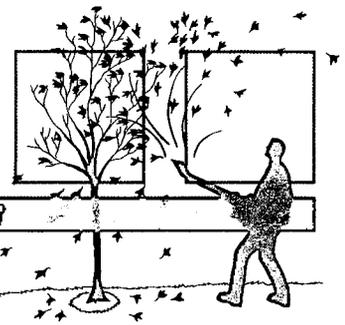




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A VOICE FOR THE NATURAL LANDSCAPING MOVEMENT

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Wild Ones® Journal

PLAN TO JOIN US AUGUST 12 IN ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Celebrating Our Native Landscape: Bringing It All Home

Thanks to the five Michigan Wild Ones chapters, our annual meeting will coincide with an exciting natural landscaping conference. Scheduled for Aug. 12, 2000, the business meeting will take place first thing in the morning. Craig Tufts, chief naturalist of the National Wildlife Federation; Bob Grese, director of the University of Michigan Nichols Arboretum; and Professor Joan Nassauer (see next page) will address conference attendees following the meeting on the theme "Celebrating Our Native Landscape: Bringing It All Home."

In the afternoon, while the national board meets, break-out sessions are planned. One group of three sessions will address flora and fauna; a second will talk about watersheds and fostering better community practices; and the third will address "the basics." There will also be a variety of walks and activities on arboretum grounds. Plus, plans include something to entertain children who have come along on a family vacation. Coffee, juice and bagels will be offered in the morning, box lunches will be available mid-

day, and an informal outdoor barbeque will round out day's end.

Our hosts will also be preparing a natural areas guidebook for us. One mini-tour includes a prairie restoration that has been managed for more than 10 years. Nearby is a three-year-old restoration project. A block from there is a site that was prepared in November 1999 and professionally planted in March 2000. You'll be able to walk through three phases of prairie restoration in less than an hour. A second tour features school gardens and natural areas. See three Seeds For Education projects and at least two others created and maintained by preschool, elementary, middle school and high school students.

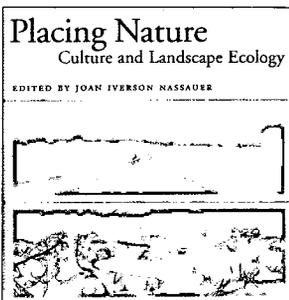
Ann Arbor is located off I-94 (less than an hour's drive from Detroit) and is served by Amtrak. Make your vacation and travel plans now, then watch for the July/August issue of *Wild Ones Journal* for a registration form. Our Michigan members say, "Come share our native plant landscapes and our hospitality!"

“People will sustain healthy landscapes if they enjoy them, and they will enjoy them when they know more about how to recognize ecological health.”

—Joan Iverson Nassauer, professor of Landscape Architecture, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan

Passages on this page come from the book *Placing Nature—Culture and Landscape Ecology*, edited by Joan Nassauer and published by Island Press.

Professor Nassauer is one of the featured speakers at the Aug. 12 Ann Arbor conference.



Thoughtful observers of global ecosystems cannot fail to see that we live in a world dominated by humans. We cannot stand apart from nature, and now nature as we know it cannot stand apart from us. Faced with dawning clarity about this new relationship, we are uncertain of what to do. What is our appropriate role in nature? ... How should we live?

* * *

Woodlands and wetlands that span the boundaries of individual yards can provide habitat and protect some indigenous species. Air can be cleaned and climates moderated by the urban forest that is the product of countless trees planted.

The consequence of individual owners determining the management of many small parcels of land could be aggregation rather than fragmentation.

* * *

The next generation of ecological-protection strategies must go beyond a sound tradition of land acquisition and also address individual management and development of private land. To be successful these new strategies should use the persuasive power of cultural expectations. The way people think their neighbors think the landscape should look is as important as their individual, more idiosyncratic taste or knowledge. Andrew Jackson Downing was right in 1841 when he described the lawn as a democratic medium. New paradigms for the appearance of landscapes must speak a widely understood and generally accepted aesthetic language. By first being palatable, landscape aesthetics ultimately can go beyond the merely acceptable to evoke intelligent tending of the land so that aesthetic decisions can become intrinsically ecological decisions.

* * *

Intelligent care depends in part on learning to recognize what is ecologically healthy. ... Intelligent care also depends on knowing that we seldom know enough. It depends on *environmental humility*, a term Edward Relph coined to describe that we need to acknowledge the limitations of what we know and even what we *can* know when we change the environment.

* * *

A picture of environmental humility might look like a prairie in a garden in a prairie—all writ large on the landscape. At the broadest scale, environmental humility would require that tended places fit into a larger ecological scheme—avoiding the wet prairie or the driest prairie where a garden would not thrive. At a middle scale, the well-placed garden might look recognizably neat, an inviting place where we might expect to find the gardener. At a smaller scale, we might find a small patch of prairie in the garden, alongside the pumpkin patch and the rows of carrots. More than any other part of the picture, this little prairie symbolizes our environmental humility.

* * *

People who know about landscape ecology and people who know and feel passionately about their own communities must learn to speak a common language, both literally and metaphorically. Frequently it means helping local people to see beyond the perceptual habits of everyday life to consider implications that are not immediately felt and literally see the way their landscape might be in the future.

To accomplish this real vision of the future, words are seldom adequate; images are the basis for a potent common language of landscape. In the seminars that led to the book *Placing Nature*, we found that critically discussing what we saw in photographs helped us recognize when we were talking about the same aspect of the landscape in different ways, and it helped us test and develop our ideas against a more complete background.

* * *

Where nature *should be* in settled landscapes to improve their ecological function is a critical question for which landscape ecology suggests answers. Where nature *can be* the enormously complex but fundamentally pragmatic cultural process of making places is equally fundamental. Science may give us normative criteria for new landscape patterns, culture will give us the realized design. ☺

LESSON #2—

LOOK A LITTLE LONGER

Remember the old saying that a picture is worth a thousand words? Well, that's what came to mind as I read Professor Nassauer's preceding article. Specifically, when she said that "images are the basis for a potent common language of landscape."

Keep these words in mind when you are composing your own photographs. What is it you are trying to relay with your photograph? Will someone else recognize it? Is there a clear subject? If so, what is it? If you can't answer these questions, look a little longer before you press that shutter button. One of my photographic mentors says that when you are taking pictures, your main job is to see. Once we master the art of seeing, we can then attempt to capture what we see on film. Not always an easy job!

AS A PHOTOGRAPHER, YOUR MAIN JOB IS TO SEE

Take some time out and photograph
an ordinary subject.

Like a tree in a park.

Start from far off, then move in.

Take your time. Observe. Study.

Change to a different lens.

Change your angle of view.

Observe what's happening with the light.

And the shadows.

Look for color.

Look for details, patterns, textures.

Look for form. Look for lines.

Wait for the light to change.

Look some more.

Each photograph is of the same ordinary subject.

Yet each is different from the others.

Each has a different viewpoint.

Each creates a different feeling.

Each tells a different story.

Learn to take pictures by experimenting.

By observing.

And above all,

By taking pictures.

—By Brian Ratty

On Assignment Video Series
www.Photo-Seminars.com

Capturing what you "see" on film requires practice and discipline. In the last article, I reviewed a technique for composing a photograph with your subject off-center. If you tried the technique, you may have found it difficult to concentrate on your subject and hold your camera still. There is a cure for that—it's called a tripod. All the experts agree that using a tripod will improve the quality of your photographs. Used properly, a tripod provides a steady shooting platform for your camera. It allows you to compose through your viewfinder while you continue to study your subject. It is then easy to make minor adjustments to your camera position to improve your composition. Without a tripod, we tend to simply point and shoot and are often disappointed with our results. The drawback for many is that it can get costly. This is because you should purchase not only a tripod, but a head and a quick-release system for convenience.

Many people with point-and-shoot cameras or inexpensive SLRs don't want to be bothered with a tripod or don't want to invest the money in one. If that is the case, there are two things you can do to reduce the effect of camera shake when hand holding. First, be sure to have steady footing and tuck your arms close to your body as you firmly grasp your camera with both hands. Second, you can use "faster" film. Films have ISO numbers that relate to their light sensitivity. The higher the number, the more sensitive the film is to light. The more sensitive your film is to light, the less time the shutter needs to be open to "expose" the film. The shorter the amount of time the shutter is open, the more likely it is that any camera motion will be stopped. When I used



Donna Krischan

(continued on next page)

*"The field
has eyes,
the wood
has ears;
I will look,
be silent,
and listen."*

—
*Hieronymus
Bosch,
1450-1516,
Dutch
painter*

We are excited to announce the 2000 Seeds For Education grant recipients. Each year the geographic range of applicants expands! Our panel of expert volunteer judges (thank you!) has awarded seven grants, and gives honorable mention to five additional projects.

