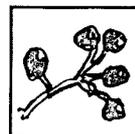




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A VOICE FOR THE NATURAL LANDSCAPING MOVEMENT

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1998 • VOLUME 11, NO. 6

Wild Ones®

Journal

CHRISTMAS TREE

Having been raised on the traditional tinsel spruce or pine with its winged angels and all manner of gaudy, store-bought ornaments, it was not until about a decade ago that we switched to what I suppose might be referred to as a biodegradable Christmas tree. Ecology, however, had nothing to do with it. A great aunt, Martha Dedolph of Mayville, Wis., provided the inspiration. House-bound with infirmities, she wondered, during a visit, if we might not have a little spruce tree to spare. Of course! We had hundreds!

"But the only decorations I want," she insisted, "are conifer cones, Nightshade berries, a colored leaf or two, perhaps a cluster of Mountain-ash berries, or if the birds have gotten

them, a sprig of Multiflora Rose berries." And that is what she got: a three-foot White Spruce with, among other things, a red sprinkling of Highbush Cranberries, a Monarch and a White Cabbage butterfly, both of which had perished uncrumpled, and, to top it off, a cross of Red Dogwood. (According to legend, that is the wood of which Christ's cross was made, and the tree was doomed thereafter to bush size so no more crosses might be made of it.)

Compared to the flashy trees to which we had become accustomed, this tree was, at first glance, woefully drab, almost ugly. Then a ray of sun through a window put a sparkle on the Monarch butterfly wings, and a lighted lamp made the Nightshade berries sparkle as though freshly anointed with dew. I moved the lamp, and the Cabbage White butterfly looked wonderfully alive. Summer had come to the little corner, though

just outside the window the thermometer recorded 10 degrees below zero.

Next year, we tried it on our children. The older ones agreed: "Great!" The younger ones protested: "That's a Christmas tree?" and went walking in the subdivision beyond the woods to revive their Christmas spirit in the razzle-dazzle of lighted reindeer prancing on rooftops, picture windows ablaze with colored lights, and a loudspeaker with a tin throat trying to imitate Bing Crosby's "White Christmas."

So, next year, down from the attic came all the boxed ornaments, some graceful, some grotesque, and the beautiful tree once again resembled a campaigning hooker all decked out in sequins, rhinestones, trailing boas and, the gods preserve us, a white-winged angel flying next to a multi-colored jet airplane. Well, anything for

(continued on next page)

TREE (continued from front page)
a happy home, except that toward the end of the following summer the youngest, Mary, came to the house with a little yellow bucket overflowing with milkweed silk. She stood for awhile saying nothing, but then, as though talking to no one in particular, said: "Might look prettier than tinsel... softer, somehow." So, we were off and running.

That year we stayed with spruce, and though we did not abandon lights, we elected to part with a little cash for the smallest twinkling bulbs the marketplace afforded. The big change came the following year. We abandoned spruce and went to juniper (Red Cedar) which rivals the

Tamarack's spring delicacy of texture. We stayed with the lights, but otherwise all ornaments, including three dry, feather-light bumblebees, joined the likes of dried Joe-Pye Weed, and feathers from Jay, Flicker, Cardinal, Goldfinch and Wood Duck. At once it became something of a contest. Abandoned bird eggs (well blown) had to have nests. Dragonflies, iridescent as the day they died, joined even a crayfish's armor, great claws as blue as the water it had once scuttled about in.

The first few years, there was little planning. Gradually, as the children matured, patterns developed. Autumn might have its corner, while spring put its props on the other side

of the tree. There was even one "pond tree," highlighted by hundreds of clamshells tiny as fingernails, taking their color from any light willing to shine on them.

Fortunately, our land is well endowed with junipers of all sizes and shapes. After the tree has been selected and marked, it is down to the marsh, the bush pantry, the oak hill, the creek and ponds, the pasture, any nook gracious enough to provide a spider web carefully sprayed and carefully carried on paper, a mushroom varnished to preserve it, or perhaps a shelf fungus plucked in infancy, already a curious convulsion of incredible colors. 🌿

WILD ONES ANNOUNCES WEB SITE

Wild Ones is pleased to announce its expanded presence on the Internet's World Wide Web, at <http://www.for-wild.org>.

Developed with the assistance of many members, this site provides access to useful information, including meeting schedules, contacts for local chapters and national functions, and expanded information on landscaping with native plants. This supplements the Web version of the *Wild Ones Handbook* that has been available since May 1997 at <http://www.epa.gov/greenacres/wildones/>. Costs have been underwritten by a generous grant from Neil Diboll and Prairie Nursery.

The Wild Ones web site will help meet the challenge of sharing ideas and information among a growing, geographically dispersed membership.

CHAPTER WEB PAGES

A major goal of the web site is to help Wild Ones chapters communicate with current and potential members. Space is available on the site for any chapter that has

THANKS! THE MILWAUKEE-NORTH CHAPTER has generously sponsored the editing and design costs for this issue of the *Wild Ones Journal*, in effect relieving our national treasury of those production costs. The North Chapter's funds were raised, in part, through t-shirt, glove and fern sales.

NOTE: Scheduling does not permit the inclusion of the official ballot in this mailing. When you do receive your official ballot, please participate in the election.

information to share. Some chapters include meeting schedules, newsletter articles, rosters of officers and committee chairs, and details about plant rescues and other activities. Chapters may provide information such as places to see native plant landscapes, sources of books or pamphlets about plants native to their area, or local events. It is recommended that each chapter designate someone to coordinate their material on the web. The coordinator may provide pages in finished form, or may request assistance in preparing text, photos, and illustrations.

