a voice for the natural landscaping movement

Wild Ones®
NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

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inside

Celebrating 25 years restoring native plants and natural landscapes.

HANDSOFF.EDU

Once, not so long ago, children grew up with a hands-on understanding of plants, animals, and the interconnectedness of all life. Why is everything so different now, and what can we do about it?

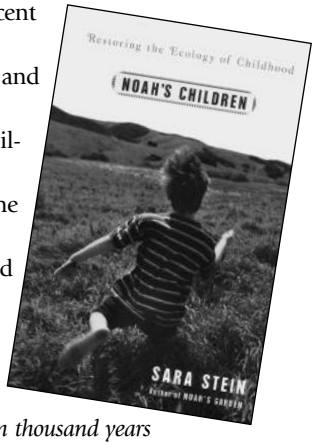
Excerpted from *Noah's Children: Restoring the Ecology of Childhood,* by Sara Stein.

Fifty children sat imprisoned in their school bus while a park naturalist climbed aboard to "bring them under control." He had told me that this had to be done on the bus because once the children spilled out onto the parking lot, there was no way to get their attention or bring them to order.

He explained the rules. The students were to walk in pairs and never leave the trail. They were to keep their hands at their sides, not to pick any flowers, and not to touch so much as a leaf. They could ask questions when the group stopped to listen to what the naturalist explained but should not talk among themselves. "If I can hear you," said the naturalist, "so can the animals."

The children were two fifth-grade classes from an urban school in Michigan, and this field trip was an adjunct to their study of glacial geology. They were certainly in the right place: the park occupies 200 acres of land that, during the Ice Age's Wisconsin Stage, which ended about thirteen thousand years ago, lay between two lobes of a glacier. Although blocks of ice toppled from the melting mass onto the land – and these huge blocks accounted for the park's sand and gravel soil, its steep kames and boggy kettles – the interlobal area has never been scoured clean of life by the glacier itself. Its biodiversity was therefore astounding: five hundred species of plants, including over a dozen orchids and a number of endangered species, two of which were the only remnants of their kind in the state. The composition of the forest ranged from southern trees like tulip poplar to boreal ones like larch, so I knew what a treasure of diversity I was about to see.

The children trooped off the bus and, after some milling around to partner with friends, lined up facing the naturalist for his introductory lecture. The descent from kame to kettle would be 800 feet – and the climb back the same. Groan. The children's home city lies as level as water in the bed of an ancient lake: few of them had ever climbed a hill.



"Ernest," said one of the class teachers, "you remember that: *thirteen thousand years ago."* "Janice," she added, "you remember this: *ice one mile thick."* Harry was having trouble with his arms: they kept flailing around, jostling other children. A teacher moved to his side. By prior arrangement with the naturalist, wise guys were to walk with teachers.

So we all set off along the gritty trail to our next lecture stop in an old field where one student, posing as a block of ice, was used to demonstrate how the weight of the ice block forms a kettle hole, while the dirty water melting from the top and running down the sides deposits a rim of raised sand and gravel kames. "These are vocabulary words," warned a teacher. "Remember *kame* and *kettle."*

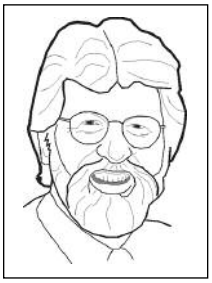
The next stop was the poison-ivy lesson. "How many leaves?" asked the naturalist, holding a sample by its stem, which he had wrapped carefully in a spicebush leaf. "Three," ventured several voices, but the naturalist was expecting that wrong

Continued on page 3.

Inside this **Special 2004 Conference Issue** of the *Wild Ones Journal:*
Entire conference schedule with session details. • Mail-in registration form.
Biographical info on national board candidates. • Election ballot.

Notes from the President…

Promoting the Use of Native Plants in Our Landscapes – Not as Plant Fascists, But By Encouraging Change Through the Use of Regionally Native Plants



I recently returned from a trip to Southern California where Diane and I enjoyed the cacti and succulents in the native plant gardens of Balboa Park in San Diego, and the mountains and deserts of the Joshua Tree National Monument. While at the Museum of Natural History in Balboa Park, we visited an exhibit of native plant paintings by A. R. Valentien completed around the turn of the 19th century. Besides being blown away by their beauty and precision, Diane and I both observed a number of species that are close relatives of the natives found in the Midwest. While there are numerous examples in the collection that are native only to the Southwest, the finding of native plants in Southern California that are similar to those at home serves to confirm the interrelatedness of our native plant biomes.

The purpose of the Wild Ones national organization is to promote the use of native plants in our landscapes everywhere. We can't accomplish this goal without being aware of the interrelatedness of our native plant environments throughout North America. The *Wild Ones Journal* is Wild Ones' primary tool to illustrate this interrelatedness. Coincidentally, the last issue of the *Journal* contained an article on the chaparral biome of Southern California. The *Journal* has also included articles regarding native plant species found in other North American biomes. It is Wild Ones' intent to continue to expand the content of the *Journal* from the prairies of the Midwest to meet the needs of native plant enthusiasts throughout our continent, but it will always be the responsibility of our chapters to promote the use of native plants in landscapes locally.

The interview with Sara Stein in our last issue of the *Journal,* and her books, aptly define why it is important that Wild Ones promote native landscaping nationally – to get the word out about the importance of native plants to biodiversity and to our ecological future. The overuse of chemicals and water-intensive landscaping practices are destroying *our* environment – *our* habitat, this Earth. While it is not possible for everyone to return their outdoor environment to its original native condition, we can ask, as Sara Stein suggests, that everyone start with one small step. Our role is not to be "Plant Fascists" but is, *instead,* to encourage change through the use of regionally native plants. Only through many small changes can we hope to return health to our environment and retain the biodiversity necessary for all life in our world.

Joe Powelka

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Writers & Artists

Sara Stein, an honorary director of Wild Ones since 1996, is the author of many books for both adults and children, most notably, *Noah's Garden*. The excerpt from *Noah's Children* was reprinted with permission from the publisher, North Point Press, a division of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York.

