

a voice
for the natural
landscaping
movement

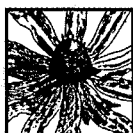
Wild Ones®

NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

JOURNAL

JULY/AUGUST 2003
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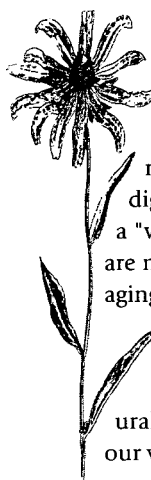
Wild Ones 25th Anniversary 2004

We'd love to hear from you and your chapter as we get ready for Wild Ones' 25th Anniversary. We're looking for articles, history, memorabilia and other information that you or your chapter may have to share about Wild Ones. Contact Carol Chew at 8920 North Lake Drive, Bayside, WI 53217, 414-351-0644 and cchew@ex-ecpc.com.

Founding President Recalls How Wild Ones Took Root and Grew

The following brief account of the early history of Wild Ones was written by Founding President Gini Lindow, probably in 1983. At that time, there was only one Wild Ones chapter: Milwaukee North. In 1993, the article was reprinted in the Wild Ones newsletter, *The Outside Story*. Carol Chew, then editor, introduced the piece by saying, "We hope that those who were initially involved will enjoy seeing these recollections and those who are newer members will learn how our group was formed."

A Brief History of Wild Ones Natural Landscapers Gini Lindow



..Wild Ones was a direct outgrowth of a natural landscaping workshop offered by Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Bayside (Milwaukee County). We had a nucleus of nine people who were intensely interested in the new concept of native plants as an alternative to lawns. A camaraderie developed over the lectures, tours, and digs and two years later an organization sprouted—Gini Lindow had a "wild" idea that blossomed into Wild Ones Natural Landscapers. We are no common "garden variety" garden club, but a society for encouraging natural yards using native plant species; a sensitivity to land use in harmony with plants and animals is of high priority. Our membership grew from nine in July 1979 to 65 in 1983.

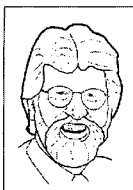
Our resident expert, Lorrie Otto, has taught us much about the natural landscaping philosophy. She organized yard tours to help us with our visual planning and the reorganization of our yards and gardens...

The remainder of the letter describes the organization's activities, which are amazingly similar to those occurring today, including workshops on "plantings and management, soil preparation, native woodland plants, weed ordinances, and disease and pest control the natural way," digs, tours, seed gatherings, and "'on-the-spot' visits for constructive assistance." —ed.*

Celebrate the start of the Wild Ones native plants landscaping movement with Lorrie Otto's pithy quotes. See her biography, p. 3.

It was long ago...when I saw a robin quivering, shaking and flopping about on my lawn. At first, there were only a few, then more and more. Some time later I collected 28 robins and dumped them on the desk of the Bayside village manager. Some had missing heads (shrews?). During one of our daily coffee klatches, I asked my neighbors about the dying birds. They had not noticed. However, within days, two called to say, "Yes, I see them now that I'm looking. What's wrong?" —Lorrie Otto, from "CNRA, DDT and Me"

Watch for the article on Lorrie Otto and Wild Ones
in the July issue of the *Martha Stewart Living* magazine.



Notes from the president. . .

Advocating on a National Level

You may have noticed a change in the focus of articles included in the *Journal* over the last several issues. There have been more stories about plants that grow outside of the Midwest and presentations of practices unusual to the Midwest. The intent is to expand our breadth of coverage to meet the needs of Wild Ones chapters and members from all over the U.S. and Canada. Along with this, we are going to give our readers a little more responsibility for making appropriate native plant species decisions for their particular areas. We will provide more resource information for further research and will include expanded information on the Wild

Ones web site.

If we are to be a voice for a national movement, we will need to open our minds to what works and doesn't work in the different regions of our continent. We will be exposed to concepts of native landscaping that may not fit our concept of "right." We will learn what works in areas outside our own, while supporting our common goal of reintroducing native plant species into our individual environments. The Wild Ones Chapters will continue to act locally, but the *Wild Ones Journal* needs to advocate nationally.

Albert Einstein suggested that "problems cannot be solved by the same thinking that

created them." To "restore" our environment, we have been modifying it with the same single-minded, self-confident zeal as generations before us did to cause the damage. We are using as our model an idealized notion of what native landscapes were before we began to impose our will on them. We really do not know, and will likely never understand, the entirety of the pre-settlement model. However, millennia of genetic specialization by local plants and animal species cannot be ignored, and we must continue to learn what the elements of that specialization mean.

It is imperative for the *Journal* to continue as a forum for issues, ideas and data relating to the use of native plants in our landscapes and the relationship between natives and a healthy and sustainable environment. We need to keep open our minds, and our thinking, to the concept that we all are still learning and evolving. I'd like to hear your thoughts about this expanded approach of the Voice of the Natural Landscaping Movement.


Joe Powellka
President of Wild Ones

Annual Meeting

On September 13-14, the Wild Ones Annual Meeting will take place at the Shaw Nature Reserve Conference in Gray Summit, Missouri. The conference will include presentations and workshops relative to landscaping with native plants, with a focus on woodlands and wetlands. Accommodations are available in the newly reconstructed Nature Reserve log cabins (right). See the May-June *Journal* for registration information.



Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to encourage biodiversity through the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities. Wild Ones is a not-for-profit environmental, educational, and advocacy organization.

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Lorrie Otto is the inspiration for *Wild Ones*, widely acknowledged as the heart and soul of the natural landscaping movement.

Shooting Star

A *Wild Ones* Member You Should Know

Lorrie Otto, Prairie Queen

Carol Chew, Mandy Ploch and Bret Rappaport



"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, but rather borrow it from our descendants." Lorrie Otto's words aptly summarize her life and legacy. In the last decade, the natural landscaping movement took root and spread from coast to coast. Lorrie Otto planted the seeds of the movement.

Lorrie was born Mary Lorraine Stoeber in 1919 near Madison, Wisconsin. Her love of nature traces back to long, hot summers traipsing behind her father as he guided the horse-drawn plow, soil squishing between her toes, studying unearthed grubs and worms. The farm stretched over three hills, which her father had terraced by hand. Years later, while piloting a plane, Lorrie saw the family farm from the air after a rainstorm. It was still lush, while adjacent hill-sides lay bare with alluvial fans of brown mud stretching from their bases. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin, married Owen Otto, a psychiatrist, and moved to a north Milwaukee suburb, a block from Lake Michigan.

Her suburban area was blessed with a twenty-acre ravine, called Fairy Chásm, in which children played and nature reigned. But in the late 1950's, plans were made to sell the chasm and to build in it. Lorrie turned naturalist, crusader, and teacher. It took a decade, but in 1969, The Nature Conservancy took title to the twenty acres.

In the 1950's and 1960's, it was common practice to spray for mosquitoes on a weekly basis with DDT. After each run, Lorrie found birds strewn about, twitching, soon to die. She became a founding board member of the Wisconsin Chapter of The Nature

Conservancy and the Citizens Natural Resources Association (CNRA) [see Links, below] and led the assault on DDT. In 1970, Wisconsin became the first state to outlaw it. Wisconsin's senator Gay-lórd Nelson, initiator of Earth Day, carried the battle along to Washington, D.C., and by 1972, DDT had been banned nationally.

Lorrie views the typical suburban monoculture of lawn as "immoral" but she believes the vast expanse of land occupied by suburban development could, instead, be considered an environmental opportunity: "If suburbia were landscaped with meadows, prairies, thickets, or forests, or combinations of these, then the water would sparkle, fish would be good to eat again, birds would sing and human spirits would soar." She started by turning her own one-acre property back to nature. The Ottos moved to a landscape of lawn, a tulip bed, and sixty-four Norway spruces. To the consternation of the neighbors, they cut down the non-native spruces and planted asters, goldenrod, and ferns. By the first Earth Day, 1970, it looked as if the house had been dropped onto a prairie.

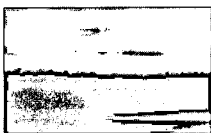
However, town officials saw only weeds. A village worker was sent out and got to the fern garden with a mower before he was stopped. Lorrie muses, "In the areas where we could put our learning and teaching into practice—schoolyards, churches, hospitals, roadsides and, most obvious of all, our own yards—we neaten and bleaken, consistently and relentlessly destroying habitat for almost all life. It's as if we took off our heads, hung them up, and left them at the nature center." Since winning the battle with her own town, she has helped others to view natural landscaping as a public good rather than as a health hazard.

In 1977, while listening to Lorrie speak, Ginny Lindow got a "wild" idea. She started an organization to promote the use of native plants to landscape city and suburban yards. Lorrie helped form *Wild Ones* and has guided it since. She remains a member of Milwaukee - North (WI) Chapter.

Lorrie Otto continues to serve the community by teaching, lecturing, acting as witness and advisor in legal matters, and communicating through TV, radio and publications. She has planted the seeds of natural landscaping in the hearts of thousands. These natural landscapers in turn, have left a legacy to future generations by returning their own patches of the biosphere to nature. ☼

Links

The Links column peruses organizations that have goals similar to those of *Wild Ones*. Citizens Natural Resources Association of Wisconsin (CNRA) is a pioneer environmental organization, which recently celebrated 50 years. Notable among these first environmental militants are Wallace Grange, Owen Gromme, Fran and Fred Hamerstrom and Lorrie Otto.



Citizens Natural Resources
Association of Wisconsin (CNRA)
Jan Scalpone

The Battle of the Trees. In 1950, the Wisconsin Highway Commission undertook the "improvement" of Highway 30, a few miles west of Milwaukee, cutting down hundreds of magnificent old trees bordering the road. When the work was completed, the actual driving right-of-way was no wider than before.