PLANS FOR FUTURE EXPANSION

Members have volunteered to provide material on municipal weed ordinances, landscaping at houses of worship, plus the environmental, societal and fiscal benefits of natural landscaping. Reports and photos from schools that received grants from the Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Fund will also be available in the future.

The site presently contains downloadable sample pages from the *Journal*. Discussions are underway to post additional articles and perhaps an index to back issues. The current downloadable membership form may be supplemented by an on-line form. An on-line form for members to report changes of address is also in the planning stage.

Two Wild Ones email lists have been proposed. One will allow officers, directors, and chapter contacts to communicate electronically. Another will link those working on chapter newsletters and chapter material for the web site. Email lists for individual chapters may also be considered.

Please submit suggestions or possible material to your chapter web contact or Mark Charles. For information about the web site, contact Mark by phone (734-997-8909) or email (wildones@ic.net). 🌿

According to a study by the Conservation Design Forum of Naperville, Ill., using a community of native plants significantly reduces real estate developers' and property owners' costs. Direct costs, such as ground preparation, installation, irrigation, fertilization and core aeration, factored over a decade, indicate that natural landscapes may cost one-fifth that of conventional landscapes. Additional benefits of a natural landscape include reduced costs for stormwater management, reduced air/water/noise pollution, and soil conservation. Plus, natural features are unique community assets that positively affect property values and increase recreational opportunities.

garden. According to Susan Rosenberg, "The entire environment, from the trees to the building design that incorporates the large windows, allows employees to incorporate the environment into their daily work"—a true employee benefit.

"FORMAL LAWNS ARE NOT ALLOWED. LANDSCAPE PLANTS MUST BE NATIVE TO THE COASTAL PLAIN BARRIER ISLAND." This subdivision policy comes from Dewees, a 1,206-acre barrier island north of Charleston, S.C. There are no cars, and the island is accessible only by boat. The master plan called for 65 percent of the island to be set aside for conservation. All infrastructure was designed to minimize disruption of the ecosystem. John L. Knott Jr., who developed Dewees, has a background in architectural preservation and restoration. Before a single home was built, an environmental consultant prepared a comprehensive wildlife management plan. Builders are required to attend environmental seminars, and a staff naturalist teaches homeowners about this special place.

Developers and homeowners can realize significant savings by emulating the DeWees model. First, by leaving the natural topography and existing vegetation, the costs of grading and landscaping are relatively non-existent. Second, stormwater management is minimized. Finally, there is a large reduction in non-point source pollution because native plant communities do not require fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation.

A 1996 American Planning Association report states that the reduction of non-point source pollution is a significant economic and ecological benefit. When the natural landscape is smoothed over with roads and lawns, the resulting watershed surface causes the velocity and volume of runoff to increase, decreasing filtration, decreasing groundwater recharge, and increasing erosion. These factors, combined with chemicals and other contaminants, degrade water quality.

Living and working within functioning ecosystems helps us learn about fresh water, clean air, healthy soil, and native species. Furthermore, planting natives with our own hands, cultivating a habitat, reconnects us spiritually. Claude Monet's friend Octun Mirbeau said, "Art and literature are all nonsense. Earth is the only thing that matters ... I can spend hours at a clod of earth ... I love humus like a woman." Working with Mother Nature and not against Her, enriches the soul. ☘

—Bret Rappaport

DEVELOPERS ARE LEARNING

Decades ago, corporations began moving their headquarters from downtown skyscrapers to

sprawling suburban campuses. These complexes included multiple buildings, large parking lots, and acres of lawn, usually peppered with rows of trees. Some corporations have recently gone 'green' and included natural elements. Sears in Hoffman Estates, Ill., has restored prairies, and a McDonald's in Oak Brook, Ill., is nestled in a woodland. But of all the corporate campuses, none compares to that of United Parcel Service.

UPS chose a wooded area for its headquarters. Before construction began, Spence Rosenfeld was contacted. Rosenfeld is founder and president of Arbogard Tree Specialist, a national leader in arboriculture that has been honored for its conservation work. Rosenfeld, who holds a master's degree in urban forestry, tree pathology, and entomology from Duke University, makes sure he's involved from the start—not just to save a single specimen tree or two, but to preserve entire woodland communities.

Sitting on 36 acres, the UPS Atlanta facility could have been cause for the destruction of much of the existing ecosystem. Instead, a single access road was built, materials were stored off-site, and those areas that were disturbed were replanted with 900 native oaks, dogwoods, and magnolias. The building straddles a restored stream used for stormwater management. On one end of the building is a wetland. Woodland wildlife abounds. The 1½-mile trail through the site is used by employees and nearby residents. There's an outdoor dining area and a rooftop

The Nest:
Developer John L. Knotts Jr. reminds us that the bird does not tear down the tree to live in it. The ant does not poison the soil to make its home. Developers are beginning to learn that they have an economic, ecological and moral obligation to build a nest, not tear down a tree.

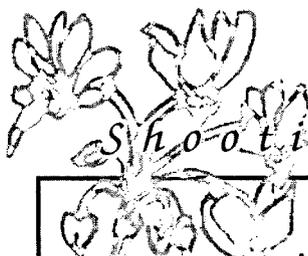
The vine Virginia Creeper, aka Woodbine (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), holds its shriveled blue-black fruits into the winter months.



3



DRAWING BY LUCY SCHUMANN



Shooting stars — Wild Ones you should know

For centuries the portion of Wisconsin where we now live was one great woodland. My family moved to this site in the 1970s just because it had old oaks and neighbored the New Berlin Woods. I remember counting 140 rings on a downed oak. We really enjoyed the woods as the kids were growing up.

