

Designing a naturalistic landscape

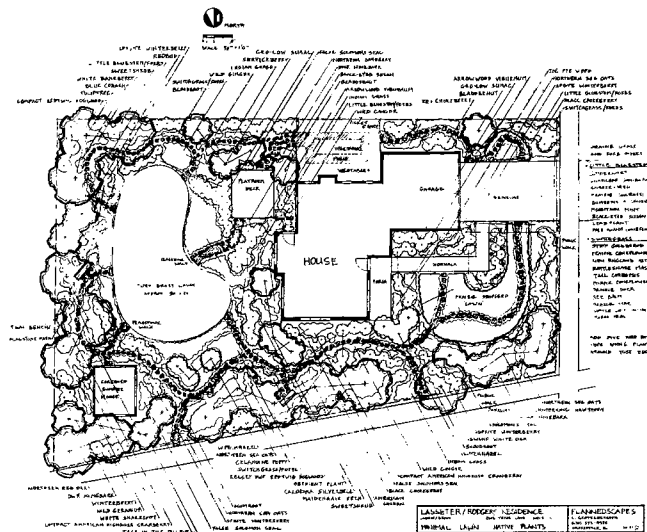
BY KARMA GROTELUESCHEN

Naturalistic landscaping goes beyond aesthetics and function. It includes the creation of spaces for the use and enjoyment of people while at the same time being environmentally responsible by using native plants and providing habitat for birds, animals and insects. In any endeavor, quality comes from carefully planning before doing. Naturalistic landscaping is no exception. Use of an orderly design process delays decision-making until all data have been gathered, goals carefully set, functional needs determined and relationships among them thoroughly examined. This contributes to an end result of high quality with lasting value.

Data gathering involves amassing information on two entities: the site and the people who occupy it. The people shape the project goals, including those regarding natural landscaping, which can range from radical to conservative. Requests from my residential clients generally fall into three categories: *natural history-based restoration*, *microclimate-based ecosystem design* and *functionality-based use* of native plantings. Factors that determine the level of natural landscaping ideals by the client and their family, the degree of acceptance of natural landscaping by neighbors and legality issues within the municipality.

Natural history-based restoration attempts to return the land to the ecosystem that existed in presettlement times. Land records from the county or historical journals from local libraries or historical societies can be sources of information. To restore land to tallgrass prairie, common in much of northern Illinois where I live, removal of all inappropriate species of trees and shrubs and all

turf grass and other non-native herbaceous plants will be followed by seeding or planting with plugs of prairie grasses and forbs. This removal of 'perfectly good' plants, often including mature trees, can be the most difficult issue in committing to complete land-



scape restoration. Prairie landscaping stands out in a neighborhood of turf grass lawns. So the tolerance of the neighbors and the municipality to variation must be managed. The family must be committed to weathering possible negative reactions.

If the restoration is to be **microclimate-based**, the conditions of each area of the site determine which native ecosystem will be used. Because existing features, such as mature trees, are creating the microclimates, such features are retained, so this method is often not as extreme and therefore sometimes more palatable for family and neighborhood.

Functionality-based goals limit plant selection to native plants, but the design is more typical of the residential landscape. This entails the least amount of social risk, though such decisions as to whether to include any turf grass, and if so how much, will vary according to the goals of the resident.

Once desires and commitment levels of the family have led to a choice

about the extent of a naturalistic design, a **site analysis** is made. The characteristics of the property are examined and inventoried. If presettlement restoration is the goal, the lay of the surrounding land will help decide which ecosystem type was most likely there. In northern Illinois, flat land was *prairie* or *savanna*, slopes of rivers or streams were *northeastern woodland*, adjacent flat bottomland was *floodplain forest*, and low areas not adjacent to streams were *pothole sloughs* surrounded by *wet prairie*. Soil and drainage conditions of the site must be inventoried to ensure that the land will sustain the presettlement ecosystem. Corrections may need to be planned for.

Microclimate-based design demands that the site be carefully inventoried to discover sunlight and moisture conditions. These determine which plant communities will be used. Areas in shade will be planted to woodland understory plants, while areas in sun will be planted to prairie species. Areas with water problems will be planted to wetland or wet prairie plants. Site conditions dictate which kinds of ecosystem choices are possible. After information about the residents and the site has fine-tuned the goals, the design is built up in stages, from the abstract to the detailed. Initial stages are accomplished graphically with *bubble diagrams*, generalizing locations where ideas are represented in abstract terms such as "screening of a bad view," rather than representing anything specific such as a particular type of plant or constructed object.

The **abstract design** begins with defining and exploring relationships among functional zones. Living areas might include spots for outdoor relaxation, dining, entertaining and recreation. Utility areas might include storage, vegetable or cutting gardens and

"Conventional people are roused to fury by departure from convention, largely because they regard such departure as a criticism of themselves."

—Bertrand Russell, 1872-1970

"Whenever you find you are on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect."

—Mark Twain, 1835-1910

compost areas. These are listed, then placed on the plan in varying arrangements to find optimal relationships. For most, the choice of naturalistic design goes beyond aesthetics and is a statement of one's belief system as an environmentalist, leading to the desire to have many more outdoor 'rooms' than is typical. Wild Ones members tend to spend a lot of time outside, so it is important to plan for spaces where they will be comfortable.

Allow for differing numbers of visitors, with some small, intimate gathering spaces and other sections for large groups. Areas for patios, shaded ramadas, benches, small dining sets and the like will guarantee the natural landscape is enjoyed, providing observation posts from which to view wildlife and plants. Patios and decks are typically placed adjacent to the home, but moving them away from the house wall allows for a pleasing buffer of plantings. Locating living areas with ample seating near the perimeter of the lot will draw people through the landscape, raising their

level of exposure to the scenery. Consideration of views out from the home's windows can also draw the occupants outdoors to relax or explore.

Circulation routes are not naturally thought of as part of a habitat, so naturalistic gardeners often neglect planning for them. The result is a garden that hosts wildlife and native plants aplenty, but is not very comfortable for people. Since lawn is often the default method to get from one living space to another, its reduction or elimination requires closer attention to detail in circulation planning.

Environmentalists desiring to pass their ideas on to future generations must consider **children** during functional design. Children, even if only visiting, will want spaces of their own of various sizes. When taking away some or all of the lawn and its opportunity for softball and volleyball, alternative attractive features can be added.

(continued on next page)

**The very inviting entrance
to the Conway School of
Landscape Design.**

QUICK TIPS

"Plants come first in our design projects," says Don Walker Jr., "not last as decorative elements." Don is director of the Conway School of Landscape Design (see ad page 14). He offers the following guidelines to keep in mind:

- ✓ **The presence of plants is better than their absence.**
- ✓ **More plants are better than few plants.**
- ✓ **Native plants are better than exotic plants.**
- ✓ **Plants specific to your local vegetation formation are better than those from a different one.**
- ✓ **Local genotypes are better than those from afar.**



THE LAWN PROBLEM

In hard and fast terms, no serious environmentalist would have any lawn at all, because the turf grass was occupying space that native plants could occupy. Plus, the maintenance with a mower is loud, smelly and a waste of time. Even mowing with a push reel mower takes up time that could be spent tending native plants or growing food plants or just bonding with real nature. Yet the realities of family desires or the need to fit into the neighborhood mean that most of us allow a patch of turf.