Private citizens fought the destruction of the trees. One woman chained herself to a tree and had to be removed by force. The governor refused to act. The Highway Commission speeded up its work before the disorganized opposition could marshal public opinion.

Almost immediately after, a number of citizens decided it was time to create an organization that could fight these battles in Wisconsin, and The Citizens Natural Resources Association of Wisconsin (CNRA) was born.

The Aldo Leopold Connection. The new organization was a small group of active conservationists, militant in nature, following the principles of Aldo Leopold. The founders considered calling themselves The Aldo Leopold Society but some thought his philosophy too new and radical, perhaps unable to stand the test of time. Yet for more than 50 years the philosophy of Aldo Leopold has guided CNRA in its efforts to "preserve, manage and restore Wisconsin's natural resources." CNRA's logo, an acorn with an oak leaf designed by wildlife artist Owen Gromme, is a symbol of Leopold's "Good Oak," often mentioned in *A Sand County Almanac*.

Conservation Issues. CNRA is a volunteer organization with a broad environmental agenda. It serves as a channel for both education and action. It seeks to harmonize aesthetic, biological and economic aspects of conservation, to foster personal responsibility for the environment, and to encourage individual actions to guide

Continued next page

public policy and private practice. Among CNRA's continuing issues are:

- Promotion of policies to preserve natural beauty and encourage native vegetation on roadsides.
- Promotion of responsible use of chemicals.
- Protection of wetlands, waterways and other environmentally sensitive areas.
- Protection of threatened and endangered species.
- Preservation of wildlife and natural areas.

Some Accomplishments. As a citizens' group, CNRA steps in when public agencies appear to be disregarding the environment. A few topics have always been on its agenda.

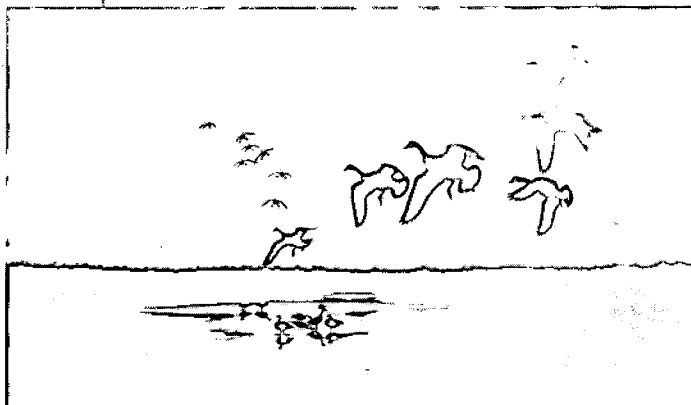
Natural Roadsides. In the 1950s, road building and rural electrification brought about wide-scale chemical spraying of native vegetation. A roadside vegetation policy drafted by CNRA in 1951 and widely distributed to highway departments and public utilities became the basis for CNRA's 50-year effort to promote natural roadsides throughout Wisconsin. Early on CNRA strongly recommended selective vegetation management practices with native shrubs and prairie. It revived an abandoned roadside movement in the 1980's by publishing *Managing Wisconsin's Roadsides* (1991) and initiating formation of a Wisconsin Department of Transportation committee that strengthened natural roadside maintenance policies. Today we see evidence of CNRA's persistence: highway departments limit herbicide use, mow far less, and maintain many more miles of native vegetation in highway right-of-ways.

DDT/Pesticides. In 1968, after years of opposing the spraying of chemicals by local governments and agriculture, CNRA and the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) filed a petition asserting that DDT was a pollutant of the waters of the State of Wisconsin. The hearing in Madison led to a ban on DDT in Wisconsin, similar legislation in other states, and national legislation outlawing DDT. CNRA coordinated activities and raised \$100,000 for the hearing, which took 27 days, involved 32 witnesses and filled nearly 4500 pages of transcripts. CNRA continues oversight of other pollutants.

Horicon Marsh. Horicon Marsh is the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the nation. It sustains an abundance of wildlife

and attracts hundreds of thousands of migratory ducks and geese. Twice CNRA has been involved in lawsuits against the managers of the marsh, Fish & Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin DNR. In 1951, it supported a suit by CNRA's first president, Wallace Grange, to prevent hunting on the federal refuge. In 1976, CNRA filed its own suit to stop draining the marsh and hazing geese to disperse them. Both suits were unsuccessful. CNRA, however, keeps a protective eye on the marsh.

To pay expenses for the 1976 lawsuit



Requiem—Horicon Marsh, 1916, 1976

and other activities, Owen Gromme painted "Requiem—Horicon Marsh, 1916, 1976" [picture above] and donated proceeds from the prints to create a special CNRA fund, the Horicon Defense Fund. Over the years CNRA has continued to sell prints, using a portion of the income to support marsh research projects, initiate coordinating activities and promote protective legislation. In 2003, on the 100th anniversary of the federal refuge system, Horicon Fish & Wildlife staff recognized CNRA as a valuable partner. A copy of Gromme's print and CNRA's publication *CNR—The First 50 Years: 1951-2001* were placed in the refuge's time capsule to be opened in the year 2103.

The People of CNRA. CNRA recognizes select members for outstanding achievement in Wisconsin conservation work with its The Silver Acorn award, first presented to Aldo Leopold posthumously. Twenty-six Silver Acorns have been awarded since. Ten recipients have also been inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame, established in 1984: Aldo Leopold, Wallace Grange, Wilhelmine LaBudde, Owen Gromme, Walter Scott, Fred and Fran Hamerstrom, William J.P. Aberg, E.M. Dahlberg, and Lorrie Otto. CNRA activists make up one-fifth of the Hall of Fame in-

ductees, an excellent record for an organization of about 220 members, with only 20 or so actively participating on its Council at any given time.

Today and Tomorrow. Time has changed CNRA. The ecological values once limited to a few individuals and organizations are now more prevalent. Many different groups are now prepared to act in crisis situations. CNRA activities remain the same: annual meetings, quarterly council meetings, field excursions and participation on

working projects. Increasingly, however, activities are linked with those of other conservation organizations. A grant program through the Horicon Defense Fund has become the mainstay of CNRA's agenda. From this fund CNRA has aided more than 50 individuals and organizations with over \$55,000 in research, education and preservation grants. Collaboration with other conservation organizations is also common. Most of the current Council members belong to

Wild Ones. CNRA has helped fund activities of the Seeds for Education Committee and this year nominated the Fox Valley Area Chapter's Seeds for Education Committee for a prestigious state award.

As CNRA passes the torch to younger, single-purpose organizations, it continues to open its doors to new members who seek the support, experience and foresight of a pioneering conservation organization. In today's climate of rapid development, competing land uses and declining water quality, we still have a vital need for broad-based vigilance and active stewardship.

For more information, contact Donald Vorpahl, President, at 920-996-9018 or Jan Scalpone, VP, at janscalpone@aol.com. Both are members of Fox Valley Area Chapter of Wild Ones.

Janice Scalpone is a retired transportation planner from the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, editor of CNRA's publications.

The CNRA Council

President: Donald Vorpahl
 Vice President: Jan Scalpone
 Secretary: Zaiga Maassen
 Treasurer: Charles M. Sturm
 Membership: Louise Coumbe
 Councilors: Kira Henschel, David Kopitzke,
 Fred Ott, Lorrie Otto,
 Katherine Rill, Leonie Vrilek

Wild Ones Philosophy

Wild Types: Differentiating between Native Plants and Horticultural Specimens

Maryann Whitman

Genotype: The genetic constitution, latent or expressed, of an organism; as contrasted with the phenotype; the sum total of all the genes present in an individual.

Phenotype: The physical appearance of an organism; the phenotype results from the interaction between the genetic constitution (genotype) of the organism and its environment.

Wild type: In genetics, the phenotype or genotype that is characteristic of the majority of individuals of a species in a natural environment. —From P. Raven's *Biology of Plants*, 6th edition; WH Freeman and Co/Worth publishers, 1999.

Bill Schneider of *Wildtype: Design, Native Plants and Seeds, Ltd.* and a Wild Ones member in southern Michigan, offers this opinion: "The landscaping-with-native-plants-movement really blurs the lines between gardening and restoration, between cultivation and naturalization... [W]e really do not know to what degree it matters—though we have plenty of evidence that we are not nearly as smart as we think we are—which is what compels me to stick with local genotypes."

A question often arises that is phrased something like this: Red and blue lobelias are native to my part of the country. I just saw some white ones at my garden center. Why shouldn't I plant a couple of flats in my wetland? They would add such a spark of color!

The immediate answer is that the hummingbirds and insects that feed on and in turn pollinate red and blue lobelias, do so because they recognize and know what to do with them. They might not recognize the white ones. So while the white ones are "eye candy" to people, they won't do anything for the wetlands ecosystem but they will take up space that might have been occupied by an interactive native wild type.

Genetic lineage. At the heart of the differentiation between native wild types and horticultural specimens is their parental or genetic lineage. For a native plants person, "provenance" covers questions of ecoregion and eco-niche: from which area of which county, in which state, did the plant come; how long has the stand of related plants existed in the area; how did the seed arrive—on the wind, riding the fur of an animal, or by human hand; and, who were the likely parents?

