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Wild Ones—Natural Landscapers



A VOICE FOR THE NATURAL LANDSCAPING MOVEMENT

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# Wild Ones<sup>®</sup> Journal

## TO BE LAID IN A PLACE OF LIFE TAKING NATURAL LANDSCAPING (AND MORE) TO CEMETERIES

*"I am slowly falling  
into the fund of things. And yet to serve the earth,  
not knowing what I serve, gives a wideness  
and a delight to the air, and my days  
do not wholly pass."*

—Wendell Berry  
"Enriching the Earth"

Farming:  
A Handbook



THERE ARE MANY CEMETERIES where efforts are being made to manage the grounds, and in some cases even what happens underground, in ways that are friendly to the land, but the City of Dowagiac's Riverside Cemetery is as good a place to start as any.

This small-town cemetery in rural Michigan hosts a nesting pair of Great Horned Owls among its older hickories and oaks. Wild Turkeys roam through the tombstones, and raptors

BY NATHAN AABERG

*Grave near Wheatland, Ill., surrounded by species from other countries.*

*Illustration from Reading the Landscape of America © May Theilgaard Watts, used by permission of the publisher.*

are numerous, attracted to the many squirrels and birds. The cemetery benefits from being adjacent to a wildlife refuge, but the abundance of life there is also due to active efforts of people.

Gary Carlile, director of grounds for the city, manages Riverside Cemetery with the direction and input of the cemetery's board, which includes two master gardeners. In a collaborative effort, they've sought to maintain a clean, attractive cemetery without being, in Gary's words, "sterile and lifeless." Just one measure of their success has been the cemetery's certification as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. Ground crews have used left-over concrete to make birdbaths under leaking spigots and have planted bird-friendly shrubs and trees. The staff has even used chicken wire to protect eggs laid by turtles from raids by raccoons and opossums. When the eggs hatch, the wire is removed and the baby turtles make their way down to the nearby stream.

The response of staff and city residents has been positive. People come to walk the grounds, and Carlile says he often knows who will be passing through by the time of the day. When staff began building birdhouses and feeders from scrap materials, some people began to request these bird amenities be placed near the graves of their loved ones. The staff takes satisfaction from coming up with new ways to help wildlife, and bird lore has been passed down to new generations of workers.

Carlile, who graduated college with a degree in biology and natural resource management, didn't expect to be managing a municipal cemetery, but he's found satisfaction there. The words of one of his professors resonated deeply—"If you do good in little places, it still counts."

### 121,000 BUSHELS OF LEAVES

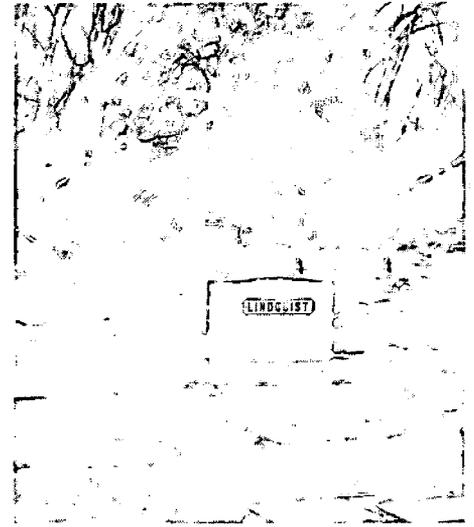
We, too, are about the little places. But what we do with our modest home grounds and schoolyards sprouts forth from all-encompassing values with deep, insistent roots. We wild gardeners have more in common than just a particular palette of garden plants. We're wounded and angered

by the careless destruction of nature, our hearts are glad when we are close to the world around us, and we want to take actions where we are to make things better. Most importantly, our concern for the life we share this world with is not just a compartment of our life but permeates all of it.

When I first started thinking about other landscapes where these values could be brought to bear, the cemetery seemed like an obvious one. After all, the traditional cemetery's carpet of barren turf grass has the same shortcomings, but on a larger scale, as the traditional turf grass front yard—forever thirsty for water, herbicide-addicted, maintained by particulate-belching machines, and largely destitute of habitat. In a cemetery trade magazine, the general manager of a large cemetery described, with evident pride, how the "problem" of falling leaves from the cemetery's many trees was dealt with—seven of his staff use blowers to move the leaves to the driveways where a large vacuum sucks them up to be shredded. This mechanized operation ultimately removes 121,000 bushels of leaves (which are, to the cemetery's partial credit, then turned into compost for the cemetery's gardens).

My father, who serves on the board of a Chicago cemetery, has always been ready (sometimes disconcertingly so) to talk about the practicalities of death and burial. When I began to hint of my ideas, he told me a story of a woman with a loved one at his cemetery who complained that the grounds were turning into a prairie because of infrequent mowing. The grass, my father told me, was just a bit lengthy at that point, and the word prairie was no compliment.

The cemetery is, indeed, not just another landscape. It is a sacred place with both private and public functions. We, as a country, recognize this public function by giving cemeteries freedom from property taxes, and municipalities often take over the care of cemeteries when the cemetery's management no longer has the funds to do so. Even when the cemetery landscape is, to us, needlessly sterile, there is still an expectation among many for what they've always known cemeteries to be.



But the cemetery's special nature and its public and private functions make it all the more important for more natural options to be available. As individual citizens, we should have the right to have a burial and burial place that reflect our values and that are satisfying to us and those who know us. Its public function requires our respect and caution, but also permits our expectation that it serve a greater common good. Most importantly, death should remind us of our shared fate and connection with the rest of the world. There would be great symbolic benefits to our society's relationship with land if our rituals and places of death reflected our kinship with the rest of life.

### THE CEMETERY'S EVER-CHANGING WAYS

A little research quickly reveals, however, that there is not some single, sacred ideal of burial and burial places throughout history, much less in the last two centuries. Circumstances and changing values have shaped what has been done at particular times.

If you would like to experience a form of cemetery landscape quite different from today's, visit one of the 16 (by my count) Illinois cemeteries that are protected as Nature Preserves by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Early pioneers, who set aside a patch of prairie for their burials, founded these small cemeteries. Today, in these and many other pioneer cemeteries, you can find prairie and savanna plants, especially in those where fire has been regularly applied. Ironically, an important foundation for

**OPPOSITE:** Rosehill Cemetery (Chicago). A slice of cemetery life as geese reprimand a coyote for coming too close to their turf (grass). The woodland in the background has long been undeveloped and has harbored wildlife, including nesting ducks. **RIGHT:** Spring in Spring Grove Cemetery, an Illinois Nature Preserve in Warren County. A few weeks earlier, Monmouth College students carried out a prescribed burn on half of the preserve as a conservation management experiment. In the foreground, fresh green shoots of prairie plants sprout from blackened earth while the unburned section stands as a memory of the glory of last summer's growth.



our understanding of the composition of prairies comes thanks to these places of memories. For nearly two decades, Dr. Robert F. Betz combed through 824 pioneer cemeteries in northern Illinois and northwestern Indiana. From the 29 silt-loam cemeteries with the most diversity, Dr. Betz found 180 native plant species from 43 different families.

Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cam-

bridge, Mass., represents another alternative form. Established in 1831 by members of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Mount Auburn was the first of many "garden" or "rural" cemeteries that were large, expansive and landscaped to inspire the same feelings a natural area would. Varied terrain (ponds, hills, winding paths) combined with a rich planting scheme made these rural

cemeteries unlike anything that had ever come before. In fact, they attracted large numbers of visitors from the large cities they lay close to. People took afternoon walks and some enjoyed picnics on the grounds. These were, as the authors of *Silent Cities* put it, "America's first large-scale public open spaces." Their success helped spark the creation of public parks and gave a boost to the

*These notes are from a devoted steward of a small Wisconsin prairie cemetery that has never officially been mowed. The steward prefers to remain anonymous, but the suggestions speak of diligence, sensitivity and a desire to preserve beauty. "I am concerned that when I eventually join the ranks of the deceased or become too old to remove weeds," the steward writes, "that no one will take over where I have left off. There doesn't seem to be enough interest in preservation work." Thank you, steward, for sharing your experience and for your care of a special place.*

## HOLDING OFF THE MOWERS

### TIPS ON TENDING A PRAIRIE CEMETERY

**Create a list of the plants** located in your cemetery. Are any of them threatened or endangered? What forms of wildlife rely on these specific plants for survival?