How can we manage this lawn problem? First, think about whether you really need turf grass or if an area of low, uniform plants will give you a lawn look. Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) in the sun or Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*) in the shade can be planted in a dense monoculture to give a look of lawn without the maintenance. If the neighbors might let your kids play ball on their lawn, you could let their kids have free access to enjoy wildlife observation in your yard and build a fort in a secluded area.

If a lawn is unavoidable, first, minimize the size. Traditional design carves out foundation plantings and perimeter screening and a few functional areas, then defaults all the rest to lawn. Instead, decide on the size of lawn you really need, then make a pleasing shape of lawn first and default all the rest to native plantings. Next, minimize the impact of maintenance. Instead of automatically mowing every weekend because it fits your schedule, mow only when it needs it. Every 10 days or every other week is often adequate. Do not water; allow the lawn to enter dormancy in the heat of summer. It will green up with the first rains. Do not use chemicals unless actually needed, then treat only the specific problem patch, not the whole lawn.

Finally, if you do allow some lawn in, reassess this periodically. If the kids have adopted your values more thoroughly, over the need to play frisbee, or have moved out to their own homes, or if the neighbors have become more tolerant, maybe it is time to take the plunge into lawnlessness!—KG

DESIGN IDEAS

Your natural landscape can be made more attractive to your family and visitors if you keep it designed-looking. □ Instead of planting mixed species' seeds, cast the grass seed by hand, spreading different species in bands, then plant the forb seeds separately or use plugs for the forbs, putting them in winding lines or long teardrop clusters among the grasses. In the woodland, plant the wildflowers in lines to define the paths and in clusters and swoops under the trees. Humans almost always prefer an organized look over a random one, and the

butterflies don't really care if the milkweeds are in a random sprinkling or in an organized-looking swoop. □ Remember that if an element of a design is too near to halves, humans try to balance it into a formal arrangement, which is rarely appropriate or even the intent in the natural landscape. So try to keep plant arrangements in proportions of thirds. One-third of an area planted to shrubs will provide informal balance to two-thirds of the area planted to flowers. Even one-quarter/three-quarters or one-fifth/four-fifths will provide pleasing proportions.

(continued from previous page)

Children love secluded refuges, sheltered hideaways too small for an adult to go, openings with a bench for a few to meet on an adventure, a larger opening in which forts and structures can be made, tall-planted passageways, insects and animals to observe. We hope such opportunities will result in an ethic of nature appreciation and caring for the land.

Functional analysis for a naturalistic landscape may need to consider aspects beyond the border of the property. A cultivated look at the edges can be helpful in appeasing the public. Consider views from outside looking in. If neighbors don't share the family's bent for nature, edges must be made to look as 'normal' to them as practical. A small fence, a sculpture, native plants used in rows or lines for more of a traditional look, informational signs, and benches can go a long way in creating acceptance of the wild area as a garden.

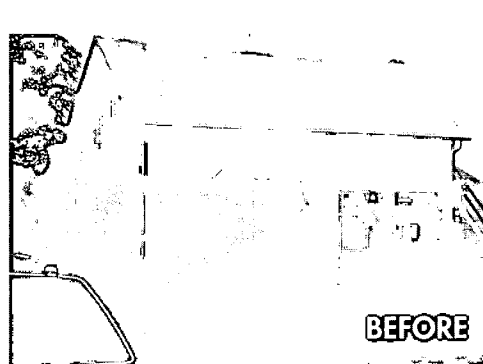
Once a functional relationship has been devised, it can begin to take on physical shape as various forms are examined. Different geometries are overlaid onto the functional bubbles. In the naturalistic design, formal symmetric design may be ruled out as inappropriate. However, highly structured geometric shapes may be useful in offsetting the wild exuberant look of the native plantings. Formalized paths allow easy access to all living spaces. If the planting areas are quite informal and 'wild,' paved areas that are slightly larger and of a bold, simple geometry will provide design balance. Ample structure in the landscape can keep the spaces people-friendly. The stereotype of the naturalistic landscape as all natural should

not be allowed to rob the family of living space comfort. When the two-dimensional bubble planning is considered in the third dimension of height, remember that a wild garden may have an increased need for structure to provide enclosure. A bit of manufactured material forming a mere framework around a living space can create comforting enclosure for guests not used to the naturalistic style of planting. And if the ecosystem is primarily prairie or of prairie plants, there will be an increased need for shade, easily achieved by overhead structures.

Manipulation of spaces and circulation to achieve a concept called *arrival*

will give the garden a high comfort level. By linking together a series of small, closed-in spaces along a path, a mood of slightly uncomfortable anticipation is built. When those closed-in spaces are followed by a larger, more open space, the stress of the journey is relieved as one realizes that one has arrived at the *destination*. By varying the sizes of the areas through which people will pass in the landscape, people will feel this anticipation of journey and sense of arrival and will enjoy moving about the gardens.

When sizes and shapes of planting areas and structural area have been determined, it is time to begin to assign specifics to them. While books



The Afterlife

Although no tree towers over my woodland plants, they thrive as they've been afforded just enough shade north of our garage. In order to concentrate guests' eyes on the flowers in the triangular garden where the house and garage meet, I filled out the opposite side of the path to the front door with a mass planting of understated currants, which steal little attention from the spring flower display. While sitting on our porch swing on May 13, 2000, I recorded this entry into my garden journal: "The front yard has 16 species in flower right now: White Trillium, Columbine, Virginia Waterleaf, Jacob's Ladder, Foamflower, Wild Geranium, Shooting Star, False Solomon Seal, strawberries, violets, buttercups, Black Currant, Black Chokeberry, a Coral Bells cultivar and the non-native Bleeding Heart and Sweet Woodruff."

■ Plants naturally spread outward via roots to form circles or ovals or are spread via wind, moving seed into an oval or teardrop shape. By using the same plant on both sides of a path in a wide shape, the illusion of passing through a natural patch can be created. ■ A view looks deeper if there are plants or structures that obstruct the edges of the view in layers. Frame views with ornamental trees, place understory trees in the woodland at the edges of paths, or use clusters of taller grasses and forbs or savanna trees and shrubs in the prairie to

partially obstruct the edges of views to enhance the visual depth of your land. ■ Wildlife flees or hides when humans enter a space, and it takes a period of stillness for it to return to its normal activity. If viewing wildlife and teaching others to enjoy it is a goal, there must be adequate and numerous comfortable places to sit to be still and quiet until the wildlife feels safe enough to return. Benches and more benches will allow people the comfort level needed to sit still enough to view the fauna of your habitats.—KG

abound on plant selection for trees, shrubs and traditional perennials, fewer resources are available on the native plant palette. Such a library can be supplemented with native plant nursery catalogs, field guides and local plant lists. Contact your local Wild Ones chapter, botanic gardens, extension services, agricultural universities or arboretums for publications on local flora.

Select native woodland trees and understory trees for screening and perimeter definition and to create shaded relaxation areas. Taller grasses and forbs of the tallgrass prairie and the larger of the native woodland and woodland edge shrubs can be used

for shorter and more localized screening and to create privacy or to define a pathway. Shortgrass prairie plants are used to create open lawn-like areas for viewing vistas or for observation of play by children and pets, and for lower-growing more 'socially acceptable' front yards. Wetland or wet prairie plants are used to solve 'problem drainage' areas where water stands or to plant water gardens.

