, where these dainty, pinkish flowers are protected from human destruction. I agree with George Schaller, naturalist, ecologist, world explorer, and author who said:

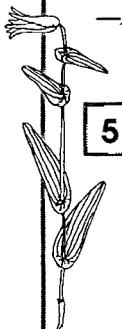
*There's been too much greed,  
too much consumption.*

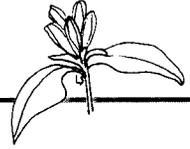
*We have to focus on saving some portion  
of nature for the next millennium.*

© 1998 Janice Stiefel, Plymouth, Wis.



*I know  
of only one  
mail-order  
nursery  
to carry  
Trailing  
Arbutus  
plants:  
Reeseville  
Ridge  
Nursery,  
Box 171,  
Reeseville,  
WI 53579.  
They tell  
me they're  
out of  
stock now,  
but may  
have some  
available  
this fall.  
—Ed.*





On June 21, 1997, our village, the most northern suburb in Milwaukee County, received 8 inches of rain. People awakened in the morning to find as much as 6 to 9 inches of water in basements and family rooms. They were furious. They blamed village officials.

AN  
ELEGANT  
SOLUTION\*

A firm was hired to offer engineering solutions. Estimates ranged from \$2 million to \$4 million for ditches, culverts, settling ponds, and underground pipes. Also, it was recommended that a deep gully be cut through the

Audubon Nature Center. At a public meeting, a defensive engineer volunteered, "Yes, big trees will be taken down. Yes, there will be a lot of dirt and noise. Yes, the ravines will be reamed out. Yes, the little creek will look different with its bottom re-done with obstructions."

This gave the Audubon staff and members a real fright, and so we testified at a double-night hearing. In response, people with flooded family rooms retaliated and refused to buy any more books at the Center's store. They claimed that Audubon was not a good neighbor when it wouldn't sacrifice for the good of the community.

**We weren't asked, but I thought that the environmentalists should come forth with a plan. I did ...**

- Each property owner should be responsible for the rainwater which falls on his land.
- No grass should be cut shorter than 3 inches.
- As with farmers who must plant buffer zones along salmon streams, lawn-keepers must do the same around their yards.
- Leaves should be raked into these areas and not sent to the dump.
- Bayside has ditches with concrete inverts—remove them. Dig the ditches so deep that, after they are vegetated, they still can hold a foot of water before draining through the culverts. Plant them with rushes, reeds, sedges or make them into hedgerows of riparian wetland shrubs such as ninebark or various dogwoods.
- And because this is public land, cutting off the ends of branches would be forbidden in favor of graceful shapes, flowers and fruit for wildlife.
- Encourage citizens to construct sunken gardens leading from the ditches with boneset, red milkweeds, rosy Joe Pyes, blue Bottle Gentians or just iris and rocks. (And swales are much more efficient if planted with prairie plants.)
- Use porous surfacing materials for patios and driveways.

**As I was explaining this to a friend, an older Bayside guy interrupted me. "You'll never get away with that! A messy, weedy look all over the village will reduce our property values. I like neat, short grass. There is nothing more beautiful than a well-kept lawn. That is what I stand for!"**

Comments like that stir my juices. It gives one such a

good opportunity to explain natural landscaping, which is a combination of art and science.

Early proponents in Milwaukee were heavy on the art side. However, a few years later the science part began to capture our interest as we joyfully struggled to understand the whole picture. We began speaking of *plant communities* and studying each kind of plant grouping and how the whole was truly the final landscape we were longing for.

We began with woodland spring wildflowers. When we planted these lovely little things in a mowed lawn under a tree, they slowly withered and died. However, those that were transplanted into the leafy mulch under a tree thrived. We looked at the process as we wondered why. We piled leaves under the shrubs and trees, amazed at how rapidly they flattened and hugged the soil such that the wind did not dislodge them. For awhile we couldn't see what the decomposers were doing. The micro- and macroscopic organisms worked all winter. By April the leaves had almost disappeared and were no barrier to the delicate, fuzzy hooks of the first hepaticas. The roots of the spring ephemerals are shallow, and they quickly sucked up the moisture to keep their stems taut with water pressure in their cells. (This is why they make wilting bouquets, unlike the summer flowers with their strong fiber stems.) From all this we learned that those disintegrating leaves had held moisture like a sponge, sustaining the rapid development of the flowers which must set seeds before the full expansion of the leafy roofs above them.