**Avoid being confrontational** with those who have legal jurisdiction over the land. Share information about the land with them. **Make a list of knowledgeable individuals** (with their titles, experience, phone numbers, etc.) who can be consulted to support landscape preservation and offer direction for those in authority over the cemetery. **Control invasive weeds.** Consult with your state natural areas experts for proper management techniques and for how to prioritize the work to be done. Try to obtain the cooperation of neighbors in keeping weeds in check by creating a buffer area around the cemetery where invasive plants are discouraged. **Have a large, rustic-looking sign** professionally made and placed near the cemetery entrance explaining its unmowed condition. This will help those unfamiliar with native vegetation to accept a cemetery setting they are unaccustomed to. It will also discourage well-meaning individuals from bringing in a mower to "clean up the place." (Remember, early settlers did not have mowed lawns. This is how it appeared to them.) **Keep a log** of those visiting the site because of its native landscape. This

will help establish its value to a broader segment of the population. **Create a map** for cemetery visitors to help pinpoint hard-to-find tombstones when vegetation is tall. If tombstone restoration is necessary, it should probably be done in the spring after spring burning. Avoid the use of heavy equipment. **Give special attention to the families** of the deceased. Be sure they understand why the native vegetation needs to be preserved. If it is decided by "the powers that be" that limited mowing is desired, **create a management plan** to be kept on file that can be agreed upon by those involved. Be sure those doing the mowing understand their limitations.

emerging profession of landscape architecture.

Such a cemetery elicited praise from a famous naturalist. John Muir, temporarily out of money in 1867, camped out in Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah, Ga. Bonaventure was established in 1846 on 70 acres with the same landscaping philosophy as Mount Auburn. We associate Muir with impassioned words about the West, but listen to his impression of Bonaventure:

**“Bonaventure to me is one of the most impressive assemblages of animal and plant creatures that I have ever met. I gazed awe-stricken as one new-arrived from another world. Bonaventure is called a graveyard, a town of the dead, but the few graves are powerless in such a depth of life. The rippling of living waters, the song of birds, the joyous confidence of flowers, the calm, undisturbable grandeur of the oaks, mark this place of graves as one of the Lord’s most favored abodes of life and light.”**

#### NEEDED OASES

As we push wildlife and natural systems everywhere to the brink of extinction and dysfunction, cemeteries can offer ecological value even as they serve human needs. The size and tranquility of cemeteries make them uniquely valuable in the urban and suburban landscape. Migrating birds are especially needy and especially able to take advantage of a welcoming island of green.

Today, for example, Mount Auburn Cemetery is no longer on the outskirts of anything, but is a green oasis in the midst of Boston’s vast metropolis. It is here that migrant birds making their way along the Atlantic coast come for respite, attracted to the cemetery’s ponds and rich vegetation. What’s more the cemetery is making active efforts to further help the birds, by planting bird-friendly shrubs and bushes that provide food and shelter throughout the year and by allowing some trees to die and turn into snags. It is an amazing place for birds—over 200 species have been observed, with 46 species having bred there at one time or another. These breeding birds

have included Great Horned Owls, Ring-necked Pheasants, Red-tailed Hawks, Belted Kingfishers, and Northern Hummingbirds. Birders are sometimes just as numerous. On one April morning, about 500 birders came out to enjoy the birding sights.

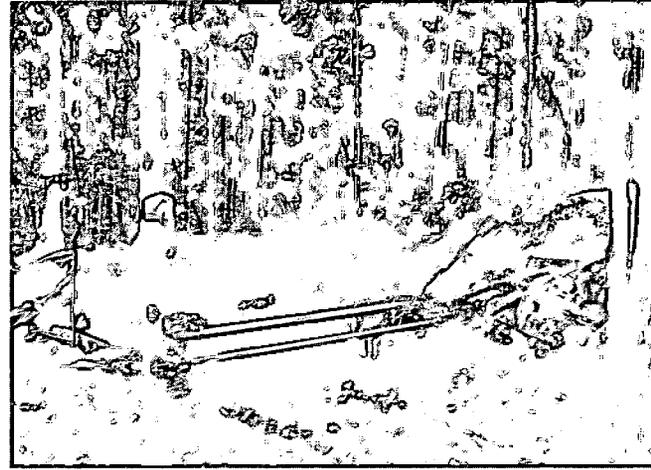
Cemeteries are part of watersheds as well. By managing their landscapes for wildlife, cemeteries will become better neighbors, shedding less of the rain that falls on their grounds and reducing the burden on local waterways.

#### A RECIPROCAL NEED

It’s impolite, of course, to ask something of a partner without offering something in return. And we do have something to offer. Many cemeteries are as disconnected with their surrounding communities and culture as they are with the natural world. The days are long gone when people thronged to cemeteries for recreation or even frequent visits to visit the resting place of loved ones. The cemetery has become lonely, isolated from the surrounding community, and, as *Silent Cities* describes it, “... an unsettling and unwanted reminder of mortality.”

Moreover, local cemeteries face several tangible threats as well. The most immediate is the very real possibility that in a few years or decades, care for the cemetery will be untenable. Once all of the land has been used for interments, perpetually maintaining the cemetery can exhaust even well-managed funds. Purchase by a large funeral service corporation brings its own problems and desiccates local responsiveness and relationships.

The growing popularity of cremation is also part of the mix. A recent survey found that more than 50 percent of Baby Boomers planned to be cremated, primarily for reasons of expense, land wastage, and simplicity. By disconnecting a person’s death from a particular place of common remembrance, we are only, I believe, accelerating our placelessness. Ironi-



ABOVE: A woodland grave site is readied in the Ramsey Creek Preserve.

cally, the environmental benefits of cremation don’t really outweigh this last uprooting. A short story in *Sierra Magazine* (January/February 1999) detailed the air pollutants produced by cremation—carcinogenic dioxins, trace metals, sulfur dioxide, hydrochloric and hydrofluoric acids and carbon dioxide.

As cemeteries struggle with preserving their grounds and their links to community life, a growing group of people volunteer to restore lands and to adopt particular places for the sake of wildlife. A connection has already been made in England. Volunteers organized by Friends of the York Cemetery, a group formed to help care for an abandoned cemetery, created a Scented Walk on the grounds. This 200 x 2-meter stretch of aromatic flowers, herbs and shrubs primarily serves blind and partially sighted persons by offering easy access to a wide variety of scents and textures over the course of a year. Wildlife and local residents have also been attracted. Not a big story, but a heartening one of a cemetery regaining its links to the community.

If restoration has taught us anything, it is that these days, in the face of invasive plant species and the stifling of natural processes, maintaining the ecological health of most natural landscapes requires engagement by people. This engagement brings its own rewards and is attracting thousands of people dedicated to stewardship. Their attachment to place and memory would make them good partners to cemeteries.

## APPLYING CREATION'S "MANUAL OF STYLE"

Dr. Billy Campbell, M.D., founder of Memorial Ecosystems, Inc. (MEI) has not just been thinking about the shape of the ideal earth-friendly cemetery, he's in the process of making such a place a reality. Visit the 32-acre Ramsey Creek Preserve in South Carolina, the pilot project of MEI (or visit the website at *memorialecosystems.com*), and you'll have an idea of what we can aim for.

