



Official publication of  
Wild Ones—Natural Landscapers, Ltd.  
*Wild Ones Journal* is made possible in part by  
the generous support of the Liberty Prairie Foundation



**A VOICE FOR THE NATURAL LANDSCAPING MOVEMENT**

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2000 • VOLUME 13, NO. 1

# Wild Ones® Journal

## GARDEN & LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY

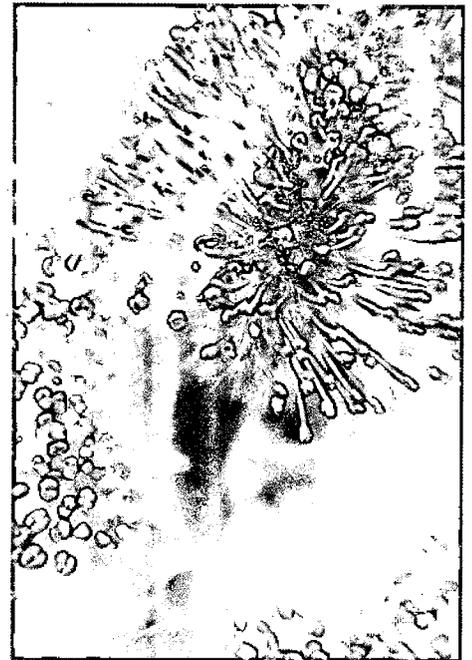
### LESSON #1— GET TO KNOW YOUR CAMERA

Whether you have a simple point-and-shoot or a fancy single-lens-reflex camera, you can improve your garden photographs with a little practice and a little knowledge. **A good place to start is with the manual for your camera.** Most 35mm cameras have a variety of shooting modes available. The most common are *automatic, closeup, portrait, landscape* and *sports/action*. If you have an SLR camera, you also have a *manual* mode.

When you want to fill your viewfinder with a flower, or even part of a flower, you want to use closeup mode. With many point-and-shoot cameras, this mode can be used only at a certain distance from the subject.

If you are not within the distance range specified in your manual, your photograph will not be in focus. With an SLR camera, you are restricted by the minimum focusing distance for the specific lens you're using. When I want to get in close, I use a special lens called a *macro* lens. It allows me to focus when only inches away from my subject. [See willow detail, right.]

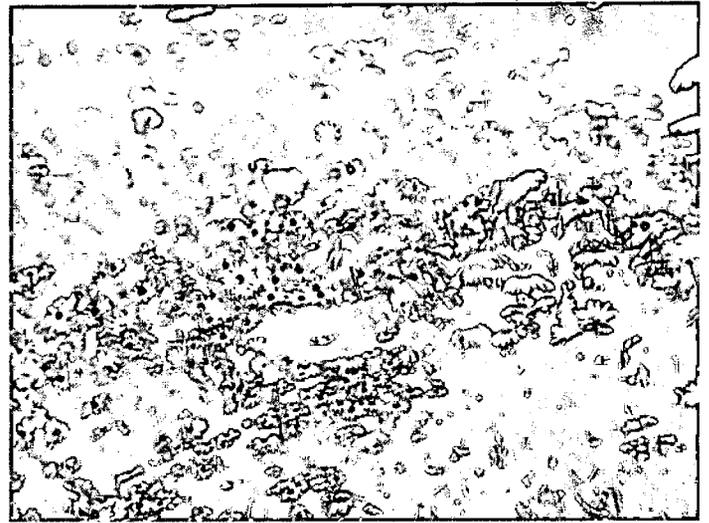
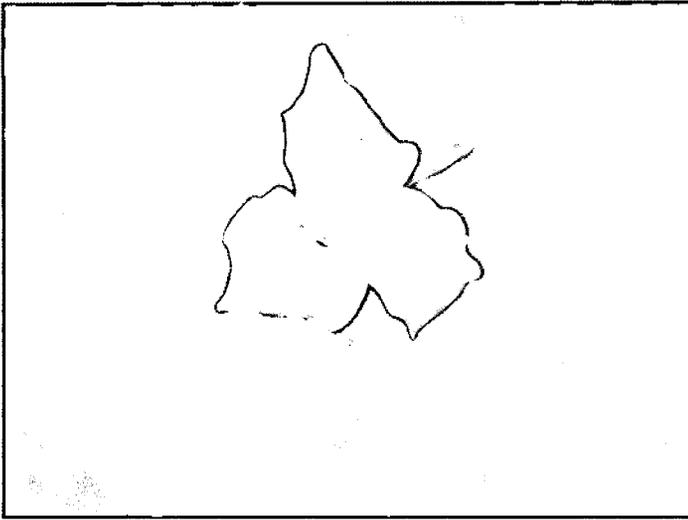
You would use portrait mode to isolate a particular plant or flower. Think of a typical portrait of a person. **Usually you want the area surrounding the subject to be slightly blurred so that your subject stands out against the background.** Be sure to pay attention to minimum focusing distances. [See *Trillium grandiflorum* photo, next page.]



### A TUTORIAL SERIES

By **Donna Krischan**

Krischan Photography, Garden,  
Wildflower, Landscape Images  
[www.execpc.com/~krischan](http://www.execpc.com/~krischan)



(continued from front page)

Landscape mode is used when you want to step back and get an overall view of the garden. In this mode, you should see details throughout your photograph. Minimum focusing distances are usually not an issue when using landscape mode.

The sports/action mode does not usually apply to garden photography. Its purpose is to freeze action. The only motion in the garden we may want to freeze is from the wind. I usually find it better to wait for the wind to subside or return on a calmer day. Another use for this mode is to stop an insect or bird in flight.

Automatic mode is a compromise

between the above settings. It is most similar to landscape mode. Manual mode allows you to take total control over your camera settings—And that's a whole 'nother article!

Once you choose the mode for your photograph, it is important to focus on the most important part of the subject. With flower closeups or portraits, that is usually the center of the flower. Most cameras have their focus point in the middle of the viewfinder. However, if you always put your subject in the middle, your pictures become quite predictable and boring. Try the following technique. Make sure that you start with the center of your viewfinder on the

most important part of your subject and partially depress the shutter button to engage autofocus. Next, keep the button partially depressed and reposition your camera so that your subject is off-center in the viewfinder. Then, fully depress the shutter button to take the picture. This technique takes some practice to get the feel of the button, but is well worth the time. You might even try practicing without film in your camera. If you have an SLR camera, you might find it easier to turn autofocus off. That way, you can compose your photograph with your subject off-center and use manual focus to make sure your subject is sharp. ☺

### ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTOR

Reading the fine-print photo credits in magazines, you may spot Donna Krischan's name. (I'm fondest of her photos appearing in *Garden Gate* magazine showing the wild yards of Rochelle Whiteman, Lucy Schumann, Ruth Stein and Annette Alexander.) In future issues of *Wild Ones Journal*, Donna will continue to coach us on how to become better photographers.

