IT IS WINTER—a time when we more often plant our backsides in a Barcalounger than on a Leopold garden bench. And, even when we do get outside to study the winter forms of our native landscapes, we feel homesick for the other seasons.

Don't be glum. This issue is all about happy news: the success stories of natural landscaping, native plants, Wild Ones chapters and individuals from across the country.

No glass-half-empty attitudes in this issue, no wringing of hands over invasive species or pointless pesticides or nitwit neighbors. It's time to revel in our accomplishments.

So turn the page and join me in an issue where ne'er is heard a discouraging word, and the skies are not cloudy all day.

—Joy Buslaff

"To be interested in the changing seasons is a happier state of mind than to be hopelessly in love with spring."
—George Santayana (1863-1952), poet and philosopher
From Chicago, Ill., comes our first story of a laudatory landscape. After reinforcing parts of the Chicago City Hall rooftop, a 20,000-square-foot garden is being installed to quantify the benefits of “floating landscapes,” as rooftop plantings are sometimes called. The possible benefits include: reducing heating/cooling costs, improving air quality and deadening noise. Mayor Richard M. Daley says the city is examining additional flat roofs to include in this program, known as the Urban Heat Island Initiative, and offering grants to property owners to develop rooftop gardens.

If you want to be a smart aleck, you might point toward the rooftop and say, “Hey, there’s Prairie Smoke coming from City Hall!” or, “Jacob left his Ladder on the roof!” or, “You can see Shooting Stars in the daytime from up there.” All statements would be entirely accurate as these species (*Geum triflorum*, *Polemonium reptans*, *Dodecatheon meadia*) are among the 20,000 plants going in. The landscape plan calls for over 100 varieties of prairie species, plus 100 shrubs, 40 vines and two trees. Because the garden will not be open to the public, you will have to monitor its progress by visiting the city’s website at http://w5.ci.chi.il.us/Env/html/RooftopGarden.html.

**YOU DESERVE A BREAK TODAY**

Phillip Gibson (right) is one of the people who thought that a fast-food franchise being built in Asheville, N.C., in the winter of 1998-99 should include a native plant landscape. In conjunction with western North Carolina’s “Grow Native” campaign, the thought has become reality. Now when you take exit 44 off of I-40, you can enjoy the scenery as you wait for your fries at the drive-up window. Phillip is shown with Nann Guthrie (NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources) and the sign that informs patrons about the landscape. McDonald’s employees also have informational brochures available. Visit www.wnct.org to learn more.

Once you leave McDonald’s and get back on the freeway (we’ll presume you’re carpooling in an energy-efficient vehicle), you might want to head west to take advantage of …

**THE PRAIRIE PASSAGE**

The Prairie Passage is a project designated to protect and restore the natural and cultural heritage of areas along and adjacent to Interstate 35 from the Mexican to the Canadian border. This is a cooperative effort including the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota.

During 1996, a survey was conducted by the states to inventory the plant materials (plant species and plant communities) along the I-35 right-of-way. The object of the survey was to identify the location of potential areas where native plant communities could be managed to restore or maintain their native character, or be reseeded to native species to increase the area of native plant communities along the I-35 right-of-way and along highways that connect to I-35.

Although states such as Kansas, Iowa and Minnesota already have many areas along I-35 which lend themselves to restoration or preservation, it was found that Texas and Oklahoma have very few areas conducive to restoration. The survey in Texas found that most of the right-of-way is dominated by Johnsongrass, King Ranch Bluestem and Bermuda-grass, and to restore it to native plant communities would require major efforts to first remove these species. Also due to the amount of construction and traffic along I-35, it is not practical to attempt restoration. However, following construction, there may be opportunities to reseed with native species.

Discussion between the six states continues as to what type of brochures, signage and other informational materials can be used to inform the public about the Prairie Passage Corridor. To stay in touch with this mighty plan, contact Melody Hughes of the Texas DOT at (512) 416-3084 or mhughes@mailgw.dot.state.tx.us.
Native plants are being used in every imaginable place.

ROADSIDE USE OF NATIVE PLANTS

Roadside use of native plants exists beyond the Prairie Passage. It's long been the crusade of the people who created the book *Roadside Use of Native Plants*. Originally published by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration, Office of Natural Environment, to promote the planting and care of native plants along highway rights-of-way, the book is now available to the public from Island Press (800-828-1302, www.islandpress.com) for $25. The book is an amazing resource of over 665 pages offering comprehensive state-by-state color maps and listings for plant species, contacts and resources. If your chapter is building a library collection, add this reference.

In another USDOT publication, a newsletter entitled *Greener Roadsides*, we learn of coast-to-coast success stories. Pictured above are the before and after views of a wetland mitigation project adjoining US 33 in West Virginia. The following reports are bound to cheer your wild heart:

From Nebraska: "[O]ur roadside reestablishment program has been building since the early 1960s when we broke away from the Brome Grass traditions and utilized native grasses and legumes to stabilize our roadsides....With over 10,000 miles of highways and 153,000-plus acres of right-of-way, roadside native vegetation benefits the state through the promotion of wildlife habitat, reduction of maintenance requirements, stabilization of soil, and protection of an emergency hay bank during times of drought."

From Maryland: "The role of the Office of Environmental Design is to support the Maryland State Highway Administration's mission in the areas of environmental mitigation, landscape development and roadside management....We have recently initiated an expanded emphasis on context-sensitive design in our highway design process. This initiative is part of our 'Thinking Beyond The Pavement' approach where input from communities and a complete range of stakeholders is sought early in the design process...."

"Natural landscapes in Maryland means trees. Trees are king here, so we plant them at every opportunity. Not only do we plant trees, but we also create conditions that encourage the natural succession of native trees on their own. The phasing out of Crownvetch from our standard slope mix has gone a long way toward encouraging the regeneration of roadside forests."

