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landscaping
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The Root of the Matter

by Randal Maurer

We enjoy our North American prairies with a sense of awe and wonder for the beauty they add to our lives. Often I consider my native perennial plantings and am amazed by the diversity of insects and critters attracted to even my small yard in Ripon, Wisconsin. That awe is compounded when I visit a diverse prairie remnant or a large prairie restoration.

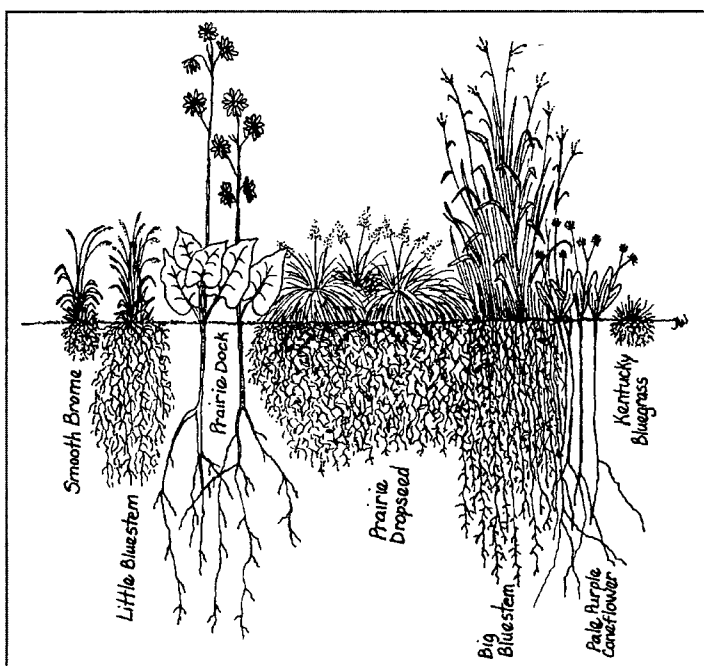
But what about the hidden complexity? The diversity of the microorganisms within the soil and their symbiotic relationship with the plants we love to see brings a new insight to the wonders of a prairie.

Those of us who have seeded our own prairie plots know about the inoculants provided to assist the plants in the legume (bean) family. The inoculants include a cocktail of soil bacteria that form an alliance with legume roots to assist in the uptake of nitrogen. The bacteria make nodules, or little bumps, on the roots growing closest to the soil's surface. Given that most soil nutrients are found in the top few inches of fertile soil, these bacteria are essential to the development of legumes and other plants that benefit from the additional nitrogen.

We have known about these benefits for some time. That is why a farm field planted with corn, a plant that rapidly depletes soil of its nitrogen, is rotated with legumes such as soybeans or alfalfa.

Recent research is now showing us the importance of fungi in a prairie ecosystem. The AM fungi, as they are known, are arbuscular mycorrhizae. The name indicates how the fungi "infect" the plant roots, and how they spread. The arbuscules are the projections which probe into the plant cells and the mycorrhizae are the "roots" that mine the soil for nutrients. These species of fungi affect predominantly the growth and development of warm-sea-

Continued next page.



How low do they grow?

Compared to the roots of the non-native, smooth brome (far left) and the Kentucky bluegrass (far right), prairie plants and grasses have an extensive root system which helps absorb moisture and prevent erosion. Prairie plants can withstand prolonged periods of dry weather and so require little or no watering.

Roots...

from p. 1

son plants, such as those that grow in prairies.

The fungi live in the top few inches of fertile soil and send projections into the upper section of a plant's root mass. For prairie plants with their deep tap roots, the fungal growth greatly increases the roots' surface area just below the surface of the soil, allowing the plants to concentrate on deep growth. The fungi, in return for fixed carbon (a product of photosynthesis which the fungus cannot perform) and micronutrients the host plant is "mining" with its taproot, provide the plant with important nutrients found in the topsoil.

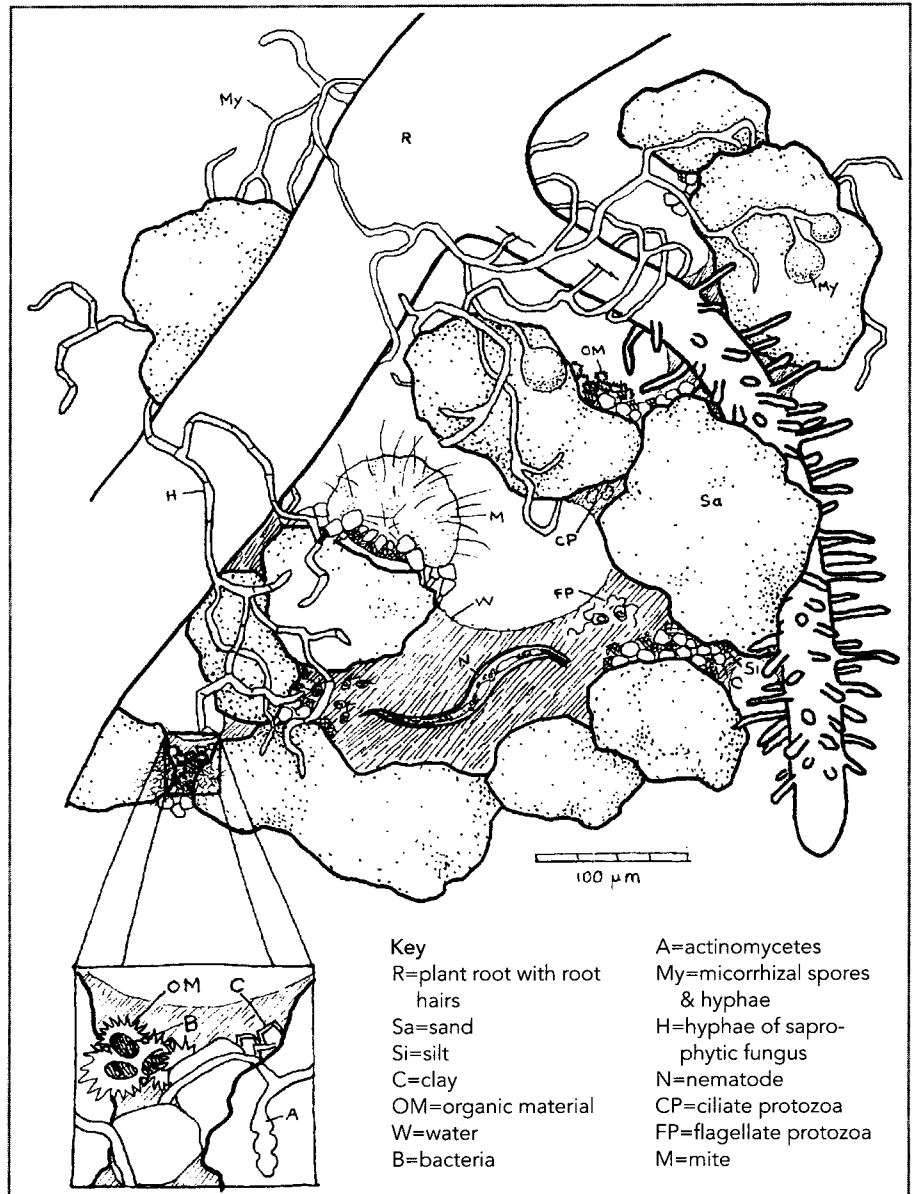
Scientists are studying the importance of these organisms at universities from Kansas to Virginia, including the University of Wisconsin in Oshkosh. In research conducted at three greenhouses, seed planted in soil infected with AM fungi had up to three times more top growth in the first 12 weeks after germination than those in non-infected soils. The phosphorus and other nutrient uptake also increased proportionately in the infected plants, allowing infected plants to grow more robust, even in nutrient-poor soils.

Unfortunately, between the degradation of our topsoil due to intense farming and the disappearance of all but a fraction of our native prairies, there is much we don't know about these organisms. Some restorationists and native plant companies are using or experimenting with AM fungi inoculants to increase native plant growth and seed production, and to help establish plantings in degraded soils.

However, this work must proceed with some caution. Almost all available fungal inoculants come from areas outside the Midwest where I live and work. As

Welcome...

To the Lexington (KY) Chapter of Wild Ones Natural Landscapers! Our newest chapter was chartered in September, 2002. Officers are: Russ Turpin, president; Jenny Maggard, vice-president and secretary; and Kate Krebs, treasurer.



The top inch of soil is teeming with activity as microorganisms go about their business and in the process help our plants grow.

advocates of using native plants and opponents of invasive species, we must be aware of the implications of importing non-native species, including fungi. As with seeds and plants, local sources of inoculants are always the better choice.

Next time you plant that one more plant you simply must have in your prairie or garden, take time to examine the soil in your hands and admire it. Think of the unseen world, the host of beneficial bacteria, fungi, and other organisms that are all helping your prairie plants grow so that you can enjoy them. Continue to encourage your neighbors and friends to plant some prairie plants, even a small prairie garden, in place of a lawn. Let these invisible creatures assist

our plants and help cure the soil and air for all living things large or small. ☘

Randal Maurer is a member of the Fox Valley (WI) Chapter and the chapter's dig coordinator for Fond du Lac County (WI). He is also partner in Native Solutions, an ecological restoration company based in Appleton, WI, and an Adjunct Professor of Electron Microscopy at Marian College in Fond du Lac.

Artist Janet Wissink, roots drawing on p. 1, is a member of the Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter.

Artist Sally Hiott, soil habitat drawing on this page, is a member of the Detroit Metro (MI) Chapter.