When detailing the structural areas, consider selecting locally available materials that are mined or manufactured using environmentally responsible methods. Select durable materials to avoid wasteful rebuilding. Many find their objection to chemical

use outweighed by the durability of treated lumber over current alternatives. Broken chunks of concrete salvaged from demolition sites can make lovely paths. The reality of mosquitoes dictates the inclusion of at least one screened area so that the outdoors can be enjoyed all summer. Some features not typical in home landscaping, but useful in attracting fauna to a natural landscape, are dead logs, log or rock piles, and numerous water basins.

Designing the natural landscape via a process of information gathering, followed by building the design from the abstract to the specific, brings together the best of all worlds. Spaces that accommodate human needs nestle within ecologically beneficial preserves for native plants and habitats for native creatures. Such a process may take time, but will reward with natural beauty that invites people to spend more time living outdoors enjoying the natural landscape. 🌿

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"In spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." —Margaret Atwood, Bluebeard's Egg (1986)



Maintenance consists of watching out for the odd sprout of Garlic Mustard whose seed hitchhiked along with the transplanted currants. The most demanding job is watering the two flower pots dangling from the porch.

I've learned this important lesson: The more I simplify inside my house and the more I diversify outside it, the happier I am and the fewer the chores.

—Joy Buslaff, SW Milwaukee Wehr Chapter

Native shrubs: The forgotten layer of the natural garden

BY C. COLSTON BURRELL



Something is missing from today's gardens—the shrubs. Perennials have captivated the American imagination, sometimes blinding us to other groups of plants. Designers and writers are extolling the ecological and aesthetic virtues of layered plantings, where bulbs, groundcovers and perennials intermingle in an intricately woven tapestry of foliage and flowers. Gardens packed with herbaceous plants often omit a critical link, however. What makes a layered garden complete is the bridge between the herbaceous plants and the trees, which in nature is called the *shrub layer*.

All natural systems, whether meadow, prairie, wetland or forest, are layered, so it is only fitting that a garden modeled on nature should be designed and planted in layers as well. In a forest or woodlot, trees form the dominate, or highest layer, called the canopy. Oak, maple, beech and ash are common canopy trees. Below the canopy, smaller flowering trees like Redbud and dogwood bring the cathedral-like canopy down to a more intimate level. These understory trees form the ceiling of the garden. The next level down is the shrub layer. Like walls, shrubs fill the gaps between the understory and the lowest layer, the ground or herbaceous layer. This layer is composed of perennials, bulbs and grasses.

Meadows and prairies lack a tree canopy, so shrubs often form the top, or highest layer in these ecosystems. Shrubs grow in scattered clumps or colonies throughout a prairie, like islands in a sea of grass. Shrubs in a prairie or meadow garden add interest by creating a textural and color change. Where grassland and forest merge, shrubs create a smooth, gradual transition. They establish a

visual step that bridges the gap between the grasses and tall wildflowers, and edge trees like dogwood and hawthorn. This diverse edge is a dynamic place for wildlife, providing cover for feeding and nesting.

DESIGN POSSIBILITIES

The shrub layer is the most underutilized component of the garden, though it can be one of the most beautiful and useful layers. Shrubs give us colorful flowers, dramatic foliage, decorative fruits and provocative winter silhouettes. A garden without shrubs seems only half-dressed to our eyes and to the garden's wild inhabitants. They provide food and critical nesting cover to a host of birds. Butterflies also rely on shrubs. The larvae of the gorgeous Zebra Swallowtail, for instance, feed exclusively on Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*).

Shrubs provide more than beauty and sustenance for wildlife, however. They create architectural frames, or good bones, by forming the walls of the garden. Like internal walls they

NATIVE SHRUBS WITH BRILLIANT AUTUMN COLOR

<i>Amelanchier species</i>	Serviceberry
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red Chokeberry
<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>	Witch Alder
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch Hazel
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oak-Leaf Hydrangea
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia Sweetspire
<i>Rhododendron prunifolium</i>	Plum-leaf Azalea
<i>Rhus copallina</i>	Winged Sumac
<i>Stewartia ovata</i>	Silky Camellia
<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	Maple-leaf Viburnum
<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	Southern Witherod

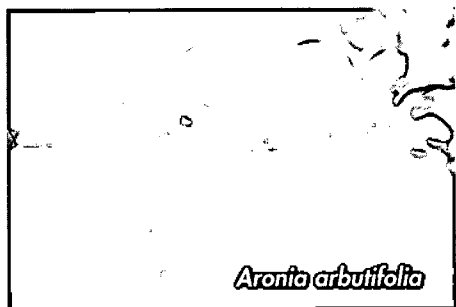
NATIVE SHRUBS WITH DECORATIVE FRUIT

<i>Amelanchier species</i>	Serviceberry
<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	Devil's Walking Stick
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red Chokeberry
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	Groundsel Tree
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	American Beautyberry
<i>Cornus species</i>	Dogwood
<i>Crataegus species</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Euonymus americanus</i>	Hearts-a-Bustin' with Love
<i>Ilex decidua</i>	Possum Haw
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry Holly
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	Yaupon
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush
<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	Southern Waxmyrtle
<i>Nemopanthus mucronatus</i>	Mountain-Holly
<i>Philadelphus inodorus</i>	Mock Orange
<i>Sambucus species</i>	Elderberry
<i>Symphoricarpos species</i>	Snowberry
<i>Viburnum species</i>	Viburnum

define and divide outdoor spaces. This internal framework can be used to block views, hide eyesores or direct foot traffic.

SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Shrubs provide year-round interest, unlike most perennials that may offer a few weeks of flowers, and perhaps a few months of decorative foliage. Winter's bare deciduous branches produce fascinating silhouettes.



The erratic forms of Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), Oak-leaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) or Witch Alder (*Fothergilla gardenii*) with its craggy branches are best revealed when covered in snow. Most native shrubs have attractive berries which color the autumn and winter garden and delight mockingbirds, robins and waxwings.

Broadleaf evergreens such as bayberry, rhododendron and leucothoe

make a lush backdrop against which to display a holly in full fruit or a late-blooming Groundsel Bush (*Baccharis halimifolia*) that might otherwise fade into the background. The contrast of an upright shrub like Red-twig Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) or Winterberry Holly (*Ilex verticillata*) against a backdrop of richly colored evergreens will delight the eye more than a single dogwood with no context. There are times when a single specimen can make a powerful statement. The idiosyncratic branches of an Autumn Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) delight the eye in any context. A lone Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) in full frothy bloom holds the eye without any accompanying bells and whistles.

Shrubs are natural trellises for vines. Grow a Leather Flower (*Clematis viorna*) up through a viburnum and double the impact. Try Scarlet Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), Yellow Passion Vine (*Passiflora lutea*) or Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) to augment the

gawky stems of Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*).

