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# JOURNAL

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Celebrating 25 years  
restoring native plants  
and natural landscapes.

## The Next Generation:

# Ignorance

By Janice Cook

The system is working at cross-purposes to the basis of science learning.



Ignorance is such a blunt word, one that applies to many people when it comes to relating to all things scientific. It's not that people are stupid; they are ignorant. They don't know, or haven't been taught, or haven't had the experiences to know.

To me, much of the problem is ignorance in the way science is taught. That is, by the book. I once taught with a person who had her science technique down pat, "Read three pages, answer five questions." That was it. No movies/videos on the subject, no experiments, no visiting specialists, no hands-on activities, no cause and effect, not even independent reports. "Read three pages, answer five questions."

The perfect program for people with photographic memories. The perfect turn-off for most of us.

Plant ignorance is in a special category. Plants are not keystone species, not charismatic, not cuddly and cute, not frisky and playful, seldom the stuff of myth and legend. They are photogenic, but that hasn't proved to be enough of a grabber. They are not usually the focus, they are just scenic background for ads and articles on something else.

Maybe you grew grass in a Styrofoam container in grade school or bought your Mom some pansies for Mother's Day. Chances are just as good that you had a high school biology course that sandwiched in some botany and ecology. Then again, maybe not; maybe you, too, read three pages and answered five questions.

For many of us, our joy in gardening and natural landscapes comes from the very fact that we learned it out in the fields, whether as children or later in life. We learned it all by ourselves. Without schools. Without books. Without teachers.

We made our own mistakes and learned from them. We got hooked. We learned more. We experimented. We told others about our adventures.

One of the goals of Wild Ones is to establish natural landscaping on school properties. These plantings give opportunities for data collection, weather and climate studies, plant growth measurement, hydrology and precipitation inquiries, pollination exercises, plant identification and evaluation. Summary activities would involve reports and presentations that require speech development, involve writing, spreadsheet creation, photography, art, all with or without Power Point. All useful life skills.

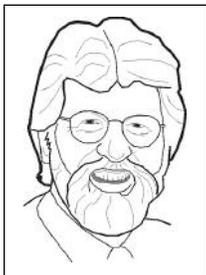
This learning opportunity, however, is a hostage to state curriculum mandates, local curriculum committees, the national "Leave No Child Behind" curriculum, and the pressure of the present testing systems. There are money, political, and custodial pressures. Teachers and schools are judged on test performance. Principals are hired and fired on the basis of test performance. Custodians are hired and fired on the basis of how the school looks to the general public, or at least how it looks to a few outspoken, politically active people.

The system is working at cross-purposes to the basis of science learning. Our children may pass the test, but remain ignorant.

It takes a strong personality to buck such a system and transform it into an opportunity for integrated, science-based learning. It takes a committed staff and *Continued on page 3.*

## Notes from the President...

### A Call to Action



Since I last sat down to write to you all, Wild Ones has had what seems like nothing but bad news to deal with. Membership is down, and as a result, National is operating at a deficit.

Therefore, I have asked the local chapters to forgo their last two quarterly payments in order to stem the tide. In addition, we have several chapters in trouble because no one is willing to step forward to assume leadership responsibilities or even to help their leaders in the operation of the local chapter. So not only are we losing members, we are losing chapters. Finally, we have received notice that one of Wild Ones' original restoration projects, a school in the Milwaukee area, has been converted to lawn; and another one, Indian Hills School near Lorrie Otto's home, is under serious consideration for removal!

For some, the repetition of bad news would be an omen of demise, for others a call to action! Which is it for you?

In this issue, Editor-In-Chief, Maryann Whitman talks about education of the young and mentoring of the old – passing on the banner – the torch. Our Mission Statement stresses education and advocacy. Both of these concepts are *action-oriented*. To be effective, they require participation by membership (plural – not singular). The success of any organization is dependent upon the collaboration of the many. The fewer participating in the effort, the less likelihood of success, and vice versa; the more participating in the effort, the greater the potential for success. A few can be successful over a short period of time, but more often time diminishes that success due to the lack of resources (people participating) to sustain the effort.

This year, Wild Ones celebrates 25 years of promoting the use of native plants in our landscapes. We have achieved our success because of the actions of a few people in a number of locations. They have encouraged each of us to change the way we look at our landscape, and as a result, the landscape is changing. Native plants are an essential component of, and are the "green" in the greening of, our environment. It is now time for the rest of us to take up the cause and actively advocate Wild Ones' mission!

I know you're all busy, but why not volunteer to help your chapter leadership? Or better yet, become a leader! We all need to put in our time for the greater good of the organization (especially if you really support the mission) and for our Earth. Attend a chapter meeting and bring a new member candidate with you. Or at the very least, maintain your own membership. I have encouraged the chapter presidents to strive for "4,000 in 2004" – to increase our membership to 4,000 in our anniversary year.

Advocate the use of native plants in your neighborhood and in your community so as to continue to expand the movement. And, just as important, help protect the many victories we have already won by continuing to educate and advocate to those who would return to the mistakes of the past. It's not enough just to read the *Journal*. Each one of us needs to step forward and demonstrate that we actively support the concept of "environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity."

Joe Powelka, Wild Ones National President  
president@for-wild.org

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.

#### NATIONAL OFFICE

##### Executive Director

Donna VanBuecken  
P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, WI 54912-1274  
(877)-FYI-WILD (394-9453)  
(920)-730-3986  
Fax: (920) 730-8654  
E-mail: [execdirector@for-wild.org](mailto:execdirector@for-wild.org)

##### President

Joe Powelka • (608) 837-6308  
E-mail: [president@for-wild.org](mailto:president@for-wild.org)

##### Vice-President & Editor-In-Chief

Maryann Whitman • (248) 652-4004  
E-mail: [journal@for-wild.org](mailto:journal@for-wild.org)

##### Secretary

Portia Brown • (502) 454-4007  
E-mail: [secretary@for-wild.org](mailto:secretary@for-wild.org)

##### Treasurer

Klaus Wisiol • (847) 548-1649  
E-mail: [treasurer@for-wild.org](mailto:treasurer@for-wild.org)

##### Communications Committee Chair

Bret Rappaport  
E-mail: [comco@for-wild.org](mailto:comco@for-wild.org)

##### Seeds for Education Director

Steve Maassen • (920) 233-5914  
E-mail: [sfedirector@for-wild.org](mailto:sfedirector@for-wild.org)

##### Web Site Coordinator

Peter Chen • [webmanager@for-wild.org](mailto:webmanager@for-wild.org)

#### LIBRARIAN

Robert Ryf • (920) 361-0792  
E-mail: [library@for-wild.org](mailto:library@for-wild.org)

#### CALENDAR COORDINATOR

Mary Paquette • (920) 994-2505  
E-mail: [calendar@for-wild.org](mailto:calendar@for-wild.org)

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#### WILD ONES JOURNAL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Maryann Whitman • (248) 652-4004  
E-mail: [journal@for-wild.org](mailto:journal@for-wild.org)  
(Please indicate topic in subject line.)

#### WILD ONES JOURNAL STAFF

Barbara Bray, Contributing Editor  
Janice Cook, Contributing Editor  
Christian Nelson, Creative Director  
& Associate Editor

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*Next Generation: Ignorance* continued from page 1.

crew of volunteers to maintain the site. It takes continuity and commitment for many years.

One such project is/was at Indian Hills School, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where a change in staff, and testing pressures, have led to a plan to remove an established prairie. The school is apparently feeling too much testing pressure to continue the outdoor learning curriculum.

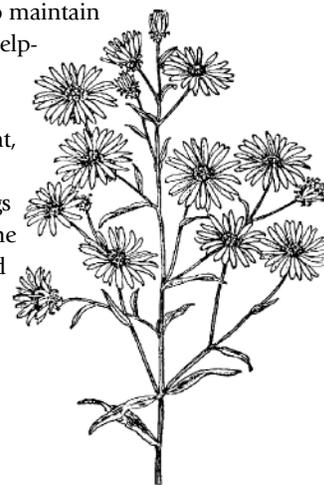
If you want to show your support for integrated, natural landscaping, science-based learning at Indian Hills School, contact PTO officers, Donna Siegworth (414) 540-2353, and Debbie Kasle (414) 352-1072. And the principal, Ms. Rebecca Bell, at [becky\\_bell@maple.dale.k12.wi.us](mailto:becky_bell@maple.dale.k12.wi.us), or (414) 351-7390 ext. 6013.

Better yet, if you live in the Milwaukee area, volunteer to help maintain the prairie, help with the hands-on activities, and/or help to move the plantings to a more suitable area of the property.

Or, wherever you live, why not contact your local school PTO officers, and the principal to let them know that you support integrated, natural landscaping, science-based learning? Then show your support by volunteering to work to maintain the outdoor learning center and/or by helping with the hands-on activities in their natural area.