Saying 'Yes' Leads to New, Native Front Yard

by Carol Tennessen

Ed. Note: In February, 1997, Carol's Milwaukee North (WI) Chapter was looking for someone to volunteer his/her yard for a special project. At that point, Carol's native garden existed only in her imagination. The actual planning and planting were still a long way off, so Carol signed the sheet volunteering her yard for consideration. Sometimes saying "yes" really does pay! See November/December, 1997 Journal, page 5, for story and photo.

In July, 1997, members of the Milwaukee North Chapter of Wild Ones planted my front yard for a British television company which had come to Wisconsin to film some native gardens, including the planting of a prairie garden. All I had to do was provide a space, I was told. I wouldn't have to do anything, and it wouldn't cost a cent. I figured it was the luckiest day of my life.

All of the plants (more than 400) for my garden were donated by Wild Ones volunteers, who also dug, hauled, mulched, and planted for an entire weekend. And they were right. It really didn't cost me very much in the end. As for not having to do anything, well, that is another matter!

My garden is now in its sixth season, and as anyone who has ever tended a native garden will know, it is a very different garden from the one that was planted. A number of species have completely disappeared, among them milkweed, Indian grass, butterfly weed, wild quinine, and rattlesnake master. Others have flourished and spread: the coneflowers, monarda, asters, goldenrod, and a very elegant, tall sunflower that I have yet to identify. Still others, like the nodding onion and wild petunia, have quietly grown into stunning specimens in their original locations.

I was a naive and inexperienced gardener six years ago, and so in the beginning I was determined that my garden would be perfect. Now my goal is just to keep it from taking over the house.

While I still like to think I have some small measure of control, I am no longer horrified by the occasional string of creeping Charlie or clump of quackgrass that has sprung up, seemingly out of nowhere. The garden has taught me toler-

ance and patience. I am no purist, and never was. I have taken to tying up the asters and cupplants, and I have even gone so far as to set out the sprinkler during a dry spell.

I have made some mistakes. In the second season, I dug up several healthy patches of sideoats grama, mistaking it for common grass, and it has never come back. I used to pull out the common lawn grasses around the plants in the ditch, until I realized that all of the soil would then wash down into the culvert. Now I let the ditch plants coexist happily with whatever else wants to grow there. The grass helps hold the dirt, and most people don't notice it anyway.

The garden has brought me many hours of pleasure, but it is not carefree; far from it. I do several rounds of serious

weeding in the spring. Then when mid-June comes and the mosquitoes hatch, the plants are mostly on their own until the first frost when I do another very thorough weeding. I find I now have to do a good bit of thinning as well. I am trying to reintroduce some of the species I have lost, with limited success. As the neighbor's trees grow taller, there is less and less sun on the front yard.

I am coming to see the garden as a process that changes every year. I realize that it will become an altogether different garden again before very long.

The beauty of the garden, along with the fact that my yard continues to be on the Lorrie Otto Audubon wild yard tour each August, keeps me going. I feel an obligation to keep the garden looking its best, not just for myself, but for all of the Wild Ones members who had a part in creating it, and for the countless numbers of people who pass by on the road and pause to enjoy it.

I am immensely grateful to the Milwaukee North Wild Ones for the gift of this wonderful garden. ☘



In June, 1977, before Carol Tennessen's yard was taken over by her Milwaukee (WI) Wild Ones Chapter for a demonstration project for a British television company, it was a typical suburban front lawn. Now, a lovely native garden (below) blooms all summer, attracting bees, butterflies, and human passersby.

(photos by Carol Tennessen)



Insects Solve One Mystery, Cause Another

by Patricia K. Armstrong

Where's the leak?

In the early 1970s, my husband and I designed and built two cabins in the woods near Devils Lake, Wisconsin: one at the top of a bluff and the other at the bottom. Our daughter and her husband lived on the property when they were first married and we "old folks" came up to the cabin every weekend for rock climbing and nature studying. We felt two cabins would give us all more room and privacy.

Also, the upper cabin had no road access. When Daughter Number One became pregnant (or we "old folks" got too old) she (or we) could stay at the lower cabin and not have to carry groceries, laundry, or anything else up that hill.

The vertical distance between the two was 200 feet, but the linear distance was 300 feet.

We know this because we hauled the electric and telephone cables up the hill, tying them to the trees as we went. And we laid copper tubing to bring propane gas for the furnace and cook stove from the parking area below. Most of the gas line was buried four to six inches deep, but through rocky areas, it was just fastened to 2 x 4s and laid over the rocks.

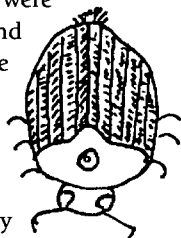
Daughter Number One eventually moved out — to Washington and then to Pennsylvania. The cabins were used less and less frequently as we built a new house in Naperville, Illinois, and traveled farther afield on vacations. We were puzzled when our propane bill crept higher and higher, even when nobody was using the cabins. We suspected a leak.

It was easy to check all the appliances and delivery systems within the cabins — of course, we found nothing.

The next step was to examine the 300-foot length of the gas line between the two cabins. After 25 years of forest succession and growth, this was not easy. Old trees had fallen and new trees and shrubs had grown up. The rocks in the bouldery areas had shifted a little. The 2 x 4s lying on the surface were covered with vines, wild flowers, ferns, and shrubs. In fact, the vegetation obliterated most signs of the buried gas line. We were no longer sure exactly where it was.

Luckily, as we began searching, we discovered a spot in the woods where large, black and yellow beetles were churning around. They were congregating and hurrying in and out of a small opening in the fallen leaves. Each beetle was about one inch long and had a yellow thorax with a dark spot on it. The wing covers were black and grooved longitudinally. These were American carrion beetles, *Silpha americana*, known for their ability to detect dead things and hasten the decay process by feeding on and burying carrion.

They were attracted by the foul scent added to the propane so people can smell it and be warned of leaking gas. We dug gently in the area where the beetles had gathered, discovered the leak in our gas line, and promptly fixed it, thanks to the "bloodhound" sleuthing of the American carrion beetles.



What happened to the chimes?

Mystery number two arose at our new home in Naperville, Illinois. In 1983, my husband and I designed and built a passive solar home and landscaped the entire property with 300 species of native, mostly prairie, plants.

The self-sustaining landscape requires very little care — burning once a year in March and some weeding and brush cutting during the rest of the year. This gives us time to study and photograph the plants, insects, birds, and other creatures living in our yard. We try to figure out who's eating our plants and which insects are flying around and buzzing and chirping in our yard. So far, we have seen and identified 14 mammals, 73 birds, three reptiles, and two amphibians. Even though the arthropods and insects are much harder to identify, we've found 100 different insects and spiders.

We also have a beautifully-tuned musical wind chime hanging from our upstairs bedroom balcony roof and it often soothes us to sleep on warm summer nights. But from late July to early August the chimes sound rather flat. Instead of a nice resonating "claaaang" or "pliiiiiing," we hear a dead sort of "clunk" or "thunk." And little wisps of dead grass protrude from the ends of some of the pipes.

It is a very heavy cathedral chime. One has to climb onto a chair, take the chime down with both hands, lay it on the bed, try to turn the metal pipes sideways to look into them, and then poke a dowel rod through the pipes to clean them.

And what comes out? A mess of twisted up dead grass and four to six little leaf thimbles, each about 5/8 inch long. Some are bright green and others yellow-brown. The bottom end of each thimble consists of leaf parts, rolled up and folded over. The thimble's top end is open, a circular green leaf plug is crammed into it.

Some of the older brown thimbles fall apart. They are made of semicircular pieces of leaf. (And, we notice, the pieces match exactly the holes that have been appearing on the *Impatiens pallidus* leaves in the woodland wildflower garden lately.) Inside the thimble is a bunch of tightly packed pollen, nectar, and a tiny egg.

These are the nests of the leaf-cutter bee, *Megachile latimanus*. The adult bees are black and densely clothed in pale brownish-yellow fur. They visit our *Rosa setigera* when it is in bloom in June and July and carry the pollen away on the undersides of their abdomens. They do not have pollen baskets on their back legs like honey or bumble bees do.



It seems that the holes cut in the jewelweed leaves, the bees rolling in the rose pollen and carrying it on their bellies, and the debris clogging up our wind chimes are all related. They are events in the lives of the leaf-cutter bees who also reside at Prairie Sun in Naperville. Another backyard mystery solved!

We decided to hang several pieces of wood around our yard for leaf-cutter and carpenter bees to use for their nests instead of our wind chimes.

Pat is a member of the Greater du Page (IL) Chapter and serves on the national Board of Directors. Article and drawings ©2002, Patricia Armstrong.



A hummingbird's-eye view of a turk's cap lily.

Hummingbird Gardens: Beautiful & Low-Allergy!

by Michael R. Hall

The ruby-throated hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) is the only hummingbird which is a regular nester in the eastern United States north of the deep south. Many people would like to use the appropriate native plants to attract hummingbirds to their yards or school grounds but may be concerned about potential allergic reactions to these plants.

Fortunately, with the exception of a few tree species, the plants most frequently visited by hummingbirds for nectar are naturally low-allergy plants.

All of these plants listed in the chart at right are rated 4 or lower on Ogren's allergy scale of 1 to 10 (*Allergy-Free Gardening*, Tom Ogren, 2000), except for the two vines that are rated 5. Plants rated 7 or higher on the Ogren scale are considered to have a high potential for causing allergic reactions. If the species listed here are not native to your area, a native plant of the same genus may work equally well and also have a low-allergy potential.

