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for the natural
landscaping
movement

Wild Ones[®]

NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

JOURNAL

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Celebrating 25 years
restoring native plants
and natural landscapes.



a conver- sation with sara stein

Article and interview by Cindy Crosby

Through her books, Sara Stein has taken us along
on her journeys of self-education and discovery.
In this conversation we find out a bit more.

Roses and lawn, vegetables and flower-
beds. They comprised my gardening palette
until six years ago when I moved to suburban
Chicago and a friend gave me Sara Stein's
*Noah's Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own
Backyards*. Sara's wry, down-to-earth descrip-
tion of the transformation of her rural New
York acreage from traditional to a more native
landscape, brimming with biodiversity, cap-
tured my imagination. Six years later, inspired
by her book, my backyard likewise has
morphed to include a small pond, a tallgrass
prairie plot, and a wildlife-friendly tree.

Others across the country were also reading
Noah's Garden and rethinking their approach
to landscaping. Sara writes, "*Noah's Garden*
became the story of what has gone wrong with
our increasingly inanimate land." She jump-
started the native landscaping movement of
the 1990s by giving voice to what was being
lost in back yards across America.

Sara introduced me to Wild Ones through
her book, *Planting Noah's Garden: Further
Adventures in Backyard Ecology*. My local Wild
Ones chapter helped me learn what it meant
to have a native landscape in an urban sub-
division, offered an annual "Seed Swap" to
help me get started, and modeled what I could
aspire to by opening their yards for display
and discussion.

As a charter honorary director for Wild
Ones, Sara lent her well-known persona to the
fledgling organization at a crucial time in its
formation. Her introduction to Wild Ones

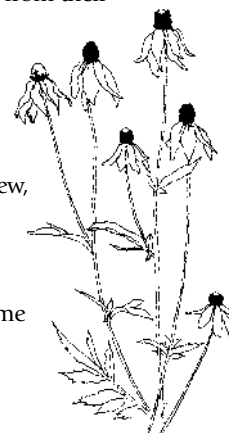
came in 1995 when she was the keynote
speaker at a tribute dinner for now honorary
director Lorrie Otto in Milwaukee. "She was a
'Wild One' without knowing she was a 'Wild
One,'" remembers Lorrie. "She has such a
burning creativity. I love her!"

Though Sara has penned many books,
including *My Weeds: A Gardener's Botany*,
*Noah's Children: Restoring the Ecology of
Childhood*, and *The Evolution Book*, *Noah's
Garden* may be her ultimate literary achieve-
ment. "I loved *Noah's Garden* because it was
written from the standpoint of a novice who
had a lot to learn, and we all delight in the
learning process," reflects Milwaukee board
member Mandy Ploch. "It seemed written just
for the Wild Ones – even if she didn't know
about us then."

Despite an ongoing battle with lung cancer,
Sara and her husband Marty continue pro-
moting native landscaping from their
house in Pound Ridge,
New York, and their home
in the small island
community of
Vinalhaven, Maine.

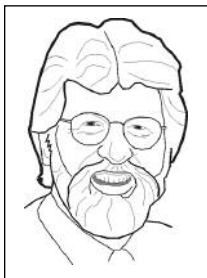
In the following interview,
on page 4, Sara shares
some of her gardening
philosophy, a few tips for
native landscapers, and some
encouragement for the
Wild Ones organization.

Interview on page 10.



Notes from the President...

While Celebrating Our 25th Anniversary, Wild Ones Must Continue Our National Efforts to Advocate Change in Landscaping Practices



This year marks the 25th anniversary of Wild Ones. Over those years, Wild Ones has grown from a local garden club interested in native plants, gardens, and yards, to an organization advocating and educating about the value of native plants in our landscapes. A key element of who we are is the ability to take personal responsibility for changing our approach to landscaping and teaching others to do the same. Lorrie Otto played an instrumental role in the late '60s and early '70s, through advocacy, in obtaining the federal ban of DDT. Today Wild Ones looks to her example by advocating a change in our landscaping in order to provide a healthier environment for our children.

The growth of Wild Ones has closely paralleled the emergence of the environmental movement. Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* caused people to examine what

they were doing to our planet and to exhort change. Today the sustainable design and green movements continue the passion initiated by those early pioneers. Wild Ones is a player in those movements and, as such, we must continue our national efforts to advocate change in our landscaping practices.

Recently I sent a letter to our membership discussing the financial plight we find ourselves in and asking for support. The response has been outstanding. In addition to the financial support provided, I have received many comments and suggestions about what National should and should not be doing.

The Executive Committee will be proposing to the Board of Directors a 2004 budget based on our current membership average rather than on anticipated growth. As a result, some significant cuts will be necessary to provide a balanced budget.

There are three major expenses to be considered when looking to reduce the budget: the national operating budget, the

Journal, and chapter support. All three expenses were carefully considered at the first quarterly meeting of the year, January 31, and cuts were made in all three areas.

Regardless of the outcome, it is important to remember Lorrie's lesson in advocacy and the purpose of our organization in this anniversary year. First, let us individually take responsibility for our interaction with the environment. Second, we need to reach out and encourage others to take responsibility for their actions. Wild Ones does this at the local level through our membership and chapters, and at the national level through the *Journal*, the web site and our outreach programs.

Wild Ones can only succeed through the efforts of each of our members. Thank you for that effort over the last 25 years, and for making us who we are today!

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.

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Writers & Artists

Cindy Crosby writes about the tall-grass prairies of Illinois in *By Willoway Brook: Exploring the Landscape of Prayer* (Paracletes Press, 2003), and is a member of the DuPage Wild Ones Chapter. Her interview with Sara Stein starts on page 1.

Janice Cook is an urban naturalist and a member of the North Park Village Nature Center (IL) Wild Ones Chapter. Her spring ephemerals article is on page 4.

Elizabeth Schwartz, J.D., teaches "Gardening with California's Native Plants" in the Gardening and Horticulture Program at the UCLA Extension in Los Angeles, California. She is a Wild Ones partner-at-large from Southern California. Her chaparral article is on page 6.

Barbara Bray is a member of the Oakland (MI) Wild Ones Chapter. Her Next Generation article on coloring springtime eggs is on page 8.

Ken Solis is a member of the Milwaukee-SW/Wehr (WI) Wild Ones Chapter, and Milwaukee County Park People Environmental Committee Chairperson. His tribute to Betty Czarapata begins on page 9.

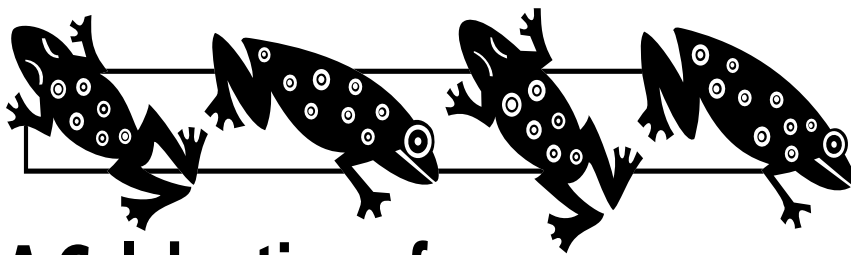
Sally Elmiger has a graduate degree in Landscape Architecture from the School of Natural Resources at the University of Michigan, and works as a community and environmental planner for Carlisle/Wortman Associates Inc., in Ann Arbor, Michigan. A member of the Ann Arbor (MI) Wild Ones Chapter, her article on corridors is on page 14.