**JIM &
SANDY
BLAKE**

Over the years several things happened to prepare us for our upcoming roles in helping save our neighborhood woodland: I read *Silent Spring*, we met a couple who were political and environmental activists, and we

joined a community environmental group. We got involved with the formation of the city's recycling program. Sandy initiated and manages an annual citywide park cleanup program. I spoke out against wetland zoning changes and promoted bike/pedestrian trails. I got very interested in prairie restoration



Jim Blake preparing to lead the Wehr Chapter on a woodland tour.

and expanded a plot at the library and managed the development of an oak savanna at a local school. We joined Wild Ones and were inspired to carry out natural landscaping of our own yard to show our neighbors an alternative to lawn.

In addition to our network buildup, other events unfolded that would play a role in preserving the woods ... In 1990 the Department of Natural Resources began the Stewardship Grant Program which provides funds to match local government monies for the purchase of significant natural areas. In 1992 the Regional Planning Commission did a survey of significant plant communities, and the New Berlin Woods received a preliminary "natural area of local significance" (NA-3) classification. These woods were included in our city's master plan as an environmental corridor. None of this, however, stopped the R-3 zoning that would allow 3/4-acre parcels to be developed. I began to realize that, although wetlands have significant protection, uplands are fair game for development. In 1996, after volunteering, I was appointed to the city's Park & Recreation Commission whose function includes the purchase and development of park lands. A fund from developer fees is available to

purchase these facilities. As they say, the stage was now set for the final scene.

Early in 1996, a developer acquired rights to buy the 21-acre site. Learning of this and the possibility of government funding to purchase the site, I obtained permission to have a regional planning commission representative attend a city meeting and explain the unique significance of the site. I also contacted our school system's environmental coordinator to write a letter expressing the value of the site as an environmental classroom. Further, I presented a financial plan that basically committed the state to half, the county to a quarter and the city to a quarter of the purchase price. I proposed that the city share come from the developer fees fund. This meant that no tax money would be needed. The presentation worked, and the commission committed city staff to procure the site. This was confirmed by an increasingly environmentally conscious common council. The state confirmed the eligibility of the site for its stewardship program. The county, however, was concerned that many communities would want county support for similar projects. In fact, the County Board of Supervisors rejected the proposal until legislation could be generated to limit future requests. The county review process involved a number of committees, and I met with every one to help answer questions. In the meantime, Sandy and friends enlisted support. A number of school children spoke very well about the importance of preserving these woods. I took supervisors and aldermen on walking tours, and an album of woodland photos was sent to each supervisor. And then a local land conservancy granted money for the cause. All of this momentum helped, and indeed on Dec. 18, 1997, the county agreed to support the purchase. We walked through the woods that afternoon with a wonderful feeling of pure accomplishment.

It just seems logical, but I had to learn to work supportively with people to make change. An adversarial attitude produces defensiveness and negative reactions in the very people you're trying to convince.

Last week Sandy and I walked through the woods. Sunlight was filtering through the trees illuminating a mass of brilliant red Cardinal Flowers in one of the ephemeral ponds. It's still amazing to us that they are going to be around for a long, long time. ☺

—Jim Blake



The front forty

This summer we were showing our yard to a friend. When we were done, he remarked, "My wife and I are taking part of our backyard and letting it go, too." He told us about the plants that were coming in, all non-natives, but he was proud of them and I know he will eventually take those out and put in natives. The thing that got me was the phrase "letting it go." I thought back to seven years ago when Curt and I moved in to our new home. Except for our berm, most of our yard was done by a landscaper in typical suburban style, lawn, a few trees and some shrubs. When the time came to do the berm, we decided to do that ourselves. Mainly by just letting the grass (a common farm brome) grow. It was a great place for the birds (yes, there really were Meadowlarks there), and when the wind blew, the waving grass was very soothing to look at. Little did we know how very 'unsoothing' that grass was to certain village officials.

After joining Wild Ones, we tried planting native trees and shrubs along with prairie plants on the berm hoping the officials would then leave us and our bird friends alone, no such luck. For three years Curt and I fought the local bureaucrats, going on television and in the newspapers trying to let people know there's an alternative to the suburban lawn. Then it was time for someone new to step in and take over the fight. Thanks to Steve Mahler and some other dedicated people, an ordinance was passed in

1994 that allows natural landscaping. The village does require a permit and \$15. Before things ended however, we had a visit from a village trustee in our backyard, and I told him we had planted native flowers, shrubs and trees on the berm. He said to me, "You have no right, Little Lady." NO RIGHT? LITTLE LADY??? I told him if they stopped me from planting on my berm I would stick the plants in my front yard and the village would never know the difference.