Without good science we are ignorant, ignorant of the relationship between thistles and painted ladies, between frogs and pesticides, between ourselves and the natural world around us. And that could be deadly. ☘

*Janice Cook is a member of the North Park Village Nature Center (IL) Chapter.*



## Wild Ones Seeds for Education

*Not all the news is bad. Good things are still happening with Seeds for Education.*

By Steve Maassen

The Wild Ones Seeds for Education Program (SFE) began in 1996 and was named in honor of naturalist and Wild Ones inspirational leader Lorrie Otto, a pioneer in the natural landscaping movement in the United States. The program is a coordinated effort between National and the chapters, and encompasses all of Wild Ones' efforts associated with educational institutions.

Nationally, Wild Ones provides direction for local chapter SFE programs, acts as a clearinghouse for questions and concerns about SFE, provides materials for Wild Ones chapters and others to use, and administers the Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program.

Locally, each Wild Ones chapter SFE Committee organizes and supports community efforts to establish natural areas of learning and works with local schools to make them aware of the grant program. (For more information about the SFE Grant program, see the insert in the November/December 2003 issue of the *Journal*.)

The Wild Ones' mission to educate and share information about the benefits of native landscaping using native species to promote biodiversity and environmentally sound practices is the perfect springboard for our members to interact with the community. As Wild Ones chapters and their members see the results of their native landscaping, they start to look around the community and begin to see areas that should be naturally landscaped.

Schools are one of the best areas to promote natural landscaping. Considering the costs involved not only in materials, but also in labor, why should they mow acres and acres of grass when they could have a school natural area to use as an outdoor learning center?

In some sense, an environmental education is the very basis of an overall education. The most basic definition of education is: that taught by members of a culture to the next generation to allow that culture to continue. To be sustained, our culture is dependent on the Earth and its floral and faunal biodiversity. If we do not teach our children to live sustainably on this Earth, eventually our culture will disappear and our educational system will have failed us.

An active chapter SFE committee can be successful in establishing long-lasting school natural areas if they remember the word "PLUMES."

- P** "Parents." Involve the parents and neighbors.
- L** "Lesson Plans." It is one thing to have a nice school natural area, and another to have the teachers utilize its potential.
- U** "Us!" The local chapter of the Wild Ones serves as a source of volunteers and knowledge about how to plant and maintain the natural area.
- M** "Maintenance staff." These folks need to be on board.
- E** "Educators." Several core teachers and the principal.
- S** "Students!" The kids need to be involved in all aspects.

Ideally each school has a natural area committee composed of members of the groups described in "PLUMES."

More in regard to "lesson plans": There has been increasing pressure to teach to the standardized tests that do not contain environmental questions.

It is becoming difficult for a teacher to justify time spent in a natural area. The key is to use the area to teach other core subjects using the plants and insects as hands-on learning. For example, the art class could sketch the flowers, and for math they could calculate the germination rate of seeds. The ultimate example of this is an environmental charter school which uses the environment and natural areas as an organizing theme around which an integrated, hands-on curriculum is built to teach the core subjects.

I know of four of these in the state of Wisconsin and I am on the board of a new one at my daughter's school in Oshkosh. The idea of a charter school is that if it is successful in demonstrating improved learning, then it will receive justification and more funds to disseminate this way of teaching.

This is some of the good news to balance out issues such as the controversy at Indian Hill School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. ☘

*Steve Maassen is the Director of Seeds for Education Program and Coordinator for Fox Valley Area Chapter's Seeds for Education Committee.*

# One Thing Leads to Another

When you plant and propagate native plants, you're helping everything.

By Bruce Fortman

We all love native plants. That is why we belong to Wild Ones. We plant and propagate native plants for their beauty and to preserve them from disappearing. The disappearance of a plant is not only a sad thing in and of itself, it has far reaching repercussions. Plants are near the bottom of the food web. They provide food and cover for local animals. Animals over the ages have come to recognize the seeds and other parts of these plants as a source of nourishment, an aspect that introduced plants may not offer. Some native plants have parts that are available during the growing season.

Others bear seeds that must undergo hard frost or freezing conditions before they can be digested, thereby providing bounty throughout the winter. Many of the small animals can be dependent on the availability of the seeds and fleshy rootstocks of native plants. The moles, voles, and shrews have come to recognize those



that are edible. At first glance, providing a banquet for small rodents may not seem to be a very worthwhile endeavor. But these small mammals are the difference between existence and extinction for a small bird called the Northern Saw-whet owl.

The Saw-whet owl gets its name from the sound produced by drawing a bow across a bent wood saw. It is a clear, high-pitched toot. It is the size of a closed fist or smaller. It is very secretive and only moves about well after sunset. Most people have never seen one.

There are three basic population bases in North America, one across the Northern United States and two in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. The two southern populations are entirely located in high elevation stands of red spruce (*Picea rubus*) and Fraser fir (*Abies fraseri*). They need old growth forest, as they are cavity nesters. As go these native tree stands, so goes the Saw-whet owl.

The northern population migrates south



Very small, about the size of a Robin, the Northern Saw-whet owl depends on small animals such as moles, voles, and shrews for its existence. These are some of the same animals you encourage when you plant and propagate native species. Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

across the United States each fall, starting in early October and ending around Thanksgiving. In the east they migrate across open agricultural areas and spend the night in small wood lots. It takes a tremendous amount of energy to fly long distances in the cold nights of fall. Also, they use continuous flapping flight, as there are no thermals of hot air to soar on as the hawks use during the day. They must spend part of each night foraging for small mammals in the woods – mammals that are dependent on the seeds and rootstocks produced by the plants there.

Wildlife biologists monitor these movements as well as year-to-year population trends. One way this is accomplished is by banding. Banding is the live trapping of the owls and attaching a very lightweight metal band to one leg. This band has a specific number, unique for each owl. Banding stations, as they are called, are located from Ontario to North Carolina. By subsequent retrapping over years, bird migration routes, age, and general population trends can be monitored.

As go the plants, so go the mammals, so go the owls. When you plant natives you are helping far more than you may have thought. ☼

*Bruce Fortman is a Wildlife Biologist and Master Bander; and is a member of the Susquehanna Valley Area Chapter (PA) #68.*



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# Endangered Species Listings May Backfire

## Some private landowners destroy habitat.

Reprinted from Conservation Biology.

Editor's Note: While this article deals with a mouse, it is reprinted in the *Wild Ones Journal* because it reflects public attitudes that affect native plants as well. I recently accompanied a Township Consulting Biologist around the wetlands Doug and I own. When he had met his specific goals for being on the land he said to me, "This is a wonderfully intact area you have here. I'd like to map the rest of it for our wetland records. This area has never been mapped." I told him I would be pleased to have him do that. He continued, "I have to warn you up front though that if I find a plant that is on the Michigan Threatened and Endangered List, it may have an impact on whether this culvert you want can still go in." I assured him that we'd find another way to do what we needed to do if that turned out to be the case – but his warning did give me pause, and I wondered, What if my neighbor, who has acres of lawn, were hearing this warning instead of me?

New research confirms fears that Endangered Species Act listings do not necessarily help – and may even harm – rare species on private lands. Since the Preble's jumping mouse was listed as threatened, the landowners in the study have degraded as much habitat as they have enhanced, and most oppose the biological surveys that are critical for conserving species.

"Private landowners' responses suggested that the current regulatory approach to rare species conservation is insufficient to protect the Preble's mouse," say Amara Brook, Michaela Zint, and Raymond De Young, of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in the December issue of *Conservation Biology*.

More than 90% of federally listed species live at least partly on non-federal land, and as many as half live entirely on nonfederal land, much of which is private. Anecdotal evidence suggests that listing endangered species may not help protect them on private property because landowners may wreck their habitat to avoid land-use restrictions. This is the first study to see if this is true.

Brook and her colleagues surveyed 379 landowners to find out how they responded to the 1998 threatened listing of the Preble's

jumping mouse, which lives in riparian areas in parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Much of the mouse's known habitat is on private land.

While some landowners worked to help the listed mouse, others worked to discourage it from living on their property. The survey showed that a quarter of the land in the study had been managed to improve the mouse's habitat, but another quarter had been managed to keep the mouse from living there. Landowners were more likely to have improved the mouse's habitat if they valued nature or had gotten information from conservation organizations. Landowners were more likely to have destroyed the mouse's habitat if they depended economically on agriculture, or thought that landowners should not be responsible for species conservation.

The survey also showed that most (56%) of the landowners would not allow a biological survey to determine the abundance and distribution of the mouse on their land, information that is essential for developing and fine-tuning conservation plans.