The Lorrie Otto Seeds For Education Fund, established in 1995, supports schools, nature centers, and other places of learning for children-involved projects such as creating natural landscapes and outdoor classrooms using native plants. Through newly established annual member funding of \$1 of your Wild Ones dues, and income from the growing SFE Fund of the Milwaukee Foundation, this year's grants total \$3,600.

Project reports are published throughout the year in *Wild Ones Journal*. Chapters and members near the projects are encouraged to volunteer your assistance (contact the Wild Ones office for further information).

\$500 plus seeds/plants/discounts from a nearby SFE Partner Nursery (thank you!) to:

Sunnyside Elementary School, Sobieski, Wis., to revitalize a three-acre prairie on the schoolgrounds, utilize the area for classroom learning experiences for students across all content areas, and to provide the community at large a place to learn about and enjoy the beauty of Wisconsin native plants.

Kewaskum Middle School, Kewaskum, Wis., to develop a natural setting in front of the school using native grasses and plantings, which will serve as a model for

future naturalizations of the schoolgrounds, almost encircled by the north branch of the Milwaukee river.

Pleasant View School, Franklin, Wis., to begin a one-acre prairie restoration and create an outdoor learning center, incorporate the prairie into the curriculum, and foster an awareness, appreciation, and stewardship of nature.

\$400 to:

St. Peter School, Quincy, Ill., for a "living laboratory" of native plants and habitats, and a native plant nursery site and seed bank.

Circle of Nations Therapeutic Residential School, Wahpeton, N.D., for a native prairie habitat to save a nesting population of Bobolinks, and other outdoor classroom areas.

Douglas Elementary School, Belleville, Ill., to expand the schoolyard wildlife habitat which was begun in 1998.

Danz Elementary School, Green Bay, Wis., to restore oak opening and northern mesic forest habitat on schoolgrounds, linked to the larger Baird Creek protection corridor.

Honorable Mention (\$100) to:

Eberwhite Elementary School, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Friends of Hawthorn Children's Psychiatric Hospital, St. Louis, Mo.

West Marion Elementary School, Loretto, Ky.

Brookfield East High School, Brookfield, Wis.

North Barrington School, Barrington, Ill.

—Nancy Aten, SFE director

PHOTOGRAPHY (continued from previous page)

a point-and-shoot camera, I found ISO 400 print film to work the best.

As long as we are talking about film, let's explore the subject a little further. There are many different brands of film available with a variety of ISOs. Since I shoot for publication, I use slide or transparency film exclusively. I use mostly Fujichrome Velvia which has an ISO rating of 50. I love the vibrant colors I get with this film. (The "chrome" in the name indicates that it is slide film.) If I were using print film, I might use either Fujicolor or Kodacolor. (The "color" in the name indicates that it is print or negative film.)

Did you know that films all have different color palettes? Take the same picture, under the same conditions, with different films and the resulting colors

will look different. I always recommend that you experiment with a couple different films to find one whose color rendition you like. If you are trying to get consistent results, then consistently use the film you've chosen. But wait, there's another factor to consider here—processing. If you are using print film, you should also experiment with different processing labs. They can give very different results, often depending on the chemicals and papers they use. Again, if you are trying to get consistent results, find a lab you like and stick with them.

Next time we'll talk about light. ■

—Donna Krischan

Krischan Photography

Garden, Wildflower & Landscape Images

www.krischanphoto.com

Did you notice? Our mailing service accidentally picked up the wrong date information from our database when printing labels for the March/April issue of Wild Ones Journal. Our apologies to anyone who was confused.

Remember to check the mailing label on the back cover. The date on it indicates when it's time to renew your membership.

WHEN PLANNING FOR ILLINOIS' new North Barrington School began in early 1998, parent volunteers Pam Jackson and Vicki Klein envisioned a rich, outdoor learning laboratory on the site, in addition to the usual grass and play space. The dream has blossomed into an interactive habitat surrounding the school thanks to a staff who embraced their vision, and the PTO, parents, businesses, and community groups which have given generously of their time and money.

"It has truly been a whole community effort," says North Barrington Principal Deborah Cross. "Now we're seeing the benefits of all the hard work that has gone into this project as our students get in touch with nature."

The outdoor classroom includes:

- **A living science courtyard** featuring native trees and shrubs, a wetlands area with a pond, children's working gardens, planting beds, and birdfeeders and houses.
- **A 2 ½-acre developing prairie** comprised of more than 1,800 plugs of an assortment of prairie grasses and forbs planted by students and Citizens for Habitat to attract a wide variety of birds and insects.
- **A bird and butterfly garden** with nectar-producing flowering plants and shrubs with berries for birds.
- **A fall harvest garden** in which students will cultivate gourds, pumpkins, wheat, corn, and beans.
- **A sensory herb garden** in land-formed turtles.
- **An outdoor composting area** with a bin built by the Boy Scouts.

Monthly meetings involving Pam, Vicki, and a core group of staff have tied curriculum to the outdoor learning lab. First and second graders use the bird and butterfly garden for their entomology unit. Third graders studying Illinois and the prairie gain firsthand knowledge of what it takes to develop a prairie by restoring land back to its original state. Fourth graders learn composting. Fifth graders use the Cornell University ornithology curriculum for birdfeeder watch to identify birds that come to the site and exchange information online with students around the country.

"The children are outdoors with their hands in the dirt, planting, experimenting, and observing the wonders of the natural world around them," Jackson says.

**WHOLE COMMUNITY EFFORT FUELED
CREATION OF NORTH BARRINGTON'S
OUTDOOR INTERACTIVE HABITAT**

BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS and staff are among those who assisted with the habitat's development. Raised planting beds for the fall harvest garden were built by nine horticulture students and teacher Carl Reed. "My students got to put into practice what they'd read about landscape design and give students and staff at North Barrington School something they will enjoy for many years to come," he says.

The commemorative bench in the courtyard was designed and constructed by high school art club members. Fifth graders painted the bench at the high school and signed its underside. Two other benches will be built this summer for the prairie area and butterfly garden.

Art club sponsor Tyrone Nelson says the project honed students' skills in forging and welding steel and working with wood, taught them about working as part of a team and seeing a project through to completion, and gave them experience in dealing with a client.

A HABITAT DAY IN EARLY MAY 1999 had 21 organizations involve students at every grade level in hands-on activities and informational sessions linked to the district's curriculum goals. Participating organizations included the Barrington Garden Club and Historical Society, the Chicago Botanic Garden, Citizens for Conservation Volunteers, the Field Museum, the Living Farm in Cary, Stillman Nature Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and Volo Bog.

"We wanted to open students' eyes to what a habitat is and how the outdoors can enhance what they're learning in the classroom," Pam says.

"It's exciting to see our staff and students be an active and integral part of what's going on outside and learn about the need to care for our land and the things we have around us," Vicki says.

In February, Pam and Vicki's outstanding volunteer efforts were recognized with the Citizens for Conservation's William H. Miller Award. "Without their vision, this interactive habitat would not have come to be," Dr. Cross says. "I applaud them for all they have done." ☺

*"There is no greater tragedy than he who did nothing because he could only do a little."
—Source unknown*

A tribute to the land

Since my husband and I are in the process of moving to the new home we have been building in Door County, Wis., this will be the last column I will be writing from our property, situated along the valley of the Mullet River north of Plymouth, Wis. I will continue to write "The Inside Story" column from our new location at Hidden Corners Sanctuary north of Bailey's Harbor.

Our first glimpse of our Plymouth land was on a bitterly cold November day in 1970. As we walked along the river, we noticed that it was not frozen and there were pockets of green vegetation actually thriving beneath the water and overhanging sculptures of snow and ice. (We later observed that the river does not freeze in our area because it is moving so swiftly.) It was a unanimous family decision to purchase the 3½ acres. (Adjoining landowners have opted to let the land along the river remain wild—representing 160 acres.) At that point in time, I did not know what that green vegetation was, so I took a sample to a friend to identify for me. She said, "Well, silly, this plant is Watercress!"

At that moment I made up my mind that no one would ever say "silly" again. I was going to identify every plant on that piece of land and learn everything there was to know about each species. After 30 years, I still can't say I know every plant on the property, but I learned a whole lot along the way.