Barbara Bray is a member of the Oakland (MI) Chapter. Her *Next Generation* article about pine trees is on page 5.

Wayne R. Pauly is a Dane County, Wisconsin naturalist. An excerpt from his book, *How to Manage Small Prairie Fires,* appears on page 6.

Janice Cook is an urban naturalist and a member of the North Park Village Nature Center (IL) Chapter. Her *Conversations* column is on page 8.

Steve Maassen is the Director of Seeds for Education Grant Program and Coordinator of the Fox Valley Area Chapter Seeds for Education Committee. He is a member of the Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter.

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The prairie photo on page 6 is courtesy of **Fermi National Accelerator Lab**.

The white turtlehead drawing on page 14 and the beard tongue pods drawing on page 21 are by **Lucy Schumann** of the Milwaukee North (WI) Chapter.

The wild lupine drawing on page 18 is from ***Plants and Flowers,*** Dover Publications.

The train photo on page 18 was taken by **Donna VanBuecken**, founding member and charter president of Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter and Executive Director of Wild Ones. These railroad tracks run through the Chippewa Valley in Wisconsin.

Sara Stein's *Noah's Children* shows us the ecology of childood as it was meant to be.

Continued from page 1. answer and so enjoyed the planned opportunity to explain that it was a single, *compound* leaf made up of three *leaflets.* It was late September; the poison ivy was beginning to turn a stunning scarlet. Classes are not allowed to use the park for collecting fall leaves because poison ivy breaks into those three leaflets that are hard to identify and therefore might be picked up by mistake. I plucked a spicebush leaf to crush and sniff – but secretly, not wanting to be caught.

We descended, stop by stop, to wetland, accompanied by a growing vocabulary: *muck, marsh, bog, fen, meadow, karr.* The naturalist pointed out a rare poison sumac growing twenty feet off the trail in the web, shrubby karr but not the equally rare fringed gentian blooming brilliantly and by the score at our very feet.

My own partner on this walk was an avid amateur naturalist, about my age, named Maryann. The sight of the gentians moved us simultaneously to nearly identical reveries. As a child, I once, and never again, had found fringed gentians blooming in the orchard. Maryann, also, and only once, had come upon the flower in her youthful wanderings. Both of us, stricken by the purity of its color and the delicate perfection of its form, had held that moment of discovery in a halo of wonder for decades.

None of the fifty eleven-year-olds asked what they were.

By the end of the next climb, to pristine oak savanna, and faced now with the continuing uphill trek back to the parking lot, the children were tiring. Harry's restless arms swung back to tease the boy behind him, who began what soon became a chorus, "Are we almost there?" This was against the rules: the children had been told they would be "there" when they could see the school bus, and not before.

We saw the school bus through the trees; we reached the asphalt. And, for the first time, the children came to life: they were to have a picnic in the park.

Read this sentence carefully; it's from *The New York Times:* "Outside, summer beckons, with bikes to be ridden, video games to be played, cartoons to be watched, Barbies to be pampered for hours on end."

Now, I know some errors slip past editors, and this certainly was one of those, but some errors also point to a truth, and this was one of those as well: the author apparently couldn't think of just what the "teasing afternoon breeze wafting through the windows" was tempting third-grade students to do outdoors, once they were released from remedial summer classes in a city public school. What *do* children do when they are outside and out of sight? The middle years of childhood are largely played out behind our backs. There's no telling where children might wander from the academic grounding we think we give to them.

I gave the boys field lenses so they could examine the stomata on the underside of leaves, the geometry of pollen grains, the anatomy of bees' legs, the garnet gems in grains of sand. They set leaves afire with the lenses. They crisped ants. I duly took them to the American Museum of Natural History when they were in elementary school to show them an exhibit on human evolution that featured sculptured reconstructions of the facial features of various species based on fossil evidence. I didn't find out until they were men that as a result of that lesson they had been able to identify in the woods a Neandertal campsite strewn with ancient hammer stones and streaked with blood evidence of human sacrifice.

The afternoon of the day I walked the park with that paired line of fifty children, I was taken to an altogether different and highly unusual demonstration of childhood education. The teacher ran a preschool at her suburban home whose modest play yard bordered on a municipal park. Her home also served as a day-care center for former students, who were dropped off by the school bus and stayed until picked up by their parents at the end of the working day.

We arrived after the preschoolers had gone home but just as the school bus arrived with five ex-students: four girls and a boy, ranging from seven to twelve. A few years before, the same children, then aged from four to nine had participated with their teacher in researching flood control and water quality in the local river. With their mentor, they had petitioned the town to allow them to plan a retention basin in the park, applied for and gotten funding for the project, hired a backhoe to excavate the basin, and planted the catchment area with plugs and seeds of wetland prairie species. Several of the children had given formal presentations to the municipal government (one standing before an audience of 250 people) and conducted *Continued on page 4.*

Continued from page 3. interviews with the press. All the children, in mud above their ankles, had planted the prairie.

During that portion of my Michigan visit, I was staying with my niece Leila, who teaches heat exchange and fluid dynamics to sophomore physics students at the state university. She is one of those gifted teachers who makes every effort to inspire students to really grasp the subject, to think it through, to make it theirs in so deep and comfortable a way that they can use their knowledge creatively in the same way that one can whittle any figure once the hands know wood and blade. But Leila was finding the going rough: her students aspired to know no more than how to reach the answer, which formula to use, how to score well on what would be the physics equivalent of a kame-and-kettle test.

Naturally, I compared the children of the morning with the children of the afternoon, and it would be belaboring the point to explicate at length the obvious differences between those who walk a trail with hands at sides and minds on tests and those who best recall squishing plugs of switchgrass into gooey mud. Both may learn vocabulary (or they may not), but the trendy "hands-on education" hardly begins to convey the contrast between memorizing the fact that muck soil is made by decaying plants, and planting the makers of muck soil.

Yet after the mud-loving children had finished impressing this adult with the considerable depth of their knowledge and passion for water purity, they ran off, as if by common consent, on a tide of ebullience, dodging the undertow of their education duties. Or so it seemed to me: they surged as a unit toward the "Porcupine Trees."