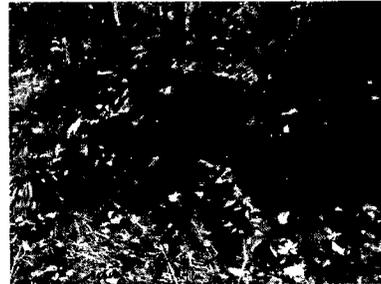
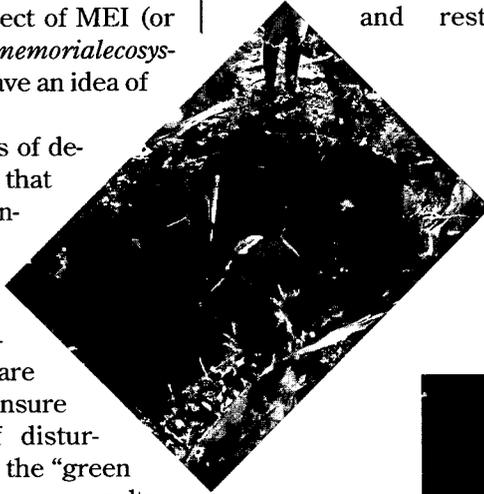
There are thousands of details at Ramsey Creek that speak of an environmental conscience, but just consider the burials. Burial locations within the preserve's mature forests are carefully selected to ensure the least amount of disturbance. In keeping with the "green burial" approach, there are no vaults, no industrial caskets, and remains are unembalmed or embalmed with environmentally safe substances. Soil is removed in layers so that the soil can then be placed back in the hole in the same order as it was taken out. Forest litter and root mats are later repositioned on top of the resulting mound. The soil of the mound may even be revegetated.

The only monument allowed is a flat stone marker, preferably made of the local geological formations, and this stone marker encourages the presence of ant colonies, critical for the dispersal of certain tree seeds. If a marker is not desired, don't worry about finding the exact spot again—use of a Geographic Information System allows MEI staff to record exactly where the burial took place.

MEI has also carefully studied the ecology of the area and attempts to use burial mounds to replicate the naturally occurring disturbance cycle of the area, which takes the form of pits and pit-mounds. Pits and pit-mounds are formed when severe weather causes trees to fall over, ripping out a portion of their roots from the earth and leaving, eventually, an elevated portion of organic material where the fallen tree rested. Like fire on a prairie, this pattern of disturbance is

ultimately beneficial as the small-scale variations in hydrology and soil conditions create a wider range of habitats for vegetation.

A doctor with a family practice and a long-time environmental advocate, Campbell established MEI to enable people to have their remains returned to nature and to use their burial as a means to conserve land and restore habitats.



MEI graves make little environmental impact. Soil is replaced in the same strata from which it was dug. The grave may be marked with a native stone monument or left unmarked.



Active restoration of the grounds is the *modus operandi* of the preserve's maintenance, and a community role is envisioned as well. Campbell expects to use the restoration projects to enrich students' education and to even pursue restoration research.

A for-profit firm, MEI commits 25 percent of gross income to the purchase of more preserve land as well as restoration activities and watershed conservation. The Ramsey Creek Preserve's land has already been given to a land trust, and MEI is seeking to acquire adjacent land along Ramsey Creek.

Campbell consciously chose a for-profit structure. It will, he explains, enable MEI to attract capital. Capital is what is needed to begin making a dent in an industry that takes in \$25 billion per year and gives little value back to the earth. "Somewhere between 'greed is good' and 'profit is bad' lies the idea of right livelihood," he says. "If for every dollar we make personally, 10 dollars go to the environment, we have probably hit the right note."

*Nathan Aaberg is a development writer for Friends of the Chicago River and a member of Wild Ones' North Park Chapter. He welcomes further information about flora and fauna of cemeteries.*

## SHAPING VALUES

Our yards, filled with native plants that attract congregations of insects and birds and all manner of living and dying things, say something of our values. The typical cemetery says, like many of our other land-use patterns, *land can and should be used for human purposes with no careful regard for the rest of life.* Our modern funerals and

burial places are an elaborate denial of our connection to land and water. With toxic chemicals and underground fortresses, we deny that we are made of the same atoms, the same dust that we share with all other life.

In *Reclaiming The Commons*, Brian Donahue asserts that what will really determine the environment's fate is how we use the land where we are. If we cannot use our everyday land sustainably while preserving ecological health and richness, then our wildlands will never be safe and our people will never understand in their bones what a land ethic is all about. The cemetery is a ubiquitous place where people use land for human purposes. By managing it in ways that replenished it, we would demonstrate a land ethic necessary for the world's survival.

But a life-preserving way of burial and commemoration would be more than that. It would be an important, insistent means of bringing people to truly see death in all its complexity and to see it as part of life. In our religious traditions as in our understanding of ecology, death is not final or devoid of hope. Such a way of death and remembrance could begin to shape the values of our world in ways that would delight our bodies and our souls. ♣

*"Our native landscape is our home, the little world we live in, where we are born and where we play, where we grow up and finally where we are laid to eternal rest. It speaks of the distant past and carries our life into the tomorrow. To keep this pure and unadulterated is a sacred heritage, a noble task of the highest cultural value."—Jens Jensen*

## TO THEME THE IMPOSSIBLE THEME

**N**on-profit organizations, such as Wild Ones, often run articles about *planned giving*. You know what that means. We want your donation now ... and after you're gone. The articles usually go on to describe socially beneficial wills, bequests, endowments, trusts, appreciated securities, gift assets, conservancy easements, deed restrictions, and various ways to avoid paying capital gains and other taxes. After several paragraphs, you finally read the only advice that matters: *Seek legal counsel to discuss your particular circumstances—and do it while you're well.* (To learn more about creative giving, read the book *Robin Hood Was Right: A Guide to Giving Your Money for Social Change.*)

Let me tell you a story about a neighbor I'll call Margaret. While in the hospital and stricken with cancer, Margaret contacted an attorney and had a will drawn up that stated her 45-acre property was to be donated to a county conservancy group. After Margaret's death, the conservancy board accepted the gift, but they did not want to be liable for the farmhouse and outbuildings (and they refused to donate them to the local historical society who asked to assume all responsibility). So the buildings, and the land on which they sit, are to be sold. There is a pattern in this neighborhood: Buyers purchase a site for its land and bulldoze old buildings. Most of the houses going up in the area are large and surrounded by lawns. In my worst fantasies, I imagine people moving onto Margaret's land who will destroy its history, spray pesticides, plant invasive species and release their cat to undo the highly successful Bluebird trail my husband has established on the remainder of the conservancy property.

You and I know this is probably not what Margaret had in mind, but all that was left to legally speak for her were three sheets of paper and a lawyer who barely met her. Don't let this happen to your estate. Take the time to hunt down an attorney with a sensitivity to your special interests. Make it clear on paper and with an executor that you want, for instance, certain books from your collection to go to particular friends or the local library or Wild Ones' embryonic reference library. Tell your family that if your property is to be sold and the new owners won't perpetuate your natural landscape, then to contact Wild Ones or a local nature center to arrange a plant rescue. In this way, we have the power to convert our last touch with this Earth into one mighty, final shove to affect this planet's course. —Joy Buslaff

### A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMORIAL GIFTS

*Much of our membership is of the age that our parents have passed away, and we understand first hand what natural succession really means. In the past year, Executive Director Donna VanBuecken suffered the loss of first her dad, then her mom. With each parent's passing, VP Mandy Ploch made a donation to Wild Ones' Seeds For Education Fund in Donna's parent's memory. Donna's family also made donations to the Schools Video Project in their parents' names.*

*One of the Fox Valley Area Chapter's members, Dick Swider, passed away last fall. Dick and his wife Nancy have been dedicated members for many years, opening their yard for tours and serving on this chapter's conference steering committee. In Dick's obituary, mention was made of his membership in Wild Ones, to which memorials were directed. Funds will be used for the Schools Video Project described on the following page.*

### LET ME LIVE OUT MY LIFE IN A PLACE I LOVE

- Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, Charles Darwin's friend and one of the key botanists of the 19th century, is famous for his adventures in Tibet collecting Rhododendrons. He later served as director of England's Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, until an age when his doctors thought the time had come for him to retire. Twenty-six years later, at the age of 94, Hooker died peacefully while working amongst his Balsams.
- Samuel Eales, who emigrated to North America in 1841, taught for many years and, in 1873, developed a business in "floriculture," which he kept up until his death. The 90-year-old pioneer "was at the table with his family at noon Tuesday, and afterwards went to the greenhouse" where he was later found dead.
- Aldo Leopold, land ethicist and author of *A Sand County Almanac*, died in 1948 of a heart attack at age 61 while fighting a neighbor's accidental grass fire near his Baraboo, Wis., home.
- Jim Zimmerman, the author of the popular *Wildflowers and Weeds* book, left us too soon in October 1992 at the age of 68 while tending a small prairie on the shore of a Wisconsin lake.