### TALLER IS BETTER

In almost every yard the grass is so short it can't form a tight turf or strong root system. UW research stations advise us to cut no shorter than 3 to 3½ inches, if the mower can be set that high. Remember: The height of the green blades is equal to the depth of the roots. Vigorous plants crowd out most weeds and, because the roots go deeper, the grass remains greener in a drought. The soil is less compacted and retains more water during brief showers.

But we still need buffer zones around each lawn to prevent non-point pollution. Young trees and shrubs, mulched perennial gardens, prairie flowers and grasses would hold the nitrogen, phosphorous and toxic chemicals in the yard. (We're distressed to often read that wealthy suburbia uses chemicals in greater excess than any farmer). Prairie plants on higher grounds coupled with wetland prairie plants in swales would do much to curtail flooding. (Prairie roots grow to depths of 2 inches to 15 feet.) The rapid demand for water in the woodlands, followed by the use and storage of water in the tight network of prairie roots in the summer, plus drainage ditches of semi-aquatic plants would change the character of suburbia. As a beautiful and functional system, the art and science of a natural landscape would truly have made it *whole*. ♪ —Lorrie Otto

\*Elegant solution is a term used by scientists and engineers to describe an outcome that has met all criteria beautifully.



At left: Margrit's front yard after a city crew mowed her plantings.



It started out innocently enough, an envelope festooned with the city's seal. I ripped open the envelope and scanned the contents. The phrase "grasses and/or weeds in excess of 8 inches in height" caught my eye. I took a deep breath and started reading the letter over again, slowly. My mind was busy calculating replacement costs, while absorbing the implications of the official notice. I groped for the phone and dialed the city inspector's office. Then, in my best non-threatening voice, I quizzed the inspector.

"What do you mean by yard?"

"Oh, front, back, sides—whatever."

"What do you mean by weeds?"

*You see, I'm growing prairie plants."*

(I have over 300 different species of plants and am not growing Marijuana, Canada Thistle, Purple Loosestrife or anything else the state of Illinois considers an obnoxious weed.)

"Oh, we wouldn't know prairie

*plants or anything like that if we saw it. But I'm glad you called to let me know about your garden. I'll make sure a cutting crew is **not** sent out to your address."*

As I hung up the phone, a sigh of relief escaped my lips. My relief was short-lived. About a week later, after a very long day of answering phones for the Kane County Master Gardeners and a trip to Ted's Greenhouse, I came home to total destruction. My first instinct was to scream. Instead, I called Pat Armstrong, who has had experience dealing with her city's weed ordinances. She gave me Bret Rappaport's phone number and a piece of advice: Make a list of all the plants the city mowed and their cost.

Bret calmed me, nixed my idea of suing for a new car and house and said to wait a week before writing a letter. I later delivered a packet to the city inspector including: my letter, a list of the plants mowed by the city (including botanical name, source and cost), a copy of the city's bill for mowing my yard (\$95!) and details on a natural landscaping seminar for municipal decision-makers. My situation was pleasantly resolved.

Here is my hard-earned advice for you:

**1. WORK FROM A LANDSCAPE PLAN.**

Make a sketch and a list of plants to use. Don't just plunk in plants haphazardly.

**2. KEEP THE NEIGHBORS INFORMED.** Tell them what you plan on doing and why. One of my neighbors actually stopped the cutting crew

MARGRIT  
NITZ

from entering my back yard, because she knew

what I had done and how much work it was.

**3. FINISH IT.** This is especially important when dealing with the most visible parts of your yard.

**4. KEEP YOUR COOL.** The city will usually give you a written warning before mowing. Take a deep breath and be polite. If the city does mow, wait until you're calm to react. This will give you time to assess whether the plants can recover. Provide as much documentation as you can. If your yard has been featured in newspapers, magazines or books, include the articles. If your yard is an official wildlife habitat, give the inspector a copy of your certification. Blitz them with paper. Make a copy of your Wild Ones sign or a copy of a yard photo in full bloom and include that, too.

City inspectors usually are not botanists, horticulturists or even semi-knowledgeable about plants, but they are still human and should be treated with courtesy. You may think the reasons for going native and natural are obvious, but it may not seem that way to them. If you educate without condemnation or ridicule, you will have created an ally and promoted the Wild Ones name. You may even inspire someone to change their own yard. After all, isn't that what Wild Ones is trying to accomplish? ☺

66

As administrator of the grass/weed abatement program for the City of Aurora, I sincerely apologize for the inadvertent destruction of your wildflower planting area.