In flower, shrubs lift our eyes, which are so often focused downward to admire a choice trillium or delicate hepatica. With judicious selection, you can have shrubs in bloom from the earliest Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) in late winter to the last witch hazel in November. Flowers are truly captivating, and the diversity of colors, shapes and scents accorded by our native shrubs is outstanding. White is by far the most common flower color. Many favorites such as viburnums, hydrangeas, Witch Alder and New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) have white flowers. This bright color, often accompanied by scent, enables pollinators to find the flowers. Pink is always popular, and shrubs as diverse as the classic wild rose, the gaudy

NATIVE SHRUBS WITH EXCEPTIONAL FLOWERS

<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	Bottlebrush Buckeye
<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	Red Buckeye
<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	Leadplant
<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	Devil's Walking Stick
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red Chokeberry
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberry
<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	Sweetshrub
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey Tea
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringe Tree
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Sweet Pepperbush
<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>	Titi
<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>	Witch Alder
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch Hazel
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oak-Leaf Hydrangea
<i>Hydrangea radiata</i>	Wild Lacecap Hydrangea
<i>Hypericum frondosum</i>	St. John's Wort
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia Sweetpire
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Mountain Laurel
<i>Neviusia alabamensis</i>	Alabama Snow Wreath
<i>Pieris floribunda</i>	Mountain Andromeda
<i>Ptelia trifoliata</i>	Wafer Ash
<i>Rhus copallina</i>	Winged Sumac
<i>Rhododendron</i> (evergreen)	<i>Rhododendron</i>
<i>Rhododendron</i> (deciduous azaleas)	Wild Azalea
<i>Rosa species</i>	Wild Rose
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Elderberry
<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>	American Bladdernut
<i>Stewartia ovata</i>	Silky Camellia
<i>Styrax americana</i>	American Snowbell
<i>Viburnum species</i>	Viburnum

NATIVE SHRUBS FOR FOLIAGE EFFECT

<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	Bottlebrush Buckeye
<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	Devil's Walking Stick
<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	Leadplant
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Pawpaw
<i>Corylus species</i>	Hazel
<i>Croton alabamensis</i>	Alabama Croton
<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>	Titi
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Bush Honeysuckle
<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>	Witch Alder
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oak-Leaf Hydrangea
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	Yaupon
<i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>	Drooping Leucothoe
<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	Southern Waxmyrtle
<i>Ptelia trifoliata</i>	Wafer Ash
<i>Rhododendron minus</i>	Piedmont Rhododendron
<i>Rhus copallina</i>	Winged Sumac
<i>Shepherdia argentea</i>	Silver Buffalo Berry
<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>	American Bladdernut
<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	Maple-leaf Viburnum

Catawba Rhododendron (*Rhododendron catawbiense*) and the deliciously clove-scented azalea (*Rhododendron prinophyllum*) are sure to please. For brilliance, you can't beat the rich red tubular flowers of Red Buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) carried in branch trusses at the tips of the stems. Other red-flowered beauties to excite the eye and enliven the garden include Sweet Shrub (*Calycanthus floridus*) and flaming native azaleas in shades of red, orange and yellow. Excluding prairie forbs, Mother Nature doles out yellow in small doses. The Springtime Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*) and its autumnal cousin begin and end the season with yellow. In between, Spicebush and a few selected color forms like 'Athens' Sweet Shrub (a cultivar of *Calycanthus floridus*) and yellow Flame Azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*) round out the season.

GROWING SHRUBS

Shrubs originate in many diverse native habitats. Look to nature as a guide for what will grow well in your area and under what conditions of light, soil and moisture. As with all plants, success depends on matching the plant to the site. Some shrubs, particularly ericaceous species like rhododendrons and azaleas demand acidic soil, though most other shrubs are more forgiving of pH. Most woodland shrubs tolerate considerable sun, while meadow species demand it. Plants from wetlands, such as Winterberry Holly (*Ilex verticillata*), Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*) and Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) are perfect choices for wet spots, though they thrive under ordinary garden conditions. Their wetland habitats are often dry in summer, so they are naturally adaptable. Your choices are more limited in dense shade, but Maple-leaf Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), Bush Honeysuckle (*Diervilla species*) and Wild Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*) perform admirably in low light.

NOTE: Zone numbers refer to the USDA hardiness map (found in many horticultural sources) where lower numbers represent northernmost climes and higher numbers areas of hotter average minimum temperatures. The numbers are relevant with regard to plants that are a) not native to your eco-region; b) native, but grown from seeds collected outside your eco-region; c) hybridized or cultivated named varieties (those which appear in the article in single quotes). Wherever possible, Wild Ones recommends natives of your eco-region, grown from wild-collected seed. An upcoming issue will feature WO eco-type guidelines. Meanwhile, check Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines for Urban and Rural America by Hightshoe, A Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs by Petrides, The Shrub Identification Book by Symonds and your local library or chapter for state-specific references.

Cole's favorites

15 EXCEPTIONAL SHRUBS

There are six American *aesculus* species. The Red Buckeye bears bright red tubular flowers that attract hummingbirds.



Aesculus pavia



Ilex verticillata

1 *Aesculus parviflora* Bottlebrush Buckeye

Fragrant, white bottle brushes a foot long sit like candles on the tips of every branch of this wide-spreading shrub in mid summer. Dramatic palmately divided leaves are decorative all season and turn clear yellow in autumn. Plants reach 8 feet tall with an equal or greater spread. Plant in moist, rich soil in sun or light shade. Zones 5 (4) to 8.

2 *Aronia arbutifolia* 'Brilliantissima' Red Chokeberry

Decorative all season long, this rounded shrub blooms on naked stems in spring. Flowers are followed by shiny oval leaves that turn brilliant red in autumn, but not before the glossy scarlet berries ripen against the green foliage. In winter, enjoy the irregular silhouette of this 8-foot shrub. Plant in wet to dry soil in sun or partial shade. Zones 4 to 9.

3 *Calycanthus floridus* 'Athens' Yellow Sweetshrub

The heavenly, exotic scent of tropical fruit will draw you to the spidery yellow flowers of this summer blooming

shrub. The flowers line the slender stems in pairs before the glossy foliage expands. Plants bloom sporadically throughout the summer on plants to 6 feet tall and 8 feet wide. Plant in rich, moist soil in sun or partial shade. Zones 4 to 9.

4 *Clethra alnifolia* Sweet Pepperbush

Spicy fragrance fills the air in late summer when the showy white spikes of this erect shrub begin to open. The elongate, quilted leaves turn yellow to tan in autumn. Plants grow to 6 feet tall and spread by runner to form clumps 10 feet wide. Plant in moist or summer-dry acidic soil in sun or shade. Zones 5 (4) to 9.

5 *Fothergilla gardenii* Witch Alder

Compact, fragrant, white bottle-brush flowers open before the leaves emerge on dense compact stems. The oval, leathery leaves turn brilliant orange and red in autumn. A tidy, small shrub reaching only 3 to 5 feet at maturity, with an equal spread. Plant in rich, moist soil in sun or partial shade. Zones 5 to 8.

6 *Hamamelis virginiana* Witch Hazel

A large, gracefully arching shrub to small tree that waits until autumn to open its delicate yellow flowers that line the stems like clustered sea

anemones. Plants reach 10 to 20 feet tall with an equal spread, but mature slowly. The leaves turn clear yellow before falling. Plant in rich, moist to dry soil in sun or shade. Zones 4 to 8.

7 *Hydrangea quercifolia* Oak-leaf Hydrangea

Dramatic sharp lobed leaves are upstaged by the huge terminal clusters of white flowers in summer. Leaves regain prominence as they turn deep burgundy in autumn. In winter, the dried flower clusters and exfoliating bark of this 5-foot tall by 6 foot wide shrub are exceptional. Plant in moist, rich soil in sun or shade. Zones 5 to 9.

8 *Ilex verticillata* Winterberry Holly

Scarlet berries in autumn and winter make this shrub a treasure. The small, quilted leaves of this 5- to 10-foot clump have little fall color. Named selections are available in a variety of sizes. You need one male to ensure fruit set of this dioecious genus. Plant in rich, wet to moist soil in sun or partial shade. Zones 3 to 9.