Sexual reproduction. This last question would cover the genetic lineage of the plant and whether uncontrolled sexual reproduction was involved. When plants or animals reproduce by sexual reproduction, the parental DNA in the gametes (the sperm and the ova, or egg) is mixed and matched so that each offspring is genetically different from either parent and

from the other offspring. A stand of wild blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*), for example, is composed of genetically different plants that together represent the local genotype. A white lobelia appearing in a stand of blue ones represents a phenotypic (visible) reflection of the genetic variability of the stand, that is, what the stand is capable of producing in this environment. The stand evolved by interacting with and adapting to its environment. A white lobelia is an accidental product of a wild stand and a genetic rarity—something special to enjoy but then let go of. It either passes on its genes to future generations or not. Wild Ones argues that the natural order of things involves much more than that single plant—rather the whole ecosystem that the plant grows in, including other plants, mammals, birds, bees, microbes and so on; all are interrelated and interdependent.

Reproductive predictability in horticulture. While horticulturists are equally interested in the provenance and parental lineage of a specimen, their goals are quite different from those of Wild Ones. Horticultural specimens are reproduced in a controlled manner to ensure maximum predictability in the appearance of the offspring. Indeed large numbers of horticultural plants are genetic clones, the plants having been reproduced vegetatively; hence our fast food landscaping across the country. The several flats of white lobelia available at a garden center are more than likely vegetatively reproduced.

Genetic diversity in the wild. The genetic

diversity contained in a stand of plants that are wild types allows them to change over time with their environment. Species that lack genetic diversity and the capability to adapt are moribund. And every individual life form that interacts with or depends on that species is also likely on the path toward extinction. We need to keep in mind that plants are the bottom of the food chain; they alone are capable of photosynthesis, converting the energy of the sun into a chemical form that feeds all life on this planet.

So there we have it: unrestrained sexual reproduction produces genetic diversity, which permits adaptation over time to changes in the ecosystem. The furnace of evolution is fueled by natural selection and survival through adaptation within naturally occurring systems. What we choose to do with this information is related to why we have become members of Wild Ones. We have chosen to promote, protect, and restore the integrity and biodiversity of the natural ecosystems that surround us.

Maryann is a member of the Oakland (MI) Chapter and the Journal's Features Editor.

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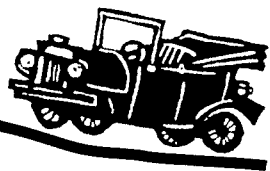
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Great Detours



Native Plant Sites

These native plant sites have been chosen as places that are so special that visitors to the area should make the time to see them! Members are urged to contact the editor to share their own favorite places.

Native plant enthusiasts are sure to enjoy a stop at **Rock Post Nursery**, home and business of Mike Rues and Ann Wakeman (Mid-Missouri, MO, Chapter) in Fulton, Missouri, 30 minutes from Columbia and 100 miles west of St. Louis. This spot boasts over 10 acres of high quality restored prairie, with an abundance of forbs, grasses, and wildlife visitors. Contact Ann to arrange a convenient time to visit. Rock Post Wildflowers Nursery, 5798 Windy Meadows Lane Fulton, MO 65251, (573) 642-6927, mike-ann@sockets.net — Lesa Beamer, President Mid-MO Wild Ones, BeamerL@missouri.edu

In the category of "great natural areas," I nominate **Park Lyndon North**, near Chelsea, Michigan, about 15 miles northwest of Ann Arbor (North Territorial Road, one mile east of M-52, between Embury Road and M52). It is owned by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Department. The site is noteworthy for a diversity of native plants. It has wetlands, both alkaline fens and acidic bogs. The forest has an abundance of native trees and shrubs, as well as many, many species of wildflowers. —Mark Charles, member Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter, (734) 975-9410, mark_h_charles@hotmail.com.

Darby Plains Prairies are the Ohio remnants of tallgrass prairie. They are located a few miles apart in Madison and Union counties and are managed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources,

Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. Bigelow and Smith Prairies (.5 and .6 acre respectively) were pioneer cemeteries, and Milford Center Railroad (7 acres), which was also spared the plow. It is best to visit the prairies in July or August when one can see black-eyed Susans, whorled rosinweed, purple coneflowers, gray-headed coneflowers, Canada anemone, and big bluestem in a colorful array and as a token of bygone days.

Two-hundred acres of **Glen Helen Nature Preserve**, Ohio, owned by Antioch College in Yellow Springs, have been designated a National Natural Landmark. The wooded ravine is a paradise for nature-lovers, with an abundance of wildflowers and birds. —Marilyn Logue, President, Columbus, (OH) Chapter, mlogue@sprintmail.com.

The Green Bay (WI) Chapter holds its meetings at the **Green Bay Botanical Garden**, 47 acres located on the west side of Green Bay. Of particular interest is the Mary Hendrickson Johnson Wisconsin Woodland Garden. Its naturalized style contrasts beautifully with the more formal gardens. It was started with plants donated by the Wild Ones from plant rescues. See <http://www.gbbg.org/> or phone 920-490-9457. —Hal Sunken, President, Green Bay (WI) Chapter, hdsunken@cs.com.

If you have a chance, swing north of Philly into Bucks County to New Hope, east of Doylestown, on the Delaware River. Two miles south is Washington Crossing State Park and **Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve** is part of it. Bowman's Hill runs many educational programs, propagate, have a nice book store, sell seeds and propagated plants, etc. See www.bhwp.org. Their focus is on plants native to Pennsylvania. —Geoffrey Mehl, Wild Ones partner-at-large gmehl@bloomu.edu. ☼

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Check with your local Wild Ones Chapter or other local resources to learn which plants are native to your local ecoregion. For more on ecoregions, check the May/June 2002 issue of the Journal or our web site at <http://www.for-wild.org/land/ecotype.html>. (Under "Local and Regional Sources," in the fourth paragraph, click on "The Nature Conservancy" for ecoregion maps.)

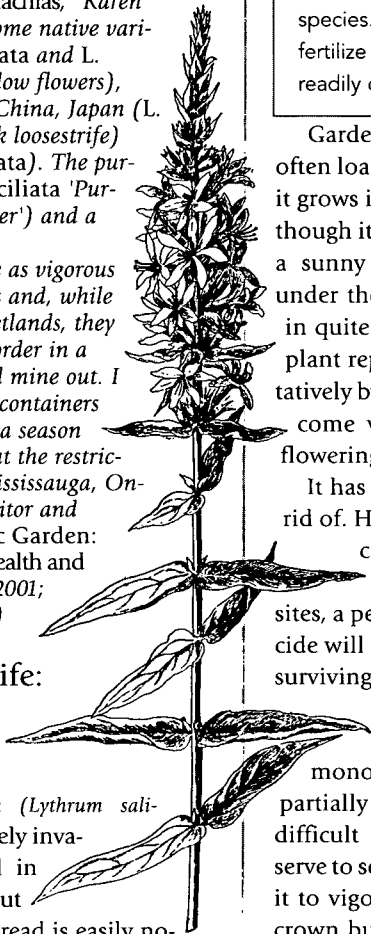
Invasive Plants

Readers should be aware that several different and unrelated species are called "loosestrife." The one on invasive lists around the country is non-native *Lythrum salicaria*, (Lythraceae). However, a number of *Lythrum* species which are valued native plants and several species of *Lysimachia* (Primulaceae) are also called loosestrife. "Of the *Lysimachias*," Karen York says, "there are some native varieties (*Lysimachia ciliata* and *L. fraseri*, green with yellow flowers), while others are from China, Japan (*L. clethroides*, gooseneck loosestrife) and Europe (*L. punctata*). The purple-foliaged forms (*L. ciliata* 'Purpurea', *L. c.* 'Firecracker') and a variegated one (*L. p.* 'Alexander') are as vigorous as the plain green ones and, while they won't threaten wetlands, they sure can take over a border in a hurry. I have rooted all mine out. I tried growing them in containers and they were fine for a season but ultimately sulked at the restriction." (Karen York, Mississauga, Ontario, is a botanical editor and author of *The Holistic Garden: Creating Spaces for Health and Healing*, Prentice Hall, 2001; Penguin/Putnam, 2002.)

Purple Loosestrife: Invasive Beauty

Laura D. Eisener

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is an extremely invasive exotic perennial in wetlands throughout North America. Its spread is easily noticed in July and August, when you can see seemingly solid acres of loosestrife along riverbanks and through wet meadows. The large masses of bright magenta spikes are a very dramatic sight. Although beautiful in bloom, this plant is a problem because it displaces native plants, which have a much



higher value as food for wildlife.

A few decades ago, some states were promoting loosestrife as an erosion control plant along highways. Now two dozen states have given it "noxious weed" status [see sidebar], prohibiting its importation or sale. But, in the northeast, *Lythrum salicaria* (the most widely naturalized species) and the related *Lythrum virgatum* are still sold. Nurseries most often carry the double flowering varieties of these plants, which were believed not to produce seed. However, cross-pollination does occur with "wild" loosestrife, so even planting these less invasive cultivars will increase the loosestrife problem.

So-called "sterile" cultivars of loose-strife (including *Lythrum* 'Morden Pink', 'Morden Gleam', and 'Dropmore Purple'), are self-sterile only. They are highly fertile (90%+ rate of germination) in combination with any other variety or species. Any garden loosestrife will easily fertilize wild plants and the tiny seeds are readily dispersed. —ed.

Gardeners who have difficult sites are often loathe to give up loosestrife because it grows in such a range of conditions. Although it prefers a rich and moist soil and a sunny location, and spreads fastest under these conditions, it will also grow in quite dry soil or in partial shade. The plant reproduces both by seed and vegetatively by rhizome. A single plant may become very large, with as many as 50 flowering stems.

It has proven to be very difficult to get rid of. Herbicides have not proven efficacious and, if the plants are growing in or adjacent to aquatic sites, a permit may be necessary; an herbicide will kill fish as well as any vegetation surviving a loosestrife invasion. Hand pulling is impractical because loosestrife often occurs as a monoculture several acres wide and partially submerged locations are very difficult to work in. Digging may only serve to sever the tap root, which can cause it to vigorously regrow. Burning kills the crown but the plant starts over promptly from the tap root.