This was a stand of spruces, closely spaced but enclosing a dark circle of prickly-needled ground, and entered through a single opening among the trunks. I wasn't invited. I followed anyway but not far, because, as I emerged out of the hot sun into the cool opening, they were already way beyond me, high up in the trees. I leaned my back against a tree trunk, bemused by this generational reversal, remembering my own pine hideaway from which, as a girl, I spied on the mundane doings of adults, at roof level, listening to their terrace talk show below. I tried to catch some shred of these children's privacy, but they knew my eyes and ears were turned on them, and they grew shy.

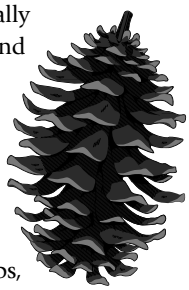
Like animals. ❦

Have You Listened to Your Pine Trees Lately?

By Barbara Bray

Last April, as I was weeding in my new prairie planting, I heard a curious popping noise behind me. I rose to my feet, turned around, and followed the sound over to the pine trees. I stood there for a moment, puzzled by the noise, and then it hit me – the sound was from the pinecones on the trees snapping open! Pine trees are the green in our winter landscapes and they provide wood for our houses and pulp for our paper, but sometimes, if you listen closely, you will hear their "secrets."

Have you ever seen pine tree flowers? If your answer is no, then you are very observant. You will not find any, because pine trees don't have the sort of flowers that we would usually recognize. They do, however, have special male and female reproductive structures. The male "cones" look like dust-coated fingers in late spring. The female "cones" are tiny, pinkish structures at the ends of new growth. The male structures elongate, and yellow pollen floats away on the wind to cover sidewalks, decks, and cars. Luckily, some of that pollen also lands on the female nubs, which will develop into mature pinecones full of little winged seeds.



The scales on a pinecone can be used to measure humidity (or moisture) in the air. The scales on pinecones are of an uneven thickness. If there is a lot of moisture in the air, the cones soak it up and the dampness causes the scales to curl inward. In dry weather, the scales will curl outward, thus opening the cones. This important attribute protects the seeds in the cones from dispersing into a wet environment where they could rot. You can explore this surprising adaptation with your child in the following experiment.

You will need one pinecone and a container of water. Look closely at your pinecone. Does it have any seeds inside? Place the pinecone in the water and wait for an hour. After one hour, how has your pinecone changed? Now, take the pinecone out of the water and place it in a sunny, warm spot. Ask your child to make a prediction on how long it will take the pinecone to open again. Then observe the pinecone periodically. Does it take one hour for the pinecone to open? Two hours? Four hours? Or longer? When you have finished with this experiment, try it again with different pinecones. If the cones are old, will they react in the same way? What if the cones have been painted (such as in old crafts or decorations)? Does this work with any other cones?

Have fun, and remember to listen to your pine trees!

Let It Burn

Excerpt from *How to Manage Small Prairie Fires* by Wayne R. Pauly
Published by the Dane County (WI) Environmental Council and the Dane County (WI) Highway and Transportation Department. *This book is available through the Wild Ones Store.*

Fire, a tool for managing prairies and keeping them vigorous, is a dangerous tool. In general, a prairie fire burns in a long, narrow line of flames moving quickly through the grass. It is possible to walk several feet behind the flames without discomfort from heat or smoke because flames quickly consume dry grass and move forward for more fuel. Usually a line of fire carried with the wind (head fire) is 5 to 15 feet deep with flames that leap 8 feet or more, while fire burning into the wind (backfire or backing fire) is only a foot deep with flames a foot high. But the description of a prairie fire varies considerably depending on the kind and amount of fuel, height and moisture content of grasses, topography, slope, wind speed, humidity, etc.

Really the "typical" prairie fire doesn't exist, because there are too many variables. The same prairie will not burn the same way twice, and the way it burns will change from morning to afternoon. Under proper conditions, a grass fire looks tame, but it reacts swiftly to change in wind direction, wind speed, and humidity. A change in wind direction will transform a creeping backfire into a blazing head fire, a doubling of wind speed will quadruple the rate of spread of the fire, and a reduction in relative humidity as the day warms up will make a fire burn hotter and faster.

To many, a well run burn looks tame, and this can lead to overconfidence, which can lead to a fire out of control.

Never take fire for granted; the worst danger is overconfidence. Under proper conditions of moisture and wind, fire can be controlled, but it is always dangerous. During a few seconds of inattention a fire can change from a safely controlled burn to a racing wall of flames. Therefore, there is no substitute for experience when working with fire. If you have never worked on a prairie fire, then get experienced people to work with you. Contact local conservation organizations for permission to watch a controlled burn, or volunteer to help. Above all, start small; your first burn should be no more than a fraction of an acre, and planned with as much attention to detail as possible. Even small fires can get out of control and cause great damage.

Web Sites: Ours and Others

Can't remember your password?
Wondering what's new on the web site?
Want to help with the 2004 Seeds for Education Grant Program?

Ever wonder how you get into the secure pages of the Wild Ones website if you've forgotten your password? There's a new menu item on the *Wild Member Login* page. Just enter the initial part of your e-mail address in the appropriate window and you'll get your answer.

To keep up with "what's new" on the website and within the realm of Wild Ones, click on the what's new column just below the *"What's New: at a glance"* button located just below the *"Member Login"* (in the upper right-hand corner of the Wild Ones home page – www.for-wild.org). Right now you'll get the latest info on the status of the Indian Hill School outdoor learning center removal, as well as the recently revised 2004 Photo Contest guidelines. You'll also find an up-to-date listing of Carol Rubin's Green Thumb/ Green Planet Workshop Tour itinerary.

Also, while you're on the web site, check out the complete information on the 2004 Seeds for Education Grant Program. If you live in the area of one of the grant recipients, contact the organization and offer to lend a hand with their project. Now that they've gotten the funds to purchase seeds and plants, they'll need all the help they can get to make the project a success. Let them know you agree with what they are doing and that you will support their efforts.