9 *Itea virginica* 'Henry's Garnet' Virginia Sweetspire

The luscious burgundy fall foliage is reason enough to grow this small, arching shrub that grows to 6 feet tall with equal spread. Fragrant white summer flowers in drooping terminal clusters are a bonus. Plant in wet to moist, rich soil in sun or partial shade. Zones 5 to 9.

10 *Myrica cerifera* Southern Waxmyrtle

The sweet, pungent scent of bayberry is found in this southern cousin of the New England favorite. The slender leaves are fully evergreen and densely clothe the stems of this oval shrub that can reach 12 feet or more at maturity. Plants are easily pruned to control their size. Plant in moist, rich to sandy soil in full sun or light shade. Salt tolerant. Zones 6 to 10.

11 *Neviusia alabamensis* Snow Wreath

A wiry shrub to 5 feet tall that spreads to form broad clumps festooned in frothy white flowers in late spring.

Rhombic quilted leaves are decorative in summer and yellow in autumn. Plant in moist, rich soil in sun to light shade. Zones 4 to 8.

12 *Rhododendron minus* Piedmont Rhododendron

A small-leaved evergreen rhododendron with soft pink to rose spring flowers long before other species bloom. The dense, rounded form to 5 feet makes this shrub perfect for small gardens. Plant in rich, moist acidic soil in light to partial shade. Zones 5 to 8.

13 *Rhododendron prunifolium* Plum-leaf Azalea

The flame of the forest is a delightful surprise in July and August, long after other azaleas have bloomed. Brilliant red to red-orange flowers grace the airy stems of this 8 to 10-foot shrub. Plant in moist, rich acidic soil in light to partial shade. Zones 5 to 8.

14 *Rhus copallina* Winged Sumac

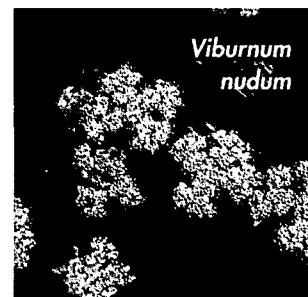
This small sumac, slowly growing to 8 feet, is fine boned and fine textured. The glossy leaves add a tropical look below branched clusters of creamy summer flowers. Unlike other sumacs, the wine-red fruit clusters are pendent. Brilliant red to burgundy fall foliage color is exceptional. Plant in moist or dry soil in sun or light shade. Zones 4 to 9.

15 *Viburnum acerifolium* Maple-leaf Viburnum

An overlooked and hard-to-find species with a graceful, vase-shaped form

and attractive maple-shaped leaves with pink fall color. Creamy white spring flowers are followed by blue-black fruits in late summer. Plants grow slowly to 6 feet tall and wide. An exceptional shrub for small gardens, and the unique rose-pink autumn color is sure to delight. Moist to dry, rich soil in sun or shade. Zones 4 to 8.

Whether you have a mixed border a prairie or a woodland garden, shrubs add beauty, structure, year-round interest. Plan now to add this important layer to your landscape. The garden will more interesting to both you and wildlife that share it. 🌿



A range of attributes can be found in our many native viburnums.

Award-winning author and landscape designer C. Colston Burrell has spent a lifetime studying and promoting native plants in lectures, articles and books. His book *A Gardener's Encyclopedia of Wildflowers* won the 1997 American Horticulture Society Book Award. He is also author of the bestseller *Perennial Combinations*, 1999, and *Perennials for Today's Gardens*, 2000. After 11 years in Minneapolis, Cole is creating a new garden on 10 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

©2001, C. Colston Burrell

FOR THE BIRDS ■ When we invite birds into our gardens to feed and nest, we have a responsibility to ensure their safety. Our yards offer several hazards to bird, both resident nesters and migrants lured by the habitat we create. Far too many birds meet an untimely end by crashing into our windows. Make your windows bird-safe by stretching thin nylon mesh (the kind used to keep birds off fruit trees) tightly across the window. The mesh is nearly invisible to us, and it cushions the impact of any birds that do not see it in time to stop. The mesh should be set out 3 to 5 inches from the window and stretched tightly so birds bounce off rather than getting entangled.

Cats are the number one predator of garden birds, with millions estimated to be lost annually. Shrubs can help make your garden safer for birds, especially ground feeders. Thick, double or triple rows of shrubs, especially suckering species like dogwoods, make an impenetrable refuge where birds can hop or fly and cats cannot follow. Thick brush piles are also safe havens. The best solution, however, is keeping your cat inside!—CB

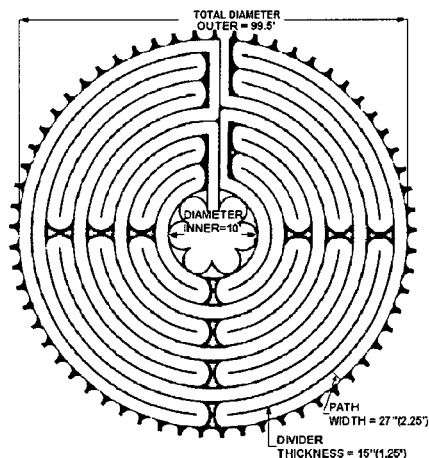
Following up on a promise to relate the 'how to' portion of a story published in the July/August 2001 issue, here are the steps used to create the Marianist Environmental Education Center's native plant labyrinth. The labyrinth represents a sacred space where one may walk a path in prayer or meditation.



PLANTING A LABYRINTH WITH NATIVE PRAIRIE PLANTS

BY DONALD R. GEIGER, SM, PhD
AND MICHELLE BANKER, MS

Have you ever wished you could plant a large area with native plants in a formal pattern and not break the bank? The staff of the Marianist Environmental Education Center met this challenge by adapting a method developed to grow founder plants for natural areas. The first application was to stock an 80-square-foot artistic earthwork, "Sacred Embrace."

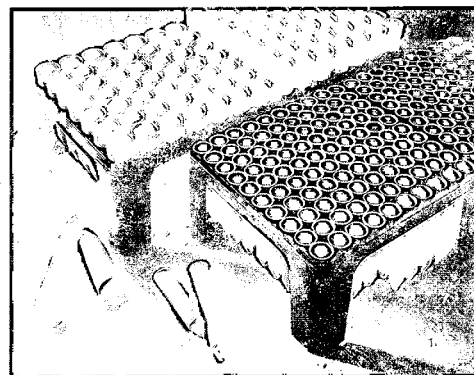


Most recently we used it to plant a 100x100-foot labyrinth in our savanna with a 10-foot-diameter center. The 2½-foot-wide pathway is mowed fescue grass, while our 'walls' are 1½-foot-wide rows of woodchip mulch and a variety of native plants. We used the method of planting one-third of what we would ultimately need, and then propagated these as 'founder plants' by collecting their seeds to raise the other plants. The process involves seed collection, seed cleaning, seed planting, stratification, seedling care and seedling planting.

Seed collection—Those who live in the Midwest prairie region extending from the Rocky Mountain foothills and easterly into parts of Ohio, can find prairie remnants along railroad or power line rights-of-way [at points where public access is normally allowed or by permission of the appropriate authority] and can collect a few seedheads from common prairie forbs and grasses. Generally, gathering no more than 10 percent of the seed from several plants of a single species allows for some genetic diversity and yet leaves enough seed in the wild to continue to populate the area. Seeds can also be purchased from a native plant nursery nearest you. Choose upright plants (1½ to 2 feet in height), such as Orange Coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*), Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia triloba*), Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), Royal Catchfly (*Silene regia*), Little Bluestem (*Schizacharium scoparium*).