This work suggests that listing the mouse may have done more to hurt it than to help it. Better approaches could include letting landowners know how conserving the mouse's habitat can benefit them (for instance, riparian vegetation also benefits landowners by reducing erosion); reimbursing landowners for the cost of fencing to keep cows away from riparian areas; and reducing landowners' fears of regulation by including them in the conservation decision-making process. ☼

#### Related Web Sites

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:**  
**Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse**  
<http://www.r6.fws.gov/preble/>

**Conservation Psychology listserv**  
<http://listserver.itd.umich.edu/cgi-bin/lyris.pl?enter=conservation-psychology>

**Home and information on *Journal of Conservation Psychology***  
<http://listserver.itd.umich.edu/cgi-bin/lyris.pl?site=itd&id=229048103>

#### The Goals of Conservation Psychology

Our interest in Ecological Stewardship is motivated by the following hypotheses:

1. Protecting threatened species and ecosystems requires a thorough understanding of the behavior and dynamics of humans.
2. Conservation actions often are unsuccessful because they fail to properly anticipate the role of human factors, including politics, social dynamics, and economics.
3. Conservation activities are currently dominated by biological considerations, and collaboration with social scientists may improve the success of conservation actions.



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# Native Plant Myths and Mythconceptions

By Carole Rubin – Wild Ones Partner-at-Large, British Columbia, Canada

*I am continually surprised by folks' assumptions, myths, and misconceptions about native plants and native plant yards. These false impressions have become barriers preventing people from exploring the wondrous beauty of native plants in their home landscapes. This article will deal with the most common myths and the real truths about gardening with these gorgeous specimens.*

**MYTH 1:** Native plants produce pollens that are allergens, increasing hay fever in humans.

**FACT:** Conventional turf grasses, especially Kentucky Blue cultivars, produce more numerous and stronger allergens than any native plant. Further, the pollens from these plants are usually distributed by the wind. Although there may be people who are allergic to some parts of native plants, pollens from native species that might appear in a meadow, for instance, are usually heavier and require distribution by bees and other insects, rather than the wind. Pollen of these species, therefore, is not as present on the wind as is the pollen of turf grasses.

**MYTH 2:** Native plant yards attract vermin and disease.

**FACT:** Vermin are carnivorous, and for that reason prefer garbage, not native plants. The field mice and voles that frequent prairies like grain, and the ticks that carry Lyme's disease are carried not only by wild woodland creatures, but also domestic animals.

**MYTH 3:** Native plants are invasive. They will take over my garden, and then move on to the neighbors.

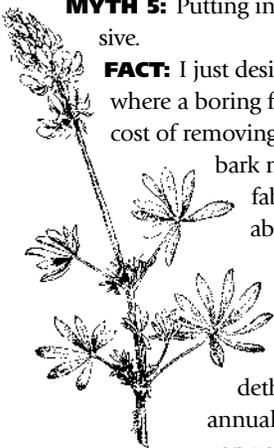
**FACT:** They should be so lucky! Most, if not all invasive species were imported from another part of the country, or another country altogether. Species, native or non-native, become invasive when they find environmental conditions that are more nourishing to their existence than the area from which they were translocated. When a balanced plant community of natives has been achieved, aggressive natives are held in check by plants growing next to them.

**MYTH 4:** Native plants and native gardens are drab and colorless.

**FACT:** The colors and textures in a native plant garden are restricted only by the designer's taste. Period. There are hundreds of hues and shades of every color, hundreds of textures, shapes, and sizes of native plants to choose from.

**MYTH 5:** Putting in a native plant yard or garden is too expensive.

**FACT:** I just designed a native yard at my mother's home where a boring front lawn once struggled to survive. The cost of removing the old turf, buying, trucking and spreading bark mulch, purchasing, shipping and planting a fabulous variety of 100+ native plants came to about \$1,000. Now factor in zero water after the plants have become established, zero fertilizer, zero herbicides, zero fungicides, and zero insecticides, as well as the lack of mowing and mower maintenance, gasoline, oil, labor, dethatching, aeration, weeding, ornamental annuals, etc., and you have a huge, beautiful return on your small investment.



**MYTH 6:** Native plants are hard to grow. They are too finicky.

**FACT:** These plants have been evolving for millennia, before we came along with our trowels, fertilizer blends, and chemicals. They like our soil and climate just the way it is. If you do your research properly, and plant species where their requirements will be met in your yard (i.e., shade for shade lovers, wet areas for those who like damp feet, etc.) your native plants will thrive for many lifetimes to come. In fact, too much care in the form of fertilizers or pesticides can kill them. The trick is to keep the young seedlings from being overcome by the non-native weedy species. This is accomplished quite easily by clipping the weedy species back a couple of times during the first two years.

**MYTH 7:** Native plants harbor mosquitoes.

**FACT:** Standing water harbors mosquitoes. Make sure your dishes under potted plants are empty, and that all rain barrels have lids to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Discard any open containers, unused tires, and other receptacles that can hold water. Put up bat houses on your property to provide homes for the best winged mosquito control going. And plant natives to attract the fauna that feast on mosquitoes.

**MYTH 8:** Native yards and gardens look like the forest or the bush. They are too wild and messy.

**FACT:** You can have as manicured a native yard as you like, using low-growing ground covers with borders of taller plants, shrubs and trees to look like a conventional yard, or branch out (pun intended) and use color and texture to design a structured and formal bolder look. You have only to look at the photos of the native plant yards

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Ecological knowledge brings us face to face with the underlying paradox of our place on Earth today: understanding the marvelous intricacy, variety, and beauty of life gives us endless delight; but coupled with this joy comes the pain of seeing how grievously destructive to the web of life are our industrial, agricultural, and personal activities as we now practice them.”  
 – Ernest Callenbach, *Ecology: A Pocket Guide*.

in any of the books on the market to see that dramatic sculpturing and manicured yards are easily achieved by plant selection and placement.

**MYTH 9:** My municipality/regional district/official community plan will only allow turf grass lawns.

**FACT:** Most municipal landscaping laws deal with height of plants, and do not specify types, unless invasive species are restricted. Many states are encouraging residents to grow plants that need less water, and some are even providing financial incentives to grow native. If you live in an area where “turf-grass lawns only” rules are on the books, get yourself appointed or elected to the body that makes those rules, and work from within to change them. And if appointment or election is out of the question, attend public hearings and voice your concerns over and over again until the community officials take heed of your words.



**MYTH 10:** Native plants are not easily available. Where do I get them?

**FACT:** Many local nurseries are stocking more and more native plants each year as the trend takes off. If your nursery has yet to offer a variety of local natives, encourage them to bring in what you want. Do *not* go out into the wild and dig up plants for your yard! And do not shop at a nursery that is not 100% certain of the origin of their stock. There are sufficient growers of native plants to supply nurseries. Let’s not destroy wild habitat to recreate it in our yards! I really love this sentence! Happy planting! ☘

*Carole Rubin is the author of:*

*How to Get Your Lawn and Garden Off Drugs: A Basic Guide to Pesticide-Free Gardening in North America. Second Edition, 2003. Harbour Publishing. Foreword by Robert Bateman.*

*How to Get Your Lawn Off Grass: A North American Guide to Turning Off the Water Tap and Going Native. 2002, Harbour Publishing. Preface by Lorraine Johnson. Foreword by Sally Wasowski.*

*She will be on a lecture tour of Canada and the United States early next summer. At this point, five Wild Ones chapters have confirmed lecture dates with her: June 6, 2004, Columbus, OH; June 8, Oakland, MI; June 9, Gibson Woods, IN; June 10, North Park, IL; Twin Cities, MN, and June 27, Palouse, ID.*

For a sample ordinance and information on amending ordinances to make them appropriate for use in establishing native landscaping, go to <http://www.for-wild.org/weedlaws/weedlaw.htm>.



## Welcome to New Business Members

**Montessori School of Lake Forest (MSLF)** of Lake Forest, Illinois. MSLF has as its mission to provide a social, physical, and natural environment that guides and encourages children to grow and build themselves to their full potential. With this mission in mind, the school successfully applied for a grant from Wild Ones Seeds For Education in 2001. Their project was featured in the November/December 2003 issue of the *Journal*. See their web site at [www.mslf.org](http://www.mslf.org) or contact them at (847) 918-1000.

**Native Connections** of Constantine, Michigan, specializes in ecosystem restoration, providing consulting services, design, installation, management, and a wide variety of native plants and their seeds. Contact Jerry Stewart at [jerry@nativeconnections.net](mailto:jerry@nativeconnections.net) or (269) 580-4765.

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# Wild Ones Mentors Make a Difference

Sharing ideas and teaching new members is key to success. By Don and Jean Knoedler

In our chapter we are fortunate to have a very good mentoring program where knowledgeable members help new members plan out their natural landscapes. We use this as an effective tool not only to help our existing members, but also to encourage prospective new members to join Wild Ones. We let them know that this type of assistance is a benefit of membership.