## DUES INCREASE EFFECTIVE APRIL 1

**W**ild Ones is almost a quarter century old, and it has been a quarter century of growth. Wild Ones started with a few dedicated natural landscapers who met at the Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee and has grown to a membership of 3,000 households, three dozen chapters in a dozen states and members in almost every part of the country. In that time, our organization has been at the vanguard of educating people about sound landscaping practices by promoting the use of native plants in natural landscapes.

Our growth has occasioned increased efforts to reach out with our message. In the last few years, we have expanded *Wild Ones Journal* to become the premier natural landscaping periodical for homeowners, published a handbook, developed a website (which is visited by thousands each year) and hired our first executive director. As a result, we have been effective at getting out the message and being there for our members. But these good things come at a cost.

As you may know, 40 percent of your fully tax-deductible membership fee goes back to your local chapter to support their projects. The balance, a mere \$12, has proven insufficient to pay for the costs of running the national organization. Dues have not increased since 1996, and since that time we have worked very hard to stretch every dollar. In January 2001, the board of directors voted to increase dues from \$20 to \$30 per household. The increase is effective April 1, 2001.

No one wanted to increase dues, but the alternatives were to eliminate issues of *WOJ* or the website or cut the share that chapters received. Those options are not options. We cannot do those things and continue our efforts to effectuate our mission.

As part of our efforts to increase revenue, this year the board will be making a comprehensive effort to increase membership. Board members Lorraine Johnson, Joe Powelka, Maryann Whitman and I will be heading that effort. Through a campaign called "Each One, Reach One, Wild One," we will be working with all members to reach out to friends, family, neighbors and others to become Wild Ones members. (There will be more about this effort in upcoming mailings.)

We thank those of you who have donated your dollars to Wild Ones over the years. You have helped make many projects possible. Your continuing contributions will help us reach more people, like yourself, who appreciate natural landscapes.

For today, as I look out on the bleak winter from my office, I know that spring is just around the corner. Jina and I have great plans for our yard this year. We are also working with three Deerfield Schools on outdoor classrooms. I know each of you have similar projects on the near horizon. Happy planting. 🌱 —Bret Rappaport

*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."—Winston Churchill*

## A TAPESTRY OF LEARNING: Creating School Natural Areas

**W**ild Ones has produced a video to introduce the idea of creating an outdoor school natural area using native plant species. The intended audience would be teachers, parent-teacher organizations, neighbors, community groups and possible school natural area funding sources. Featuring Lorrie Otto prominently throughout, the video captures in just seven minutes the essence of an outdoor learning center. Produced by David Savinski, the narration and sound track was provided gratis by Emmy award-winning video producer Mike Syverson, who is a Wild One through marriage. The Fox Valley Area Chapter of Wild Ones spearheaded the production of this video and provided funds along with other Wild Ones members and several other organizations.

To purchase this special marketing tool, send your check made out to Wild Ones and mail to Wild Ones, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, WI 54912-1274. Purchase price is \$10/each including S&H. Proceeds will help defray the costs of production.

## WILD ABOUT WILDFLOWERS New Video And CD-ROM Explain How to Choose And Grow Native Wildflowers And Grasses on Your Own Property

**T**he new instructional offerings mix beautiful footage and modern graphics with professional narration and inspiring music. The result is a showcase of Midwestern seasonal blooms, their identities and habitats. Wildflowers are the stars, but there's much more than pretty



images. Landowners learn how to get dirt on their hands—the real key to growing success in both small plots (next to the backyard patio, along the front sidewalk) and large parcels (whole-lawn conversions, restored native prairies). Produced by Tom Huggler, landowner and conservationist who replaced most of his sprawling lawn in southern Michigan with native blooms and grasses, "Wild About Wildflowers" is available in VHS tape and interactive CD-ROM, complete with Internet links to other websites. The Oakland Chapter of Wild Ones co-sponsored the production of the CD-ROM.

To purchase these learning tools, send your check made out to Wild Ones and mail to Wild Ones, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, WI 54912-1274. Price is \$25/each plus \$5 S&H for the first item and \$2 S&H for each additional item. Proceeds support Wild Ones.

*These wonderful resources would make great gifts to your local school. They could be used as a memorial gift or just simply as a nudge to get them off in the right direction. For more information about purchasing these items and other Wild Ones merchandise, email [WOMerchandise@aol.com](mailto:WOMerchandise@aol.com) (preferred) or call (877) 394-9453.*



BY JOY BUSLAFF

I believe much of the popularity of carpet-like lawns has to do with our bipedal anatomy and the mechanics of walking. We simply like to swing our feet in an unobstructed fashion, placing them on level ground without having to watch our every step. Lawns can provide that kind of "flooring." But they are usually dull and demanding.

A deck or boardwalk is a more convenient roadway—for foot, crutch, cane or wheel. Decks require much less maintenance time than turf, yet still communicate homeowner care. The landscape shown above communicates these additional messages: The visitor is obviously welcome to wander the deck to enjoy its continuum of vantage points and then sit, linger and relax.

The host has thoughtfully ensured the guest against coming into contact with nature unexpectedly—especially as regards soggy shoes. However, nothing prevents one from taking off their shoes and sitting on the deck to test the frigidity of the water at right. This is possible because there are no obstructing siderails. Their installa-

tion would only have used up financial and natural resources while detracting from the deck's basic elegance. Besides, handrails and attached seating are usually the first things to get wobbly and look shabby.

Notice how artistically pleasing an impression this scene makes. The contrast between the plain plane of the deck and the surrounding circus of natural forms excites our sensibilities. Often natural landscapers put a border *around* their garden, but in this case the whole is made more interesting because it demonstrates the inverse of the customary peripheral fencing. Here *we* exist in the middle, and the art encompasses us in a green-gilded frame.

The size of this deck points to how little flat space we bipeds actually need within our yards. The walking space seems gracious and adequate without dominating the scenery. And its tongue-like projection illustrates that a deck can be so much more than just a rectangle married to the side of a house.

Over the years, the owner may need to spend a few minutes modify-

The design of this landscape reassures us: We may have our human comforts yet still meet and mingle with the natural world. Photo by Andrew Leyerle, from Lorraine Johnson's book *Grow Wild!*

ing the deck to allow for tree growth, or they may prune the vegetation to maintain certain views, but if the deck is constructed properly, its life expectancy should be equal to or greater than that of any riding mower.

I can't imagine a more elegant solution for providing access to this life-filled ecosystem. Given the wet conditions, why, a lawn wouldn't even have been possible.

#### MATERIALS FOR DECKS

**Plastic Lumber:** In recent years, new materials have materialized for building decks. In fact an entire industry has been born to form plastic lumber, which may fall into three categories: 1) *all recycled plastic*, 2) a *polyethylene-waste wood composite* and 3) *polyvinylchloride (PVC)*.

Buying lumber products made of recycled milk jugs, grocery bags and shipping wrap stimulates a demand for recyclables and creates jobs. Plus, it reduces the amount of plastic going into landfills or incineration (which can produce dioxins or furans).

The companies selling plastic lumber rightfully brag that their product is superior to wood in a number of ways: no splinters, less warping, never needs protective sealants or painting, and it stands up to marine uses, yet it cuts and fastens much like wood. Because plastic lumber does not contain arsenic, as pressure-treated wood does, it's a popular choice for children's playground equipment, picnic tables, chairs and benches. The material can also be used for gazebos, fencing, signs and docks (although some people report the plastic can be slippery when wet).

The greatest drawback is initial cost. U.S. Plastic Lumber quotes these prices for a lineal foot of 2x4x144-inch

board: in black=\$1.50; in brown, beige, gray or yellow standard colors=\$1.75; and in blue, green, white or red premium colors=\$1.90. A 2x4x144 piece of pressure-treated wood runs about 40¢ per lineal foot. However, because plastic lumber is “longer-lived” than wood and does not require regular applications of paints, stains or preservatives (which can contain toxic chemical agents), its cost is less when factored over time.

Another manufacturer, Renaissance Plastic Lumber provides these estimates for a 12x20-foot deck.