Seed cleaning—Dry seedheads on newspaper for a week or so until the seeds can be freed easily (time varies with the plant). Grass seed such as Little Bluestem can be collected by stripping them from the stalk when they are ripe and shed easily. Separate seeds from debris by hand, colander or sieve for greater ease in planting.

Seed planting—Seeds can easily be raised by the hundreds in small, deep, containers. We use Ray Leach Cone-tainers™ (designed for raising pine seedlings) supplied by Stuewe & Sons Co.,



Inc., 2290 SE Kiger Island Dr., Corvallis, OR 97333-9425; stuewe.com. They are 5½ inches deep by 1½ inch in diameter. Holders contain 98 Cone-tainers per flat. We fill the Cone-tainers with soil similar to that where seedlings will be planted. Because germination rate may be low, we plant two to six seeds per container. In future years, seeds can be collected from these plants instead of ordering (which reduces cost) or collecting from the wild.

Stratification—Some seeds for wildflowers require cold, moist stratification, a period of several months at low temperature in moist soil. We plant the seeds in November or December and place the conetainers outside in the weather until they germinate in the spring. We cover them with straw to provide shade, help retain moisture and lessen erosion.

Seedling care—Plants need to be watered regularly between rains when the weather turns warm. Keep a straw cover to lessen the need for watering, and lighten the straw cover as the seeds begin to germinate. The soil surface must not dry out prior to seed germina-

tion and the soil should always be kept moist after they germinate.

Seedling planting—Seedlings can be planted with a dibble (a pointed, conical hand tool commonly found in garden supply catalogs) or by digging a hole with a trowel. We filled in the labyrinth 'walls' by planting the seedling about 18" inches apart. Our labyrinth dimensions of 100 square feet will require 1,800 plants when complete. We planted 600 founder plants initially and are filling the spaces in subsequent years.

Seasonal changes bring some key management tasks to the labyrinth. In

the spring, it is ideal to plan out the main areas for planting and to mulch that entire area. Young seedlings will be ready for transplant in summer, a time when we weed around the newly planted areas to assist the young plants in survival and growth. Throughout the summer and fall, yellow and purple flowers complement each other, attracting butterflies and birds. By late fall the flowers are done blooming and seeds can be collected, and the forb plants can be trimmed down. During this time, the prairie grasses are in their full glory with flowering stalks and fall colors of rich golden

and wine-red colors. Leaving the grasses throughout the winter allows the labyrinth to retain these colors and definition. When spring growth returns the prairie grasses are trimmed. ☛

Donald R. Geiger is founding director and plant biology professor at the University of Dayton and a restorationist. Michele Banker is MEEC's land resource manager and volunteer coordinator. For further information, contact Michele at the Marianist Environmental Education Center, 4435 E. Patterson Rd., Dayton, OH 45430-1095; (937) 429-3582; udayton.edu/~meec; meec@udayton.edu.

A NOTE FROM THE NATIONAL BOARD

At the recent national board meeting held at Gibson's Woods in Hammond, Ind., the board authorized the expansion of membership to include businesses, institutions and government agencies. Wild Ones' mission statement requires us to "educate and to share information with members and community" and acknowledges that "we are a diverse membership interested in natural landscaping using native species in developing plant communities." In the past that membership has been largely limited to the "residential" element of our communities, leaving a good portion of the landscape unrepresented. There are numerous businesses, institutions and government agencies that support the concept of natural landscaping and the use of native plants. Many of you likely can think of such examples in your own communities. It is time to bring these entities into the fold, not only to support their efforts, but also to gain their support in our national effort to change our landscape.

In addition to expanding the scope of membership to include non-residential members, the board has approved new membership levels for students and senior citizens. The Membership Committee is continuing to work out the details regarding the new memberships and will be providing particulars to the chapter officers as soon as they are available. In the meantime, start talking to the businesses in your area that demonstrate a commitment to the movement and may be good candidates for membership.

Also at the last board meeting, two more standing committees, in addition to the Communications Committee (Comco), were recognized. You may recall that Comco is responsible for overseeing the communications tools of the organization: *Wild Ones Journal*, the website and brochures. Also now formally recognized is the Executive Officer Committee (XOcom), made up of the national officers and the executive director, which has been meeting for almost two years to conduct the normal business of the organization. Additionally, the Membership Committee, which has been

unofficially functioning for some time, was formally recognized. The Membership Committee will be focusing on membership issues as discussed above. Anyone interested in serving on a national committee should contact Donna VanBuecken, our executive director. Wild Ones is still largely a volunteer organization and your assistance is essential to the continued success that we have had.

Soon all of our members will receive an appeal from me about our first fund-raising campaign: Fast Forward Communications Campaign (F²C²)—Endowing our Messengers. The purpose of the campaign is to raise funds for the website and our other communication tools. Some of the funds raised will also be used to compensate a webmaster. To date, Mark Charles of the Ann Arbor Chapter has kindly donated his time and talents to the development and operation of the website. Due to work commitments, Mark has asked to be replaced as the webmaster. In seeking his replacement, it appears we will need to provide some compensation for the position. In addition to compensation for the webmaster, the board would like to establish a general listserv associated with the website that will allow members to communicate with each other about native landscaping issues. Finally, if additional funds are available, other communication issues as identified by the board will be addressed as well as additional compensation to the *Journal* editor and executive director. So please consider a donation to the campaign and assist us in our mission to educate.

In closing, I thank Joy Buslaff for her years of excellent service as editor for the *Wild Ones Journal* and wish her well in her endeavors. Joy will be leaving us after this issue, and Merry Whipple of the Fox Valley Chapter will be assuming the role of editor. I sincerely hope, and I am sure the readers of the *Journal* agree, that Joy will continue to contribute articles for the *Journal* in the future. And, I welcome Merry and wish her well as our new editor. ☛

—Joe Powelka, National President

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 the editor. See page 13 for their contact information.

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. **Linda Quiram**, Bradford (Peoria area), (309) 897-2333.

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. 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; JLSkau@prodigy.net.

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 Utegaard**, P.O. Box 1092, Eau Claire, WI 54702; (715) 834-0065; bigutehort@prodigy.net. **Karen Isebrands-Brown**, Nicolet College, Box 518, Rhinelander, WI 54501; (715) 365-4482. **Bob and Bev Hults**, Hartford, (262) 670-0445.

THESE CHAPTERS NEED MEMBERS FOR MOMENTUM:

ILLINOIS: Naturally Wild of LaGrange—Meredith Azark, (708) 482-9325; mazark@juno.com.

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—Lesia 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: Door County Chapter—Mary Ann Crayton, (920) 854-6304; maryanncrayton@aol.com. **Root River Chapter**—Carla Freeman, (414) 382-6415; carlafreeman@alverno.edu.

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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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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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(877) FYI-WILD [394-9453]
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Meet us on-line at www.for-wild.org

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

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

February 9, 2002 hosted by Milwaukee North Chapter; in conjunction with the Milwaukee landscaping conference. ■ May 2002 SW Michigan; date to be confirmed. ■ July 12-14, 2002 Columbus Ohio Chapter will host the 2002 Annual Meeting and Conference. ■ October 2002 St. Louis Chapter; date to be confirmed

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.

