

A Voice for The Natural  
Landscaping Movement

# Journal

## Symbiosis

**N**ATIVE PLANT SOCIETIES and our Wild Ones organization are slightly divergent 'organisms,' yet we enjoy a mutually beneficial relationship, just as some dissimilar species in nature do.

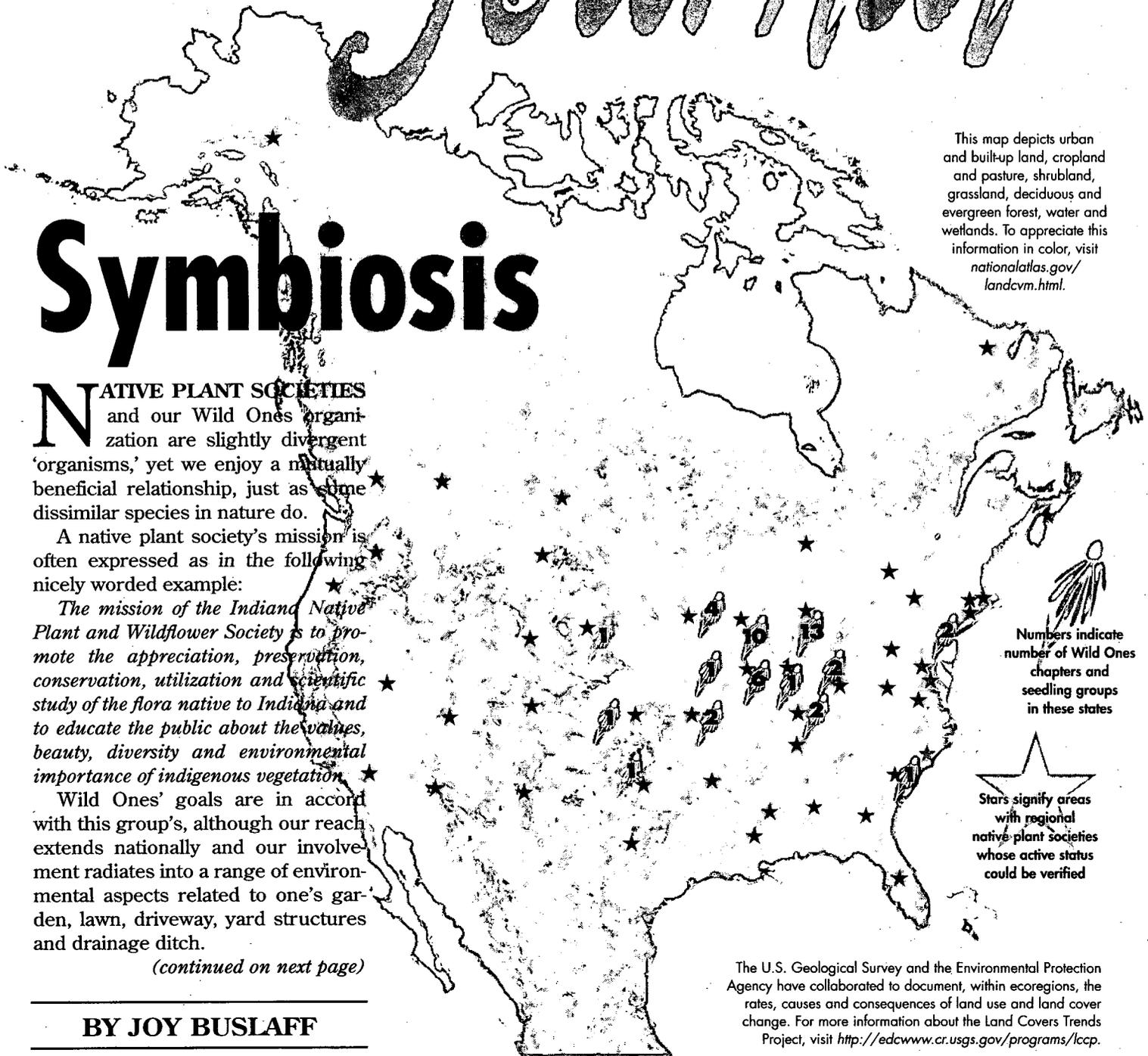
A native plant society's mission is often expressed as in the following nicely worded example:

*The mission of the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society is to promote the appreciation, preservation, conservation, utilization and scientific study of the flora native to Indiana and to educate the public about the values, beauty, diversity and environmental importance of indigenous vegetation.*

Wild Ones' goals are in accord with this group's, although our reach extends nationally and our involvement radiates into a range of environmental aspects related to one's garden, lawn, driveway, yard structures and drainage ditch.

*(continued on next page)*

This map depicts urban and built-up land, cropland and pasture, shrubland, grassland, deciduous and evergreen forest, water and wetlands. To appreciate this information in color, visit [nationalatlas.gov/landcvm.html](http://nationalatlas.gov/landcvm.html).



Numbers indicate number of Wild Ones chapters and seedling groups in these states

Stars signify areas with regional native plant societies whose active status could be verified

BY JOY BUSLAFF

The U.S. Geological Survey and the Environmental Protection Agency have collaborated to document, within ecoregions, the rates, causes and consequences of land use and land cover change. For more information about the Land Covers Trends Project, visit <http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/programs/lccp>.

*"We change, the world we live in changes,  
and our appreciation of how change occurs is itself subject to constant change.  
For all those who care about the continually evolving relationship between people and  
the living Earth, these basic facts of life have become increasingly and inescapably pertinent."  
—Curt Meine, The Historical Ecology Handbook*

*(continued from front page)*

For too long, native plant societies and our own Wild Ones chapters have been regarded as mere garden clubs. They are so much more. They are repositories for uncommon knowledge about the biology and history of our respective Earth neighborhoods. However hard our national office and this nationwide newsletter strive to promote local genotype landscapes, we couldn't possibly prescribe them in detail—this is the niche, the strength, the value of regional chapters. Louise Lacey, retired publisher of the well-written *Growing Native* newsletter, illustrated this point tidily in an email to me some months ago:

*You should know that we have 29 plant communities [in California], from the dank rain forest, to the pine foothills, to the oak savannah, to the chaparral, to the desert, etc. Another thing is that we have a huge problem—very different from your area [the Midwest]—with invasive exotic weeds. An invasive weed is different from normal weeds in that 1) there are no insects or fungi, etc. that keep it under 'control,' and 2) it will move into a complete [previously stable] native plant community. I know you have some invasives, but ours are so overwhelming that we probably won't be able to solve them.*

*...[Our Mediterranean] type of climate means that once soil is cultivated, it will never come back with native plants on its own. Very different from the East Coast, for example, where, when farmers leave a house and fields, the forest moves back in.*

*...One of our 'cultural problems' here, as Californians, is the message we got in the East from our ancestors or our own youth. Even though we know that the weather is different here, we don't 'get it' that the plants aren't dormant in the winter (even under the snow on the mountains), they grow long, deep roots, and many begin blooming in January or February.*

Shirley Fifield, president of the Alabama Wildflower Society, wrote poetically to me along the same lines:

*Alabama has such a wide range of*

*habitats—including the Coastal Plain, Piedmont, ridge and valley, Blue Ridge, Cumberland Plateau—each subject to elevation and climatic changes, providing unique habitats for a great diversity of plant species. Many isolated pockets harbor plants known from pre-glacial times, others better known from areas farther west or south. New plants, previously unknown to science, are still being discovered in some of the more remote and uncultivated sectors.*

So, how do we in our partitioned groups "promote the use of native plants in home, commercial, institutional and public gardens" as we "discourage wild collection and encourage rescuing and propagating plants taken from the path of immediate destruction" (quoting the Georgia Native Plant Society mission statement)? We circulate newsletters and brochures in our own communities. We travel with projectors and videoplayers to put on programs. We contact our media to attract newspaper or television crews to our yards with their cameras. We call in to radio gardening shows and brag about our low-maintenance habitats. We donate appropriate publications to our local libraries. Plus, our websites continue to evolve, and a search for 'native plants' or 'natural landscaping' puts our message into homes around the globe.

Wild Ones' special contribution, the one that somewhat sets us apart from native plant societies, is our assertive effort to rehabilitate North American culture. We're here to demonstrate that anyone, anywhere, can affect water quality, air pollution, and noise as a result of their individual landscaping choices, as well as influencing species loss and species gain. Further, the pleasures and benefits of American plants must not be relegated to the enthusiasts alone. Our inheritance of highly evolved ecosystems has to be exalted, explained and exemplified at our schools, in this newsletter and via our own front yards until a thriving, diverse, sustainable landscape becomes an accepted norm. This is our daunting—yet thrilling—objective.

Some days, when I fear we're making no headway, I look across the North American continent in my mind and think: A great glacier of machinery has rolled over you and not retreated. But I quickly remember there are still strongholds of high-quality vegetation, and wild yards are increasing in number. And, if we could map human awareness from a satellite, we'd recognize that little lightbulbs of consciousness about land ethics are flickering on all across the country.