## Getting Started

Some background information on our land: Our back area is approximately 165 feet x 180 feet. We have a waterway, Deer Creek, separating the back "nature" area from our front grassy area. We also have several native plantings in the side yard. A few years ago we had the back area graded, and we seeded it with Kentucky bluegrass. Friends of ours, Joan and Justin VanAble, who are members of the Milwaukee-SW/Wehr Chapter, were visiting our home and saw our landscaping.

They asked the question that started us thinking: "Why mow?" They gave us several varieties of plants to get us started. We then bought some more plants from a native plant nursery and continued planting.

## Deciding to Join Wild Ones

Later we joined the Milwaukee-SW/Wehr Chapter of Wild Ones. We met a number of our chapter members who are well trained in the planting and tending of a natural habitat, and they all consider it a privilege to help anyone get started in this program. When our chapter offered mentors to help Jean and me with our yard we were very pleased. At that point we had been members for only two years, and while we had a start, we felt we needed more help.

## Mentors Got Us Off to a Great Start

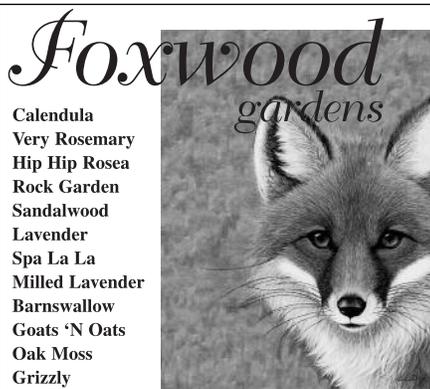
Karen Hartwell and Mary Ann Kniep of our Wild Ones Chapter visited our home on Wednesday, September 3, 2003, and

toured our lot. They identified areas for us that could support different plantings: a sunny prairie, a shady woodland, and a wetland by the creek. They shared many ideas and gave us practical and useful suggestions. The help that they gave us was invaluable. It certainly pointed the right way for us to grow and expand in the future. They helped us to begin to understand all the opportunities we have to use our lot for the benefit of our environment.

We benefited so much from the generous sharing of their mentoring gifts. Just to enjoy the butterflies that we have now is so peaceful. We recommend that if a chapter does not have a mentoring program now, they should look into forming one. It will help existing members and attract prospective new members. ❁

Don and Jean Knoedler  
Milwaukee-SW/Wehr Chapter

When you learn, teach. When you get, give. – Maya Angelou



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# Walking Notes

By Janice Cook – urban naturalist

In jazz, there is a style of playing called “a walking bass.” It sets the pace, the rhythm, and the motion for the piece. It can define the sections of the music.

That’s the way my walks are. They set the days apart. They define the rhythm and motion of my week; the rhythm and motion of the seasons.

I don’t journal as I walk. Couldn’t – not and still keep on walking. No, I just walk, and observe, and feel. Some reflection. Lots of sorting of sensations, thoughts, and ideas. Synthesizing.

In language development the receptive stage comes before the expressive. That’s the way it is with my walking. I stock up, refuel, and take on supplies, filing them loosely. Their vividness and simplicity give me the impetus to keep collecting. I’m sure that I lose some of the scraps, stacked away so willy-nilly. Certainly not an efficient left-brained sequential system, but then, left-brained sequential isn’t always what I need.

I do keep scratch paper in my van, in kitchen drawers, in my daypack, in my

camera cases. If caught unprepared I write on the back of toll road receipts at stoplights, or sideways on my grocery list. I just never know when a phrase on the radio, a sight out the window, or the bite of the wind may loose a stream of consciousness for later refinement.

When I do journal it’s like switching gears. A different mode. The very rummaging through my memories and scraps stirs up stray fabric, thoughts, threads; it’s like drawing from a scrap box. A word becomes a memo; pocket lint for stories.

Once I’m at the computer, the process changes again. The shift is from stream of consciousness to wordsmithing. Word play is a separate game, to be reveled in lightly – with caution. Beware the smithy that beats the temper from the steel.

Then there are the times I realize that I don’t know what I’m talking about. These jottings become the impetus for research, for further reflection and collecting. It all becomes mulch for further walks. ☼  
Janice Cook is a member of the North Park Village Nature Center (IL) Chapter.



The following reflects a photographer’s view of natural areas. Janice is learning macro photography to get photos of insects – another way of “Portraying Nature.”

### Macro Lens

I’ve often heard it said,  
You miss a lot if you travel  
With your head behind a camera.

But I find  
Photography is like November...  
It causes me to focus  
On bits and pieces of life and color  
That I would otherwise miss.

– Janice Cook



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# The Natural Landscaper's TEN COMMANDMENTS

By Karma L. Grotelueschen – Reprinted from January/February 1999 Wild Ones Journal

**Commandment I: Thou shall have no other goals than environmentalism.** Make the bettering and preserving of the environment your reason for gardening. Constantly keep that reason in mind and don't let aesthetics, tradition, or trends compromise that goal. In every decision you make, consider



whether your action will help or harm the environment. When you want to build a patio to allow your family to spend more time enjoying the outdoors, that is furthering the goal, because a family that spends time in nature will love nature, and a family that loves nature will help and protect it. But deciding of what material to make the patio and what materials to use to furnish it will all require some research and then some weighing of the pros and cons of each material. It is no longer a matter of picking out something simply because you like it.

**Commandment II: Thou shall construct no false landscapes.**

Stay true to your local ecosystems. Research what would have been on your land in pre-settlement times, and use those plants, and only those plants. Avoid plants that are not local to your immediate site but only local to your state or local to the U.S.A. These plants are not truly "native" for your land, not truly natural parts of your pre-settlement local ecosystem. Things local to other parts of our continent can be invasive, just as those from other continents can. And anything not from the ecosystem you are trying to reconstruct is taking up space that could hold native plants, and therefore be contributing to the balance and web of interactions that occurs when the right associations of plants and animals are achieved.

**Commandment III: Thou shall not vainly argue about the movement's name.** Don't worry about what to call what we do. Natural landscaping, naturalistic landscaping, wild gardening, restoration, recreating, renovation: Each term has merit and each in some way fails to totally describe what we, the natural landscaping movement, are. Let's stop quibbling over the best or right name and unite over our common goals. Getting on with the work of it and spreading the idea to others is far more important than exact semantics.

**Commandment IV: Thou shall keep the movement in good reputation.** Keep the natural landscaping idea a good thing in the public eye by doing nothing to tarnish the reputation of natural landscaping. Insult no one who does not pursue the natural landscaping goals with the fervor of a purist, but praise and recognize each small step in that direction. Encourage and direct, rather than discourage and boss. Be as politically astute as you can in finding and preserving natural areas and native plants. And keep your own plot as neighbor-friendly as you can. Letting your plot look messy will turn off those people who need to be converted. Use swoops and masses of the more colorful plants to make passersby love it.

Keep it weeded, for natural landscaping is no excuse for neglect. Achieving public acceptance and building public interest are the first steps in spreading the natural landscape movement.

**Commandment V: Thou shall honor all parts of the ecosystem.** As gardeners, we tend to think only of the plants, we must but allow and encourage all fauna as well, such as ants, bumblebees, wasps, worms, aphids, snakes, frogs, and salamanders. If you plant the plants, but then trap the skunks and kill the harmless snakes and squash the slugs and poison the ants, you are not allowing the ecosystem, the working environment, to be rebuilt. You are gardening for your own pleasure only, not to rebuild the environment. These creatures may inconvenience us, but these things are all a part of the prairie, wetland, or forest ecosystem that was here and which we are trying to regain. If you can't learn to love them and find interest and beauty in them, at least learn to respect and tolerate them.

**Commandment VI: Thou shall not allow in anything that will kill any part of your desired ecosystem.** Keep out non-native weeds. Search out local experts who know which weeds are the true long-term problems and which are temporary ones that will be crowded out as your stronger native plants grow, so that you can focus on the real problems without wasting time on the others. Focus on the weedy invasives to prevent them from becoming an unmanageably large problem. Use no chemicals, or use chemicals extremely selectively. Most insects are actually beneficial to the ecosystem, even though they may cause holes in some plant leaves. Most diseases are not bad enough to truly harm the plant in the long term any more than the occasional common cold or influenza harms a human. Weigh any decision to use chemicals very carefully, considering the option of doing nothing as your first choice. What will be the worst case if you leave the insect or disease to run its course? What other natural control might step in? How long can you afford to wait? What harm will the chemical do, and is that harm worth the solution of the problem? Don't let misguided advice and techniques lead you from your goal. For example, many experts still advocate fall cleanup, which removes too much biodegradable material, removes eggs, larvae, removes winter habitat, removes winter seed sources, and removes chance for seed to spread. Make each planting and maintenance decision with the ultimate goal in mind, weighing costs and benefits to make the best choices.