#### PRESSURE-TREATED PINE

Materials	\$500
Cost for 5 years upkeep	\$750
Total for construction, upkeep and repair after 15 years	<u>\$3,200</u>

#### RENAISSANCE PLASTIC LUMBER

Materials	\$1,500
A power-wash every 5 years	\$100
Total cost after 15 years	<u>\$1,800</u>

If you feel you need to exactly match your house colors, Trex’s plastic-and-wood composite can be painted or stained. Latex paints provide the best results.

Check whether the materials you are buying are made for decking or for load-bearing posts, joists, beams or stringers. Always look for a label that indicates “all recycled materials,” and

#### MATERIALS FOR NESTBOXES

*For wildlife nestboxes, you’re still advised to use natural wood. Avoid PT wood because of the arsenic, and avoid exterior-grade plywood because it contains formaldehyde. Although I didn’t run across any studies tying wildlife morbidity or mortality to these chemically treated woods, it seems only prudent to turn to natural scrapwood when you’re building a little home for bird or bat.*

\* \* \*

*The Wild Bird Centers of America were among the charter members of the Certified Forest Products Council, which is an independent certifier of lands whose management meets strict standards for long-term soil productivity, wildlife and water quality protection, and social benefits such as lasting community employment. The Wild Bird Centers also claim to be the first to introduce birdfeeders and nestboxes made from wood grown in forests certified according to Forest Stewardship Council standards for environmental responsibility.*

avoid virgin PVC, which is derived directly from oil drilling... which leads to the inescapable fact that currently all construction plastics originate from oil, so even recycled materials are not without a little environmental sin.

**Cedar and Redwood:** These woods are naturally durable. Their tannins are off-putting to insects and fungus, but the homeowner usually treats the wood with sealers on a regular basis for additional protection.

When buying any lumber, look for a distributor who carries *certified forest products*. Ecotimber was the first all-certified wholesaler and is the largest supplier of ecological timber products, which are responsibly har-

vested with an eye on sustainability.

In 1999 Home Depot announced that it would “stop selling wood products from environmentally sensitive areas” and “give preference” to Forest Stewardship Council-certified products. I don’t know how hard it is to find certified products, but Home Depot would be a place to start.

**Pressure-Treated Pine:** The pressure-treated (PT) wood found commonly in the marketplace today (with a green or brown cast to it) has chromated copper arsenate (CCA) forced into it. It is a very effective preservation/pesticide formula against the fungus and insects that cause wood to decay. It is the material with which my husband and I built our own deck years ago. But these days I would vote with my dollars to support more Earth-friendly industries.

The problem with CCA is its ultimate release in the environment. It will either leach slowly where it stands or it will be unleashed when it is put in a landfill or burned. You should never burn PT wood because the arsenic is both released into the air and retained in the ashes. There are records of people and livestock having been poisoned from contact with PT wood ashes.

(Never count on the public to pay attention to warning labels—our neighbors have burned the stuff in their firepit despite our recommendations to the contrary.)

Even in state-of-the-art incinerators, the heavy metals of CCA are not destroyed and should be treated as

#### RESOURCES

AMERICAN ECOBOARD	(800) 567-9851	ecoboard.cc
BRICKDECKS	(215) 699-4096	brickdecks.com
CAREFREE (U.S. Plastic Lumber)	(800) 653-2784	carefree-products.com
CERTIFIED FOREST PRODUCTS COUNCIL	(503) 590-6600	certifiedwood.org
CHEMICAL SPECIALTIES	(800) 421-8661	treatedwood.com
ECOTIMBER	(888) 801-0855	ecotimber.com
FOREVER DECK	(800) 886-8990	plasticlumberyard.com
PERMA-DECK	(303) 470-7555	permadeckusa.com
POLYWOOD	(732) 248-8810	polywood.com
RAINFOREST RELIEF	(718) 398-3760	enviroweb.org/ rainrelief
RENAISSANCE PLASTIC LUMBER	(800) 543-6707	rp-lumber.com
TREX COMPANY	(800) BUY-TREX	trex.com

hazardous waste. The chromium and copper become concentrated in the ash while the arsenic vaporizes.

**Arsenic-Free PT Wood:** A company called Chemical Specialties touts its pressure-treated wood product. Called Preserve®, it is infused with ACQ®, a preservative system that, instead of arsenic and chromium, uses copper and quat (quaternary ammonia—a fungicide that is used in some shampoos and swimming pool chemicals). Preserve contains no EPA-listed hazardous chemicals, however the ingredients are still toxic. As with other pressure-treated wood, it can be left to age to a natural gray or painted or stained. The manufacturer suggests normal woodworking precautions plus these additional ones: wash thoroughly with mild soap and water after working with Preserve; wood scraps should be disposed of by burial in ordinary landfills; do not burn.

**Creosote-treated Lumber:** Utility poles and railroad ties are treated with creosote, a coal-derived hydrocarbon. Creosote's use and distribution are

limited by law, so you're unlikely to get this wood unless you inherit your local utility's retired poles (they're replaced every couple of decades) or buy used ties from a landscape company (the railroads usually deal only with landscape businesses, not the general public). Because of their hefty dimensions, these timbers are ideal for support structure under a deck. CT lumber can be burned in industrial or municipal incinerators.

**Tropical Hardwoods:** It is possible to build beautiful, long-lasting outside structures with tropical hardwoods, but I can find no reason to recommend the practice unless you actually live in the tropics. To consider this question more thoroughly, contact Rainforest Relief for their input.

**Bricks:** If you want durability, you may want bricks or pavers for your deck. Again, the costs can be discouraging, but not if you consider your deck an investment, or the brick look particularly suits your application. The following price comparisons are given by the Brickdecks company:

Approximate Price  
Per Square Foot for  
Labor & Materials

#1 pressure-treated deck	\$15-17
Cedar deck w/small tight knots	\$20-22
#1 clear Cedar or select surface	\$25-27
Trex and components	\$26-28
PVC extruded and components	\$28-30
Brickdecks w/small-tight-knots Cedar components	\$28-30

**Concrete:** Here's a subject for a whole 'nother day. Concrete can be durable, cost-effective and versatile. The new methods for coloring and stamping concrete make it the designer's good friend. However, it uses considerable energy for its creation and transport, plus its impermeability causes runoff, so its environmentalism is sometimes debated.

**Mixed Media:** I love using salvaged poles and ties, broken concrete, old bricks and flat limestones. A mozaic of media induces creativity, preserves my savings and keeps these goodies out of the landfill. ☺



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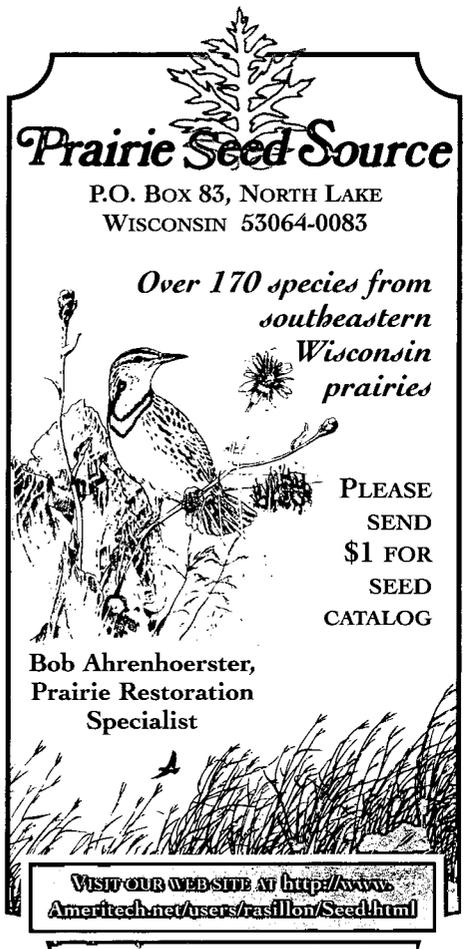
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## seedlings

Do you want to start a Wild Ones chapter? Let us post a notice for others to join you. The folks listed here are looking for others to form a nucleus around which a chapter can grow. If you are interested in starting a chapter, request a "Chapter Start-up Kit" from Executive Director Donna VanBuecken. To add your name to our list, send your contact information to Editor Joy Buslaff. See page 14 for their addresses.