### CLICK ... THEN SHOVEL

When I meet a new Wild Ones member, I insist they begin photographing their property before doing anything else. If you've seen some of the before, during, and after photographs circulating within our membership, you understand why. In a glance, one can gain incentive and instruction and find the faith to pioneer a whole new landscape based on someone else's success. If *you* have photos of your landscape's progress, please share them with us.

### A COUPLE BITS OF ADVICE

Don't limit the views of your yard—get yourself elevated. Take pictures from a ladder, a second-story window, or your rooftop. (I don't have to warn you about safety, do I?)

The one camera accessory I use that has not become dated in the 20-some years I've had it is a homemade beanbag. Made from worn blue jeans and navy beans, this hoagie-sized item has performed as the universal tripod. It can cradle and steady a camera perched on a rock, on sloping ground, or in the crotch of a tree. It allows me to set the timer and run into view for a group shot or dial down the shutter speed to shoot in low light or to show an object in motion. It's highly portable for stomps into the field, too.

Lastly, keep fresh camera batteries on hand. Mine expired during my very first wild yard bus tour so that I have few photo mementoes of that great day. ☺

—Joy Buslaff

# HOW FAR HAVE WE COME?

A decade or so it's been since I first heard of Wild Ones, the natural landscape movement, a trend toward habitat restoration of small suburban lots and elimination of monoculture lawns. As we reflect on the cusp of a new century, I ask: How far have we come in 10 years?

- A decade ago, few books could be found on natural landscaping—now there are many.
- A decade ago, few landscape architects advocated native plant installations—such plantings are now viewed with cautious acceptance.
- A decade ago, homeowners who planted natural landscapes were routinely prosecuted under city weed laws from growing natives—now such cases are few.
- A decade ago, Wild Ones was a small regional conservation organization with a couple chapters—now we have 2,500 members, 24 chapters in 10 states and a website that is visited by hundreds of people a week.



**BUT HOW FAR HAVE WE COME?** As I write this, I'm flying to Washington, D.C., on a business trip and looking down from 30,000 feet. What I see is an unhealthy land, chip-chopped and unharmonious. Sure, there are swards of greenery along the rivers that skig their ways through cities and towns, and there are trees—but just a fraction of the number that once grew here. Mostly there are rooftops and lawns.

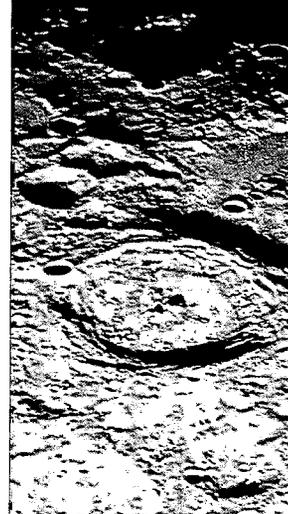
I turn away to read a gardening magazine I picked up at the airport. On page 48 is "It's Easier Being Green," an article about a "new crop" and environmentally friendly lawnmowers. Yes, it's good that lawnmower makers have reduced noise, reduced emissions of hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen, and carbon monoxide. But we can't let the fact that lawnmowers have become *less bad* be interpreted as meaning exotic mono-turf lawns are *good*. They're not. You would conclude that lawns are good if you read the book *A Man's Turf—The Perfect Lawn* by Warren Schultz. Schultz's glossy contribution to retro-thinking contains a history of lawns and advice on how to make a lawn green and healthy. But mostly he writes about the metaphysical need a man has to exercise domination over his yard of grass and how lawnmowing provides "a Zen path" through the suburbs that satisfies "our powerful need to be in touch with nature." "Lawnmowing," he declares, "is part of being a man." This is scary stuff.

How far have we come? Simply not far enough. Not until there are more books on natives than on exotics ... not until native landscapes are applauded and exotic landscapes relegated to botanic gardens as examples of "what we used to do before we knew better" ... not until homeowners who spray poisons in their yards that kill beneficial life forms, pollute the water and render the soil lifeless are prosecuted ... not until Wild Ones has 2.5 million members, 3,500 chapters, and a website that needs a high-capacity server to handle the thousands of daily inquiries from around the globe ... not until (in the words of Lorrie Otto) all of suburbia is landscaped with meadows, prairies and thickets or forest, when the water sparkles, fish are good to eat, and birds sing ... not until then have we come far enough. ♣ —Bret Rappaport



*"A useful indication of when the human species is ready to consider terraforming [new worlds] seriously is when we have put our own world right."  
—Carl Sagan*

*A view of Earth over the moon's horizon from the unmanned spacecraft Clementine.*



**CARL SAGAN (1934-96)** crafted phrases that awakened us to the "BILLIONS and BILLIONS" of stars around us. Then, with that ultra wide-angle perspective, he turned our collective eye back at this "pale blue dot" of a planet so that we might see Earth for its real worth. The quotations scattered throughout this issue are by this astronomer poet.



Wild Ones members from left: Emily Hales, Cynthia Horne and Mary Ann, rescue native plants from a roadside-removal site near Palmdale, Texas, accompanying official Dominion 27. Members Leah and Marie Hobbs look up a plant.

## Suburban homeowners going wild

'Naturescaping' forgoes lawn for native plants

By Phil K. Olson  
Tribune Staff Writer

The lots of Wayne Romanowski's new house in unincorporated Rolling Meadows is a landscaped area where oak and pine trees, shrubs and woodland flowers flourish in their shade. Lawns built in the hot afternoons, and sometimes in the evenings, are brought to the point back windows into the street.



# LAKE-TO-PRAIRIE CHAPTER

Each Wild Ones chapter is required to send an annual report to the national office. We thought you'd enjoy seeing the report produced by chapter President Diane Campione.

## THE 1998 SEASON

We started the 1998/1999 season with a September "Help Me Night" program on gathering and propagating native seed. Our members had a chance to interact with each other as they gathered valuable information on harvesting and collecting, propagating and broadcasting seeds.

In October, members were privileged to have Ron Riepe, geology instructor with the College of Lake County, share his slides and knowledge on the geology of Illinois including how the Lake County area evolved and developed some of the richest prairie soils. In the midst of raging November winds, 15 brave souls joined together at the Colby Barn for our first seed exchange. After watching a video on the Wild Ones, "The Landscaping Revolution," we exchanged small packages of seeds, and Duane Lahti coached us on how to propagate them.

## THE 1999 SEASON

We began the year with a wonderful and informative four-part series of presentations and a workshop titled "Do Your Dream Yard." The January program had a full house of interested members and guests, reflecting the growing interest in landscaping with native plants. Kerry Leigh, landscape architect, shared her experiences as a designer through her wonderful collection of slides. She highlighted some of her experiences with homeowners on establishing prairies or combining prairies with perennials. She also enlightened us on the differences between maintenance of a garden and management of a garden.