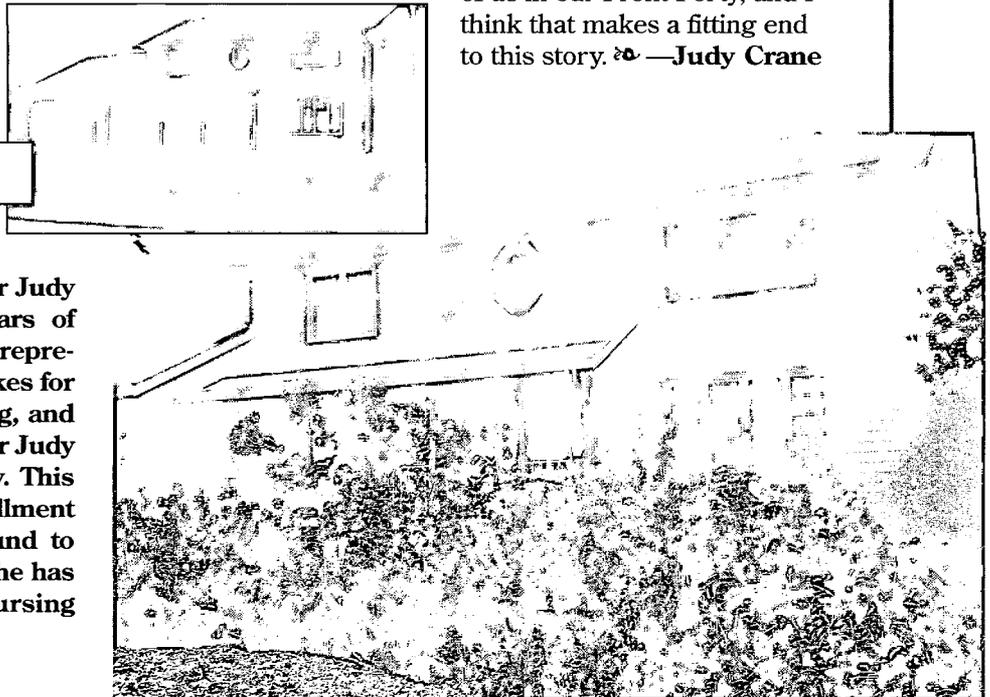
A few weeks later I was attending a board meeting of Wild Ones and we were trying to come up with ideas to encourage people to put native plants in small urban yards. I said it could be as simple as a 40-square-foot flowerbed, and thus began the Front Forty. That front forty has grown to 1,200 square feet these days and represents hours of back-breaking work, as do many other native beds around our yard. Some would ask, if it was so difficult, why bother. I like to feel we are preserving America's past for a better future.

Recently we hosted our yard to Wild Ones and the public, over 50 people showed up. The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* had sent out a reporter and a photographer the day before to write a nice story on Curt and me and our yard. The article was titled "Germantown Couple's Victory Blooms in Native Color." They also put in a photo of us in our Front Forty, and I think that makes a fitting end to this story. —Judy Crane

Food for thought:
Perhaps when it comes to "letting it go," what really needs to be let go are old ideas of American lawns and the idea that natural and neglected are the same thing.
—J.C.

BEFORE & AFTER

A round of applause, please, for Judy and Curt Crane—for their years of volunteering, for the splendid representation this yard of theirs makes for the cause of natural landscaping, and (stand up and keep clapping) for Judy as columnist of the Front Forty. This issue marks Judy's last installment under that title. But we're bound to hear from her in the future as she has real Wild Ones blood coursing through her veins.



Family: Tiliaceae (Linden)

Other Names: American Linden, White-Wood, Bast-Tree, Bee-Tree, Black-Lime Tree, Monkey-Nut-Tree, WhiteLind, Yellow Bass-Wood, Wickup, Daddy-Nuts, SpoonWood, Whistle-Wood, and more.

Habitat: In rich woods and along river bottoms.

Description: American Basswood is a native deciduous tree with leaves up to 10 inches long. They are finely sharp-toothed, heart-shaped; with an even base. The fragrant flowers are yellow and are formed on an unusual winged stalk.

Height: 60-80 feet, sometimes to 120 feet.

Flowering: June to August.

AMERICAN BASSWOOD

(Tilia americana)

Comments: Evidence of this tree can be traced as far back as 150 B.C. from a glacial kame in Canada, where Basswood fiber was identified in the cord of copper beads found at the site. Burials were commonly accompanied by necklaces of copper beads strung on cord which was well preserved. The cord was most likely manufactured by twisting strands of fiber from the inner bark of the Basswood tree.

It has been recorded from Huron Indian writings that they tore off long strips of Basswood bark, boiling them to extract hemp from which ropes and bags were made. Unboiled bark was used in place of moose sinews for sewing ropes and other articles, for fastening together birchbark dishes and bowls, and for tying and holding the planks and poles of houses.

The leaves are quite sweet and can be used as fodder for many species of cattle. The fruit cannot be eaten.

The wood of Basswood is the whitest and softest wood that grows; when dry it swims on water like a cork. It was also used for building canoes, models, and making fine light charcoal for gunpowder.

Basswood bark twine was kept in every household, because of its endurance and gentleness on the hands. It was used for making thread, cloth, weaving bags, fishing nets, matting, and nets for snowshoes. The women made the twine by going into the forest to gather the raw material; using spring saplings, peeling them down to the cambium, where it was readily separable.

The seeds can make a kind of chocolate (probably not acceptable to our sophisticated tastebuds today).

For the Indians, the tree was a favorite material for making spoons. They laughed at the white man

for using such small spoons. They even suggested to the early settlers that their arms must get tired from carrying such a small quantity to their mouths each time. Their ladles were made similarly, only they contained a larger quantity and had a longer handle.

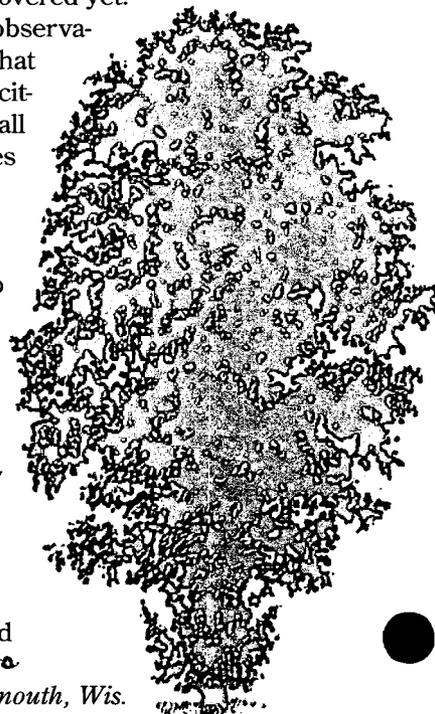
Medicinal Use: Native Americans used the inner bark tea for lung ailments, heartburn and weak stomach. The bark was poulticed to draw out boils. The leaves were used for nervous headaches, restlessness, painful digestion, to cure sores in children's mouths, and to take away swellings. The flowers, which contain a substance called Tiline, were used by divers for pain of the head and for dizziness and epilepsy. One individual went so far as to say, "Basswood bark is the best burn remedy I have ever used."