### CHAPTER WANNA-BE'S LOOKING FOR MEMBERS:

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**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** Marilyn C. Wyzga, 267 Center Rd., Hillsborough, NH

03244; (603) 464-3530; merlin@conknet.com.

**NEW YORK:** Bridget Watts, Nature Study Guild Publishers, P.O. Box 10489, Rochester, NY 14610; (716) 482-6090; naturebooks@worldnet.att.net.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Jane Cornelius, 5429 Millrace Trail, Raleigh, NC 27606-9226; (919) 851-4644; janecornelius@prodigy.net. Judith West, 339 Gregg St., Archdale, NC 27263-3303; (336) 431-9322; westskau@juno.com.

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

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Peggy Lappe, Box 91, Harrold, SD 57536; (605) 875-3214.

**WISCONSIN:** Sarah Boles, HC73 Box 631, Cable, WI 54821; (715) 794-2548; flora@hotmail.com. Nancy Miller, 422 W. Elm, Lancaster, WI 53813; (608) 723-6487. Rolf Utegaard, P.O. Box 1092, Eau Claire, WI 54702; (715) 834-0065; bigute-hort@prodigy.net. Sara Larsen (for Door County), Nov.-April address is W314 N7198 Hy. 83, Hartland, WI 53029; (262) 966-2021; May-Oct. address is 2179 Scandia Rd., Sister Bay, WI 54234; solveigso@aol.com.

### THESE CHAPTERS NEED MEMBERS FOR MOMENTUM:

**ILLINOIS:** Naturally Wild of LaGrange—Malia Arnett, 41 S. LaGrange Rd, LaGrange, IL 60525; (708) 354-3200.

**MICHIGAN:** Calhoun County Chapter—Marilyn Case, Calhoun County, (616) 781-8470; mcase15300@aol.com. Detroit Metro Chapter—Carol Wheeler, (248) 547-7898, wheecarol@aol.com. Kalamazoo Chapter—Thomas Small (616) 381-4946. Southwest Michigan Chapter—Sue Stowell, (616) 468-7031.

**MINNESOTA:** Arrowhead Chapter—Carol A. Andrews, (218) 730-9954; carol\_andrews@hotmail.com.

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

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

**OKLAHOMA:** Central Oklahoma Chapter—Michelle Raggé, (405) 466-3930.

**WISCONSIN:** Central Wisconsin Chapter—Phyllis Tuchscher, (715) 384-8751; toosch@tznet.com.

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# GROWING NATURALLY

## WILD ONES ANNUAL MEETING AND MINI-CONFERENCE

**AUGUST 11, 2001 at SHELBYVILLE, KENTUCKY**

*Bringing members together from diverse geographic areas who share concerns for and interest in stewardship of our natural heritage; providing a relaxed atmosphere for members to meet and connect and become more involved with the growing role of Wild Ones in the natural landscaping movement; and raising awareness of the work being done in Kentucky.*

The annual meeting will be held at **Skylight Acres Farm**, owned by Jerry and Portia Brown. More than half of its 143 acres is wooded and bordered by creeks, with paths providing access to a variety of landscapes. The property has a metal barn area for the meeting. Skylight Acres Farm is eight miles outside Shelbyville and about 40 minutes from Louisville, where numerous parks, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, are being restored. The Louisville Chapter has an adopted site in Cherokee Park. The Browns' property is less than 20 minutes from Salato Wildlife Education Center, home to the Frankfort Chapter and the Kentucky Native Plant and Backyard Wildlife Habitat programs.

**Silent auction:** A wonderful selection of items will be on display with bidding sheets up until dinnertime. Winning bids will be announced at dinner. **Vendor sales and display booths** will open at breakfast and remain open all day.

**Friday reception:** Our Hospitality Committee will be on hand to greet you Friday evening (7-9 p.m.) at the Holiday Inn Express in Shelbyville. Pick up your program packet, ask questions and enjoy light snacks with fellow Wild Ones.

### MORNING PROGRAM AT SKYLIGHT ACRES FARM

- Program packets distributed. Light breakfast on site followed by **general membership annual meeting**.
- A **Skylight Acres Farm welcome** from hosts Jerry and Portia Brown, who will describe their vision and experience in transforming this property from an abandoned farm, primed for development, into Skylight Acres Farm.
- An **Overview of Kentucky's Ecosystems** presented by Dr. Thomas G. Barnes, associate Extension professor and wildlife specialist for the Department of Forestry, University of Kentucky.
- Native Warm Season Grass Production And Usage** presented by Jeff Sole, director of science and stewardship for the Kentucky Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.
- Reclaiming the Legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted's Parks in Louisville** presented by Susan Rademacher, Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy president and assistant director of Louisville-Jefferson County Metro Parks. Olmsted's work in Louisville is considered the ultimate park system of his career, and his most mature work.
- Announcements about afternoon activities and bag lunches distributed; displays, vendors, & Silent Auction open.

### AFTERNOON PROGRAMS

Pre-registration is required. Tell us your first and second choice options for the Saturday afternoon sessions. The Olmsted Parks Tour is a four-hour session; others will be for two- or one-hour time slots. Sign up for four hours' worth of sessions. All members are scheduled to be back at Skylight Acres by 5 p.m. If you plan to stay over, tell us what you would like to do on Sunday. More informal sessions may be available on Sunday using your own transportation.

*Please provide your name, address, phone number, email address and chapter affiliation.*

**Dinner Preference** (cost included in registration fee)  
\_\_\_ Vegetarian      \_\_\_ Non-Vegetarian (Chicken)

#### Select Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Please select four hours' worth of afternoon sessions using alphanumeric identifier to indicate your choices.

*For Example:*

*Choice #1: [A-4]*

*Choice #2: [C-2], [F-1], [G-1]*

Pre-registration \$75 (Postmarked by 6/15/01): \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Registration \$90 (Postmarked after 6/15/01): \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lodging at Holiday Inn Express: 1 night \$60 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check off nights of stay: 2 nights \$120 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fri.  Sat.  Sun. 3 nights \$180 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check off your choice:  King  Two Queens  
**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday** Choice #1 is:

Choice #2 is:

#### Sunday

(If you cannot stay Sunday afternoon, please write in "NA")

Choice #1 is:

Choice #2 is:

Depending on the interest expressed here we will determine if it is feasible to plan a special children's program. Even if we do not develop a special program, the Clear Creek Family Activity Center offers supervised recreational activities. Tell us what you're interested in below:

- I am planning to bring \_\_\_ (# of children) children age 6 or over.
- My children (\_\_\_ # of children) would prefer to spend the day  
*(indicate your choices)*  Clear Creek Family Activity Center;  Salato Wildlife Education Center;
- In a special program on-site and/or at Salato Wildlife Education Center;  With other members of my party off-site.

## AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### [A-4] Olmsted Parks Bus And Walking Tour (*four-hour session with boarding at 12:30 p.m.*)

This group will travel by air-conditioned coach bus to Louisville to tour two of the three flagship Olmsted parks. A video about the Olmsted Parks will be shown on the bus. First stop at Cherokee Park to see everything from Louisville Wild Ones adopted site to the recently completed Baringer Spring restoration, and walk through the native wildflower meadows to meet the bus across the park. Then back on the bus to Iroquois Park to walk the Savannah restoration in its fifth year and make a brief stop to catch the view from Iroquois Hill Overlook before returning to Skylight Acres for dinner. Tour guides will be Susan Rademacher and Mike Smiley, RLA, owner of Environs, Inc.

### [B-2] Grassland and Meadow Walking Tours at Skylight Acres Farm (*two-hour session*)

Hike the wildflower meadows with native grasslands local experts Jane Harrod, Dr. Tom Barnes (author of *Gardening for The Birds*) and Jeff Sole who will answer your questions and discuss their experiences in preserving, restoring, and establishing native plant communities.

### [C-2] Woodland Hike at Skylight Acres Farm (*two-hour session*)

Identify native trees and shrubs and discuss related landscape concepts with John A. Swintosky and Richard Wolford.