Janet Allen is a Wild Ones Partner-at-Large living in Syracuse, New York. Her article on "cookie-cutter" capitol is on page 15.

The Sara Stein photo on page 1 comes courtesy of **Celeste Watts**, Detroit-Metro (MI) Wild Ones Chapter.

The chaparral photo on page 6 comes from www.blueplanetbiomes.org.

The Betty Czarapata photo on page 9, was sent by **Ann Mackenzie**, who worked for many years with Betty on her invasives projects in Milwaukee County.



A Celebration of Native Plants and Native Lands

*Please join us as we celebrate **Wild Ones 25th Anniversary** with the biggest, best, most fabulous native landscape conference ever! We are still in the planning stages (fabulous takes time), but here's a preview:*

PLANTS Learn how to grow pitcher plants that can swallow a horse(fly). Plants session possibilities include carnivorous plants, a gorgeous-gardens panel, ferns, trees and other green and growing lovelies.

CRITTERS Spectacular Critters talks will feature experts on topics from frogs to insects, birds to butterflies – and the gastronomic delights our landscapes provide them.

SCIENCE Yes, Science, too! Top scientists will illuminate the tough stuff. Taxonomy, landscape ecology, restoration ecology – we have it all.

HOW-TO Knock the socks off your neighbors with incredible How-To landscape design classes.

ART & HISTORY Art & History sessions will address nature photography, journal writing, as well as ecology and natural landscaping pioneers.

WHERE TO STAY Arrangements have been made to reserve a block of rooms for Wild Ones members at the AmericInn in Madison at 101 W. Broadway. Call (608) 222-8601 to make reservations. For those unfamiliar with Madison, the AmericInn is approximately five miles from the University of Wisconsin Memorial Union, where the Go Wild! 25th Anniversary Celebration will be held. However, the nightly rates closer to the Union will be higher, and no block reservations could be made.

SILENT AUCTION A Silent Auction on behalf of Wild Ones National will take place at the evening banquet on August 7, along with the introduction of winning photos in this year's **Photo Contest**. Wild Ones National will be sponsoring the banquet in celebration of our 25th year.

PRAIRIE CONFERENCE The North American Prairie Conference will start at the Memorial Union as we close our Celebration. For information: www.napc2004.org. August 8-12, 2004.

Watch the GoWild-Madison.org web site for more details of programs as plans are finalized. Come to the conference. *Have fun. Go Wild!*

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The Ephemeral Beauties of Spring

By Janice Cook

In Canada and the northeastern United States, spring is the time of the ephemerals.

Ephemeral, as in transitory, or apparently short-lived, is not a factual description of this group of plants. They come early, before the warm season grasses and forbs fill out, or before the tree canopy closes over. Within an eight- to 12-week period they complete their cycle from growth, to blossom, to seed. Then they disappear from the surface, to spend nine to 10 months underground. They tend to be small, compact and super-efficient at seeding and at food storage – they have to be to thrive on their lifestyle. Some favorite spring ephemerals are:

Skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*), is chosen not for its beauty, but for being the earliest sign of spring, as early as February. It is common in wet woods, marshes, and seeps. You may note the cadaverous odor, which attracts newly warmed pollinating insects, before you notice the maroon-splattered pear-shaped spathe. The flower is fairly low, 1 to 3 inches, and inconspicuous, with the large, bright green leaves opening fully after the flower.

Marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*) is a

plant to watch for early and often. How early – March through June – depends on where you live. The flowers are an eruption of bright, boisterous yellow, about half-dollar size. Though the plant is a diminutive mound, 12 to 24 inches high, they are quite conspicuous amid the browns of an overwintered marsh or fen. The flower that you see is really five to nine sepals, not petals; the true flower is actually the center of the apparent flower. The leaves are a large, glossy, rounded variation of a violet leaf. The stems are thick, hollow, and succulent.

For pink, I would pick spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*). It is a common woodland flower blooming from March through June in many areas, so you have a great chance of spotting this 6- to 8-inch beauty. They survive the mowing in old cemeteries and in old pastures. The five-petaled, pink-striped blooms group in a small open cluster above fleshy opposite willow type leaves. These plants that are considered spring ephemerals, like trout lilies, (*Erythronium* sp.), have developed mechanisms to store

sugars. They may grow bulbs, corms, bulblets, or rhizomes, during their short presence above ground. The plants then draw on this store in the many underground months and for the spring push. Trout lilies have single bell-like flowers, usually white or yellow, on a single stem, from a cluster of 8-inch leaves. As is the case with many other ephemerals, they spend their first few years of life developing their underground resources, taking as long as seven years to come to flower.

A more exuberant pink is wild geranium, (*Geranium maculatum*). The plants can grow 8 inches to 2 feet high, blooming variously from April to early July in rich, moist, woodland soil. Again, five-petaled flowers in open clusters, but this time an inch or more across. The stems and leaves form a bushy mound with 2- to 3-inch palmate leaves. They exhibit the typical elongated seed pod of cranesbill geraniums. ☘



Claytonia virginica

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CONVERSATIONS

Conversations is a new column designed to give readers a chance to discuss ideas with the Journal staff – something like a magazine-based chat room. We're interested in what you have to say about the Journal, or any other related topic. Join the conversation by e-mailing us at conversations@for-wild.org or send a letter to Conversations, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, Wisconsin 54912.

A write-up of a respected native plant conference listed this description of a workshop/lecture: "First, we'll identify several native trees, shrubs and grass-like species that vegetate New England's forested lowlands and other shaded areas, and New England's open meadows and other sunny locations. Secondly, we'll consider the *placement in the design* (italics added) so native plants can work in the landscape. Native plants are an attractive, and ecologically enhancing addition to any landscape and garden design."

I recognize that there are probably many cogent points to be considered regarding this approach, but something about it jangles my sensibilities. It seems a very short step to treating natives the way we treat and breed exotic ornamentals, losing the point of the plant community ethic, and the reason for planting and preserving natives in the first place – creating habitat.

– Janice Cook, Urban Naturalist

Write in and tell us what you think.

*When the hounds of spring are on winter's traces...
And frosts are slain and flowers begotten,
And in green underwood and cover
Blossom by blossom the spring begins.*

From *Atalanta in Calydon* (1865) Algernon Charles Swinburne

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From the Chaparral

By Elizabeth Schwartz, J.D.

The chaparral biome is found in a little bit of most of the continents – the west coast of the United States, the west coast of South America, the Cape Town area of South Africa, the western tip of Australia, and the coastal areas of the Mediterranean.