With humor and love of native trees and shrubs, Connor Shaw, founder of Possibility Place Nursery, greeted the February audience. Connor described several native species suited to our local conditions and outlined key features of each. He identified August as the best time to transplant and offered tips on how to select, where to plant and how to plant trees and shrubs. Although March came roaring in with 6 inches of snow, it did not deter nearly 30 members and guests who heard Jim Steffan, ecologist with the Chicago Botanic Garden, share his experiences planting and managing natives.

We concluded the four-part series in April with the session "Designing a Spot for Native Plants in Your Dream Yard: A Workshop for Wild Ones Members." Three experienced landscape designers (Valleri Talapatra of Natural Gardens in St. Charles, Ill., Kerry Leigh and Frank Haas) helped members design an area of native plants. With paper, pencils, plot of survey, garden resource books and catalogs, and the knowledge gained from the program series, the homeowners were guided in choosing and laying out various plants, shrubs and landscape features (rocks, paths).

Our last scheduled program ended in May with an unexpected twist. Because of illness, Steve Packard was unable to share his restoration techniques and views on the conservation implications of wild plant gardens. Karin Wisiol graciously stepped in to share her knowledge and expertise in plant rescues. She identified the process of a plant rescue and answered questions from the audience.

During the summer months, our members participated in two Saturday morning field trips. In June a small group ventured to Illinois Beach State Park where Ken Klick guided us through a variety of prairies, wetlands and wildlife. A more "organized" variety of prairies comprised the setting for our July field trip, as Chicago Botanic Garden naturalist Dave Sollenberger guided the members through the six different types of prairie at the CBG.

During this year, we also continued a successful fund-raising project: the construction and sale of Aldo Leopold benches. Member Duane Lahti led us in this effort, which netted the chapter \$1,300. Through members' efforts in matching fund programs, we have received two corporate donations.

Representatives of our chapter also attended three native plant conferences where we displayed our benches and shared information on our chapter.

Lake-to-Prairie also arranged for a plant rescue in an unincorporated area destined for development. This effort, which was masterfully initiated and led by Mary Handelsman, also received coverage in the *Chicago Tribune*.

*"There are places, in and around our great cities, where the natural world has all but disappeared ... [and] the bright lights of the big cities bleach out the stars."*

—Carl Sagan

**Family:** Caprifoliaceae (Honeysuckle)

**Other Names:** American Elder, Elder Bush, and Sweet Elder.

**Habitat:** Wet, damp or rich soils.

**Description:** This native shrub has flat-topped clusters of tiny, white, fragrant flowers and pinnately compound leaves. The stems are smooth and the twigs have large white pith (the soft, spongelike substance in the center of stems and branches) and prominent lenticels (the small pores on the surface of the stems of woody plants that allow the passage of gases to and from the interior tissue). The flowers are 1/6 inch wide in clusters 2 to 10 inches wide. The corolla is five-lobed. Leaves are opposite, pinnately cut into 5 to 11 elliptic to lanceolate, toothed leaflets, each 2 to 6 inches long. The fruit is purplish black, berry-like drupes (a fleshy fruit, having a single hard stone that encloses a seed), in clusters. **Flowering:** June to July. **Height:** 3 to 12 feet.

**Comments:** The fresh root has been found extremely poisonous, producing death in children within a short time after being eaten, with symptoms very similar to those of poisoning by Hemlock. As a dye plant, Common Elderberry leaves give a green dye and the berries a lavender or purple dye. The soft pith in the stems is easily hollowed out to make a flute or a blow gun or anything needing a pipe.

**Medicinal Use:** The heat-thickened juice of Elderberries forms an invaluable cordial for coughs and colds, while a dose of hot Elder wine before going to bed would not only induce sleep, but would promote perspiration and help to ward off the ill effects of a chill.

A tea made from the dried flowers and peppermint leaves (1 teaspoon each to 1½ cups water) is an excellent and soothing drink for those with colds. Such a drink was used by the Pequot Indians for baby colic. In fact, according to all references to the medicinal plants of the American Indians, it is shown that they fully appreciated the values of Elder.

Elder flower water was a favorite cosmetic for the suppression of freckles, easing sunburn, and to relieve the itching and other effects of salt-water bathing. To heal sores on animals and to keep away flies, as well, the flowerheads were rubbed into lard, heated in a moderate oven, strained and placed in jars as use as a salve.

Recently it has been found that this herb contains two compounds that are active against flu viruses. It also prevents the virus from invading

respiratory tract cells.

A patented Israeli drug (Sambucol) that contains Elderberry is active against various strains of viruses. At Kibbutz Aza in Israel, a flu outbreak provided a good opportunity to test Sambucol. In three days 90 percent of those afflicted were reported completely cured.

Sambucol stimulates the immune system and has shown some activity in preliminary trials against other viruses, such as Epstein-Barr, herpes and even HIV.

Elderberry resets the body's temperature. For women who have hot flashes or night sweats, 25 to 50 drops of fresh Elder blossom tincture several times a day are said bring rapid relief.

**Name Origin:** The genus name, *Sambucus* (sam-BEW-kus), is from the Greek word, *sambuce*, which is an ancient musical instrument—referring to the ability of the plant's stems to be converted to flutes and whistles. Species name, *canadensis* (kan-a-DEN-sis) means "from Canada." The family name is pronounced, kap-ri-foe-li-AY-see-ee.

**Author's Note:** In my research on the relationship of plants and insects to each other, I learned that the female Spring Azure Butterfly often lays her eggs on this plant, but the caterpillars die because the plant contains hydrocyanic acid. The Crown Moth (*Phlyctaenia coronata tertialis*) uses Elderberry as a food plant for its larvae, but other butterflies and moths seem to avoid it. They must have a higher IQ than the Spring Azure. No offense to the Spring Azure, of course.

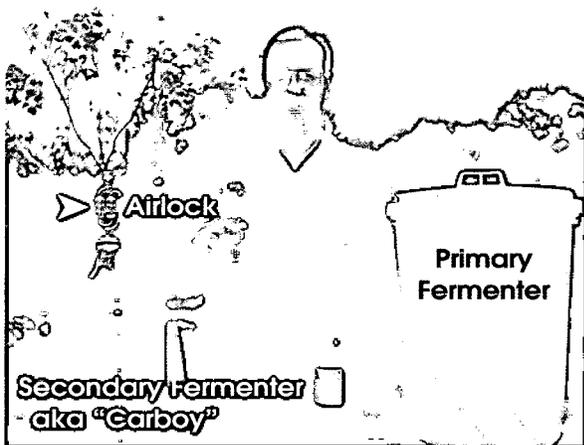
One of my clients explained to me how his mother used to make delicious Elderberry pancakes (in season). The kids would be sent out to pick the fresh blossoms on a warm summer morning. Mother would dip them in her "special" batter, fry them in a skillet, and they would have an Elderberry pancake party for breakfast. How simple and enchanting life used to be for children and their families—when they lived close to the land. These experiences provided precious memories of family togetherness, as well as an appreciation for the bountiful resources of the natural world. ☺



"Our ancestors lived out of doors. They were as familiar with the night sky as most of us are with our favorite television programs."  
—Carl Sagan

## MAKE AN ELDERBERRY WINE

In winter, when the soil turns hard, the palette of natural colors narrows, and outdoor fragrances dwindle, the sensory rewards of a glass of deep-colored Elderberry wine renew our affection for the plants in our yard. We enjoy our wines dry. The recipe at right will produce a Cabernet-like wine.