If you have any problem accessing the website, or if you would like to offer assistance, please call the national office toll-free at (877) 394-9453 or e-mail wildmanager@for-wild.org and let us know. ❦

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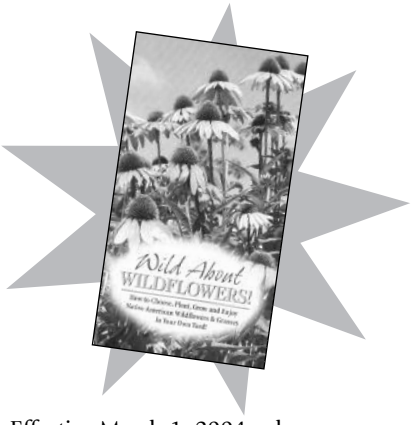


Effective March 1, 2004, when you join or renew your Wild Ones membership at the $50 level or higher, you will receive, at no extra charge, the highly acclaimed video, *Wild About Wildflowers: How to Choose, Plant, Grow, and Enjoy Native American Wildflowers and Grasses in Your Own Yard.* This item sells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

CONVERSATIONS

This "conversation" with our readers was initiated in the March / April issue with the comment from Janice Cook regarding "the placement [of natives] in design." Janice offered the thought that perhaps using the word "design" in the context of native plants somehow breached the gap between natives and exotics. Our readers responded.

From Yvonne Means, Nashville, Tennessee
Frankfort Chapter (Kentucky)

I understand where you are coming from, but you have to remember that many of us started out gardening with a yard of exotics and maybe a few natives that were totally incorrect for our region. We read, saw or heard something that then motivated us towards the path of native gardening in order to attract those birds we always wanted, promised us freedom from the consuming lawn mowing task, or suggested an alternative from hazardous or unwarranted insect and weed annihilation. We bought one or two regional native plants to fill in an empty space or replace an exotic we discovered was invasive or totally useless to attract the wildlife we wanted. Many of us did start out finding a "placement in our design" to squeeze in a few natives, which was the very beginning of gradually becoming totally hooked into full bloom native gardening.

There now may be areas in the United States where native gardening is an accepted practice, but not where I live. It is unacceptable, without a disheartening uphill struggle. I began in 1989 with a yard of fence-to-fence grass and a foundation planting of exotics, and proceeded to fill it in with more exotics. I gradually realized that constant mowing, pruning, spraying, and fertilizing was wearing me out physically, mentally, and money wise – and I still lacked the wildlife I craved. I read about the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Backyards in an issue of *Wild Garden,* sent for their packet, and for the past five years my 1/4-acre suburbia yard is about 3/4 native plants and a certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. Cardinals, robins, chickadees, house wrens, mockingbirds, bluejays, sparrows, toads, frogs, and rabbits have all occupied and raised young on our property; and we have received visits from turtles, opossums, raccoons, and skunks.

I native garden front and back yard, and it is always a challenge to keep certain neighbors appeased. This year I have found it necessary with the help of a state horticulturist friend to start planning to go before Environmental Court to get a waiver to make my gardening natively "legal." Something about a front yard full of wildflowers and grasses in summer and seed heads in fall and winter being too much vegetation. I definitely can understand why the native plant conference listed their description the way they did. Converting people from exotic to native gardening isn't usually an overnight thing.

Janice remarks:
I have heard it said that the one thing the ecology/restoration/native plants movement lacks is humor; maybe it lacks perspective as well. We need enough perspective to realize that there is little in life that is pure and perfect or simple. Therefore we need to start where we are and do what we can. Alienating our neighbors with unruly plantings is not the way to win them over. Let's face it, most people are into "ruly." *Wild Ones Journal* would like to follow up Yvonne's letter with some realistic design articles that will help to bridge the gap in understanding to what Yvonne points. By adding some landscaping that looks planned and tended – fencing, some rocks, edging, a border, planting tall things toward the back, and developing slowly, we can often have the best of both worlds. And maybe, just maybe, we can influence the neighbors and change the local ordinances as well. For those readers who are designers, please send some diagrams, pictures, and suggestions for people who are trying to make friends and influence people.

The same little *Conversation* item on native plant material in design also elicited other reactions. One reaction involved the horticultural development of patented/copyrighted species and varieties based on native plants and the commercial use of native plant material in color coordinated flowerbed sweeps and effects.

From Nancy Aten, Mequon, Wisconsin
Milwaukee North (WI) Chapter
As a designer, I react first to the implied connection of design with a superficial ecology; design should, of course, be rooted in ecological principles. Design isn't an excuse for less function; rather it is an opportunity for deeper experiences.

Like Janice, I have been troubled by the "*Actaea pachypoda* 'snow princess'" crowd. Theirs is an approach that entered my consciousness once I'd learned enough about plants and ecology.

In commercial nurseries, plants seem often propagated as clones rather than sexually. Even for a straight native species, you might unknowingly be buying a clone, or selection, produced this way for economic reasons. More problematic are the named, branded, bred or selected cultivars (eg. "snow princess"), which might even be unable to produce viable seed. To me, there are two kinds of problems with cultivars of natives. The first is ecological: they diminish local genetic variety and reproduction of native species populations, which matters a great deal for habitat, function and evolution. The second is human: they encourage the "pretty flowers" cultural addiction, and a more superficial perception of the plant community ethic.

Darrel Morrison (professor emeritus, landscape architecture) often references the Leopold quote about people first responding to the "pretty" before moving to deeper appreciation and understanding. How many of us have inadvertently reinforced the cultural appetite in our response to a newcomer expressing interest in native landscapes, who qualifies it by saying they really want pretty, showy flowers? How often do we remember to show slides of prairies in textural winter, or woodlands in quiet, unassuming late summer? Remembering the gradual journey I've taken toward understanding, stewardship and advocacy, I think it is important to recognize parallels in the potential journeys of talented native plants propagators and horticulturalists. I have realized that the "snow princess" native plants crowd (a) love native plants, (b) are knowledgeable propagators, and (c) often rhapsodize about sense of place. I guess I'd rather have substantive conversations with this crowd, and see if we can both progress in understanding. I'd rather see their expertise continue to work on propagating native species not yet commercially available. I'd rather trust that continued exposure to the deeper ecological issues will shift thinking.