Recent experimentation with insects that feed on *lythrum* seems more promising. Two types of leaf-eating beetles (*Galerucella* sp.) and a root eating weevil (*Hylobius transvesovittatus*), all from Europe have shown some promise. There is



Wild Ones Library

Did you know that Wild Ones has a library? Because we have just begun cataloging the materials that have accumulated over the years, we have not made a big deal about the library. But our librarian, Rob Ryf of the Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter, has been feeling pretty good about his progress and wants to let you know that he can respond to many of your requests. If you have a plant question or want to check out a book or video, contact Rob at library@for-wild.org. ☼

also a flower-eating weevil (*Nanophyes marmoratus*), which would prevent the plants from producing seeds. Perhaps being eaten at both ends will stop the spread of these plants!

Laura Eisener is an instructor of horticulture in Massachusetts and was President of HortResources for six years. Contact her at deld@primushost.com.

Lythrum salicaria, purple loosestrife, now occurs in every state except Florida, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is on the Noxious Weed List of 23 states:

Arizona: Prohibited noxious weed
California: B list (noxious weeds)
Colorado: Noxious weed
Florida: Prohibited aquatic plant, Class 1
Idaho: Noxious weed
Indiana: Noxious weed
Iowa: Secondary noxious weed
Minnesota: Primary noxious weed
Missouri: Noxious weed
Montana: Category 2 noxious weed
Nebraska: Noxious weed
Nevada: Noxious weed
New Mexico: Class A noxious weed
North Carolina: Class B noxious weed
North Dakota: Noxious weed
Ohio: Prohibited noxious weed
Oregon: "B" designated weed Quarantined noxious weed
Pennsylvania: Noxious weed
South Dakota: Noxious weed
Tennessee: Noxious weed
Washington: Class B noxious weed
Wisconsin: Nuisance weed
Wyoming: Noxious weed

See http://plants.usda.gov/cgi_bin/topics.cgi for your state's invasive plants.

Lawns

How Lawns Don't Work: Let Me Count the Ways...

Carole Rubin

Why do conventional turf grass lawns take so much tender loving care to keep them green and lush? Lawns don't "work" horticulturally or environmentally in most of North America. Here's why:

Lawns Suck Water. Only 1/2 of one percent of the water on the planet is drinkable. Turf grass lawns and ornamental exotic plant gardens consume 60% -65% of North America's daily domestic drinking water. A 25 by 40-foot lawn consumes 40,000 to 90,000 gallons each summer to stay green. Meanwhile, about 2 billion people lack access to clean drinking water.

And Not a Drop to Drink. When we water frequently but shallowly, water penetrates only an inch or two. The grass roots stay at the surface of the soil in search of moisture, making them more susceptible to drought. Some of the water applied to a lawn is lost to evaporation, especially if a sprinkler is used. If the lawn has a thick mat of thatch, what isn't lost to evaporation may form a pool at the base of the grass blades, a perfect breeding ground for diseases and insects.

Monocultural Failure. Because turf grass lawns are a blend of no more than three or four grasses, they are, relatively speaking, monocultures. Lack of diversity means that pests can zero in and decimate a planting. Stresses, such as drought, cold snaps, or heat waves can also decimate a sensitive monoculture.

Lawns Need Super Soil. Turf grass needs a minimum of eight inches of rich, black soil, chock-full of nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous, populated by millions of earthworms, insects, and microorganisms, many of them non-natives. Any less will cause the roots of your grass plants to curve out to the side, searching for room to grow to their full length. They won't find it, and will be stressed, weakening the entire plant, and inviting pest problems as they thin out and die back. And, if there is depth but not enough nutrients, grass plants will starve to death.

Lawns Pollute. When chemicals are used on your lawns and gardens, evaporation and seepage take them into the air and drinking water. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that 100 million pounds of chemicals will be applied to American lawns this year. Urea- based fertilizers, fertilizer/weed controls, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides (known collectively as pesticides and all poisonous) go into the groundwater and the air to be carried by clouds as far away as the polar ice cap.

Lawn Toys Pollute, too! The EPA estimates that a 3-1/2 horsepower lawn mower pollutes the air in a single mowing with as much exhaust as a full-sized car driven 350 miles. The 50 million lawn mowers in the United States burn at least 300 million gallons of gas per year. The EPA estimates that 20 million gallons of gasoline and oil are spilled each year in the United States while

refueling lawn care equipment. That's more than the Exxon Valdez spilled into the Gulf of Alaska in 1989! Addiction to lawns translates to over-consumption of gas and oil. Over-frequent mowing increases consumption. Pass the gas mask!

Lawns are Boring! Environmental destruction, conflict over resources, expense, pollution, labor, and consumption of precious drinking water create a flat, green carpet that looks identical from home to home. Travel to any suburb in North America and you won't know where you are—could be Montreal, Minneapolis, Miami, or Modesto. Now check out a native yard. Color. Movement. Sound. Cheeps, trills, and squawks from the birds. Butterflies and bees darting.

Regionally distinctive trees, shrubs, flowers, and ground covers are a celebration of the life of your community. Make a sculpture of your lawn mower! Save water, gas, oil, air and water quality, money and labor. Take up your lawn and plant some natives!

Carol Rubin is the author of *How to Get Your Lawn and Garden off Drugs* (Harbour Publishing). Reach her at crubin@dccnet.com.

If you haven't
already
started,
get
clicking!

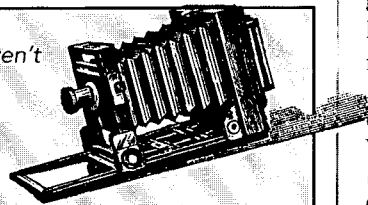


Photo Contest for the Annual Meeting.

Winners' photos will/may be used in
WO's national publications.

Deadline: September 12, 2003.

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Print the following information on
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phone, e-mail, Wild Ones chapter
affiliation (or PAL for partner-at-
large), photo category, title of
photo.

For complete contest rules and cat-
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Water Use

In natural landscaping, watering is mainly needed for seedlings and transplants. These need to be watered in times of low rainfall until established, usually the first year for herbaceous plants and one to three years for woody plants.

Landscaping for Water Conservation

Fran Gustman

Environmental landscaping seeks to minimize rainwater run off, chemical use and water use. At an event held by the Ecological Landscaping Association (ELA) of Massachusetts to highlight water conservation, Jean Akers of the Conway School of Landscape Design (Journal advertiser) pg. 6 explained how rain water replenishes the ground water system. In a natural landscape, rain water spreads slowly across the landscape, soaking in as it goes, with only 10% runoff. An urban landscape, in contrast, has as much as 90% runoff. So much of the urban landscape is impervious (driveways, sidewalks, roads and roofs) that the water runs directly into channels, then into larger bodies of water, and even-

tually to the sea. Due to compaction, lawns "might as well be asphalt as far as the hydrologic system goes," said Peter Phippen (Program Coordinator of the EPA and Merrimack Valley Planning Commission National Estuary and Massachusetts Bays program).

In 1868, Frederick Law Olmsted designed the first community with channeled storm water in Riverside, Illinois, west of Chicago. This advance, while life-saving from a sanitary point of view, has also played a major role in water shortages and pollution. Olmsted's technological feat in Illinois sent runoff directly into the Des Plaines River. As a measure of its effect on water patterns, consider that in 1785, the Des Plaines River had no defined riverbed. Today it not only has a channel but its flow has increased 700-fold (www.desplaineswatershed.org).

Water conservation is vital. Since 1950, population per acre has doubled in suburban areas. There is a host of water saving devices that the landscaper, whether at home or professionally, can use. These include storage systems that collect water from the roof, such as rain barrels, trenches and cisterns (www.crwa.org); green roofs (rooftop gardens that capture 70% of a rainfall); and, rain gardens and bioswales, which slow down runoff from impervious surfaces, such as roofs and sidewalks, to allow for absorption. All of these devices are low tech and high payoff for the environment.

Fran Gustman is Editor of Wild Ones Journal and Editor of HortResources Newsletter for New England gardeners. Reach her at journal@for-wild.org.

Rain Barrels

Patricia Pennell

Rain is a resource meant to sustain our world. Let's not throw it away.

Our winters have been dry, water levels are down, and water prices are rising. Well, here is some good news! There is a free resource you may not have considered using to water your garden or lawn during this dry weather—RAIN. If you are looking for ways to ensure that your plants don't suffer during dry weather, consider some low-tech, old-fashioned rain barrels.

Who remembers rain barrels? I do. We used them when I was a kid. The nice soft water is perfect to water our gardens.

*Oh, little playmate,
Come out and play with me
And bring your dollies three,
Climb up my apple tree,
Climb down my rain barrel,
Slide down my cellar door,
And we'll be jolly friends
Forever more!*

During a typical moderate storm of one inch of rain in a twenty-four-hour period, over 700 gallons of water will run off the average roof, an impervious area of about 1,200 square feet. Storm water is

usually directed away from the roof and on down the street or road. On its way, it picks up pollutants: dirt, lawn clippings, pet waste, salt, lawn chemicals, gas and oil, you name it. The water and the pollution load it carries generally goes to the nearest storm sewer, and from there to the nearest stream or river. The EPA has determined that over 70% of our surface water pollution comes from storm water. You can help solve this problem by keeping storm water on your property and using it the way nature intended—to sustain plants.

It's raining, it's pouring...

You can make a rain barrel or buy one. Ready-made rain barrels can be pricey, from \$60 to over \$150, plus the shipping costs. To build your own, follow instructions at <http://www.gardengatemagazine.com/tips/40tip11.html>, or <http://www.geocities.com/rainsystem/howto.html>.