**Commandment VII: Thou shall honor the movement by staying committed to its goals.** Stay committed to the goals of environmentalism, and take every opportunity to tell other people about them. Inquire publicly about the environmental positions of political candidates. Vote, and express your opinions to those in power. Write letters to companies or letters to the editors of your local papers about environmental issues. Teach kids whenever you can, by



*The traditional American lawn and garden are like a hospital intensive care unit – all the plants are on life support.*  
– Neil Diboll of Prairie Nursery

volunteering at schools, camps, day care centers, park districts, church camps, scout groups, 4-H clubs, youth groups, or whatever your community offers that allows interaction with kids. Volunteer at a local nature center or restoration effort and take a neighbor kid along.

**Commandment VIII: Thou shall not steal native plants from others.** Perform no digging in public places without explicit permission. While the roadsides used to be thought of as fair game for digging up “wild flowers,” many now are actually planted. You would be pretty mad if someone were caught stealing plants you had planted in your garden, wouldn’t you? And if the roadside is a rare prairie remnant, even more important that you leave all the plants there, that you leave the species mix and proportions intact. If you see such an area, rather than steal the plants for your yard, find out if there is a stewardship group taking care of the area. If there is, volunteer to help. If there isn’t, try to get one started. However, do make it your obligation to dig up and relocate plants in order to rescue them when plants are in danger of being destroyed, giving them away if you don’t have room in your garden or if you don’t have the right conditions to grow them successfully.

**Commandment IX: Thou shall not make false claims about natural landscaping.** There are many benefits touted of natural landscaping, but many of them are myths or downright untrue. It is said that natural landscaping will require less maintenance, will “take care of itself.” This may have been true at one time, but it is not now. There are too many alien weeds that our native landscapes cannot tolerate, so any natural landscape requires our constant vigilance against those invaders. It is said that natural landscaping requires less watering, yet for success,

at initial planing time, a native landscape can require as much water as an exotic landscape. The myth that prairie must be burned, may cause harm to the movement by discouraging people from such plantings. A prairie benefits from burning, yes, but where that is not possible, such as near buildings or near a road where smoke could be dangerous, other maintenance methods can be employed. Learn the details of your native ecosystems and keep current by attending workshops and classes and seminars, and by re-attending them every few years, as practices change and new ideas are found to work. Keep yourself educated, and when you hear a myth, correct it immediately if you can diplomatically do so, or follow up later. If the myth occurs in a group setting, correcting it then will keep the large number hearing it from spreading it on. So be polite and maybe phrase it as a question, but do attempt a correction.

**Commandment X: Thou shall not covet the beautiful exotic landscape plants.** The nursery, your neighbor’s yard, the corporate campuses, shopping malls, all are planted to beautiful non-native ornamental plants that tempt you every time they burst into full bloom. But for every alien beauty, there can be found a native just as beautiful. Just keep focused. Allow yourself to analyze the exotics you find beautiful, then search the inventories of locally native plants for species that have those characteristics. Remember that every Daylily you plant is taking up real estate that could be occupied by a native. Remember that every Hosta you plant is useless to native fauna that could feed on it, breed on it, and make it their home if it were a native plant from your local ecosystem. ☼

*Karma L. Grotelueschen,  
Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter,  
is the landscape designer for  
PlannedScapes, Warrenville,  
Illinois, (630) 393-4598.*



#### Disclaimer

I, Karma L. Grotelueschen, do confess that I have sinned against the natural landscaping movement and will continue to do so by growing Daylilies in the sun and Hostas in the shade, and a whole host of other exotics. The ephemeral beauty of that waxy brilliant Daylily blossom that I can pick and hold and lay on a plate next to my drafting table, because it will be dead tomorrow, is too strong for me to resist. I love the tactile, visual, and olfactory experience of Daylilies. Hosta are so easy to grow, so reliable, so non-invasive, and those with white or yellow in their leaves brighten up a dark, shady garden like no native I’ve discovered. They form the structure around pockets of spring ephemerals, the contrast to the dark of Mayapples and Wild Ginger. I have some plants given to me by other gardeners, and that connection to generations past and friends present are too precious to me to give them up. In summary, we all make our own choices, and the above “Ten” I submit to you as idealized goals of the natural landscaping movement. From these strict commandments as a basis, we must each make our own choices each day that we garden. ☼

*Note: This Ten Commandments thing is just a flashy attempt to pique your interest in this article and in natural landscaping, to challenge your current ideas, and to encourage you to grow as a natural landscaper. I mean to leave no one out whose religion isn’t Christianity or Judaism. And I mean no disrespect to those who are Christian or Jewish when I use the Ten Commandments format. Questions, comments, suggestions, ideas, and challenges about environmentalism and natural landscaping are welcome. – KLG*

# The Grapevine

Stopping slugs in their tracks. Where do our fossil fuels really come from? Does Washington know what an invasive species is? Recognizing Wild Ones' founders. What's happening to the water in the Everglades?

By Maryann Whitman



## Stopping Slugs

There are places on this Earth that support slugs and snails that are large enough to smother, with their slime, nestling birds in their nest. Most of us, however, only get to complain about our triflingly tiny, inch-long species as they decimate seedling beds and feast in our vegetable gardens. It is when we find them in our beds of prairie plant seedlings that Wild Ones members might be most interested in them.

Slugs travel on an acidic slime they secrete. When the snail or slug comes in contact with copper it causes a chemical reaction, a type of electrolysis, kind of a shocking sensation, and the snails will not cross it.

Snail-Barr is a 3-inch-wide, notched, pure copper band, that comes in 20-foot rolls, for snail and slug control for your garden, potted plants, hothouses, nurseries, raised beds, and trees. This product is a deterrent, not a killer. I've seen Snail-Barr, and the company has a web site, but I have not been able to come up with any pricing or availability information. Let me know if you can help with this.

## Some Big Numbers

Every time we burn a liter of petrol we must consider that it took 23.5 tons of ancient buried plants to produce it. That's the equivalent of 16,200 square meters of live wheat – roots and stems included." So says ecologist Jeff Dukes, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Stanford. (1 ton (SI) or metric ton = 1000 kg (2204 lb.); 1 liter = 0.264172051 U.S. gallon; 1 acre = 4,046.9 square meters).

Roughly rounding the conversions, we come up with 95 tons or 200,000 pounds of primordial green stuff to produce one gallon of today's gas. In 1997 we burned

fossil fuels equivalent to more than 400 times the amount of plant matter produced on Earth in the same year.

Modern ways to convert biomass into fuels such as ethanol are far more efficient. But it would still take nearly a quarter of all the plants on Earth to replace the fuel used in 1997. That's 50% more than humans already remove or pave over each year, says the Stanford researcher.

While admitting that his estimates have large degrees of uncertainty, he believes he has captured the essence of the process. "I just want to get people thinking about how unsustainable our uses have been."

## "Invasive Species" in Washington DC

According to the Economic Research Service within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, an "invasive species" is one that is:

- Non-native, alien, or exotic to the ecosystem under consideration, and
- When introduced, causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health.

This definition covers everything from mad-cow disease, to zebra mussels, to, at the very far end of the concern spectrum, leafy spurge and spotted knapweed. The Department of Agriculture in October announced \$1.5 million in grants and cooperative agreements to organizations in eight states to examine the eco-

nomie effects of combating exotic pests and diseases.

So, we know that at least one or two people in Washington have the term "invasive species" in their vocabularies.

## Recognizing Our Founders

Hal Sunken, President of the Green Bay Chapter WI, one of our oldest and most established chapters, reports that, in the spirit of "recognizing our founders," their chapter has chosen to honor two members:

- "To Paul Hartman, our local extension agent, who wrote the letter that started our local group, we have given a new book by William Jordan entitled *The Sunflower Forest: Ecological Restoration and the New Communion with Nature*. We also presented him with a check for \$100 to put toward any project he deems necessary. He is currently involved in removing invasive plants from Brown County parks and we think this is where he will be using the money. As with most worthy government programs, it is under-funded.



Wild Ones National Board members touring Dr. Jack Swelstad's prairie.

• Our other award recipient was Dr. Jack Swelstad, (the national board of Wild Ones toured his prairie last June when Green Bay hosted the second quarterly board meeting.) He was our first president and still remains active with the group. We have presented him with a copy of the same book mentioned above, and in his name will donate \$250 to the Wild Ones' Seeds for Education Program. We would like to have the entire amount donated to one school and have the class send a packet of pictures and notes back to us so we can forward them to Dr. Swelstad at some future time to remind him of the award and the impact he has had."

Hal reports that these awards were presented at the Chapter's first Annual Awards Banquet in November, 2003. The banquet was well attended and the chapter intends to have a second Annual Meeting in 2004.

### Everglades Hydrology

A study by the U.S. Geological Survey recently reported in the journal *Nature*, that economically damaging freezes might have been avoided in southern Florida if the wetlands in those areas hadn't been drained years ago for farming. Draining of wetlands is one of the "multitude of ways humans are affecting the climate system," said one of the researchers from Colorado State University. The study showed that if the wetlands had remained untouched, temperatures in most of the areas would have stayed in the mid to upper 30s, avoiding a freeze. In other wetlands areas, the freeze would have happened, but it would have been less severe and shorter than the outcome calculated with the land switched over to sugar beet farming.