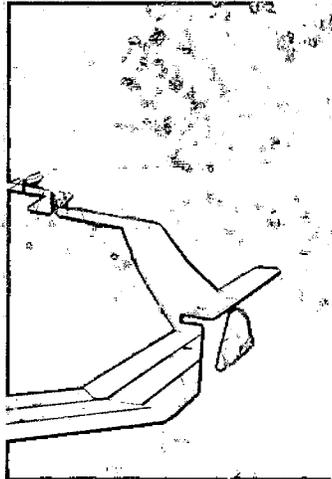
That one statement was the genesis for a multitude of newspaper and newsletter columns—beginning in March 1988. They were written from our family's little corner of the world along the Mullet River. Over the years we cut trails, built boardwalks through the wet meadow and an 80-foot bridge across the river. At one time we cataloged over 400 plant species on the property (native and alien).

In spring, the forest and wetland vegetation made the land come alive. Plants that come to mind are Skunk Cabbage, Marsh Marigold, Bloodroot, Round-lobed Hepatica, Michigan Lily, Nodding Trillium, Large-flowered Trillium, Early Meadowrue, Alumroot, Goldenseal, Large-flowered Bellwort, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Swamp Saxifrage, False Solomon's Seal, Wood Anemone, Red Baneberry, Harebell, Wild Lily-of-the-valley, Pointed-leaved Tick-trefoil, Shooting Star, Wild Yam, Wild Ginger, Blue Cohosh, Poke Milkweed, Angelica, Water-hemlock, Cow Parsnip, and Miterwort. Fiddleheads of the Lady, Bulblet, Maidenhair, Bracken, and Christmas Ferns gave us a thrill as we observed them unfurling their fronds.

The 20 or more mosses identified on the land gave a lush, green hue to the forest floor. Two endangered plant species are found naturally on here—the Forked Aster (*Aster furcatus*) and Handsome Sedge (*Carex formosa*).

The open meadow is host to many varieties of prairie plants and insects during the summer months. Butterflies could be seen flitting from flower to flower, in search of nectar and host plants.

To name a few, we were visited by the Monarch, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, American Painted Lady, Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Purple, Great Spangled Fritillary, Northern Pearly-eye, Harris', Silvery and Baltimore Checkerspot, Bronze Copper, Little Wood Satyr, Wood Nymph, Milbert's Tortoise Shell, Eastern Tiger and Eastern Black Swallowtail, Northern Pearl Crescent, Question Mark, Gray Comma, Hickory, Coral, and Striped Hairstreak, Eyed Brown, Northern Cloudywing, and numerous varieties of Skippers. When adding in the 300-plus species of moths that were identified and recorded, it made the property a veritable paradise for the Lepidoptera order of insects.



Insects weren't the only creatures inhabiting the neighborhood. The Gray Squirrels and chipmunks have been an endless source of entertainment, as we marveled at their intelligence and dexterity. Many families of raccoons feasted on our deck at night, along with Flying Squirrels and opossums. One year we even had a mink make nightly treks to the food on the deck and, on a brisk winter day, an otter was seen sliding in freshly fallen snow along the banks of the river.

A warm July morning found a badger running through our rows of corn as my daughter and I were weeding in the garden. When our son went in search of its den, he was greeted by a snarling, ferocious animal displaying its sharp teeth. Needless to say, he suddenly became less inquisitive and left in a hurry.

Another time a newly born fawn was found nestled in the forest grasses at 8 o'clock in the morning. The mother did not return until after 8 o'clock that evening. The fawn remained in a stationary position, where its mother told it to stay—for over 12 hours!

The varieties of birds at our feeders have been phenomenal. At times we hosted eight pairs of Cardinals, along with Blue Jays, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Juncos, Downy, Hairy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Redpolls, Purple and Gold Finches. In early spring, the White-throated Sparrows, Baltimore Orioles, Flickers, Robins, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Rufus-sided Towhees, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Thrushes, Warblers, and Thrashers paid us a visit. Along the river, Wood Ducks and Mallards could be heard quacking, as Blue Herons lifted themselves from the water in their graceful rise above the trees. Summer ushered in the Wrens, Phoebes, Bluebirds, Flycatchers, and Hummingbirds.

One special memory of the property was serving Easter dinner in the quiet chambers of the Northern White Cedar thicket which bordered the captivating, fast-moving Mullet River. Our children named that hallowed thicket ... "The Cathedral."

How fortunate and grateful we are to have been caretakers of this wondrous environment. It has been an incredible, life-changing experience. Now we are off to new challenges, observations, and opportunities. Someone else will be a privileged steward of this land. ☺

My past water gardening articles in *Wild Ones Journal* have dealt with water gardens in individual landscapes. The use of water gardens in our communities is of equal importance to all of us.

COMMUNITY WATER GARDENS

Communities need to control their excess water to prevent pollution. Many communities have designed and enacted stormwater erosion control ordinances which require that those who build on industrial, commercial or residential sites construct a device to either retain or detain the excess water in times of storming or extreme run-off before the water makes its way into our lakes and streams. Structures that retain water are called *retention area ponds* or *pools*, whereas structures which detain water are called *detention areas* and hold the water only a short time, letting it slowly dissipate into the ground.

DETENTION AND RETENTION AREAS MUST BE LANDSCAPED

Detention areas do best when planted with a wet meadow type of planting or a tall grass wet prairie. Cord grass (*Spartina pectinata*), Helen's Flower (*Helenium autumnale*), Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) are a few of the species that do well. By "doing well" I mean they are attractive to the eye as well as functional for the job. Some detention areas do well planted with just a solid mass of prairie grasses.

Retention areas control water by keeping it in place for a long time. This is usually done by creating a pond. Dimensions of the pond (or ponds) is calculated by the number of cubic feet of water the pond must hold. The primary water that retention or detention areas deal with is that created by runoff from roofs and parking lots. In most cases it is polluted, so it is a good idea to get it under control and cleaned up (biofiltered) as soon as possible. We have learned that these areas meet our needs adequately if, in addition to

constructing them to the right dimensions, we landscape them to perform the following:

- ~ filter water and retain nutrients
- ~ create food and shelter for wildlife
- ~ appear aesthetically pleasing by careful use of the right species and size of plants
- ~ hold back water in time of flooding and release it in time of drought

Just as in a small pond, an emergent edge must be created with a wet meadow type of planting behind the emergent edge for a retention pond. The plants of the emergent edge could consist of rushes and bulrushes, sedges, Burreed, Blue Flag Iris, Arum, Sweet Flag and arrowhead species. [Always use species native to your region.]

ATTRACTIVE ... AS WELL AS FUNCTIONAL

A good example of a commercial water garden is the three-acre constructed lake at the Muskego Regency (Wisconsin) senior complex fondly called "Regency Lake." This senior complex is one of a few in the country that has its own nature center as an integral part of the community. Along with the lodge and the cottages, we enjoy the lake and two marshes. One marsh is a well-groomed cattail marsh and the other a constructed rush marsh at the lake's edge. Encircling them is a five-foot-wide asphalt path. The residents can exercise on this path and observe the wildlife at the same time. There are also areas where the residents may sit and bird watch. It is important that each of us, as citizens in our community, become interested in these areas, as well as the water gardens we build on our own lands, to ensure good water quality for us all. These areas should be naturally landscaped to provide food and habitat for wildlife. Therefore, man and his environment can continue to co-exist in our modern world as we enter the year 2000. —JoAnn Gillespie, LitD



One must decide upon species density with care because wetland plants multiply very quickly. —J.G.