Whether buying or building, consider these safety features:

1. A rain barrel must be made of "food quality" materials, so that the water will remain uncontaminated;

2. The barrel should NOT have a lid that comes off. This will insure that little creatures and little people will not be

at risk of drowning;

3. The barrel should be screened so it doesn't turn into a mosquito condo.

Thank you for helping to make our streams and rivers cleaner by getting on the rain barrel bandwagon.

Patricia Pennell is the proprietor of Rain Gardens of West Michigan and on the West Michigan Environmental Action Council. Contact her at (616) 451-3051x29, ppennell@raingardens.org or rivers@wmeac.org. Also see the web at www.wmeac.org and www.raingardens.org.

According to the state government of Colorado, at the beginning of February 2003, reservoirs in Colorado were 30 percent below the average water level for that time of year.

Authors of "Shooting Star" from page 3 are Carol Chew who is Chair of the Wild Ones 25th Anniversary Commemorative Booklet Team and Mandy Ploch who is on the Comco Journal Team and a national director. Both are in Milwaukee-North (WI) chapter. Bret Rappaport was our first national president and continues to serve as a national director. He is a member of the Lake-to-Prairie (IL) Chapter.

Wildlife

Arghhh! Darn Chiggers!

Tim Lewis

One of the drawbacks to being a native plant enthusiast is chigger bites. Because Wild Ones members spend a lot of time traipsing around prairies and woodlands, we are bound to pick up chiggers. Now, I can tolerate a few mosquito bites because they only itch for a day or two. But those darn chigger bites cause intense itching for weeks. You can imagine how unprofessional that looks while I'm in a business meeting. I'm sorry, but I just have to scratch those bites—they drive me to distraction. I know of a fellow member who had 35 bites after just one outing on a prairie. Yeoweee.

I've heard a variety of explanations about chigger bites. One common misconception is that the chigger burrows into the skin and stays there for a long time living off our blood. Some people believe that a female chigger lays eggs in the skin which hatch and then the larvae lives just under the surface until it becomes an adult. With all these speculations, I decided to research this pest and learn how to avoid getting bitten.

Chiggers, also known as redbugs, jiggers or harvest mites, are the nearly microscopic parasitic larvae of tiny red mites. They often inhabit areas such as moist woods, along streams, and around ponds and wetlands. However they are also found in dry areas including gravel hill prairies. I discovered an infestation in my prairie plot in my yard after planting rescued plants there. Chiggers prefer mild climates and are more numerous in the south but survive the cold winters of northern Illinois. Multiple generations occur in warmer climates whereas only two or three develop in colder regions.

Adult female chiggers lay eggs on vegetation, which hatch into six-legged larvae. The larvae crawl to the tips of grass or any other vegetation and wait for a host to snag onto. Hosts can be people, domestic animals and wild animals, including reptiles. Chiggers crawl around your body and attach themselves within one or two hours of contact. They prefer to feed where clothing fits tightly such as under socks or around the beltline or where the skin is thin, tender, or wrinkled, such as ankles, armpits, back of knees, front of the elbow, or the groin area.

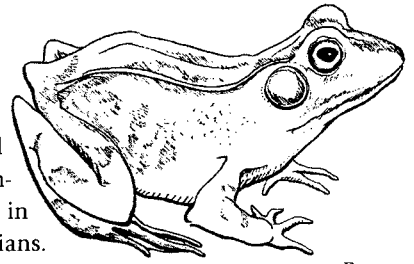
Chiggers pierce the skin and inject digestive enzymes that break down cells. The digestive fluid also hardens some surrounding cells, which form a tube through which the chiggers suck up partially di-

Frog-Friendly Backyards

Randy Korb

The soft trills of toads and melodic calls of frogs on warm spring evenings can be very soothing, especially heard from the comfort of your home. Well-designed water gardens and backyard ponds not only provide ambience, they add to the amount of wetland habitat in communities and attract wildlife, especially amphibians.

The term "frog" refers to toads and frogs. All toads are frogs, but not all frogs are toads. Toads have dry, warty skin, short back legs, stocky bodies, and thicker skin than frogs; they are able to tolerate a drier habitat and are often found far away from permanent water. Frogs have smooth, moist skin, long back legs, and streamlined bodies. In the spring, both toads and frogs spend a week in water to breed and lay eggs. Then they leave to spend the summer in distant fields, sitting on the forest floor or perched along shorelines waiting for passing insects and hiding from bigger frogs and other predators. In winter they burrow into the soil or beneath leaf piles or slip back into water to hibernate. Meeting these requirements will keep your frogs and toads happy and healthy the year round.



Frog

Continued next page

gested cells. The enzymes cause the red welts and itching. The irritation may appear within hours of being bitten. In very sensitive people, a fever may develop. If you do nothing to stop the itching, it can last a week or more. Scratching generally makes it worse and you may break the skin, causing secondary infections.

Chiggers usually remain on the host for about four days and drop off after they have gorged themselves. Then they transform into eight-legged nymphs that will mature into adult red mites. Chiggers are not known to transmit any disease in this country.

You can take steps to prevent getting chigger bites. Before venturing into a chigger-infested area, put on loose-fitting clothes. Some people suggest putting your cuffs into your socks. This may help some, but chiggers will cling to clothing and eventually get to your skin. Apply a repellent containing DEET to shoes, socks and pants.

Immediately after exposure to chiggers, take a bath, scrubbing with hot soapy water. Also wash your clothes in hot, soapy water (125 F). Cold washing does not kill the chiggers. If the bites begin to itch, you can apply rubbing alcohol or a non-prescription itch reliever such as hydrocortisone, New Skin, After Bite, or calamine lotion. A remedy that works for me is to apply nail polish to each bite. Apparently the polish suffocates the chigger. I suggest using clear because pink will raise eyebrows in business meetings or church.

Now that I have a better understanding of chigger bites, I am going to take precautions. But I know I will get a few bites, so don't be surprised to see me scratching. Now, where did I put my nail polish?

© 1999, Timothy A. Lewis

Tim Lewis is President of the Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter. He and his wife have a thousand-square-foot prairie plot and use natives throughout the rest of their subdivision lot.

To see an illustration of a chigger, go to Purdue University Entomology, <http://www.entm.purdue.edu/Entomology/ext/targets/series/EseriesPDF/E-34.pdf>.

Powdered Sulphur Eliminates Chigger Bites

Mariette Nowak

When we moved to our new home in a rural area of southern Wisconsin, our prairie and even our small lawn were infested with chiggers and we itched through much of July and August. On July 23 last year, I was going crazy scratching 30-40 chigger bites. My bird-watching friends on WisBird Net came to my aid. Use powdered sulphur, they advised, which you can purchase from a drug store. I've never gotten a chigger bite while using sulphur.

Here's how to apply it. Put sulphur in an old sock and tie the top. Then dust your shoes inside and out, by brushing them with the sock (the sulphur grains will fall out lightly as you shake the sock). Each time you go out, dust your socks and pant legs, as well as your waist.

I wash clothes dusted with sulphur separately. Even after washing and drying, the clothes and any items in the same load with them may emit a mild sulphur odor should they become damp again. This is especially evident in towels that become dampened by use.

—Mariette Nowak is WO's Vice-President, Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal* and member of the Milwaukee-SW/Wehr (WI) Chapter.

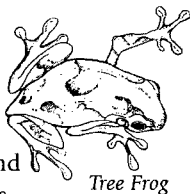
Backyard Basics. Locate your pond away from lot lines, trees, underground and overhead power lines, and your neighbor's bedroom window. Toads, especially, can be quite noisy. (In Kaukana, WI, a man was fined for a noise nuisance created by the toads in his pond.) Avoid runoff from manure piles, compost piles or chemically treated lawns. Any contaminants in the water will pass quickly through the skin and into the bodies of tadpoles and adults. Know your local ordinances on permits and fencing needs.

There are four types of backyard ponds: concrete, pre-fabricated fiberglass, clay-lined and flexible liner. Concrete ponds and fiberglass ponds are the most expensive. Fiberglass shells, however, are steep-sided death traps, unless a rock pile, branches or boards are added to allow frogs out of the pond. Clay lined ponds generally require professional installation and, if they dry out, the clay layer may shrink and crack. Flexible liners are generally inexpensive and dependable; a 45 ml EPDM (Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer) liner is inexpensive, does not leach toxins into the water, and holds up well in cold climates.

Dig your pond to form a simple shape—an oval or a crescent. Elaborate shapes cause the liner to fold and debris and organic matter will collect in the creases. Or, place two or three small fiberglass ponds together. Amphibians are attracted to the reflective surface of the water, which is determined by the pond's size, so make your pond big, at least 6 by 12 feet.

Toads and Green Frogs. American toads (*Bufo americanus*) and green frogs (*Rana clamitans*) adapt well to urban backyard environments. They are often the first to appear in a new pond, usually in 1 to 3 days. Both are abundant throughout their ranges. The American toad is found in every state east of the Mississippi River, except Florida, and in southern Canada. The green frog has an almost identical range. In rural areas, there are almost always more species. A garden pond will only attract the local amphibians.

A good frog pond is a shallow scrape in an open sunny area that fills with melt water in spring and dries out by the end of

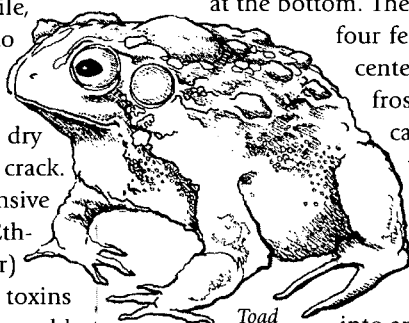


Tree Frog

June. Owners of new homes tend to quickly fill in wet areas and seed them over with grass. Instead, the wet areas should be dug deeper and a flexible liner added. Building a small berm or dam at the outflow will also pool the water.