The ruby-throated hummingbird is especially attracted to red and orange flowers, but will also feed from bright blue and violet-colored blossoms. Hummingbirds require nectar continually from May through September, so be sure to plant a variety of flowers which will provide food throughout this period.

With a properly planned hummingbird garden, "your" hummers will not need an artificial feeder. Have fun! ☼

Michael is president of the Columbus (OH) Chapter.

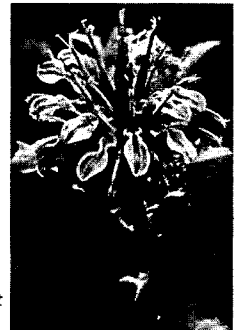
Ed. note: Although this article focuses on the ruby-throated hummingbird, the same allergy-free plant principal probably holds true for regions which are home to other species of this tiny bird.

Low-allergy, native species plants highly recommended for hummingbird gardens

Most of these plants require at least a half day of sun. Consult seed catalogs, local native plant nurseries, and Wild Ones members for soil, ecoregion, and other requirements.

Lavender hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)
 Prairie blazingstar (*Liatris pycnostachya*)
 Fire pink (*Silene virginica*)
 Royal catchfly (*Silene regia*)
 Lyre-leaved sage (*Salvia lyrata*)
 Trumpet honeysuckle vine (*Lonicera sempervirens*)
 Great blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)
 Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), likes moist soil
 Wild iris (*Iris versicolor* or *I. virginica*), likes moist soil
 Jewelweed or touch-me-not (*Impatiens capensis* or *I. pallida*), prefers shade
 Wild petunia (*Ruellia pedunculata* or *R. humilis*)
 Phlox (*Phlox pilosa*)
 Smooth penstemon (*Penstemon digitalis*)
 Wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
 Hawthorns (*Crataegus* sp.)
 Tall larkspur (*Delphinium exaltatum*)
 Prairie larkspur (*Delphinium virescens*)
 New jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)
 (Tiny insect pollinators are eaten)
 Alumroot (*Heuchera americana*)

Wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
 Bee balm (*Monarda didyma*)
 Swamp rose mallow (*Hibiscus palustris*), likes wet soils
 Wood lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*)
 Turk's-cap lily (*Lilium superbum*)
 Michigan lily (*Lilium michiganense*)
 Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
 Wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*), needs acid soil
 Flame azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*), needs acid soil
 Rhodora (*Rhododendron canadense*), needs acid soil
 Catawba rhododendron (*Rhododendron catawbiense*), likes acid soil
 Trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*)



Wild bergamot

Down Memory Lane. . .

I am so proud of what Wild Ones is doing and just love getting the Journal. Despite the very 70s sort of name, people in the business world love name recognition and all these years of work have given us that. "Wild Ones" still reflects the spirit of our group, which was first in line to promote the slogan, "Hell no, we won't mow."

The name Wild Ones conjures up all sorts of images in the minds of the uninitiated, giving any of us the chance to launch into a detailed explanation of what the name really means. It also gives a sense of whimsy to any of us who really think we are "wild."

I am amazed to think about the Wild Ones' growth. I always said I was a demographic of one; as I go, so go the masses! You should see the growth of native plantings in Texas!!

Oh how I miss those Saturday morning discussions about the environment and about encouraging people to use native plants. That was so much cheaper than therapy; it was always good for this old soul.

I think of all you "Wild Ones" so often. Does anyone else remember the first annual board meeting held in my dismal back yard? Just a few folks from Chicago, 20 or so all told, wearing silly hats. But what fun we had!

Deb Harwell e-mailed this message to Donna VanBuecken, Wild Ones executive director. Deb was president in 1990 when Wild Ones became incorporated as a national organization. She is presently a partner at large member living in Plano, Texas.

Wild Ones Natural Landscapers will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2004. Do you have similar memories of Wild Ones' early days? Please send them to Donna VanBuecken, executive director, via phone, e-mail, or mail so we may include them in our special "memory book." See p. 12 for contact information.

Notes from the president. . .

Defining a Wild Ones Yard

In the last issue, I mentioned that we are looking for different ways to celebrate Wild Ones' 25th Anniversary. One suggestion that came out of July's Board meeting was to develop a list of yards demonstrating the Wild Ones mission.

This led to discussion about what percentage of one's yard would define that yard as representing "Wild Ones." The discussion harkens back to the argument about whether we should be purists in our pursuit of the use of native plants in our gardens or eclectic in our use of native plants.

It is my belief that the purists tend to be more militant in their belief that all things in our landscape should be native — that only through a 100% commitment can we heal the Earth. On the other hand, it is also my belief that the true eclectic admires all things that grow and are beautiful and is equally concerned about the health of our planet. My guess is that most of our members lie somewhere between the purist and the eclectic, with a tilt toward a greater use of natives than not.

I received an e-mail from a member of our Diversity Committee (which is examining ways to increase the diversity of our membership) that struck a note. The member's argument was that we should not be turning up our noses at those who are more interested in non-native varieties of perennials, and yes annuals, than native varieties. Our intent should be to have these people begin to introduce natives into their planting palette, one step at a time if need be. The reality is that many gardeners already have

natives in their yards, whether they know it or not! Helping them recognize this reality and expand upon it should be a guiding principle for Wild Ones.

You might ask, "Joe, why this discussion and why from you, our president? Shouldn't you, of all people, be preaching the party line, 'GO NATIVE!'" My answer is to pair Dan Dieterich's phrase, "Each one, reach one, **Wild One**" with an analogy about how we learn to swim. If we want to grow our membership, we need to recognize that not all of us can dive into the deep end of the pool of natural landscaping head first. Some of us have to jump in at the chest-deep area, some of us holding our noses and closing our eyes (i.e. with extreme caution). Others can only dip their toes into the shallow end of the pool. Eventually, however, many of us swim out deeper as we become more comfortable in that great big pool of native landscaping.

As we educate those around us about the value of using native plants in our yards, we need to respect each other's position and willingness to change. **Each** one of us, in order to **reach** and teach another one of us, needs to respect the **Wild One** within each of us. If we limit recognition of what a **Wild One** member's landscape is to an *arbitrary* value, then we will limit our ability to grow as an organization and will hamper our ability to educate others around us.

I'd be pleased to hear from you on this subject. Contact me at president@for-wild.org or 608-837-8022 and let me know what you think.

Joe Pavelka



QUARTERLY NATIONAL BOARD MEETINGS

All members are invited and encouraged to attend the quarterly meetings of the national Board of Directors. More details will be printed as they become available, or can be obtained from your chapter officers.

Mar. 1, 2003: Sponsored by Oakland (MI) Chapter; hosted by Michigan Wildflower Conference (see below).

OTHER CONFERENCES

Nov. 2-3: Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society annual conference, Canyon Inn, McCormick's Creek State Park, Spencer, IN. Contact: Roger Hedge, e-mail – hedge@dnr.state.in.us; phone – (317) 232-4052.

Jan. 18, 2003: All day. "Toward Harmony with Nature," 7th annual conference seminar about native landscaping, Park Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Oshkosh, WI. Sponsored by the Fox Valley (WI) Chapter; Contact Carol Niendorf, phone – (920) 233-4853; e-mail – HarmonyVII@for-wild.org.

Keynote speaker, George Meyer, former secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Other speakers: Bob Ahrenhoerster, Prairie Seed Source (a *Journal* advertiser), – prairies; Rochelle Whiteman, a Wild Ones member featured in

the September/October *Journal*, and Lorelei Allen — the natural backyard; Bob Freckman, retired University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point botanist – woodland flowers; Tim Gutsch, owner of Great Lakes Nursery – woodland management; Andrew Hipp, graduate student at UW-Madison – sedges; Jeff Nania, head of the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association – wetlands; Rebecca Power from the Winnebago County (WI) UW-Extension – shoreline restoration; Ken Solis, Milwaukee anti-invasive species activist – community action against invasive species; and Corrine Daniels and John G. Gishnock, of Applied Ecological Services – rain gardens and low-impact yard care.

Feb. 15: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Second Annual Thoughtful Gardener Symposium: Successful Gardening with Native Plants, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Union, Green Bay, WI. Contact: Barbara McClure-Lukens, phone – (920) 465-222; fax – (920) 465-2552; e-mail – mcclureb@uwgb.edu; website – www.uwgb.edu/outreach/ProfEd.

Keynote presenter will be Neil Diboll, president of Prairie Nursery, Inc. (a *Journal* advertiser).

March 2-3: 16th Annual Michigan Wildflower Conference, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. Complete details will be released at the end of October and registration materials will be mailed in December. Contact: Marji Fuller, phone – (269) 948-2496; e-mail – marjif@iserv.net; website – <http://www.wildflowersmich.org>. The conference will host the Wild Ones first quarterly meeting of the year at the University's Kellogg Conference and Hotel Center on March 1.



Making Do' with Native Christmas Trees

by Roy Lukes

While I was teaching school from 1955 to 1975, every year I read to my students a story entitled, "The Cowboy Christmas," by Donald Hough.

The old cowboy, who got caught in a raging blizzard and received life-saving shelter in a remote ranch home with a young family, realized that the children would have to forego presents and a tree, so he pitched in and helped solve the problem.

As the story relates, "He brought the children a simple tree and with it a Christmas so brave and joyful that it would live in their hearts forever."

The only tree he could find was most likely a red cedar, one of the typical small, stunted evergreens of the arroyos of the plains.