Name Origin: The genus name, *Tilia* (TILL-i-a), is the Latin name of the Linden Tree. The species name, *americana* (ame-ri-CAY-na), means "from North or South America."

Author's Note: The Basswood trees on our property along the Mullet River, north of Plymouth, Wis., are rather puny—probably due to competition for sunlight and soil nutrients. I love their beautiful, huge, light green leaves. Many species of caterpillars savor them, too. According to my research data base alone, Basswood is host to 21 species of moths. By the end of the season, the trees look well-used and chewed. Who knows how many more species use this tree that I haven't discovered yet.

It's a continual process of observation and learning. That's what makes each new day so exciting! No one will ever have all the answers as to who dines on the various trees in the forest. Predation is so severe that most of the caterpillars don't make it to pupation. Therefore, their damage to the leaves is minimal, except for a few chew holes. I like our plants and trees to have chew holes, then I know their purpose is being fulfilled. After all, man is not the only one who uses the natural world—many species of insects, birds and animals depend on it, too. ☺

©1998 Janice Stiefel, Plymouth, Wis.



"We are prone, most of us, to be inaccurate as well as unobservant; and I know of no better antidote to inaccuracy than a faithful study of plants." —Mrs. William Starr Dana, from *According to Season*, 1894

GOOD ADVICE ... ANY VOLUNTEERS?

Last March I got a letter from Joan Mosling who had a simply brilliant idea: Run a propagation column in tandem with Janice Stiefel's plant profile column. If the *Journal* whets one's appetite for a wonderful native plant, why shouldn't we go one step further and describe how to grow it. I've just gotten word from Alan Wade of Minnesota's Prairie Moon Nursery that he will compose such a column for us. Thank you, Alan.

Guy Sternberg of the Starhill Forest Arboretum in Illinois was good enough to take the time to correct the following mistakes in the September/October issue: *Carya glabra* was mistakenly used in place of *C. ovata* (Shagbark Hickory); *Urtica dioica* was misspelled "diocia," the native Stinging Nettles include *Urtica gracilis* and *U. procera*, but the alien Burning Nettle is *U. urens*. Sternberg suggests a professional taxonomist proof the *Journal*. (Hey, Floyd Swink, Gerould Wilhelm, do you have time to spare? Or, Guy, might you be willing?)

* * *

In case readers don't know, Guy Sternberg and Jim Wilson produced a most valuable and beautiful book, *Landscaping with Native Trees* from Chapters Publishing. I'll borrow some of its Basswood propagation tips to complete the entry below for this issue. And we'll keep working to bring you the most accurate and useful information we can about natural landscaping. —Joy Buslaff

PROPAGATING BASSWOOD

Basswood is easy to transplant and easy to please. It prefers a deep, moist soil, but is indifferent about pH. It succeeds in sun or shade. Sternberg and Wilson report that Basswood is one of the best soil builders, drawing nutrients up from the subsoil and depositing them on the surface in the form of leaf litter, thereby feeding any understory plants that can tolerate the tree's dense shade.

Basswood is challenging to grow from seed as it can remain dormant up to four years. Treat some batches of seed by stratification, some by warm-water soaking, peel the seed coat on a few or scarify with acid* in hopes one method will do the trick.

To prevent its forming a clump, trim away basal shoots, being careful to avoid nicking the thin bark of the main trunk. And be sure to protect young trees with cages so they don't become damaged by rabbit or deer.

*Pat Armstrong says a mild acid would be full-strength vinegar. A more powerful one is muratic acid, available at hardware stores—obey every precaution to prevent injury.

Chapter news

The Lawrence Chapter in Kansas reports that its members were environmentally active long before forming a Wild Ones chapter three years ago, but their Wild Ones affiliation does help augment a diversity of approaches they have been taking to preserve and promote native plants.

Many of their members have studied or worked with the Land Institute of Salina, Kan., for 25-odd years. Some were founders of the Kansas Land Trust which secures native areas. And, like many of the rest of us, they also belong to other local and regional conservation groups.

Several individuals are working to stop the sale and propagation of Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria* L.) and various cultivars, which are not yet prohibited in Kansas. They are also approaching golf course superintendents to suggest an increased use of native plants in landscaping golf courses (Lawrence is the home of the National Golf Course Superintendents Association of America).

Our Kansas friends have been struggling with their local weed ordinance for 18 years. Recently a definition was added to the existing ordinance: *Natural landscaping shall mean the growth of any vegetation to its natural height and form.* Chapter President Michael Almon writes, "Because this token gesture still does not allow us to grow natural landscaping, the struggle now has focused on confronting [the City of Lawrence] each time its staff displays indifference or inconsistency." Members just keep the faith and continue raising public interest and consciousness with talks and tours. 🌱

PODS book update: If you're one of the kind folk who wrote to Scribner's/MacMillan Publishing to petition for the reprint of Jane Embertson's book highlighted on the cover of the last issue of the *Journal*, your mail may have been returned because some book companies are changing ownership. Please re-direct your fan letters to Jane's agent who will plead our case with Simon & Schuster.

Joan Fulton, Harold Matson Co., Inc.
276 5th Ave., New York, NY 10001



"The luxury of doing good surpasses every other personal enjoyment."