MORE GOOD NEWS

This past June the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service formed an alliance with the Center for Plant Conservation to protect native plants. USFWS and CPC have agreed to work together to support research, recovery and education efforts to protect native plant species and their habitats.

CPC Chairman Eliot Paine said, "[W]e have long worked with the Service toward imperiled plant species recovery. This agreement will strengthen the ties and shared conservation vision of the two organizations and enhance our science-based programs. Equally important, the potential for development of public education and outreach programs is enormous when approached cooperatively."

WHEN 'NAVY' MEANS 'GREEN'

The former Glenview Naval Air Station has become a 1,000-acre development known as the Glen. To have a major role in its development, the Village of Glenview obtained ownership and is selling it in major pieces based on a carefully prepared plan. Located 20 miles north of Chicago, the Glen is surrounded by suburbs and is expected to add about 10 percent to the village population of 38,000. Development of the land includes residential, commercial and office uses. It also includes a park, new 45-acre lake, 31-acre prairie and 179-acre golf course.

Natural landscaping with native plants is being used in the park in areas around the lake. In the prairie, the 17-acre, high-quality area is being maintained while the remainder, which contains low-quality prairie and wetlands, is being restored. The entire prairie is now protected by a special section of the zoning ordinance for environmentally sensitive areas, and the office park which surrounds it on three sides is being strongly encouraged to use native plants and natural landscaping. Developers of the new golf course are committed to enrolling in a National Audubon program and obtaining recognition for their use of natural landscaping.

The village has also become the owner of three other areas of natural habitat near the Air Station Prairie. It accepted ownership of the nearby 65-acre Techny detention basin and planted it with native prairie seeds. It accepted ownership of wetland mitigation areas along the West Fork of the Chicago River. And it purchased a 10-acre parcel to protect the West Fork and provide bird and wildlife habitat.

The village is proud to be employing some of the steps recommended in *Protecting Nature in Your Community*, the new report from the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission and Chicago Wilderness.
HOW DO YOU DEFINE SUCCESS?

For our next round of uplifting stories we hear from some of our advertisers. I asked them to submit a photo of a scene that signified success to them. The first person I heard from was Joyce Powers of CRM Ecosystems who pointed out something that seems to be true for so many of us—we can brag about a number of accomplishments, but coming up with a crisp photo to illustrate the point (reproducible in black-and-white, no less) is something else again. But Joyce did find the happy scene above. It shows a midsummer display at the Loreen and Ron Thorstad residence in Noll Valley, Verona, Wis. This was the fourth growing season for this seeding, which has already had more than 25 species bloom. Site preparation, design, seeding and maintenance provided by CRM Ecosystems, Mount Horeb, Wis., (608) 437-8982.

Next I received a note from Ron Wolff of Lake Shore Cleaners, Appleton, Wis., (920) 734-0757: “Enclosed please find a photo [right] and caption ... Since this is the first prairie that I ever installed, it holds a very special meaning to me. Especially after the long fight with existing neighbors during the not-so-beautiful starting stage of the process. We went against the odds and came out with a beautiful new wildlife home for all. Don’t you just love stories with a happy ending.” Yes, I do.

Ron’s caption explains further: “At first, not all of Ms. Lennon’s neighbors were enthusiastic about her decision to make her Appleton yard into a prairie. But seven years later, a lot of those same neighbors have prairies or butterfly gardens of their own. Ms. Lennon’s prairie offers ever-changing shape, colors and beauty to be admired year round.”

The next photo [top right] comes courtesy of Prairie Nursery’s owner Neil Diboll, (800) 476-9453. This is a front side yard at the home of Dr. Rodney Sturm of Madison, Wis., planted to various short and tall prairie flowers and grasses. The primary goal was to make habitat for birds. This prairie garden creates an ecologically complementary habitat to the trees and shrubs in the backyard, as well as a conservancy area behind Dr. Sturm’s property.

The area was installed using mostly seeds, with a few plants added in the ensuing years. Soil type is a silt loam. The yard is located in a typical suburban neighborhood, and the planting borders on a neighbor’s driveway. The neighbor is also enthusiastic about the prairie and is happy to have it adjacent to his property.

I had to smile when I opened the pink letter from Marilyn Buscher who owns Windy Oaks Aquatics, Eagle, Wis., (262) 594-3033. Marilyn was not confident I would judge her photos to be representative of success for a “plant habitats” issue. Au contraire—I agree that she has a triumphant tail to tell: “With the concern about declines in the amphibian populations, I am glad to report we have hundreds of frogs leave our ponds each year.”

“This picture is of a Five-lined Skink, not documented in southern Wisconsin for decades. Quite a find. My son Jerry was working on a solar water heater, and he found this young skink under it soaking up the heat. I believe it is ‘nothing but good news’—what diversity a pond can bring to a small area.”
Connie Ramthun, Kettle Moraine Natural Landscaping, Campbellsport, Wis., (920)533-8939, measures success by the same yardstick as Marilyn because she sent along this picture of eight Leopard Frogs in her home pond [above]. Connie has installed acres of prairie professionally, yet she counts her home landscape as her favorite accomplishment.

One of Connie's cleverest ideas was to take bark from a tree near her house over to the local paint store where it was scanned and paint was mixed to match it. Her home is thus perfectly camouflaged amongst the trunks of the woods.

As I look at this inviting path picture [below], I can't guess which must be more pleasurable for Connie—taking this path away from the house to wander the land, or coming back to this landscape leading home.

FROM OUR OWN RANKS

Time to flaunt the yards of a couple of our Wild Ones members. We begin with Karen Cairns of Clarksville, Ind., who started with a charming house and a relatively blank slate about three years ago [below right]. Karen relates: "First I removed the yucky little Yew balls from the sides of the concrete path—there were 10 of them. Then I added an arch, then a path from the side to the front. My paths are all permeable surfaces. I create only permeable surfaces because urban runoff is such a problem for our watersheds.