### [D-2] Salato Wildlife Education Center and Native Plant Program (*two-hour session*)

Vans will transport you to the center, less than 20 minutes away, where Mary Carol Cooper will lead tours of the Nature Center, Native Plant Program greenhouse, gardens, and wildlife exhibits.

### [E-1] Medicinal Herbs (*one-hour session*)

A general overview on identifying, ethically harvesting, and growing and using native and naturalized non-native plants as medicine, including a demonstration on making poultices, teas, and using tinctures and oils to preserve the medicinal qualities of plants presented by Katie Clark.

### [F-1] Edible Plants (*one-hour session*)

Slide presentation on common edibles and the foods they make by Pat Armstrong, teacher, owner of Prairie Sun Consultants and author of the *Wild Plant Family Cookbook*.

### [G-1] Medicinal/Edible Plant Identification Hike with Pat Armstrong And Katie Clark (*one-hour session*)

Reinforce the learning from the above sessions by going outside to see some common edible and medicinal plants.

### [H-1] Shade Gardening Tips from Munchkin Nursery (*one-hour session*)

Gene Bush and JoAn Riley will show slides of native wildflowers; discuss characteristics, appropriate sites, and propagation challenges. Gene and JoAn will also host an open house at the Munchkin Nursery in Depauw, Ind., on Sunday.

### [I-1] Landscape Restoration Using Native Plants for Public And Private Spaces (*one-hour session*)

Phyllis Croce, landscape ecologist with Biohabitats, Inc. and graduate of Conway School of Landscape Design and Environmental Planning, will show slides and discuss her experiences with natural landscaping in public spaces.

**Late Afternoon/Early Evening Program** will include snacks, silent auction, displays and vendor booths. Dinner, with a short program, will be followed by a social time. Vans will take participants back to the hotel at 8:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY:** After breakfast on your own (Holiday Inn serves free continental breakfast for guests), you're welcome to join the National Board of Directors meeting at Skylight. Munchkin Nursery is offering Open House Sunday with pre-registration. Guides may be available on Sunday to repeat the Salato, Olmsted Park, and Skylight Acres walking tours (somewhat scaled back/more informal versions); however, pre-registration will be required and transportation will not be provided on Sunday. Salato Center and Olmsted Parks are open to the public and all registrants will receive maps for self-guided tours of public sites.

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**Complete a separate form for each attendee.  
You may copy the form or create a facsimile.**

*The information presented here is simply an outline of the conference events available at press time. For more complete and up-to-date information, contact Portia Brown at (502) 454-4007 or oneskylight@earthlink.net. Portia can help you with more information about sites and activities to make your visit a real vacation. Mail forms with check payable to Wild Ones to:*

**Wild Ones Natural Landscapers  
Louisville Chapter  
P.O. Box 5512, Louisville, KY 40255-0512**

**Holiday Inn Express** (I-64 Exit 53) is giving Wild Ones a discount. Adding \$60 per night to your basic registration fee allows you to choose a room with one king-size bed or two queen-size beds. If several people share a room, please add the \$60 per night to just one registration and divide the cost among yourselves. Lodging cannot be guaranteed unless you register by June 15. **Camping** is available at Lake Shelby by Clear Creek Park in Shelbyville. There are 10 RV sites at \$10 per night with hook ups. Tent camping is \$8 per night. Taylorsville Lake, a larger facility, is a bit farther away. A few members in the Frankfort area have offered campsites or lodging on their farms. If this makes the difference in your ability to attend, please contact either the Frankfort or Louisville Chapter.

**Wild Ones**—Natural Landscapers 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

**NATIONAL BOARD QUARTERLY MEETINGS**

All members are encouraged to attend the quarterly meetings of the Wild Ones National Board. More details will be printed as they become available or can be obtained from your chapter officers.

May 19, 2001, will be hosted by Minnesota area chapters ■ Aug. 11, 2001, Kentucky chapters will be hosting the Annual Membership Meeting ■ Oct. 13, 2001, will be hosted by the Gibson Woods Chapter, Hammond, Ind. ■ Aug. 10, 2002, Columbus Ohio Chapter will host the 2002 Annual Meeting and Chapter Conference.

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**

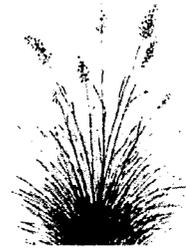
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at 7 p.m. at the College of DuPage, Building K, unless otherwise noted.

March 15—"Designing with Native Plants" presented by Vallari Talapatra of Ecoscapes, landscape architect and instructor at the Morton Arboretum. She'll talk about which plants work in smaller yards and in combination with perennial gardens. Rm. K161. (Members should bring their soil test kits with soil samples.)

April 7 (Saturday)—Annual Spring Potluck Dinner, with honored speaker Mel Hoff, steward for the West Chicago Prairie.

**LAKE-TO-PRAIRIE CHAPTER**

KARIN WISIOL . . . . . (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).

March 12—"Six-Legged Creatures in Your Garden," about beneficial garden insects, will be presented by Mark Hurley, an environmental educator with the Lake County Forest Preserve District.

April 9—"Planting a Garden Meadow" will be presented by Kate Jerome, senior editor with *Chicago Gardening Magazine*, author of several books on houseplants and Oriental gardening and currently in collaboration with the Chicago Botanic Garden on a book of the best perennials for the Midwest.

**NATURALLY WILD of LA GRANGE CHAPTER**

JUDI ANN DORE . . . . . (708) 387-1398

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.

March 1—Regular member meeting; topic TBA.

April 5—Slide presentation by Pat Armstrong.

**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.

March 8—"Gardening for Birds and Butterflies," presented by Chapter Vice-President Marion Thill.

April 12—"Fitting Native Plants into the Landscape." Presented by Jack Pizzo, senior ecologist and landscape architect, Pizzo and Associates, Ltd. Discussion will include grading/drainage practices and use of native plants for an environmentally sustainable landscape with biodiversity and water conservation.

**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.

March 15—Perle Olsson from Windsong Prairie Nursery will present a program illustrating woodland wildflowers.

April 19—In a program on "Low-Input Lawn Care," Bruce Spangenberg from the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension will explain how to have a healthy, environmentally friendly lawn.

**INDIANA**

**GIBSON WOODS CHAPTER**

JOY BOWER . . . . . (219) 989-9679

jbower1126@aol.com

**IOWA**

**WILD ROSE CHAPTER**

CHRISTINE TALIGA . . . . . (319) 339-9121

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

herbs@kih.net

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.

April 9—Meet at greenhouse for tour of Frankfort wetland area that is to be restored in upcoming months.

**LOUISVILLE CHAPTER**

PORTIA BROWN . . . . . (502) 454-4007

oneskylight@earthlink.net

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

March 27—6 p.m. Cherokee Park Woodland Wildflower Walk; includes our adopted site, Wildflower Woods. Park near Eastern Parkway entrance and meet at Baringer Spring.

April 24—6 p.m. Member yard tour in Anchorage, Ky., at Debbie Doering's delightful garden, where the early spring native wildflowers are expected to be at or near peak. Carpool from LNC at 6 p.m.

4th Sat. Workdays—9 a.m.-noon, weather permitting, Wildflower Woods, Cherokee Park. Location is wooded triangle behind Daniel Boone statue. Wear old clothes, sturdy shoes; gloves, tools, water provided.

**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 info see "www.for-wild.org/ann-arbor/index.html#meetings" or contact above.



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#### CALHOUN COUNTY CHAPTER

MARILYN CASE ..... (616) 781-8470  
mcase15300@aol.com

Meetings are usually held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Calhoun Intermediate School District building on G Drive N. and Old US27.  
March 27—"Woodland Wildflowers" slide presentation by member Bev Zalewski.  
April 24—Spring wildflower walk; to be confirmed.

#### DETROIT METRO CHAPTER

CAROL WHEELER ..... (248) 547-7898  
wheecarol@aol.com

Meetings are usually held the fourth Monday of each month at Madison Heights Nature Center, Friendship Woods, 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Public is welcome; \$5 fee for non-members.  
March 25—"Grasses and Sedges" presented by Tony Reznicek, Curator of the University of Michigan Herbarium.  
April 23—"Native Trees and Shrubs," presented by Chuck Barnes, Troy Parks and Recreation.