In accordance with your request for reimbursement to replace those plantings which were damaged, enclosed is a check ... [and the bill] for the cutting has been voided pursuant to your request.

We regret the inconvenience caused by this incident.

99

"Shooting Stars" is a returning column that introduces you to fellow members whose activities are of particular interest.



This column focuses on a plant species valued by birds found in the upper Midwest. Each submission describes a plant that is in its prime during the time you are likely to be enjoying this publication.

The hawthorn family offers about 100 species native to North America. All species produce beautiful flowers and abundant fruit that is appreciated by wildlife at the toughest of times (being late winter and early spring). Hawthorns also provide excellent cover as the thorny branches have dissuaded many a hawk or neighborhood cat. For us, the colorful berries against a barren landscape can be refreshing at a time when we really need it.

**Characteristics:** Hawthorns grow as both trees and shrubs. Glossy green leaves provide a pleasant backdrop for the developing fruit as summer progresses. Fruit is found in interesting bundles which range from orange to red in color and from dull to shiny in appearance. Height can range from 15 to 30 feet when fully grown.

**This plant enjoys:** Full sun to partial shade. I have found some hawthorns surviving in shadier sites, but, as one would suspect, growth is somewhat stunted. Hawthorns appreciate well-drained soils and can tolerate fairly poor soil. Planting zones from 3 to 6 host hawthorns, and the stable branches resist heavy snows and ice. Some 'haws' (as they are known) can be afflicted with cedar apple rust, so proper spacing from cedars may be in order.

**Who benefits:** Over 39 species of birds have been documented utilizing hawthorns. From hummingbirds, orioles,

and cedar waxwings enjoying the nectar in spring to purple finches and robins surviving on the fruit in late winter, this plant does meritorious service. Perhaps the greatest benefit hawthorns provide is nesting sites.

Catbirds, cardinals, robins, thrashers, and even hummingbirds' nests have been found among the branches. Anyone who has come too close to these plants quickly gets the point about the protection afforded by its abundant and formidable thorns.

**Companion plants:** A five-star restaurant for wildlife would include hawthorns, dogwoods, elderberries, serviceberries, and winterberries. Most fruit-eating birds and mammals would be in heaven surrounded by this potpourri of food and safety. This arrangement of fruit-producing plants would be sure to make an area a wildlife hotspot during all seasons. ☺

—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.*

*[The Farmer Seed & Nursery catalog suggests that the Washington Hawthorn (a rust-resistant non-native which normally grows to 30 feet) can be trained into shrub form by setting out plants 2 feet apart and shearing back to encourage side growth, thereby amassing a dense hedgerow to baffle road noise and headlights.—Ed.]*

## HAWTHORNS (*Crataegus spp.*)

## The front forty

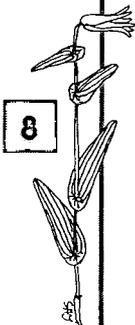
### EXPANSION

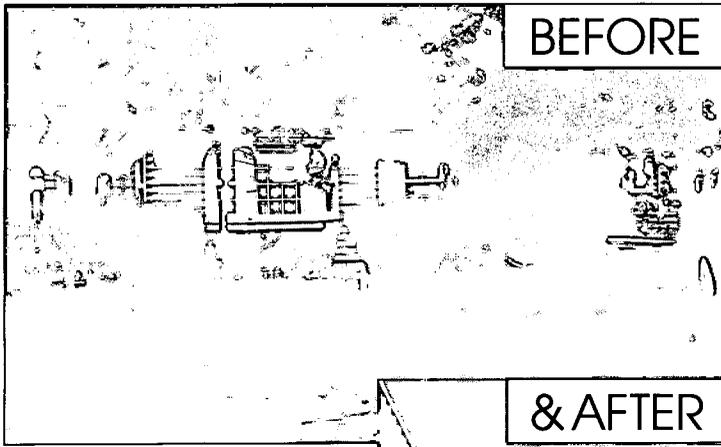
Curt and I expanded the Front Forty again last fall, by 250 square feet. This expansion was due mainly to the generosity of the Fox Valley Chapter. Last summer their chapter was contacted by Oakwood Mercy Hospital to see if they wanted to rescue plants from a prairie reconstruction that had been started by Neil Diboll of Prairie Nursery. They worked very hard rescuing plants, not only for their own yards but also for local schools, a retirement center, a rehab center, arboretums and parks. For all their hard work, by August it looked as though many of the plants would end up victims of the bulldozer. At the National Wild Ones meeting held Aug. 9, Donna VanBuecken, Fox Valley Chapter president, announced that they were opening their dig up to all chapters.