We must have faith that our impact is measurable, even as land-use images from orbiting cameras digitize what looks like a losing battle. Why? Because North American cultural desires are mercurial. The same national fervor for indoor plumbing, personal computers and cellular phones can be redirected toward natural landscapes. But a combination of factors must come into celestial alignment:

**—Citizens and civic leaders must be educated about the functions of ecological systems and how they can be used to save money while improving quality of life**

**—The relaxed look of natural landscapes needs to become more familiar and popular**

While less lofty sounding than most mission statements, these are our real nuts-and-bolts goals—applied logic for the head and pocketbook, and a strategic seduction aimed at the human senses.

It is difficult and emotionally fatiguing to work toward such goals in isolation. That's why we band together. We learn from each other, become re-inspired, share resources, and generate a more powerful voice.

Is there something Wild Ones can do for your group—set up a newsletter exchange, help you find a speaker, permit you to reprint one of our articles, put your link on our website? Let's talk. If there is strength in numbers, then our strength must gain tensile brawn when we network. Together, we can do great things. ☺

**IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY CONNECTED WITH YOUR nearest native plant society, then inspect the following list and become, as the Arkansas Native Plant Society puts it: one of the "professional or amateur botanists of all ages ... who are united by their fascination for wild plants and who enjoy each other's company enormously."**

Attending local group events is an ideal way for you to learn about the plant options for your own property. Based on a survey conducted in 2000, yearly household membership fees for native plant societies range from just \$7 to \$35 (students and seniors are often given a discount). Membership customarily includes a newsletter, and some organizations conduct field trips and seed exchanges. Conversely, if you're already a member of a native plant society, please introduce your fellow members to Wild Ones. Thank you.

**ALABAMA** Wildflower Society  
43 Shoals Blvd., Florence, AL 35630

**ALASKA** Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514-1613

**ALBERTA** Native Plant Council  
Box 52099, Garneau Postal Outlet, Edmonton, AB T6G 2T5  
[www.anpc.ab.ca](http://www.anpc.ab.ca)

**ARKANSAS** Native Plant Society  
Box 10846, Harding University, Searcy, AR 72149-0001  
[www.anps.org](http://www.anps.org)

**ARIZONA** Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 41206, Sun Station, Tucson, AZ 85717-1206  
<http://aznps.org>

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**—Native Plant Society of BC  
2012 William Street, Vancouver BC V5L 2X6

**CALIFORNIA** Native Plant Society  
1722 J Street, Suite 17, Sacramento, CA 95814-2931  
[cnps.org](http://cnps.org)

**CALIFORNIA**—The Theodore Payne Foundation  
for Wildflowers and Native Plants, Inc.  
10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley, CA 91352-2126  
[theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org)

**COLORADO** Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 200, Fort Collins, CO 80522-0200  
[cnps.org](http://cnps.org)

**CONNECTICUT** Botanical Society  
P.O. Box 9004, New Haven, CT 06532-0004  
[vfr.com/cbs/](http://vfr.com/cbs/)

**FLORIDA** Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 690278, Vero Beach, FL 32969-0278  
[fnps.org](http://fnps.org)

**GEORGIA** Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 422085, GA 30342-2085  
[gnps.org](http://gnps.org)

**ILLINOIS** Native Plant Society  
20301 E. 900 North Road, Westville, IL 61883  
[inhs.uiuc.edu/inps/index.html](http://inhs.uiuc.edu/inps/index.html)

**INDIANA** Native Plant and Wildflower Society  
7740 W. 88th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46278  
[inpaws.org](http://inpaws.org)

**KANSAS** Wildflower Society  
R.L. McGregor Herbarium, University of Kansas  
2045 Constant Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66047-3729  
[www2.southwind.net/~kwsweb/index.html](http://www2.southwind.net/~kwsweb/index.html)

**KENTUCKY** Native Plant Society  
Dept. of Biological Science, E.  
Kentucky University, Richmond, KY 40475  
<http://sac.uky.edu/~mithom0/knps/knps.htm>

**MARYLAND** Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 4877, Silver Spring, MD 20914  
[mdflora.org](http://mdflora.org)

**MASSACHUSETTS**—New England Wild Flower Society  
180 Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA 01701-2699  
[newfs.org](http://newfs.org)

**MICHIGAN**—Wildflower Association of Michigan  
3853 Farrell Road, Hastings, MI 49058  
[wildflowermich.org](http://wildflowermich.org)

**MINNESOTA** Native Plant Society  
1445 Gortner Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108-1020  
[stolaf.edu/depts/biology/mnps](http://stolaf.edu/depts/biology/mnps)

**MISSISSIPPI** Native Plant Society  
2148 Riverside Drive, Jackson, MS 39202-1353

**MISSOURI** Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 20073, St. Louis, MO 63144-0073  
[http://web.missouri.edu/~umo\\_herb/mnps](http://web.missouri.edu/~umo_herb/mnps)

**MONTANA** Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 8783, Missoula, MT 59807-8782

**NEVADA**—Northern Nevada Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 8965, Reno, NV 89507-8965  
[state.nv.us/nvhp/nnnps.htm](http://state.nv.us/nvhp/nnnps.htm)

**NEW JERSEY**—The Native Plant Society of New Jersey  
Box 231, Cook College, New Brunswick, NJ 08903-0231  
[npsnj.org](http://npsnj.org)

**NEW ENGLAND WILD FLOWER SOCIETY**  
180 Hemenway Rd., Framingham, MA 01701-2699  
[newfs.org](http://newfs.org)

**NEWFOUNDLAND**  
The Wildflower Society of Newfoundland & Labrador  
P.O. Box 23012, Churchill Square P.O.  
St. John's, NF, Canada A1B 4J9  
[ucs.mun.ca/~hclase/wf](http://ucs.mun.ca/~hclase/wf)

**NEW MEXICO**—Native Plant Society of New Mexico  
734 North Reymont St., Las Cruces, NM 88002  
<http://npsnm.edu>

**NEW YORK**—The Finger Lakes Native Plant Society of Ithaca  
532 Cayuga Heights Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

**NORTH AMERICAN** Native Plant Society  
Box 84, Postal Stn. D, Etobicoke, ON Canada M9A 4X1  
[nanps.org](http://nanps.org)

**NORTH CAROLINA** Wildflower Preservation Society  
North Carolina Botanical Garden, Totten Garden Center  
3375 Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3375

**NOVA SCOTIA** Wild Flora Society  
1747 Summer Street, Halifax, NS, Canada B3H 3A6  
[chebuato.ns.ca/~nswfs/index.htm](http://chebuato.ns.ca/~nswfs/index.htm)

**OHIO**—Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society  
9005 Decima St., Cincinnati, OH 45242

**OHIO** Native Plant Society  
6 Louise Drive, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

**OHIO**—Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio  
640 Cherry Park Oval, Aurora, OH 44202  
<http://community.cleveland.com/cc/nativeplants>

**OKLAHOMA** Native Plant Society  
Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 S. Peoria, Tulsa OK 74114-1350

**ONTARIO**—Toronto Wildflower Society  
43 Anaconda Avenue, Scarborough, ON Canada M1L 4M1

**ONTARIO**—Waterloo-Wellington Wildflower Society  
265A St. David Street N., Fergus, ON Canada N1M 2J8  
[uoguelph.ca/~botcal](http://uoguelph.ca/~botcal)

**ONTARIO**—Thames Valley Wildflower Society  
1 Windsor Crescent, London ON Canada N6C 1V6

**OREGON**—Native Plant Society of Oregon  
P.O. Box 902, Eugene, OR 97440  
[npsoregon.org](http://npsoregon.org)

**PENNSYLVANIA**—Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania  
5837 Nicholson St., Pittsburgh PA 15217  
<http://kiski.net/~speedy/b1.html>

**PENNSYLVANIA**—Delaware Valley Fern & Wildflower Society  
263 Hillcrest Road, Wayne, PA 19087

**PENNSYLVANIA** Native Plant Society  
1001 E. College Avenue, State College, PA 16801  
<http://pawildflower.org>

**QUEBEC**—Flora Quebeca  
83 rue Chenier Saint-Eustache, Quebec, Canada J7R 1W9

**RHODE ISLAND** Wild Plant Society  
P.O. Box 114, Peacedale, RI 02883-0114

**SASKATCHEWAN**—Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan  
P.O. Box 21099, Saskatoon, SK S7H 5N9  
<http://nps.sk.ca>

**SOUTH CAROLINA** Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 759, Pickens, SC 29671  
<http://cufp.clemson.edu/scnativeplants/>

**SOUTH DAKOTA**—Great Plains Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 461, Hot Springs, SD 57747

**TENNESSEE** Native Plant Society  
c/o Department of Botany, University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN 37996-1100

