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A VOICE FOR THE NATURAL LANDSCAPING MOVEMENT

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Wild Ones® Journal

INVASIVE SPECIES



NO KUDOS
FOR KUDZU

Kudzu, a native of eastern Asia, is also known as Japanese Kudzu or King Kudzu and is a member of the legume family. It was first introduced into the United States as an ornamental vine at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1876. Americans, who saw this fragrant, exotic plant with deep purple

pea-like flowers, were enthusiastic about using it in their landscapes. It was attractive, fast growing (up to 100 feet a season), luxuriant in foliage, and drought resistant. Word spread and soon this species became a highly regarded ornamental in the south. It was recommended as the perfect vine to plant by porches to shade them from summer heat.

In 1935, the United States Soil Conservation Service became interested in Kudzu. They began extensive field tests to see if this species had potential as a cover crop. Not only was it aggressive, but because it was a legume, it could restore nitrogen to the soil. Once it was approved, some 73 million Kudzu seedlings were planted to control soil erosion on badly eroded fields.

By the mid-1950s, Kudzu became a curse; it grew on houses, fences, utility lines, crops, and devastated forest areas. It was dubbed the "green menace" and an estimated 7 million acres had become infested. Even the newspapers stated that the South was fighting another war—this time with Kudzu. Attention was immediately focused on eradication.

Today, Kudzu is found growing far beyond the boundaries where it was first planted and is known from locations as far north as Michigan, New York, and Massachusetts. Pennsylvania has placed it on the state's noxious weed list.

In Kentucky, Kudzu is found throughout the state. It is a troublesome weed on bottomland soils in the western part of the state, scattered in the middle part of the state, and severe in southeastern Kentucky where it has a devastating impact on the native vegetation. ☛

By Patricia Dalton Haragan, associate curator, Davies Herbarium, University of Louisville, Kentucky

KUDZU IN KENTUCKY

Although initially promoted as an anti-erosion agent, it is now recognized that Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*) roots do not bind soil as well as grass. Despite shallow roots, Kudzu survives frosts and explodes in the spring, growing as much as a foot a day. It can rapidly engulf open croplands, yards, even buildings; areas as large as 10 acres have been found where the entire surface layer is solid Kudzu. In forests, what used to be the inner core of trees becomes the forest edge as Kudzu relentlessly attacks.

While many non-native or "exotic" species are not invasive, the ones that are threaten both native plants and animals. In 1996 Congress passed a law requiring the government to address the issue. In February of this year President Clinton issued an executive order expanding federal efforts to combat the influx of non-native species. A new interagency Invasive Species Council has been formed and there is an Alien Plant Working Group website at www.nps.gov/plants/alien/. In addition to government agencies, most of the major environmental groups (Environmental Defense Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Natural Resources Defense Council, *et al.*) are working on the problem.

In terms of fighting invasives on your property, it is wise to seek advice from those with experience in order to determine the appropriate techniques for the species you have. Currently Kentucky is in the process of forming a chapter of the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council. This organization, along with the Kentucky Conservation Committee, is interested in expanding the number of species covered by Kentucky's noxious weed law.

With reference to Kudzu in Kentucky, there is encouraging news! Joyce Bender of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission reports that, after several years of intense work using a transline herbicide, they have seriously reduced the cover of Kudzu in two of the state's nature preserves. They are seeing the release of vegetation, and tree seedlings are expanding. Now that's good news!

—Portia Brown



CHEROKEE PARK is one of the three flagship parks in the historic park and parkway system designed by Frederick Law Olmsted for Louisville, Ky. Olmsted, recognized as the father of American landscape architecture, was celebrated for his designs of Central Park in New York City, the U.S. Capitol grounds, and the Biltmore estate.

Although he designed several park systems, Olmsted's work in Louisville is considered the ultimate park system of his career, and his most mature work. Olmsted's concept was to create a system of great parks linked by parkways—each park defining a landscape unique in character and features. Cherokee Park was designed as a pastoral haven with scenic roads wending through the wooded valley of Beargrass Creek. Over the years, the parks fell into disrepair, resulting in degraded woodlands and eroded pathways. The problem was further exasperated in Cherokee Park by a tornado in 1974 that ripped through the park, taking out most of the large over-story trees. The resulting open canopy encouraged the growth of many invasive woody plants.

The Louisville Chapter of Wild Ones has adopted an area of Cherokee Park to assist the Louisville/Jefferson County Parks Department and the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy in their efforts to control invasive exotic plants and restore native plant communities in the park. This project affords Wild Ones a unique opportunity for hands-on

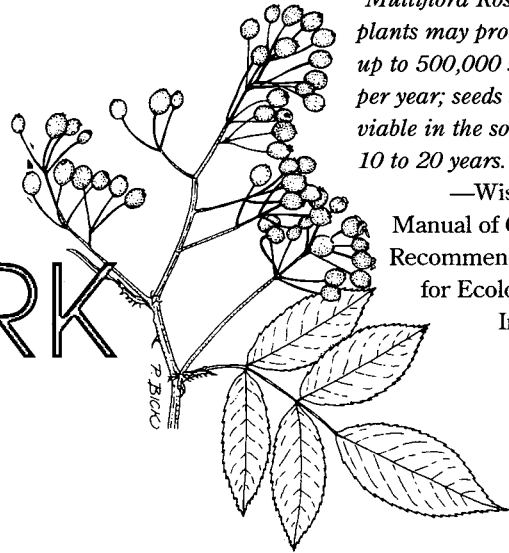
educational experience as well as a highly visible public site to demonstrate the beauty of natural landscaping. The adopted site is approximately six acres and is mostly wooded with a small wetland area.

WE BEGAN IN JANUARY

Using hand clippers, we cut off Creeping Euonymus and grapevines as close to the ground and as high as we could reach without tugging on tree branches. Weed wrenches were used to remove Honeysuckles. The wrenches look like heavy-duty equipment suited to a Paul Bunyon type, but they are actually quite easy to use and not all that heavy to carry. Once we got them into an area, we were able to stay busy without having to move very far. Oh, what a feeling of accomplishment when you succeed in pulling a Honeysuckle out by the roots in one fell swoop! Although some invasive control work had been started several years ago, the effort had not been sustained, and some invasive plants actually came back stronger. For instance, Honeysuckles that had been cut off at the ground level in prior years had not been hit with an herbicide, now they were back as multi-stem shrubs that were difficult or impossible to remove with the weed wrench. We ended up using a mattock (a grubbing tool) to get these out.

The Atherton High School Ecology Club was a big help in March. Due to weather, we got only two good work sessions in this past winter. Nonetheless, we were successful

WILD ONES IN CHEROKEE PARK



"Multiflora Rose plants may produce up to 500,000 seeds per year; seeds stay viable in the soil for 10 to 20 years."