—John Gay, 1685-1732, English playwright and poet

When cities grow wild

By far the most significant factor for the continued public and political acceptance and practice of natural landscaping is the present size of the movement. So many private gardeners have switched to natural landscaping, so many municipalities have developed programs and policies on the subject, and so many levels of government are now involved in natural landscaping in one way or another that the movement has achieved a relatively forward momentum. No longer is it the practice of a few fringe municipalities, but a process with political support that, in the U.S. anyway, can be traced from municipal units right back to the highest political office in the country, the White House. Given these facts and the status of some of the public agencies involved in the field, natural landscaping has become endowed with a certain public credibility that many other environmental practices have yet to receive.

Additionally, given the sheer number of municipalities now involved with natural landscaping, any other city seeking to initiate its own program can draw upon a wealth of practical experience and knowledge in the field. From specifics about site and plant selection to how to successfully involve the public, there are a number of excellent in-house

research documents available to a public authority willing to search them out.

Further, from a regulatory perspective, natural landscaping is now explicitly supported through a number of U.S. Federal Acts and regulations, such as the U.S. FHA's funding regulations.

Given some of the environmental benefits associated with the use of natural landscapes, such as their ability to lessen stormwater flows, its adoption as an environmental planning tool is also implicitly supported by a large number of federal, state, provincial and municipal environmental regulations. It is for this reason the EPA provides natural landscaping assistance to municipalities seeking to meet U.S. Clean Water Act regulations. Most state and provincial planning acts mandate environmental objectives which

can be met through natural landscaping strategies.

A further opportunity municipalities share in the movement toward natural landscaping is the large public land resources they typically control and the shrinking budgets with which to maintain them. Although many municipalities would see this as a challenge, others have accepted it as an opportunity to both diversify their landscape management approach and to restore elements of ecological integrity to open spaces and park land within the

OPPORTUNITIES AND BARRIERS

Excerpted from
"WHEN CITIES GROW WILD:
NATURAL LANDSCAPING
FROM AN URBAN PLANNING
PERSPECTIVE," a graduate
thesis by John Ingram,
Dalhousie University,
Halifax, Department of
Urban and Rural Planning

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM ON ENVIRONMENTALLY BENEFICIAL LANDSCAPING

Because the Federal Government owns and landscapes large areas of land, our stewardship presents a unique opportunity to provide leadership in this area and to develop practical and cost-effective methods to preserve and protect that which has been entrusted to us. Therefore, for Federal grounds, Federal projects, and federally funded projects, I direct that agencies shall, where cost-effective and to the extent practicable:

- (a) use regionally native plants for landscaping;
 - (b) design, use, or promote construction practices that minimize adverse effects on the natural habitat;
 - (c) seek to prevent pollution by, among other things, reducing fertilizer and pesticide use, using integrated pest management techniques, recycling green waste, and minimizing runoff;
 - (d) implement water-efficient practices, such as the ... siting of native plants in a manner that conserves water and controls soil erosion. Landscaping practices, such as planting regionally native shade trees around buildings to reduce air conditioning demands; and
 - (e) create outdoor demonstrations incorporating native plants, as well as pollution prevention and water conservation techniques, to promote awareness of the environmental and economic benefits of implementing this directive.
- (SOURCE: NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS PLANNING COMMISSION, 1998, P54)

In addition to the memorandum, a number of U.S. federal agencies have implemented natural landscaping policies and programs of their own. The two lead agencies in this regard are the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Federal Highways Authority (FHA).

"In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations."
—Great Law of the Iroquois Confederacy



"Nearly all great civilizations that perished did so because they had crystallized, because they were incapable of adapting themselves to new conditions, new methods, new points of view. It is as though people would literally rather die than change."

city. Many have also accepted natural landscaping as an opportunity to establish themselves as environmental leaders in the public realm and to educate the general public on the merits of natural landscaping in the process.

A final opportunity rests with the current, almost faddish, desire of municipal planning agencies to create 'a sense of place' in their development undertakings. Although 'place' is generally translated through the use of vernacular architectural and/or cultural elements, natural landscaping could also be used in this process. Unlike the homogeneity of conventional landscaping standards, natural landscaping with its use of regionally native species can: (1) help physically distinguish one place, or region from another through its outward vegetated landscape forms and patterns; and, (2) help local residents better appreciate, understand and learn the natural features that make their 'place' different from others.

DESPITE THE OPPORTUNITIES for natural landscaping to increase both its public profile and its application on private and public land, there are a number of crucial barriers yet to overcome. By far the greatest is cultural inertia.

Even if by some magical decree the governments of both Canada and the U.S. were to demand that all urban open space, private and public, be landscaped naturally, it would probably take at least a generation for full public acceptance and support. The aesthetic preferences and management practices natural landscaping seeks to supplant are firmly and deeply rooted in the minds of the general public, landscape professions and the political community at large. When this cultural inertia is considered in combination with the general lack of awareness of the environmental issues associated with the contemporary urban landscape, the obstacle becomes even more significant. Quite simply, there is no simple solution to this challenge either, save ongoing public education coupled with a long-term commitment to active landscape conversion. To be sure, it is no small task.

Compounding the problems of cultural inertia, is the fact that the long-term demands of successful natural landscaping strategies require sustained political commitment and vision. Given the somewhat polemic nature of natural landscaping and the occasionally adverse initial public reaction to it, some projects have been abandoned for short-term electoral gain. For natural landscaping to persist, it must be incorporated into larger, politically binding environmental strategies and policies.

Short-term motives drive another obstacle to

natural landscaping. Although 'selling' the practice on the merits of its reduced maintenance costs is common, its adoption on purely fiscal terms undermines and dilutes its larger environmental agenda. Natural landscaping must be understood and applied as a holistic landscape management tool whose principal goal is the restoration of ecological systems and the reintegration of natural processes into the urban environment—not only as a tool to achieve reduced mowing schedules.