**TENNESSEE**—The Wildflower Society  
Goldsmith Civic Garden Center  
750 Cherry Road, Memphis, TN 38119-4699

**TEXAS**—Native Plant Society of Texas  
P.O. Box 891, Georgetown, TX 78627-0891  
[npsat.org](http://npsat.org)

**UTAH** Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 520041, Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0041  
[unps.org](http://unps.org)

**VIRGINIA** Native Plant Society  
Route 2, Box 214, Boyce, VA 22620  
[vnps.org](http://vnps.org)

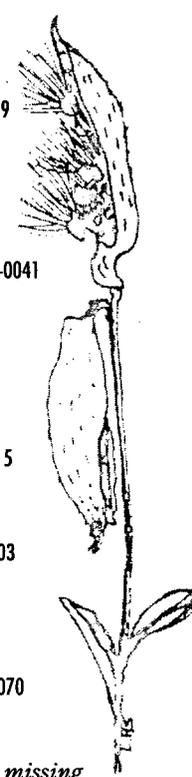
**WASHINGTON** Native Plant Society  
7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115  
[wnps.org](http://wnps.org)

**WEST VIRGINIA** Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 75403, Charleston, WV 25375-0403

**WISCONSIN**—Botanical Club of Wisconsin  
1922 University Ave., Madison, WI 53705

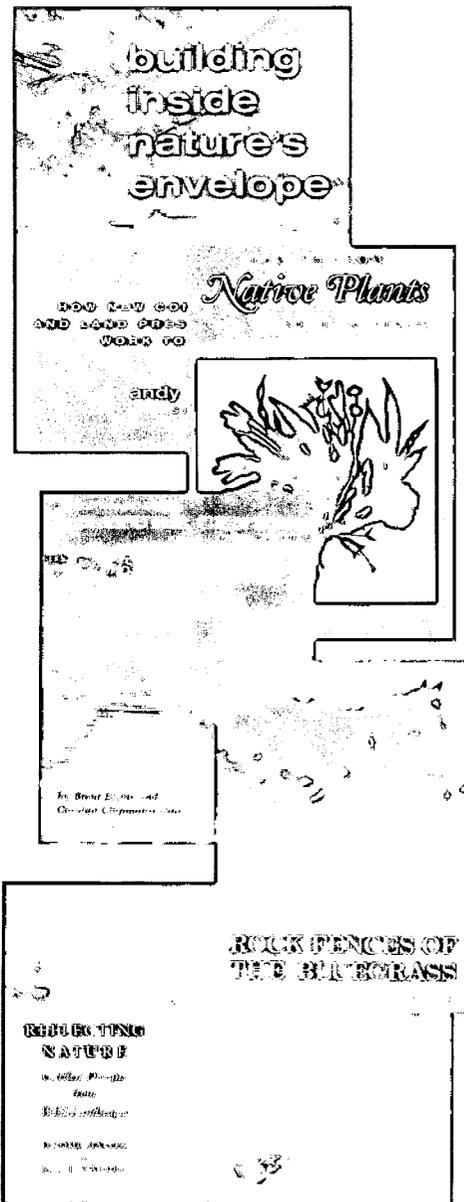
**WYOMING** Native Plant Society  
1604 Grand Ave., Suite 2, Laramie, WY 82070  
[rmh.uwyo.edu/wnps.html](http://rmh.uwyo.edu/wnps.html)

*If your native plant society is missing from this list, please contact the editor. We'd like to know about you.*



"Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves or we know where we can find information upon it."—Samuel Johnson

# TREAT YOURSELF



## UNIVERSITY PRESSES

To give you a sense of how specialized regional publications can be, consider the University of Kentucky Press book *Rock Fences of The Bluegrass*, a work that takes an exhaustive look at a functional, artistic legacy from a land underlain by limestone. Native stone is a natural accessory for one's landscape, and I wish every territory had the benefit of a historical reference this well researched.

The University of Texas Press has published an outstanding volume by the title *How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest*. No matter where you garden, you'll find a well-rounded propagation education within its 566 pages, which include rarely published information about and photos of greenhouses and cold frames and techniques such as root air pruning.

Another U-of-T book I enjoyed is *How to Create And Nurture A Nature Center in Your Community*. If you, as I, think of your yard as your very own nature center, you might view this book as a guide to developing your own yard. (I'm hoping an ant colony in my prairie garden develops large enough so I can construct a small exhibit fence around it as I've seen in this book.) The authors obviously wrote from the heart, and their stories about how nature centers across America came into existence is heartwarming and uplifting.

An enthusiastic recommendation from John Bingamon of the Wildflower Association of Michigan for the University of Michigan publication *Michigan Trees* was so sincere I just had to present it to you verbatim:

... lots of tips/drawings on identification, plus info on habitat, distribution, uses, origin and sometimes interesting anecdotes. A very useful reference (our copy is dirty, dog-eared and held together with string!).

Oxford University Press has published *Building Inside Nature's Envelope*, Andy Wasowski's instructive outline for preserving land while constructing new buildings. The book covers a gamut of considerations from site choice to salvaging vegetation to minimizing soil compaction. Planning to build? Then count on the purchase of this advice to be a high-return investment.

If you don't have an internet connection at home, search for 'university press' on your local library's computer system to access the many on-line catalogs now available.

**TIMBER PRESS**  
[timberpress.com](http://timberpress.com)  
800-327-5680

Timber Press is dedicated to reading gardeners. However, for the native plant gardener, their titles can be something of a minefield. For instance, *Dream Plants for the Natural Landscape* sounds right up our alley, but it's a disappointment as it promotes the use of cultivars from all over the world and, with few exceptions, shows them only in close-up photos, not in naturalized settings. On the other hand, *Rock Garden Plants of North America* might not sound like the valuable native plant book that it is—an anthology of articles from the North American Rock Garden Society. Note, this is a text-heavy book for alpine aficionados, not a photo book to inspire landscape design. For designers we have *Reflecting Nature: Garden Designs from Wild Landscapes*. Any coffee table book with lavish photos of wild scenes might be pleasing to the eye, however, in these pages authors Jerome and Seth Malitz discuss the elements in the photos and translate them into principles of design. (See pages 6 and 7 of this issue for a sampling.)

Mary Tucker of the Georgia Native

LAST YEAR I SURVEYED DOZENS of native plant societies to learn about them and the resources they rely upon. I figured I'd use the information to present an orderly list of book titles and arboreta by region for your reference. Well, as it turns out, that would be a book in itself. So, instead, I'll give you some highlights and point you toward some of the more meritorious publishers.

## BUY THE BOOK

Has your chapter begun to stock its own lending library for members? Have you considered taking orders from members and buying a particular title in bulk at a discount price, just as we do plants? Remember, quantity discounts are another benefit of our assemblage.

Plant Society gave a glowing review of Rick Darke's *Color Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses*. She indicates that although not all the grasses featured are natives, at least their origin and potential invasiveness are listed. She also says if you weren't enthused about gardening with grasses before, you will be after seeing this book.

Are you a devotee of moss gardens? ferns? George Schenk's *Moss Gardening* (including lichens, liverworts and other miniatures) has earned the American Horticultural Society Book Award. And F. Gordon Foster's *Ferns to Know and Grow*, with its many black-and-white illustrations, will guide you through your cultivation options for outdoor and indoor ferns.

A surprisingly exclusive subject is covered in the book *Penstemons*. Sometimes known as beardtongues, penstemons are, according to the author, the largest genus endemic to North America with some 270 species.

Additional Timber Press books to consider: *Native Shrubs and Woody Vines of the Southeast*; *Gardening with Native Wild Flowers*; *Bulbs of North America*; *Collecting, Processing, and Germinating Seeds of Wildland Plants*; *Native American Ethnobotany*.

**ISLAND PRESS**  
islandpress.org  
800-828-1302

In just 17 years, nonprofit publisher Island Press has produced more than 400 titles "looking to explore practical solutions to environmental problems." You may remember (from our Jan./Feb. 2001 issue) their book *Roadside Use of Native Plants*, developed by the Federal Highway Administration.

One of IP's newest books is *The Historic Ecology Handbook: A Restorationist's Guide to Reference Ecosystems*, a scholarly product whose collaborated contents discuss some of the better science used today to investigate our former continent. Some of the techniques described are intended only to explain how professional researchers arrive at their con-



"In Nature's infinite book of secrecy, a little I can read."  
—William Shakespeare

clusions, but the book did teach me a number of skills I can use to analyze a landscape. Highly recommended.

If you're a serious conservationist interested in monitoring habitat loss, *Terrestrial Ecoregions of North America: A Conservation Assessment* may be the hefty reference you've been wanting for your library. It, as with a number of IP's publications, is written by—and probably best suited to—professorial minds, but other volumes are fitting for amateur restorationists. I have not inspected the following books, but their catalog descriptions piqued my interest, and you may wish to investigate them fully: *The Tallgrass Restoration Handbook*; *The Once and Future Forest*; *Restoring Streams in Cities*; *Restoring Diversity*; *Alien Species in North America and Hawaii: Impacts on Natural Ecosystems*.