Mulch

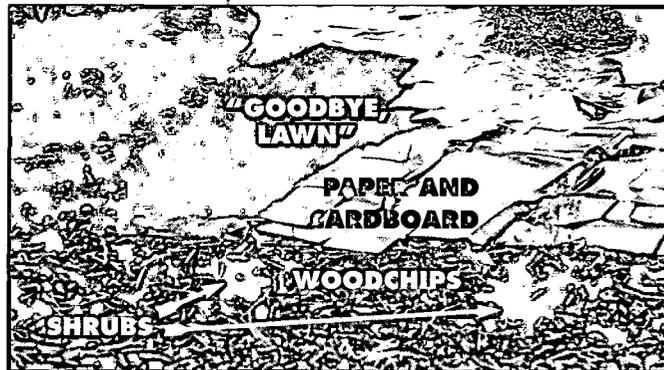
occurs naturally in the form of fallen leaves and branches. In nature, you will almost never find naked soil. Plant wastes of past seasons collect to insulate the soil and hold onto moisture as they break down into food for organisms which, in turn, process the leafy food into a form that releases nutrients to be taken up by the roots of living plants. Nifty cycle! □ We gardeners can let the process continue on its own, or we can actively work it to our advantage. However, to bury leaves in a landfill is the antithesis of the natural order because it short-circuits that nicely engineered life cycle just described above. □ Mulch can be loosely defined

as any material placed on soil to benefit plants. Organic mulches would be leaves, straw, woodchips, hay, sawdust, *et al.* Plastic sheeting, usually used in vegetable gardens, would be an inorganic mulch. It is somewhat debatable whether stones and sand qualify as mulch, but there are occasions where they serve mulch-like functions. □ The benefits of proper mulching are many: It conserves moisture, increases soil aeration and texture, contributes to fertility, helps to control weeds, and moderates soil temperatures while providing home and supermarket to a citizenry of natural decomposers. In the vegetable garden, mulches form a clean bed for fruits. □ Used incorrectly, mulch can cause a few problems. Fresh woodchips produce a short-term (couple weeks or months) nitrogen deficiency as nitrogen gets tied up in the early stages of woodchip decomposition. You can either tolerate some yellowing in the leaves of nearby plants or add nitrogen to the soil to compensate. If woodchips were derived from a weed-seed, diseased, or pesticide-soaked source, you might be inviting trouble. Woodchips from some species release an allelopathic chemical that inhibits the growth of other plant species. Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) is one of the common culprits. □ A frequent error is to mulch up against a tree's trunk. Mulch retains moisture, so it could girdle a tree with basal rot. □ Lorrie Otto tells us not to waste energy or make noise shredding leaves. If you want quick-to-decompose leaves, try those from trees that drop their leaves the earliest. □ Mulches are sometimes useful for winter protection. Native plants shouldn't need a blanket, but your garden strawberries would benefit by being buried under a foot of straw shortly *after* the ground has frozen. Remove the mulch during the first warm spring days.

Compost

can be thought of as a mixture of organic materials which, assisted by air, moisture and soil organisms, have decomposed sufficiently to become an enriching soil additive. Volumes have been written about layering portions of green materials (lawn clippings, kitchen wastes) and brown materials (leaves, straw, sawdust) and ventilating an active pile to speedily turn out compost. If such projects excite you, read *Easy Composting* from Ortho Books for a well-rounded education. A simpler way to produce compost is to create a perpetual succession of unattended piles. Eventually the

oldest pile will rot, and thereafter you will have a successional supply of compost. See pages 12 and 13 of this issue for more info on passive composting methods.



Smothering materials

don't actually "smother" (deprive of air) so much as they deny exposure to light and thus stop photosynthesis so plants die of starvation. Smothering materials are usually used to create a new garden plot by killing existing vegetation. □ Almost anything that is not transparent will do the job, but do not use any material that will break down and release hazardous chemicals into the soil. □ Whenever you have unwanted vegetation, think first how you might be able to smother it. For instance, if you want to be rid of a Yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*) with its indefatigable taproot, set stones, firewood or a bale of hay over it for a season. If your pathways get overrun with weeds, you can either temporarily or permanently place carpet or cardboard over them. □ The reverse of light deprivation is *solarization*. By placing a sheet of clear plastic over a section of lawn and weighting down its periphery with bricks or logs or dirt, you can "bake" turf grass to death with the assistance of the sun. This method does not work as well in weedier situations where deep and hardy roots will tolerate heat extremes.

—Joy Buslaff

Mulch, Compost & Smothering materials

A GLOSSARY

ASH

Ash from your wood-burning fireplace or stove can be composted, however, it will shift the soil's pH toward alkalinity. Add acidic pine needles or oak leaves if you want to compensate. Wood ashes add potassium and phosphorus and cause some loss of nitrogen.

Do not use charcoal ash from your barbecue. Additionally, avoid burning or acquiring ashes from pressure-treated lumber because of its arsenic content.

CARDBOARD

Usually easy to come by, cardboard is a good smothering material. (See references to paper.) Large sheets of cardboard are easier to work with than sheets of newspaper for larger sites.

CARPET

Carpet can smother vegetation to make a new garden bed or be used for paths to prevent weed growth. Old wool rugs work well. Modern carpeting may release unwanted chemicals as it decays and become a stringy mess to pick up.

COMMERCIAL MULCH

Commercial mulch is usually a by-product of forest harvesting. Buying by the bag is the most expensive way to get mulch. It will have been trucked from some distance, meaning it also consumed fossil fuels to get to your neighborhood. If this isn't discouraging enough, consider what can happen inside plastic bags: Organic mulch can sour (you can smell it when you open a bad bag).

A pH meter will confirm a 1.8 to 2.5 reading. The souring results from toxic fermentation that generates methanol acetic acid, ammonia gas and hydrogen sulfide gas. Large woodchip piles that are never turned can also sour in the middle.

Whenever I see the red-tinted woodchips frequently used today, I have to snicker. It's like spotting a bad toupee. On the plus side, the wood often comes from recycled wood pallets. (See also "woodchips.")

FABRIC (GEOTEXTILES)

Spun fabric, routinely used under decorative mulch to try to block the growth of weeds, seldom performs that mission in the long term. However, you may find other creative uses for it. One grower I know plants plugs in slits cut into fabric when starting a prairie planting. The fabric discourages weedy competition for a season. Once the plants have begun to mature, the fabric is lifted off. I use landscape fabric to build temporary sunbonnets to shade new transplants.

FOOD WASTES

Every egg shell, orange rind and apple core from your kitchen should be composted. The reason you are usually discouraged from recycling meat, oil and dairy products is because they can attract critters; they also decompose very slowly. One way around this is to sink two garbage cans into the ground (punch drainage holes in the bottoms or remove the bottoms altogether) so that the rims protrude just enough to secure the lids. Dump in all kitchen wastes and, when the first can is near full, add a shovelful of soil. Then use the second can until the first has decomposed its contents.

HAY/SPOILED HAY/STRAW

This material adds carbon to a compost pile and is a handy mulch. "Hay" is grown for feeding livestock. "Straw" is the residual stalks from which grain has been harvested. Either one might contain weed seeds. Once wet, "spoiled hay" is not useful for livestock, but it's still a good material for gardeners.

HULLS

Cocoa bean hulls are pretty, fragrant, add nitrogen and are a good soil conditioner, but are too expensive for large-scale use. Buckwheat hulls are similar, but more prone to caking. For a time, there was a shortage of buckwheat hulls because of a rise in demand for Japanese-style, hull-filled pillows.

HUMAN WASTE

Human fecal matter must be processed by a composting toilet or municipal wastewater facility before it can be considered a non-biohazardous material. Even if you have your own composting toilet, you are usually advised not to use this compost near food crops. Some people question the safety of the biosolids sold as fertilizer from wastewater treatment facilities. Although this processed sludge is composted at high temperatures and cured for months, the fear is that it is toxic due to its potential heavy metal content (EPA regulates limits). Urine from a healthy person is considered sterile and without pathogens and appropriate for a compost pile.

LAWN CLIPPINGS

Mowed grass is best left in place to fertilize the lawn. If you have a neighbor who bags their (pesticide-free) clippings, as mine does, you have a nice resource to add to the compost pile or, better yet, use as a soft path-maker for the vegetable garden.

LEAVES

Leaf mold is high in nitrogen and potassium. Lorrie Otto says two to three feet of leaves is her favorite smothering way to start a new planting site in the fall—although she's quick to add that good, old-fashioned hand spading doesn't get the press it deserves among site preparation options.

MANURE

Barnyard waste is rich in nitrogen, and it improves the moisture-retention quality of soil. The best is well-aged manure with a mix of bedding materials (straw) in it. ➔

PAPER

Newspapers or grocery bags laid on the ground and topped by a couple inches of leaves or woodchips will kill vegetation and yet look acceptable to the neighbors. Use newspapers about 10 pages deep.

When installing a pond, a thick blanket of newspapers placed between the soil and the pond liner will perform as a cushion against anything sharp in the soil. It will also slowly decay into a clay-like material that could retard small leaks.

PEAT MOSS

Peat moss is “mined” from bogs. It loosens heavy soil and improves its ability to retain moisture.

The Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association does not harvest peat from conservation peatlands, but I still have concerns about the loss of these special ecological niches. The CSPMA points out that agriculture consumes by far the largest portion of peatlands. Urban and hydro development also impact the bog environment more significantly than does the peat moss trade.

PET WASTE

Cat feces may have parasites, and dog feces could transmit disease. Shovel it off into the bushes or bury it, but keep it out of the compost and kitchen garden.