The metamorph stage (toadlets or froglets) comes after the larval (tadpole or polliwog). Metamorphs may still have residual tails but have developed lungs and limbs and are able to survive on land. They are vulnerable to birds, cats, large spiders and other predators as they leave the water. The area surrounding the pond should have logs and rocks, and a variety of native plants, including thick grass, for cover.

Green frog tadpoles take two years to complete metamorphosis. If your pond does not freeze solid in the winter, tadpoles and frogs will be able to overwinter at the bottom. The pond must be



Toad

four feet deep at the center (below the frost line), or you can run an aerator to keep some water open. Toads escape frost by burrowing into an area of sandy, loose soil or your compost pile. In or near wooded areas, leaf piles and rotting logs get wood frogs (*Rana sylvatica*, "frog of the woods"), spring peepers (*Pseudacris crucifer*) and tree frogs through the winter.

Be patient—it may take a year for frogs and toads from local populations to find your pond. Do NOT go out and collect adult frogs from other areas. Even if the new habitat is favorable, they will likely leave to return "home." Frogs and tadpoles bought from pet shops may carry and spread diseases. As for moving in a small quantity of eggs, the water quality and temperature can vary widely between a large and small pond, so they may not hatch.

If the eggs do hatch, there may not be enough food for tadpoles in a new pond. And if they survive to adulthood, young frogs may not have the proper habitat when they leave your pond: the neighbors may use chemicals or mow their grass often, or there may be busy streets to cross. However, if adult frogs are able to find the pond and to breed successfully, those eggs, tadpoles and froglets will have a fighting chance.

Randy Korb Green Bay, (WI) Chapter, is an environmental educator of children, in Wisconsin and Illinois schools, and of adults and develops educational nature products.

Resources

•Toronto Zoo: www.torontozoo.com. Click on Adopt A Pond, then The Urban Outback, then Contents, then Frog-Friendly Backyards.

•See also "Resources," p. 12, for information about Randy's book and CD, Wisconsin Frogs.

Illustrations by Amy Quamme, by permission of Randy Korb. ☼

Don't Breed Mosquitoes! With the growing threat of West Nile Virus, be especially wary of breeding mosquitoes in your pond. If frogs don't show up to feed on the "wrigglers," as mosquito larvae are called, be sure to add small minnows or other fish to prey on them.

—Mariette Nowak

From page 12, Illustrations for "The Next Generation" by Marilyn Stroud of the Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter.

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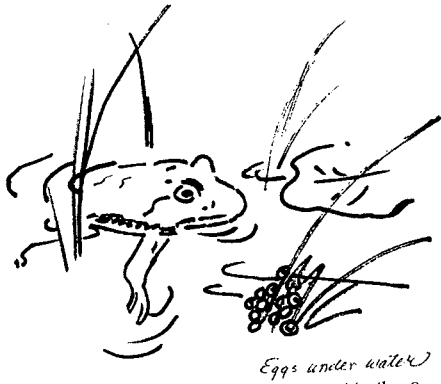
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The Next Generation

We have restarted The Next Generation column for children. "Frog Egg Hunt" is geared towards 7- to 13-year-olds.

Frog Egg Hunt

Diane L. Burns



Eggs under water
Marilyn Stroud

Spring is in the air—and so is the sound of courting frogs. That means frog eggs may already be in a wet spot near you. Why not go check out the action? Just use these helpful hints and hop to it!

Be prepared. What kinds of eggs will you find? That depends on where you live. Different frogs live in different places. And each kind has its own breeding schedule. Visit your library or a local nature center to find out which frogs are in your area and when they're breeding. Ask a librarian or naturalist to suggest a good guidebook that shows the frogs and describes their eggs. Also, you can find a terrific resource online at eNature.com. With a little help from a parent or teacher, you can create a field guide to the frogs in your area!

Set up a stakeout. Frogs lay their eggs in water to keep them moist. Most frogs prefer water that's calm and shallow. Depending on the kind of frog, that may include anything from a puddle to a pond, a marsh or a swamp, or even the edges of a big lake. Frogs usually stay away from deep or fast-flowing water.

Use your ears. Frog calls can help you pinpoint egg-laying places. And if you recognize the different calls, you can narrow

down which eggs to look for. Maybe you could listen to frog calls on a recording borrowed from a library or a nature center.

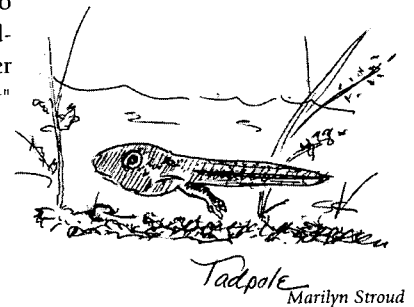
Know what to look for. Each frog egg starts out as a tiny dark spot surrounded by a thick layer of clear jelly-like stuff. The jelly acts as a kind of shell that protects the egg and the baby frog, or tadpole. As it grows, the tiny tadpole gets longer and curls into a comma shape. Most frogs' eggs form clumps.

Take a closer look. Once you've found some eggs, see if your guidebook can help you identify them. Here are some things to notice: Are the eggs floating at the surface or under the water? Are they attached to plants or not? If they form a clump, is it small or large? Note: toads and salamanders also lay jelly-covered eggs in water. Most toad eggs form long strings. Many salamanders lay single eggs but the spotted salamander lays eggs in a cluster that can look a lot like a clump of frog eggs.

Be careful! Wear the right clothes for the weather and the place. Be patient and move slowly and quietly in the animals' home. When you do find some eggs, look but it's best to not disturb. If you touch them, do so very gently. And watch your step! Don't be caught off guard by a patch of deep water or mud. Always make sure an adult goes with you or knows where you are.

Keep it up. Don't just forget about your eggs after you've found them. Go back to visit them every few days. How do the eggs change over time? Are any being gobbled up? If they are, by what? How long do the eggs take to hatch? What are the tadpoles like? Think of other stuff to check on. "Hoppy" investigating!

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Tadpole
Marilyn Stroud

Hop Into Spring: Flashlights + Water = Frog Fun!

Connie Roop

Students at Appleton North High School, Wisconsin, celebrated Earth Day by exploring the wild wonder of frogs. A sentinel of spring and biosentinel of ecological health, these wetland creatures are irresistible.

On Earth Day, Mr. Randy Korb [see p. 10] introduced North students to live Wisconsin frogs, salamanders, and toads in Ms. Roop's science classes. Mr. Korb and Ms. Roop followed up with a night hike on April 24 to wetlands in northern Outagamie County. Listening and learning the frogs' calls preceded the students' attempts to catch and release frogs. Armed with flashlights and enthusiasm, students waded into cold ponds. Despite the challenge of catching the well-camouflaged frogs, students excelled at it, catching five out of the eight species present in the area. Slippery green frogs, tiny but vocal spring peepers, "quacking" wood frogs, shy chorus frogs, and less common leopard frogs were caught, studied, and released. "I never knew frogs were so cool!" exclaimed one student, Kaitlin Troy, who patiently waited for a spring peeper to continue his mating call and caught the first peeper. "This is awesome!" Matt Ankenbrandt chimed in. Students hoped to return later in May to study tree frogs.

Connie Roop is a member of Fox Valley Area (WI) chapter and is the Appleton North High School Environmental Science Educator.



Science class discovering frogs

Connie Roop

Resources: Randy Korb's *Wisconsin Frogs: Places to Hear Frogs and Toads Near Our Urban Areas* and CD (\$16.95) includes a CD of frog calls; it is an excellent resource for learning calls, species, and determining their location in Wisconsin. It is available through Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon, Inc., P.O. Box 1963, Green Bay, WI 54305. Make check payable to NEW Audubon, Inc. for \$18.45 (includes shipping). —CR



Grapevine

Maryann Whitman

Dune Restoration

Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge in northern California has a great diversity of wetland habitats in and adjacent to the Bay: seasonal wetlands, salt marsh, tidal mud flats and channels,

open water, and uplands. The refuge exists primarily to protect wetland habitats for migratory birds that stop over by the hundreds of thousands to rest and feed.

The dunes of Humboldt Bay are among the largest stands of pristine coastal dunes in the Pacific Northwest. The Lanphere Dunes, at the southern end of Humboldt Bay, have been restored. The dune mat community is again home to the native dune grass, *Leymus mollis*. Another inhabitant is the federal- and state-listed Humboldt Bay wallflower, *Erysimum menziesii* ssp. *eurekense*, which is endemic to Humboldt Bay.

European beach grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) invades coastal dunes on the Pacific coast and significantly changes dune morphology and hydrology. Dunes that form under cover of native beach grasses and forbs have low slopes and run at an angle of 90 degrees to the beach. Infestations of *A. arenaria* trap more sand than the native species; consequently, dunes that form under its cover have steeper slopes and are aligned nearly parallel to the shoreline. The change in dune morphology and topography prevents the movement of sand from the beach to interior dunes and disrupts conditions that support native plant communities. The changes also promote *A. arenaria* so that it becomes more and more dominant and species richness de-

clines sharply until nearly pure stands of *A. arenaria* form.

The Nature Conservancy, in the early 1990's, demonstrated that European beach grass could be brought under control with intensive manual labor. Over the course of three years and three thousand person/hours per acre, five heavily infested acres were cleared. By 1997, the entire ten-acre area of the Lanphere Dunes had been cleared and native communities had returned without replanting.