We native-plant gardeners love to learn from nature. So, here in California, the “chaparral” means more than cowboy country. To ecologists, it signifies a plant community – dense, knee-to-shoulder high, hard-leaved shrubs found on dry slopes and ridges throughout the state, with average annual rainfall of 14 to 25 inches. Summers are long, hot, and dry. Winters are cool and wet.

To native-plant gardeners, chaparral plants mean flowery, evergreen shrubs for the water-wise garden. The very qualities that certify them as inhabitants of a chaparral biome make these plants great for the garden. Hailing from habitats naturally wet in the winter but dry for six or more

months of hot weather, they don't need lots of extra water during summer. Their roots go deep in search of water.

Their hard leaves may be hairy, small, skinny, pointing vertically or they may be coated with wax, all attributes that reduce transpiration water loss. Many can survive mainly on natural rainfall once they are moderately mature (it may take them a couple of years to become established).

Even their names are enticing: manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* spp.), mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides*), chamise or greasewood (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*), and California lilac (*Ceanothus* spp.). California's chaparral includes about 900 species of plants.

In addition to remaining evergreen, chaparral species bear flowers, and sometimes berries, that beautify the garden at different seasons throughout the year. To name just a few: clusters of little urn-shaped manzanita flowers appear in November, providing welcome nectar for hummingbirds; huge, fabulous “fried-egg” flowers of matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*) make

their dramatic stand in June and July; toyon, or Christmas holly (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) (the inspiration for tinsel town's name – Hollywood), is decorated in red berries from fall into early winter; and in spring, there's Ceanothus, flannel bush (*Fremontodendron* spp.), woolly bluecurls (*Trichostema lanatum*), and so much more.

In nature, chaparral shrubs thrive in lean, poor soil. So there's no need to fertilize. Plant them November through February, but not in spring and summer. With rainfall or winter irrigation, and cool weather, their roots adjust and grow.

You should water them more generously in winter if rain is sparse, and irrigate only sparingly in summer when they naturally go through a rest period. Surprised? For those prone to watering heavily in summer, it's a shift in thinking (and a time-and-water saver too).

The name “chaparral” originated from the Spanish word for scrub oak: “chaparro.” “Chaps,” the word for leg protectors worn by cowboys traveling through the dense shrubbery, followed. And by the way, should



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you want an oak but not have room for a big tree, try a scrub oak. It's very drought-tolerant, makes acorns, and provides shelter to many forms of wildlife.

Annuals grow abundantly in chaparral too, as wildflower enthusiasts know. Seeds germinate with the winter rain. The plants grow when it's cool, flower in spring, set seed, and then die. It's a clever way to survive the drought – all that's left to endure the long hot summer is seed in the ground, waiting for the next year's rain. In the garden, sow seeds in fall to catch the coming rains.

It's illegal to take plants and seeds from the wild without proper permits or consents, but hundreds of these garden wonders are available at botanic garden sales, native-plant nurseries, and, increasingly, even at local retail nurseries.

Ah, the chaparral. ☺

To dig deeper:

<http://www.cnplx.info/nplx/nplx?page=aboutProject>

<http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/chaparral.htm>

Web Sites: Ours and Others

Did you know that you can obtain your personal membership information from the Wild Ones web site? If you want to check on your membership expiration date, or the correctness of your mailing address, you can do so by going to the secure pages of the Wild Ones web site and looking at this information. To do this, you must first register as a user of the Wild Ones secure pages. Here's how:

Go to "**Member Log-In**" (in the upper right-hand corner of the Wild Ones home page – www.for-wild.org). After registering, you and only you will have access to your personal Wild Ones information. If your membership is within 30 days of its expiration date, you will be informed. There's also a menu where members can see who their chapter officers are.

There are several levels of access to these secure pages of the web site. For example, all chapter officers can access a level which contains the chapter guidebook. This section contains the electronic files from the guidebook (as many as we've gotten onto the web site so far). The chapter board member who is responsible for membership requires still another level of access, and those responsible for the chapter web pages have still another.

Since our original fund drive to fast-forward our communications campaign, Peter Chen, our "volunteer" Wild Ones webmaster, has made a lot of progress on our web site. We have recently transferred to a new Internet provider, because we were running out of space with the old one. Along with gaining space, we'll be able to automatically update much of the information that heretofore was uploaded manually – and we'll be able to develop a working national chat room-type function for all those questions we get.


By the way, if you have some ideas about this chat room-type function, or if you'd like to try your hand at helping to update various pages that appear on the Wild Ones web site, please call the national office, toll-free, at (877) 394-9453. Volunteers offering assistance are always welcome. It helps our paid Wild Ones staff become more cost-effective. ☺



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By Barbara Bray



The joy of growing native plants is not only reveling in their blooming beauty, but also anticipating the next year's growth, even while the snow is lying deep around the browns and grays of last year's stems. As the days brighten and the snow melts away into tiny rivulets across my garden, I see signs of spring. A small green leaf growing stronger, grasses poking up from the wet soil, and birds chattering away in my back yard as if to say everything is coming alive again.

For thousands of years, springtime celebrations have been part of people's lives, and perhaps the most treasured symbol of springtime is the egg. The idea of coloring eggs is believed to date back more than 2,000 years. In early times, people probably gathered wild bird eggs to exchange with others to celebrate the return of spring. As chickens became domesticated, people began to color the white eggs with plant-based dyes to resemble the colorful eggs of wild birds.

Although many people today use store-bought, artificial dyes to color eggs, beautiful colors can be obtained from natural dyes. When using natural dyes, the eggs are cooked and dyed at the same time. Start with a single layer of eggs in a pan and add enough cold water to cover. Add about two teaspoons of vinegar and then the plant material. The amount of plant material needed depends upon how many eggs you are using. Bring the water to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes. Check the eggs. If the color is dark enough, remove the eggs from the dye and rinse in cold water until they are cool to the touch. Store the eggs in the refrigerator. If you want a darker shade, remove eggs from the dye. Cool the liquid and the eggs. Then place eggs back into the dye and let them sit in the refrigerator overnight. Remove the eggs from the liquid and let them dry. Place your eggs on a piece of crumpled aluminum foil to avoid spots.

Unless the eggshells are cracked before or during cooking, neither the color nor the

taste of the dyes will affect the peeled egg. Since the plant material used to dye the eggs is edible, any bits of color that seep into the egg will also be edible.

Natural Dyes

- For a blue color, red cabbage leaves can be used. About 1/4 of a head of chopped cabbage will color four eggs. Boil the eggs with the cabbage for about 15 minutes and let them soak for six hours. One cup of either blueberries or blackberries can also be used.
- For brown, use red beet skins. Roast the beets at 350 degrees for about one hour or until soft. Peel the skins off, leaving about 1/8 inch of the beet. Put the skins into the pot and boil for 15 minutes with the eggs. Then let them soak overnight. Also try coffee grounds and onion skins.
- Make a green dye with nettle or spinach leaves. Shred the leaves and add them to the pot of water with the eggs.