—Wisconsin
Manual of Control
Recommendations
for Ecologically
Invasive
Plants

OPPOSITE: Louisville Wild Ones enlist the aid of the Atherton High School Ecology Club to drag yet more Honeysuckle to the roadside for pickup by parks department maintenance crews.

in clearing a small area and releasing several native plants from the grip of the invaders. One very nice Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* L.) had been so overtaken that many of us didn't even realize it was there when we first started working in the area. Several Spicebushes (*Lindera benzoin*) were also freed up. In the spring we saw Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema atropurpureum*) in the cleared area. You have to wonder if it would have survived there had we not cleared out the invasive cover.

THE INVENTORY

Beginning in April, we turned our attention to the plant inventory. With Davies Herbarium Associate Curator Pat Haragan leading us on the paths of the Cherokee site, we identified many woodland wildflowers. Cut-leaved Toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*), Squirrel-corn (*Dicentra canadensis*), Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), and Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) were common in April. In May, we saw Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), Solomon's-seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*), Solomon's-plume (*Smilacina racemosa*), and Jack-in-the-Pulpit come in. Although we did not see Sessile Trillium (*Trillium sessile*) this year, it has been seen on the site in recent years. All of these plants were common in Mabel Slack's* 1941 study. Twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*) and Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) were also identified as common in the 1941 survey; however, we did not find these on the site this year. We also listed 12

species of woody vines. **The dominant invasive plants are Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), exotic Bush Honeysuckles (*Lonicera maackii*, *L. tatarica*, *L. morrowii*), Creeping Euonymus (*Euonymus fortunei*), grapevines (*Vitis aestivalis* and *Vitis riparia*), and Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*).**

We will continue the plant inventories through October this year. Specimens will be pressed, dried, labeled, and stored. The plant lists will be a resource for further studies. Urban flora are generally not well documented, a fact that makes this inventory even more valuable and stirs the imagination.

This type of monitoring is not limited to plant surveys. In Kentucky the National Audubon Society, in conjunction with the Kentucky Ornithological Society, sponsors bird counts, and a relatively new group, called Frog Loggers, is monitoring amphibians. Often the membership of the monitoring groups overlaps, and one can imagine the added value that could be derived from sharing sites and data to provide more comprehensive information regarding the status and characteristic of the overall natural community in a given area.

With the federal government's stepped-up funding and focus on the effects of invasive species on native flora and fauna, there is better potential for funding professional scientific studies to flesh out the baseline work of volunteers. As more and more data are gathered, distribution maps can be generated, and very useful

information compiled as to the presence or absence of various species ... not to mention the more intangible values ...

In an age where man-made technology is viewed as "the answer" to almost everything, it is downright soothing to watch a butterfly gathering nectar or a bird building a nest. Observing natural interactions between plants and animals, especially over time, reassures me of my connection to a life force that is beyond purely human control. I truly believe we are a society longing to reconnect with our natural heritage. The mainstream attraction to camping, vacationing in natural areas, and even eco-tourism, the fact that gardening is the number one hobby in America today, followed closely by birdwatching, and the fact that across the country record numbers of Americans are volunteering to help with wildlife monitoring are all tributes to this inherent longing. The more we get out and learn about nature, the more we satisfy our longings and contribute to the overall health of all communities—plant, animal and human.

What about natural areas near you? Are there places that you could monitor, learn to identify plant species? Could you team up with other groups in your area who are monitoring other forms of wildlife?

—Portia Brown

*Mabel Slack, a teacher at Atherton High School, compiled the 1941 floristic survey for her Masters of Science thesis presented at Cornell University.

"SECOND ONLY TO HABITAT DESTRUCTION"

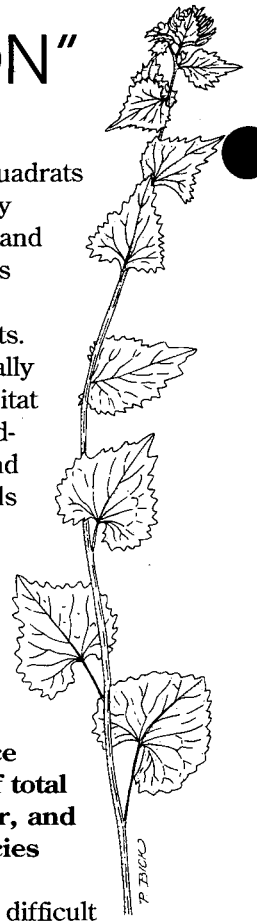
SCIENTIFIC STUDY REVEALS EXTENT OF GARLIC MUSTARD'S ONGOING DAMAGE

The invasion of non-indigenous plant species poses a severe threat to the structure and integrity of native plant communities, second only to habitat destruction. Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is a naturalized European biennial herb that has spread rapidly through forest communities in the eastern U.S. and adjacent Canada. Garlic Mustard spreads exclusively by seed, and has been long assumed to threaten native vegetation. In cooperation with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Chicago Wilderness, and Kane County Forest Preserve District (Illinois), a long-term study was initiated in 1989 to document Garlic Mustard's rate of spread, and to monitor changes in groundlayer vegetation associated with Garlic Mustard's invasion. Data were recorded in 396 permanent 1m² quadrats in 11 plots located in seven high-quality Illinois forests in the early stages of invasion between 1989 and 1992, and again in 1997.

Garlic Mustard spread at an average rate of 5.4m/year, in all plots combined. Within individual plots, rate-of-spread varied substantially, with location of the front (the leading edge of the invasion) increasing up to 36m and decreasing as much as 18m between years. **This "advance/retreat" pattern is typical of Garlic Mustard, and explains the "sudden" appearance of a dense stand of Garlic Mustard in a forest where few plants were seen the year before.** While the front

alternately advanced and retreated, over time Garlic Mustard consistently advanced through all forests. The general pattern of spread

4 "Because seeds remain viable for five years, it is essential that an area be monitored and plants removed for at least five years after the initial control effort."
—Wisconsin Manual of Control Recommendations for Ecologically Invasive Plants



was a ragged advancing front, supplemented by establishment of satellite populations 6 to 30m ahead of the front. After a few years, the front coalesced with the satellite populations to form an extensive area of Garlic Mustard.

Once Garlic Mustard entered a forest, it became a permanent part of the community, increasing in presence each year. Garlic Mustard cover and density fluctuated year to year, with large increases following disturbance. In the absence of disturbance, Garlic Mustard gradually declined to a low stable level. This strategy of increased presence and low-but-continuous abundance allows Garlic Mustard to rapidly expand when disturbance occurs.