Curt and I went there on two consecutive Saturdays and got everything from Indian Grass to Purple Prairie Clover. (My apologies to Curt, who I insisted dig up two interesting plants with purple splotches on their stems. I realized, when we got them home, they were cockle burs. I guess I get a little over-excited sometimes in the heat of the hunt.)

While I kept the plants watered and out of the sun, Curt began the task of turning over the soil. He removed the sod and turned in some compost from the recycling center. Naturally, when you turn over that much lawn, you turn up as much interest from the neighbors as you do earthworms. So every evening while we were out there planting, folks would stop by to talk and find out what we were putting in the new area. They are used to our prairie plantings now and don't mind hearing that we are putting in more of the same. ☺

—Judy Crane





## The "Afterlife"

*"I would not argue against an Eden lost, except I live in Eden.  
Heaven? After this earth, who needs a bonus?"*

—Mel Ellis, 1912-1984, Wisconsin author

This makeover certainly opens up a diversified view—both for the Tennessees who live here and for passersby. Where a hedge and a locust tree once cuffed the foundation, prairie flowers now bob in the wind. Where the old landscape was static, the new one will only become more dynamic over time. See Carol Tennesen's story in the Nov/Dec '97 issue for details about this famous made-for-TV transformation.



## Classrooms without walls

*"Try to make a difference.*

*It's not that hard to do."*—Lorrie Otto

## THE SEEDS FOR EDUCATION STORY

The Lorrie Otto Seeds For Education program was born as an idea of Wild Ones seeking a forward-looking program that would encourage people to do good.

Named in honor of our beloved Lorrie Otto, teacher, naturalist, activist, and inspiration to thousands, it gives grants to places of learning whose efforts best reflect our message of creating natural landscapes using native plants and appreciating humankind's proper place in the web of Nature. This program is special in that it encourages those inclined toward our mission, rather than honoring those already accomplished.

An April 1996 dinner launched Lorrie Otto Seeds For Education and raised \$10,000, the majority in the form of \$20 to \$50 to \$100 contributions from individuals.

In 1997 we awarded six grants totaling \$750. In 1998 we will award \$1,500. Recipients will be chosen from 17 written applications by a volunteer panel of educators and naturalists. Seeds For Education Partners (native nurseries and propagators) also donate seeds and plants to grant recipients.

Seeds For Education funds are separate from Wild Ones funds, and total \$15,000. As approved by the Wild Ones Board, \$10,000 has been permanently invested with the Milwaukee Foundation. The \$5,000 remaining will supplement the Foundation disbursement until our fund grows large enough to support continuing viable grant amounts.

Wild Ones itself solely determines how the income is spent, with no restrictions from the Foundation, which disburses 5 percent to us each year, in order to grow the principal (and our income). With the Milwaukee Foundation, we gain credibility and visibility, guarantee a permanent legacy, and get good, low-cost investment management (10-year annualized rates of return vary from 9.6 to 11.2 percent). We also gain a voice in the Foundation's new environmental advisory group.

**Donations to Seeds For Education may be sent to Wild Ones or to the Milwaukee Foundation, 1020 North Broadway, Milwaukee, WI 53202, marked "Lorrie Otto Seeds For Education."**

We'll give you reports on these ever-growing *classrooms without walls* in future issues. —Nancy Aten

# THE WELL-READ WILD ONE

"We never stop investigating. We are never satisfied that we know enough to get by. Every question we answer leads on to another question. This has become the greatest survival trick of our species."

—Desmond Morris, 1928-  
British anthropologist



From your *Wild Ones Handbook*\* you already know the titles of most of the publications that cater to your interest in natural landscaping. But, if you're a glutton for allied information—vegetable gardening, land preservation, wildlife, *et al.*—the following periodicals from Wild Ones' exchange library may be of interest to you.