Few people today would think of using a terribly prickly, somewhat rusty-green red cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*, for a Christmas tree. But, depending upon the times and where you might be living, you would make do with whatever tree was available, whether it be cedar, arborvitae, fir, hemlock, pine, or spruce.

Yes, the red cedar that the old cowboy found is actually a juniper.

I know that as soon as the word arborvitae is mentioned, people will ask, "Do you mean white cedar?"

In the first place, there are no true cedars native to the North American continent. Unfortunately, someone years ago thought that our arborvitae trees resembled the Cedars of Lebanon, and so they became cedars and have retained that faulty name ever since.

Our so-called eastern white cedar, which I call the arborvitae, is in the genus *Thuja* (THEW-ya), an ancient name of some resin-bearing evergreen. Its species name is *occidentalis* (ok-si-den-TAY-lis)

and simply refers to the western world, our continent, where it was first discovered.

Surely it has been used by a good many people in this region as their Christmas tree. Its scale-like needles are very soft and flexible and have a pleasant odor. The tree is very comfortable to trim and holds ornaments well.

The name arborvitae originated in an interesting way. This is the Latinized form of *l'arbre de vie*, the tree of life. King Francis I of France gave the tree its name, upon learning that French explorers, led by Jacques Cartier, were quite magically cured of scurvy by a vile tea brewed from its foliage, which the Native Americans of the St. Lawrence Valley gave them.

And so *l'arbre de vie* was transformed through the years to arborvitae.

To further confuse the arborvitae issue, there is also an arborvitae of the West that, unfortunately, is named the western red, or giant, cedar, *Thuja plicata* (THEW-ya pli-CAY-ta) meaning folded or

braided, either an allusion to the braided nature of the scale-like foliage or the texture of the bark.

Contained in an entirely different genus are the Atlantic white cedar and Alaska cedar. Now one can begin to sense the confusion that is bound to surface regarding the cedars.

Fir trees rank near the top of the list of favorite trees used indoors, especially in our region, during the Christmas season. Their tall, smooth, tapering, narrow spires have been admired by millions of people on this continent for hundreds of years. Perhaps it is the intense, clean outdoor fragrance that has also made them so popular.

You can expect to find three different species of fir trees for sale during the holiday season: balsam, Fraser, and white.

The balsam is the species native to the upper Midwestern area. Its flat, round-tipped needles can be up to an inch long.

The white or concolor fir is native to the western mountains. Its needles, when gently squeezed, are delightfully fragrant and remind us somewhat of a citrus perfume. These needles can be upwards of two to three inches long and are also flat and round-tipped.

The Fraser fir is so much like the balsam fir that the two can easily be mistaken when seen side-by-side. The Fraser fir is native to extreme eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina, where it is at home at mountain elevations between 4,500 and 6,900 feet.

Enjoy your Christmas tree to the fullest, regardless of the species you choose. Ours this year will be a balsam fir, our all-time favorite "tannenbaum." ❀

Roy is a member of the Door County (WI) Chapter. This column first appeared in The Post Crescent, Appleton, WI on December 16, 2001 and is reprinted with permission; ©2001.





Nothing like a nice rest on a lawn following an afternoon of browsing in that urban yard!

Are Deer Overeating in YOUR Garden?

by Sonia Uyterhoeven

Although this article refers to Massachusetts, gardeners in many parts of the United States are struggling to deal with what seem to be ever-increasing, tame, urban herds of deer.

When I was growing up, there were only a few occasions when we spotted a deer. These were magical moments: we crept up to get a closer look and then raced after the beast which fled as soon as it

spotted us. Today, it is not uncommon to pull into my dad's driveway following a nice restaurant dinner and find a deer standing in the front yard, digesting its own meal. And the deer are not as timid as they used to be.

Certainly, the population of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) has increased significantly in eastern Massachusetts over the past few decades. Two

major reasons for this explosion are the increased development of suburban and rural areas and what I call the "Bambi factor" — local resistance to deer hunting or culling in areas where the deer population is exploding. Deer are lovely animals until you walk out into your garden in the morning and find your favorite plants devastated.

Deer damage depends on several factors, such as the size of the local herd, the size of the herd's territory, other available food sources, and the time of year. Deer are selective feeders. They tend to eat

Native Plants Seldom Damaged by Deer

Ed. note: Many of the plants on this list grow throughout the eastern states and the Midwest. Similar information for other regions of North America is often available from park departments, natural resource departments, native plant nurseries, and Wild Ones members.

Some plant families included here, such as tansy, include both native (*Tanacetum huronense*, Huron tansy) and alien (*T. vulgare*, common tansy) species which grow in North America. Check with a reputable supplier who will help you select plants native to your ecoregion.

Remember, deer may eat some of the plants on this list. In fact, they have even tasted monkshood in our yard — I hope they got very sick. Usually, though, deer will simply sample and not eat these plants to the ground. MMW

Perennials

Monkshood (*Aconitum* sp.)
Ornamental onion (*Allium* sp.)
Amsonia (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*)
Anemones (*Anemone* sp.)
Angelica (*Angelica* sp.)
Columbine (*Aquilegia* sp.)
Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)
Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)
Goatsbeard (*Aruncus dioicus*)
Wild Ginger (*Asarum* sp.)
Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
Asters (*Aster* sp.)
False Indigo (*Baptisia*)
Turtlehead (*Chelone* sp.)

Bugbane (*Cimicifuga racemosa*)
Coreopsis (*Coreopsis* sp.)
Bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*)
Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
Joe-Pye weed & boneset (*Eupatorium* sp.)
Queen-of-the-prairie (*Filipendula* sp.)
Cranesbill geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)
Avens (*Geum* sp.)
Helen's flower, sneezeweed (*Helenium* sp.)
Marsh mallow, rose mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*)
Iris (*Iris* sp.)
Spike gayfeather (*Liatris spicata*)
Lupine (*Lupinus* sp.)

Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)
Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*)
Bee Balm (*Monarda* sp.)
Evening Primrose (*Oenothera* sp.)
Ferns (*Onoclea* sp.)
Allegheny or West Virginia spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*)
Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium caeruleum*)
Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)
Christmas fern (*Potentilla* sp.)
Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia* sp.)
Goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.)
Huron tansy (*Tanacetum* sp.)
Meadow rue (*Thalictrum* sp.)
New York Fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*)
Foamflower (*Tiarella* sp.)
Labrador violet (*Viola labradorica*)
Yucca (*Yucca* sp.)

Shrubs

Carolina all-spice, sweet shrub (*Calycanthus floridus*)
American smoketree (*Cotinus obovatus*)
Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
Hydrangea (*Hydrangea* sp.)
Ink berry (*Ilex glabra*)
American holly (*Ilex opaca*)
Juniper (*Juniperus* sp.)
Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)

Dog hobble (*Leucothoe fontanesiana*)

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
Bayberry (*Myrica* sp.)
Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos*)
Viburnum (*Viburnum* sp.)

Trees

Ed. note: While the deer may not eat these trees, or may stop with a bite or two, bucks will rub their antlers on all smooth, young tree trunks. In our yard, a buck rubbed a young tamarack (about 8 to 10 feet tall), girdling it; the lower portion survived. Tender saplings can be eaten to death from the top down. MMW

Maple (*Acer* sp.)
Birch (*Betula* sp.)
Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)
Flowering dogwood (*Cornus* sp.)
American larch, tamarack (*Larix laricina*)
Sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)
Magnolia (*Magnolia* sp.)
Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*)
Spruce (*Picea* sp.)
Common Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)
Canadian hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)
Willow (*Salix* sp.)

annuals and herbaceous perennials in the spring and summer, and woody plants (trees and shrubs) in the winter.

Deer have definite likes and dislikes which can be used to the gardener's advantage — with the caveat that if they are very hungry, they will eat just about anything. Their browsing choices in your garden will depend on their nutritional needs and previous experiences. They are creatures of habit; if you have provided them with a nice meal in the past, they will be back for more.

There are several ways to deter deer. Chemical repellents such as "Deer Off" or "Coyote Urine" tend to be expensive and are best used sparingly on a few choice spots in your garden. Physical barriers such as netting or fences are often effective, but they can be unsightly. Another option for the committed gardener is to slowly incorporate "less favored" plants into their plantings.

This will take some finessing. Every deer has its own particular taste preference. What one deer will eat in your garden may be what another deer will avoid in someone else's garden. So the trial and error method is the best approach. You may want to start by selecting some of the plants listed here. Or talk to your local nurseries, neighbors, and other Wild Ones members to see what has worked for them.

If all else fails, there is the "strategic method" of minimizing deer damage in your garden. Simply send your neighbors some tulip bulbs and several other plants favored by deer, and hope that the deer begin to associate your neighbor's yards with a good meal! ❀

Sonia wrote this article in 2001 during her internship at the New England Wild Flower Society in Framingham, MA. She is now a Putnam Fellow at the Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum and is completing her Ph.D. in the history of science. The New England Wild Flower Society is the nation's oldest institution dedicated to the conservation of wild plants and sponsors educational and conservation programs throughout New England.

REMINDER

Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education grant applications due at the national office by November 15!

Book Reviews:

Two Holiday Gifts for 'Native' Gardeners

Easy Lawns: Low Maintenance Native Grasses for Gardeners Everywhere, edited by Stevie Daniels. Published by Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Inc., New York, NY, 1999, ISBN 1-889538-12-4, 100 pages, \$9.95.

reviewed by Paulette Thiebert

Easy Lawns is an excellent book for anyone contemplating planting a lawn (or replacing all or part of an existing lawn) with low maintenance, native grasses.