**NATURE STUDY GUILD PUBLISHERS**  
800-954-2984

Were I to recommend just three books to instill an understanding of our place in time and our effect on the

landscape, they would be Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*, Jean Giono's *The Man Who Planted Trees*, and Nature Study Guild Publishers' *Reading The Landscape of America* by May Theilgaard Watts. If you're ever teetering on indecision, wondering whether to lean toward trend or ecotype, read the last chapter of Watts' book. There is no single essay I have read that so well lays out our landscaping follies for scrutiny.

**HOUGHTON MIFFLIN**

Houghton Mifflin is the smart company that published *Noah's Garden*. Since I introduced their new propagation book with the dark cover to member Tom Koss, he's begun calling it his "Black Bible." The New England Wild Flower Society entitled it *Growing and Propagating Wildflowers of the United States and Canada*. It's a stunner—color photos, habitat descriptions and species-by-species advice. It lists for \$40, but I got my copy for \$28 from Edward R. Hamilton (does not take phone orders or ship outside the U.S. *Hamiltonbook.com*).

Now, go—treat yourself to a new book! ☺  
—Joy Buslaff



**EXCERPTS FROM**

# REFLECTING NATURE GARDEN DESIGNS FROM WILD LANDSCAPES

BY JEROME AND SETH MALITZ

**H**as the city got you down? Do you feel the need to get away from it all, away from the concrete cages and asphalt moats, the noise, the rudeness, and the ugliness? Then it's time to retreat to the unspoiled places where nature still reigns, where you can wander along some stream or mountain meadow, soak in the solitude and be surrounded by beauty.

But all too often, when attempting such an escape, you find yourself in a mob of like-minded pilgrims. Frustration is added to disappointment, making you wish that you had a wilderness landscape of your own, one that could be enjoyed in privacy whenever wanted, whenever needed.

Even on those rare occasions when the escape succeeds, when you do find a corner of solitude in nature, the experience is all too brief, and nagging reality imposes itself on your pleasure—soon it's back to the daily grind and grunge of the city. And that too makes you wish that a wilderness landscape was at your doorstep.

Some people are able to satisfy this desire. They create just such an environment by adapting some design from nature into their garden or landscape, ironing out the rough edges and condensing the effects. They tame the model a bit and personalize it by adding fences, paths, and benches. When completed, they have their own private Eden—a personal paradise offering a lifetime of reward.

Throughout the centuries, garden planners have taken their inspiration from nature. After all, there are enough ideas to be found there to landscape the entire planet. The variety is endless, and gardens that are modeled after nature's landscapes, like the model themselves, can be delicate or powerful, serene or exciting.

Of course, there are all sorts of gardens that are not based on natural models. Some derive their inspiration from geometry, toeing the line set by compass and ruler; others are governed by astrological precepts. Some are designed to serve gastro-

nomical desires; others are devoted to serve some hobby or collector's passion. There are gardens given over to medicinals, hallucinogens, and aphrodisiacs. But none of these concerns us here. Our interest is in landscapes that serve the eye and mind without compromise. The landscapes of nature and the gardens based on natural models are supremely suited to this goal.

## IN SEARCH OF THE BEST

We favor gardens that have the look of permanence—at least the large features and basic structures should have it. We don't see how one can achieve a sense of tranquility or sanctuary without this sense of permanence. In recent years, much has been made of the temporary garden, landscapes that can be changed with one's mood or with what's mod. For some, changing the garden design on a whim is a demonstration of wealth, the garden as a vehicle of conspicuous consumption. For others with a transient lifestyle, the temporary garden may make good sense. But with a temporary garden one misses the sense of growth and development, the sense of value of something that cannot be achieved immediately, easily, or with money alone. The throwaway garden is not what this is about. We don't take the garden that lightly. The great rewards and potential of a garden are not to be realized overnight; it takes time, effort, and care, but all in minuscule amounts compared to the rewards. We prefer landscapes that look like they were planned to endure, look like they will endure, and look like they deserve to endure. It's this sense of worth that goes so far in counteracting the lack of permanence that many of us find so disturbing in today's world.

We also like gardens that show change within that permanence—gardens that are responsive to the light, the weather, and the seasons. A garden can be serene in the soft light of morning, exciting in the brilliant light of midday, and romantic by the light of the moon. A garden can be scripted to be an elaborate shadow play, or an impres-

sionist's dream in the mist. In temperate climates, a garden can show its most dramatic changes in response to the seasons: the flush of fresh green in the spring, the solidity of form and color in the summer, the blaze of color kindled by autumn, and the spare linear patterns defined by winter. A garden that changes so dramatically with the seasons cannot fail to bring pleasure throughout the year.

To sustain interest, a design must have some complexity, employing many elements to engage the mind and the senses. Minimalist art may be just the thing for a quick tour through the modern wing of a museum, but it can be an awful bore to look at day after day. On the other hand, an overall busyness that masks the underlying structure in a confusion of details can be just as boring. We like a garden to play like a symphony—a hierarchy of structures—a design that's strong overall and provides the framework against which all other elements are displayed.

We enjoy gardens as sculpture, large-scale, walk-through-and-around sculpture that delights us and surprises us at every turn. We prefer designs realized in three dimensions, designs that invite you to stroll around and to explore their special features. A twisting path that offers a different perspective at every turn, a boulder or shrub or other obstacle that you have to step around in order to see the next view, a choice planting partly concealed beneath the low branches of a tree—all these effects tend to magnify the space and create a sense of adventure and discovery.

We expect a great deal from a well-designed garden, but nothing that is incompatible with gardens in the natural style. In fact, wild gardens display these attributes in a wonderful variety of ways, and so do the cultivated gardens modeled after them.

Although an unlimited number of garden designs are to be found in nature, seldom do you find one that can be appropriated as is. There is always the need of some alteration—a change in scale perhaps, or a reshaping of the plan to fit your site, or the use of plants better suited to your growing conditions. Here lies the necessity and the opportunity to personalize the garden by adding the details.

So look to nature to suggest the finishing touches as well as the overall scheme. Then customize the design to suit your own desires and interests, and create a personal vision of a natural landscape. 🍂

*From Reflecting Nature: Garden Designs from Wild Landscapes  
by Jerome Malitz and Seth Malitz,*

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#### **GRASSY MEADOW WITH BIRCH (above)**

A GRASSY MEADOW, AN ISOLATED CLUMP OF BIRCH, A FOREST backdrop—a simple, open composition, but, oh, so inviting. How pleasant it would be to stroll through the auburn grasses, to run your hand over the ivorine trunks of the birch, and to explore the cool shade of the forest.

The place is Crawford Notch State Park in the White Mountains of New Hampshire; but with minor variations, such meadows can be found throughout much of the temperate zone. Autumn is the season, early autumn, and the grasses have already taken on their tawny hue. The Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*) is still in the process of a change of dress, showing as much green as yellow. Later, when the tree is stripped bare of foliage by winter, the graceful trunks stand out even more against the dark green conifers in the background.

When the grass renews itself in the spring, the birch and other deciduous trees put on a pointillistic display of translucent yellow-green. Even the more restrained conifers can't help but display a bit of enthusiasm with a show of new candles, standing out lighter and brighter against the old growth. When the landscape mellows into summer, the scene takes on more conservative tones of green and blue-green. Still, the white trunks of the birch provide contrast and line to the composition, as the entire landscape prepares itself for autumn once again.

Although the composition is strikingly simple, several features add variety and interest. The juxtaposition of deciduous and coniferous elements, particularly the birch and Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) plays an important role. The staggered background suggests a path leading into the forest—far more interesting than a uniform tree and shrub border. Of course, the sea of grass in the foreground is the central component of the design, an undulating carpet alive to the wind's whim, varying with sun and shade, and highly responsive to the change of seasons. 🍂

**Y**OU'RE RESTORING THE landscape on your back 40 and you're shopping for a seed mix. You can either buy Mix A with 45 species for \$600 or you can buy Mix B with 40 species for \$700. Which is the better deal? It must be Mix A because you get more species for less money—right? Maybe, maybe not.

In order to evaluate the quality of a seed mix, you need to know which species are in the mix, the proportions of the species in the mix, and something about the quality of the seeds.

Knowing which species are in the mix is important for several reasons. First, are the species in the mix appropriate for your site? If you have a sandy, dry site and the species in the mix are for a wet site, it doesn't matter how cheap the seeds are—you've wasted your money because they won't grow.

Second, some species are inexpensive while others are very expensive. For example, Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), Bee Balm (*Monarda fistulosa*), and Ox-Eye Sunflower (*Helianthus helianthoides*) typically sell for around \$5 per ounce while Pale Spiked Lobelia (*Lobelia spicata*), Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium campestre*), and Cream Wild Indigo (*Baptisia leucophaea*) sell for more than \$100 per ounce. Thus, Mix A might not be such a good deal if it's loaded with inexpensive species.