"I have continued to add beds and am trying to decrease the lawn by 10 percent each year. This summer I added a vegetable garden and a pond (sunk an old bathtub!). I try to use all recycled materials.

"My neighbors are all very complimentary to me about the garden and ask me many questions (plus give me materials—broken concrete, etc.)."

Karen writes that her yard isn't entirely native—just 90 percent. I hear this confessional message all the time and can assure you it is not an indictable crime that will land you in the Wild Ones Maximum Security Prison.

Now on to Antioch, Tenn., to visit the home of Yvonne and Vic Means who have five lessons to share:
1. Don't kill yourself and your pocketbook amending soil. If you go with native plants and are selective with exotics, you won't need to dig up the entire yard.
2. Plant for drought tolerance. Water is almost the price of gold.
3. Collect your “big as I can carry” rocks, both chunky and flat, from construction sites after getting permission. Collect any odd junk that might become garden sculpture from their dumpsites. Over a period of years, it is no exaggeration to say that we have collected many tons of rocks for our yard to stabilize borders and to create a wild appearance. This has been one of Vic's major contributions, always accomplished with vigor after uttering, "Oh, no! Not again!"
4. Spread your garden projects out over a period of many years, so your wallet won't give up the ghost. Besides, every time I tell Vic that I almost have everything the way I want it for good, he just says, "Ya, ya, sure ... that's what you said last year." This gardening thing just takes over and we never, ever reach the finish line.

Show Us A Sign...

like the one above (center) in the yard of member Karen Cairns, who actually got two signs and mounted them back-to-back so they'd be visible from either side.

Wild Ones aluminum yard signs proclaiming “this land is in harmony with nature” may be available from your local chapter, or you can order one by sending $21 to: Wild Ones Yard Sign, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, WI 54912-1274.

Send a photo of your yard sign to: Editor Joy Buslaff, Wild Ones Journal, S89 W22630 Milwaukee Ave., Big Bend, WI 53103.
5. For every flower, shrub or tree you add to your garden, always ask the one question, "Is this beneficial to wildlife?" Converting our yard from a "good looks" garden to a "Wow! Look at the different birds" garden makes a very noticeable difference. There is no comparison. Toads, frogs, squirrels, ladybug nursery, bird room and board (repaired by all those chirping melodies and bringing the babies to the feeder), less money on fertilizers, almost no money spent on pesticides, lawn mowing finished in 10 minutes, and because I don't believe I need to pull every weed in the garden, I am not a yard slave. There would be plenty of time to enjoy it if I weren't always changing something. Ah, well, that's my niche as a gardener I suppose ... always experimenting.

The Means are proud of their certification as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. They are also certified as a National Wildlife Federation Backyard Wildlife Habitat. Their Wild Ones sign shares the stage with these other proclamations of success [left].

**SHE SPEAKS FOR ALL OF US**

Recently an email was forwarded to me that originated with Heather Mor-tell. She so delightfully expressed her enthusiasm, I know it will lift your spirits to read excerpts from her note:

"I'm new to Wild Ones, so I have the zeal of a 'recent convert.' This group is the most compatible with my interests and beliefs of any I have found. I am an environmentalist, but have felt as though joining a 'big national organization' isn't relevant to my life. Wild Ones gives me the opportunity to do something, in my community, to make the world a better place. That's infinitely more satisfying than throwing money at a problem.

"Being a member has also fueled a quiet dream I have entertained—that of buying land to preserve it. Now that I'm in Wild Ones, I'm getting ideas not just for preservation but restoration.

"All praise to you folks for helping new members get their feet wet (or dirty, as the case may be) in this great group! You have found a highly constructive way to work with the seemingly inevitable drive to pave the world, by giving people tools to create more green elsewhere."

**CHAPTERS STRUT THEIR STUFF**

Following are reports from a couple of our chapters.

**Green Bay Area Chapter**—The Green Bay Botanical Garden has a garden fair each year. Our chapter has always had an informational booth there, however, this year one of our members suggested a native plant sale, with our members donating plants they had propagated in their own gardens.

One of our members wrote an informational transplant guide. A banner advertising our sale was donated by another member. We made computer labels for each species, describing growing conditions, and had plant sticks with pictures of the bloom laminated on them. Members donated over 625 plants of over 50 species! We grossed over $1,200, and expenses were limited to the cost of labels. We handed out a Wild Ones brochure with each sale. The sale helped to draw many more people to our booth than we normally would have had.

This was a wonderful opportunity for our members to obtain plants that had been grown locally. The plants that were left over were donated to an area school that is in the process of putting in an environmental area. We were very pleased with the success of this; it more than met our expectations!

Amy Wilinski

**St. Louis Chapter**—Our chapter made good at our plant sale, and we felt inspired to send the Seeds For Education fund 50 percent of our profits ($500). We felt SFE was the best place to invest and support because, in the end, groups wanting to plant natives in our area could also benefit.

The Shaw Arboretum annual plant sale is held on a Saturday in May. We have had it on Mother's Day in the past, however there may be other big events happening on the same date. (Be sure to research other big event dates to avoid conflicts.) People like to come out and buy plants, then spend time hiking at the arboretum.

Our chapter has one of about 10 booths (we are selling plants along-side many of the local native plant
nurseries). Wild Ones has a good relationship with a local wholesale nursery who supports our chapter and supplies us with native plants to sell on consignment. We pocket the difference between the wholesale and retail price and give Shaw Arboretum 15 percent of our proceeds (15 percent is required of all the vendors).

The Shaw Arboretum Spring Wildflower Sale has been going on for eight years and has been growing each year. We are now expecting 1,000 to 1,500 people to attend. This is the widest selection of native plants available at one time in our region.

The 1-quart containers cost us $1.90 wholesale; we sold them for $3. The 2-quart containers cost us $2.95; we sold them for $4. We did not try to mark the price way up. Our goal was to provide good native plants at a good price, and we sold a lot of plants as a result. Wild Ones benches sold for $125 each. (We sold two benches this year, donated one to a benefit auction, and donated five to a savanna restoration at a public park.)