My husband, Dan, used to hunt for sites where he could collect berries from the wild. Once our own shrubs grew to maturity, he reveled in being able to collect fruit right outside our back door. (Lore has it, planting Elderberries at one's back door keeps away witches—it appears to be working.)

Elderberries are also native to England where they were known as “the British grape.” An old proverb says that “He who cultivates the Elderberry will live until an old age and die in his own bed.” This could be true as, nutritionally, any claims made about the healthy attributes of grapes and grape wines are exceeded by this berry that has a higher skin-to-pulp ratio and wildly higher quantities of Vitamin A.

For further information, we recommend the books *Winemaking with Elderberries* by T. Edwin Belt and *Winemaking, Recipes, Equipment, and Techniques for Making Wine at Home* by Stanley and Dorothy Anderson.

You can subscribe to a helpful newsletter by sending \$10 (\$12 Canada) to: *Fruit Winemaking Quarterly*, 4330 Gunderson Ct., Sebastopol, CA 95472 ([virtualcommunity.com/fruitwine](http://virtualcommunity.com/fruitwine)).

Winemaking supplies, complete winemaking kits and books can be ordered from: Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 Buffalo Rd., North East, PA 16428; (814) 725-1314 (info); (800) 488-7492 (orders).

**YOU WILL NEED:** A primary fermenter (“food grade” so it doesn’t impart flavors or chemicals), a secondary fermenter with an airlock; a hydrometer for measuring sugar content (and thus the potential alcohol), yeast nutrient, pectic enzyme, campden tablets, wine yeast, a clearing agent, and a trace amount of sulphite. After fermentation is complete, you will need clean bottles, corks, plus a filter (optional) and corker (these can be rented from a beermaking supply store).

### TO MAKE 5 GALLONS OF WINE

(Note: Most fruit wines don’t age well. This wine, however, can age for a couple years or more.)

Crush 12 lbs. of berries and place in primary fermenter with 1 quart of red grape juice concentrate, 10 lbs. of sugar, and 6 qts. hot water. Stir until sugar dissolves. Add yeast nutrient, pectic enzyme, crushed campden tablets and 8 qts. of cold water. Mix. Check the specific gravity (SG) of the liquid (aka *must*) according to the instructions with the hydrometer. It should read 1.105.

When the must is at 75°F, prepare the yeast. Add the yeast to a cup of warm water and let stand for 10 minutes, then stir into must. Put the lid on the primary fermenter and keep in a warm place (75°). After a day, check that fermentation (foaming) has begun. Stir twice daily to keep floating fruit moist. Check the SG daily. When it reaches 1.020, strain and squeeze out the fruit as dry as possible and compost it. Then, siphon (*rack*) the must into a clean carboy with an airlock and top up with cold water to keep it near full. (There will be a green scum left on your primary fermenter that can be cleaned off with vegetable oil.) After 10 days (preferably at 65°F) or when the SG reaches 1.000, rack again in order to leave sediment behind, put in clean carboy and top up with water.

After three weeks (or at SG .090-.095) rack again and add a clearing agent (bentonite or sparkaloid). Let rest 10 days. Rack once more. Add 1/4 teaspoon sulphite crystals (makes the wine more stable), and bulk age in the carboy for three months, then filter, siphon into bottles, cork them, and bottle age for nine months. After the long wait, it’s finally time to make a toast!

Planting shrubs, harvesting BB-sized fruits, making and aging wine—is it worth it? Yessiree! But if you want a quicker treat, make Elderberry jelly and enjoy it with the other kind of “toast.”

—Joy Buslaff and Dan Savin

“Since the advent of successful inter-planetary flight in 1962, our machines have flown by, orbited or landed on more than 70 new worlds ... but there was no life —not a cricket or a blade of grass ... a blade of grass is commonplace on Earth; it would be a miracle on Mars.”  
—Carl Sagan

## MAKE A SAVORY AND A SWEET PIE

Here are a couple recipes from Pat Armstrong's *Wild Plant Family Cookbook*.

### FIDDLEHEAD PIE

- 1 baked pie shell
- 4 Jerusalem artichokes or cattail rhizomes
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 2 chicken bouillon cubes
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1 cup boiled fiddleheads
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 3/4 cup milk
- 4 hard-boiled eggs
- 1/2 cup graded cheddar cheese
- Salt and pepper

Boil the fiddleheads and rhizomes for 10 minutes. Drain and boil again in a second pot of water. Melt butter in saucepan. Add flour, stir, then add milk, slowly stirring until sauce thickens. Dissolve bouillon cubes in 1/4 cup hot water and add to sauce. Grate cheddar cheese into sauce and add salt and pepper. Stir in fiddleheads and rhizomes. Pour everything into the pie shell and sprinkle with parmesan. Decorate with sliced hard-boiled eggs. Bake at 350° until cheese browns.

### NORTH DAKOTA SUNFLOWER SEED PIE

- 3 beaten eggs
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 1/4 cup dark molasses
- 1/4 cup dark corn syrup
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 2 tablespoons melted butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 cups roasted, salted sunflower kernels
- 1 unbaked 9-inch pie shell

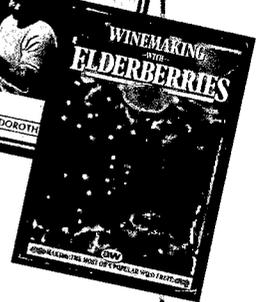
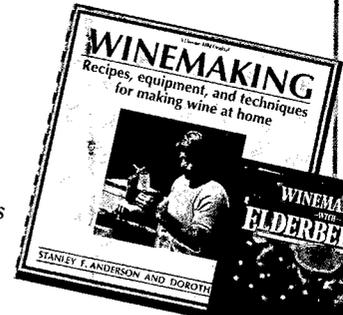
Beat together eggs, sugars, syrups, butter and vanilla. Spread sunflower kernels on pie shell. Pour on sugar-syrup-egg mixture. Bake at 350° for 50 to 60 minutes until center is nearly set. It will jiggle a bit. Cool before eating.