Knowing something about the ecological behavior of the species in the mix is also important. A site planted with a high proportion of annual, biennial, and short-lived perennial forbs, such as Black-eyed Susan, Dotted Mint (*Monarda punctata*), and Yellow Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*) is much more likely to become grass dominated once these short-lived species have died out than if it was planted with a higher proportion of perennial forbs. That's not to say short-lived species shouldn't be planted, just make sure they don't comprise the bulk of the mix and that you include long-lived species as well.

Be wary of mixes with a high pro-

portion of rhizomatous species and species that grow aggressively because they can overwhelm and exclude the more subdued species. Examples include most of the Sunflowers (*Helianthus* spp.), Grass-leaved Goldenrod (*Solidago graminifolia*), Canada Tick Trefoil (*Desmodium canadense*), and Prairie Coreopsis (*Coreopsis palmata*). Again, that's not to say these species shouldn't be planted, just take care not to plant them at too high of a rate. Or you can do as I often do and individually spot



## ALL MIXED UP

plant the aggressive species into discrete areas instead of including them in the mix.

It's also very important to consider the germination characteristics of the species in the mix. Species that germinate readily should be planted at a relatively light rate so they won't become overly abundant and suppress or extinguish the species that germinate and mature more slowly. Examples include Black-eyed Susan, Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), Yellow Coneflower and Compass Plant (*Silphium laciniatum*). Many easily germinated seeds are relatively inexpensive, making it tempting to load up on them—a big mistake.

Conversely, species that don't germinate well from seed, such as New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), Wild Rose (*Rosa* spp.), and Canada Anemone (*Anemone canadensis*), will need to be sown at a higher rate in order to ensure their presence in your prairie. Very-small-seed species such as Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon media*, pictured above), Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*) and many of the lobelias (*Lobelia* spp.) are often planted too deeply to survive because they easily sift or wash deep down into the

soil. Thus, small-seed species need to be planted at a slightly higher rate to account for their higher mortality.

You also need to consider the mix's grass-to-forb ratio. Most prairie seed mixes have a ratio of about 30 to 40 percent grass and 60 to 70 percent forbs. Mixes with more than about 65 percent grass will typically develop into a solid stand of grass. This is especially true if most of the grasses in your mix are Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardi*) or Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*). Mixes with more than about 70 percent forbs may be very showy, but are often difficult to maintain by burning because grasses provide most of the fuel for a burn. Also, seed mixes with a high proportion of forbs may be prohibitively expensive because forbs cost more than grasses.

It's also important to consider seed quality. A

standardized measure of seed quality is *pure live seed* (PLS). PLS is determined by multiplying seed purity (cleanliness) by the proportion of live (viable) seeds.

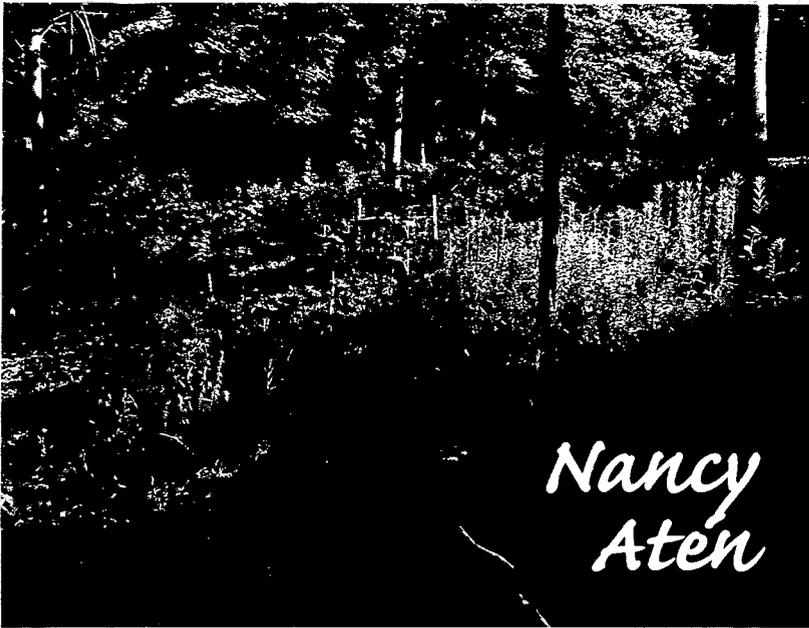
Determining PLS requires laboratory testing. Buying seed on a PLS basis helps ensure the ounce of Big Bluestem you're buying actually contains an ounce of viable seeds. Most native plant nurseries sell grass seed by PLS, a few also sell forb and shrub seeds by PLS. If you're planting seeds you've collected, there will probably be more impurities (stems, leaves, pappus, etc.) than commercially purchased seed, and you'll need to plant more of it.

For most restorations, the cost of the seed is the most expensive part of the process. Designing a quality seed mix is part science, part art and should be based on site characteristics, species characteristics and your restoration goals. A well-designed mix will achieve your goals, a poorly designed mix will be a disappointment and a waste of your time and money. —**Michael P. Anderson**  
*Mike operates BioLogic Environmental Consulting, LLC and is member of the Madison Chapter of Wild Ones.*

# Shooting stars

## WILD ONES YOU SHOULD KNOW

*Nancy and Mandy are members of the Milwaukee-North Chapter of Wild Ones*



**L**et's have lunch. I've something to tell you." I had an idea that what Nancy Aten had to tell me was BIG. I had known Nancy for several years through our Milwaukee-North meetings and had visited her nearby yard—a lovely maple-beech woods on the Milwaukee River. Nancy is a quiet, personable young woman—a Stanford University MSEE (electrical engineering) graduate. She impressed me with her methodical natural landscaping and her eagerness to learn more about it. She and her husband, Dan Collins, have enhanced their natural woodlands with winding paths, additional native plants, and common/botanical nameplates which made our chapter yard tour all the more interesting and informative.

After only a few years as Wild Ones members, Nancy and Dan purchased 55 acres of escarpment and northern forest in Door County, Wis.—a beautiful finger of land extending into Lake Michigan but rapidly being filled with vacation homes and all the pressures on the natural systems that development brings with it. Their purchase was not to add another home to the area, but to protect the land as stewards. They have happily discovered their property contains rare plant and snail species. Subsequently, they permanently protected this habitat with a no-development conservation easement with the Door County Land Trust. This commitment to conservation is certainly one way Wild Ones touched Nancy's life.

Not content with this passive statement, Nancy eagerly volunteered her talents to formulate the **Lorrie Otto Seeds For Education** grant program from ground zero, devising the

application forms, searching for judges, and securing the funds with The Milwaukee Foundation for perpetuity. Today's smooth-running program began with Nancy's creative solution for this Wild Ones legacy.

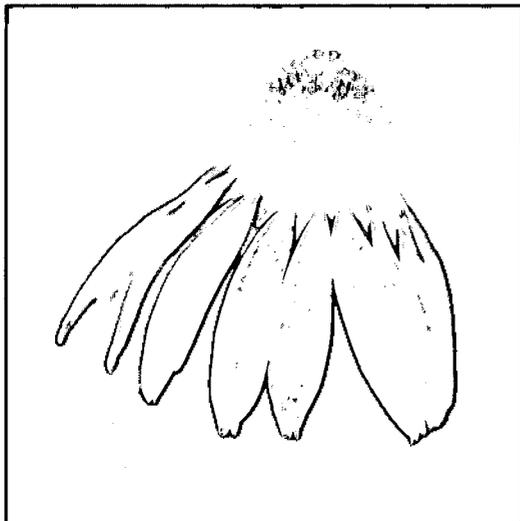
Wait, there's more. A couple of years ago I was excitedly telling Nancy about my just-completed week at The Clearing—a multi-faceted adult educational retreat at the very tip of that beautiful Door County. I had a wonderful six-day study of natural landscaping with Darrel Morrison at the former home of Jens Jensen—now The Clearing campus. I thought Nancy would enjoy it also and encouraged her to go in two years when Darrel would again conduct the class.

It was soon after Nancy returned from her week at The Clearing that we met for lunch. She told me she was applying to enter the Landscape Architecture graduate program at the University of Georgia in Athens. If accepted, she would quit her full-time job in software development and start classes the next January. She wanted this opportunity to pursue study with Darrel before his retirement. You know, I was not really surprised by Nancy's disclosure. Over the years I had known Nancy, I could sense her interest and commitment to native plants intensifying. She is now half way through her studies and upon graduation plans to work in ecological design and restoration.