The duration of a freeze can be just as important as temperature for determining crop damage.

Wetlands can ward off freezes in two ways, the researchers said:

- Standing water moisturizes the atmosphere, which can then better trap heat that radiates away from the ground at night.
- Wetlands provide warmth because water can retain heat better than drained lands, and release heat when wetlands start to freeze.

The changes in the hydrology of southern Florida started in the 1920s when the Army Corps of Engineers built a 30-foot high barrier wall around Lake Okeechobee, isolating it from the Everglades that lie to the south. In 1950 they performed what has

been called an environmental lobotomy; they forced the meandering, Kissimmee River, the largest tributary from the north to Lake Okeechobee, into a 56-mile long, straight ditch. A man-made plumbing system was built to capture rainwater and skirt it out to the fringes of Florida.

Originally, the water from Lake Okeechobee spread into a shallow, 50-mile-wide sheet and trickled at a pace of 100 feet per day, through sawgrass marshes and mangrove forests supplying the Everglades with its life-blood – sweet water.

Today only half of the historic Everglades, which once covered 4 million acres stretching from a chain of lakes near Orlando to Florida Bay, still exists, and the water quality has deteriorated.

Cities developed along the coast and pushed inland, demanding clean water and releasing polluted water, polluted air from incinerators, and polluting the soil. Sugar cane plantations, vegetable farms, and dairy farms sprouted up around Lake Okeechobee, releasing fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and raw cow manure into the lake.

The Everglades has been drained, burned, and further mutilated by canals,

levees, and highways. A series of reservoirs, called conservation areas, traps the water that once flowed freely. The wildlife population has plummeted. A fresh water crisis looms over the coastal cities.

Florida Bay, once a rich fish nursery, now features a 100-square-mile, algae-choked, "Dead Zone." The mangroves and sponges along Florida Bay are dying, fueling the algae blooms. The coral reef below the Keys is threatened.

Author Ted Levin, in his recently published book entitled *Liquid Land: A Journey Through the Florida Everglades*, writes of the history of exploitation of the Everglades, and gives a behind-the-scenes account of contentious, modern-day attempts to restore the hydrology of an area that is now "a computer-controlled watershed almost as artificial as Disney World." ☼

Maryann Whitman is a member of the Oakland (MI) Chapter and is the Editor-in-Chief of the Wild Ones Journal.



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# Reflections on the Wild Ones 2003 Conference

## What I Went Home Thinking About

By Laurie Yahr

There is probably nothing we take for granted as much as water. This was graphically brought home on pie charts at one of the sessions on storm water issues held at the Wild Ones 2003 Natural Landscaping Conference sponsored recently by St. Louis Chapter. Of all the water on Earth, only a fraction is available to us in a usable form. We cannot think about plants or living on this planet without talking about water. Water is the basis for *all* life. We need to consciously plan and personally participate to ensure and enhance this most precious of resources.

How should we proceed? According to workshop leaders Jackie Moore and Jamie Salvo, we need to look at human activities that waste water or pollute. We need to recognize that washing cars, cleaning driveways and sidewalks with a hose, and over-watering lawns can waste large amounts of water. Careless auto maintenance, pet waste, pesticide application, and fertilization contribute directly to serious pollution of surface water when rain water and snow melt carry these substances into the streets and storm sewers.

We all need to think about precipitation as a valuable, but free, gift instead of something to be diverted, culverted, sewered, and gotten rid of as quickly as possible. Even small rain events can cause flash flooding and erosion as the volume of channeled water careens to the lowest spots. This is a direct result of little water being absorbed by soil and vast amounts rushing off of roofs and decks, two- and three-car driveways, paved parking lots, and wide streets and highways to accommodate our automobile-driven society. We leave little opportunity to intercept and store this water where it is

needed and could replenish ground water supplies.

Cities are rethinking storm water management. Community street and storm water divisions are recognizing and addressing the problems by recommending techniques for new residential and business construction projects, and writing legal changes. They are advocating innovative approaches such as roof gardens, rain gardens, vegetated swales and riparian buffers, infiltration basins and detention ponds. There are proposals to charge new developments for projects that do not effectively reduce runoff.

Prairie plants with their deep root systems are far superior to turf grass at permitting water to infiltrate the soil, and wetland plants are marvelously effective at filtering and detoxifying water. Here is the perfect opportunity for Wild Ones to promote the benefits of native plants and directly protect

our environment. We will need to work on changing some weed ordinances, rewriting them so beneficial native plants are not excluded. (See "Native Plants Myths and Mythconceptions" article on page 6 for ordinance resource info.)

The sensibilities of urbanites need to move away from meticulously manicured lawns of 2.2-inch turf grass and the arsenal of chemicals they require. It seems such a simple concept; increased use of native plants saves time and money, enhances opportunities for wildlife and can restore ground water. These benefits reduce erosion and improve the water quality of our lakes and streams.

But the obvious is not always easy. Time to step up to the challenge. I plan to put in at least one rain garden next year. \*  
*Laurie Yahr is a member of the Madison (WI) Chapter.*

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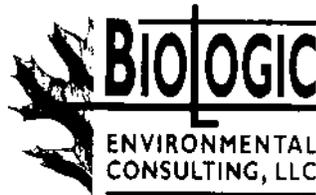
#### Consulting

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# The Sunflower Forest

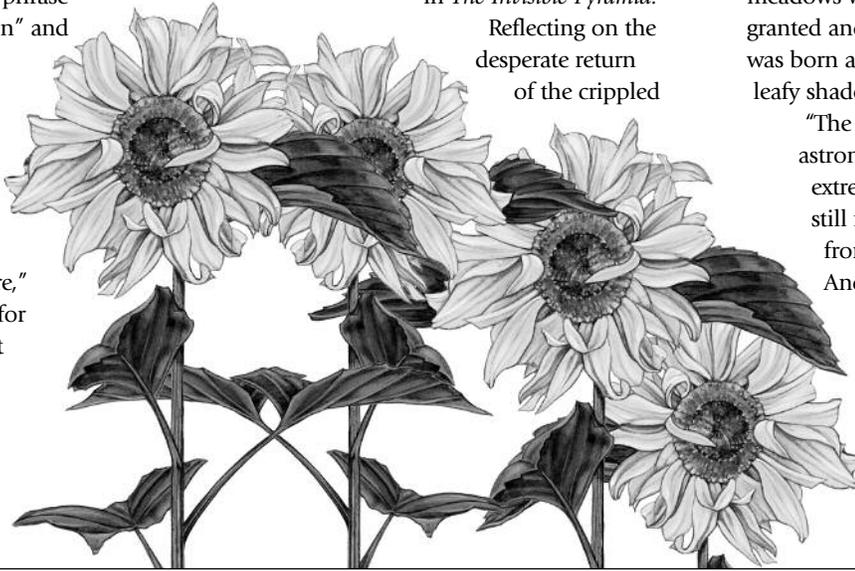
How much would we miss the Earth if we couldn't get back home?

William Jordan, who wrote *The Sunflower Forest: Ecological Restoration and the New Communion with Nature*, (mentioned in this issue's Grapevine column), coined the phrase "ecological restoration" and founded the journal, *Ecological Restoration*. He writes that restoration is "a way of achieving an ecologically close relationship with the rest of nature," as well as "a context for confronting the most troubling aspects of our relationship with our fellow creatures." The book has been critically well received.

Loren Eiseley, anthropologist at the University of Pennsylvania and one of the preeminent literary naturalists of our time, mentions "the sunflower forest" in *The Invisible Pyramid*. Reflecting on the desperate return of the crippled

Apollo 13 space capsule he writes, "A love for Earth, almost forgotten in man's roving mind, had momentarily reasserted its mastery, a love for the green meadows we have so long taken for granted and desecrated to our cost. Man was born and took shape among Earth's leafy shadows.

"The most poignant thing the astronauts had revealed in their extremity was the nostalgic call still faintly ringing on the winds from the sunflower forest." And, "If I remember the sunflower forest it is because from its hidden reaches man arose. The green world is his sacred center. In moments of sanity he must still seek refuge there." ❁



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# The Meeting Place

Chapters, please send your chapter contact information to:  
Calendar Coordinator Mary Paquette  
N2026 Cedar Road • Adell, Wisconsin 53001  
(920) 994-2505 • [meeting@for-wild.org](mailto:meeting@for-wild.org)  
Chapter ID numbers are listed after names.