In March, Wild Ones Vice President Mariette Nowak visited the Manila Dunes on a spit of land at the northern end of Humboldt Bay, between the bay and the ocean. Nowak reports that Friends of the Dunes, a volunteer organization, is carrying on the work started by The Nature Conservancy. Armed with shovels, pulaskis (axes) and gloves, volunteers are tackling three major invasives: yellow bush lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*), iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) and European beach grass. On the day Nowak visited with a walking tour, there were several great piles of weeds along the trail ready for burning.

"People thought these beaches were so overriden with weeds that it was hopeless to attempt removal by hand," explained a docent for Friends of the Dunes. The group is opposed to the use of herbicides. "But it's been very successful," she said. "Within months, we can see native plants resprouting." Various wildflowers were just coming into leaf and blossom—a patch of white-flowering wild strawberries and the fresh greens of native beach grasses, sedges and rushes, and later-flowering goldenrods and asters. The docent was hoping to show the group the rarest treasure of the dunes. Rounding a bend, she shouted, "There they are!" and pointed to a small bouquet of four-petaled yellow flowers in a sandy pocket: the Humboldt Bay wallflower, *Erysimum menziesii* ssp. *eurekense*. Several other

pockets of wallflower blossoms were found that morning. The species has been brought back from near extinction by a group of dedicated volunteers. It is wonderful to hear a success story like this to spur us all to similar action.

Tug-a-suckle

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has developed an alternative method of removing honeysuckle and buckthorn in Wyalusing State Park. Eschewing herbicides, the WDNR has opted for youth-power. The program is called Tug-a-suckle and was piloted in the spring of 2001 with middle and high school students, who had a great time hauling 20-foot honeysuckles out by the roots. The method should work well for any organization with volunteer forces available. It is easy, effective, cheap, and kids love it! You will also want to have safety glasses, a lot of gloves, and a vehicle to haul away the refuse. Visit Friends of Wyalusing State Park at www.wyalusing.org and click on Tug-a-suckle.

Recognizing the Founding Members

Donna VanBuecken, national Wild Ones Executive Director, who works very hard to increase Wild Ones' membership and also to maintain existing membership, has asked me to pass on a suggestion to all Chapters.

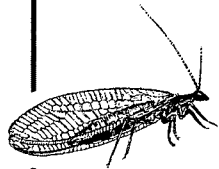
As Wild Ones approaches its 25th Anniversary, the number of chapters has increased to forty. Donna points out that, while every member is important to our growth, each chapter owes its existence to the dedication of a small group of founding members. She suggests that it would be very appropriate in this celebratory year to recognize them. It occurs to me that older chapters, which may have trouble tracing their history, should be overly inclusive rather than risk missing someone. For chapters still being led by their founding members, the best recognition would be for newer members to volunteer for organizational duties and to become familiar with the workings of the chapter in preparation for leadership positions in the future.

Let's do some creative thinking and come up with ways to show our founding members how much their efforts are appreciated.

Maryann Whitman is a member of the Oakland (MI) Chapter and the Journal's Features Editor.

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PRICE INCREASE

Prices for Wild Ones items sold through the national office rose recently to cover the increased costs of shipping and handling. Current prices for some items are included in the ad on p. 18. Additional items are listed on the Wild Ones web site, www.for-wild.org.

Chapters, please send newsletters and events notices to:

Meeting Coordinator Mary Paquette
N2026 Cedar Rd., Adell, WI 53001
(920) 994-2505 • meeting@for-wild.org
(Please note new e-mail address.)



The meeting place

Check chapter events at www.for-wild.org/calendar.htm

Chapter ID #'s are listed after names.

ILLINOIS

GREATER DUPAGE CHAPTER #9

MESSAGE CENTER: (630) 415-IDIG
PAT CLANCY: (630) 964-0448, clancypj2@aol.com
No meetings in July and August.
Check www.for-wild.org for other events.

LAKE-TO-PRAIRIE CHAPTER #11

KARIN WISIOŁ: (847) 548-1650
Second Monday, 7:15 p.m.,
Byron Colby Community Barn at
Prairie Crossing, Grayslake
(Rt. 45, about 1/2 mile south of Ill. 120).

NORTH PARK CHAPTER #27

BOB PORTER: (312) 744-5472
bobporter@cityofchicago.org
Second Thursday, 7 p.m.,
North Park Nature Center,
5801 N. Pulaski, Chicago.

ROCK RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER #21

TIM LEWIS: (815) 874-3468
Third Thursday of month, 7 p.m.
usually at Burpee Museum of Natural History,
737 N. Main St., Rock River.

IDAHO

PALOUSE CHAPTER #65

BILL FRENCH: (208) 883-3937
prairiedoc@moscow.com
Second Sunday of month, 2 p.m.,
Room 2B, Latah County Courthouse,
522 S. Adams St., Moscow.

INDIANA

GIBSON WOODS CHAPTER #38

JOY BOWER: (219) 989-9679 or (219) 844-3188
Jbower1126@aol.com
First Saturday during winter, 10 a.m.,
Gibson Woods Nature Center,
6201 Parrish Ave., Hammond.

KENTUCKY

FRANKFORT CHAPTER #24

KATIE CLARK: (502) 226-4766
katieclark@vol.com
Second Monday, 5:30 p.m.,
Salato Wildlife Education Center
Greenhouse #1 Game Farm Rd, Frankfort
off US 60 W (Louisville Rd.).

LEXINGTON CHAPTER #64

SUSAN HOFMANN: (859) 252-8148
sillyserpent@wildmail.com
Usually first Wednesday, 7 p.m.,
McConnell Spring. Schedule & location vary.

LOUISVILLE CHAPTER #26

PORTIA BROWN: (502) 454-4007
wildones-lou@insightbb.com
Fourth Tuesday. Location varies.
Woods Saturday Work Day:
Ward Wilson: (502) 299-0331,
ward@wwilson.net.

MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR CHAPTER #3

JOHN LOWRY: (810) 231-8980
john@kingbird.org
SHANNON GIBB-RANDALL: (734) 332-1341
gibbrand@mich.com
Usually second Wednesday.
For details: www.for-wild.org/annarbor.

CADILLAC CHAPTER #51

PAT RUTA: (231) 829-3361
pat_ruta@hotmail.com
Various Saturdays May-Sept. Call for specifics.

CALHOUN COUNTY CHAPTER #39

MARILYN CASE: (517) 630-8546,
mcase15300@aol.com
Fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m.,
Calhoun Intermediate School District building
on G Drive N. at Old US27, Marshall.

CENTRAL UPPER PENINSULA CHAPTER #39

THOMAS TAUZER: (906) 428-3203
ttauzer@chartermi.net.

DETROIT METRO CHAPTER #47

ELIZABETH MCKENNEY: (248) 548-3088
ebmck@hotmail.com
Third Wednesday, 7-9 p.m.,
Royal Oak Library, Historical Room,
222 E. Eleven Mile Rd., Royal Oak.

FLINT CHAPTER #32

GINNY KNAG: (810) 694-4335
mtknag@ameritech.net
Second Thursday, 7 p.m.,
Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court St., Flint.

KALAMAZOO AREA CHAPTER #37

NANCY & TOM SMALL: (616) 381-4946
Fourth Wednesday of month, 7:30 p.m.,
Christian Church, 2208 Winchell, Kalamazoo.

RED CEDAR CHAPTER #41

MARK RITZENHEIN: (517) 336-0965
mrirtz@acd.net
Third Wednesday, 7-9 p.m.,
Room 139, Radiology, MSU campus.
For details: www.for-wild.org/redcedar.

OAKLAND CHAPTER #34

MARYANN WHITMAN: (248) 652-4004
maryannwhitman@comcast.net
Third Thursday, 7 p.m.,
Old Oakland Township Parks/Police Building,

4392 Collins Rd., Oakland Township.
See web site for program info.

MINNESOTA

ARROWHEAD CHAPTER #48

CAROL ANDREWS: (218) 727-9340
carol_andrews@hotmail.com
Fourth Thursday, 6:00 p.m. Location varies.
For details: www.d.umn.edu/~wildones.

OTTER TAIL CHAPTER #25

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

ST. CLOUD CHAPTER #29

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

TWIN CITIES CHAPTER #56

MARTY RICE: (952) 927-6531
jcrmf@msn.com
First and third Tuesdays, 6:30-9 p.m.
Nokomis Community Center,
2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy, Minneapolis.
Location may vary.

MISSOURI

MID-MISSOURI CHAPTER #49

LESA BEAMER: (573) 882-6073
wildonesmo@yahoo.com
Second Saturday of month, 10 a.m.
Location varies. See: wildones.missouri.org.

ST. LOUIS CHAPTER #31

SCOTT WOODBURY: (636) 451-3512
scott.woodbury@mobot.org
First Wednesday except December, 6:00 p.m.
Location varies. See web site.

NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY METRO

/LONG ISLAND CHAPTER #30

JENNIFER WILSON-PINES: (516) 767-3454
jwpines@juno.com
Members Room, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens,
1000 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn.

OHIO

GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER #62

ROBERTA TROMBLY: (513) 751-6183,
btrombly@fuse.net
Leslie Haid: 513-868-1488
Monthly meetings or field trips; see web site.

COLUMBUS CHAPTER #4

MARILYN LOGUE: (614) 237-2534,
mlogue@sprintmail.com
Second Saturday, 10 a.m.,
Innis House, Inniswood Metropolitan Park,
940 Hempstead Rd., Westerville.

MAUMEE VALLEY CHAPTER (Seedling)#66

JAN HUNTER: (419) 878-7273,
naturally.nature@buckeye-express.com

SOUTH CAROLINA

FOOTHILLS CHAPTER #58

KAREN HALL: (864) 287-3294
kcarlso@clemson.edu
Third Saturday, Red Caboose,
State Botanical Gardens, Clemson University.