- For a purple color, use elderberries. Wild grapes, marjoram flower buds, and red or pink sorrel will also yield purple.
- For red, boil your eggs in beet juice or cranberry juice. Also try red onion skins.
- For orange, the skins of two yellow onions will color four eggs. Yellow can be made by removing the eggs a few minutes early. Caraway seed, dandelion heads, turmeric, or 1/4 teaspoon of saffron can also be used to yield yellow.

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the legacy of Betty Czarapata

By Ken Solis

If you have ever seen someone's eyes fill with fire or dismay when they hear a name like "knapweed," "buckthorn," or "teasel," it might very well be because of a high school teacher with no formal background in botany or environmental science. The one who made us aware of them through her diligent and inspired work was Betty Czarapata.

She first became aware of invasive weeds in the early 1990s when a friend told her about a nasty weed called garlic mustard. Once she knew what garlic mustard looked like, and saw how it was overrunning not only wildflowers but entire landscapes she had known as a child growing up in rural Wisconsin, she became alarmed and then took action – botanical background or not.

Tragically, invasive weeds lost a determined adversary, and wildflowers lost a dedicated friend on December 27, 2003,

when Betty lost her two-plus-year battle, against ovarian cancer.


Betty's legacy will live on, in piles of pulled invasive weeds lying on the ground and patches of wildflowers breaking through the snow each spring. In the past 10 years or so, Betty's list of accomplishments in preserving our natural areas is impressive. Some of her key works include acting as Weed-Out's (a volunteer invasive weed control effort in Milwaukee County) first director, writing a school curriculum on invasive weeds, acting as the educational session coordinator for a Plants Out of Place conference, giving innumerable slide presentations at schools, conferences, and service organization meetings, and acting as the Weed-Out volunteer coordinator in Whitnall Park – one of Milwaukee County's largest and best known parks.

Consistent with Betty's spirit, she under-



took Whitnall park even though it was challenging to coordinate, and even though she was a Waukesha county resident who lived next to Muskego Park – which also needed weeding. Whitnall park is seriously overrun by garlic mustard, dame's rocket, and buckthorn, with the exception of a couple of locations where Betty helped to coordinate volunteers. It is my hope that we can coax the park system to name one of the key forest sections after her and place a bronze plaque there. That forest section has a great population of green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*) – a less common relative of jack-in-the pulpit.

Ironically, Betty's legacy of fighting invasive weeds will likely *Continued on page 13*



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a conversation with sara stein

With Cindy Crosby

In this conversation (see introduction on page 1), Sara Stein shares with Journal readers some of her gardening philosophy, a few tips for native landscapers, and some encouragement for the Wild Ones organization.

Wild Ones: You write in *Noah's Garden* that you came into gardening "backward, from the wild verges instead of through the garden gate."

Sara Stein: I started out as a traditional gardener, knowing nothing about gardening. My husband and I were young and vigorous, and we transformed our land from weedy to lovely lawns and bedding. We very quickly noticed that we lost the birds, butterflies, and wildlife we used to have when our yard was a mess! So, we started transforming our now-neat, cultivated place back to the wild.

WO: By "wild," do you mean you let it go back to how it was when you originally purchased it?

Sara: No. When we first bought the place, it had lots of invasive aliens, such as bittersweet and multiflora roses. It was not a *nice* native place; actually, it was not native at all. It was overgrown and weedy. Transforming it was quite a job.

WO: What do your neighbors think of the change?

Sara: Well, they haven't complained, but they haven't taken to it, either. They haven't been influenced by my yard. Every year when we burn, we invite our neighbors over and nobody comes. I think it is because my five or six acres are back from the road, and most of my neighbors have large acreages. People don't know each other well here.

WO: Would it be different on a smaller lot?

Sara: On a small property, next to a road, your neighbors can see your flowers and butterflies, and you can have a lot more influence. I have a little place in Maine, on a dead end street, on a saltwater tidal inlet. The whole town can see it from across the water, and many people walk down the little road for the view. So it's more influential.

WO: What kind of landscaping are you attempting there?

Sara: They've put in nine ugly pump stations smack on the road. Everyone was upset when they went up. I'm doing the landscaping for them – all native plants and grasses.

WO: What's happening on your own property these days?

Sara: Neglect. We burn. Other than that, we try to keep track of invasives like buckthorn and bittersweet. We monitor them. We also keep the paths cleaned up through the wetland, and take down dead branches and pile them up. Someone comes in and helps us now. We've been here 25 years, long enough to watch the landscape develop. It changes on its own. You plan the planting, and the plants do what they want.

WO: It's been a little more than a decade since you wrote *Noah's Garden*. What changes have you seen in attitudes toward native landscaping?

Sara: Most of the changes are incremental. There are more articles about it, more interest in native landscaping, and more native plants for sale in nurseries. When I speak, the audiences are larger and more varied.

WO: Such as?

Sara: I did a keynote talk, "Home Ground Ecology 101," for several thousand members of the Ecological Society of America. Ecologists are usually interested in what is already in the landscape, rather than thinking in terms of what could be planted. The idea of *making* an ecosystem is new to them.

WO: Some of the attention you have received has been negative. Wasn't your criticism, in *Noah's Garden*, of writer Michael Pollan's planting of a Norway maple followed by him criticizing your gardening philosophy and the "natural garden movement" in the *New York Times*?

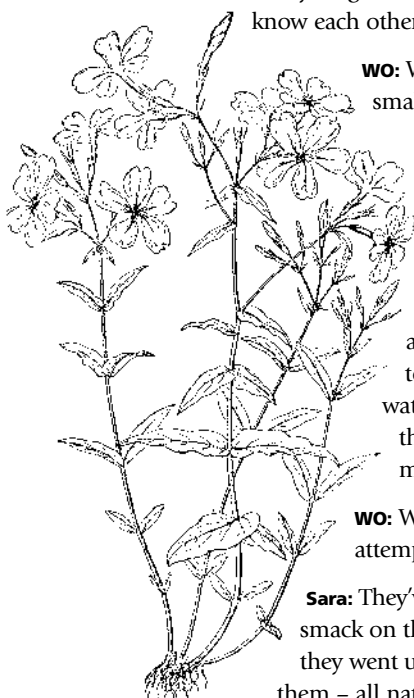
Sara: (*laughs*) He called me a "Plant Fascist." Now my husband introduces me as "The Plant Fascist."

WO: What are people's attitudes toward native landscaping in the East?

Sara: There is far less interest here than in the Midwest. There's still so much woodland here, still so much uncrowded space, that people think it's OK the way it is. And in the new developments no one does any gardening at all, not even flower beds. Maybe one ornamental oval. They have a landscape service. They aren't interested in nature, and their children don't play in the yards. There is a general anxiety among parents about things that happen outdoors – they worry about kidnappers or ticks. And, if they only have a lawn, there's really no place for them to play.

WO: If you were to offer one bit of wisdom to those attempting native landscaping for the first time, what would you say?