A final obstacle natural landscaping faces in the municipal realm is its typical segregation to parks departments, as though it were only parks that are candidates for naturalization and only municipal grounds supervisors who should be concerned with it. Such an approach not only limits its applications, but also further departmentalizes and segregates disciplines and expertise in the public sector. Successful natural landscaping programs, however, such as those in Tucson and Portland, are broad-based interdepartmental efforts that see natural landscaping applied for a number of different purposes and in a number of different locations throughout the city. ☛

A SAMPLING OF RESOURCES CITED IN MR. INGRAM'S THESIS

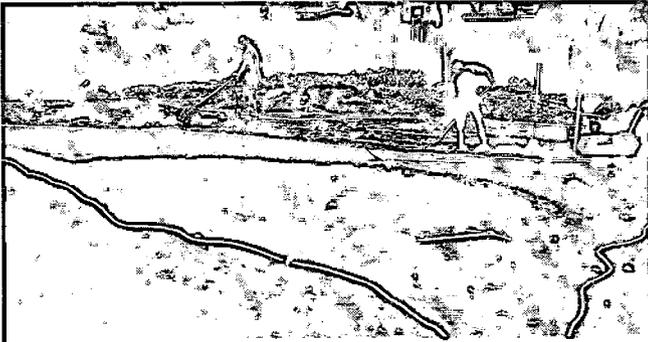
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Web sites

- <http://www.epa.gov/greenacres>
- <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/grenmakers/ga-q&a.htm>
- <http://www.gvr.bc.ca/planning/brolgrnzone.html>
- <http://home.istar.ca/~api/>
- <http://nabalu.flas.ufl.edu/ser/Rutgers/Social.html>

The "Afterlife"



BEFORE & AFTER

Two empty-nesters in Downers Grove, Ill. (Carla and Jan Skladany), wanted to change their lifestyle. They wanted to move away from lots of fussy mowing and trimming and invite peace, serenity and wildlife into their lives. Solution! Remove the entire lawn and put in a pond and some wildlife-attracting plants! Now their backyard is full of butterflies, birds and the quiet sounds of water bubbling over a small waterfall. Their reaction—"Our lives have changed completely." Photos generously supplied by Vicki Nowicki.

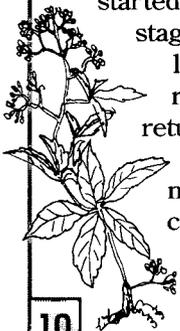
The landscape that was

**164
YEARS
AGO**

The following is a part of a letter that Morris Sleight wrote to his wife; he was in Illinois prospecting for a new home when Naperville was mostly prairie and Captain Naper had a small settlement along the DuPage River; Mrs. Sleight was back in Hyde Park, N.Y., waiting for her husband's return.

Chicago, Ill., July 9, 1834

To give you a minute description of all passing events as they occur only for the space of one week, would make a small volume. In a letter I can only mention a few. I have a thousand ideas and at the time I am determined to communicate them to you, but when I set down to write, I forget them—however I do have one that I do remember. Mr. Douglas and myself started a week ago tomorrow for Fox River with the stage with the idea of being about three days. We left our baggage at the Hotel at Chicago and I remember of having a very dirty shirt when I returned today. I am very much pleased with the land about Capt. Naper's settlement; 28 miles west of Chicago and with the whole country, after going twelve miles west of the place. I am highly pleased with Michigan, but I am delighted with Illinois. Mr. Stevens' account I think is not exaggerated. The first view of a Michigan Prairie is delightful after passing the oak openings and thick forest, but the first view of an Illinois prairie is sublime.... A person needs



10

a compass to keep their course, but the more I travel over them the more I like them. There is a great variety of flowers now on the prairies, but they tell me in a month from this time they will be prettier. I have sent you a few of them with Mr. Douglas which will be all faded by the time you get them, but they will be interesting to you as you will be sure they were picked from the prairies of Illinois. There is a number of other kinds on the dry prairies, some resemble sweet williams, some pinks, sunflowers and almost every variety that grow in our gardens. In crossing the prairie about two miles out of Chicago this morning we startled a dear little gazelle, but the little thing hid in the long grass, and we could not find it.... This is the best country I have ever seen for a poor man or a rich one, an industrious man or a lazy one.... It has the advantage of grist mills and saw mills, within half a mile, also a store and tavern and a thick settled neighborhood. As people build in the groves you cannot see many of your neighbors—I will not say houses yet, but cabins. In a few years I think I can say Mansions.

Your dear H., M.S.

Thank you to Pat Armstrong of Illinois for submitting this historic text.

You are invited to send material from your part of the country. Please submit to the Big Bend address on the back cover.

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.

*"Leisure, some degree of it,
is necessary to the health of every man's spirit."
—Harriet Martineau, autobiography, 1877*



The meeting place

ILLINOIS

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.

NOV. 19—*Meet at DuPage Solid Waste Education Center in Carol Stream, Ill. Seed exchange.*

DECEMBER—*No meeting.*

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 Wisioł for info, (847) 548-1650.

NORTH PARK CHAPTER

Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the North Park Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski, Chicago, unless otherwise indicated.

NOV. 12—*Seed and dessert exchange. Slide presentation by Bob Porter about planting of the new front garden at the renovated Nature Center Education Building.*

DECEMBER—*No meeting.*

ROCK RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER

Meetings held at Jarrett Prairie Center, Byron Forest Preserve, 7993 N. River Rd., Byron, unless otherwise noted. Call (815) 234-8535 for info.