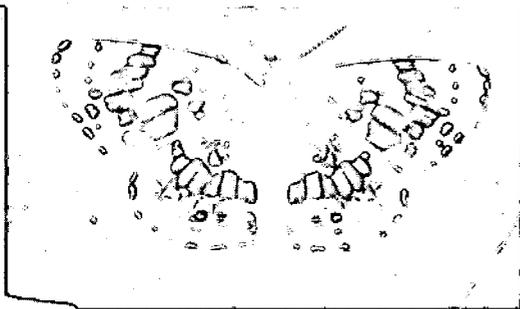
The Wild Ones mission touches its members' lives in many ways, large and small. Nancy Aten has followed her dream and will continue to touch other lives far and wide with her creative and intelligent talents. 🌱 —Mandy Ploch

**Application Deadline Nov. 15**  
*The Seeds For Education Fund awards grants to schools, nature centers, and other places of learning for educational projects such as creating natural landscapes using native plants and developing outdoor classrooms. Contact our headquarters for applications.*

# The inside story



**PURPLE CONEFLOWER**  
*Echinacea purpurea*



**Family:** *Asteraceae* (Daisy)

**Other Names:** Red Sunflower, Hedgehog, Herb-of-the-Prairie, Broad-Leaved Purple Coneflower.

**Habitat:** Prairies and dry open woods; also in moist rich soil.

**Description:** A large Daisy-like flower with swept-back, reddish-purple rays which radiate from a cone-shaped center. The lower leaves are long-stalked, tapering and coarsely toothed. The upper leaves are smaller, sometimes untoothed and usually without a stalk. **Height:** 2 to 3 feet. **Flowering:** June to October.

**Comments:** Purple Coneflower is native to the grasslands of the east-central U.S. During the early and mid-19th Century, Winnebago medicine men would use Purple Coneflower for an incredible feat of endurance. They would chew the raw herb in order to numb their mouths enough so they could insert burning pieces of hot coals, as if by magic, to the astonishment of their tribes. This amazing act, with no apparent injury, made tribal members fear their supposedly great power. The juice from this plant acted as a preservative against inflammation.

**Medicinal Use:** This plant, also known by its

genus name, *Echinacea*, is one of the major medicinal herbs native to the U.S. No other plant is so potentially important to self-care and mainstream medicine. Since the 1930s, *Echinacea*'s many qualities have been appreciated almost entirely by Europeans. However, the situation has changed, since it has grown in popularity.

*Echinacea* was the Plains Indians' main medicine. Root poultices were used on insect bites, wounds, stings and snakebite. Other tribes used the plant for colds, coughs, rabies, smallpox, measles, mumps, arthritis and rheumatism. German studies since the 1950s have shown *Echinacea* to have significant anti-viral, anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and anti-protozoan properties, lending credence to its uses in wound healing and treatment of the common cold, flu and many infectious diseases. It inhibits infection by exerting a powerful immune-stimulating effect and fights infection comparable to that of the body's own virus-fighting chemical, interferon. Before a virus-infected cell dies, it secretes interferon, which has the ability of surrounding cells to resist viral assault. *Echinacea* does essentially the same thing.

[*Medical views expressed are the opinion of the author.—Ed.*] When purchasing *Echinacea* tincture or extract, make sure you detect the signature of the plant—a tingly, slightly numbing sensation on your tongue. If the product doesn't have that taste, it probably doesn't have any immune-fighting properties and you're wasting your money. Better yet, grow your own plants and tincture the roots yourself.

**Name Origin:** Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778), Swedish botanist, and father of modern scientific nomenclature, gave the genus name of *Rudbeckia* to this plant—to honor his botanical mentor at the University of Uppsala, Professor Rudbeck. However, botanists later adopted the more descriptive name, *Echinacea* (ek-in-AY-see-a), based on the Greek term, *echinos*, meaning "sea urchin," in reference to the spiny appearance of the flower's central cone. The species name, *purpurea* (pur-PURE-ee-a) is from the Latin word for "purple."

**Author's Note:** Purple Coneflower is one of the host plants for the larva of the Silvery Checkerspot Butterfly (*Chlosyne nycteis*). It is also a favorite nectar plant of many species of butterflies, especially the Painted Lady and Monarch. It is a wonderful plant to consider if you're trying to create or restore a prairie environment. Its blossoms last for a great while and when the petals fall off, the beautiful orange-tinted cone lingers for the remainder of the season and into winter.

© 2001 Janice Stiefel, [jstiefel@itol.com](mailto:jstiefel@itol.com)  
Having moved recently, Janice has transferred her Wild Ones membership to the new Door County Chapter where her husband, John, is the charter president.

## BEING BEAUTIFUL, TRAVELING TO EUROPE AND BECOMING INTERNATIONALLY POPULAR CHANGES YOU

The Purple Coneflower became the Perennial Plant Association's 1998 plant of the year after being "refined" in Europe and reintroduced to the U.S. Its popularity and exposure has been no less than that of movie star Julia Roberts'.

What's not to love about Purple Coneflower? The plant has colorful petals, and almost any gardener can grow it. Well, you see, that's the problem. The cultivars can grow aggressively, that's why they're used in generic wildflower mixes, sometimes referred to as "meadow in a can." As Mike Anderson reminds us in his "All Mixed Up" article (page 8), a good seed mix is integral to long-term success.

I've read about Purple Coneflower aggression, heard it bemoaned, and seen a dear neighbor's garden become a monoculture. I'm glad I placed just a few Purple Coneflowers in the kitchen garden outside my office window where I can enjoy the butterfly and Goldfinch diners they attract without concern of vegetative escape. Out in my larger native landscape, I've incorporated a native strain of Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*), which is on my state's endangered flora list.

In *Growing and Propagating Wildflowers of the United States and Canada* (see page 5 of this issue) author William Cullina advises us about *Echinacea*:

There are about half a dozen species, all native to North America. I have grown most of them and find that, though all have their charms, *E. purpurea* and *E. tennesseensis* make the best garden subjects overall. However, many are becoming very rare in the wild and, among other things, are suffering genetic homogenization from cross pollination with cultivated *E. purpurea*, so I would encourage you to seek out and grow your local species if you can.

\* \* \*



**CONEFLOWER TRIVIA:**  
*Wild Ones' earlier logo symbol looked a bit like*

*Echinacea purpurea.*

*Our modern logo, with its laid-back petals, more closely resembles*

*E. pallida.*

—Ed.



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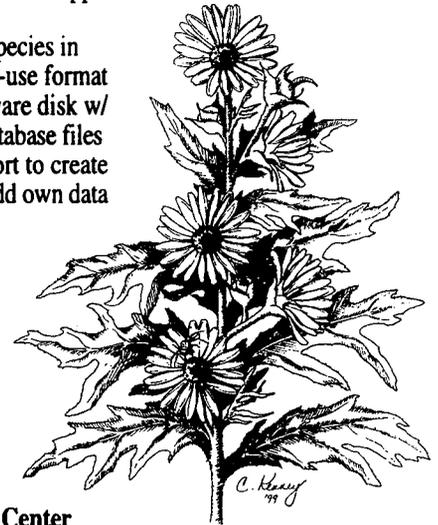
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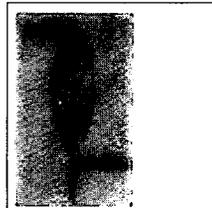
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### NEW FROM WILD ONES— MUSIC INSPIRED BY NATURAL LANDSCAPES

Folk singer Steve Hazell's CD "For the Wild Ones" includes many of the songs Wild Ones have come to know and love from hearing Steve perform at native landscaping conferences. The title song ("For The Wild Ones") does a beautiful job of capturing the spirit of the Wild Ones organization and mentions Lorrie Otto by name in the lyrics. The song "Light on the Land" is a blend of Steve's and Wild Ones' philosophies of the human impact on the environment and does a wonderful job of gently reminding us to be mindful of our affect on the Earth. "This Land's in Harmony" was co-written with Fox Valley Area Chapter (FVAC) Wild One Carol Niendorf and follows the theme of working in harmony with nature. Steve is also a member of FVAC.

The CD contains 10 songs in all, eight of which are original material. Steve has been delighting audiences for over 25 years. "For the Wild Ones" contains some of his most requested material and is sure to be a source of inspiration and enjoyment for Wild Ones. The cost of each CD is \$15 (includes S&H). Checks for \$15 should be made payable to Wild Ones. Mark the envelope "Harmony CD" and mail to:



**Wild Ones Natural Landscapers**

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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 13 for their addresses.

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

**ILLINOIS:** Margaret Ovitt, 107 W. Kelly St., Macomb, IL 61455-2925; (309) 836-6231. Linda Stelle, 269 Stonegate Rd., Cary, IL 60013; (847) 639-4940; sirocco@prodigy.net.

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

**Dane Ryan**, RR#1 Box 76C, Cannelburg, IN 47519; (812) 644-7545; pelryan@dmrtc.net.

**MICHIGAN:** East Lansing Chapter—Mark S. Ritzenhein, (517) 336-0320; mritz@acd.net.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** Marilyn C.

**Wynga**, 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; florabee@hotmail.com. Rolf Uttegaard, 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. Karen Isebrands-Brown,

Nicolet College, Box 518, Rhinelander, WI 54501; (715) 365-4482.