#### FLINT CHAPTER

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

Meeting are usually held on the second Thursday of each month at Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court St., Flint, 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted.  
March & April—Winter Lecture Series; TBA

#### KALAMAZOO CHAPTER

THOMAS SMALL ..... (616) 381-4946  
Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at Christian Church, 2208 Winchell.  
March 28—Steve Allen, director of Community Wildlife Program, Kalamazoo Nature Center, will speak on the CWP's restorations and prairie constructions on corporate campuses and this chapter's project for map-

ping and coordinating all natural landscaping, restorations and nature preserves in Kalamazoo County.

#### OAKLAND COUNTY CHAPTER

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

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

#### 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.

March 24 (Saturday)—9 a.m. Meet at Sarett Nature Center to watch a prairie burn. If you wish to learn more about prairie burns, come to a burn training workshop at Sarett on Saturday March 10 at 10 a.m.  
April—Topic TBA.

#### 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](http://www.d.umn.edu/~wildones) Open to the public.  
March—Speaker and discussion on attracting birds to the yard using feeders and native plants.  
April—Regular member meeting; topic TBA.

##### 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. Visitors are always 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.  
March 20—Member meeting; speaker TBA.  
April 17—Member meeting; speaker TBA.

#### MISSOURI

##### MID-MISSOURI CHAPTER

LESA BEAMER ..... beamerl@missouri.edu  
Meetings are usually held the second Saturday of the month, 1:30 p.m. Location varies.

March—Speaker TBA.  
April 14—Work day at adopted site (to be confirmed).

##### ST. LOUIS CHAPTER

SCOTT WOODBURY ..... (636) 451-0850  
swoodbury@ridgway.mobot.org

Meetings are usually held the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted; public is welcome.  
March 7—Meeting at Carol Krieger's. Scott Woodbury will give a presentation on the use of fire in maintaining natural landscapes.  
April 7 (Saturday 9 a.m.)—Woodland Wildflower Walk at Bill and Nancy Knowles.

#### NEW YORK

##### CHENANGO VALLEY CHAPTER

HOLLY STEGNER ..... (315) 824-1178  
Jlittle@mail.colgate.edu

For location, date, and times of meetings please contact above.

##### 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.

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**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.  
March 10—"Highlands Nature Sanctuary," presented by Nancy Henry, director of the Preserve, which lies along Rocky Fork Creek near Bainbridge, Ohio.  
April 21—Field trip to Glen Helen Nature Preserve in Yellow Springs to see early spring wildflowers. Depart from the Inniswood Park parking lot at 10 a.m.; lunch at the Winds Café in Yellow Springs. Call contact for more information.

**OKLAHOMA**

**CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CHAPTER**

MICHELLE RAGGÉ ..... (405) 466-3930  
Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room, 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 info call above number.

**WISCONSIN**

**CENTRAL WISCONSIN CHAPTER**

PHYLLIS TUCHSCHER ..... (715) 384-8751  
toosch@tznet.com  
Meetings are usually held the fourth Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., in Rooms 1&2, Portage County Extension Building, 1462 Strongs Ave., Stevens Point.  
March 22—"How to Start a Prairie" presented by Bob Juracka.  
April 26—"Animals of the Prairie," presented by Rebecca Christoffel.

**FOX VALLEY AREA CHAPTER**

CAROL NIENDORF ..... (920) 233-4853  
niendorf@northnet.net  
DONNA VANBUECKEN ..... (920) 730-3986  
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.  
March 22—"Butterfly Gardening at Mosquito Hill Nature Center," by Jim Anderson, Director of Mosquito Hill.  
April 26—"Orchids of the Great Lakes Region," presented by Dennis Malueg, a Wild Ones member who travels photographing wild orchids.

**GREEN BAY CHAPTER**

KATHIE TILOT ..... (920)336-4992  
Meetings are usually held at the Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Rd.  
March 21—7 p.m. Chapter meeting. See Chapter newsletter for more information.

**MADISON CHAPTER**

LAURIE YAHR ..... (608) 274-6539  
yahrkahl@aol.com  
Meetings will be held at Olbrich Botanical Garden, Madison, at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome.  
March 24—Regular chapter meeting will be replaced with UW Arboretum's Native Landscaping Conference, Alliant Energy Center, Madison. Contact UW Arboretum with questions (608) 263-7888.  
April 28—Early Prairie Flowers in Chiwaukee Prairie. Meet 9 a.m. at Park&Ride near Hwy 51 and Bellline.

**MEMONONEE RIVER AREA CHAPTER**

JAN KOEL ..... (262) 251-7175  
JUDY CRANE ..... (262) 251-2185

Indoor meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. at The Ranch Communities Services, N84 W19100 Menomonee Ave., Menomonee Falls. Call Judy for meeting info.  
March 20—"Love Your Yard." Members will share slides and stories about their yards.  
April 17—Janice Stiefel share her knowledge of insects.

**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.  
March 10—"Water Gardens in Private Yards," a slide program presented by Annette Alexander, past president, North Chapter.  
April 14—"The Story of Indian Hills School," presented by Karen Winicki, principal. Karen will present a slide program telling how woodland, wetland, and prairie areas benefit the K-3 students in their studies.

**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.  
March 10—Same program as Milwaukee North Chapter above.  
April 14—Same program as Milwaukee North Chapter above. (Location of this meeting is subject to change. Please call the contact number for further information.)

**ROOT RIVER AREA CHAPTER**

CARLA FREEMAN ..... (414) 382-6415  
carla.freeman@alverno.edu  
Meetings are usually held the first Saturday of the month from 1:30-3 p.m., Riverbend Nature Center in Racine, unless otherwise noted.  
March—Regular member meeting; speaker TBA.  
April—Regular meeting; speaker TBA.

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## **CONFERENCES TO EDUCATE & INSPIRE YOU**

**MARCH 4-5—14TH ANNUAL MICHIGAN WILDFLOWER CONFERENCE**—Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. "Creating A Native Tradition." Two days of presentations, exhibits, sales displays, keynote lunch program, speaker reception. Speakers include Debra Gutowski, Bill Schneider, Laurel Ross, Patrick Judd, Neil Diboll, Emma Bickham Pitcher, Jack McGowen-Stinski, Kim Herman, John Paskus. Contact Marilyn Case, (616) 781-8470, [MCase15300@aol.com](mailto:MCase15300@aol.com) or visit [wildflowersmich.org](http://wildflowersmich.org).

**MARCH 24—NATURAL LANDSCAPING 2001**—Alliant Center (formerly the Expo Center), Madison, Wis. All-day seminars include eco-development, roadside management, rain gardening, backyard habitat and yard management (wastes, run-off, yard chemicals, composting and soil stabilization). Keynote speaker Fred Rozumalski, wetland restoration specialist. Contact Cheryl Bauer, UW Arboretum, (608) 262-9925 or [cheryl.bauer@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:cheryl.bauer@facstaff.wisc.edu) for information.

**MARCH 31—8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR HOME GARDENERS (AND COMMUNITY DECISION MAKERS)**—Muskegon Community College, Muskegon, Mich. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Bob Grese is keynote speaker and will conduct a special Wild Ones session. Contact Sylvia Birckhead, (616) 842-4569 or [sylvia@novagate.com](mailto:sylvia@novagate.com). Cost \$25, includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch.

**APRIL 18-20—SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE**—A National Native Wildflower And Grass Seed Production Conference conducted at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando, Fla., and presented by the Florida DOT, Federal Highway Administration, University of Florida/IFAS, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and Keep Florida Beautiful Wildflower Advisory Council. Call Nancy Hummel, (850) 922-7206, for information.

### **Last-Minute News**

This chapter is releasing its first event calendar, thus becoming an officially chartered Wild Ones chapter.

### **WISCONSIN**

#### **ROOT RIVER AREA CHAPTER**

Meetings are usually held September through May on the first Saturday of the month, 1:30-3 p.m. at Riverbend Nature Center in Racine. Summer events will be announced to chapter members on an *ad hoc* basis. March 3—Tom Pelon, Sweet Earth Garden Center, Milwaukee, will speak on woodland plantings. April 7—John Bielefeldt, Racine's naturalist, speaking on his research on Coopers Hawks.