### "EAT YOUR WEEDS," SAYS PAT ARMSTRONG

Of all the wild mustards in the Midwest, Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata* or *A. officinalis*) is the best eating. It is an invasive alien plant, easy to pull, and, as the name implies, somewhat garlic-mustard flavored. The best parts to eat are the young leaves, the tender stem tips with leaves, flower buds, flowers, or young seed pods. It can be eaten raw in salads or sandwiches, cooked as a vegetable, and its seeds add flavor to salad dressings.



Pat's book is available for \$17.25 each from: Prairie Sun Consultants 612 Staunton Rd. Naperville, IL 60565-2607



### FOOD FACTS

#### Jerusalem Artichokes (*Helianthus tuberosus*)

This tuber is neither from Jerusalem nor is it an artichoke. Sometimes called "sunchoke," the plant is native to North America and was cultivated by Native Americans. It only fell from favor when the potato became more popular. The flesh is crisp and juicy, thus it is sometimes used as a substitute for water chestnuts. Its flavor improves after a light frost. It stores well in the refrigerator.

**Cattail** (*Typha angustifolia*, *T. latifolia*) roots contain the most starch between fall and spring. You can harvest, scrub and use them as you would potatoes.

**Fiddlehead ferns** are the first flush of fern growth in the spring that uncurls and appears like the neck end of a violin. Ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*/*Pteretis pensylvanica*) is good to eat. Bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*) is commercially canned in Canada for worldwide distribution, but one might not want to eat large quantities of Bracken fern as it could lead to toxicity. For optimum sweetness, parboil fiddleheads for 2 minutes in water with a little baking soda before cooking.

**Sunflowers** (*Helianthus annuus*) originated in Mexico and Peru, and evidence indicates that Native Americans used various parts for over 5,000 years.

"I'm with Henry David Thoreau, Why should I feel lonely? Is not our planet in the Milky Way?"  
—Carl Sagan

## ST. CUNEGUNDA SCHOOL - PART 2

*St. Cunegunda School of Detroit, Mich., is one of our Seeds For Education grant recipients. For initial project plans, see the September/October 1999 issue of Wild Ones Journal. Here is a brief first-summer update from Andrea Urbiel, the project coordinator.*



**October '98:** Chopin-Wagner lot (site of burned and demolished Forgiel grocery store/home/backyard) is purchased at state auction.

**October '98-February '99:** Andrea finishes school (University of Michigan), applies for Wild Ones grant at last possible minute, moves back to Motown with a bit of culture shock ...

**March '99:** Chopin-Wagner Garden Project receives \$200 Lorrie Otto Seeds For Education grant from Wild Ones. Sister Alexander of St. Cunegunda School asks 6th grade if they would like the garden to be their special project. Students agree to take on the project (*Yea, 6th grade and Ms. Rogers!*) and cheer at the prospect of getting outside in clothes other than their uniforms on Thursday afternoons.

**April '99:** 6th grade students visit the site for the first time. They record and discuss what they see/smell/hear/discover at the site. The shady spot under the Magnolia tree becomes a quick favorite spot. Students conduct research about the context of the garden site. They discover and report on the vegetative cover of our spot (south-west Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, USA) a long, long time ago (~1800) and compare that to what it looks like today. Students identify nearest open spaces, birds that visit the site and neighborhood, and plants that may be able to grow on the site. Students learn/teach definitions of city, ecosystem, community, habitat, neighborhood, organism, perennial, soil, forb, herbaceous, grass, etc.

**May '99:** Students hold a charette on the site to sketch preliminary ideas for planting areas, path alignment, sitting area, etc. Friends, family, and neighbors begin the work of installing a fence around the garden and picking up all the trash on the site. We find that the ground is VERY HARD and that there is a LOT OF GARBAGE on the surface and that there are many bricks and basement

footings left beneath the surface. The work is hard and slow, and the sandwiches are good. The Center for Heritage Landscaping at the Henry Ford Estate gives the project a great deal on the purchase of native woodland plants.



**June '99:** Friends, family, neighbors, and neighborhood businesses donate a total (as of June 1999) of \$755 to the garden project. WOW!!! Students discover that the area that used to be the Forgiel backyard (using clues such as the Magnolia tree, the remaining fence, the small garden walkway under about 3 inches of soil, the Lilies-of-the-Valley, and some already-pretty-good soil). Students plant native woodland plants in this area under the Magnolia and have a getting-in-trouble-but-great-fun-anyway water fight. Sixth grade celebrates the end of the school year at the garden site with some cookies from next-door Tarnow Bakery. Several students decide to continue working on the garden project during summer vacation.

*Andrea held monthly workdays on Saturdays throughout the summer and fall, including an afternoon barbecue in August. Plans included finishing the fence, delineating/creating a garden path, creating/building a compost area/bin, installing interior gates, and continued clean-up. If any of you would like to help with this ongoing garden project, contact Andrea at (313) 898-6337. Wild Ones looks forward to the next report! ☺*

Wild Ones has received generous donations in honor of Lorrie Otto's 80th birthday for the Lorrie Otto Seeds For Education fund from Mandy Ploch, Nancy Hill and the Menomonee River Area Chapter. These additional funds will go directly to SFE grant recipients in February 2000.

**A NEW COLUMN TO HELP START NEW CHAPTERS!**



**D**o you want to create a Wild Ones chapter in your area? Then, let us post your notice for others to join you. The following folks are looking for other members who live in their vicinity to form a nucleus around which a chapter can grow. If you're interested in starting a chapter, request a "Chapter Start-up Kit" from Executive Director Donna VanBuecken. To add your name to the *Journal's* "Seedlings" listing, send your contact information to Editor Joy Buslaff. See page 11 for Donna and Joy's respective P.O. and e-mail addresses and phone numbers.

**ILLINOIS**

**Malia Arnett**, 41 S. LaGrange Rd, LaGrange, IL 60525; (708) 354-3200

**INDIANA**

**Mary H. Kraft**, 5360 E. 161st St. Noblesville, IN 46060; (317) 773-5361  
mkraft@ind.cioe.com

**MINNESOTA**

**Bill Steele**, 21950 County Rd. 445, Bovey, MN 55709  
(218) 247-0245; scl@uslink.net

**OHIO**

**Kris Johnson**, P.O. Box 355, Williston, OH 43468  
(419) 836-7637; KRIS\_JOHNSON@ecunet.org

These young chapters need members to give them momentum:

**KANSAS**

**Lawrence Chapter—**  
**Michael Almon**, (785) 832-1300.

**MICHIGAN**

**Kalamazoo Chapter—**  
**Thomas Small** (616) 381-4946.  
**Southwest Michigan Chapter—**  
**Sue Stowell**, (616) 468-7031.

**NEW YORK**

**New York/Long Island Chapter—**  
**Robert Saffer**, (718) 768-5488.

**THANK YOU, WILD ONES!**

**C**ompass Plant and Prairie Dock! Yellow Coneflower! Rough Blazing Star! Big and Little Blue Stem!

I had just completed the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum's Earthkeeping Program. I was excited to return to Riverside University High School and share a wealth of information with my environmental science classes ... and everyone.