Jan. 17: Special multi-media presentation on Wolf Road Prairie by Art Gara of Art and Linda's Wildflowers.

Feb. 21: Butterfly gardening with our own Margrit Nitz.

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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).

January-April: Meetings consist of a four-part, members-only, Design Workshop entitled "A Midsummer Night's Dream Garden."

Jan. 14: "Meet the Cast." Kerry Leigh of Christopher Berg Engineering will discuss her selections of native plants to provide color and beauty to woodlands and prairies.

Feb. 11: "Set the Stage." Connor Shaw of Possibility Place Nurseries discusses the use of the primary elements in your garden: trees, shrubs and grasses which provide structure; also includes how to marry natural landscaping design with current conventional landscaping practices.

NATURALLY WILD of LA GRANGE CHAPTER

MEREDITH AZARK: (708) 482-9325

mazark@juno.com

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 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

January: Christine Nye, horticulturist for the Shedd Aquarium, will speak on forcing bulbs.

February: Presentation on soil science.

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.

January & February: Meeting topics to be announced.

ROCK RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER

SHEILA STENGER: (815) 624-6076

tsstenger@inwave.com

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

Jan. 17: Build-It Day. Members will be assembling our annual woodworking project.

Feb. 21: "Getting Started with Native Landscaping," presented by Joyce Powers of Prairie Ridge Nursery.

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, unless otherwise noted.

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. Contact above for information.

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.

LOUISVILLE CHAPTER

PORTIA BROWN: (502) 454-4007

wildones-lou@home.com

Meetings are usually held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Contact above for locations.

Jan. 22: Wild Ones video "Wild about Wildflowers" will be presented and discussed.

Feb. 26: "Site Selection and Planting Tips for Native Woodies" presented by John Swintosky, landscape architect with Metro Parks Planning and Design Team.

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

MICHIGAN

March 3-4: 15th Annual Michigan Wildflower Conference. See wildflowersmich.org for information.

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 for-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, unless otherwise noted.

CALHOUN COUNTY CHAPTER

MARILYN CASE: (616) 781-8470

mcase15300@aol.com



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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.

Jan. 22: "Landscaping with Native Plants" presented by local landscape architect Tim Banfield.

Feb. 26: Members Rane Wireman, Bev Zalewski and Marilyn Case will present a hands-on workshop on propagating native seeds. Participants will take home their 'plantings' to germinate.

CENTRAL UPPER PENINSULA CHAPTER

JAMES LEMPKE: (906) 428-9580

jlempke@escanaba.org

Jan. 22 (Tues.): 6:30 p.m. "How to Design a Native Garden." Bay College, Escanaba. Contact above for details.

DETROIT METRO CHAPTER

CAROL WHEELER: (248) 547-7898

wheecarol@aol.com

Meetings are usually held third Wednesday of each month at Royal Oak Library, 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., unless otherwise noted.

Jan. 10: "Learning to Identify Michigan Native Trees," presented by Dan Wozniak, retired teacher, naturalist, master gardener, will try to identify any native tree from a branch with buds or a log. Bring a stumper!

Feb. 14: "Michigan Native Cacti and Succulents" presented by Alicia Ellis, designer of the Hardy Cacti and Succulent Garden at Michigan State University.

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.

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 Parks/Police Building, Rochester, at 7 p.m.

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: 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.

Jan. 28: Regular member meeting; speaker to be announced.

Feb. 25: Regular member meeting; speaker to be announced.

TWIN CITIES

MARTY RICE: (952) 927-6531

jcrnfr@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.

Jan. 15: Regular meeting

Feb. 19: Regular meeting.

MISSOURI

MID-MISSOURI CHAPTER

LESA BEAMER: wildonesmo@yahoo.com

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

Jan. 12: Regular meeting; details to be announced.

Feb. 11 (Monday): 7 p.m. Seed Propagation Workshop led by Ann Wakeman. This is a joint meeting with the Hawthorn Chapter of the Native Plant Society. Contact above for directions.

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.

Jan. 9: Plant propagation seminar. For location, call Shaw Nature reserve at (636) 451-3512.

Feb. 6: Topic to be announced.

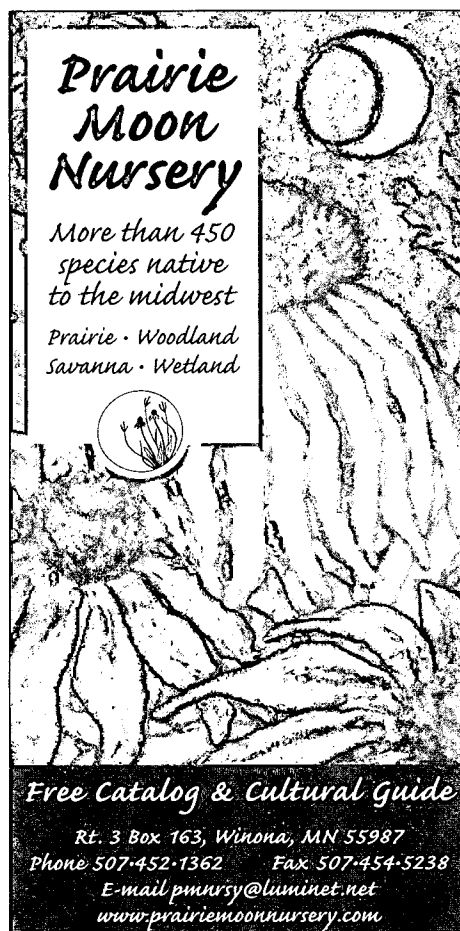
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CHENANGO VALLEY CHAPTER

HOLLY STEGNER: (315) 824-1178

hollystegner@hotmail.com

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



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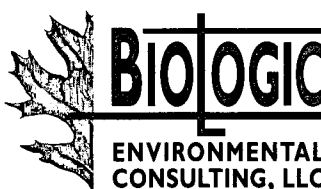
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NEW YORK CITY METRO/LONG ISLAND CHAPTER**ROBERT SAFFER: (718) 768-5488**

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

OHIO**GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER****KATHY McDONALD: (513) 941-6497****kmc@one.net**

In addition to the monthly programs, meetings are scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m., McKie Ctr., 1655 Chase Rd., Northside.

Jan. 19 (Sat.): 10 a.m. Meet horticulturist Brian Jorge and learn about landscaping with native plants and grasses. Spring Grove Cemetery, Spring Grove Ave., Cincinnati, 681-7526.

Feb. 2 (Sat.): 12:30-4:30 p.m. Program on local tree identification and habitats presented by Gerry Lippert, Hamilton County Park naturalist. There is a fee of \$8 which covers the cost of a tree reference book you will receive. Register in advance with Kathy McDonald.

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.

Jan. 12: "Diversity of Big Bluestem and Prairie Uses in Landscapes," presented by Nicole Cavender, OSU doctoral candidate.

Feb. 9: "New Metro Parks Restoration Projects," presented by John Watts, Battelle-Darby Creek Metropolitan Park resource manager.

SOUTH CAROLINA**FOOTHILLS CHAPTER, CLEMSON****KATHY KEGLEY: (864) 955-0505****WISCONSIN****CENTRAL WISCONSIN CHAPTER****PHYLLIS TUCHSCHER: (715) 384-8751****toosch@tznnet.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.

January: No regular meeting. Members can carpool to the "Toward Harmony with Nature Conference" in Oshkosh. (See Fox Valley Chapter information below for conference details.)