PETS

I always marvel at how the Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) I planted over our Beagle's grave grew to twice the size of other shrubs planted at the same time. Now, if I find a dead bird or Ground Squirrel, I bury it near a tree I want to fertilize. (Lorrie says she hangs roadkill where she can observe how critters inventory the remains.)

PINE NEEDLES

Needles are good for mulching acid-loving plants or to lay a soft path. They are easy to work with and durable.

PLASTIC

Black plastic can be used to smother vegetation. Its effectiveness

depends on the species of weed seeds in your soil. Cover your site for a full growing season. The following year, remove the mulch and allow the first flush of weed seeds to develop before lightly tilling or using a follow-up spray of glyphosate. Because black plastic is thought unsightly by some—put a layer of decorative mulch on top of it to appease neighbors during the smothering process.

Do not use plastic under decorative mulch for long-term control of weeds. It will not last, and it will deprive nearby plants of water and oxygen.

Black plastic can be used in large-scale applications, if you have enough logs and tires to weight it down.

Farm supply outlets carry bulk materials. You can also use old pool liners.

Clear plastic can be used for solarization. (See “Smothering Materials” page 8.)

PLYWOOD

Plywood or other leftover construction materials can smother a site for you.

ROCKS AND STONES

Crushed rock is a good driveway substance. It will not remain a weed-free surface forever, but it is water permeable and therefore more Earth-friendly than asphalt or concrete. When well-compacted and frequently traveled, crushed rock makes a good foot or bicycle path. But again, eventually vegetation will reclaim the space if it is not heavily used or maintained.

As a rule, stones do not make a good mulch. But there is always the exception. I've laid a skirt of fieldstones around a particular tree because of two qualifiers: I wanted to discourage the suckers that try to grow from its base, and, because it's a Boxelder (*Acer negundo*), it is very hardy and I'm not afraid of offending its surface roots.

SAND

Next to the south wall of my house, I put down newspapers topped with a couple inches of sand and then planted an herb garden right through these materials. This is a nice way to

head off weeds in a new planting area. Sand also looks appropriate around cactus or succulent species. The drawback is that stray cats might think you've made them a litter box.

Some Wild Ones make *sand sandwiches*—layering newspapers, sand and leaves or compost for any number of new planting applications.

SAWDUST

Is quick to decompose in the compost pile and adds acidity. Be certain you do not use sawdust from pressure-treated lumber. This is another nice material for paths in the vegetable garden.

SEAWEED

Seaweed or kelp is rich in a host of nutrients and has a long history of soil amendment use among coastal populations around the globe. Mechanically harvested lake weeds are also a source of garden mulch and compost material. Contact your extension agent for leads to local sources. If the pile has strong odor (“enhanced” by dead fish), be prepared to put it a distance from your neighbors and throw some soil over it or work it into the garden promptly.

WOODCHIPS

Woodchips or tree bark can come from a variety of sources. Your town's municipal crews may make it available for free (check the source to avoid weed seeds), or you could rent a chipper and shred some yourself. Hardwood chips last longest, but any woodchip path will require replenishing. Don't expect that it will forever remain plant-free. You'll have to deal with some weeds or native plants that creep in (just transplant the natives to another spot or give them away).

OTHER POSSIBILITIES

Any organic material available to you has potential composting uses—cornstalks, sawmill scraps, the contents of your vacuum cleaner bag; poultry feathers are an excellent source of slow-release nitrogen. Likewise, mulch and smothering materials are likely not limited to this list. You just need to see what's around you.

—J.B.

THE MASTER COMPOSTER PROGRAM

You may be familiar with your local county extension office's Master Gardener Program, where by citizens get an extensive gardening education in exchange for volunteer hours. Did you know that a Master Composter Program has begun as well?

Master Composters is a group of volunteers trained to educate the public about, and instill enthusiasm for, composting. Volunteers conduct workshops at demonstration sites. Through exhibits and demonstrations, they provide information at community events. Volunteers also offer troubleshooting and technical assistance to composters in the community.

The volunteer who becomes a Master Composter benefits by acquiring new knowledge and skills and gaining a sense of satisfaction by initiating community composting efforts.

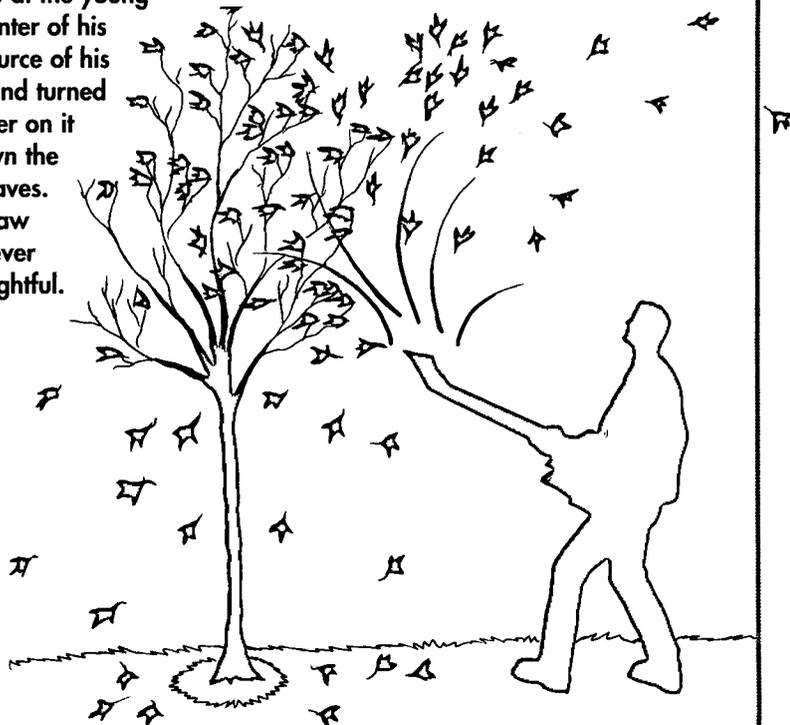
The Master Composter program benefits the community by reducing the amount of compostable materials going into landfills and the associated expense of disposal. Further, a composting program reduces or eliminates the expense of soil amendments, and it improves soil and water quality. For more information, contact your local county extension agent and visit these websites:

www.mastercomposter.com

www.vegweb.com/composting/demo.shtml

I was watching a man blow leaves around his little 20x30-foot yard one day when I saw an expression of discovery come over his face. He looked up at the young tree in the center of his yard—the source of his leaf labor—and turned his leaf blower on it to knock down the remaining leaves. I'm sure he saw himself as clever and forethoughtful.
—Joy Buslaff

Illustration by Molly Reynen



Does composting make a difference?

Yard wastes and kitchen scraps have been making up 20 to 30 percent of the household waste trucked off to landfills. That means landfills fill faster and new sites have to be made into landfills sooner.

If your community uses an incinerator, it's no better. The high moisture content of vegetative waste reduces the efficiency of incinerators, thereby increasing the use of fuel.

Will composting kill weed seeds?

In theory, you can put anything organic in a compost pile, but it's best not to include diseased or insect-infested plants or seed-bearing weeds. (Learn to distinguish which insects are beneficial or detrimental before committing insecticide.) It is better to find some corner where you can dig a deep hole and bury or burn weed seeds or diseased plants.

Compost is progressing well when it measures at least 70° to 100°F. Moss, mold, fungi and bacteria are killed at 145°F. Soil organisms die at temperatures over 160°F. Weed seeds are nullified at 180°F.



All members are welcome to the next ...

Wild Ones Board Meeting MAY 20, 2000

COLLEGE OF DUPAGE, GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS

The meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon in Building K, Room 161. After the meeting, Pat Armstrong will offer a guided tour of the college's prairies. Bring your lunch or buy lunch in the cafeteria. Call Pat for more information:

(630) 983-8404.

Are you interested in directing our future?

Any Wild Ones member who is interested in serving in the capacity of a national board member should contact their chapter president immediately to make them aware of their interest. The Nominating Committee will be working through the chapter presidents. We are looking for 16 to 20 candidates, and travel shouldn't be a problem since we are planning to use conference calling whenever necessary. Members of the nominating committee are Don Vorpahl, Karin Wisiol, Portia Brown, Bret Rappaport, and Donna VanBuecken.

Composting the natural way

If you have a compost bin or a compost heap in your yard, you are probably working too hard. It is a common myth that one needs to have a complicated composting setup to recycle plant material back into one's yard in order to be ecologically correct.

Think about how a truly natural environment does it. In the woods, there is no person with a wheelbarrow raking the leaves, carting them off to the compost heap to decay. No one goes back every few weeks to turn the pile, nor does anyone return with the wheelbarrow to spread the decomposed matter back around the growing trees when the brew is finished.