This means it is our responsibility, the buyers of native plants, to nudge. Whenever you are buying native plants (or designing or specifying for clients), ask for sexually propagated straight species of local genotype. If the plants are clones, then gracefully find out if there are underlying economic or germination challenges; if there is a way they could provide what you want next time. Ask them to label their plants and catalogs with geographic source and propagation method. We need to ask, and we need to explain why.
(I am back in the Midwest where we are very fortunate to have many native nurseries leading the way for local genotype and propagation by seed).

One question leads to another. Have plants become divided into ecological ones, in preserves, and decorative ones, around people? Named cultivars make gardens that are more like decorative collections of horticultural plants than ecologically functioning communities and habitats. The divide might be an unfortunate artifact of the horticultural profession – but it is reinforced by every rainforest ecologist whose home yard is turf, yew, and daffodils; by every environmentalist who values the far-away over the next-door. Does ecology matter in cities, along streets, and in front yards? Do sexually propagated straight species of local genotype matter there? I say yes.

Janice remarks:
I work as a volunteer naturalist at a large institution that does genetic engineering on native plants. The plants that are developed are licensed to the green industry and are a source of income and fame for the institution. The arrangement is a great success in many ways, but we who work with natural settings debate loud and long over the development of strange color morphs, size changes, and hardiness ability. However, the money earned helps to pay for the overall maintenance of a property that is 1/3 native. We don't want to pay higher taxes but we want to maintain institutions. The institutions are caught in a money crunch. It's a trade-off.

We must also consider the psychology and history of gardening. The "having" of unusual plant material is part of the game. We must also remember that not all people are coming from the same place. By introducing people, albeit in a round about way, to native plant material, we make them aware of something new. Some of them will grow away from horticultural material and toward valid native material, just as Nancy has.

Another aspect of natives in horticultural design involves the use of native plants in commercial design settings. Well-intended businesses sometimes decide to try a landscape theme using native plants in large sweeps and for foundations plantings. However, the plants don't always cooperate. They move and die out. The sweep becomes unruly and unimpressive. Designers may have ideas on which native plants are most successful and how they can be integrated into large scale horticultural designs without selling out native landscaping. Here is a place where the cloned or bred plant material may link native and horticultural plantings.

As you can see, we have opened a broad subject. Come put your two cents worth into the discussion. ❦

It's All One Piece
An Example of the Dynamics of Extinction

By Maryann Whitman

The main character in our tale is the longleaf, or southern yellow pine *(Pinus palustris)*. It is indigenous to the high, sandy hills of North American Atlantic and Gulf coastal plains, south of Virginia through to eastern Texas.

For over a century, until the mid-20th century, it enjoyed a worldwide reputation – its even-grained, durable, straight stems providing 12-inch by 12-inch by 80-foot, all-heartwood timbers for shipmasts and later for structural timbers. Often building its own railroads, the logging industry marched across the South, to tap the westernmost stands of longleaf pine in Texas before 1900. By 1940 the original longleaf pine forests existed only in memory, replaced by controlled plantations.

Another actor in our tale is the red-cockaded woodpecker, which nests in cavities that it excavates in the trunks of these living pines. Only old trees possess sufficient girth to accommodate this relatively large bird. The rarity of old-growth stands has led to the designation of the woodpecker as endangered, and thus the primary driver behind efforts to preserve the remaining old stands and to restore such stands to a frequent fire regime.

Ecology of Longleaf Pines

Pinus palustris is adapted to frequent low-intensity fire. It has a deep taproot and a dwarf form or "grass stage" during early growth. The grass stage is an adaptation unique to the longleaf pine. Ground-hugging tufts of needles surround the apical bud, resembling stiff-bladed bunch grass. This short-shoot habit of growth during the seedling years has been attributed to competition by plants for moisture and nutrients, to an inherent seedling trait under rigid genetic control, and to an auxin, or plant hormone, produced in buds during early stages of development. Environment also seems to influence the amount of time seedlings remain "in the grass." It may be three years or less where soil moisture is adequate and plant competition negligible, to 25 years on dry, xeric sites with dense overtopping crowns of scrub oaks and ground cover of wiregrass *(Aristida beyrichiana)*.

A rule of thumb among foresters is that the trees begin height growth when the dwarfed stem has swelled to an inch in diameter at the root-collar, and not before. When that ground-line size is attained, height growth exceeds three or four feet per year. In a region where forest floors are swept by fires nearly every winter, longleaf pine protects itself by clinging to the ground during those early years when most vegetation is so vulnerable to fire damage. Then, well-rooted and with ample food reserves, it spurts upward – not as a slender, thin-barked shoot, but as a thick stem surrounded by bark and a dense continuous array of long needles. Thousands of seedlings survive low-temperature fires during the first few years of height growth. After the stems are 10 to 15 feet tall, the trees are able to survive with very few adverse effects from all but the most severe fires.

Extremely intolerant of shade and competition, the trees that do survive suppression by these factors gain dominance and rarely touch crowns. Their lower limbs die and drop off, mainly because

of the shade cast by the foliage of their own upper crowns. Profuse production and shedding of needles and ready shedding of lower limbs provide a rapid accumulation of fine fuels, sufficient to support ground fires at frequencies as often as three years. An extremely flammable heartwood and sapwood are shielded by a relatively fire-resistant bark.

Another dynamic in this story is the role of brownspot needle blight. Caused by a fungus present in most soils, it infects and kills the needles near the ground. Three successive defoliations are enough to kill seedlings. Foresters learned that controlled fires destroy spores of the disease along with infected foliage, freeing the new needle growth from major infection for a couple of years. Two controlled burns, two years apart, are usually sufficient to launch a generation of seedlings into the sapling stage of rapid height growth.

The controlled burns must be cool fires that run quickly with the wind. The needles are rapidly consumed by fire to within a few inches of the bud. So dense and long are the needles that they insulate the bud during the few seconds it takes the fire to pass. Needles are expendable. From the bud promptly sprouts lush-appearing, vigorous foliage to manufacture carbohydrates by photosynthesis.