### THESE CHAPTERS NEED MEMBERS FOR MOMENTUM:

**ILLINOIS:** Naturally Wild of LaGrange—Judi Ann Dore, 41 S. LaGrange Rd, LaGrange, IL 60525; (708) 387-1398.

**IOWA:** Wild Rose Chapter—Christine Taliga, (319) 339-9121.

**MICHIGAN:** Calhoun County Chapter—Marilyn Case, Calhoun County, (616) 781-8470; mcase15300@aol.com. Southwest Michigan Chapter—Sue Stowell, (616) 468-7031.

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

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

**NEW YORK:** Chenango Valley Chapter—Holly Stegner, (315) 824-1178; hollystegner@hotmail.com.

**WISCONSIN:** Root River Chapter—Carla Freeman, (414) 382-6415; carlafreeman@alverno.edu.

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S89 W22630 Milwaukee Ave.

Big Bend, WI 53103-9539

Voice/Fax: (262) 662-4600

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

Calendar Coordinator Mary Paquette  
N2026 Cedar Rd., Adell, WI 53001  
(920) 994-2505 • paquetjm@execpc.com

*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.

■ Oct. 13, 2001, will be hosted by the Gibson Woods Chapter, Hammond, Ind. ■ July 13, 2002, Columbus Ohio Chapter will host the 2002 Annual Meeting and National 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**

MESSAGE CENTER: (630) 415-IDIG

PAT CLANCY: (630) 964-0448

Clancypj2@aol.com

Chapter usually meets the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the College of DuPage, Building K, Room 161, unless otherwise noted.

Sept. 20: "Ornamental Grasses," presented by Natural Garden. There will be an opportunity to buy some potted grasses at the meeting.

Oct. 14 (Sun.): 2 p.m. Field trip to Connor Shaw's Possibility Place Nursery in Monee.

Oct. 18: Presentation by Connor Shaw of Possibility Place Nursery on native trees and shrubs for fall color.

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**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).

Sept. 10: "Conservation Gardening: Fun and Cosmic," presented by Stephen Packard, director of Audubon of the Chicago region and senior editor of *Chicago Wilderness Magazine*.

Oct. 8: Regular meeting cancelled. Planning meeting for chapter volunteers for the Tall Grass Prairie Seminar, "Prairies in Our Midst: a Workshop for Educators and Decision Makers." Seminar to be held Oct. 13 at Montessori School of Lake Forest. Call (847) 548-5989 for information.

**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.

Sept. 6: Regular chapter meeting to decide and plan fall activities.

Oct. 4: Activity to be announced; call for information.

**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.

Sept. 13: 6 p.m. North Park Potluck Picnic and Barbecue at the Nature Center; grill equipment provided.

Oct. 11: Guest speaker 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.

Sept. 15: 10 a.m.: 5 p.m. Autumn on the Prairie at Nachusa Grasslands. Join the festivities at this annual prairie celebration.

October: Annual seed collection on dates and sites to be announced.

**INDIANA**

**GIBSON WOODS CHAPTER**

**JOY BOWER: (219) 989-9679**

**jbower1126@aol.com**

Meetings are usually held the second Monday of the month, 7 p.m., at Gibson Woods, 6201 Parrish Ave., Hammond, Ind., unless otherwise noted.

September: Guest speaker to be announced.

October: Plant swap and plant study of the month.

**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, unless otherwise noted.



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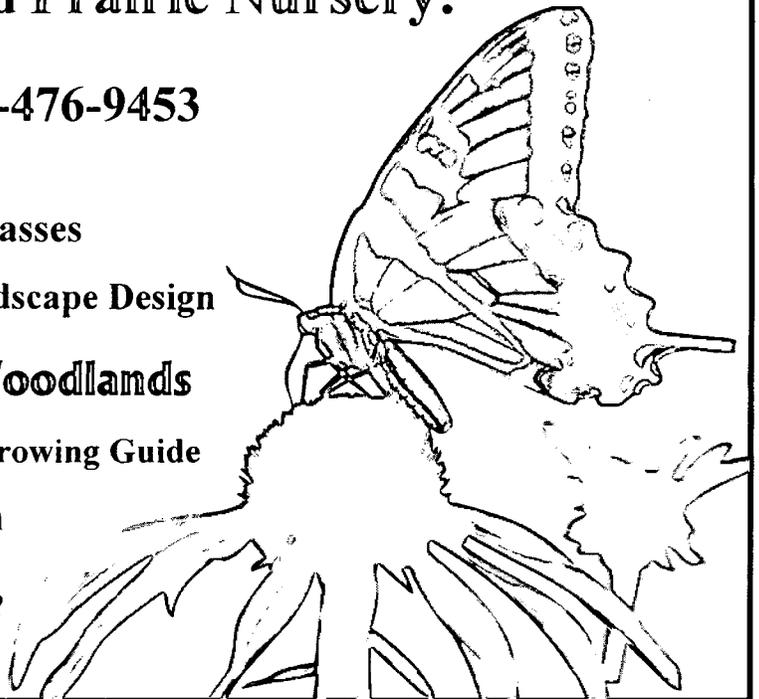
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**LOUISVILLE CHAPTER**

**PORTIA BROWN: (502) 454-4007**  
wildones-lou@home.com

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

September & October meetings: Contact above for information.

4th Saturday Work Days: Resuming in September, 9 a.m.-noon, weather permitting, at Wildflower Woods in Cherokee Park, at the wooded triangle behind the Daniel Boone statue.

**MICHIGAN**

**ANN ARBOR CHAPTER**

**TRISH BECKJORD: (734) 669-2713**  
**DAVE MINDELL: (734) 665-7168**

plantwise@aol.com

**BOB GRESE: (734) 763-0645**  
bgrese@umich.edu

Meetings are usually held the second Wednesday of the month. For meeting information see [www.wild.org/annarbor/index.html#meetings](http://www.wild.org/annarbor/index.html#meetings) or contact above.

**CADILLAC CHAPTER**

**PAT RUTA: (231) 876-0378**  
enviropat@aol.com

Meetings are usually held the fourth Thursday of the month from 7-9 p.m. at Lincoln School, 125 Ayer St., Cadillac.

**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, unless otherwise noted.

Sept. 22 (Sat.): Meeting at Ben Lark's new prairie restoration on a Civil War era farm. Tour includes grass and forb identification and a visit to a pioneer cemetery. Tour ends with a hot dog roast at Ben's log cabin. Call for start time and directions.

Oct. 23: Tamara Crupi of Albion College will present a program on Oak Openings.

**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.

**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.

**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. Sept. 26: 5 p.m. Field trip to Marc's Marsh (a SWMLC Preserve) in Comstock Township; program on wetland plants and management of invasives presented by Lois Richmond of Nature's Acres and Kathy Takahashi of SWMLC.

Oct. 24: Member meeting for discussion and brainstorming: "What Then Are We To Do?" Focus on what can we save or restore, and how best can we do it?

**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, at 7 p.m.

**SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER**

**SUE STOWELL: (616) 468-7031**  
**ERIN JONES & NATE FULLER: (616) 926-4691**  
sarett@sarett.com

Meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m., Sarett Nature Center, unless otherwise noted. Check Chapter web page for updates: [www.wild.org/swmich/index/html](http://www.wild.org/swmich/index/html).

**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.

**OTTER TAIL CHAPTER**

**KAREN TERRY: (218) 736-5520**  
terry714@ptel.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 fourth Monday of the month at the Heritage Nature Center, 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 24: Members will be gathering seed; location to be announced.

Oct. 22: Speaker and topic to be announced.

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#### TWIN CITIES

MARTY RICE: (952) 927-6531

jcmrfr@qwest.net

Meetings are usually held the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at the Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy, Minneapolis, unless otherwise noted.

Sept. 18: Seed and plant exchange.

Oct. 16: Meeting topic: Seed propagation.

#### MISSOURI

##### MID-MISSOURI CHAPTER

LESA BEAMER: beamer1@missouri.edu

Meetings are usually held the second Saturday of the month, 1:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Location varies.

Sept. 21-23: In place of the monthly meeting, members are encouraged to attend the native plant conference in St. Louis. Contact above for more details.

Oct. 13: 11 a.m. Joint field trip with St. Louis chapter to Rock Post Nursery in Fulton. Contact Lesa Beamer for directions or if you wish to carpool from Columbia.

##### 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; call Shaw Nature Reserve for directions and info. Public is welcome.

Sept. 5: 6 p.m. Meeting at the home of Tom Krauska of the North American Butterfly Association; tour his butterfly garden and learn about the butterfly.

Oct. 13 (Sat.): Members carpool to Rock Post Wildflower Nursery in Fulton. Meet at Schnuck's north parking lot, Lindbergh and Hwy. 40 at 9 a.m.; return by 4 p.m. RSVP to above.