NOV. 19—*6:30 p.m. Seed exchange and officer elections.*

DECEMBER—*No meeting.*

KANSAS

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

KENTUCKY

FRANKFORT CHAPTER

Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 5:30 at Franklin County Extension office unless otherwise noted. Call Katie Clark at (502) 226-4766 or e-mail herbs@kih.net for info.

NOV. 9—*Building birdfeeders and a talk about attracting birds.*

DECEMBER—*No meeting.*

MICHIGAN

AN ARBOR CHAPTER

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month. Call Dave Borneman for info, (734) 994-4834.

MINNESOTA

OTTER TAIL CHAPTER

Meetings are held at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Call Tim Bodeen for info, (320) 739-9334.

NOV. 24—*Guest speaker to be announced.*

DEC. 22—*Wild Ones holiday potluck and party.*

OHIO

COLUMBUS CHAPTER

Meetings are held the second Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. at Inniswood Metro Gardens, Innis House, 940 Hempstead Rd., Westerville, unless otherwise noted. Call Martha Preston for info, (614) 263-9468.

NOV. 14—*Meet at Museum of Biological Diversity, 1315 Kinnear Rd. Dr. John J. Furlow, curator of Ohio State University's Herbarium, will conduct a tour of the museum's flora collection. The museum also boasts an excellent botanical library.*

DEC. 12—*Breakfast potluck and seed exchange. Bring a breakfast dish and seeds to exchange; coffee and tea will be provided by Inniswood. Jennifer Windus of the DNR will talk about non-native and invasive plants.*

OKLAHOMA

COYLE 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.

WISCONSIN

FOX VALLEY AREA CHAPTER

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

NOV. 19—*"Birds in the Natural Landscape." Photographer and ornithologist Bettie Harriman talks about features of a natural landscape that attract birds. Joint meeting with Winnebago County Audubon Society.*

DECEMBER—*No meeting.*

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.

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.

NOV. 19—*Our third annual seed exchange and potluck night to share seeds, enjoy seasonal treats and, this year, share your favorite books on native landscaping. A quiet night for socializing and networking.*

MENOMONEE RIVER AREA CHAPTER

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. in Menomonee Falls. Call Judy Crane for info, (414) 251-2185.

NOV. 18—*Randy Powers of Prairie Future Seed Co. will tell us how to care for all those seeds we have collected. Meet at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, W180 N7863 Town Hall Rd.*

DECEMBER—*No meeting. Happy holidays.*

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. Call voice mail message center at (414) 299-9888.

NOV. 14—*Guest speaker Darrell Kromm of Reeseville Ridge Nursery.*

DEC. 12—*Seed exchange, Leopold bench construction demo, and holiday dessert potluck.*

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.

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

DEC. 12—*Annual seed exchange and open house social gathering. Bring your photo albums. Join us in celebrating Mariette Nowak's retirement from Wehr.*

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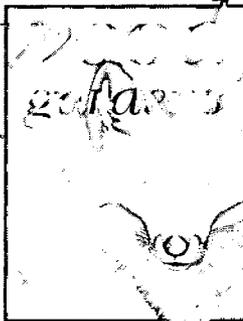
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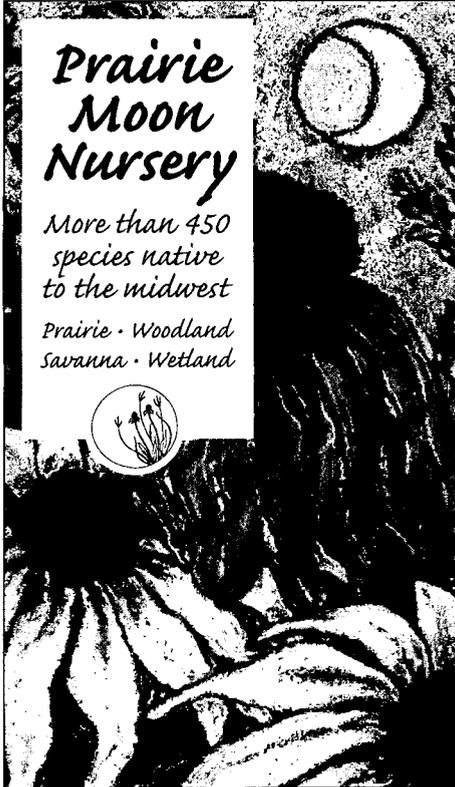
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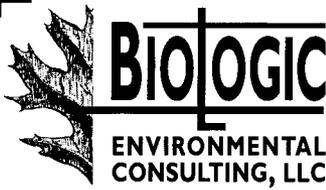
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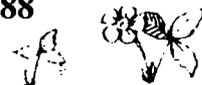
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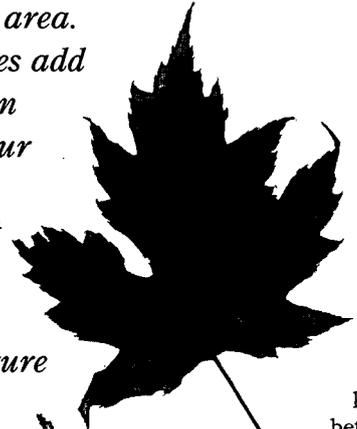
Send a snapshot of your yard sign (along with an SASE if you'd like your photo returned) to: Wild Ones Journal % Joy Buslaff, S89 W22630 Milwaukee Ave., Big Bend, WI 53103. And we still need before-and-after photos for our "Afterlife" column, too!

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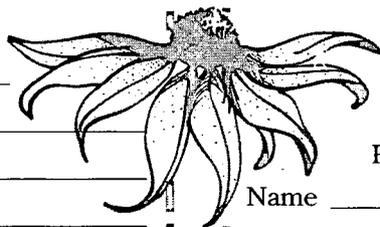


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