With the reintroduction of fire, by the early 1990s, both longleaf pines and red-cockaded woodpeckers appeared to be making a comeback.

Enter Cogongrass into This Balanced Equation

Into our story enters the villain. Native to the Philippines, Southeast Asia, China and Japan, cogongrass *(Imperata cylindrical)* was introduced to North America accidentally in the 1920s, as packing material, and on purpose in the 1940s as forage and as an attractive horticultural specimen. It is a perennial, rhizomatous grass that grows from 2 to 4 feet high. Mature leaf margins are finely toothed and embedded with silica crystals, making only the very early immature growth palatable to grazing animals.

Cogongrass can invade disturbed ecosystems, forming a dense mat of thatch and leaves that makes it nearly impossible for other plants to coexist. The grass displaces a large variety of native plant species used by native animals as forage, host plants and shelter. It spreads rapidly by rhizomes. Established stands can produce over 3 tons of rhizomes per acre. Another attribute that helps cogon to dominate is that the rhizomes exude allelopathic substances that inhibit growth of other plants.

Infestations alter the normal fire regime of a fire-driven ecosystem like that of a longleaf pine plantation. Researcher Carol Lippincott has determined that cogon burns differently than do native species like wiregrass, which it displaces in the ground layer. Fires fueled by cogon occur more frequently, burn hotter, and higher above the ground (to 5 and 6 feet) than do fires fueled by native vegetation (18 inches). These hotter, slower, higher fires affect the cool-fire-adapted apical buds of the longleaf pine, both in the grass stage and during its first year or two of height growth. These fires kill large numbers of seedlings, but suppressing fire among the longleaf pines is not an option.

Time Will Tell

Sadly, we have delineated the major actors and forces in an unhappy tale of potential extinction of at least two genera. The tapestry of interdependent lives is an intricate one. Once again the element of time, truncated by man's heavy-handed intervention, may be the telling factor. ❦

2004 Seeds for Education Grants

By Steve Maassen, Seeds for Education Director

Our children are the next generation of native landscapers. This is the reason Wild Ones developed the Seeds for Education program as a critical part of our educational goals, so future generations will continue the work we have begun.

The Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Fund (SFE), established in 1995, supports schools, nature centers, and other places of learning for projects involving students creating natural landscapes and outdoor classrooms using native plants. Through the generous donations of Wild Ones members and income from the growing SFE Fund of the Milwaukee Foundation, this year's grants total $3,962.

Applications came from all the coasts in the United States and many of the states in between, as did the 26 judges who rated them. There were 26 qualified applications this year, each deserving of praise and support. Wild Ones was able to fund nine of the projects. Grants were based on the actual amount of funds requested, the judges' ranking in comparison to all 2003 grant applications, and the available funds.

We thank the donors, judges, and nursery partners for caring enough about this program to keep it happening each year. I'd also like to thank the Wild Ones members and non-members who assisted with the administrative process involved in this year's grant program. Thank you all for helping make this year's program such a success.

2004 Seeds for Education Grant Recipients

Barron Area Senior High, Barron, WI
$400 – Barron High Prairie Restoration.
Restoration of a small prairie wildlife area on school grounds. (NW Wisconsin – Partner-at-Large)

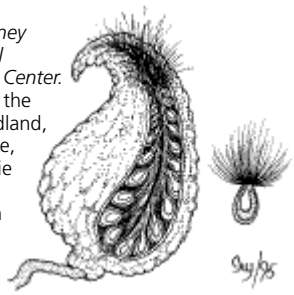
Chestnut Park School, Savanna, IL
$500 – Chestnut Park School Habitat.
Construction and maintenance of a nature lab consisting of Illinois native prairie, a 6-acre savanna, and a perennial butterfly garden. (NW Illinois – Partner-at-Large)

Etna Elementary School, Etna, CA
$403 – Etna Elementary Outdoor Learning Center. Establishment of a native area to use as an educational tool in teaching students hands-on outdoor science. (Northern CA – Partner-at-Large)

Leelanau Conservancy, Leland, MI
$450 – Native Wildflower Restoration at Chippewa Run Natural Area.
Restoration of an old agricultural field to a meadow that sustains high quality, native species. (NE Lake Michigan shoreline – Partner-at-Large)

Friends of the Welty Environmental Center, Beloit, WI
$273 – Butterfly and Bird Habitat Garden.
Installation of a garden of native prairie plants with an emphasis on host plants for butterfly larvae, nectar sources for butterflies and hummingbirds, and seed sources for birds. (Central IL-WI border – Partner-at-Large)

May Whitney Elementary School, Lake Zurich, IL
$500 – May Whitney Elementary School Outdoor Learning Center.
Transformation of the courtyard to woodland, savanna, hill prairie, and tallgrass prairie ecosystems so students can learn about indigenous Illinois plants and nature. (NE Illinois – Lake-to-Prairie Chapter.)



Ophir School, Gallatin Gateway, MT
$489 – Native Plant Demonstration Garden.
Continuation of the development of a native plant demonstration garden on the school grounds which serves as an educational area. It will be associated with a 100-year-old restored homesteader's cabin. (South Central MT – Partner-at-Large)

Pewaukee High School, Pewaukee, WI
$500 – Pewaukee Village Park Pond Restoration.
Improvement of the overall water quality of the pond through the development of a shoreline buffer. (SE WI – Menomonee River Area Chapter)

Rockford College, Rockford, IL
$500 – Returning to our Roots.
Restoration of a native prairie and establishment of a butterfly garden on the Rockford College campus to provide a variety of both formal and informal educational opportunities in disciplines across the range of the arts and sciences. (North Central IL – Rock River Valley Chapter)

Chapters named in this listing are those located closest to the recipients.

For a listing of previous SFE grant recipients go to www.for-wild.org/seedmony.htm

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.

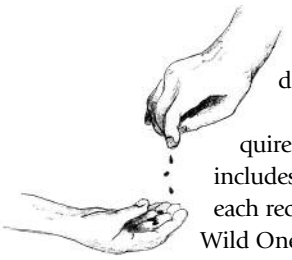
The 32-page commemorative booklet will detail the history and growth – and the special challenges (and special people) who have been such an important part of Wild Ones.