Garlic Mustard had a noticeable impact on groundlayer vegetation. In this study, it negatively impacted ephemeral and perennial herbs, both of which declined in cover as Garlic Mustard dominance increased. The impact on perennials was so strong that total perennial cover in all forests declined from 46 percent to 33 percent over the study period. In contrast, the impact on ephemeral species was more subtle; in all forests, ephemeral cover was similar in 1990 and 1997 (21 percent and 19 percent, respectively). However, within individual quadrats, ephemeral cover declined significantly as Garlic Mustard cover increased. This implies that while ephemerals are outcompeted by Garlic Mustard, they compensate by colonizing new locations where Garlic Mustard is rare. Annual species actually increased in cover over time, from 6 percent to 10 percent. Both annuals and Garlic Mustard are disturbance-adapted, and this relationship likely reflected similar habitat preference rather than cause and affect.

Some ecologists contend that communities with dense cover or high species richness are resistant to invasion by nonindigenous species. In this study, no such relationship was detected; Garlic Mustard invaded

densely vegetated quadrats as readily as sparsely vegetated quadrats, and species-rich quadrats more readily than species-poor quadrats. Garlic Mustard initially invades suitable habitat regardless of ground-cover abundance, and subsequently spreads throughout the community. **Once established, Garlic Mustard's cover in any given year varies, but over time its continued presence results in a loss of total native groundcover, and a decrease in species richness.**

Garlic Mustard is difficult to control by conventional means (hand pulling, chemical treatment, and prescribed fire). Biological control, using a plant's "natural enemies" to control a non-native plant, may be the only effective way to reduce Garlic Mustard's abundance in North America. Funded by a multi-state consortium of public and private agencies, a two-year search in Europe turned up four beetles that feed exclusively on Garlic Mustard: two shoot-miners, a flower-feeder, and a root-feeder. These four beetles will be studied for several years in Europe to document their impact on Garlic Mustard, and to verify that it is their exclusive food source. If the beetles pass all safety and specificity tests required by the USDA, they will be brought to North America for field releases. **Assuming that one or more of these beetles passes all tests, biological control for Garlic Mustard may be available within five or six years.** Until then, the best way to control this plant is to prevent seed production. ☞

—Victoria Nuzzo
Natural Area Consultants
Groton, New York

INVASIVE EXOTIC PLANT UPDATE FROM THE MARYLAND NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY'S NATIVE NEWS

Japanese Silver Grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*) is rapidly joining the ranks of some of our region's most troublesome weeds because of its invasiveness into natural areas and persistence once established. This large, coarse grass and its many cultivars are currently popular in the landscape trade and are often used to create a "natural" planting. Unfortunately, this species is quickly spreading outside of gardens to natural areas—especially moist sites, wetland edges, and ditches.

In areas where it is mowed, it becomes especially dominant, such as along the W&OD Bike Trail in Herndon and Reston, Va. This problem will continue to escalate as nurseries and landscape designers recommend its use, and tens of thousands of new plants are sold and planted each year through the region.

We can help by not planting this species and instead substituting regionally native grasses like Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardi*), and Eastern Gamma Grass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*) wherever planting large grasses is recommended. We can also inform the nurseries we patronize that *Miscanthus* Grass is an invasive exotic plant that should not be used and request that attractive and appropriate native grasses be offered instead. ♣

"Have you ever gone up into the mountains of Colorado in the summer to admire the wildflowers? There are places there where no naturalized [alien] plants yet exist. When a road is cut or there is a landslide and the bare red earth is left raw, instead of ugly weeds the first plants to take over and heal the cut are native *Penstemons* and other wildflowers. This used to be true everywhere in this country."

—Sally Wasowski

Requiem for a Lawnmower

"Once exotics become naturalized, they often change the species composition, alter the structure, and reduce the species diversity of native plant and animal communities. Moreover, if an exotic becomes naturalized and spreads throughout a system, getting it out of that system is like trying to unscramble an egg."

—Francis M. Hart

Illinois Department of Conservation

INVADING WEEDS

A GROWING THREAT TO WISCONSIN'S BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY



BY ELIZABETH J. CZARAPATA

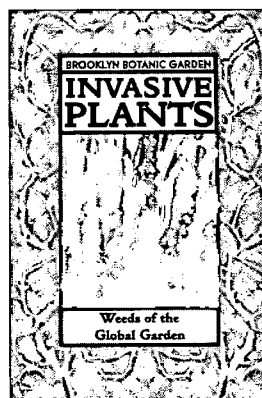
A 78 page booklet containing 88 detailed **color photos** of the most ecologically damaging plants in Wisconsin natural areas.

Includes plant sketches, details of identification, characteristics, and impacts of invasive weeds, suggestions for community education, control techniques.

Send \$20.89 plus \$3.00 for shipping/handling and \$1.22 tax for a total of \$25.11 to

Elizabeth Czarapata,
Box 565
Muskego, WI 53150

(Checks payable to E. Czarapata)



RICH WITH REFERENCE

We are fortunate to have educational materials in our arsenal of weapons against invasives. Two books with which Wild Ones members were involved are *Invading Weeds—A Growing Threat to Wisconsin's Biological Diversity* by Betty Czarapata and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's *Invasive Plants—Weeds of the Global Garden*, edited by Janet Marinelli. It is from Janet's publication that the "What Makes A Plant Invasive?" checklist at right was excerpted in abbreviated form. Both books are highly recommended.

Reproductive methods that facilitate invasive habits, common to many naturalized plant species.

- ☒ They produce many small seeds that begin reproducing within their first few years.
- ☒ Their seeds are dispersed by animals.
- ☒ They can reproduce both by seed and vegetative growth.
- ☒ They have long flowering and fruiting periods.
- ☒ They have no special seed germination requirements.
- ☒ They are self-fertile or self-compatible (meaning they can fertilize amongst themselves).
- ☒ They have adapted to extensive north-south ranges and a variety of soil conditions.
- ☒ They have no close relatives among any native species.
- ☒ They have been introduced on a large scale or repeatedly into a new range.



"Eurasian Buckthorns have become naturalized from Nova Scotia to Saskatchewan, south to Missouri, and east to New England. ... Exotic Buckthorns are still legally sold and planted as ornamentals."

-Wisconsin Manual of Control Recommendations for Ecologically Invasive Plants

A HAND TOOL FOR REMOVING WEED TREES

Removing exotic trees and shrubs is a real problem for natural landscapers.

Buckthorn is a typical non-native or exotic tree found in many parts of the United States.

Common and Glossy Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica* and *Rhamnus frangula*) were brought to North America for use in hedges. Horticulturists and landscape designers favored Buckthorn for its hardiness and growth habits. However, it did not thrive just in hedges. It also thrived in undomesticated settings. Today urban and exurban forests in the East and Midwest are choking under the pressure of Buckthorn. In many woodlands Buckthorn has squeezed out native species, threatening to leave a tree monoculture.

My small company, Lampe Design, LLC, in St. Paul, Minn., has introduced a product called the Root Talon to combat weed-trees such as Buckthorn and other weedy species with fibrous roots. The Root Talon is a multipurpose hand tool shaped roughly like a pickaxe or mattock, but with a unique claw and gripping mechanism. The handle is fiberglass; the head solid metal. It weighs about five pounds. The red-and-yellow color scheme of the Root Talon makes it easy to spot in the field.