Sara: Very simple. Everyone has an ugly, over-trimmed hedge or foundation planting. Substitute it with something fruitful, and you'll have birds right away. For example, my niece, who has children, put in a raspberry hedgerow. Her kids think this is the most wild and fantastic thing – to pick fruit and eat it! Or you can plant a small-fruited crab apple tree. It will attract a whole flock of robins, or maybe some bluebirds. Do anything that gives you a quick, cheap return on your money.





You can do one good deed for your yard and make a dramatic difference.
Sara Stein

WO: What else?

Sara: Put in a little water spot. In Maine, I made a quarry pool. The frogs came the minute the water was turned on. Even in just a little pool, children will see things right away – frogs, dragonflies.

WO: Those are simple ideas.

Sara: You can't ask people to do a whole yard. Most of them don't have enough labor or money. But you can do one good deed for your yard, and make a dramatic difference.

WO: This makes native landscaping seem approachable.

Sara: If you ask people to go native all at once – to change everything – it's terribly difficult for them. But you can ask them to think about planting a tree, and to choose that tree wisely. Maybe plant an oak tree with acorns. The money they spend is the same.

WO: Do you think native landscape aficionados can become too demanding?

Sara: The idea can become too "precious," too "cultish." Native landscaping should be easy. Everyone can be encouraged to do one little thing.

WO: What is the biggest challenge facing our country in the area of biodiversity?

Sara: There aren't enough resources, and we have too many people. And here I am with four kids and six grandkids! But there are too many people. There's no easy solution to that.

WO: Are there things the Wild Ones can do as an organization to better promote native landscaping?

Sara: The more visible your projects, the more you will get people to come and see. Write about biodiversity. When ornamental grasses became popular in gardening, the fad began with magazine articles. Everyone had ornamental grasses for sale. People look at gardening magazines. Go for every kind of publicity you can get.

WO: What encouragement would you offer the Wild Ones?

Sara: Of any group around, you have done the most serious work. Keep at it, even though it's an uphill job.

Wild Ones thanks Sara for her inspiration, which continues to push us "uphill"! 🌱

For a listing of Sara Steins's books:

<http://www.fetchbook.info/search.do?search=SARA+BONNETT+STEIN&searchBy=Keyword&Submit=Search>



Wild Ones

25th Anniversary Commemorative Historical Booklet



Production on the 25th Anniversary Commemorative Wild Ones Historical Booklet is moving forward, and the booklet will be ready for the printer in the near future. But there's still time for you to be involved. We're looking for pictures, stories, anecdotes, and fun memories of Wild Ones days gone by – and we're hoping you can help.

The 32-page commemorative booklet will detail the history and growth – and the special challenges (and special people) who have been such an important part of Wild Ones.

So if you have some interesting old photos of Wild Ones people and events, or if you have a story to tell, please let us know. For more information on this important project, to learn more about endorsements – or to reserve your copy of the booklet, contact Wild Ones National at 25thbook@for-wild.org or toll-free at (877) 394-9453.

Common Roadside Wildflowers

A field guide to native forbs and grasses.

published by the Federal Highway Administration.

This field guide highlights 100 native forbs/grasses commonly found on highway rights-of-way and other natural areas across Eastern America. They are not known to be invasive nor found to be on noxious weed lists. These native plants are part of America's natural heritage. In a store, this laminated field guide would cost at least \$8.95. But from Wild Ones it is only \$5 – including shipping and handling. First Class mail. Please send a check to Wild Ones Store, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, WI 54912. Hurry! Quantities are limited.



The Grapevine

By Maryann Whitman

Community Outreach

In this issue we are again incorporating a yellow page listing for our business members. It's our opportunity to showcase their support of our efforts in promoting the use of native plant species in natural landscaping. If you know of a business in your area that actively promotes the use of native landscaping, tell them about Wild Ones and encourage them to join at the business level. Part of our mission is to develop a more meaningful relationship with each of our communities. One way to do this is to expand our business memberships. So go out there and talk to the community about your goals on native landscaping. If you need a brochure to steady your nerves, give the national office a call, toll-free at (877) 394-9453, and one or more will be sent your way. Just remember, you are not asking for something for yourself, you are petitioning on behalf of a cause you believe in. Think of it as doing a good deed. That usually helps calm my nerves.

Sharing in the Trenches

Fox Valley Area Chapter (FVAC) recently received a big thank you from the Imago Earth Center in Cincinnati. Dan Elbert, of the nature center, was seeking assistance with establishing plant rescue procedures for the center's volunteers. After surfing around on the Internet for a bit, he came across FVAC's pages on the national web site and subsequently contacted their dig coordinator, Donna VanBuecken. For more information on Wild Ones plant rescue procedures go to http://for-wild.org/chapters/foxvalley/resc_ovw.html.

Wild Ones Enters the Credit Card Age

Did you know that Wild Ones is now accepting credit card payments? You can purchase items from the Wild Store or renew your membership via the Internet and your handy little credit card. It couldn't get much easier.

Nominate Yourself to the National Board

Have you ever given any thought to participating in the business of running national Wild Ones? Well here's your chance. Wild Ones is seeking nominations for board members. We also need members for national committees, such as finance and membership development. Do you have any experience writing a grant request? Would you like some?

The national board meets quarterly, usually in a city that has a Wild Ones chapter. If gallivanting around the country while paying your own way doesn't appeal to you, keep in mind that all meetings (board and committee) are also accessible via toll-free conference calls. So you'll have the option of participating from the comfort of your own home. Contact the national office toll free at (877) 394-9453 for more information about volunteering your time for Wild Ones.

Knapweed Nightmare

Knapweed is a problem throughout western rangeland, and infests some 5 million acres in Montana alone. Dave Burch, the state's weed coordinator, estimates spotted knapweed costs the state's economy \$42 million a year. Early detection of the weed makes eradication easier. The problem is that humans just are not very good at spotting the young growth of spreading knapweed.

But dogs and other animals that rely heavily on their sense of smell for survival have the advantage of being macrosmatic. Given enough parts per million, they can home in on a specific set of odor molecules, within an admixture of multiple odors, and track those particular odor molecules.

Desperate humans are considering training dogs to uncover young stands of knapweed. Nightmare, a dog that is half wolf, has been trained to follow the scent of knapweed. Trials are scheduled to begin this spring. Researchers say Knapweed Nightmare will be unleashed on 10-acre range

land parcels with known areas of spotted knapweed. The dog will wear a Global Positioning System flash card to track her movements, allowing researchers to map areas where she might stop to dig at a scent.

If the project proves successful, researchers and Montana land managers can see dogs one day hunting down the weeds on rangeland, joining anti-weed methods that include herbicide, goats, and insects. You can hear the story at: <http://www.npr.org/rundowns/segment.php?wfid=1555312>.

The Biodiversity Project

If your area is working on a community-based solution to the biodiversity crisis in this country, the Biodiversity Project would like to hear about it. Let them know what your community is doing, how they're doing it, and how other communities might do the same. www.biodiversityproject.org/greatcommunitynominationform.htm.