Wild Ones maintains a newsletter exchange with various organizations so that we may learn about others' activities and spread our Wild Ones message to an ever-broader audience. Wild Ones' library (in physical reality, a very large, well-organized box) also contains scrapbooks of media highlights about our accomplishments. If your landscape has gotten some press coverage, send a copy to the Milwaukee address below. Thanks!

**The Prairie Reader** would appeal to many Wild Ones members. Expert authors describe prairie initiatives (from Nebraska to North Carolina) and practices (burning, botany, ecology and entomology). Plus, the spring issue is especially devoted to prairie landscaping—or "gardening in an age of extinction" as Editor Camille LeFevre aptly puts it.

Tantalizing upcoming topics include: planting in drifts, weed control, and subdivision and roadside plantings.

Individual subscriptions are \$18/year, business and agency subscriptions are \$25/year. **The Prairie Reader**, P.O. Box 8227, St. Paul, MN 55108.

**The Weedpatch Gazette** is a general gardening newsletter from Editor Rommy Lopat. The writing is kicky and personal, fun and useful. One subscriber said, "*TWG* packs more into 20 pages than many of today's national garden magazines

with 100 pages or more!" Subscribe to this upper-Midwest quarterly for \$22/year from: **The Weedpatch Gazette**, P.O. Box 339, Richmond, IL 60071-0339; [www.weedpatch.com](http://www.weedpatch.com).

**American PIE** (Public Information on the Environment) is almost too good to be true in its offering a 1-800 Info Line to the general public to answer a broad range of questions—from land use to food safety, water pollution to species preservation—providing facts and information so that your decisions affecting the environment may be as well-informed as possible. If PIE's researchers cannot answer your concern immediately, they will respond with a return call or other follow-up communication.

PIE's top-notch quarterly draws from a spectrum of scientific and political resources, is written in a

## \*NEW MEMBERS, HEED:

The Wild Ones Handbook has been reprinted courtesy of the US Environmental Protection Agency. (Quite a nice compliment!) But, paper-shuffling being what it is, there was a gap in the supply line. Each new member is entitled to a handbook. Notify us if you have not received yours by April. Write to:

10

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"Every species extinction starts somewhere as a local loss."

—Jasper Carlton, Wildlife Tracks

congenial tone and laid out in a handsome format that is concise and useful as a reference. Membership is tax-deductible (\$25/year for an individual) from: **American PIE, Membership Dept., P.O. Box 340, South Glastonbury, CT 06073-0340; 1-800-320-APIE.**

**Wildlife Tracks**, published by the Humane Society of the United States, Wildlife Department, is written for grass-roots activists working to protect wildlife and habitat. You may ask to be added to their mailing list simply by writing to: **The HSUS, Wildlife Dept., 2100 "L" Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.**

[It is tempting to share many samples from the periodicals just mentioned. With space for but one, I offer this passage about habitat loss.—Ed.]

**R**oads wreak havoc on wildland ecosystems. They fragment wildlife habitat; introduce non-native pathogens, weeds, and wildlife including aggressive predatory and parasitic species (like the brown-headed cowbird); increase erosion and stream sedimentation (seriously disturbing aquatic species); increase access for off-road vehicle abuse and poaching; increase wildlife mortality by roadkill; alter migration corridors and inhibit wildlife movement.

In terms of direct effects, roadkill is the most visible. Animals are drawn to roads for a variety of reasons. Reptiles, in particular, are drawn to the warm surfaces to bask in the sun. Significant proportions of snake and toad populations are affected by roadkill, especially because they travel fairly slowly across

roadways, and are difficult to see. Many animals are also drawn to road salts, again leading to collisions.

Numerous hydrologists and biologists have identified roads as the primary impact on the forest environment. Roads increase edge effect, allowing predatory and/or opportunistic species like raccoons greater access into interior forest habitats. This has been particularly devastating for neotropical migrant bird populations. In addition to edge effects, the increased stream sedimentation from roads is enormous. Increased sedimentation chokes fish, suffocates eggs and reduces available habitat for many aquatic species. And the more roads you have, the worse the problem is.

—Wildlife Tracks

You can purchase this 2-color, aluminum yard sign from your chapter (\$18) or through the Milwaukee P.O. Box (\$21).