The Root Talon removes an unwanted tree or weed in much the same way as the claw of a hammer removes a bent nail from a board. The user places the two-pronged claw at the base of the stem of the unwanted plant, and the stem is guided through the gripping device. When leverage is applied to the handle, the tree is pried from the soil. If long, straggling roots remain, the straight edge of the head (opposite the claw) can be used to completely free the tree.

The Root Talon generally works best on trees smaller than two inches in diameter. It can remove weed-trees that have grown amongst desirable species. It can also remove odd-shaped trees, such as ones that have been cut at the base and have resprouted.

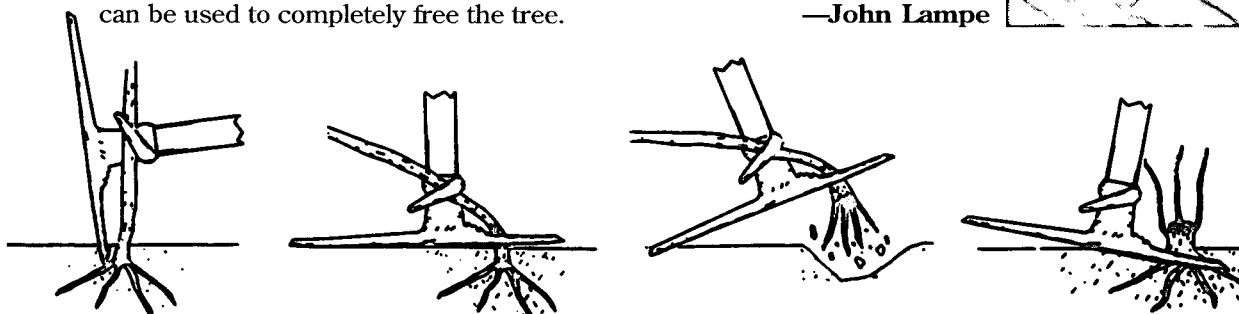
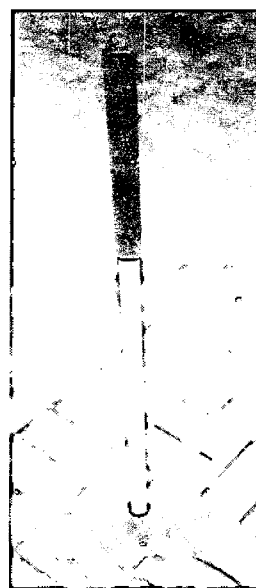
The Root Talon is suitable for a variety of circumstances. The individual natural landscaper can use it to control exotics in small woodland areas, for example, around a home. Naturalists and wildlife refuge managers can outfit crews of volunteers with the Root Talon to take on bigger projects. It is presently being used on a wide variety of exotic species in a number of states. In addition to individuals, users include Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Elko, Nev.; Shiawasee National Wildlife Refuge in Saginaw, Mich.; Dinosaur National Monument in Dinosaur, Colo.; Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Ouray, Utah; and Cornell Plantations in Ithaca, N.Y.

For more information on controlling non-native plants, see the website of Wildland Weeds Management & Research Program of the Nature Conservancy. It is located at <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu>. The site has

excellent information on identifying and controlling non-native species in the Element Stewardship Abstracts. The site also reviews tools used for removal of invasive plant species.

You can order a Root Talon (currently priced at \$47 plus tax and shipping) by visiting www.buckthorn.com or by contacting Lampe Design, LLC, 262 South Griggs St., St. Paul, MN 55105; (651) 699-4963; jklampe@worldnet.att.net.

—John Lampe



Family: Compositae (Composite)

Other Names: Beggar's Buttons, Cuckoo Button, Gobo, Love Leaves, Gypsy's Rhubarb, Clotbur, Thorny Burr, Cocklebur, Bat-Weed, Stick Buttons, Turkey Burrseed, Fox's Clote, Stick Buttons, Clothburr, and more.

Habitat: In waste places, roadsides; chiefly in calcareous soil. Often considered an invasive weed.

Description: This plant is stout with many branches. Each stem is topped by a bristly "flower," which is actually an armored clump of many flowers. The flower clumps turn into burrs that cling to anything that brushes by. Flowers: in solitary burr-like heads, can be up to 1½ inch across. Individually they are tubular, purplish-red blossoms. The leaves are alternate, mostly ovate and up to 20 inches long. They are white, woolly beneath with long leaf stalks. The lower leaves have solid stalks with a groove on the upper surface. Common Burdock (*Arctium minus*) has a hollow stalk with no grooves. **Flowering:** July to October **Height:** 4 to 9 feet.

Comments: Great Burdock is a native of England and continental Europe. It was introduced to America by early colonists. Being a biennial, it forms leaves in the first year and does not flower until its second year. According to the Doctrine of Signatures, the seed pods were at one time eaten to help things "*stick in your mind*." The plant is cultivated commercially in Japan for use as a vegetable.

The *Milwaukee Journal* reported on Feb. 4, 1990, that Velcro was discovered and developed in 1948 by Swiss engineer George deMestral. He was curious as to why cockleburs stuck to his socks and his dog after a walk in the woods. Examining the burrs under a microscope, he discovered that they consisted of hundreds of tiny hooks, which attached themselves to anything looped. He went on to invent a method of duplicating the hook-and-loop pattern in nylon and named the product Velcro. When the basic patent expired in 1978 dozens of manufacturers throughout the world produced variations of his invention.

Explorer, Peter Kalm, recorded on July 12, 1749, from Ft. St. Frederic in Canada, "*The Burdock, Arctium lappa, grows in several places about the fort and the governor told me that its tender shoots are eaten in spring as radishes, after the exterior peel is taken off.*"

Medicinal Use: Burdock root is mentioned in Chinese herbals dating back to about 2690 B.C., the time of the reign of the Yellow Emperor. As it

was used then, it is used today as a blood purifier, a treatment for skin diseases like eczema, for canker sores, sciatica, gonorrhea, syphilis, gout, swollen glands, kidney and gallstones, and much more. Externally, the bruised leaves can be applied to a fevered forehead and for burns the leaves shredded and folded into a stiffly beaten egg white will relieve the pain and hasten healing.

Name Origin:

The genus name, *Arctium* (ARK-ti-um), is from the Greek word, *ark-tion*, meaning "a plant," and *arktos*, meaning "a bear." Species name, *lappa* (LAP-pa) is from Latin meaning "burr."

Author's Note:

Great Burdock is listed as one of the host plants for the Painted Lady

(*Vanessa cardui*) and American Painted Lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*) butterflies, although not their favorite. Just like people, they have their preferences for certain tastes.