I had a problem. An important educational tool was missing: a classroom set of *Newcomb's Wildflower Guides*. The budget was spent!!!

Why was the *Guide* a teaching resource I needed? *Newcomb* addresses our geographical area, basic botany (flower, plant and leaf types), terms and definitions, it contains a logical keying system and, lastly, to quote *Newcomb* "it takes the guesswork out of wildflower identification." And, it doesn't end there; the *Guide* opens discussion on soils, fire, long roots, diversity and interaction, pollination, food chains, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Lorrie Otto and Wild Ones. This would be new and exciting material for high school students to be exposed to.

Who would share my desire to spread knowledge and wonder of wildflowers? Who would help with my problem? A call to Wild One Dorothy Boyer and, in turn, to Wild Ones chapters (Menomonee River Valley, Milwaukee North and Wehr). Dorothy worked quickly, as did the chapters and their members. Dorothy and I talked twice and 30 *Guides* became a reality. The books were received by Ken Liebach, the director of the Urban Ecology Center, Else Ankle, former director, and myself on Sept. 18, 1999. The books will be housed at the Urban Ecology Center. They will be used by the staff at the center, numerous teachers and schools, and youth and adults attending classes at the center.

To each of you, for your unanimous and quick response, my personal "thanks." I will make good use of the *Guides*. Many students will profit from your generous donation. The Urban Ecology Center staff extends their thanks. You touch the future—you teach!!

—**Patricia A. Casillo**  
**Riverside University High School**  
**Environmental Science Teacher**

*"We long for realistic maps of a world we can be proud to give to our children. Where are the cartographers of human purpose?"*  
—**Carl Sagan**

# OVERHAULING STATE WEED LAWS

Wild Ones members are painfully aware of the havoc wreaked by invasive non-native plants every time they spend hours pulling Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*) or cutting Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica* and *R. frangula*) in their yard or local natural area. Many natural landscapers are dismayed when they go to their local garden center and find these same plants for sale, often labeled as "wildflowers" or "good for wildlife habitat." A common response is to want to have these plants added to their state's noxious weed law. But before assuming that noxious weed classification would solve the problem, it is necessary to look at the concerns for various weeds, and how a law or other programs can best contain their spread.

**Most of the states in the Midwest and Eastern U.S. have antiquated weed laws, written decades ago to try to require landowners to control certain agricultural weeds.** A few states also have laws that restrict the sale and distribution of certain species. And at the local level, the issue of truly invasive weeds gets confused with aesthetic concerns, leading to often unreasonable height limits for certain vegetation. In the Western states, where cattle grazing is a major basis of the economy and rangeland weeds can degrade millions of acres of pasture, they have extensive weed laws at the state and county levels, complete with staff at each level to do education, control and enforcement. In the central part of the country, it is unlikely we will ever get that kind of financial support for dealing with invasive plants, but we can improve our laws and develop comprehensive weed programs to prevent further infestations and contain existing ones.

The state of Minnesota has recently made a big step in this direction, restricting the sale of both Common and Glossy Buckthorn. They also have convinced their legislature that permanent funding and staffing is essential to control nuisance aquatic plants such as Eurasian Water Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). In Wisconsin, we have long recognized the need to completely overhaul our state weed laws. We hope to do it in a way that is scientifically based, realistic in the requirements for landowners and local governments, and looks at the broader array of invasive plant concerns, such as education, research and prevention, rather than just focusing on containing a few widespread species.

A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC),

composed of representatives from industry, landowner and conservation groups, as well as key state and local government agencies, has been working to develop recommendations for a new weed law. Don Vorpahl, a natural landscaping consultant, has been representing Wild Ones on this committee (to discuss the issue with Don, call [920] 853-3729.). The TAC is attempting to develop a law that will be realistic and fair, without placing undue burdens on any sectors. The effort to revise the current laws concentrates on preventing establishment of new noxious weeds or spread of noxious weeds into areas currently uninfested. It stresses education and voluntary cooperation between landowners, affected industries and various levels of government.

A few of the key points of the recommendations include:

- **Developing a comprehensive statewide invasive plant program** focusing on education, prevention, control and voluntary cooperation.
- **Appointing a Noxious Weed Council** that will assess individual weeds proposed for adding to one of five weed categories with differing levels of restrictions: **1)** Statewide prohibited noxious weeds, **2)** Local noxious weeds, **3)** Statewide restricted noxious weeds, **4)** Voluntary management, and **5)** Watch—Locally based enforcement with assistance from county and state agencies, including annual training.
- **Financial and technical assistance** to landowners for the control of prohibited noxious weeds.

Prior to submitting recommendations to the legislature or any of the implementing agencies for the development of new statutes and administrative rules, the TAC has been soliciting input from a wide range of individuals, industries and organizations who may be impacted by the law to ensure the recommendations meet the needs of as many citizens as possible. The TAC will meet again over the winter to revise the recommendations, taking public comments into account. To obtain a copy of the draft recommendations or be added to the list of people who wish to be kept abreast of developments, contact Endangered Resources, WDNR, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921; (608) 266-7012. To obtain an e-mail with attached documents contact: [endanb@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:endanb@dnr.state.wi.us). Or visit [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er).

—Kelly Kearns, Plant Conservation Program Manager, Bureau of Endangered Resources, Wisconsin DNR

Keep an eye on this state's changing weed laws. Other states could follow in its footsteps.

"We humans have already precipitated extinctions of species on a scale unprecedented since the end of the Cretaceous Period."  
—Carl Sagan

**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-roots' level and to promote biodiversity and environmentally sound practices. We are a diverse membership interested in natural landscaping using native species in developing plant communities.

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**WILD ONES JOURNAL** is published bimonthly by Wild Ones—Natural Landscapers, Ltd. Views expressed are the opinions of the individual authors. Manuscripts and illustrations are welcome; contact editor. **ADVERTISERS:** Contact national office for rates and schedule.

**EDITOR**  
 JOY BUSLAFF  
 Publishers Studio  
 S89 W22630 Milwaukee Ave.  
 Big Bend, WI 53103-9539  
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The meeting place

**HOW MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE CAN ONE VOLUNTEER MAKE?**

The "Meeting Place" column was slated for deletion. It was becoming too labor-intensive for the editor to stay in touch with two dozen chapters and edit their events calendars for publication. Then, up stepped Mary Paquette from the Menomonee River Area Chapter who volunteered to do the work. Thank you, Mary!

Chapters, please send your chapter newsletters or events notices to:

**CALENDAR COORDINATOR**  
**MARY PAQUETTE**  
 N2026 CEDAR RD., ADELL, WI 53001  
 (920) 994-2505 • [paquetjm@execpc.com](mailto:paquetjm@execpc.com)

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.