Along with step-by-step planting instructions, the book includes chapters about specific grasses, such as buffalo grass, fescues, June-grass, and others. In addition, *Easy Lawns* has chapters about every area of the country, including California and Florida, authored by native grass experts from each region.

This easy-to-read guide has a brief encyclopedia about the native grasses and sedges mentioned. For each species, the reader learns about site requirements, height/growth habits, mowing guidelines, and sources for seed or plants. Tolerance for foot traffic is also noted for those who may want to mow all or part of their lawns.

Best of all, there are many wonderful photographs of attractive yards planted with the various natives as well as line drawings of the grasses themselves.

At just over 100 pages, and priced at only \$9.95, *Easy Lawns* is the most concise, practical guide I have found for using native grasses and sedges in lawn plantings.

Paulette is a member of the Fox Valley (WI) Chapter. She is in the process of selecting and planting appropriate native plants, trees, and grasses on 20 acres of former farm fields outside of Neenah where she and her husband plan to build a home.

[Ed. note: *Easy Lawns* is one in a series of books about native plantings published by Brooklyn Botanic Garden. If you cannot find these titles at your local bookstore, all are available from the Botanic Garden's website: www.bbg.org/gardenemporium, or call (718) 623-7286.]



Prairie Directory of North America - The United States and Canada by Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz. Published by Lawn-dale Enterprises, Wilmette, IL, 2001. ISBN 0-9715096-0-3, 352 pages. \$19.95.

reviewed by Mariette Nowak

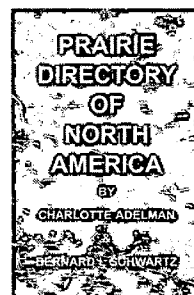
Prairie lovers everywhere, this is the book for you. It's a comprehensive guide to prairies throughout the United States and Canada.

The prairies are easy to locate alphabetically by state in the United States or by province in Canada. Prairies in the United States are further subdivided by county or parish, making it very handy to locate the nearest prairie wherever you live or travel. Public prairies and savannas throughout the prairie bioregion and beyond are described. Each prairie listing generally includes a short description of the habitat, acreage, location, and a nearby city, plus a contact for more in-depth information about the site. Descriptions of the flora and fauna at the sites are often provided. The coverage for Wisconsin (my state) seemed very complete, as did that of Ohio, where I had just visited one of the prairie sites as part of the July Wild Ones Annual Meeting and Conference in Columbus.

Also of interest is the reference to the "Prairie Passage," a national project to plant prairie plants along a major federal highway extending through prairie country from Canada to Mexico. The route follows US 35 from Texas to Minnesota, then along several other highways in the western, prairie portions of Minnesota up to the Canadian border. Specific information about the "Prairie Passage" within each of the participating states is included.

This directory is a perfect reference book to take with you whenever you might travel in one of the 26 states or four Canadian provinces with remnant or restored prairies as described in this book. You may order this book directly from the publisher at P.O. Box 561, Wilmette, IL 60091-0561; www.lawn-daleenterprises.com or BLSCHW@aol.com.

Mariette is a member of the Milwaukee-Southwest-Wehr (WI) Chapter and serves on the national Board of Directors as vice-president and editor-in-chief of the Journal.





The Grapevine

by Maryann Whitman

Kentucky Native Plant Symposium

Portia Brown, Louisville Kentucky Chapter and secretary of the national Wild Ones Board of Directors, reports back from the Kentucky Native Plant Symposium that Wild Ones Natural Landscapers was recognized favorably in several contexts. The symposium included federal, state, and local agencies as well as companies that are involved in some aspect of the use of native plants.

Portia says, "I came away from the symposium with a stronger sense of where I believe Wild Ones fits into the overall picture of environmental activities and organizations. There are many organizations working to preserve natural areas and to restore remnant populations of plants and ecological communities. There are also many organizations, largely governmental, that are having an impact on landowner practices. As Wild Ones grows into a truly national organization, our role in relation to these other organizations takes on new perspectives. While nature conservation (preservation of existing native plant communities in the wild) is core to [the survival of] native plants, restoration and establishment are practices that can, when carried out within the context of ecoregions, have very significant positive impacts. Wild Ones can play an important role in educating the general public about environmentally sound practices in their own neighborhoods and how these practices relate to the larger picture. Wild Ones can serve as an important link between everyday people and the broader focus of more academic, agricultural, and horticultural organizations.

"The symposium concluded with a commitment to continue meeting quarterly to work together to promote the availability and use of local ecotype plant material, and to develop guidelines that

all the participant organizations can agree on regarding ecologically sound practices in Kentucky. The scope of these guidelines will extend beyond Wild Ones mission *per se*; however, I am delighted that Wild Ones is at the table."

This is indeed exciting and satisfying to read.



Speaking of "preservation and restoration"...this from the Columbus (OH) Chapter

Sometimes wonderful things come about by sheer happenstance.

A strip of land only 50 feet wide but one mile long lies between a heavily used road and a railroad track in north-central Ohio. Because of its size and inaccessibility, it escaped the plow, the drainage tiles, and the pasturing of sheep, oxen, horses, and cattle, unlike most of the rest of the

Hot Off the Press

A new brochure, designed to introduce people to the concept of natural landscaping, has just been printed.

"In Harmony with Nature — Landscaping with Native Plants" is perfect for distributing to groups and for placing on Wild Ones display tables. It was written by Lorraine Johnson (partner at large, Toronto). The layout was designed by Camin Potts (Central WI Chapter) and the brochure includes illustrations by Babette Kis (Milwaukee North (WI) Chapter). Babette's artwork has appeared in many issues of the *Journal*.

Copies are free! Order the brochure from the Wild Ones office; contact information on p. 12.

200,000 acres of prairie/savanna that made up the Sandusky Plains. In 1978 the 10-acre strip was dedicated as a protected area on which the railroad agreed not to spray defoliant.

But it wasn't until 1984 that Kensel Clutter started tending it and loving it. He came in to cut out the dogwoods and other interloper trees and weeds that would, in days of yore (I've never been able to use this phrase quite this appropriately), have been killed periodically by fire. He watched as the dormant seed bank expressed itself, increasing the number of native species from 61 to nearly 80.

To help himself and others understand what it was that was being preserved, he researched historical records, starting with the 1819 congressional surveyor's notes and maps, county tax assessment records, federal aerial photography (from as early as 1939), and topographic maps. His research included personal tours of back roads in the prairie area and visits to "witness trees" noted in 1819, to record what grew in the area in modern times. Armed with all this information, Kensel drew a map of the Sandusky Plains, detailing the extent of the prairie at the time of the original land surveys in 1819.

Seeds collected from this narrow strip of land, now known as the Claridon Prairie in Marion County, have been used to restore and establish other prairies around Ohio.

Here we have preservation, restoration, and historical recording to the ultimate degree. Thanks to the Columbus Chapter for bringing to our attention the story of Kensel Clutter which appeared in the August, 2002 issue of Ohio Magazine.

Note: A "witness tree" was a tree used by early surveyors to mark a section corner. The surveyor blazed a witness tree and, in his notebook, noted its position relative to the corner. Some of these trees are still standing, more than 200 years later; occasionally, one finds their offspring.



Apropos of thoughts of preservation and restoration...

A paper published in the August 9, 2002 issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Science* informs us that the economic value of wild ecosystems far outweighs



November/December, 2002

Fast Forward Capital Campaign a Success!

In addition to the contributors listed here, four have asked to remain anonymous.

\$200 or more

Robert & Carol Niendorf
Bret & Jina Rappaport
Donna & John VanBuecken

\$51 to \$199

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Richard S. Whitney
Ruth Ann Will

The need to improve Wild Ones ability to communicate with its members and the general public was the driving force behind the decision to embark upon a fund-raising effort in 2001. As Wild Ones Natural Landscapers has grown, the Board of Directors recognized that communications — through the website, the *Journal*, and other means — was going to become even more important to the health of the organization. Through a special mailing, members were asked to consider making a small donation to the Wild Ones Fast Forward Capital Campaign (F2C2).

To date, 356 members and friends have donated \$9,130!

Following the Wild Ones tradition of studying and evaluating before spending, members of the Communications Committee have been working to set communication priorities.

Two primary priorities have been identified:

1. Make the Wild Ones website easier to navigate and ensure consistency of information posted on the site.
2. Produce easy-to-use, easily-accessible administrative materials to help chapters function more efficiently. Many of these items will be available to chapters through a password-protected link to the Wild Ones website.

We have begun to make changes to the website (www.for-wild.org) and more will be made in the coming months.

Thank you to all who gave so generously.

Karin & Klaus Wisiol
Kit Woessner
Debi (Deborah) Wolterman
Kay M. Wosewick
Karen Zastrow

Up to \$20

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Wild Ones Communications Web Team Committee

Portia Brown, chairperson, Louisville (KY) Chapter
 Peter Chen, Greater du Page (IL) Chapter
 Donna Fish, Gibson Woods (IN) Chapter
 Evelyn J. Hadden, St. Cloud (MN) Chapter
 Laura J. Liebler, Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter
 Dave Nowak, Milwaukee Southwest/Wehr (WI) Chapter

In addition, Peter Chen has been serving as webmaster and Dave Nowak has been assisting him. Both are volunteers. Volunteer Mark Santkuyl, Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter, has been helping program the Wild Ones' membership data base.