And who knows what we are messing up by too much moving about of plant material. Maybe the stuff from the soil that was used by the plant needs to be returned to the same soil to be used again in the next growing season. Maybe the microbes that decompose the tops benefit the roots somehow.

It seems that those of us who cultivate a compost bin are working too hard. We should more nearly mimic what nature does.

One of the first differences in how nature gardens and how we garden is that nature does not do 'fall cleanup.' Nature leaves all that dead stuff there all winter long. And what happens to that dead stuff out there all winter? It dries up, losing most of its weight by giving up nearly all of the water that made it so heavy. So if we are cutting off the tops of our nearly dormant or even our dormant perennials and ornamental grasses to haul them away, we are wasting a great deal of time and effort. If the tops of the perennials are left in place until spring, they are much lighter in weight, much easier to cut, oftentimes just breaking loose. Sometimes, when we go out in spring to clean up, we may find that they have so diminished in volume that the new spring growth can grow right up through last year's dead leaves and stems so that no cleanup is needed at all.

Traditional texts tell us that disease and insect problems will occur if the tops of perennials are not removed. Yet, if we are using native plants in our yards, the diseases that occur are analogous to a common cold in humans: present and causing occasional symptoms, but not fatal. And the insects' eggs, larvae, or even adults that may be

harbored by the plant tops are a desirable part of that ecosystem that we are trying to build. So it is a bad idea to remove any plant material from the site at all!

An additional benefit of leaving all the 'debris' intact for the winter is that we discover a great deal of beauty in the dried stems and leaves, seed pods, seeds, and even spent flowerheads of last season's plants. Some plants, like the ornamental grasses, are known as 'winter interest' plants, but others, like Black-eyed Susan, can put on quite a show if not carted to the compost heap!

Yet, without fire, those dried ornamental grasses and the tops of some woodland plants and prairie forbs are quite unsightly by spring. In a garden setting, it is not always feasible to leave all plant material there for the new spring growth to come up through. So what is the answer?

In-situ composting means that the material is composted, but rather than being carried to a different spot in the yard, it is composted right where it grew. The perennials tops or grass stalks are cut off near ground level and are left on the ground around the base of the plant where they grew.

There are several variations on in-situ composting, each varying in the amount of work needed and in how they look while the new spring growth is emerging. The most inconspicuous, yet most labor-intensive method is to cut the plant parts up into mulch-size pieces and drop them to the ground around the base of the plant. These pieces can be from 4 to 8 inches long, depending on the coarseness of the plant material, and depending on how formal and tidy a look you demand. Another method is to cut them into much larger pieces, such as 12 to 24 inches long, and place them in the bed just behind the base of the plant. The plant soon grows up to cover the debris. The material decomposes to be unnoticeable, but if the compost builds up behind the plant, a bit of raking can pull some of it forward to between and in front of the plants.

Another method that works with all but the most delicately rooted plants is to dig an 8- to 12-inch trench behind and between plants, stuffing it nearly to the top with plant debris, then covering it back over with the soil. This method requires labor to dig the trench, but the material does not have to be cut into uniform pieces. This is a good method for composting kitchen waste, since once the hole is covered, the 'compost heap' is inconspicuous.

Composting instructions often recommend adding lawn clippings to the compost pile, but lawn clippings can mat together, stay too moist, and rarely decompose as fast as other mixed debris, so can slow down the entire decomposition process. Occasionally, in a weedy bed, a layer of grass clippings can be used as a smothering mulch, but in general, they are best left on the lawn. There, spread out in a thin layer by a standard mower, or chopped fine by a mulching mower, they can dry out and drop between the grass blades to decompose in-situ naturally.

Similarly, leaves are often suggested as a compost heap component. But leaves are rarely heavy enough to actually damage a lawn or groundcovers, especially if the groundcovers are native woodland plants, such as ferns or Wild Ginger. Leaves should generally be left alone until spring, when those that have accumulated too thickly in an area can be raked into other areas. Between and behind shrubs, the leaves can be spread 4 to 6 inches thick, and left to inconspicuously decompose. The area under mature evergreen trees and shrubs always strikes me as particularly barren, due to the relatively small bit of decaying matter produced by falling needles. So, if faced with excess leaves in the spring, I 'feed' them to my evergreens. After a few years, this helps build up enough soil to successfully grow perennial woodland plants there.

Another type of landscape waste that is often relegated to the compost heap is the sod that is removed to create new landscape beds. However, if our topsoil takes hundreds of years to form just one inch, why would we want to remove it from a site? The best way to create a new bed is not removal of the sod with a spade or sod cutter. The best way is to use biodegradable paper such as newspaper, to smother the turf grass. The paper is spread 10 to 15 layers thick, moistened to keep it from blowing around, then covered with 3 to 6 inches of shredded wood mulch. The mulch keeps the paper in place and moist. The paper decomposes in a few months when the new plants can be planted right into the mulch through the decomposed papers. If the papers have not completely decomposed, an X can be cut where the plant is to go, with the flaps folded under the edge of the hole. The mulch can be pushed back around the base of the plant, covering the paper and the dead sod until both thoroughly decompose. A bed made in the late fall is ready to plant by spring. If one is in a

hurry, a spraying of biodegradable herbicide will kill the sod in two weeks, and the layer of newspaper and mulch will kill any plants the herbicide missed. It could be argued that the benefit gained by keeping the topsoil and decomposing sod roots in place more than compensates for the possible harm done by the minimal herbicide used.

Woody trimmings and prunings can be cut into small pieces with a hand pruner. An anvil-style pruner does not cut fast enough to do the job, so invest in a good-quality bypass pruner. If your hand gets tired of cutting, you may want to have two different styles or sizes of pruners that use different muscles in your hand. Remember that if the pieces are used in back of beds and behind plants, they do not need to be cut into such small pieces.

So, if shrubs near the front of a bed are being pruned, simply compost their clippings nearer the back of the bed. Another good use for woody trimmings is in the construction of a brush pile, which can, if built carefully, become almost sculptural. The branches can be laid down in layer with the next layer laid perpendicular, building up multiple layers. Or stand the branches on end, leaning their top ends together into a teepee shape. For initial stability, the base layer can be tied with biodegradable twine where the branches cross at top. Then successive layers can be leaned against them. Such a brush pile will look far more natural and provide far more benefits to local wildlife than will a compost bin.

Kitchen waste, as mentioned, can go into trenches, or be placed in shallow layers at the back of beds behind plants. If the presence of insects or the smell of the food decomposing is troublesome, cover the food waste with a layer of mulch or leaves so that it decomposes faster and out of sight.

While a compost heap can be a good thing if one is trying to produce compost for raised beds or use in pots, it is generally a cumbersome and unnecessary thing. Few add any aesthetic interest to the landscape, and most are an eyesore. So leave your yard cleanup until spring, when nature will have taken care of most of it for you, then try to keep as much debris as close to the source as possible. Let in-situ composting make your work easier and your yard healthier! 🌱

—Karma L. Grotelueschen
PlannedScapes, Warrenville, Illinois

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

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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.

**ILLINOIS
 GREATER DUPAGE CHAPTER
 MESSAGE CENTER..... (630) 415-IDIG
 PAT CLANCY..... (630) 964-0448
 Clancypj2@aol.com**

Chapter usually meets the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., College of DuPage, unless otherwise noted. May 7 (Sunday)—Visit two woodland gardens in Waukegan. 1-3 p.m. Tour of Mel Hoff's yard, which is made up almost completely of natives and some interesting groundcovers; address is #29 W. 300 Iroquois Ct. 3-5 p.m., tour Harvey Davis' yard featuring species that like to grow in the shade of large oaks. Address is #29 W 122 Morris Ct. For more specific directions, call the Message Center and leave a message.

June 18 (Sunday)—1-3 p.m. "Bring your Father to the Prairie," a guided tour of the West Chicago Prairie. For directions, use contact numbers above.

**LAKE-TO-PRAIRIE CHAPTER
 KARIN WISIOL..... (847) 548-1650**
 Meetings are usually held September through May on the second Monday of the month, 7:15 p.m., Byron Colby Community Barn, Prairie Crossing, Grayslake (Rt. 45, about 1/2 mile south of Ill. 120). May 8—"Enhancing Your Outdoor Habitat" Part 5: A members-only workshop: "Design Help from Experts." There will be a brief slide presentation, then designers Vallari Talapatra, Kerry Leigh, Frank Haas, and Pat Armstrong will assist participants individually with their own designs. Pre-registration required.