**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.  
 Jan. 20—"Landscape Genealogy" presented by Ed Collins of McHenry County. Building OCC, Room 128A.  
 Feb. 17—"Losing Sacred Ground: The Disappearing America, (or, Harmony in Diversity)," a presentation by Melinda Perrin, president of Prairierth Fellowship, a certified teacher of the Seneca Wolf Clan, and a Plant Spirit Medicine Practitioner. Building K, Room 161.

**LAKE-TO-PRAIRIE CHAPTER**  
**KARIN WISOL** ..... (847) 548-1650  
 Meetings are usually held on the second Monday of the month at 7:15 p.m. in the Byron Colby Community Barn at Prairie Crossing, Grayslake (Rt. 45, about 1/2 mile south of Ill. 120).  
 Members only Workshop: "Enhancing Your Outdoor Habitat," a five part series:  
 Jan. 10—Part 1: "Gardening in Wet Areas" presented by Steve Apfelbaum, ecologist and founder of Applied Ecological Services and Taylor Creek Nursery, Brodhead, Wis.  
 Feb. 14—Part 2: "A Native Garden that Fits Your Lifestyle," presented by Roy Diblik, the founder of Northwind Perennial Farm, Springfield, Wis.

**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, unless otherwise indicated. Call Bob Porter for more information.  
 Jan. 13—John Jocius, horticulturist at the Brookfield Zoo, will show how to build a rock garden or waterfall from scratch.  
 Feb. 10—Connor Shaw, owner of Possibility Place Nursery in Monee, will discuss the use of native trees and shrubs in home landscaping.

**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 Road, Byron. Call (815) 234-8535 for events calendar.  
 Jan. 20—Build-It Day: We will be assembling bluebird houses.  
 Feb. 17—Member Jeff Stack will present a program on "Indoor Propagation of Native Plants."

**IOWA**

**WILD ROSE CHAPTER**  
**CHRISTINE TALIGA** ..... (319) 339-9121  
 Meetings are held the second Monday of every month, First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City.  
 Feb. 14—Native plant propagation event; locally collected native seeds will be planted in flats for members to take home.

**KENTUCKY**

**FRANKFORT CHAPTER**  
**KATIE CLARK** ..... (502) 226-4766  
[herbs@kih.net](mailto:herbs@kih.net)  
 Meetings are usually held on the second Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at Franklin County Extension Office. (Site subject to change.)

**LOUISVILLE CHAPTER**  
**PORTIA BROWN** ..... (502) 454-4007  
[light@entrekty.net](mailto: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.  
 Jan. & Feb.—Members will continue invasives control work on their adopted site, Cherokee Park, 9-12 on the 4th Saturday of each month. Meet at Wildflower Woods at the Eastern Parkway entrance to the park.  
 Jan. 25—Meeting topic: "Wild Ones Basic Concepts and Local Programs."

(continued on next page)

**OLD WILD ONES HANDBOOKS FOR SALE**—Our first handbooks contained good info for Mid-westerners. Just 500 left—available for \$5 each. Contact your chapter or our executive director.

## 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. For meeting information see "www.for-wild.org/annarbor/meetings.html" or contact above.

### FLINT CHAPTER

DEB FARRELL ..... (810)233-6655

dshirkfarrell@hotmail.com

Meeting are usually held the third Thursday of the month.

### KALAMAZOO CHAPTER

THOMAS SMALL ..... (616) 381-4946

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Location to be announced.

### OAKLAND COUNTY CHAPTER

MARYANN WHITMAN ..... (248) 652-4004

maryannwhitman@hotmail.com

Meetings are usually held the first Wednesday of the month at Old Oakland Township Hall, Rochester, at 7 p.m.

Jan. 5—Potluck supper and general discussion of future topics. Members may bring questions about landscaping problems in their yards.

Feb. 2—"Geological History of Southern Michigan," presented by Larry Kodosky, professor of Chemistry and Geology at OCC.

### SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER

SUE STOWELL ..... (616) 468-7031

## 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.  
Feb. 15—"Using Native Plants for Shoreline Restoration" presented by Julie Klocker.

## MISSOURI

### ST. LOUIS CHAPTER

SCOTT WOODBURY ..... (636) 451-0850

Meetings are usually held the first Wednesday of the month.

## NEW YORK

### NEW YORK CITY METRO/

### LONG ISLAND CHAPTER

ROBERT SAFFER ..... (718) 768-5488

Meetings will be held in the Members Room, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, 1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn.

## OHIO

### COLUMBUS CHAPTER

MARTHA PRESTON ..... (614) 263-9468

Meetings are usually held the second Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted) at 10 a.m. at Innis House, Inniswood Metro Garden, 940 Hempstead Rd., Westerville.

Jan. 23 (Sun), 2 p.m.—"Tough Native Wild Flowers and Grasses for Birds and Butterflies (and Clay)" presented by Neil Diboll of Prairie Nursery.

Feb. 12—"What's Happening to Our Public Native Forests?" presented by Robin Smith of the Native Forest Council.

## OKLAHOMA

### CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

MICHELLE RAGGÉ ..... (405) 466-3930

Meeting are usually held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., Room 226 Hanner Hall, Oklahoma State University.

## WISCONSIN

### FOX VALLEY AREA CHAPTER

CAROL NIENDORF ..... (920) 233-4853

niendorf@northnet.net

DONNA VANBUECKEN ..... (920) 730-8436

dvanbuecke@aol.com

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

Jan 22—"Toward Harmony with Nature IV." Keynote speaker: Neil Diboll on "The Biodiverse Garden: A Reflection of the Emerging Multi-Ethnic American Society." Park Plaza Convention Center, Oshkosh, starts 8:30 a.m.

Feb 24—Annual business meeting and installation of officers. Program: "Do we have to go to recess?" a

presentation of a successful schools program, by Steve Maassen, followed by the chapter's annual seed exchange and social. Memorial Park Arboretum and Gardens, Appleton, 7 p.m.

## GREEN BAY CHAPTER

BONNIE VASTAG ..... (920) 494-5635

Meetings are usually held on the second Wednesday of the month, at the Green Bay Botanical Gardens, 2600 Larsen Rd., 7 p.m.

## MADISON CHAPTER

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

Meetings are usually held the last Thursday of the month at the Arboretum, McKay Center, at 7 p.m. The public is welcome.

Jan. 27—Meeting will focus on starting seeds. Members should bring seed to start and pots; soil will be provided.

Feb. 24—A slide show presented by John and Elizabeth Ross, followed by a book signing.

## MENOMONEE RIVER AREA CHAPTER

JAN KOEL ..... (262) 251-7175

JUDY CRANE ..... (262) 251-2185

Indoor meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. at The Ranch Communities Services, N84 W19100 Menomonee Ave., Menomonee Falls. Contact Judy Crane for meeting information.