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Send a snapshot of your Wild Ones sign (with an SASE if you'd like it returned) to Wild Ones Journal % Joy Buslaff, S89 W22630 Milwaukee Ave., Big Bend, WI 53103. If you don't, we'll have to keep looking at my house every issue!—Ed.

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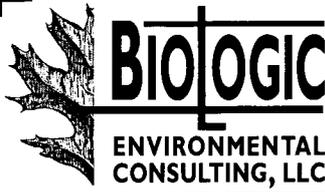
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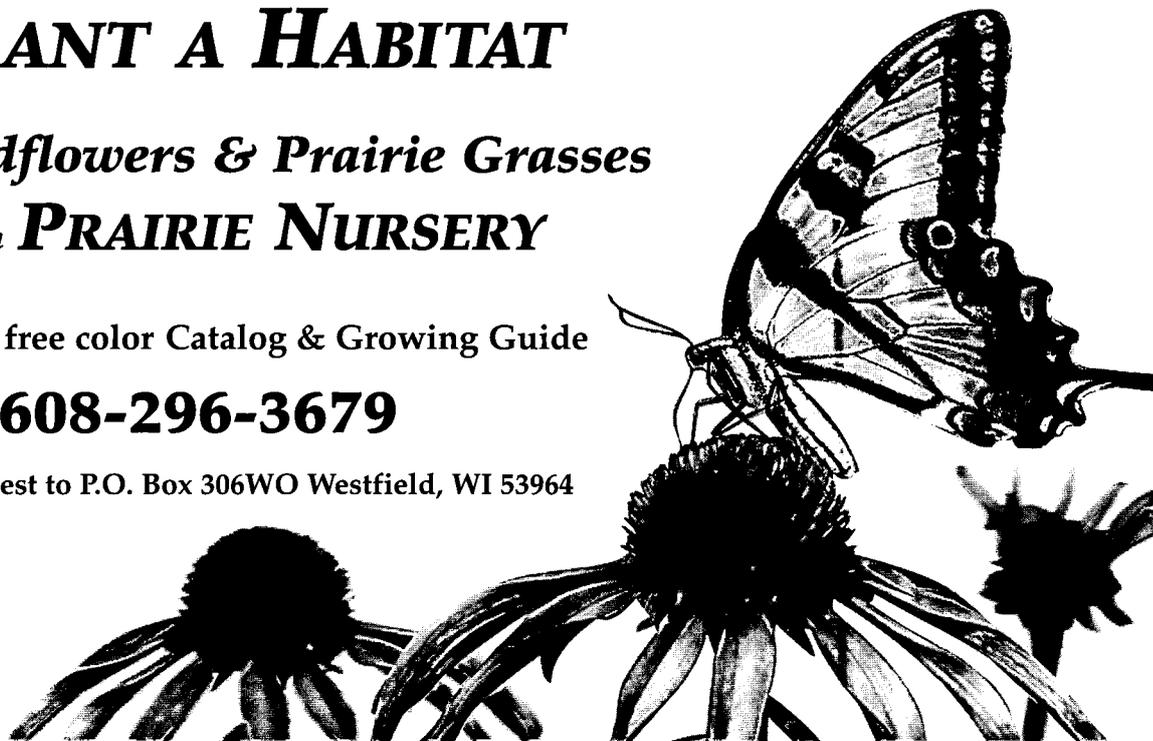
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**LAKE-TO-PRAIRIE CHAPTER**

Programs are held Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m. in the Byron Colby Community Barn at Prairie Crossing, Grayslake (Rt. 45 just south of Ill. 120). Visitors welcome. Call Karin Wisiol for info, (847) 548-1650.

**MARCH 10**—Susan Borkin, director of invertebrate biology at the Milwaukee Public Museum, presents "Butterflies in Your Backyard." Her research focuses on preserving endangered butterfly species.

**APRIL 14**—Peter Winkler, environmental consultant and instructor at College of Lake County, discusses "Fire Ecology and Managing Preserved Natural Areas in Suburban Settings."

**GREATER DuPAGE CHAPTER**

Chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the College of DuPage, unless otherwise noted. Call (630) 415-IDIG for info.

**MARCH 19**—Meet at COD Building K, Rm 161, to hear Rob Mies of the Organization for Bat Conservation speak about bats of Illinois. Slides, handouts and live bats round out the lecture.

**APRIL 17**—Annual potluck featuring Ray Schulenberg speaking on the importance of creating prairies. Ray, now retired from the Morton Arboretum, planted the Schulenberg Prairie, training hundreds of prairie workers in the process.