**NORTH PARK CHAPTER
 BOB PORTER..... (312) 744-5472**
 Meetings are usually held the second Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., North Park Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski, Chicago, unless otherwise indicated.

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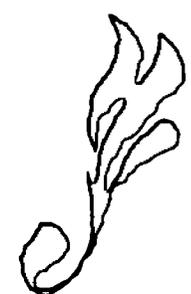
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May 7 (Sunday)—Tour of Harms Woods to see spring flowers. 9:45 a.m. I-94 to Old Orchard exit, west to Harms Rd., north to forest preserve.
 June 24 (Saturday)—Tour of Wolf Road Prairie. 10 a.m. Take Tri-State south to Cermak, east to Wolf Rd, right to 31st St., turn right for 1/2 mile.

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, unless otherwise noted. Call (815) 234-8535 for information. Public is welcome.

May—No regularly scheduled meeting. "Show-Me-Help-Me Days" to be announced.

June 15—7 p.m. Native plant sale: Enders Greenhouse, Cherry Valley. Special discount for Wild Ones.

IOWA

WILD ROSE CHAPTER

CHRISTINE TALIGA (319) 339-9121

Meetings are held the second Monday of the month, First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City, unless otherwise noted.

May 13 (Saturday)—Wild Rose Guided Tour of Rochester Cemetery. Carpool from First Presbyterian Church, upper parking lot, 8:30 a.m., or meet at the cemetery for tour beginning at 9 a.m. I-80 East to Tipton Exit, head north; west on Cemetery Rd.

June 8 (Thursday)—"Wetland Exotic Plants and Fauna." Learn how to recognize and prevent the spread of invading exotics such as purple loosestrife and zebra mussels. Indian Creek Nature Center, Squaw Creek Park Lodge, 7 p.m.

KENTUCKY

FRANKFORT CHAPTER

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

Meetings are usually held on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Salato Wildlife Education Center Greenhouse (#1 Game Farm Rd, off US 60 W (Louisville Rd.), Frankfort, unless otherwise noted.

May 8—"Up Close and Personal with Spring Wildflowers." While touring and learning about the eastern deciduous forest and its flowers, participants will be weeding out unwanted species in a mini-forest near the Salato Education Center, Frankfort. A free wildflower plant to those who help! 5:30 p.m.

June 12—"Planting Party at Lakeview Park." Weeding and planting additional native plants in our established garden. 5:30 p.m., Lakeview Park, Frankfort.

LOUISVILLE CHAPTER

PORTIA BROWN (502) 454-4007
 light@entrekynet

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

May 7 (Sunday)—Carpool to Munchkin Nursery & Garden, 323 Woodside Dr. NW, DePauw, Ind., to see Gene Bush's woodland wildflowers and shade perennials. Meet at LNC parking lot at 1:40 p.m.

May 11 (Thursday)—Tour Era MacDonald's Merrymac Nursery and potluck dinner on Era's deck. Era specializes in native plants and landscape consulting. 1205 Old Harrods Creek Rd., Anchorage, Ky. Carpools meet at 6:15 at far left corner of Louisville Zoo parking lot.

May 23—Work night at Louisville Nature Center. Help in the garden or on Beargrass Creek Nature Preserve. Bring work gloves and snacks, beverages provided.

June 13 (Tuesday)—Bernheim Forest with Margaret Shea, natural areas director. Meet at the Arboretum center at 6:30 p.m. For carpooling, meet at the LNC parking lot at 5:45 p.m.

May 27 & June 24 (4th Saturdays)—Adopted site work: Wildflower Woods in Cherokee Park, 9 a.m. to noon. Optional Dutch treat lunch afterwards.

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

VIRGINIA CHATFIELD (810) 655-6580
 ginger9960@aol.com

Meetings usually held at the Grand Blanc Heritage Museum, 203 Grand Blanc Rd., Grand Blanc, unless otherwise noted. Call number above for details.

May 18—Spring wildflower hike in Chatfield woods.
 June 15—Help-Me Day.

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER

THOMAS SMALL (616) 381-4946

Meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Location varies.

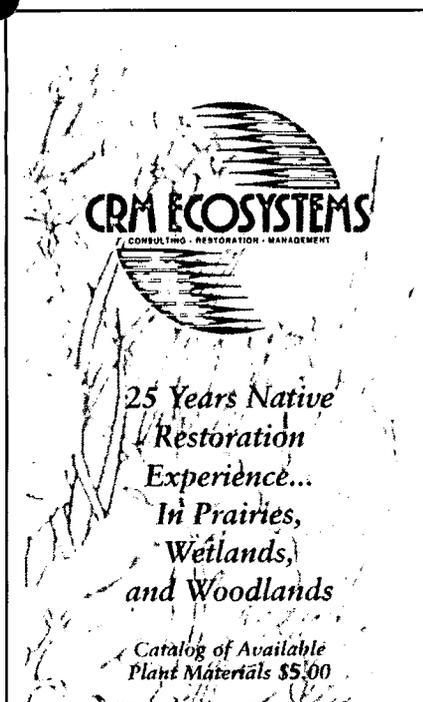
May 17—"Beech-Maple Woods and Spring Ephemerals," 5:30 p.m. at Richard Brewer's. Brown bag dinner. Address and carpooling information to be announced.

May 27 or 28 (TBA)—Plant exchange at Tom and Nancy Small's.
 June 21—"Do's and Don'ts of Natural Landscaping," with some emphasis on shade gardening. 6 p.m. at Tom and Nancy Small's.

OAKLAND COUNTY CHAPTER

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

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



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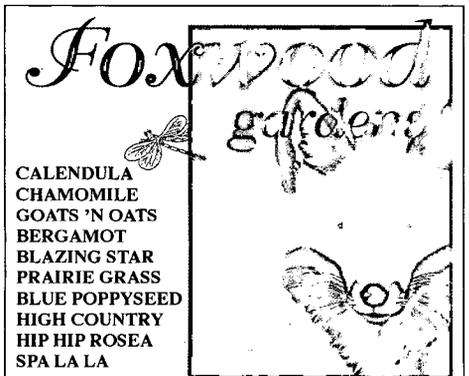
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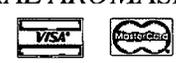
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SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER

SUE STOWELL (616) 468-7031
 Meetings held the third Wednesday of the month, 7:30 p.m., Sarett Nature Center, unless otherwise noted.
 May 7 (Sunday)—Dowagiac Woods, largest moist virgin-soil woodland in Michigan. See spring woodland and wetland plants. Plant expert on hand from either Sarett or Michigan Botanical Club. 1 p.m. Located on Frost Rd. Carpooling encouraged; limited parking.
 June 21—Field trip to Ross Preserve. This is a naturalist-led tour, observing native species that love wet and dry sandy soils. Meet at Sarett, 7:30, carpool to preserve, which features three coastal plain marshes.

MINNESOTA**OTTER TAIL CHAPTER**

KAREN TERRY (218) 736-5520
 terry714@prtcl.com
 Meetings held the fourth Monday of the month, 7 p.m., at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, Fergus Falls. May/June—Members will begin planning and working on the Butterfly Garden at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center. Call for dates and times.

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.
 May & June—Plant rescues are being planned. Dates and locations to be announced.

MISSOURI**ST. LOUIS CHAPTER**

SCOTT WOODBURY (636) 451-0850
 Meetings usually held first Wednesday of the month. May 3—Meet at Ana Grace's, 113 N. Elm Ave., Webster Groves. Program includes a yard tour. 6:30 p.m.
 May 12 (Friday)—Native plant auction, Missouri Botanical Garden, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Dave Tylka discusses importance of gardening with natives. No admission fee.

May 13 (Saturday)—Our chapter will have a booth at the native plant sale held at the Shaw Arboretum, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. In addition to plants and refreshments, will sell Leopold benches made by Wild Ones members.
 June 7—Tour Pulitzer Prairie with Bill Davit, 6:30 p.m.

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 Avenue, Brooklyn.
 May 21 (Sunday)—Brooklyn Botanic Gardens native plant tour and meeting. Time to be announced.

OHIO**COLUMBUS CHAPTER**

MICHAEL HALL (614) 939-9273
 Meetings held second Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted), 10 a.m. at Innis House, Inniswood Metro Garden, 940 Hempstead Rd., Westerville.
 May 13—"Woodland Spring Wildflower Yards." Tours of the woodland gardens of two members. Tour starts at the Preston yard, 71 Chatham Rd., Columbus (614) 263-9468. Directions to Mike Hall's woodland yard will be available at the Prestons'.
 June 10—9 a.m. "Yard Work." A yard will be selected from among members for opportunity of having members work in your yard. Watch for "Yard Work" applications. Call for locations. Afterward there will be follow-up on our Habitat for Humanity home garden.