Feb. 28: Program on woodland plants and native trees; includes topics of maple sugaring and tree diseases. Speaker and location to be confirmed.

DOOR COUNTY CHAPTER**NANCY RAFAL: (920) 839-2191****mrsticket@dcwis.com**

November through April meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, 7-9 p.m. Location varies.

Jan. 7: 7:30 p.m. "Identification and Management of Door County Invasive Species" presented by Jaime Corbisier, conservationist for the DC Soil and Water Department. Immanuel Lutheran Church on Rte. 57 in Bailey's Harbor.

Feb. 9 (Saturday): 22nd Annual Audubon Society Natural Landscaping Conference, UW-Milwaukee Student Union.

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.

Jan. 19 (Saturday): 6th Annual "Toward Harmony with Nature Conference." Keynote speaker Joyce Powers, president of CRM Ecosystems, speaking on "The Landscapes We Make." Nine other presenters. Park Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Oshkosh. Contact Carol Niendorf above for information.

Feb. 28 (Thursday): "Natural Landscaping—Back to the Basics," presented by Amy Wilinski. The annual seed exchange will follow. Please bring seeds to share and adopt new seeds for your projects.

GREEN BAY CHAPTER**KATHIE TILOT: (920) 336-4992**

Meetings are usually held the third Wednesday of the month, February through November; most meetings are at the Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Rd., except in summer.

Feb. 20: 7 p.m. Amy Wilinski will speak on "Landscaping with Natives: How to Get Started." For more information contact Chuck Mistark at (715) 582-0428.

MADISON CHAPTER**LAURIE YAHR: (608) 274-6539****yahrkahl@aol.com**

Meetings will be held at UW-Arboretum at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome.

Jan. 30: "Mycorrhizae and Plant Relationships" presented by graduate student Frank Landis.

Feb. 27: Woodland Management in Madison City Parks.

Members are also encouraged to attend the Wisconsin Garden Expo, Feb. 8-10, Alliant Center, Madison.

MENOMONEE RIVER AREA CHAPTER**JAN KOEL: (262) 251-7175****JUDY CRANE: (262) 251-2185**

Indoor meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Wildwood Highlands Senior Apts., N78 W17445 Wildwood Dr., Menomonee Falls.



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Jan. 16: Presentation on "SE Wisconsin Native Trees and Shrubs," by Darrell Kromm, owner of Reeseville Ridge Nursery.

Feb. 20: Expert birder Steve Mahler shares his knowledge of our feathered friends.

MILWAUKEE NORTH CHAPTER

MESSAGE CENTER: (414) 299-9888

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

Jan. 12: Vicki Nowicki, landscape architect, will present "Vegetable Gardens and Native Plants." She will discuss using both types of plants in aesthetically pleasing settings. Free and open to the public.

Feb. 9: See Milwaukee conference at right.

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.

Jan. 12: Same as Milwaukee North Chapter above.

Feb. 9: See Milwaukee conference at right.

ROOT RIVER AREA CHAPTER

CARLA FREEMAN: (414) 382-6415

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. Members may contact Nan Calvert at nj@execpc.com for fall/winter activity information.

Jan. 5: Regular member meeting; topic to be announced.

Feb. 2: Regular member meeting; topic to be announced.

MILWAUKEE AUDUBON SOCIETY 22ND ANNUAL NATURAL LANDSCAPING CONFERENCE—FEBRUARY 9

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Keynote speaker: Sally Wasowski, author of *Requiem for a Landmower* and other books will present "Gardening in the Midwest."

The conference offers a total of **12 sessions** and the keynote address. Prairie expert Neil Diboll will present an all-day intensive workshop on prairies. Janet Macunovich, Michigan author, will be doing a session on transitioning a yard to natural landscaping from one that is traditionally landscaped. Wild Ones Julie Marks Memorial lecturer will be Vicki Nowicki, presenting a session on the art of landscaping and land conservation with the integration of vegetable gardens. There will be a session on rain gardens, the creation of wetland gardens in areas with temporal and/or seasonal standing water by Roger Bannerman of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Cindi Duda, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will cover site development for schools and homeowners and explore the technical and financial assistance available to them from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Dan Boehlke will discuss woodland ecology, specific plants and design aspects, and Nancy Aten's session will be woodlands, from spring awakenings to autumn quiet. Insects and restoration will be presented by Bob Ahrenhoerster. Invasives, how to identify and eliminate them, propagation of native plants and "green roofs," terrace and rooftop gardening, are also conference sessions. Extensive exhibitor offerings.

For more information and a brochure, please contact the Milwaukee Audubon Society at (262) 375-1565 or email: milwaudubon@core.com

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Pre-conference event: Andy Wasowski: "Building Inside Nature's Envelope," Sierra Club-Central Ohio Group monthly program, 7:30 p.m., July 11.

A Friday night reception, field trip, lecture and dinner will take place on the banks of Big Darby Creek, designated by The Nature Conservancy as one of America's Last Great Places (free to Wild Ones members, but sign up early because only 95 spots are available. Saturday will feature presentations and a silent auction in the Ohio State University's Fawcett Center and a barbecue in the University's Chadwick Arboretum. The Wild Ones board of directors meeting and field trips will occur on Sunday morning. The program and registration form are available on the Wild Ones website: for-wild.org

Committee chair: Clyde Dilley (dilley.2@osu.edu, 614 488-5366).

Additional Information and Registration Form
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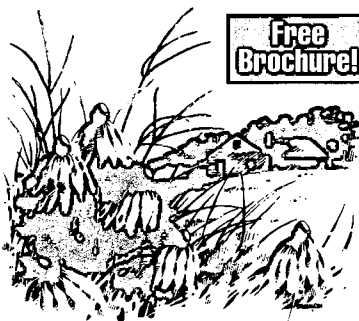
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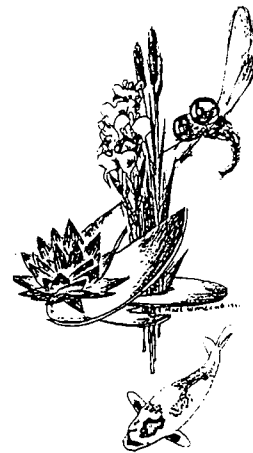


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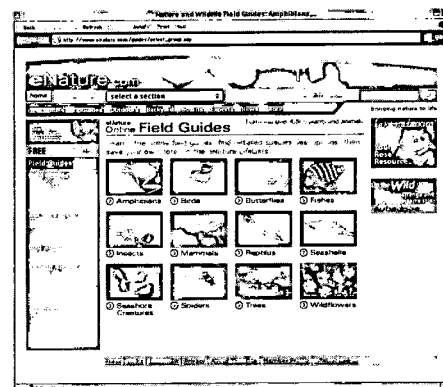


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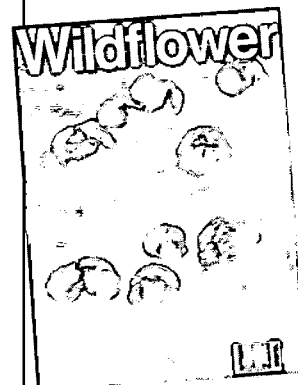
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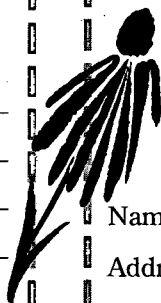
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