Scott Woodbury

Fox Valley Area Chapter—Our chapter has donated a number of resources to public libraries in our area. These items were purchased with proceeds from our “Toward Harmony with Nature” conference. We also furnished each of the libraries with a long list of items for their consideration when making new acquisitions.

Karen Syverson

[Reminder: A membership/subscription to Wild Ones Journal makes a great gift for libraries, schools, nature centers, environmental groups and friends.]

Chenango Valley Chapter—We have two major projects to implement in spring 2001. Project One finds us working with the Village of Hamilton Planning Board, Syracuse landscape architect Dudley Breed, and a group of SUNY landscape architecture students from the Environment and Forestry School helping to locate, design and plant two native flower gardens, which will be located on the village green and adjacent to the library’s new addition.

Project Two will find us coordinating planting activities with the Village of Earlville, N.Y., which is in the process of developing a Rails-to-Trails walking trail. Wild Ones members will be identifying native species and tagging them so trail users will have access to information about the plants. We’ll also be labeling in Braille, so the trail will truly be accessible for all our community members. Holly Stegner

Coyle Chapter—We have been granted approval to utilize the interior of Camp Cimarron. Campfire boys and girls own this property. This is a very well-developed site that is currently utilized by hundreds of individuals. We have been given access to a large lodge, outdoor classroom and other amenities. We have been given a small building for us to establish into office space. We will be developing native flowerbeds and a native trail. We hope to have some of the beds and the trail finished by this March. At this time we will be actively offering a variety of programs that will be utilized by children, seniors and handicapped individuals. All of our programming will be aimed at Oklahoma flora and fauna.

The trail will consist of a variety of native species and displays. Display ideas include signage of native plants and animals, and native artifacts (such as bones, feathers, fossils, scat, egg, feet replicas of native species and so on). The flowerbeds will utilize many native plant species that will encourage birds and butterflies. We will also be setting up birdfeeders, houses and a birdbath.

Michelle Ragge

Pat Armstrong, Portia Brown, Lorrie Otto, Joe Powelka, Craig Tufts, Mandy Ploch, Donna VanBuecken, Diane Powelka, Bret Rappaport and Mark Charles.

National Board Boasts

Are you tired yet of articles that accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative? Hope not, cuz there are more pages of success stories, bright ideas and good news to come. Our national board, some of whom appear above, are excited to share this good news:

Wild Ones member households now number 2,700!

We have members in three Canadian provinces and all of the U.S. except eight states (Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, South Carolina, West Virginia, Wyoming). We are made up of a stunning 32 chapters! Our yard signs can be found in more than 500 yards. And already 31 places of learning have received grants from the Lorrie Otto Seeds For Education fund (begun in 1997).

Our website is adding features, too. Mark Charles said I could announce the opening of our new web photo gallery. When you want to show someone what Wild Ones properties look like, you can send them to www.for-wild.org so they can see a variety of colorful landscapes for themselves. If you have landscape photos of your yard, school, house of worship or business to share with the world either on the web or in Wild Ones Journal, please contact Mark or me (contact info on page 14).

I extend a heartfelt “thank you” to the folks who helped with this issue: Donna VanBuecken, Sue Stowell, Kent and Jeryll Fuller, Sheila Stenger, Marilyn Stroud, and all the contributors you see mentioned herein. —Joy
We have witnessed an exciting process taking place among the 57 fourth graders who were involved in the environmental restoration project they named Oakus Pocus. The name they selected turned out to be a brilliant title; not only did they perform big magic by transforming an eroded, unhealthy area of their playground into a stable, healthy haven, they were transformed by the power of contributing positively to their community and to their environment. This power has added to their identity as a group and it has helped to build their individual characters, confidence and values.

In October the students were first invited to participate. Some seemed surprised that such a big undertaking would be within their reach. For seven months we met on Friday afternoons to plan, to do public relations work in the school, to discuss concerns and goals, to vote on decisions about the project, to search the internet for grants, to design the landscape, and to present it to a panel of experts. When the time came to begin the actual construction of the restoration, the students were tremendously eager to do the physical labor of love that would bring those months of envisioning to fruition. The first excavation began on May 5, 2000, and the last load of mulch was distributed on June 2.

Academic ability was not a prerequisite for achievement in this project. Every child was on equal ground.

Many parents have commented on the influence the project has had on their children. One parent remarked that her son “came out of his shell” with his involvement in Oakus Pocus, he has been a painfully shy child and his mother celebrated the fact that his writing about the project was published in the school newspaper and he proudly showed it to relatives at a family event. Another parent was impressed at how focused her daughter was in her work on the project. This mother said that being focused is not one of the ways she would normally describe her daughter, but the project had cast a powerful spell on the child’s attention span. Again and again parents remarked that they had never seen their children work so hard.

The collective culture that these children built around Oakus Pocus was characterized by hard work, cooperation, independence, perseverance, trustworthiness and respect. They used power drills, hammers, shovels, saws. They moved earth, lumber, gravel, block and boulders. They kept themselves and one another safe during the whole project by using common sense and cooperation. They planted trees, shrubs and wildflowers with care and mastery for a successful survival outcome.

Several parents helped with Oakus Pocus, some quite regularly. But there were three fathers in particular whose expertise was indispensable when it came to constructing the retaining wall. The structure needed to be built properly in order for it to be safe and long-lasting. These three men probably would not have hosted a table at Math Night. They do not attend PTO. They are not scout leaders. They do not assist in the classrooms. But they found a niche in the Oakus Pocus project, a place where their particular gifts were needed to construct the wall so the project could move forward. They were proud to be involved. One of the three commented, “I am so glad I did not miss this.” Our project invited the contributions of some people who had previously been out of the loop.