Meet us online at [www.for-wild.org](http://www.for-wild.org)

## IDAHO

### Palouse Chapter #65

Bill French (208) 883-3937  
[prairiedoc@moscow.com](mailto:prairiedoc@moscow.com)  
Third Thursday, 7 p.m.,  
Room 2B, Latah County Courthouse,  
522 S. Adams St., Moscow

## ILLINOIS

### Greater DuPage Chapter #9

Message Center: (630) 415-IDIG  
Pat Clancy (630) 964-0448, [clancypj2@aol.com](mailto:clancypj2@aol.com)  
Third Thursday Jan. Feb., Mar., Sept., Oct.,  
Nov., 7 p.m. College of DuPage, Building K,  
Room 161. See web site for details.

### Lake-To-Prairie Chapter #11

Karen Wisiol (847) 548-1650

### North Park Chapter #27

Bob Porter (312) 744-5472  
[bobporter@cityofchicago.org](mailto: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, 7 p.m.,  
usually at Burpee Museum of Natural History,  
737 N. Main St., Rockford.

## INDIANA

### Gibson Woods Chapter #38

Joy Bower (219) 844-3188  
[jbower1126@aol.com](mailto:jbower1126@aol.com)  
First Saturday during winter, 10 a.m.,  
No January meeting  
Gibson Woods Nature Center,  
6201 Parrish Ave., Hammond

## KENTUCKY

### Frankfort Chapter #24

Katie Clark (502) 226-4766  
[katieclark@vol.com](mailto: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](mailto:sillyserpent@wildmail.com)  
First Wednesday of month, 7:30 p.m.,  
McConnell Spring

### Louisville Metrowild Chapter #26

Portia Brown (502) 454-4007  
[wildones-lou@insightbb.com](mailto:wildones-lou@insightbb.com)  
First Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m.,  
Location varies.  
Woods Saturday Work Day:  
Ward Wilson: (502) 299-0331, [ward@wwilson.net](mailto:ward@wwilson.net)  
Allan Nations: (502) 456-3275

## MICHIGAN

### Ann Arbor Chapter #3

Susan Bryan (734) 622-9997  
[susanbryanhsieh@yahoo.com](mailto:susanbryanhsieh@yahoo.com)  
Second Wednesday of month (except April), 7 p.m.,  
Matthaei Botanical Garden, Room 125

### Cadillac Chapter #51

Contact Donna VanBuecken, Executive Director, at  
[execdiretor@for-wild.org](mailto:execdiretor@for-wild.org) or (877) 394-9453.

### Calhoun County Chapter #39

Marilyn Case (517) 630-8546,  
[mcase15300@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:ttauzer@chartermi.net)

### Detroit Metro Chapter #47

Connie Manley (248) 538-0654  
[cmanfarm@mich.distance.net](mailto:cmanfarm@mich.distance.net)  
Second Monday, 7-9 p.m.,  
Huntington Woods Library,  
26412 Scotia, Huntington Woods

### Flint Chapter #32

Ginny Knag (810) 694-4335  
[mtknag@ameritech.net](mailto: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  
[mrutz@acd.net](mailto:mrutz@acd.net)  
Third Wednesday, 7-9 p.m.  
Room 139, Radiology, MSU campus.  
For details: [www.for-wild.org/redcedar](http://www.for-wild.org/redcedar)

### Oakland Chapter #34

Maryann Whitman (248) 652-4004  
[maryannwhitman@comcast.net](mailto: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) 730-9954  
[candrews@barr.com](mailto:candrews@barr.com)  
Fourth Wednesday, 6 p.m., Hartley Nature Center  
For details: [www.d.umn.edu/~wildones](http://www.d.umn.edu/~wildones).

### Otter Tail Chapter #25

Karen Terry (218) 736-5250  
[terry714@prt1.com](mailto:terry714@prt1.com)  
Fourth Monday, 7 p.m.,  
Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, Fergus Falls

### St. Cloud Chapter #29

Greg Shirley (320) 259-0825  
[shirley198@charter.net](mailto:shirley198@charter.net)  
Fourth Monday, 6:30 p.m.,  
Heritage Nature Center.

### St. Croix Oak Savanna #71

Mary-Clare Holst (651) 351-7351  
[mcholst\\_7351@msn.com](mailto:mcholst_7351@msn.com)  
Linda Decker  
[linda.b.decker@comcast.net](mailto:linda.b.decker@comcast.net)

### Twin Cities Chapter #56

Marty Rice (952) 927-6531  
[jcrrmfr@msn.com](mailto:jcrrmfr@msn.com)  
Third Tuesday, 6:30 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](mailto:wildonesmo@yahoo.com)  
Second Saturday, 10 a.m.  
Location varies. See: [wildones.missouri.org](http://wildones.missouri.org)

### St. Louis Chapter #31

Scott Woodbury (636) 451-3512  
[scott.woodbury@mobot.org](mailto:scott.woodbury@mobot.org)  
First Wednesday except December, 6:00 p.m.  
Location varies. See web site.

## NEW YORK

### New York Capital District #69 (Seedling)

Melinda Perrin (708) 579-5695  
[BlueCloudM@aol.com](mailto:BlueCloudM@aol.com)

### New York City Metro/Long Island Chapter #30

Jennifer Wilson-Pines (516) 767-3454  
[jwpines@juno.com](mailto: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](mailto:btrombly@fuse.net)  
Chris McCollugh: (513) 860-4959,  
[gordchris@fuse.net](mailto:gordchris@fuse.net)  
Monthly meetings or field trips; see web site.

### Columbus Chapter #4

Marilyn Logue (614) 237-2534,  
[mlogue@sprintmail.com](mailto:mlogue@sprintmail.com)  
Second Saturday, 10 a.m.,  
Innis House, Inniswood Metropolitan Park,  
940 Hempstead Rd., Westerville  
Field trips: See web site or contact above.

### Maumee Valley Chapter #66 (Seedling)

Jan Hunter (419) 878-7273  
[naturallynative@buckeye-express.com](mailto:naturallynative@buckeye-express.com)

*Continued next page.*



## On the Horizon

### Wild Ones National Quarterly Board Meetings

All members are invited and encouraged to attend the quarterly meetings of the National Board of Directors.

**January 31, 2004** 8:30 a.m. Conducted via conference call. To participate in the toll-free meeting, please contact Donna VanBuecken, executive director. Complete contact information is listed on page 2.

**May 22** Hosted by Lake-to-Prairie (IL), Prairie Crossing in Grayslake, IL.

**August 6-8** Madison, WI. In conjunction with Annual Meeting and 25th anniversary celebration.

**October 2** Hosted by Lexington (KY) Chapter. Information about quarterly meetings is available from the executive director or the hosting chapter's contact person listed in "The Meeting Place."

### Other Conferences and Meetings

**January 24, Oshkosh, WI** 8th annual: "Toward Harmony with Nature" native landscaping conference; Hilton Garden Inn; sponsored by Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter; Contact [www.fv-wild.org/chapters/fox\\_valley/fvconfo2.htm](http://www.fv-wild.org/chapters/fox_valley/fvconfo2.htm) or (920)589-2602. Keynote speaker, Richard Henderson ecologist will discuss "Letting Nature Take its Course."

**February 12-13, Kansas City MO** There will be a 1-1/2 day workshop focusing on invasive plants on Feb. 12-13 held in association with the Weed Science Society of America's annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. Call (800) 627-0629.

**February 14, Milwaukee WI** The Natural Landscaping Conference that started it all is celebrating its 25th Anniversary and you are invited! The Milwaukee Audubon Society's 25th annual Natural Landscaping Conference "Healthy Habitats, One Step at a Time" will be held at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Union, Milwaukee, Wisconsin from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact Milwaukee Audubon Society at (414) 352-2437 or the Wild Ones Milwaukee Chapters at (414) 299-9888.

**February 28, Green Bay WI** The annual Thoughtful Gardener Conference will be held on the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay campus. This year's theme is Successful Gardening with Native Plants: Focus on Nurturing Wetlands. Call (800) 892-2118.

**February 28, Crystal Lake IL** A Natural Landscape Seminar will be held 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Conference Center of McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, Illinois. There will be exhibits. For more information call (815) 338-0393. Featured speakers include biologist Dave Tylka, author of *Native Landscaping for Wildlife and People*, Melinda Myers, host of "The Plant Doctor" on WTMJ Newsradio/Milwaukee, and Wendy Walcott, Land Steward for the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center who will be speaking on "Managing Invasive Plant Species."

**March 7-8 East Lansing MI** Wildflower Association of Michigan's 17th annual Michigan Wildflower Conference, East Lansing. This year's conference, titled Woods & Water, includes a

concurrent Educators' Workshop on Sunday, March 7, that focuses on developing native outdoor education habitats.

Keynote speaker is Rick Darke, whose topic on Monday will be based on his award-winning book, *The American Woodland Garden: Capturing the Spirit of the Deciduous Forest*. For more information on Rick Darke, go to his web site at <http://www.rickdarke.com>. Contact: Marilyn Case, (517) 630-8546, or [case15300@aol.com](mailto:case15300@aol.com); or visit WAM website [www.wildflowersmich.org](http://www.wildflowersmich.org).