Recently, my husband and I found ourselves trying to get rid of an overwhelming patch of Great Burdock on our property. We had to manually cut each stalk; the string trimmer wasn't powerful enough. It was a daunting task. For a few moments I could understand why people ride around on their lawn mowers—scalping their land. That's the easy way out! Keeping the invasive plants out of a large wild area is a lot of work. I was trying to tell myself that somewhere in the world, people would appreciate this terrific patch of Burdock. Why can't we see the plant for its many virtues? It really boils down to how it's accepted by society standards, plus the fact that we like more variety in our landscape. Most of us don't get too excited about a field of Burdock, whereas a field of wild flowers is pleasing to our eyes. © 1999 Janice Stiefel, Plymouth, Wis.

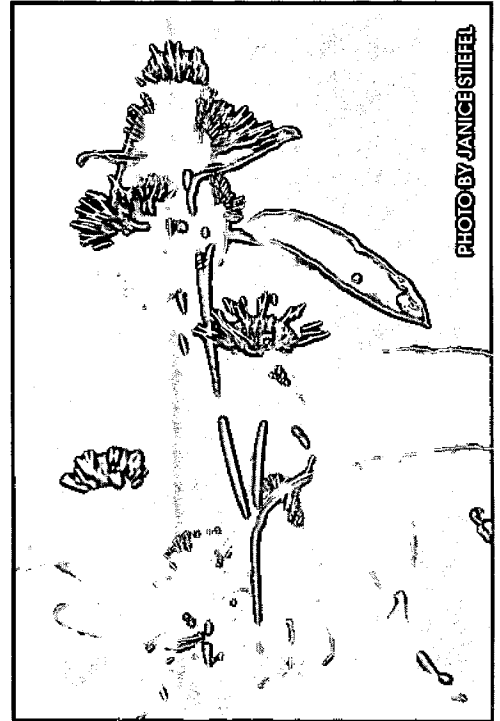


PHOTO BY JANICE STIEFEL

GREAT BURDOCK (*Arctium lappa*)

Wild Ones' Lorrie Otto Seeds For Education Fund awards annual grants to places of learning for projects whose efforts best reflect our message of creating natural landscapes using native plants and environmentally sound practices, and appreciating humankind's proper place in the web of Nature. Applications are due Nov. 15 of each year. Notification is made in February. You are encouraged to apply from anywhere in the U.S. Request an application from: P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, WI 54912-1274; (877) 394-9453.

To see how easy it is to apply, examine the following excerpted from the application of grant recipient ...

ST. CUNEGUNDA SCHOOL OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Goals:

- Introduce a patch of native landscape to a neighborhood that hasn't seen one in nearly 100 years.
- Invest in a community which has largely been forgotten/dismissed.
- Invite neighbors into the landscape; use the corner garden plot to help cultivate a sense of community.
- Begin stewardship for one piece of land (of many) which have been abandoned in the city of Detroit.
- Provide a safe learning/play space for neighborhood children.
- Provide a mentor (a soon-to-be-graduated college student of science and art) for elementary school students while allowing that mentor to practically apply her studies in landscape architecture.

MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

—Start small: Begin working with one class (second grade) at St. Cunegunda Elementary School and one after-school Ecology Club (students of any grade from that same school). Eventually expand to other grade levels and nearby schools/organizations. (Within a one-mile radius of this site are: three Detroit Public Schools (Priest Elementary, Munger Middle, and Chadsey High),

St. Andrew Church, Vistas Nuevas Head Start, Boysville of Michigan, Covenant House of Michigan, Renaissance Youth Center, Our Lady Queen of Angels School, Church, and Secular Franciscan Order; etc.

—Informally meet on the site with neighborhood children during after-school hours (in order to include students who attend other schools but live nearby from the beginning).

—Start small: Work with students to develop a working design for the site and plant a small, manageable plot in spring 1999.

—Integrate the project into already-taught classroom subjects (science, social studies, art, religion, math, writing).

—Use cues-to-care already understood in the neighborhood. In winter 1998/1999, install a neat, low fence with a gate on two sides to allow passage.

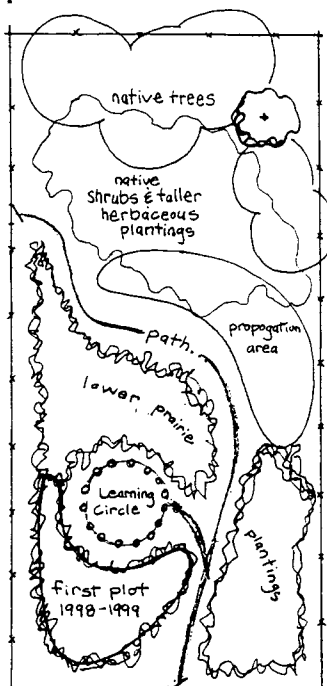
—Use already-understood cues-to-care to introduce something new. There are numerous abandoned lots similar to this one in the neighborhood. A fence around the lot is traditionally the first signal to neighbors that someone is beginning to care for the property (usually to unroll a fresh carpet of lawn!). This fence will send the same care signal (without the lawn!).

2. The site will be used for learning and teaching about human and plant communities—and how these communities can function in an urban environment. Other activities that can commonly occur on the site will include sitting, resting, walking through, and enjoying a small space of quiet. School and community groups will be invited to visit the site and help in its planning/care.

3. Initial planning and planting will be done with students from St. Cunegunda School (and their parents and teachers, who are also neighborhood residents). All ages and grade levels can be involved. Community members will be invited to participate in spring planting parties/summer enjoy-the-garden parties/fall seed-collecting parties, etc. The garden will be accessible to all during daylight hours.

4. This project will create an outdoor learning/teaching space in an area that doesn't have one. It will be available for neighborhood students and other residents. An after-school Ecology Club will be created as part of this project. This will be the initial coordinating group (soliciting input from other students and neighbors, learning neighborhood history, etc.). The project can also fit into schools' lesson plans and religious organizations' stewardship/service goals. Resulting progress will be determined by the students and facilitated by the project coordinators.

Proposed
project
area



5. The project will create a small patch of habitat where there is almost none. It will hopefully serve as a first link/example in a network of urban neighborhood garden spaces.

The area has been described by neighborhood elders as one that had "fields" near the edge of a "swamp" (pre-1920s). In the 1910s and 1920s a few residences were built, and the area was used in small-scale cultivation. In the 1920s, the area quickly became a densely populated neighborhood of closely spaced one- and two-family houses, schools, churches, bakeries, and grocery stores. (This particular project site once held a combination residence and corner grocery store. Later this became a party store when the grocery store owner joined the many in flight from the city.) From the late 1960s onward, a race riot, fires, and general disinvestment have challenged the community and left many open land spaces. The neighborhood still nurtures many, many children and a new, rich ethnic diversity.