As teachers and parents, we stand in awe of what our young people have achieved together here. We are proud to be a part of their development as stewards of their school grounds and as active members of their community. We look forward to years to come when these children (as fifth graders) and others in the school continue to act as stewards of Oakus Pocus by watering, by collecting and distributing seeds, by keeping invasives at bay, and by using the site for gentle recreation and for study.

We value the support of the other adults in our community who helped along the way, and we appreciate the financial support of the four granting organizations that made this project possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Rose A. Giachero, Teacher
Sharon H. Greely, Teacher
Cherry Damton, Parent Volunteer

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Many parents have commented on the influence the project has had on their children. One parent remarked that her son “came out of his shell” with his involvement in Oakus Pocus, he has been a painfully shy child and his mother celebrated the fact that his writing about the project was published in the school newspaper and he proudly showed it to relatives at a family event. Another parent was impressed at how focused her daughter was in her work on the project. This mother said that being focused is not one of the ways she would normally describe her daughter, but the project had cast a powerful spell on the child’s attention span. Again and again parents remarked that they had never seen their children work so hard.

The collective culture that these children built around Oakus Pocus was characterized by hard work, cooperation, independence, perseverance, trustworthiness and respect. They used power drills, hammers, shovels, saws. They moved earth, lumber, gravel, block and boulders. They kept themselves and one another safe during the whole project by using common sense and cooperation. They planted trees, shrubs and wildflowers with care and mastery for a successful survival outcome.

Several parents helped with Oakus Pocus, some quite regularly. But there were three fathers in particular whose expertise was indispensable when it came to constructing the retaining wall. The structure needed to be built properly in order for it to be safe and long-lasting. These three men probably would not have hosted a table at Math Night. They do not attend PTO. They are not scout leaders. They do not assist in the classrooms. But they found a niche in the Oakus Pocus project, a place where their particular gifts were needed to construct the wall so the project could move forward. They were proud to be involved. One of the three commented, “I am so glad I did not miss this.” Our project invited the contributions of some people who had previously been out of the loop.

As teachers and parents, we stand in awe of what our young people have achieved together here. We are proud to be a part of their development as stewards of their school grounds and as active members of their community. We look forward to years to come when these children (as fifth graders) and others in the school continue to act as stewards of Oakus Pocus by watering, by collecting and distributing seeds, by keeping invasives at bay, and by using the site for gentle recreation and for study.

We value the support of the other adults in our community who helped along the way, and we appreciate the financial support of the four granting organizations that made this project possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Rose A. Giachero, Teacher
Sharon H. Greely, Teacher
Cherry Damton, Parent Volunteer
"SUNNYSIDE OF THE PRAIRIE"
SOBIESKI, WISCONSIN

... it was a beautiful spring day, the clouds above us startlingly white against the bright, blue sky; the weather unseasonably warm, 80° for a spring day in northeastern Wisconsin. It was time to “Celebrate Our Prairie” at Sunnyside Elementary. At the sound of the old-fashioned school bell, 450 children sprinkled their prairie seeds onto the ash-covered prairie. Some joyfully threw their seeds to the wind letting it carry them to their final resting place; others sprinkled slowly and gently, like angels sprinkling gold dust onto the Earth....

Sunnyside Elementary is located 25 miles north of Green Bay in a rapidly developing rural area. The school is located on the site of an old farm field and is quickly being surrounded by housing developments. In the fall of 1998, a committee was established to assess developing an “Outdoor Learning Center.” Being that the land is situated on an old farm field, establishing a prairie was suggested as a means to educate our children about the native plants of Wisconsin and the animals and insects that habitat it. It was discovered during this phase that a 3½-acre prairie already existed on the school grounds. Unfortunately, many staff and most of the community were unaware of the presence and importance of this North American ecosystem that lay literally right outside the school’s back door! The prairie had been planted in 1991 under the direction of a Sunnyside teacher with assistance from area sportsmen clubs for funding and help from the local DNR. At that time its use was limited to a few teachers. Over the years, building refuse had been dumped on the prairie and half of the prairie was being mowed for use as a soccer field!

The goal of the Prairie Committee was to increase awareness and utilization of this treasure by all staff, students and the community at large. Meandering paths were mowed in summer of 1999 to make it more accessible and user-friendly. Area Boy Scouts and their families and Green Bay Area Wild Ones members assisted in rescuing plants from the path. The front of the school was then landscaped with these native plants. This “front door” approach was designed to increase everyone’s awareness of what lay outside the back door of the school. In the midst of the prairie are now two outdoor classrooms, complete with benches that convert to desk tops which were constructed by Sunnyside students and their families. These classrooms allow teachers and stu-
dents an opportunity to experience the beauty and opportunities for learning up close. Plant identification markers have been made by the Girl Scouts to help educate visitors to the prairie.

It was our intention for each child to literally have a hand in the continued development of the prairie. In spring of 2000, all students were involved in a naming contest for the prairie. “Sunnyside of the Prairie” was chosen as a fitting name for the beautiful prairie that holds treasures of flowers, birds and butterflies for these young minds to learn about and enjoy. The Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant, along with a generous discount and donation of seeds from two Seeds for Education Partners, allowed the school to purchase seeds for our “Prairie Celebration.” Thirty-five additional species of forbs and grasses were inter-seeded by the children over the blackened soil that underneath held another 25 species of native grasses and forbs. Prairie field guides have been obtained through another generous discount from an SFE partner. Snowshoes have been purchased to allow the children to learn about the secrets the prairie holds year round as well as to offer a form of winter exercise.

... as I walked away from the seed-strewn prairie with a five-year-old’s chubby, little hand encased in mine, she looked up at me with all the excitement and wonder only a small child’s face can hold and said, “I will have to come here this summer with my mommy and daddy and watch the flowers grow that I planted.” I knew then our goal we hoped to accomplish was being met in that young mind. Each and every Sunnyside student is now a part of that land. Hopefully, they will come to respect, nurture and learn about the history this land of ours holds.