Continued next page

Meeting Place

Continued from previous page

WISCONSIN

CENTRAL WISCONSIN CHAPTER #50

PHYLLIS TUCHSCHER: (715) 384-8751
toosch@tzn.net.com

Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., Rooms 1&2,
Portage County Extension Building,
1462 Strongs Ave., Stevens Point.
Times, places vary in summer. Check web site.

DOOR COUNTY CHAPTER #59

JUDY RENINGER: (920) 839-1182,
jreninger@dcwis.com
Varies. Check web site.

ERIN CHAPTER #57

BOB & BEV HULTS: (262) 670-0445
twowildones@juno.com
Third Thursday, 7 p.m., Erin Town Hall,
1846 Hwy. 83, Hartford.

FOX VALLEY AREA CHAPTER #8

CAROL NIENDORF: (920) 233-4853
niendorf@northnet.net
DONNA VANBUECKEN: (920) 730-3986
dvanbuecken@new.rr.com
Indoor meetings: 7 p.m.,
either at Memorial Park Arboretum,
1313 E. Witzke Blvd., Appleton,
or Evergreen Retirement Community,
1130 N. Westfield St., Oshkosh.

GREEN BAY CHAPTER #10

HAL SUNKEN: (920) 469-0540
hdsunken@cs.com
Usually third Wednesday.
Most meetings at Green Bay Botanical Garden,
2600 Larsen Rd., except in summer.

MADISON CHAPTER #13

SUE ELLINGSON: (608) 259-1824, ozzie@
chorus.net. See web site for meeting info.

MENOMONEE RIVER AREA CHAPTER #16

JAN KOEL: (262) 251-7175
DIANE HOLMES: (262) 628-2825
Indoor meetings: second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.,
teachers' lounge, Valley View School,
W180 N8130 Town Hall Rd., Menomonee Falls.

MILWAUKEE NORTH CHAPTER #18

MESSAGE CENTER: (414) 299-9888
Second Saturday of month, 9:30 a.m.,
Schlitz Audubon Center,
1111 E. Brown Deer Rd., Bayshore.

MILWAUKEE SOUTHWEST-WEHR CHAPTER #23

MESSAGE CENTER: (414) 299-9888
Second Saturday, 1:30 p.m.,
Wehr Nature Center, 9701 W. College Ave.,
Franklin.

ROOT RIVER AREA CHAPTER #43

NAN CALVERT: (262) 681-4899
prairiedog@wi.rr.com
No meetings July or August. ☼

WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS #63

DIANE WILLETTE: (715) 362-6870
diane@bfm.org



on the horizon...

QUARTERLY

NATIONAL BOARD MEETINGS

Wild Ones members are invited to attend the quarterly meetings of the National Board of Directors. Details can be obtained from your officers at www.for-wild.org/calendar.htm or from the Executive Director.

Sept. 13 Annual Meeting,

St. Louis (MO) Chapter

Sept. 14 St. Louis (MO) Chapter

Oct. 25 Twin Cities (MN) Chapter

OTHER CONFERENCES

July 10-13 Iowa Prairie Network, Iowa
Prairie Conference

September 13-14 Shaw Nature Reserve
Conference, Gray Summit, MO (near St.
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Meeting. Conference will include presen-
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cabins. See WO Journal May-June for reg-
istration information or go to website at
[www.for-wild.org/conference/2003regis-
tration.pdf](http://www.for-wild.org/conference/2003registration.pdf).

Sept. 24-27, 2003 Natural Areas Confer-
ence, Madison, WI. Pre-conference field
trips to the Driftless Area, Miss. River
Bluffs, Baraboo Hills, Kettle Moraine, and
to the haunts of Leopold and Muir. (The
trips alone are worth the conference.) Ses-
sions will include Landscape Ecology, Fire
Ecology, Land Ethics, an Invasive Plants
Symposium on Sat. with the Native Plants
Association of WI and others. Contact
Thomas Meyer, DNR, Box 7921, Madison,
WI 53707, 608-266-039,
thomas.meyere@dnr.state.wi.us.

Information is listed as space is available.
E-mail info to: Fran Gustman, Editor,
Wild Ones Journal, journal@for-wild.org.



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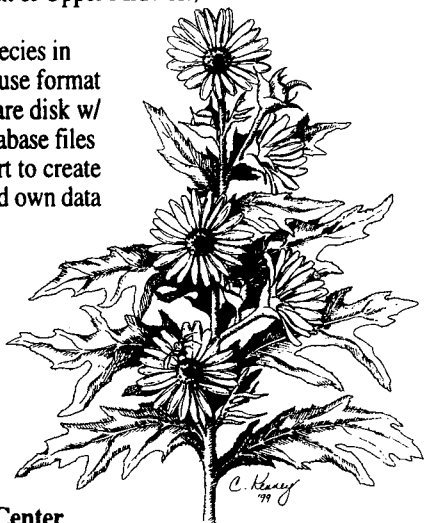
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Chapter preference (chapters listed in "The Meeting Place")

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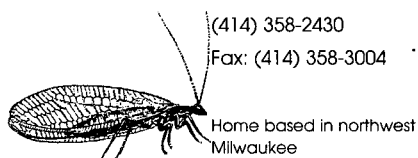
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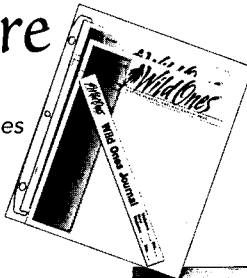
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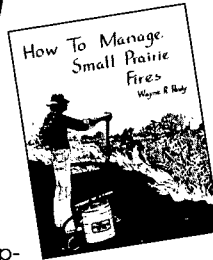
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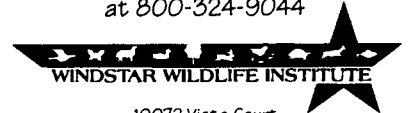


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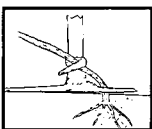


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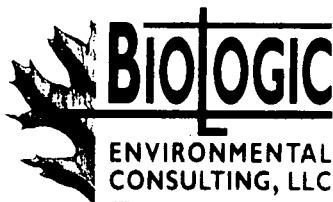
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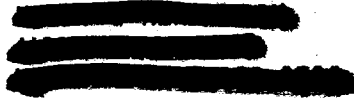


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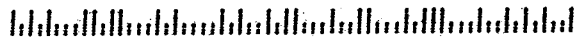


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Tools

Precious Tools

Mary Lee Croatt

Of all tools, the most basic, readily available, and valuable in my work as a gardener are my hands. They use the shovel and rake. They squeeze the handles of the loppers and hand cutters. They scratch the earth. They light the match for a burn. They pull the weeds. They whack the brush. They record the history of my work and transcribe my reflections about it. It is a blessing to have functioning, pain-free hands.



Fran Gustman

It is a good habit to wear work gloves, which protect hands from the sun's scorching rays and cuts. I have a glove wardrobe: a cloth/leather pair for general work, a textured, rubber-palmed-and-knit-cloth pair for digging in damp soil and pulling dried seeds off plants; and a heavy duty, rubberized, long pair for working with herbicides to protect me from poison. I wear gloves faithfully through sweltering July's heat and January's bitter coldness.

Even with the most conscientious gloving, my skin gets chapped and rough, with deep cracks along the side of my nails, from Wisconsin's winter. As a nurse and as a daughter and sister to dermatologists, I always sought the solution in creams, lotions, and potions. I even tried slathering my hands with vaseline at bedtime, wearing white cotton gloves as I slept. It has worked, but not as well as I had hoped.

A gynecologist friend who hand scrubs told me that dunking his hands daily in melted wax is healing. I also was given a secret by a manicurist. Her treatment was inexpensive, even in her homeland of the Ukraine: while visiting or watching TV, put a pan filled with warm, baking soda solution on a towel on your lap and soak your hands for 15 minutes. Then gently rub off the dead skin. Dry your hands. Mix a nickel-sized dab of glycerin and an equal part of water together in your palms. Spread the mixture over your hands, under your nails, and around your cuticles. Reapply several times a day. Sometimes the mixture will feel sticky. Hang in there! It is worth it to get the smoothest, softest hands you ever had.

You may need to soak your hands daily, depending how dry your skin is. Do not sabotage your efforts by forgetting to wear gloves for work or for outdoor cold. Wear dish gloves for washing dishes; detergent and hot water are drying and irritating.

Life is more than work. It is in balance with love and leisure. Soft skin is nice for shaking hands, touching your children, or caressing your lover. Take care of your hands. You need them for all you want to accomplish in the care of others and of the earth.

Mary Lee Croatt is a member of the Milwaukee-North (WI) Chapter.

Seeds for Education

The Bagdad Elementary School put its 2002 SFE grant towards its Courtyard Learning Environment, located between the wings of the school. In the 42' by 132' space, a series of planters of varying heights and shapes were built in a formerly grassed area. The courtyard now provides habitat for birds, butterflies, and plants. The space will also include covered seating and a pond.

First graders grew seeds indoors in preparation for the spring planting. Second and third graders picked a bird or butterfly to study and chose plantings that would provide benefits for it. Fifth graders were in charge of filling bird baths and feeders, checking rain gauges and training the fourth graders to handle the tasks the following school year. Parents helped with maintenance, weeding, fertilizing and cleaning out the feeders.

The project was quite successful in attracting butterflies and birds. *Eupatorium ageratum* was a favorite plant of both. During the winter, bird visitors continued to arrive and found the courtyard a very safe place to bed down for the night.



For more information about the Lorie Otto Seeds for Education Program, please contact the national Wild Ones office or see our web site at <http://www.for-wild.org/seed-mony.htm>.