2004 Photo Contest

Wild Ones National will again sponsor a photo contest in conjunction with the Annual Meeting on August 7th. Carol Andrews of the Arrowhead (MN) Chapter will be this year's chair. For further information, and the guidelines, go to the Wild Ones website at www.for-wild.org or e-mail Carol at Photo2004@for-wild.org. You can also call the national office toll-free at (877) 394-9453.

Get a Wildflower Video for "Free"

Effective March 1, 2004, when you join or renew your Wild Ones membership at the \$50 level or higher, you will receive, at no extra charge, the highly acclaimed video, *Wild About Wildflowers: How to Choose, Plant, Grow, and Enjoy Native American Wildflowers and Grasses in Your Own Yard*. This item sells in the Wild Ones Store for \$30, but here's your chance to get it almost for "free." 🐾



The Legacy of Betty Czarapata – Continued

only increase after her departure. In 1999 Betty self-published and promoted an educational manual on Wisconsin's major invasive weeds. That manual is now out of print, and will be supplanted by the book, *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest*, which will be released by the University of Wisconsin Press later this year (see box at right). Many well known invasive experts have also made contributions to this book, including Randy Hoffman and Kelly Kearns of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Dave Egan, the editor of *Restoration Ecology Journal*. But in the end, it remains Betty's project. It

just goes to show you what a seemingly quiet and unassuming person, with no formal background in the environmental sciences, can accomplish with passion and dedication.

Betty leaves behind a loving and supportive husband, son, daughter, and two new grandchildren. As much as she will be missed working in nature's parks and preserves, she will be missed as a wife, mother, and grandmother even more. As her husband Lee wrote, "She moved on to heaven's gardens, prairies, and woodlands." 🌱

Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest: An Illustrated Guide to Their Identification and Control. By Elizabeth J. Czarapata

Forthcoming from the University of Wisconsin Press in Fall 2004

Contains over 250 color photos covering a total of 140 invasive species to help identify harmful plants early. The book, with photos and text by Elizabeth J. Czarapata, describes and shows seasonal changes in plant characteristics; discusses ecological, economic, and aesthetic impacts of invasive plants; offers manual, mechanical, biological, and chemical control techniques for invasive plants; and contains herbicide information.

The publication of this book is the culmination of a group effort supporting Betty. If you'd like to be part of this, please contact: Andrea Christofferson • The University of Wisconsin Press • 1930 Monroe Street, 3rd Floor • Madison Wisconsin 53711-2059 • (608) 263-0814 Fax (608) 263-1132 • aschrist@wisc.edu www.wisc.edu/wisconsinpress

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SILENT AUCTION

As part of this year's 25th Anniversary Celebration, Wild Ones will offer a silent auction of items related to native landscaping. Donations are being sought from all Wild Ones supporters including members, liaison associations, advertisers, native landscaping vendors, and chapters.

If you'd like to be part of this very excellent fundraiser, please e-mail silentauction@for-wild.org or contact the national office toll free at (877) 394-9453.

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Corridors for a Healthier Environment

By Sally Elmiger

This is the first article in a series that discusses how corridors that connect natural areas can help sustain our environment, native plants, and local wildlife – and how Wild Ones can start creating them in their own communities.

“The thigh bone’s connected to the backbone...the backbone’s connected to the neck bone...the neck bone’s connected to the head bone...” *An African-American spiritual.*

Corny maybe, but when you stop to think about it, everything that lives and moves on this Earth is connected in some way or another to everything else. As most gardeners know, we have a physical, psychological, and often emotional connection to our plants; the plants have a physical connection to the soil; the soil is home to myriad microorganisms; and the microorganisms live on the detritus from the plants that live in the soil that grow (at least in our gardens) with TLC from the gardener. The connections are often not linear, but a traditional garden would not grow and look like it does without all of these connections.

The natural world is also governed through connections. Ecosystems, such as forests or wetlands, are defined by the interactions (or connections) of the living organisms (plants and animals) with their non-living physical environment of atmosphere and soil. Ultimately, the plants and animals work on the non-living things for so long that they change the non-living things. In the same vein, as the non-living elements change, the plants and animals adapt to better take advantage of their changing environment. Other examples of ecosystems are grassland communities like prairies, surface water bodies like lakes and ponds, and river or stream systems.

Broken Connections

Over the past 50 years, developing communities have not, in general, taken into consideration the connections that exist between different ecosystems across the landscape. The building of homes and parking lots changes the way water runs over the land, often disconnecting wetlands from the uplands that provide storm water runoff – the life support of wetlands. Similarly, woodlands are cut apart by the clearing of large areas of trees for development. This can leave “patches” of plant and animal habitats across our community, a trend often referred to as “fragmentation.”

Need for Multiple Ecosystems

Like our native plants, wildlife has evolved with the environment to create a co-dependent system – an ecosystem. If the wildlife doesn’t get what it needs from its immediate surroundings, it has to look for it elsewhere. Many species of wildlife require more than one ecosystem type to survive. For example, frogs need water to reproduce, but they live much of the year in upland areas. Other animals are forced out of their birthplace to ensure that there are enough resources for the parents. However, human changes to the landscape can make this transition more difficult. It may force a species through areas that expose it to predators and other dangers such as roads, areas where there is no food or water – or the creatures may be lost and unable to find another suitable area in which to live. Fragmented landscapes also make it more difficult for plants to reproduce. The more difficult it is for pollinators to reach a certain plant species, the lower the plant’s chances of thriving. The smaller the number of plants available for interbreeding, the more limited the genetic diversity and ultimate survivability of a stand.

Effects of Fragmentation

If the spaces between the patches or fragments of remaining ecosystem are too large or dangerous to cross, some species may disappear from that patch because they can’t reproduce, or there isn’t enough food or space to sustain future generations. And then that species’ various impacts on the patch are lost and the biodiversity of the patch and its functionality are diminished.

Habitat Corridors

Habitat corridors solve many of these problems by providing links from one ecosystem to another, providing a relatively safe travel route for movement. This essentially expands the habitat to any areas that the patch is connected to. One definition of corridors is, “Avenues along which wide-ranging animals can travel, plants can propagate, genetic interchange can occur, populations can move in response to environmental changes and natural disasters, and threatened species can be replenished from other areas.”



BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY – BIODIVERSITY

The variety of life forms that inhabit a given area. Biodiversity involves habitat diversity, plant and animal species diversity within the various habitats, and the genetic diversity of the individual species.

ECOSYSTEM A term coined by the British ecologist A. G. Tansley to refer to a community of interdependent organisms and the physical environment they inhabit. Although there is no accepted ecosystem hierarchy, the ecosystem concept can be applied to a variety of scales, from the microscopic, to the whole Earth. The individual organisms interact with each other and with their environment in a series of relationships made possible by the flow of matter and energy within and through the system. The relationships are dynamic and routinely respond to change without altering the basic characteristics of the ecosystem. This remains true unless a major environmental disruption (like invasion by alien species, and human interference) takes place.

The Environmental Dictionary. David Kemp. Routledge Press. London. 1998.