If you would like to contribute to the Fast Forward Capital Campaign, please send your tax-deductible contribution to Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, WI 54912-274.

the value of converting these areas to cropland, housing, or other human uses.

The economic value of an ecosystem can be measured in terms of the "goods and services" that the ecosystem provides — including climate regulation, storm and flood protection, atmospheric carbon sinks, water filtration, soil formation, the sustainable harvest of plants and animals, and so on. Pricing these goods and services is difficult, since they include items that are not bought and sold as part of a market-driven, conventional economy. Economists assign values to non-marketed services using a variety of techniques, ranging from estimating the cost of replacing these services to assessing how much individuals and nations would be willing to pay for each ecosystem service.

In all 300 cases studied, the total economic value of the intact ecosystems ranged from 14 percent to almost 75 percent *higher* than the marketed benefits that came with conversion.

The researchers concluded that "Every year we continue to convert habitat, it's costing us \$250 billion over any profit that comes from development." They estimate that a network of global nature reserves would ensure the delivery of goods and services worth at least \$400 trillion more each year than the goods and services from their converted counterparts. This means the benefit to cost ratio is more than 100 to one in favor of conservation.

Lack of information about the economic worth of ecosystem services, the failure of markets to capture and value these services, and tax incentives and subsidies that encourage land conversion all contribute to continued habitat destruction, wrote the Science authors. "We have to keep track of our natural capital. We've been liquidating it and not including the costs in our calculations."

I feel like using that helpless expression of individuals finding themselves dumbstruck: "Duh."

Maryann is a member of the Oakland (MI) Chapter and the Journal's feature editor. To submit items, please contact Maryann at Wild Ones Journal, PO Box 231, Lake Orion, MI 48361 or featuresedit@for-wild.org.

Eucalyptus — an Invasive Exotic Taking Over California's Landscape

by Linda Naydol

Although many people today may associate eucalyptus trees with the southwest, especially California, the eucalyptus is not native to the United States. In fact, it is an invasive exotic and as such does not belong in the California ecosystem. Over time, eucalyptus will displace almost all of the California native plants growing in their "space," while at the same time, prohibiting the growth of natives and decreasing California's biodiversity.

Eucalyptus create a biological desert providing almost no wildlife habitat, although many raptors use the trees for nesting and perching, and monarch butterflies are attracted to the blossoms.

Because many of California's native plant communities have been damaged or destroyed by grazing, development, aerial seeding with non-natives after fires, and the invasion of non-native exotic plants, using native plants whenever possible becomes an important consideration for gardeners.

California's native plants evolved with its wildlife, providing food, nesting places, and cover for birds and animals. Native plant communities may include willows, oaks, sycamores, ceanothus sages, buckwheats, manzanitas, and lupines to name but a few. This

diversity is a far cry from the monoculture found in a grove of eucalyptus trees.

A monoculture is only one problem caused by eucalyptus. Wildlife specialists at the well-respected Point Reyes Observatory near San Francisco have made an alarming discovery: eucalyptus trees can actually kill our native birds. One of the park's most common large eucalyptus produces abundant flowers in the winter when most native species are not in bloom. These flowers attract insects, which in turn attract native birds such as ruby-crowned kinglets, vireos, warblers. Some of these bird species are quite rare.

When the birds hunt for insects, they come into contact with a tar-like pitch in the eucalyptus flowers. The pitch adheres to the birds' feathers and seals their nostrils. The lovely songbirds are suffocated by this exotic plant.

Clearly, California birds and eucalyptus have not evolved together. Birds in Australia, where eucalyptus is native, developed long, hooked bills. These bills enabled the birds to probe the inner workings of the eucalyptus flowers without getting any pitch on their nostrils or feathers. Our native birds have short, straight bills, suitable for feeding on native seeds and fruits. To seek nectar or insects within the eucalyptus flowers, birds must reach into the blossoms, thus getting coated with the sticky substance which gives the eucalyptus one of its common names: gum tree.

As residents of California, Arizona, and other southwestern states become aware of the problems eucalyptus trees create for other plants as well as for birds, I hope they will chose native trees for their landscapes. ♻️

Linda grew up in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, a chaparral community rich with flora and fauna. She is a writer and an artist who is currently working on a series of drawings of California native plants, done in pen and ink with colored pencil. Her drawing of eucalyptus accompanies her article. Linda is married to Allan, a federal wildlife biologist and an avid gardener. They live along California's central coast and their "household" includes a garden of more than 350 species of mostly California natives, two horses, numerous pond fish, and an indoor cat. Linda and Al are partner at large members of Wild Ones.



Wild Ones Natural Landscapers is a non-profit organization. Its mission is 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.

NATIONAL OFFICE:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DONNA VANBUECKEN

P.O. BOX 1274, APPLETON, WI 54912-1274

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Email: execdirector@for-wild.org

Join Orion Society, Help Wild Ones

Wild Ones Natural Landscapers is a member of The Orion Society, an organization that works in partnership with grassroots organizations and schools to improve the Earth's environment.

The Society publishes *Orion*, a bi-monthly magazine which includes interviews, poetry, reviews, and regular features about natural history, the arts, spiritual inquiry, and people "who are not afraid to put their dreams of a healthier world into action."

Because Wild Ones is a part of the Orion network, Wild Ones will receive \$10 for every member who joins the Orion Society. The \$35 annual membership fee includes a subscription to *Orion* magazine.

Here's what Bret Rappaport, past Wild Ones president, has to say about Orion. "Conservation organizations can and must develop a state of cooperation. Today, as Wild Ones members, we each have an opportunity to help build such a relationship. The Orion Society's award-winning publication presents a strong and critical voice on behalf of our precious natural resources, open spaces, and all creatures great and small. I have read and enjoyed their exquisite publications for years."

If you'd like to join the Orion Society, please see the ad on p. 17.

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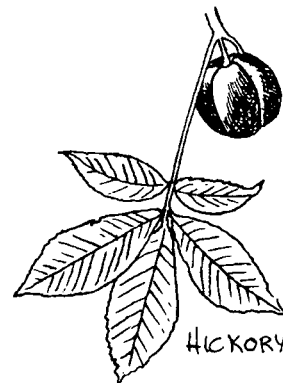
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ADDITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The line drawing on this page is by Janet Wissink, a member of the Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter.


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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 • calandar@for-wild.org



The meeting place

You are invited to participate in all Wild Ones activities, even when you travel! For complete details about upcoming events, consult your local chapter newsletter or call the local contacts listed for each chapter. Customary meeting information is included here, but because it is subject to change, please confirm dates and locations.

ILLINOIS

GREATER DUPAGE CHAPTER

MESSAGE CENTER: (630) 415-IDIG

PAT CLANCY: (630) 964-0448

clancypj2@aol.com

Third Thursday of month, 7 p.m., College of DuPage, Building K, Room 161, unless otherwise noted.

Nov. 2 (Sat.): 1 p.m. Annual Seed Exchange.

Nov. 21: "Using Native Plants in Functional Landscape design," with Karma Grotelueschen. Learn how to create living spaces, direct traffic, form transition points & create enclosures by using native plants.

December: No meeting.

LAKE-TO-PRAIRIE CHAPTER

KARIN WISOL: (847) 548-1650

Second Monday of month, 7:15 p.m., Byron Colby Community Barn at Prairie Crossing, Grayslake (Rt. 45, about 1/2 mile south of IL 120).

Nov. 11: Celebrate the Harvest & Seed Exchange. We will be joined by members of the Liberty Prairie Conservancy. Margrit Nitz from DuPage Wild Ones will present "Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden." Enjoy refreshments & visit with fellow gardeners. Suggested donation: \$5 for refreshments & program costs. Open to public.

December: No meeting.

NORTH PARK CHAPTER

BOB PORTER: (312) 744-5472

bobporter@cityofchicago.org

Second Thursday of month, 7 p.m., North Park Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski, Chicago, unless otherwise noted. Call Bob Porter for info.

Nov. 14: Potluck dinner, Board elections, & Seed Exchange.

December: No meeting.

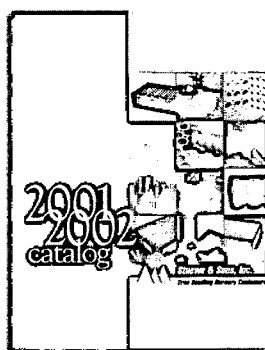
ROCK RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER

SHEILA STENGER: (815) 624-6076

Meetings at Burpee Museum of Natural History, 813 N. Main St., downtown Rockford, unless otherwise indicated. Public welcome. Call (815) 624-4225 for info.

Nov. 21 (Thurs.): 7 p.m. Annual Potluck Dinner & Seed Exchange. Share your stories of success – or what didn't work. Please join us even if you don't have seed to share; there's always more than enough. Members only. Location to be announced.

December: No meeting.



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INDIANA

GIBSON WOODS CHAPTER

PAT ROSENWINKEL: (219) 865-2679

First Saturday of month during winter months, 10 a.m., Gibson Woods Nature Center, 6201 Parrish Ave., Hammond, Ind., unless otherwise noted. Center phone: (219) 844-3188.

Nov. 2: How to dry flowers.

Dec. 7: Making decorations from the wild.

IOWA

WILD ROSE CHAPTER

CHRISTINE TALIGA: (319) 339-9121

Second Monday of month, First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City, unless otherwise noted.

Contact above for info.

KENTUCKY

FRANKFORT CHAPTER

KATIE CLARK: (502) 226-4766

katieclark@vol.com

Second Monday of month, 5:30 p.m., Salato Wildlife Education Center Greenhouse #1 Game Farm Rd, off US 60 W (Louisville Rd.), Frankfort, unless otherwise noted.