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.

Each year, nursery partners supply seeds, plants, discounts and, of course, advice to grant recipients in their areas. By participating in the Wild Ones Seeds for Education program, our nursery partners demonstrate their commitment to natural landscaping. Many also advertise in the *Journal*. We thank them for their support!

Grant recipients are encouraged to contact the nursery partners for seeds and plant materials. Using native grass and flower plants and seeds that originated as close as possible to the project site will go a long way toward ensuring a project's success.

In addition to the seeds, plants, and discounts from nursery partners, each grant recipient also receives a copy of the Wild Ones video, *A Tapestry of Learning: Creating School Natural Areas* to use in future development efforts.



When the grant requirements are met, which includes a year-end report, each recipient will receive a Wild Ones yard sign for its project to show that the project truly is in harmony with nature.

We encourage Wild Ones members to learn more about the SFE projects in their communities and to support them in any way possible.

2004 Seeds for Education Nursery Partners

California

Menzies Natives Nursery, Weed
(530) 938-4858. Ferns, trees and shrubs

Illinois

Blazing Star Inc., Woodstock
(815) 338-4716. Prairie and shade plants

Enders Greenhouse LLC, Ridott
(815) 332-5255. Prairie seeds and plants, wet mesic, shade and wetland plants

Marshland Transplant Aquatic Nursery, Libertyville
(920) 376-0699. Prairie, wet mesic, shade and wetland plants

The Natural Garden Inc., St. Charles
(630) 584-0150. Prairie plants

Michigan

Native Connections, Constantine
(269) 580-4765. Prairie seeds and plants, wet mesic, shade and wetland plants

Sandhill Farm, Rockford
(616) 691-8214. Prairie, shade and wetland plants

Thomas Greystone Gardens, Honor
(231) 326-5855. Prairie plants, shade, wet mesic plants

Wildtype Native Plant Nursery, Mason
(517) 244-1140. Prairie plants, trees and shrubs

Minnesota

Prairie Moon Nursery, Winona
(507) 452-1362. Prairie seeds and plants

Montana

Blake Nursery, Big Timber
(406) 932-4195. Prairie plants, vines, trees and shrubs

WestScape Wholesale Nursery, Bozeman
(406) 539-4738. Prairie and shade plants, trees and shrubs

Westland Seed, Inc., Ronan
(406) 676-4100. Prairie grass and forb seeds

Wildwood Landscaping, Big Sky
(406) 995-4829. Prairie and shade plants, trees and shrubs

Oregon

Forestfarm, Williams
(541) 846-7269. Shade plants, trees and shrubs

Plant Oregon, Talent
(541) 535-3531. Trees and shrubs

Wisconsin

Agrecol Corp, Madison
(608) 226-2544. Prairie, wet mesic, shade and wetland plants (primarily wholesale)

Applied Ecological Services/ Taylor Creek Nurseries, Brodhead
(608) 897-8641. Prairie, wet mesic, shade and wetland plants

CRM/Prairie Ridge Nursery, Mt. Horeb
(608) 437-5245. Prairie, wet mesic, shade and wetland plants

Dragonfly Gardens, Amery
(715) 268-4660. Prairie plants

Leaning Pine Native Landscapes, South Range
(715) 398-5453. Wetland plants, shoreland trees and shrubs, and ground cover

Marshland Transplant Aquatic Nursery, Berlin
(920) 361-4200. Prairie, wet mesic, shade and wetland plants

Midwest Prairies, Fort Atkinson
(920) 563-3165. Prairie seeds

Monches Farm, Colgate
(262) 966-2787. Prairie and shade plants

Prairie Nursery, Westfield
(800) 476-9453. Prairie, wet mesic, shade and wetland plants

W & E Radtke, Inc., Germantown
(262) 253-1412. Prairie and shade plants known as Northern Sunset Perennials

For a complete list listing of all nurseries that have volunteered to partner with the SFE program in the past go to www.for-wild.org/seedmony.htm

S-H-H-H-H-H-H-H

SILENT AUCTION

Plans are well under way for the first annual national Wild Ones silent auction. Commitments for donations have already started coming in and we're looking forward to a very successful auction. Donations can be made by businesses or individuals, and especially by Wild Ones chapters, and must be native landscaping -oriented.

Examples might be seed mixtures, books, art pieces, special t-shirts and mugs, or gift certificates.

To see a list of auction items, go to the Wild Ones web site at www.for-wild.org/chapters/national/SilentAuction.htm. All items will have been committed by July 24, 2004. To make a bid by e-mail, write to silentauction@for-wild.org and use the word "BID" in the subject line. Bidding will cease as of 5:00 PM, Saturday, August 7, 2004. To make your bid by mail, send a note to Silent Auction, Wild Ones, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, WI 54912, and mark the envelope with the word "BID."

All proceeds from the silent auction will be used toward sustaining national Wild Ones educational efforts. This is the first fundraiser National has attempted outside of its annual funding appeal. Please help make it a success.

For more information please e-mail silentauction@for-wild.org or contact the national office at (877) 394-9453.

The Prairie Gets a Reprieve

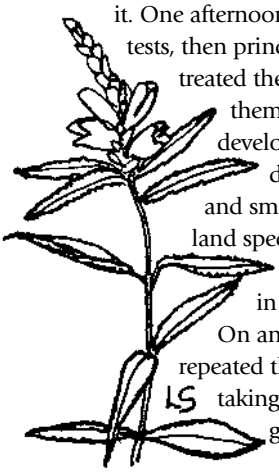
A Win-Win Resolution for Indian Hill School

by Lorrie Otto

On a Sunday summer day, two men drove off a Wisconsin interstate to change drivers. They missed the entrance to the public parking lot and turned into the one at Indian Hill School. One man sprinted away from his car and ran toward the principal's butterfly garden, calling out the Latin names as he did so. Then he slowly sank down on his knees as if he were before an altar. After a moment he looked up and exclaimed, "Where am I? Who created this splendid place? Is it a private college?"