Corridors can be composed of many things – from riverbanks to old railroad beds. They can be used just for natural area preservation, or as a conduit for people, providing connections from town to town, and possibly across regions and states.

What’s Next

This article sets the stage for the importance of corridors, and how our environment and the survival of the native plants we cherish can be enhanced and sustained by protecting and creating connections between natural areas. The next article will concentrate on the different types of corridors that can serve nature and people, while the third article will talk about communities that have discovered the benefits of planning for, and creating corridors within their boundaries, and beyond. 🌱

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American Wild Lands web site: www.wildlands.org.

Cookie-Cutter Capitols

By Sally Elmiger

With most capitol buildings looking pretty much alike from one state to another, does it necessarily follow that the landscaping around the buildings has to be same in every state? Not necessarily, but lots of obstacles stand in the way of change.



Ever since I read *The Landscaping Revolution* by Andrew and Sally Wasowski,

I've been intrigued by the idea of converting what the Wasowskis call "Cookie-Cutter Capitols" into celebrations of each state's native plant communities.

"Cookie-Cutter Capitols" are capitol buildings whose landscaping is indistinguishable from state to state – largely lawn-dominated and sprinkled with plants originating on other continents. After thinking about this conformity for a few years, I finally resolved to take action.

Meeting Mr. M

With the help of my state senator's office, I made an appointment with Mr. M, the person responsible for landscaping the capitol and surrounding buildings. I was pleasantly surprised by his willingness to speak with me and with his generosity in taking time to tour the grounds. I found that he is open minded about the idea but that he also faces some obstacles.

Encountering the Obstacles

Two obstacles are particularly daunting. The most significant is that there has been an ongoing project to restore the front-side landscaping to its original design. Frankly, it's difficult to see how that can be overcome.

The second obstacle is equally formidable. The landscaping behind the capitol is

primarily lawn crisscrossed by sidewalks. At first this seems to be an obvious opportunity for natural landscaping. However, Mr. M pointed out that the lawn is a favorite place for people to congregate. For this use, lawn may indeed be the most appropriate choice, and changing it might elicit a public outcry.

Cookie-Cutter Capitols are capitol buildings whose landscaping is indistinguishable from state to state – largely lawn-dominated and sprinkled with plants originating on other continents. After thinking about this for a few years, I finally resolved to take action.

Public Expectations Are Important

In fact, public expectation is perhaps the biggest factor affecting landscaping choices for all the areas we toured. People expect to see neat, well maintained, and preferably ever-blooming planting beds. They want things to "look nice," and Mr. M must work within this reality. (This reinforces the importance of public education efforts by organizations such as Wild Ones!)

Gardening Challenges, Too

There are also some gardening challenges. For example, legacy plantings of many Norway maples have made it difficult to grow understory plantings of any kind.

In addition, the hardscaping limits the conditions in which native plants might live. Native plants that thrive in woodlands or meadows might not survive in the planting bed islands between concrete sidewalks, especially when they receive regular doses of salt in the winter.

an out-of-the-way area as a demonstration project. He is interested in learning about plants native to our state capital region and about suppliers. This is the kind of information we native plant enthusiasts can provide.

Although it's discouraging to confront so many obstacles to the use of natural landscaping in public areas, it's also heartening to know that there will be a small demonstration area as a beginning. Maybe demonstration projects such as these will ultimately be "the way the cookie crumbles!" 🍪

For more information:

The Landscaping Revolution: Garden with Mother Nature, Not Against Her, by Andrew Wasowski, with Sally Wasowski, McGraw-Hill/Contemporary Books, 2002.

A Source Book on Natural Landscaping for Public Officials, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. www.epa.gov/glnpo/greenacres/toolkit/

When Cities Grow Wild – Natural Landscaping from an Urban Planning Perspective, by John Ingram. www.for-wild.org/whenciti/whenciti.htm

The Challenges Less Visible

Liability issues also distort gardening practices. For example, people have sued because they've slipped on leaves; therefore, fall leaves cannot be left on planting beds since the wind may blow them onto the sidewalk.

Funding is another challenge. Mr. M must maintain the grounds with fewer workers and with less money. This limits what can be done. On the other hand, it may make the economic benefits of natural landscaping more appealing.

Mr. M Comes On Board

Despite these challenges, Mr. M is interested in the idea and is planning to use native plants in

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
Chapter ID numbers are listed after names.

Meet us online at www.for-wild.org



IDAHO

Palouse Chapter #65

Bill French (208) 883-3937
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
Third Thursday Jan. Feb., Mar., Sept., Oct.,
Nov., 7 p.m. Willowbrook Wildlife Center,
525 South Park Blvd. (at 22nd Street), Glen Ellyn.
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
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
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
First Wednesday of month, 7:30 p.m.,
McConnell Spring

Louisville Metrowild Chapter #26

Portia Brown (502) 454-4007
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
Allan Nations: (502) 456-3275

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor Chapter #3

Susan Bryan (734) 622-9997
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
execdirector@for-wild.org or (877) 394-9453.

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

Connie Manley (248) 538-0654
cmanfarm@mich.distance.net
Meeting dates and times vary. Please call for details.

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 Ritzhein (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) 730-9954
candrews@barr.com
Fourth Wednesday, 6 p.m., Hartley Nature Center
For details: www.d.umn.edu/~wildones.

Otter Tail Chapter #25

Karen Terry (218) 736-5520
terry714@prtel.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.

St. Croix Oak Savanna #71

Mary-Clare Holst (651) 351-7351
mcholst_7351@msn.com
Linda Decker
linda.b.decker@comcast.net

Twin Cities Chapter #56

Marty Rice (952) 927-6531
jcrmr@msn.com
Third Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
Nokomis Community Center,
2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy, Minneapolis.
Location may vary. See web site or contact above
for March-April meeting schedule.

MISSOURI

Mid-Missouri Chapter #49

Lesa Beamer (573) 882-6073
wildonesmo@yahoo.com
Second Saturday, 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 Capital District #69 (Seedling)

Melinda Perrin (708) 579-5695
BlueCloudM@aol.com

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
Chris McCollough: (513) 860-4959,
gordchris@fuse.net
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
Field trips: See web site or contact above.

Maumee Valley Chapter #66 (Seedling)

Jan Hunter (419) 878-7273
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. If you'd like to participate in the meeting by conference call, please contact the national office (toll-free) at (877) 394-9453 for instructions.

May 22 Hosted by Lake-to-Prairie (IL) Chapter. Board meeting from 8:30AM to noon, will be held in the "Yellow Farmhouse," which among other things serves as the office of Prairie Holdings Corp., the developer of Prairie Crossings residential development. Following lunch, a tour of the Prairie Crossings will be provided. For more information about this conservation community, go to www.prairiecrossing.com/pc/site.

August 7-8 Madison, Wisconsin. Go Wild! Celebrate the Wild Ones 25th Anniversary, hosted by Madison Wild Ones Chapter. Annual meeting of the Wild Ones National Board. Silent auction. See notice on page 3 for more information.