Nov. 11: "Seed Propagation."

Dec. 9: Special Christmas meeting at Mary Carol Cooper's. Limited to current & new members. Please call Mary Carol at 859-277-0656 if you can bring anything. Check website in November for directions.

Continued next page.



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LEXINGTON CHAPTER

JENNY MAGGARD: (859) 263-4402

Nov. 6 (Wed.): Slide presentation by Mary Carol Cooper. Location & time to be announced.

December: Holiday get-together; date, time, & location to be announced.

LOUISVILLE CHAPTER

PORTIA BROWN: (502) 454-4007

wildones-lou@insightbb.com

Fourth Tuesday of month, 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

Nov. 26: Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner, Church of the Epiphany Community Center, 914 Old Harrods Rd, Anchorage, KY. Ralph Archer will discuss ferns & hand out info about ferns of Kentucky & those well adapted to our area. Bring seasonal dish to pass & any plants/seeds you wish to share. Beverages provided; you may bring wine. If you can help set up, call Rosetta at 634-4357.

December: No meeting.

4th Saturday Work Days: 9 a.m.-noon, weather permitting, Wildflower Woods in Cherokee Park. Contact Ward Wilson 593-9063 or ward.wilson@home.com

ANN ARBOR CHAPTER

JOHN LOWRY: (810) 231-8980

john@kingbird.org

SHANNON GIBB-RANDALL: (734) 332-1341

gibbrand@mich.com

Usually second Wednesday of month. For meeting info contact above or see www.for-wild.org/annarbor

CADILLAC CHAPTER

PAT RUTA: (231) 829-3361

pat_ruta@hotmail.com

Fourth Thursday of month, 7-9 p.m., Lincoln School, 125 Ayer St., Cadillac, unless otherwise noted.

Nov. 21: Oak wilt disease, presented by Jill O'Donnell.

December: No meeting.

CALHOUN COUNTY CHAPTER

MARILYN CASE: (517) 630-8546

mcase15300@aol.com

Fourth Tuesday of month, 7 p.m., Calhoun Intermediate School District building on G Drive N. at Old US27, Marshall MI, unless otherwise noted.

Nov. 26: Program by Esther Durnwald of Michigan Wildflower Farm. Esther will introduce the variety of native plants available in Michigan & their appropriate growing conditions.

December: No meeting.

CENTRAL UPPER PENINSULA CHAPTER

JAMES LEMPKE: (906) 428-9580

jlempke@chartermi.net

Continued next page.

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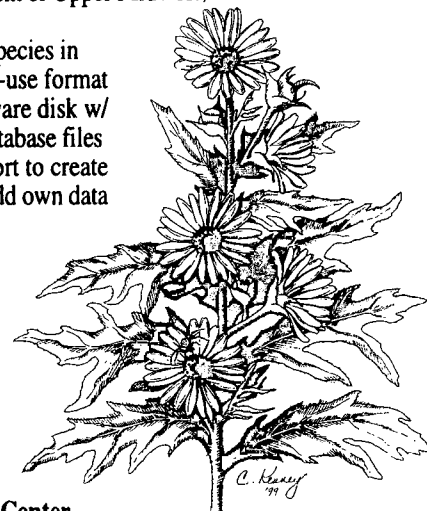
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DETROIT METRO CHAPTER

ELIZABETH MCKENNEY: (248) 548-3088
ebmck@hotmail.com
Third Wednesday of month, 7-9 p.m., Royal Oak Library, Historical Room, 222 E. Eleven Mile Rd., Royal Oak, MI., unless otherwise noted. Public welcome; \$5 fee for non-members.

FLINT CHAPTER

GINNY KNAG: (810) 694-4335
mtknag@ameritech.net
Second Thursday of month, 7 p.m., Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court St., Flint, unless otherwise noted.
Nov. 14: "Wetland Native Plants" with Jewel Richardson.

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER

NANCY & TOM SMALL: (616) 381-4946
Fourth Wednesday of month, 7:30 p.m., Christian Church, 2208 Winchell, unless otherwise noted.
Nov. 20: "Native Shrubs – and more – for Wild Ones' Gardens & Landscapes," with Bill Schneider, owner of Wildtype Native Plant Nursery, Mason, MI. This is also our Third Annual Members' Meeting & birthday celebration. Come at 7 p.m. for socializing.
December: No meeting.

(LANSING) RED CEDAR CHAPTER

MARK RITZENHEIN: (517) 336-0965
mritz@acd.net
Third Wednesday of month, 7-9 p.m., Hancock Turfgrass Research Center, MSU campus, unless otherwise noted. For details, see www.for-wild.org/redcedar/. All are welcome.
Nov. 20: "Rain Gardens," with Patricia Pennell, Streams & Rivers Coordinator for West Michigan Environmental Action Council.
December: No meeting.

OAKLAND CHAPTER

MARYANN WHITMAN: (248) 652-4004
maryannwhitman@comcast.net
Third Thursday of month, 7 p.m., Old Oakland Township Parks/Police Building, 4392 Collins Rd., Oakland Township, unless otherwise noted.

MINNESOTA

ARROWHEAD CHAPTER

CAROL ANDREWS: (218) 727-9340
carol_andrews@hotmail.com
Fourth Thursday of month, 6:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Location changes each month. Check website for details: www.d.umn.edu/~wildones. Public welcome
Nov. 21: Meeting topic: landscaping that has good late fall/winter interest.
December: No meeting.

Continued next page.

OTTER TAIL CHAPTER

KAREN TERRY: (218) 736-5520
terry714@ptel.com
Fourth Monday of month, 7 p.m., at Prairie
Wetlands Learning Center, Fergus Falls. Visitors
always welcome.

ST. CLOUD CHAPTER

GREG SHIRLEY: (320) 259-0825
shirley198@charter.net
Fourth Monday of month, 6:30 p.m., Heritage
Nature Center, unless otherwise noted.

TWIN CITIES

MARTY RICE: (952) 927-6531
jcrnfr@msn.com
Third Tuesday of month, 6:30 p.m., at Nokomis
Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy,
Minneapolis, unless otherwise noted.
Nov. 19: 6:30 p.m. "Seasonal Care of Trees &
Shrubs."
December: No meeting.

MISSOURI

MID-MISSOURI CHAPTER

LESA BEAMER: 882-6072
wildonesmo@yahoo.com
Second Saturday of month, 10 a.m. unless oth-
erwise noted. Location varies. For details con-
tact above or see website at wildones.mis-
souri.org.
Nov. 9: Meeting to organize & plan for 2003 &
review 2002 accomplishments.
December: No meeting.

ST. LOUIS CHAPTER

SCOTT WOODBURY: (636) 451-0850
scott.woodbury@mobot.org
First Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m., unless
otherwise noted; call Shaw Nature Reserve for
directions & info, (636) 451-3512. Public wel-
come.
Nov. 6: 6 p.m. Annual seed swap & potluck
dinner, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center.
Please bring your seeds & a dish to pass. Tour
of facility. Please RSVP to Maribeth at mslebod-
nik@danforthcenter.org as security needs list of
attendees.
December: No meeting.

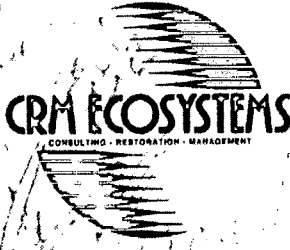
NEW YORK

CHENANGO VALLEY CHAPTER

HOLLY STEGNER: (315) 824-1178
hollystegner@hotmail.com
For location, date, & meeting times please
contact above.

NEW YORK CITY METRO/LONG ISLAND CHAPTER

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jwpines@juno.com
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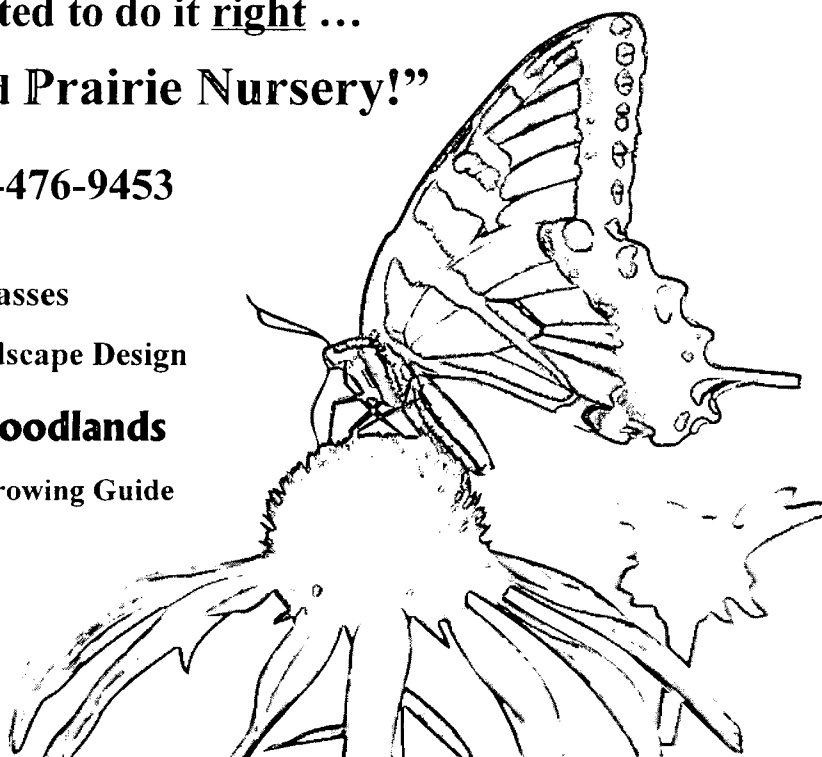
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OHIO

GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER

KATHY MCDONALD: (513) 941-6497
kmc@one.net

All programs open to public. Contact above for info.