**ROCK RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER**

Meet at various locations. Call Jarrett Prairie Center, Byron Forest Preserve, 7993 N. River Rd., Byron, at (815) 234-8535 for info.

**MARCH 19**—"Let Heaven And Nature Sing." Perle Olsson will speak about the benefits of prairie. Jarrett Nature Center, 6:30 p.m.

**APRIL 16**—Tim Lewis will talk about how to photograph plants. Jarrett Nature Center, 6:30 p.m.

**KANSAS**

Chapter meets monthly. Call Michael S. Almon for info, (913) 832-1300.

**KENTUCKY**

**FRANKFORT CHAPTER**

For meeting times and locations call Katie Clark at (502) 226-4766 or e-mail [herb@kih.net](mailto:herb@kih.net).

**MARCH**—Presentation on planting bare-root plants by Mike Smiley and a bareroot planting at Lakeview Park. Bring shovels.

**APRIL**—Meeting and discussion on transplanting techniques and a Saturday wild flower rescue/planting at Bald Knob School.

**OHIO**

**COLUMBUS CHAPTER**

Call Joyce Stevens for info, (614) 771-9273.

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**OKLAHOMA CHAPTER**

Meetings are held on the last Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Stillwater Public Library, Rm 138, unless otherwise noted.

**MICHIGAN**

Call Dave Borneman for info, (313) 994-4834.

**WISCONSIN**

**FOX VALLEY AREA CHAPTER**

Meetings are held at UW-Extension office, 625 E. Cnty Rd. Y, Oshkosh, 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

**MARCH 26**—Professional nature photographer and Wild Ones member Eileen Herrling will give photography tips and a dual-projector show featuring her own prairie garden.

**APRIL 23**—Meet at the Bubolz Nature Preserve where naturalist and Wild Ones member Elaine Meyer will give hands-on training in identifying plants. The Preserve is located just north of Appleton on County Hwy. A.

**GREEN BAY CHAPTER**

Meetings are held at the Green Bay Botanical Gardens, 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Call Julie Macier for info, (920) 465-4759.

**MARCH 11**—Paul Hartman, Brown County Extension Service, speaks on the topic of invasive species.

**APRIL 8**—Roy Lukes, syndicated nature columnist, presents "Spring Woods Awakening."

**MADISON CHAPTER**

Meetings are held the last Thursday of the month at Arboretum McKay Center, 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Public is welcome. Call Joe Powelka for more info, (608) 837-6308.

**MARCH 21**—Native Landscaping Conference at UW Memorial Union. Keynote speaker is Rick Darke, curator of plants at Longwood Gardens, Landenburg, Pa. There are also nine breakout sessions on native landscaping topics.

**APRIL 30**—Oak Savannahs in the Midwest: Learn about the makeup of the predominant landscape form in southwestern Wisconsin 200 years ago.

**MENOMONEE RIVER AREA CHAPTER**

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center, W152 N8684 Margaret Rd., Menomonee Falls. Call Judy Crane for info, (414) 251-2185.

**MARCH 18**—Dan Boehlke will speak on planting a woodland.

**APRIL 15**—Guest speaker is Don Reed, wetland specialist for SEWRPC and author of Wetland Plants and Plant Communities of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

**MILWAUKEE—NORTH CHAPTER**

Meetings are held at the Schlitz Audubon Center, 1111 E. Brown Deer Rd., Bayside, second Saturday of the month, 9:30 a.m., unless otherwise noted.

**MARCH 14**—Delene Hanson and Loretta Hernday present a delightful slide presentation.

**APRIL 11**—Rochelle Whiteman presents "Where We've Been And Where We're Headed."

**MILWAUKEE—WEHR CHAPTER**

Meetings are held at the Wehr Nature Center, second Saturday of the month, 1:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Call voice mail message center at (414) 299-9888.

**MARCH 14**—Same program as North Chapter above.

**APRIL 11**—Same program as North Chapter above.

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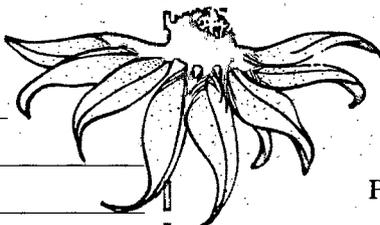
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