Amy Wilinski
Sunnyside Prairie Committee
Chairperson
President of Wild Ones
Green Bay Area Chapter
A shore thing

NATIVE LANDSCAPING OF INDUSTRIAL SITES

The use of native landscaping for industrial sites has been grossly neglected. These sites present an opportunity to construct wetlands, woodlands, prairies and savannahs on a large scale, thus increasing the acreage of lands returned to their original landscapes.

Using these properties to construct the beginnings of native ecosystems is a real "win-win" situation. Usually when a new plant, factory or office building is constructed in an industrial park, the owner tries to purchase an additional amount of land to use in the event the initial building needs to be expanded. Also, industrial parks often have guidelines governing the size of a building (the "footprint") in relation to the overall acreage of the lot. These guidelines usually include minimum "setbacks" (the distance between a building and a lot border or roadway). Quite often architects and owners will exceed minimum setbacks, so the building will have more land around it than required. They do this for aesthetic reasons or to allow for expansion.

Mowing the landscape is costly in terms of labor, equipment, fuel, and maintenance. Mowing usually leads to a use of chemicals. More importantly, mowing leads to a loss of biodiversity. There are alternatives to mowing that are more interesting, sustainable and natural.

I have been fortunate in my landscaping practice of to be presented with clients who are highly motivated individuals interested in bringing back some of our natural landscapes. Such individuals are John Shannon and his wife, Jan Serr.

Months of planning went into the construction of their new plant and 10-acre plot at Quick Cable in Caledonia, Wis. Construction of such a large landscape required employing a company with large equipment and experience installing native plants and seeds. The company also had to be familiar with the maintenance of prairies and wetlands to encourage the plants to grow, thrive, and become native plant communities.

A landscaping firm capable of doing this type of work is Terra Firma. Heather and Dave Schuster, who own the company, worked diligently through six months of planning before any planting began.

John Shannon hopes to create a nature club among his employees and offer the area to local schools to observe when they study native areas.

If we can continue to create natural areas in industrial sites, we will be able to bring back a sizable portion of the land that has been lost to construction and farming. We will save more of our native species to share with generations to come. It is my hope that we can do this so that in the end, we can truly enhance our natural ecosystems.

—JoAnn Gillespie, LitD

THE DESIGN called for using native plants, trees, and shrubs in the foundation landscape. Hickory trees (Carya ovata), Kentucky Coffee trees (Gymnocladus dioicus), Burr Oak (Quercus macrocarpa) and American Linden (Tilia americana) surround the building along with Red-osier Dogwood (Cornus sericea), Highbush Cranberry (Viburnum trilobum), and Fragrant Sumac (Rhus aromatica). Evergreens chosen were Juniper, Arbor Vitae and Scotch Pine. Forbs and grasses consisted of the usual prairie species, including Butterfly Milkweed (Asclepias tuberosa), Black-eyed Susans (Rudbeckia hirta), plus Little Bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium).

The retention pond was constructed next to the plant. The pond is 18 feet deep and will become the home of many species of Wisconsin fish. Water Celery (Vallisneria) was planted into the bed of the pond. White water lilies adorn the surface of the pond. The emergent edge of the pond consists of Bulrush (Scirpus), Arrowhead (Sagittaria latifolia), Sweet Flag (Acorus calamus), Bur-reed (Sparganium eurycarpum), and other emergent species. A wet meadow seed mix adorns the wet edge of the pond. A walking path graces the top of the pond and leads into and through the 5-acre prairie. The path will enable the employees to exercise while observing the natural areas.
Dick Young was born and raised in Oswego, Ill. One of his ancestors (Jacob W. Phillips) settled there in 1837, so he has had a long and intimate relationship with the land. He graduated from Oswego High School and began his college education at North Central College in Naperville. When World War II broke out, Dick enlisted as a Marine. He was wounded twice, took part in the battle of Iwo Jima, suffered the loss of 40 pounds, and was decorated for valor. When the war ended, he returned to NCC and received his BA in psychology and biology.

Dick worked as a mason and carpenter while pursuing his education, and he and his wife built their house out of cut limestone alongside the Fox River. They planted grass, Wild Plum trees and other vegetation on the roof to show people how to live better on the land. He took evening courses at Loyola University with the idea of getting a PhD in clinical psychology, but after three years, realized how worthless all that stuff seemed to be, so he abandoned that career.

Being in the construction business, he was familiar with the problems of urbanization. In 1959, Kendall County asked him to head their Building and Zoning Department, but he refused. He didn’t want to work for the government. Then one day, he saw two boys fish a condom out of the river, shake it off, and blow it up like a balloon. He screamed “No!” at them and decided to take the job with the county because maybe it would give him a free hand to clean up the rivers and streams.

To keep up with his new job, he worked toward an architect’s license and became AICP certified. But he found that drawing plans in an office was boring, so he went back to school where he received a MA from NIU in sociology and community planning. For his thesis, he studied the new York Town and Oak Brook shopping centers and learned that greenways and plants made people happy. His thesis was titled “Happiness Is A Landscaped Shopping Center.” He also began walking the railroad tracks in Kendall County looking for plants where he saw all the rear ends of buildings with their dumpsters and trash. He read botany books to learn the plants and began talking with Ray Schulenberg and Floyd Swink. In the early 1960s he invited them out for a walk in Kendall County and showed them 23 new species for their book.

As Kendall County planning director, he helped set up their Forest Preserve District and acquired the first lands to save. He helped make laws to clean up local streams, and even was fired for testifying against the county in a dispute over where to place a road and bridge.

While working for Kane County Forest Preserve, he designed Oak Hurst Lake where he built a marsh that filtered runoff from city storm sewers before its release into the river. In 1972 he became Kane County environmental director and increased their forest preserve holdings by 500 percent. In the 1970s he was also a spokesman for “The Fox” (an ecological activist who demonstrated against polluters of the Fox River).