This project will not attempt to recreate the "swamp," but to bring back some of the "field." The land has only recently been purchased (22 October 1998 at a Michigan Department of Natural Resources auction of state-owned land). From 1990 until its recent purchase, it truly was abandoned. The owner of the fire-destroyed party store lost ownership through absence and failure to pay taxes. Since its purchase in October, seeds have been collected from remnant prairie plants on nearby roadsides and railroad-sides. These and other sun-tolerant native plants will be used on the site. Some native tree and shrub species (less likely to be dismissed as weeds and easily recognized by the city-dweller) will be used in the "back" of the site.

6. The area will be maintained by student and community stewards. The coordinators of this project take responsibility for training those stewards and maintaining a continuity of stewardship. Some funding will be required—especially at these very early stages. Grants (such as this one) and donations will be sought to provide the necessary funds. 🌱

—Andrea Urbiel

Wild Ones is very grateful to the following "SFE Partners" for their sponsorship in the form of seeds, plants or discounts: Enders Greenhouse of Illinois and, from Wisconsin, Kettle Moraine Natural Landscaping, Little Valley Farm, Prairie Future Seed Company, Prairie Nursery, and Prairie Ridge Nursery. SFE has a panel of judges who volunteer their time and to whom we are deeply grateful: Neil Diboll, Molly Fifield-Murray, Babette Kis, G. Andrew Larsen, Ken Leinbach, Mariette Nowak, Bret Rappaport, Craig Tufts, and Donald Vorpahl. Thank you, all!

OUR QUEEN-OF-THE-PRAIRIE NOW A HALL-OF-FAMER

Voices
from the
Past



Admirer and longtime collaborator David Kopitzke (Wisconsin Bureau of Endangered Resources) greets Lorrie Otto at the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Sentry World Headquarters Theatre in Stevens Point, held April 17. Lorrie's story and an engraved plaque now permanently reside in the UW-Stevens Point Schmeekle Reserve Nature Center as the 36th inductee since the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Foundation was established in 1985.

Lorrie is hence regarded as a conservation luminary along with the likes of Aldo Leopold, John Muir, Gaylord Nelson, and Owen Gromme. Testimonials were given by David Kopitzke and Wild Ones President Bret Rappaport, assisted by his son Connor. Lorrie most graciously and vivaciously addressed the audience, reliving in great detail one of her first activist missions.

Turning 80 this September, Lorrie shows no sign of slowing down in her quest for a healed and respected natural environment. All who attended were indeed inspired. As an added honor, the College of Natural Resources, along with dozens of graduating students, presented Lorrie with their Environmental Leader Award. She was also attended by longtime friend and fellow naturalist Richard Barloga, her sister Betty, cousin Kay Ruff, Kay's daughters Karen Bate and Connie Darling, and your's truly, Chris Reichert. 🌱

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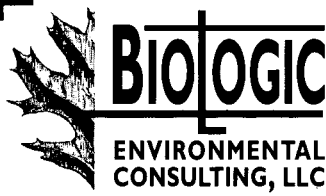
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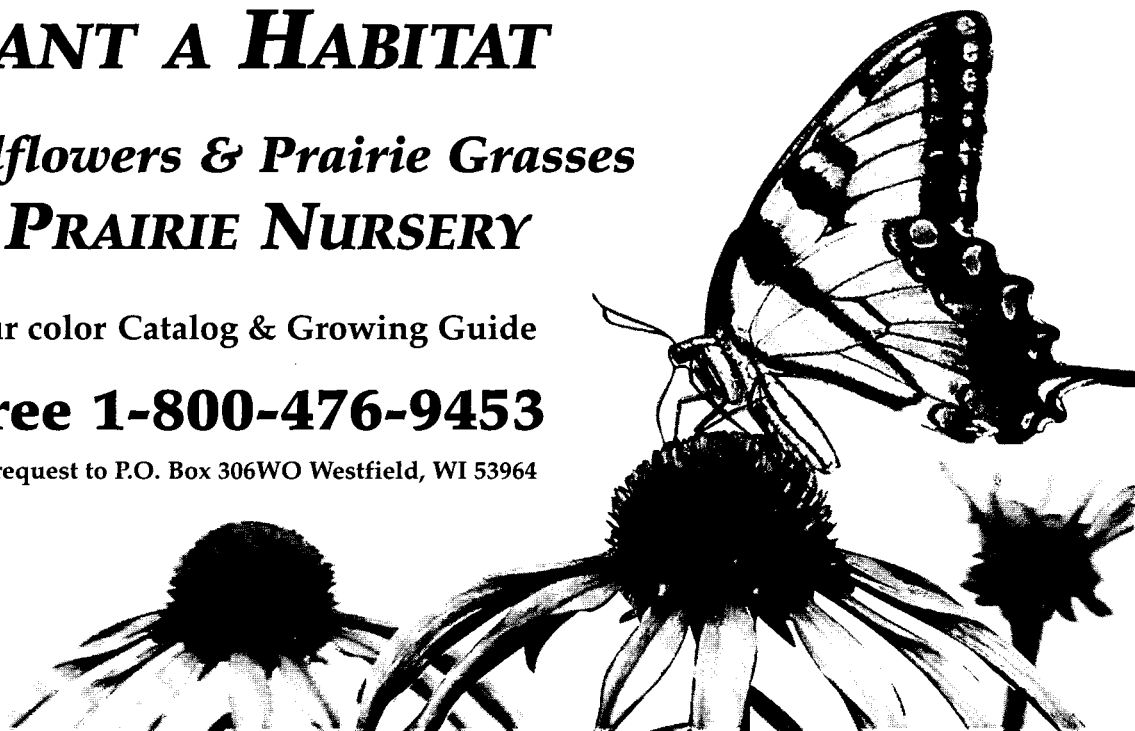
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The meeting place

You are encouraged to participate in all Wild Ones activities—even when you travel. To learn the details of upcoming events, consult your local chapter newsletter or call the respective contacts listed for each chapter. Customary meeting information is given here, but you should always confirm dates and locations with chapter contacts.

Meet us on-line at www.for-wild.org

ILLINOIS

GREATER DuPAGE CHAPTER

MESSAGE CENTER . . . (630) 415-IDIG

Chapter usually meets the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the College of DuPage.

SEPT. 16—Meet in Bldg K, Rm 161 to hear Carl Strang, Willowbrook Wildlife Haven, speak on "Coyotes and Foxes in DuPage County."

OCT. 21—Meet in Bldg K, Rm 161 to hear Jeff Rugg talk about "How to Add Water Interest to Your Natural Garden."

LAKE-TO-PRAIRIE CHAPTER

KARIN WISIOL (847) 548-1650

Meetings are usually held on the second Monday of the month in the Byron Colby Community Barn at Prairie Crossing, Grayslake (Rt. 45 just south of Ill. 120). Visitors welcome.

SEPT. 18—Visit Glacial Park Conservation Area with Ken Weik, biologist. Meet at Byron Colby Barn at 8:45 a.m. to carpool or at 9:30 a.m. at Wiedrich Barn, Glacial Park.