Jan. 18—"Beyond Purple Coneflowers: Adding Diversity to a Native Planting," a slide presentation by Wendy Walcott.

Feb. 15—"Bats and Their Habitats," presented by Karen Yaremkowych. Learn how to draw these beautiful creatures into your yard. Visiting bat and slide presentation.

## MILWAUKEE NORTH CHAPTER

MESSAGE CENTER ..... (414) 299-9888

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

Jan. 8—Richard Barloga will present the process of a restoration project.

Feb. 12—Annual Native Plant Landscape seminar, to be held at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

## MILWAUKEE—WEHR CHAPTER

MESSAGE CENTER ..... (414) 299-9888

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

Jan. 8—Guest speaker is Naturalist Richard Barloga. Fee is \$2/person for guests, payable at the door. The public is invited.

Feb.—(Date and time to be announced; call Message Center). "Invasive Plant Species" presented by Betty Czarapata. Public invited.

Greater DuPage Chapter member Rosalie Ward shares this view of her Elmhurst, Illinois, front yard.

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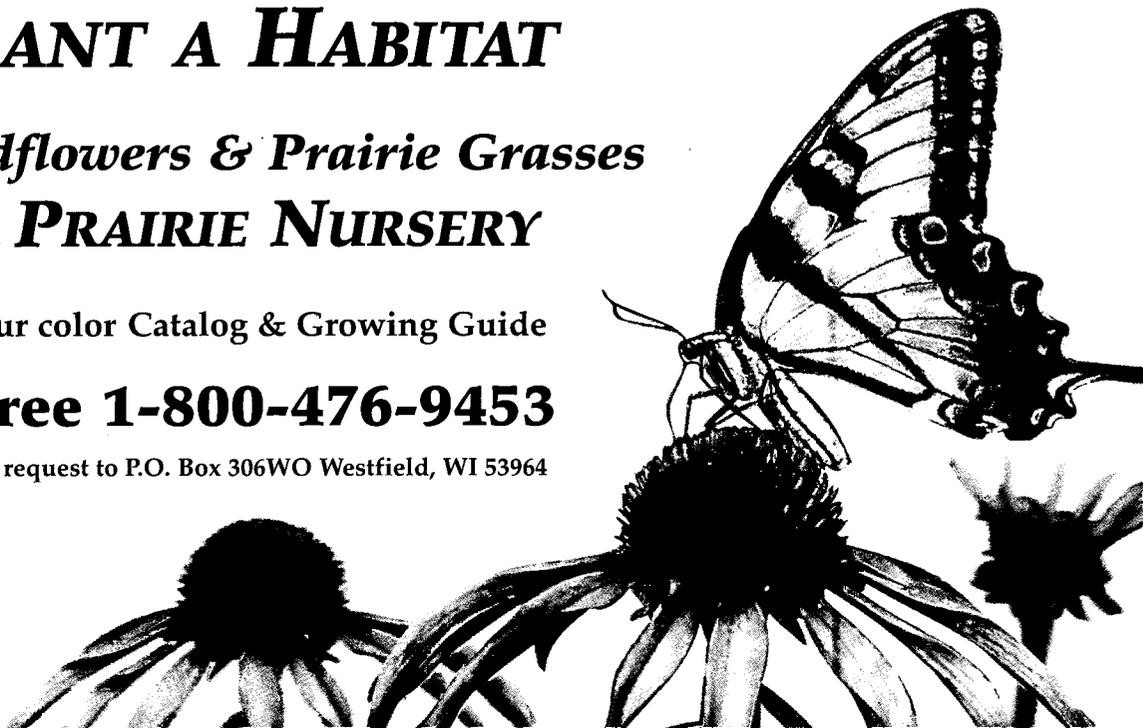
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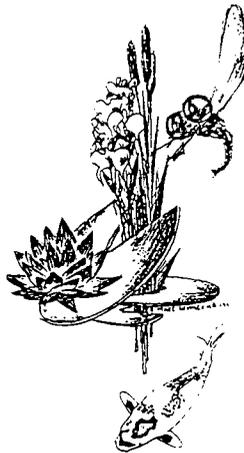
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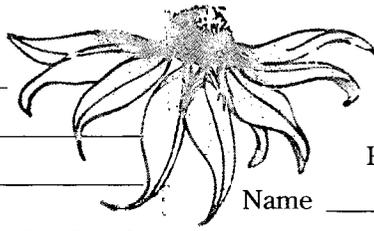
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**Science and Stewardship**

# Wild Ones Journal

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## CONFERENCES YOU SIMPLY MUST ATTEND!

### JANUARY 22

**OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN**  
"Toward Harmony with Nature IV" presented by Wild Ones, Fox Valley Area Chapter at Park Plaza Convention Center, One North Main St.  
**Fees:** \$20 in advance, \$18 for Wild Ones members, \$25 at the door. Buffet lunches \$8.50.  
**Call:** (920) 233-4853  
**Email:** niendorf@northnet.net  
**Speakers:** Neil Diboll, Connie Ramthun, Sara Mandleco, John Harrington, Pat Armstrong, Steven Apfelbaum, Robert J. Welch, Robert Ahrenhoerster, Helen E. McKean & Kit Woessner, Connie B. Roop.

### FEBRUARY 12

**MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**  
"Natural Landscaping Conference and Workshop" presented by Milwaukee Audubon Society at the UW-Milwaukee Union.  
**Fees:** \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door.  
**Call:** (262) 375-1565  
**Write:** MAS, W61 N620A Mequon Ave., Cedarburg, WI 53012-2028  
**Speakers:** Darrel Morrison, Neil Diboll, Laurie Hartjes, Rich Henderson, Evelyn Howell, David Kopitzke, Dan Panetti, Connie Ramthun & Bill Volkert, Janice Stiefel, Jim Uhrinak.

### FEBRUARY 26

**CRYSTAL LAKE, ILLINOIS**  
"Think Globally—Act Locally" presented by the Wildflower Preservation & Propagation Committee of McHenry County Defenders at the McHenry County College, Rt. 14 & Lucas Rd.  
**Fees:** \$35 includes lunch. Limited seating. Register early.  
**Call:** (815) 338-0393  
**Speakers:** Jay Apt (Carnegie Museum of Natural History), Bob Breunig (Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center), Bob Mies (Organization for Bat Conservation).

### MARCH 18

**MADISON, WISCONSIN**  
Wild Ones, UW-Madison Arboretum and other nature-related groups are developing exciting, new day-long events. See details in our next issue or contact UW-Madison Arboretum.  
**Call:** (608) 263-7888  
**Write:** 1207 Seminole Hy., Madison, WI 53711-3726  
**Speakers:** To be announced. Keynote speaker is Lorraine Johnson, author of *Grow Wild!*, *Lawn and Order: The Roots of Our Cultural Obsession* and *100 Easy-to-Grow Native Plants*.

*Contact each organization above to get full seminar details and registration forms.*