Dick worked for Kendall County for 15 years and then Kane County for 22 years, during which time he received over a dozen honors and awards for his work in cleaning up the environment and saving natural areas. Just about the time he retired from Kane County as environmental director, he authored Kane County Wild Plants and Natural Areas, a most delightful book filled with drawings of over 1,200 plants and his personal insights about them. The book is now in its second printing, and Dick continues to influence Kane and other counties as an environmental consultant.

It is with great pleasure that we honor Dick Young for his honesty, integrity, and activism for the environment. He has always spoken his mind, stuck out his neck, risked criticism, and always been a defender of our rivers, streams and natural areas. For his intimate knowledge of the ecology of Kane, Kendall and Grundy counties, and for not being afraid to take on anyone and anything in his staunch defense of clean streams and the natural environment, we honor Dick Young as an Original Wild One!

—Pat Armstrong
"When considering a problem as large as the degradation of the global environment, it is easy to feel overwhelmed, utterly helpless to effect any change whatsoever. But we must resist that response, because this crisis will be resolved only if individuals take some responsibility for it. By educating ourselves and others, by doing our part to minimize our use and waste of resources, by becoming more active politically and demanding change—in these ways and many others, each one of us can make a difference. Perhaps most important, we each need to assess our own relationship to the natural world and renew, at the deepest level of personal integrity, a connection to it. And that can only happen if we renew what is authentic and true in every aspect of our lives.”

—Al Gore
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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.

“Life is like an exciting book, and every year starts a new chapter.”
—anonymous

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14 WILD ONES JOURNAL 20 JAN/FEB 2001
LAKE-TO-PRAIRIE CHAPTER
KARIN WISIOŁ (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).

Jan. 8—"Landscaping with Native Plants: the EPA's Natural Landscaping Program." Helen Tsiapas, coordinator of the USEPA Region 5 Natural Landscaping Work Group will describe materials and services available from the EPA and how the EPA works with partners on promoting native landscapes.

Feb. 12—"Water Gardens and Native Landscaping," presented by Ernie Selles of Patio Ponds. Ernie will cover 20 steps in building a water garden and will present some supply sources.

NATURALLY WILD of LA GRANGE CHAPTER
MALIA ARNETT (708) 354-3200
Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month, at The Natural Habitat Wildlife and Organic Garden Supply Store, 41 S. LaGrange Rd., LaGrange, at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

January—Regular meeting; topic to be announced.
Feb. 9—Slide show and talk on Jens Jensen, the father of prairie style architecture, presented by Jo Ann Nathan, director of the Jens Jensen Legacy Project of Chicago.

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. 11—Jack Shouba, instructor at Morton Arboretum, will talk about identifying parts of a flower and how this aids in identifying plant families.
Feb. 8—Speaker and topic to be announced.

ROCK RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER
SHEILA STENGER (815) 624-6076
Meetings are usually held the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., Jarrett Prairie Center, Byron Forest Preserve, 7993 N. River Road, Byron, unless otherwise noted. Call (815) 234-8535 for information. Public is welcome.

Jan. 18—Build-it Day; members will be assembling bluebird houses.
Feb. 15—Severson Dells Naturalist Don Miller will show slides illustrating remnant prairies in Winnebago County. Meeting will be held at the Severson Dells Environmental Center, 8786 Montague Road, Rockford.

INDIANA
GIBSON WOODS CHAPTER
JOY BOWER (219) 989-9679
Meetings are held the second Monday of every month, First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City, unless otherwise noted.

KENTUCKY
FRANKFORT CHAPTER
KATIE CLARK (502) 226-4766
Meetings are usually held on the second Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the Salato Wildlife Education Center Greenhouse (#1 Game Farm Rd, off US 60 W (Louisville Rd.), Frankfort, unless otherwise noted.

LOUISVILLE CHAPTER
PORTIA BROWN (502) 454-4007
Meetings are usually held the fourth Tuesday of the
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SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER
SUE STOWELL
(616) 468-7031
Meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m., Sarett Nature Center, unless otherwise noted.

MINNESOTA
ARROWHEAD CHAPTER
CAROL ANDREWS
(218) 727-9340
carol_andrews@hotmail.com
Meetings are usually held the third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Location will change each month. Check website for details: www.d.umn.edu/~wildones.
Jan. 18—Organizational meeting, including planning for workshops on "How to Landscape with Native Plants."
Feb. 15—Presentation by a local native plant nursery and landscaping professional.

OTTER TAIL CHAPTER
KAREN TERRY
(218) 736-5520
terry714@prtel.com
Meetings are held the fourth Monday of the month, 7 p.m., at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, Fergus Falls.
Jan. 22—Members will meet at Karen Terry’s house to make Aldo Leopold benches.
Feb. 26—Program to be announced. Visitors are welcome.

ST. CLOUD CHAPTER
GREG SHIRLEY
(320) 259-0825
wildonesmn@home.com
Meetings are usually held the third Tuesday of the month at the Heritage Nature Center, 6:30 p.m.
January—Member meeting; speaker to be announced. February—Member meeting; speaker to be announced.

MISSOURI
MID-MISSOURI CHAPTER
LESA BEAMER
beamerl@missouri.edu
Meetings are usually held the second Saturday of the month, 1:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Location varies.
Jan 13—1:30 p.m. Networking and planning session at Lesa Beamer’s house. Members will discuss possible projects for the upcoming year.
Feb. 12—7 p.m. Joint meeting with Hawthorn Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society. Ann Wakeman will be leading a wild flower propagation workshop.

ST. LOUIS CHAPTER
SCOTT WOODBURY
swoodbury@ridgway.mobot.org
Meetings are usually held the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.; public is welcome.
Jan. 3—3rd Annual Aldo Leopold Bench Party. Members are encouraged to help assemble benches made of Eastern Red Cedar cleared as part of the arboretum’s glade restoration project. Location: Shaw Arboretum Maintenance Shop area, just inside the service entrance.
Feb. 10—Tree relocation demonstration at Ana Grace’s. For more information call Scott Woodbury.