**March 20, Muskegon MI** This year's Creating a Natural Landscape (CNL) Workshop will be held at Muskegon Community College in Muskegon, MI on Sat. March 20th. The event will run from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Light breakfast and lunch are included. Contact: Tony Jarvis or Rebecca Bieneman CNL Committee at (231) 773-0008 [tony-jarvis@mi.nacdn.net](mailto:tony-jarvis@mi.nacdn.net); [rebecca-bieneman@mi.nacdn.net](mailto:rebecca-bieneman@mi.nacdn.net) for details.



## The Meeting Place (continued from previous page)

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### NE Pennsylvania Chapter #70 (Seedling)

Nathaniel Whitmore [plants@plantsavers.org](mailto:plants@plantsavers.org)

#### Susquehanna Valley Area Chapter #68

Angela Eichelberger (717) 793-8440  
[wild\\_ones@earthlink.net](mailto:wild_ones@earthlink.net)

### SOUTH CAROLINA

#### Foothills Chapter #58

Karen Hall (864) 287-3294  
[kcarlso@clemson.edu](mailto:kcarlso@clemson.edu)  
Third Saturday, Red Caboose,  
State Botanical Gardens, Clemson University

### WISCONSIN

#### Central Wisconsin Chapter #50

Phyllis Tuchscher (715) 384-8751  
[toosch@fibernetcc.com](mailto:toosch@fibernetcc.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.

#### Coulee Region Chapter #67

Chuck Lee (608) 785-2205, [speakbobo@aol.com](mailto:speakbobo@aol.com)  
First Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
LaCrosse Main Branch Public Library

#### Door County Chapter #59

Judy Reninger (920) 839-1182  
[jreninger@dcwis.com](mailto:jreninger@dcwis.com)  
Time & location vary; check web site.

#### Erin Chapter #57

Bob & Bev Hults (262) 670-0445  
[twowildones@juno.com](mailto:twowildones@juno.com)  
Third Thursday, 7 p.m., Erin Town Hall,  
1846 Hwy. 83, Hartford

#### Fox Valley Area Chapter #8

Karen Syverson (920) 987-5587  
[ksyve@core.com](mailto:ksyve@core.com)  
Sharon Duerkop (920) 734-1419,  
[sduerk@execpc.com](mailto:sduerk@execpc.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](mailto: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](mailto: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., Bayside.

#### Milwaukee Southwest-Wehr Chapter #23

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

#### Wisconsin Northwoods Chapter #63

Diane Willette (715) 362-6870  
[diane@bfm.org](mailto:diane@bfm.org)  
Fourth Monday of month,  
Fireside Room, Univ. Transfer Center at Lake Julia  
Campus of Nicolet Area Tech. College,  
Rhineland area

#### Root River Area Chapter #43

Nan Calvert (262) 681-4899  
[prairiedog@wi.rr.com](mailto:prairiedog@wi.rr.com)  
Sept.-May, first Saturday, 1:30-3 p.m.,  
Riverbend Nature Center, Racine.



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## IN MEMORIAM

### Bill Goff

Bill's Greenhouse

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Bill Goff, owner of Bill's Greenhouse in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. One of our newest advertisers, Bill specialized in Lady Slippers, trilliums, and blueberries, but also handled a variety of other perennials. He had a life-long interest in flowers, but was particularly fond of the Lady Slippers. Although the nursery is now closed, Bill's wife, Juanita, tells us there are many species left in the nursery, and she would be pleased to speak with people interested in purchasing any of the remaining stock. She can be reached at (218) 326-3379. Our condolences to Juanita. Bill will be missed. ☽



# Wild Ones

NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

## Welcome Three New Wild Ones Chapters

**Coulee Region** Chuck Lee is the Charter President of the newest Wisconsin Wild Ones Chapter, Coulee Region. Located near LaCrosse, Coulee Region welcomes new members from the nearby area in both Wisconsin and Minnesota. Contact: Chuck at (608) 785-2205 or at [speakbobo@aol.com](mailto:speakbobo@aol.com).

**St Croix Oak Savanna** Inviting members from areas between and beyond Stillwater, Maplewood, Hudson, East Metropolitan Twin Cities, Lake Elmo, Mahtomedi, Oakland, Minnesota's newest Wild Ones chapter is St Croix Oak Savanna. Contacts are Charter President Mary-Claire Holst at [mholst\\_7351@msn.com](mailto:mholst_7351@msn.com) or (651) 351-7351 (evenings) or Treasurer and Membership Chair Linda Decker [linda.b.decker@comcast.net](mailto:linda.b.decker@comcast.net).

**Susquehanna Valley** Welcome to our first chapter in Pennsylvania. Located in south-central Pennsylvania and northern Maryland, Susquehanna Valley Chapter of Wild Ones takes in York, Lancaster and Adams Counties in Pennsylvania. Angela Eichelberger is Charter President and can be reached at (717) 793-8440 or [wild-ones@earthlink.net](mailto:wild-ones@earthlink.net).



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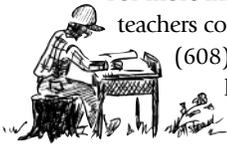
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## Opportunity for Wild Ones Members to Collaborate with Earth Partnership for Schools

Since 1991, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum has held a summer institute for helping K-12 teachers to learn how to do ecological restoration and how to use the restoration in teaching core subjects like the sciences, math, language arts and social studies. They ask for our help in letting teachers know that this program exists, and that funding and credits are available.

They also suggest that local Wild Ones members consider volunteering to join teachers from Bayfield, Eau Claire, Columbus, Cadott, Oshkosh, Ashland, and McFarland in this summer's institute in Madison on July 19-30. Wild Ones elsewhere could offer to help at participating schools in their area. Wild Ones members, with our specialized backgrounds (and planting skills), could be valuable partners to teachers.

For more information or school application, have teachers contact: Libby McCann, Program Manager, (608) 262-5367, [epmccann@wisc.edu](mailto:epmccann@wisc.edu) or see [http://wiscinfo.doit.wisc.edu/arboretum/earth\\_partnership\\_index.htm](http://wiscinfo.doit.wisc.edu/arboretum/earth_partnership_index.htm)



## Wild Ones Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please check:  new  renewal  new address

Paying for:  1 year  2 years  years

Annual Dues: Wild Wilder Wildest

Household  \$30  \$50  \$75+

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### The Next Generation

# Wild About – Beans!

A fun experiment for kids. And if you're not a kid it's OK – you can try it too.

By Barbara Bray – Oakland (MI) Chapter

Seeds are little packages of life. They have everything they need to make a new plant – just add warmth, water, soil, and sunlight. In the following project, we are going to explore how a seed transforms itself into a new plant.

### Materials Needed

- 5 pinto bean or green bean seeds
- 1 clear plastic cup
- 2 paper towels
- Water



### Step 1

Soak the beans for 24 hours in water. This will help them to start growing faster.

### Step 2

Fold a paper towel in half or thirds to fit your plastic cup. Use it to line the inside of the cup in such a way that it doesn't stick out at the top. Crumple up another towel and place in in the center to hold the folded towel firmly in place against the sides.

### Step 3

Moisten the towels evenly with water. Pour out any excess water that collects at the bottom of the cup. Towels should be moist, not dripping wet.



### Step 4

Remove the seeds that were soaking overnight. Throw away any seeds that have broken apart. Place the remaining seeds between the paper towel lining and the inside of the cup.

### Step 5

Place the cup in a sunny location. Check the cup every day, and add water as necessary to keep the paper towels moist. How long does it take for your beans to sprout?



### Bean Sprout Science

Like all seeds, the beans used in this project contain three parts: a seed coat, an embryo, and food storage tissue. The seed coat, or outer hard covering, protects the baby plant (embryo) inside from freezing and drying out. In Step 1 we soaked the beans to soften the seed coat so that the bean could start absorbing water for growth.

The embryo started to grow, using stored energy. Small roots developed and a shoot rose up toward the sunlight. The bean was able to absorb water from its environment – in this case the moist paper towels in the cup.



The sprout continued to grow. Above the cotyledons (food storage structures which feed the embryo), the first true leaves emerged. Through the process of photosynthesis, the bean will begin to make its own "food." Energy from the sun, and carbon dioxide from the air are absorbed through the leaves and combined with water to make sugars and other carbohydrates. Now the plant can grow on its own!

*Try out these ideas for even more fun:*

Will beans germinate in milk? How about in your refrigerator? What happens if your paper towels are dripping wet?



### Send your answers and ideas to:

Barbara Bray  
P.O. Box 1274  
Appleton, Wisconsin 54912-1274

*Additional Information:*

*Cynthia Overbeck. How Seeds Travel. Lerner Publications Company: Minneapolis. 1982.*