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

March 7-8, East Lansing, Michigan

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 www.rickdarke.com

Contact: Marilyn Case, (517) 630-8546 or mcase15300@aol.com; or visit WAM web site www.wildflowersmich.org

March 20, Muskegon, Michigan

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

June 3-5, Millersville, Pennsylvania

Millersville Native Plants in the Landscape Conference. www.millersvillenativeplants.org/

June 19-30, Madison, Wisconsin

Earth Partnership for Schools program offers teacher training in habitat restoration for kindergarten through grade 12. The program shows educators how to conduct a habitat restoration on their school property and to use the experience to develop a restoration-based curriculum that draws on all subjects, from science and math to language arts and social studies.

For more information, contact Libby McCann Earth Partnership for Schools Program Manager, University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum, 1207 Seminole Hwy., Madison, Wisconsin 53711 or call (608) 262-5367; epmccann@wisc.edu wiscinfo.doit.wisc.edu/arboretum/earth_partnership_index.htm

August 8-12, Madison, Wisconsin

19th North American Prairie Conference. www.napc2004.org



The Meeting Place (continued from previous page)

PENNSYLVANIA

NE Pennsylvania Chapter #70 (Seedling)

Nathaniel Whitmore plants@plantsavers.org

Susquehanna Valley Chapter #68

Angela Eichelberger (717) 793-8440
wild_ones@earthlink.net
Spoutwood Farm, 4255 Pierceville Rd.,
Glenn Rock, PA

SOUTH CAROLINA

Foothills Chapter #58

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

WISCONSIN

Central Wisconsin Chapter #50

Dan Dieterich (715) 346-2849
dan.dieterich@uwsp.edu
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
Second Thursday in April, 7:30 p.m.
LaCrosse Main Branch Public Library

Door County Chapter #59

Judy Reninger (920) 839-1182
jreninger@dcwis.com
Time & location vary; 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

Karen Syverson (920) 987-5587
ksyve@core.com
Sharon Duerkop (920) 734-1419,
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
Usually third Wednesday. Most meetings at Green
Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Rd., except in
summer.

Lake Woods Chapter #72 (Seedling)

Jeanne Munz (920) 793-4452
flower_power@wildmail.com
Woodland Dunes Nature Center,
Hwy 310 just west of Two Rivers

Madison Chapter #13

Sue Ellingson (608) 259-1824
SuEllingson@sbcglobal.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

Root River Area Chapter #43

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

Wisconsin Northwoods Chapter #63

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



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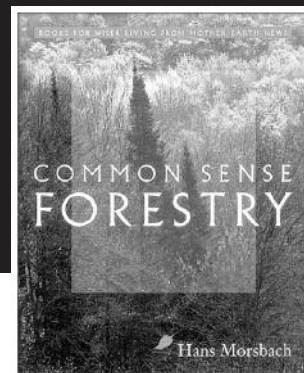
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Get Big Discounts When You Show Your Wild Ones Membership Card

Those of you who have sent in membership dues in the past few months know that Wild Ones now has a membership card. The Fox Valley Area Chapter has already come up with a way to make good use of this card. They plan to contact native plant vendors and ask if they'd be interested in participating in a member discount program, and if so at what percentage and on what items (e.g., seeds, plants, consultation, installation, etc.). With a discount agreement reached, all members need to do is flash their card to take advantage of it. If your chapter would like to contact FVAC for more information on their plans, contact Sharon Duerkop, Chapter Co-President, at sduerk@execpc.com.

At this point FVAC has established a discount agreement with **Native Solutions** in Appleton, Wisconsin, (ad on page 6).

Lied's Nursery in Sussex, Wisconsin, who grow their own native trees and shrubs, have also contacted the national office and offered a discount to Wild Ones members. We'll keep you posted as details about other nurseries offering discounts become available.

One of our new advertisers, **Naturally Native Nursery** in Bowling Green, Ohio, (ad on page 13) is also in step with this creative thinking. They announce the following:

Sat. and Sun., May 1&2: 25% to Maumee Valley Chapter of Wild Ones, whose mission is to promote native landscaping and education.

Sat., Sun. and Mon., May 29, 30, and 31: (Memorial Day Weekend) 25% to Green Ribbon Initiative, whose mission is to raise awareness of the unique Oak Openings Region in northwest Ohio.

Wild Ones Membership Form

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Chapters listed in "The Meeting Place"

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Donna VanBuecken, Wild Ones Executive Director

As you have become aware through Joe's recent letter to all members, Wild Ones has experienced a loss in membership with a resultant loss in operating funds. We want to thank everyone for their outpouring of support and dollar contributions to keep us out of the red. Thank you everyone so very much.

Wild Ones has also asked chapters to defer payment of their last two quarters of dues reimbursement to help us offset these losses. We are pleased to say that all chapters reported positively; and some, because of their fundraising efforts, were able to do even more than we asked. Wild Ones is pleased to acknowledge the following chapters for going above and beyond the call.

Chapters

Mid-Missouri (MO) Chapter.

North Park Village Nature Center (IL) Chapter.

Gibson Woods (IN) Chapter.

Otter Tail (MN) Chapter.

Total of \$725 in response to Oakland (MI) Chapter's challenge grant (see details in other story this page).

Donations

Received matching donation plus 15% from Allstate Giving Campaign on behalf of Jack Kaskel of the Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter.

Received matching donation from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans on behalf of Sharon Duerkop of the Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter.

Note: Matching donations are shared with the chapters at the same proration as membership dues.

Memorials

Received from Dorothy Boyer, President of Milwaukee-North (WI) donation for the SFE Grant Program in memory of Joseph Di Frances, father of Milwaukee-North Treasurer, Joe Di Frances.

Received from Bonnie & Harold Vastag of the Green Bay (WI) Chapter donation for the SFE Grant Program in memory of Mike Religa of the Green Bay Chapter.

\$1,500 Challenge Grant from Oakland (MI) Chapter

Jessica Pitelka-Opfer, President

Oakland (MI) Chapter of Wild Ones

The Oakland (MI) Chapter of Wild Ones spent some time at our December meeting discussing the financial situation of Wild Ones National. We greatly value the efforts of the national organization, particularly the publication of the *Journal*, which is an excellent resource and benefit to our members. As the director of a small non-profit organization myself, I can personally understand the financial issues faced by Wild Ones. As president of a Wild Ones chapter I am happy to say our group came up with a way to assist the national organization.

I am pleased to announce that our board unanimously approved a grant of \$1,500 to Wild Ones National.

We present this grant in the form of a challenge to the other Wild Ones chapters across the country: For every \$2 donated by other chapters, our chapter will donate \$1, up to a maximum of \$1,500. The money donated by the Oakland chapter will be specifically earmarked for *Journal* expenses.

If successful, this challenge grant will bring in \$4,500 for Wild Ones National 2004 operational costs, and balance the budget.

We appreciate this opportunity to assist Wild Ones National, and call upon our fellow chapters to do the same in this time of need.