NORTH PARK CHAPTER

BOB PORTER (312) 744-5472

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

SEPT. 9—Supplemental book discussion meeting of Second Nature: A Gardener's Education by Michael Pollan.

SEPT. 18—10 a.m.-2 p.m. Visit two North Park Wild Ones members' yards.

OCT. 14—Phil Parillo, Field Museum of Natural History entomologist, will talk about insects and their natural habitat.

ROCK RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER

SHEILA STENGER (815) 624-6076

Meetings are usually held at 7 p.m. at Jarrett Prairie Center, Byron Forest Preserve, 7993 N. River Rd., Byron. Call (815) 234-8535 for events calendar.

SEPT. 16—Guest speaker

OCTOBER—Seed collection.

IOWA

WILD ROSE CHAPTER

MARY PALMBERG . . . (319) 337-7917

KANSAS

LAWRENCE CHAPTER

MICHAEL ALMON . . . (785) 832-1300

Chapter meets monthly.

KENTUCKY

FRANKFORT CHAPTER

KATIE CLARK (502) 226-4766
herbs@kih.net

Meetings are usually held on the second Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at Franklin County Extension office.

LOUISVILLE CHAPTER

PORTIA BROWN. (502) 454-4007

Light@entrekty.net

Meetings are usually held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Louisville Nature Center, 3745 Illinois Avenue.

SEPT. 28—Tentative plans for a return visit to Iroquois Park savanna.

MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR CHAPTER

TRISH BECKJORD (734) 669-2713

DAVE MINDELL (734) 665-7168

plantwise@aol.com

BOB GRESE (734) 763-0645

bgrese@umich.edu

Meetings are usually held the second Wednesday of the month.

SEPT. 8—6:30 p.m. Tour of Pioneer Prairie and Woods hosted by the Pioneer High School Ecology Club, 601 W. Stadium.

FLINT CHAPTER

DEB FARRELL (810) 233-6655

dshirkfarrell@hotmail.com

Meetings are usually held the third Thursday of the month. (continued ...)

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SEPT. 16—6:30-8:30 Scouting Consumers
Energy Rights-of-Way.

OCT. 21—6:30-8:30. Seed gathering.

OAKLAND COUNTY CHAPTER

MARYANN WHITMAN . (248) 652-4004
maryannwhitman@hotmail.com

Meetings are usually held the first Tues-
day of the month at Old Oakland Town-
ship Hall, Rochester, 7:30 p.m.

SEPT. 7—Plant exchange. Members only. Also
plants sold from Wildtype Nursery.

OCT. 5—Jane Hoyle, naturalist—Newcomb's
wildflower book: How to use a key.

MINNESOTA

OTTER TAIL CHAPTER

TIM BODEEN (320) 739-9334

Meetings are usually held at the Prairie
Wetlands Learning Center.

ST. CLOUD CHAPTER

GREG SHIRLEY (320) 259-0825

Meetings are usually held the third
Tuesday of the month at the Heritage
Nature Center, 6:30 p.m.

MISSOURI

ST. LOUIS CHAPTER

SCOTT WOODBURY . . . (314) 451-0850

Meetings are usually held the first
Wednesday of the month.

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LONG ISLAND CHAPTER

JANET MARINELLI . . . (718) 622-4433
(ext 254)

OHIO

COLUMBUS CHAPTER

MARTHA PRESTON. . . (614) 263-9468

Meetings are usually held the second
Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. at In-
niswood Metro Gardens, Inniswood
House, 940 Hempstead Rd., Westerville.

SEPT. 11—10 a.m. Meet at Inniswood parking
lot. Visit Bob Harter, Native Prairie Seed of
Ohio in Delaware, to learn about stratifying
seeds for planting.

OCT. 9—Time to be announced. Mike Hall
will lead us in a seed collection at Cedar Falls.
The seeds will be used as a seed bank for restor-
ing land to be donated to the Nature
Conservancy.

OKLAHOMA

COYLE CHAPTER

MICHELLE RAGGÉ (405) 3930

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

SEPTEMBER—Garden Clean-up and guest
speaker.

OCTOBER—Nature Day.

WISCONSIN

FOX VALLEY AREA CHAPTER

CAROL NIENDORF . . . (920) 233-4853
DONNA VANBUECKEN (920) 730-8436

Meetings are usually held at UW-Exten-
sion office, 625 E. Cnty Rd. Y, Oshkosh, at
7 p.m.

SEPT. 23—7 p.m. at the Coughlin Center.
"Natural Landscaping for Shorelines or How
to Stop Fertilizing the Lake Winnebago Algae"
presented by Dan Wilson, UW-Extension pro-
fessor.

OCT. 16—9 a.m.-noon. Prairie seed collection
at Bubolz Nature Preserve off Hwy A north of
Appleton.

GREEN BAY CHAPTER

BONNIE VASTAG (920) 494-5635

Meetings are usually held at the Green
Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Rd.,
at 7 p.m.

SEPT. 8—Members' slide show. Bring a few
slides showing your project.

OCT. 9—Seed collection. For members only.

MADISON

CHAPTER CONTACT

DIANE POWELKA. . . . (608) 837-6308

Meetings are usually held the last Thurs-
day of the month at Arboretum McKay
Center, at 7 p.m.. Public is welcome.

SEPT. 25—All-day trip to Kristi Seifert's farm
near Weyauwega. Other stops also planned.
Come enjoy the fall colors.

OCT. 28—Ponds in your landscape. Wild
Ones' ponds in eastern Wisconsin.

MENOMONEE RIVER AREA CHAPTER

JAN KOEL (414) 251-7175

JUDY CRANE (414) 251-2185

Meetings are usually held at 6:30 p.m. at
The Ranch, W187 N8661 Maple Rd.,
Menomonee Falls.

SEPT. 21—6:30 p.m. Brookfield East High
School, 3305 Lilly Rd. (enter north-end drive-
way). Aster/nature walk with Judy Newman
through Elmbrook School District's nature cen-
ter and outdoor classroom. MRAC's 2nd anni-
versary.

OCT. 19—6:30 p.m. W176 N8610 Sunset
Ridge, Men. Fls. President's candlelight yard
tour. Gather to share seeds and treats. Bring a
flashlight.

MILWAUKEE—NORTH CHAPTER MESSAGE CENTER. . . . (414) 299-9888

Meetings are usually held the second
Saturday of the month at the Schlitz Au-
dubon Center, 1111 E. Brown Deer Rd.,
Bayside, at 9:30 a.m.

MILWAUKEE—WEHR CHAPTER MESSAGE CENTER. . . . (414) 299-9888

Meetings are usually held the second
Saturday of the month at the Wehr
Nature Center, at 1:30 p.m.

SEPT. 11—Tour Wendy Walcott's 5 acre River
Hills yard with prairie, pond and diversity.