Nov. 1 (Fri.): "Woody Propagation of Trees & Shrubs." Meet at Civic Garden Center, 7 p.m., for class led by Neil Zuriech of Earthscapes. Call 221-0981 for info.

Dec. 7 (Sat.): "Winter Wetland Hike." Meet at Shaker Trace Nursery, Miami Whitewater Forest, 10 a.m. flora walk led by Scott Peak, Nursery Manager. Learn to identify plants, trees & shrubs without their foliage. 738-4305.

COLUMBUS CHAPTER

MICHAEL HALL: (614) 939-9273
mrhallblacklick@hotmail.com

Second Saturday of month, 10 a.m., Innis House, Inniswood Metropolitan Park, 940 Hempstead Rd., Westerville, unless otherwise noted. Meetings free; public welcome.

Nov. 9: "Backyard Conservation" with Linda Pettit of Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Dec. 14: Annual election of officers, holiday potluck brunch & seed exchange. Bring dish to pass & personal table settings. Coffee & tea provided.

SOUTH CAROLINA

FOOTHILLS CHAPTER, CLEMSON

KAREN HALL: (864) 287-3294

kcarlso@clemson.edu

Third Saturday of month, Red Caboose, State Botanical Gardens, Clemson University, unless otherwise noted.

WISCONSIN

CENTRAL WISCONSIN CHAPTER

PHYLLIS TUCHSCHER: (715) 384-8751

toosch@tzn.net

Fourth Thursday of month, 7 p.m., Rooms 1&2, Portage County Extension Building, 1462 Strongs Ave., Stevens Point, unless otherwise noted.

Nov. 21: Annual meeting, seed exchange & election of officers. Presentation (tentative): Raptors of Wisconsin.

DOOR COUNTY CHAPTER

JUDY RENINGER: (920) 854-5783

jreninger@dcwis.com

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

Nov. 2 (Sat.): 2 p.m. "Living with the Land: Our Birchwood Home." Connie Ramthun & Bill Volkert will discuss their work restoring & maintaining their property near Campbellsport, WI. Connie owns Kettle Moraine Natural Landscaping & her husband, Bill, is Wildlife Educator at Horicon Marsh. Crossroads at Big Creek, Sturgeon Bay. Public welcome.

Continued next page.



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ERIN CHAPTER

BOB & BEV HULTS: (262) 670-0445
Third Thursday of month, 7 p.m., Erin Town Hall, 1846 Hwy. 83, Hartford, unless otherwise noted.

Nov. 21 : Social night; gather to talk about your plans, ask questions, identify plants.
December: No meeting.

FOX VALLEY AREA CHAPTER

CAROL NIENDORF: (920) 233-4853

niendorf@northnet.net

DONNA VANBUECKEN: (920) 730-3986

dvanbuecken@new.rr.com

Indoor meetings at 7 p.m. at either Memorial Park Arboretum, 1313 E. Witzke Blvd., Appleton, or Evergreen Retirement Community, 1130 N. Westfield St., Oshkosh.
Nov. 21: "Living with the Land: Our Birchwood Home." Connie Ramthun, owner of Kettle Moraine Natural Landscaping, & her husband Bill Volkert, Wildlife Educator at Horicon Marsh, will discuss their work restoring & maintaining their property. Evergreen Retirement Center.

December: No meeting.

GREEN BAY CHAPTER

CHUCK MISTARK: (715) 582-0428

gmistark@new.rr.com

Third Wednesday of month, February-November, unless otherwise noted.

Most meetings at Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Rd., except in summer.

Nov. 20: 7 p.m.: "Wisconsin Native Plants Used as Medicinal Herbs" with Bob LaCrosse.

MADISON CHAPTER

LAURIE YAHR: (608) 274-6539

yahrkahl@aol.com

Last Wednesday of month, 7 p.m., Visitor Center, UW Arboretum, Madison, unless otherwise noted. Public welcome. Meetings listed are tentative; contact above to confirm.

Nov. 20: 6:30 p.m. Pot luck get-together. Arboretum Visitor Center.

December: No meeting.

MENOMONEE RIVER AREA CHAPTER

JAN KOEL: (262) 251-7175

DIANE HOLMES: (262) 628-2825

Indoor meetings on second Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m., AMF Bowling, N85 W15900 Appleton Ave., Menomonee Falls.

Nov. 13: "Backyard Ponds," with Annette Alexander, who will speak about using water features to create diversity in our yards & enhance our natural landscapes.

December: No meeting.

MILWAUKEE NORTH CHAPTER

MESSAGE CENTER: (414) 299-9888

Second Saturday of month, 9:30 a.m., Schlitz Audubon Center, 1111 E. Brown Deer Rd., Bayside, unless otherwise noted.

Nov. 9: Michael Yanny will discuss native plant propagation techniques.

Dec. 14: Annual seed & story sharing. Bring seeds you can share with those who are just beginning. Tell stories of your successes & problems.

MILWAUKEE SOUTHWEST-WEHR CHAPTER

MESSAGE CENTER: (414) 299-9888

Second Saturday of month, 1:30 p.m., Wehr Nature Center, 9701 W. College Ave., Franklin, unless otherwise noted.

Nov. 9: "Propagation of Native Plants," presented by Michael Yanny of Johnson's Nursery. Public invited. Call above number, ext. 2 for more info.

Dec. 14: Annual holiday gathering, featuring seed exchange, videos, holiday treats & stories. Public invited. Call above number, ext. 2 for more info.

ROOT RIVER AREA CHAPTER

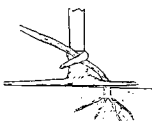
NAN CALVERT: (262) 681-4899

prairiedog@wi.rr.com

Meets September-May, first Saturday of month, 1:30-3 p.m., Riverbend Nature Center, Racine, unless otherwise noted.



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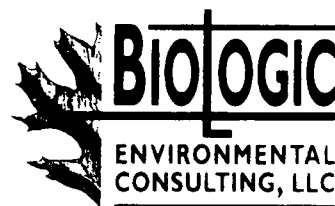
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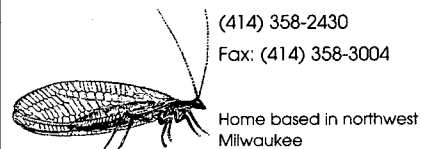
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Businesses Join Wild Ones

Three business have joined Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, becoming the first to participate in our newest membership category. We appreciate their support and will be introducing them more fully in future issues. Wild Ones business members are:

Bowood Farms, Inc., Clarksville, MO
(Mid-Missouri Chapter),
North Creek Nurseries, Landenberg, PA
(partner at large), and
One Plus Inc., Sun Prairie, WI
(Madison Chapter).

New Look for Journal

Readers may have noticed that we've been experimenting with the *Journal's* appearance. For the September/October issue, we used lighter colored paper. This time, we've gone back to the brown ink, except for our logo.

We made these changes to help make the *Journal* easier to read and to improve the appearance of the photographs. Has it made a difference? Let us know!

New Journal editor needed

After December, our current editor will no longer be producing regularly-published newsletters, so we're looking for someone to help us publish the Wild Ones *Journal*.

Are you interested? Do you know someone who's looking for an interesting job? Phone or e-mail Donna VanBuecken, executive director. Please see p. 12 for contact information.

Amazing Grace: From Native 'Mazes'

by Mary Lee Croatt

An acquaintance, a spiritual seeker, asked in wide-eyed wonder, "Have you walked a labyrinth?" He explained how he used it as a tool for contemplation. I had recently read a complicated design for planting a labyrinth. It sounded very complex to plant and to maintain.

Our own labyrinth is much less formal. It is a collection of mazes we create in August and September. The Canada goldenrod, a native plant in our fields, is aggressive. Our solution is to mow paths through our prairie plantings before these goldenrod seed heads ripen. This weakens the goldenrod, sets it back, and gives the other plants a chance to compete and flourish. The paths wind into cul-de-sacs and dead ends ultimately ending where they start.

Our friends with their young children come for a weekend to experience "the Land," filling a cultural gap in their citified life. Their timing is perfect. The other prairie forbs and grasses are tall, well over the children's heads. We tell the children to look up from the maze if they feel lost or scared. Look for the shed roof to find the way back from the convoluted paths through the prairie wilderness.

They run and shriek as they tear down the paths. Hide and seek! Tag! You're it! What fun! What excitement! They pull their parents and grandparents into the fray. They return breathless. Where's another maze? Please, please. We all enjoy this.

Recently I walked a labyrinth at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco before my daughter's wedding. I felt centered. Perhaps it is not too different from our mazes. Both orient one to life. Both bring joy, although serenity and levity seem to be opposite ends of a continuum of bliss. How a'mazing is this. ☘

Mary Lee Croatt is a member of the Milwaukee North (WI) Chapter as well as a Prairie Enthusiast, Coulee Region Chapter. She and her husband, Lloyd, nurture land in Vernon County, Wisconsin, along the west fork of the Kickapoo River. She writes true stories about their land restoration project.

Other articles about mazes may be found in the July/August, 2001 and in the January/February, 2002 issues.



Side oats
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