NEW YORK
CHENANGO VALLEY CHAPTER
HOLLY STEGNER
(315) 824-1178
jlittle@mail.colgate.edu
For location, date, and times of meetings please contact above.
Feb. 20—Members will be planting wildflower seeds in propagating beds, for transplanting in the spring; will also begin working with a landscape architect concerning plant selections for the Hamilton Village Green.

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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
MICHAEL HALL.................... (614) 939-9273
Meetings are usually held the second Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted) at 10 a.m. at Innis House, Inniswood Metropolitan Park, 940 Hempstead Rd., Westerville. Meetings are free and open to the public.

OKLAHOMA
CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CHAPTER
MICHELLE RAGGE.............. (405) 466-3930
Meetings 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. Public welcome.
3rd Saturday of the month—Monthly work day at the Environmental Center located at Hwy 33 and Coyle Rd., Payne County. For more information call above number.

WISCONSIN
CENTRAL WISCONSIN CHAPTER
PHYLLIS TUCHSCHER............ (715) 384-8751
toolsch@tznet.com
Meetings are usually held the fourth Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., in Rooms 1&2, Portage County Extension Building, 1462 Strongs Ave., Stevens Point. Meetings are usually held at the Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Rd. January—No meeting.
February 22—Annual meeting, seed exchange and presentation by Donna VanBuecken on our rescue digs, entitled “Guerrilla Gardening in the Fox Valley.” 7 p.m., Evergreen Retirement Community, Oshkosh.

GREEN BAY CHAPTER
KATHIE TILOT.................. (920) 336-4992
Meetings are usually held at the Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Rd. January—No meeting. Feb. 22—Annual meeting, seed exchange and presentation by Donna VanBuecken on our rescue digs.

MADISON CHAPTER
DIANE POWELKA............... (608) 837-6308
Meetings will be held at Olbrich Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Rd. January—No meeting. Jan. 25—The meeting topic will be about orchids.

GREEN BAY CHAPTER
KATHIE TILOT.................. (920) 336-4992
Meetings are usually held at the Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Rd. January—No meeting. Feb. 22—Annual meeting, seed exchange and presentation by Donna VanBuecken on our rescue digs, entitled “Guerrilla Gardening in the Fox Valley.” 7 p.m., Evergreen Retirement Community, Oshkosh.

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.
Leaves—Sessions will be held by Karen Winicki, principal of the school. Karen will present a slide program telling how woodland, wetland and prairie areas benefit the students in their studies, kindergarten through third grade. Free and open to the public. For more information call (414) 228-4689.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2001

Call, write or check our web site for further information about CSLD:
www.cslld.edu
413-369-4044

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**Things Ethereal...**

**SACRED GROUND**

Do you have a story to share about the landscape around your church, temple or synagogue? Do you have a photograph of your house of worship with its natural landscape? Wild Ones Journal has a “creation stewardship” issue scheduled for 2001. If you have something to add, please contact WOF’s editor (contact info on page 14 of this issue).

**INTERNET HOME LANDSCAPE DESIGN SURVEY RESULTS**

A research team at the University of Michigan, including Professor Joan Nassauer (one of the speakers at our 2000 national meeting and conference), has conducted an on-line survey of opinions about landscape design alternatives. Results will be used to help identify socially acceptable ways to promote land stewardship and native plant landscaping. To view the results, visit the following website:
http://www.snre.umich.edu/nassauer/hlds_post_pg1.html

**INTERNET SCHOOLING**

The WindStar Wildlife Institute (a national non-profit conservation organization) has just introduced a new internet course—Certified Wildlife Habitat Naturalist. Neil Diboll (mentioned on page 4 of this issue) is one of the 14 instructors. To learn more about the course, contact Tom Patrick at (301) 293-3351 or log-on to:
http://www.windstar.org/homestudy/index.htm
Don't get stung! If the imprint above is dated 2/1/01 or 3/1/01, your membership's about to expire.

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USE FORM ON PREVIOUS PAGE TO RENEW. NOTIFY US IF YOU MOVE AS BULK MAIL IS NOT FORWARDED.

CONFERENCES YOU SIMPLY MUST ATTEND

JANUARY 20—TOWARD HARMONY WITH NATURE V—All-day natural landscaping conference featuring expert speakers, exhibitors and more at the Park Plaza Convention Centre, One North Main, Oshkosh, Wis. Call for brochure: (920) 589-2602 or write to Fox Valley Area Wild Ones, 2801 E. Hietpas St., Appleton, WI 54911-8755 or email WOresource@aol.com


FEBRUARY 24—MCHENRY COUNTY (ILL.) WILDFLOWER PRESERVATION & PROPAGATION COMMITTEE NATURAL LANDSCAPING SEMINAR—All-day workshop. Guests: Steve Packard, Pat Armstrong, Janice Stiefel. Call (815) 338-0393.

MARCH 1-2—INVASIVE PLANTS CONFERENCE FOR UPPER MIDWEST—Ramada Inn, Eau Claire, Wis. For info, contact River County RC&D, 1101 W. Clairemont Ave., Suite 1C, Eau Claire, WI 54701; (715) 834-9672; lisad@win.bright.net.

MARCH 4-5—TEACHERS WORKSHOP & CONFERENCE—“A Native Tradition for our Children—The New American Garden.” Kellogg Center, MSU; $25. Neil Diboll keynote speaker. Contact for info about both conferences: Marji@iserv.net or Marji Fuller, 3853 Farrell Rd., Hastings, MI 49058.

MARCH 10—NORTHERN ILLINOIS PRAIRIE WORKSHOP—College of DuPage in GlenEllyn, Ill. All-day savanna/woodland/wetland workshop. Call (630) 942-2716 for information.