NORTH PARK CHAPTER'S READING GROUP

*Member Nathan Aaberg reports
on this reading group's first meeting:*

We had a good turnout for our book discussion. About 17 people showed up (more than I expected). We discussed *Noah's Garden*, but conversation ranged freely. What was most rewarding was hearing of each person's own garden and how they valued it in their everyday life.

Most of our meetings leave us inspired but passive observers. This night we talked to each other, warmed by the inspiration and prose of Sarah Stein, of ideas, our gardens, and the friends (our Midwest plants) we have in common. We found cause for hope, despite the pain we feel seeing more land devoured by development.

An upbeat meeting, it was great—a group of nonconformists came together and found themselves a GROUP of nonconformists (linguistic irony).

We may do this on a quarterly basis. I think it gave people a way to interact and talk of specifics and ideas in a comfortable way.

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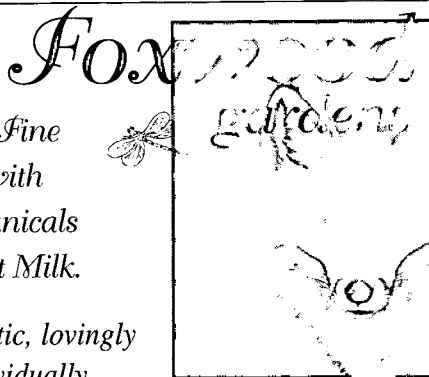


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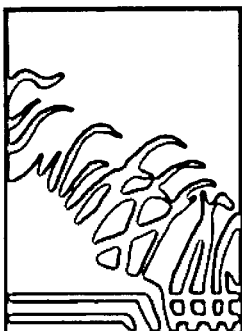
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a child is exposed to
early on, that will be
the sort of gauze
through which he or
she will see all the
world afterwards."*

—Wallace Stegner

*"Conservation means
development as
much as it does pro-
tection. I recognize
the right and duty
of this generation to
develop and use the
natural resources of
our land; but I do
not recognize the
right to waste them,
to rob, by wasteful
use, the generations
that come after us."*

—Theodore
Roosevelt



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You may remember we ran a "before" picture and story about Clinton Elementary School (Clinton, Wis.) in the January/February 1999 issue. In the article, teacher Kim Lowman told us about their May 1998 school planting, which was inspired by Lorrie Otto's Bayside Middle School landscape. Here are some "after" pictures, including the school's Wild Ones yard sign. In this excerpt from her letter, Kim describes their experience:

The prairie has been such a wonderful experience for the children and staff. The children utilized the prairie ecosystem during academic time and at recess. There are always children walking the paths and sitting on benches during recess, which is so wonderful to see. This past fall, all students studied the four state threatened or endangered species found in our prairie: Pale Purple Coneflower, Wild Petunia, Wild Quinine, and



Prairie Milkweed. We have studied the plants in science, journaled about them, written poetry, drawn pictures, and collected and spread seeds ... The Black-eyed Susans make a good groundcover these first years, although our prairie did very well for its first season and is full of life. We even discovered the Great Golden Digger Wasp had moved in, which is rare in our area and is found in prairies! We are very proud of our area and hope it continues to provide learning and enjoyment.



Aluminum yard signs proclaiming "this land is in harmony with nature" may be available from your local chapter or send \$21 to: Wild Ones Yard Sign, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, WI 54912-1274.

Send a picture of your yard sign to Wild Ones Journal, S89 W22630 Milwaukee Ave., Big Bend, WI 53103-9539.

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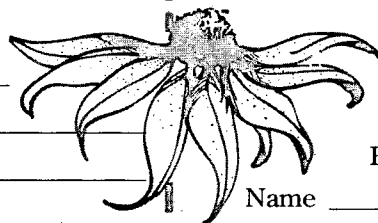
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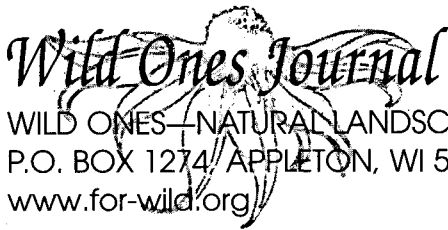
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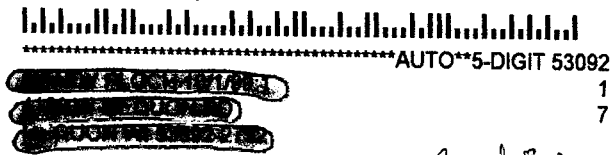
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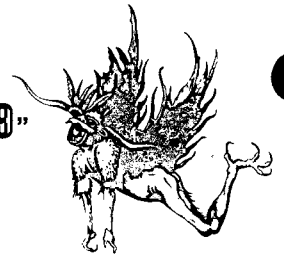
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MATERIAL

"Your membership's about to **EXPIRE!** ... if the label above is dated **10/1/99** or **11/1/99**"

YOUR TIMELY RENEWAL SAVES ON PAPER AND THE EXPENSE OF OUR SENDING OUT RENEWAL NOTICES.
USE FORM ON PREVIOUS PAGE TO RENEW. NOTIFY US IF YOU MOVE AS BULK MAIL IS NOT FORWARDED.



DEAR READERS:

Since I first joined Wild Ones four years ago, I've seen the number of chapters more than double and the membership numbers triple. What was generally an upper Midwest organization has become truly national. To adapt to changing needs, *Wild Ones Journal* will offer a new service starting with the January/February 2000 issue. Our new "Seedlings" listing will be your opportunity to put out a call to others in your vicinity to form a nucleus around which a chapter can grow. If you wish to be listed, please send your name, address, and phone number to me at the Big Bend address given on page 11. And pay close attention to the *New Member Handbook*, coming your way in November, for chapter formation guidelines.

While one new section is forming, another is becoming streamlined. That is, the *Journal* will no longer be publishing notices of individual chapter events after this issue. Instead, "The Meeting Place" will simply list each chapter's contact person and general meeting information. It has been difficult for most chapters to supply calendar information on time for the *Journal*'s deadline. Also, as the number of chapters increased, more newsletter space was being

given over to material applicable only to select segments of our membership. Your chapters will provide you with meeting details from their own newsletter or announce their schedule during meetings, or you can call the contact person for specific information.

I've heard from some of you that you like reading all the chapter event notices because it helps you understand what others are doing and gives you ideas for your own chapter. Of greater value than calendar info are chapter reports. You are welcome to submit an article about your chapter's activities. Consult with your president and share your group's perspective.

Back to the subject of the *New Member Handbook* ... since it will not have time-sensitive news, and because we want to hone this special project well, it may require more production time than a normal newsletter. If it doesn't arrive exactly on Nov. 1, as you would expect your *Journal* to, don't panic. We are working hard to please you with every Wild Ones publication you find in your mailbox. ☺

—Joy Buslaff