#### NEW YORK

##### CHENANGO VALLEY CHAPTER

HOLLY STEGNER: (315) 824-1178

hollystegner@hotmail.com

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.

#### 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.

Sept. 8: Tour of naturalist Paul Knoop's prairie and woods, including an amphibian pond, in Hocking County. Leave 9 a.m. from Inniswood Metro Park parking lot.

Oct. 13: Presentation by Mike Hall: "Deep Ecology." Afterwards, tour the park's woods.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA

##### FOOTHILLS CHAPTER, CLEMSON

KATHY KEGLEY: (864) 985-0505

Meetings are usually held the third Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Red Caboose at the South Carolina Botanical Gardens in Clemson.

#### 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, unless otherwise noted.

September & October: for activities please contact above.

##### DOOR COUNTY CHAPTER

MARYANN CRAYTON: (920) 854-6304 (May-Oct)

maryanncrayton@aol.com

Sept. 8: 1-3 p.m. Field trip to The Clearing, Garret Bay Road in Ellison Bay for a private tour and presentation by Erik Rinkleff, resident landscape architect. We will see the restoration in progress of Jens Jensen's beautiful woodland gardens and a meadow in progress. Plant list and resources will be included. Meet at the Jens Jensen Visitor Center at 1 p.m.

Oct. 6: 1-3 p.m. "Native Shrubs for Your Yard." Using a Newport State Park meadow and woodland edge, we will focus on the intermediate layer in your yard. Tour led by Mary Ann Crayton. Plant list and resources will be included. Meet at Newport State Park Entrance Parking lot at 1 p.m.

##### 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.



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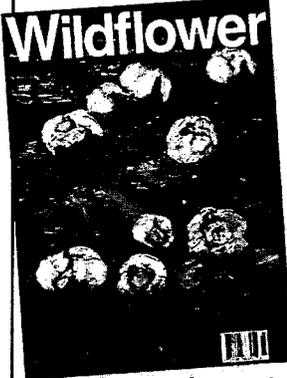


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Sept. 22 (Sat.): 9 a.m. Yard tour of peak season tall grass prairies. See chapter newsletter for details.

Oct. 13 (Sat.): 9 a.m. Annual seed gathering at Bubolz Nature Center and possibly other Fox Valley sites. See chapter newsletter for details.

Oct. 25 (Thurs.): 7 p.m. Presentation by Kelly Kearns of the Wis. DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources, on "The Role of Natural Landscapers in the Conservation of Rare Plants." Memorial Park Arboretum, Appleton.

#### GREEN BAY CHAPTER

**KATHIE TILOT: (920) 336-4992**

Meetings are usually held at the Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Rd., except in summer.

Sept. 19: 7 p.m. GBBG Visitor Center; view cable access-produced show featuring one of our rescues. Members, slide show.

Oct. 6: Seed collection; see local chapter newsletter for time and location.

#### MADISON CHAPTER

**LAURIE YAHR: (608) 274-6539**

[yahrkahl@aol.com](mailto:yahrkahl@aol.com)

Meetings will be held at Olbrich Botanical Garden, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome.

Sept. 27: "Edible Plants" presented by Pat Armstrong, naturalist and author of native plants and weeds cookbook.

Oct. 25: To be announced.

#### 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. Contact Judy Crane for meeting information.

Sept. 18: "Pollinators of Our Native Plants," presented by Susan Thompson of ECOSCAPES.

Oct. 16: Annual Seed and Treat Exchange.

#### 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., unless otherwise noted.

Sept. 8: 'Rainwater Gardens' with visits to local sites.

Oct. 13: Seed gathering of sunny-site plants. Bring clippers, bags, markers.

#### MILWAUKEE SOUTHWEST-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., unless otherwise noted.

Sept. 8: 12:30 p.m. Meet at Wehr Nature Center to car-pool to several members, properties to explore water features, including shoreline landscaping at a lake, pond installation and wet landscaping.

Oct. 13: 1:30 p.m. Annual seed gathering and buck-thorn control day at the nature center.

#### ROOT RIVER AREA CHAPTER

**CARLA FREEMAN: (414) 382-6415**

[carla.freeman@alverno.edu](mailto:carla.freeman@alverno.edu)

All meetings are held from September through May, the first Saturday of the month from 1:30-3 p.m. at the Riverbend Nature Center in Racine, unless otherwise noted.

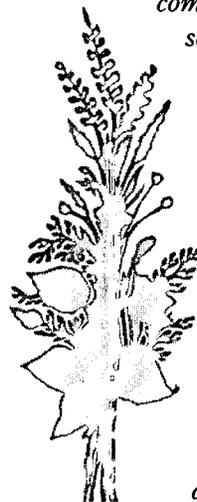
Sept. 1: Seed and plant exchange.

Oct. 6: Speaker on native landscaping; to be announced. Members can contact Nan Calvert at [nj@execpc.com](mailto:nj@execpc.com) for fall activity information.

#### SEASONAL REMINDER

*Returning to the subject of Purple Coneflowers ... Mandy Ploch suggests you can limit the rate at which Echinacea species reseed themselves or lessen their messiness by cutting off the stalks and bundling them, then securing them to a fence or lamppost where you can watch from a window as birds*

*come to feed on the seeds. A number of other native plants could be included in such a dried bouquet. This kind of natural dried flower arrangement would make a more diversified porch decoration than the customary cornstalk bundles many people set out in the fall.*



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# OH, LOOK— THERE'S MORE SPACE TO FILL IN THE NEWSLETTER

Normally our chapters send in more material for our "Meeting Place" column than we got for this issue and this page would be consumed with listings. However, since there's no shortage of topics to discuss, let's give you some other news.

## IT'S A SOD, SOD SITUATION

Mark Feider of the Milwaukee North Chapter Wild Ones forwarded a newspaper story to me from the *Arizona Daily Sun*. The July 16 headline reads: "Yuma Encourages Developers to Use More Grass." It seems Yuma's assistant director of community development would like to see more turf going in around new homes because "It's more aesthetically pleasing." He qualified his remarks by saying the city wouldn't *require* the use of more grass, only that it wants to *encourage* it.

The reason for the encouragement is that many homebuyers are migrat-

ing from the East where lawn is thought of as normal, and the lantana or other desert species or gravel landscapes, which are popular among Arizona natural landscapers, appear foreign to their Easterner eyes. [Remember what Louise Lacey said on page 2 of this newsletter about the legacy of East Coast ideas?]

## DO THESE LOOK REAL TO YOU?

Nathan Aaberg of the North Park Nature Center Chapter Wild Ones directed me to a July 13 article in the *Wall Street Journal* that indicates the use of artificial lawns (around both businesses and residences) is expected to rise 25 percent, which translates to a total of about \$250 million annually in sales.

I think we all understand that many property owners are so tired of lawn care, turf that goes dormant in August, or high utility bills or water restrictions from their local utilities

that they're simply looking for an escape from an endless responsibility. Further selling points for the fake grass are less concern about insect pests or mud being tracked into the house.

Fortunately, the article provided a list of the downsides. The plastic stuff costs about \$10 a square foot. The yard stands out when the neighboring lawns go dormant. Oh, yeah, and environmentalists think it's dumb.

My friend Bob Ahrenhoerster, owner of Prairie Seed Source, is trying to teach kids and adults the equation: "Lawn = Ø Habitat." That must mean plastic lawn is into the negative numbers.

I can think of one advantage to faux sod that the *Wall Street Journal* failed to deduce: If a gardener would buy a property covered by green plastic turf, the only site preparation they'd have to do to begin landscaping is peel off the stuff. —Ed.

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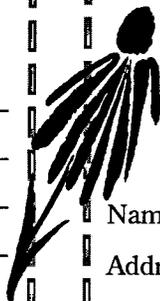
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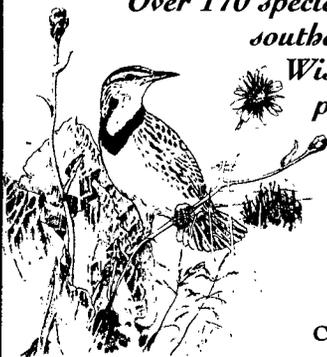
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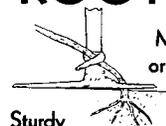
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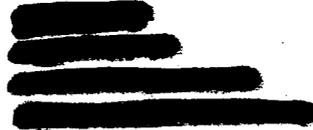
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**IN THIS ISSUE:**

SYMBIOSIS . . . . .	1
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETIES . . . . .	3
TREAT YOURSELF TO A NEW BOOK . . . . .	4
REFLECTING NATURE . . . . .	6
ALL MIXED UP . . . . .	8
SHOOTING STAR: NANCY ATEN . . . . .	9
PURPLE CONEFLOWER . . . . .	10
SEEDLINGS . . . . .	12
THE MEETING PLACE . . . . .	13
OH, LOOK—MORE SPACE IN THIS NEWSLETTER . . . . .	18

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