OKLAHOMA**CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CHAPTER**

MICHELLE RAGGÉ (405) 466-3930
 Meeting are usually held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., in the conference room, 2nd floor, Hanner Hall, Oklahoma State University.
 3rd Saturday of the month—Monthly work day at the environmental center located at Hwy 33 and Coyle Rd., Payne County. For more info, call above number.

WISCONSIN**FOX VALLEY AREA CHAPTER**

CAROL NIENDORF (920) 233-4853
 niendorf@northnet.net
DONNA VANBUECKEN (920) 730-8436
 dvanbuecke@aol.com

Indoor meetings are held at 7 p.m. at either Memorial Park Arboretum, 1313 E. Witzke Blvd., Appleton, or the Evergreen Retirement Community, 1130 N. Westfield St., Oshkosh.

May 18—"Wisconsin's Resources for the 21st Century." Wisconsin State Assemblyman Spencer Black will address a joint session with the Winnebago Audubon Society, 7 p.m., lecture hall of Clow Social Sciences building, UW-Oshkosh, 800 Algoma Blvd.

May 20 (Saturday)—Spring Woodland Yard Tours. Sites to be announced.

June 10 (Saturday)—"Forests, Flowers, and Bogs of the Northern Highlands." Bus tour to Boulder Junction area for a guided wildflower walk, picnic lunch, and visit to one of the finest old-growth hemlock stands in Wisconsin. Bus leaves from Oshkosh K-Mart at 6 a.m. and the Appleton K-Mart at 6:30 a.m. Bring your lunch; we may stop for dinner on the return trip.

June 17 (Saturday)—"Help-Me Day: We Make House Calls." If you are having difficulty with some aspect of your planting, get help from your fellow members.

GREEN BAY CHAPTER

AMY WILINSKI (920) 826-7252
 wilinski1@prodigy.net

Meetings held on third Wednesday of the month, at the Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Rd., 7 p.m.
 May—Spring woodland rescue. Dates and locations to be announced. There will also be a member spring yard tour; scheduling pending.

June 3-5—Green Bay Botanical Garden Fair. We will have a Wild Ones booth and a member plant sale.

June 24—Tour Chuck and Gina Mistark's. Check chapter newsletter for info or call above number.

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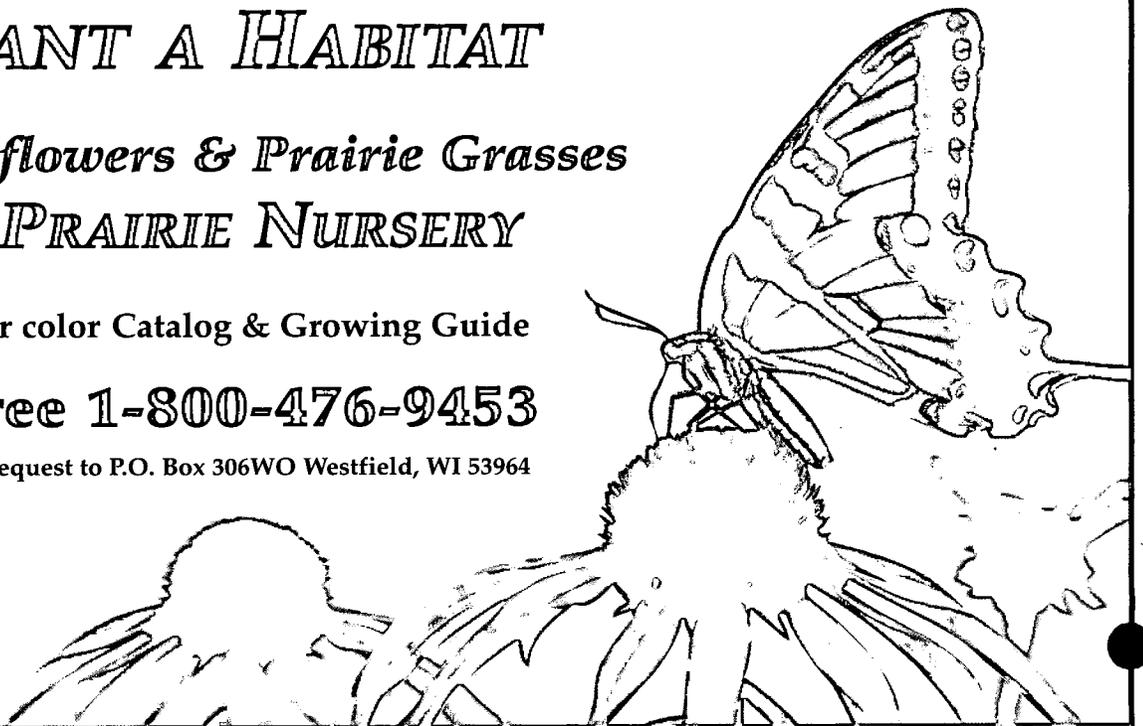
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MADISON CHAPTER

DIANE POWELKA (608) 837-6308
Meetings held at Olbrich Botanical Garden unless otherwise noted, 7 p.m. The public is welcome.
May 25—"Native Plants in Western Dane County," a slide presentation by Kay Bonger.
June 22—Annual hands-on woodworking project at Powelka's.

MENOMONEE RIVER AREA CHAPTER

JAN KOEL (262) 251-7175
JUDY CRANE (262) 251-2185
Indoor meetings held, 6:30 p.m., The Ranch Communities Services, N84 W19100 Menomonee Ave., Menomonee Falls. Contact Judy Crane for info.
May 16—Woodland tour at Hults' Erin property. Bring boots to see bog. Carpool from former Wild Bird Center parking lot on Bancroft and County Line Rd. at 6:30 p.m., or drive to 2182 Hall Rd. off Hwy 83 and Druid Lake Rd. Call (262) 242-3990 for more information.
June 20—Build a bathhouse for your yard. Materials must be ordered and pre-paid.

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.
May 13—Annual native plant sale. Following the sale is annual plant rescue—limited to Wild Ones members.
June 10—Carpool from Schlitz to tour native landscaping properties. Free and open to the public.

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.
May 13—Visit Trillium Island. Carpool from Wehr.
June 10—Help-Me Day. Meet at Wehr for directions.



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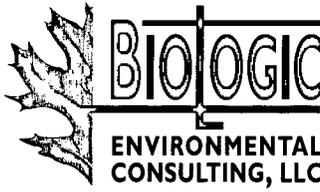
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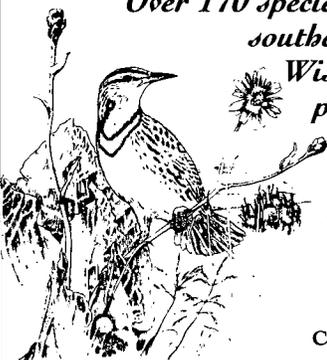
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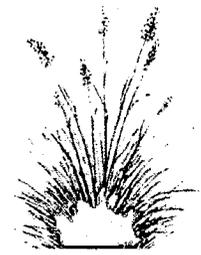
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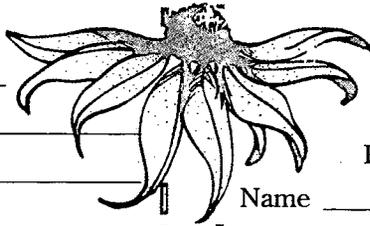
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Biohabitats has participated in numerous stream restoration, greenway planning and soil bioengineering projects throughout the Ohio River Valley. A number of these projects have been successfully completed in partnership with the Metropolitan Sewer Districts in Louisville and Cincinnati. The new office in Louisville will allow Biohabitats to be an even greater resource to these and other clients by combining national expertise with a local presence. R. Wayne Bennett, AICP will manage the Ohio River Bioregion Office. To learn more about the company's services and project experience visit our web site www.biohabitat.com, or contact the Louisville or Maryland offices listed below.

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KANSAS: Michael Almon, Lawrence, Kan., (785) 832-1300.

MINNESOTA: Carol Andrews, Duluth, (218) 730-9954. Bill Steele, 21950 County Rd. 445, Bovey, MN 55709; (218) 247-0245; scl@uslink.net.

MICHIGAN: Marilyn Case, Calhoun County, (616) 781-8470; mcase15300@aol.com.

MISSOURI: Lesa Beamer, Dept. of Biochemistry, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211; (573) 499-3749; beamerl@missouri.edu.

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