Too bad that the principal was not there to tell him that it was a K-4 public school. The message was so different from the one that the maintenance man had expressed in her office as he introduced himself. "I'm a grass man, myself. I want mowed lawn, nicely clipped shrubs and annual flower gardens here. I don't wanna drive up to my school and hafta look through *stuff* to see it."

Fourteen years ago, Deb Harwell, past-president of Milwaukee Wild Ones, designed and installed the wildflower gardens. They extend across the front of the entire length of the one-story school building. It began as a children's garden. They put newspapers over the grass. With their little buckets, they helped teachers spread truckloads of sand. Under the supervision of David Kopitzke and Dan Boehlke, two owners of native plant nurseries, the students planted potted flowers. The village of River Hills brought freshly collected leaves that the children mulched around the native plants. Jo Ann Gillespie installed a rain garden pond to collect water from four downspouts. A child-size bridge arched over it. One afternoon after a morning of tests, then principal, Karen Winicki, treated the children by bussing them to land doomed by development. There they dug wild strawberries and small rosettes of woodland species to plant under the old apple trees in front of the school. On another day, Winicki repeated the celebration by taking the children to local grower Yvonne Jensen, where they watched her fork out purple coneflowers from rows in her nursery. Each child was handed one, which was grasped as a treasure and carried in newspapers back to plant in the savannah area.



Maintenance personnel provided strong wooden signs to identify the woodland, wetland, and prairie areas. A matching chair was added for the adored principal to rest in and admire her butterfly garden under her office window. A sundial and five stepping stones with teacher's names were added years later.

But back to the beginning when we did everything right and nipped trouble before it began. Letters went home to parents explaining what was happening on the school grounds. Botanist Kopitzki gave an evening slide lecture to them and auctioned off charming prints of his wildflower watercolors. During the September, 1990 planting, a grandfather gardener donated a load of topsoil that was spread over the sand by the front entrance. In the spring it exploded into a solid ground cover of garlic mustard! For the following weeks, Monday nights were weeding nights for parents and children.

Later, when the native plants were flourishing, the wives of maintenance men and school board members began calling the budding plants "Winicki's weeds" or saying, "It looks like an abandoned school." And so we had a meeting. The principal spoke about her ideas of environmental education. Then Deb Harwell talked as a mother, and I finished off as if I were a grandmother to all children in the world. (How silent they were. We had a ball!)

In July, 1991, a grant of $11,000 was awarded to Indian Hill from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Council to further the efforts of the teachers and students. For three of the following years the Citizens Natural Resources Association gave $3,500 for seed, plants, and maintenance. Later a foundation was established to hire a botanist to add plants, guide, guard, and lecture on that scattered piece of native vegetation. What began as a children's garden became a secret garden for adults. Some contributed special plants from their estates such as Tula Erskine's yellow lady slippers and her twin-leaf Jeffersonia.

As the seasons have progressed, each species has found its favorite spot and companion. Fourteen years have passed and the school has become ever more famous for its diverse, intriguing display. Not only do videos of it circulate through the United States, but also in England, Italy, Japan, and Israel. The Keeper of the Forests, from China, came to visit me, but the only photographs he took home to his country were of Indian Hill – an American grade school ensconced in American flowers. Martha Stewart TV has made an August date to return to Indian Hill.

With all of its fame and exquisite beauty, one would never dream that a maintenance man could convince school officials to replace the gardens with lawn. That almost happened. However, at this writing it appears that Indian Hill has been saved, for now, from the Holiday Inn look. When the monstrous new drainage system is installed, it will be healed over with dry-prairie grasses and flowers. Whew! Thank you all for helping us get this far. ❦

Connecting to the Future

Corridors for a Healthier Environment

By Sally Elmiger

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

So, after reading the first article on corridors, did you rush out to see if your community's natural spaces were "fragmented"? Did you see a bit of woodland down the street, or a wetland at the back of your neighbor's yard? Or did you see open spaces linked by stream channels, naturalized utility routes, and rail-to-trail bikeways? If you saw the latter, you needn't read any further. However, for those who didn't, this article describes the types of potential corridor opportunities for your community – the many elements in our everyday landscapes that can be used by plants and animals (and people too!) to move from one green place to another, and live life in between.

A Review

Definition of a corridor: "…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."

Before looking at different types of corridors, let's briefly review why these links are important. The natural world functions on an "ecosystem" level, or combinations of landscape elements that all work together. When one landscape element is disconnected from another, it forms a "patch" or relatively small area with limited habitat variety. Many patches are formed by human development, which isolates landscape elements from each other. Small, isolated patches of plants and animals don't have the genetic diversity to adapt to changes in their environment, or a new threat or disease.

This is an example of "fragmentation." Fragmentation not only changes the way our landscapes look, it changes the way our landscapes function. And the more fragmented our natural areas become, the more difficult it is for plants and animals to survive. If we have fragmented landscapes, we need to create links between them. These links expand the available habitat by providing a relatively safe travel route, increased opportunity for genetic interchange, and a place to go if a species' current living quarters no longer meets its needs.

Natural Corridors

In many developed and developing communities, there are two types of naturally occurring corridors – a river or stream corridor, and a tree line or hedgerow corridor. While both corridor systems are complex in structure and function, we'll describe them here in general terms just to understand their basic characteristics.

The "riparian" corridor is a water route dominated by a river, stream, or other linear water feature. The river or stream is also usually vegetated on both banks by flood plain and then upland vegetation. Riparian corridors are often left undeveloped, and therefore provide an opportunity to act as a link between natural areas. Because water, rich floodplains, and uplands are all part of riparian corridors, they provide a great diversity of habitats. Diverse growing conditions support a large variety of plant species. Plant diversity also promotes animal diversity through varied food sources and nesting sites. In addition, the availability of water and upland areas allows many wildlife species to carry out their full life cycle within the riparian corridor.

The vegetation along streams and rivers also provides significant benefits to the fish, animals, and organisms that live in the streams. A major threat to water quality is sediments and pollutants that are washed off surfaces such as parking lots and lawns (fertilizers/pesticides) and into streams. But if the storm water must first cross a vegetated "buffer," then the stems and detritus from the plants help to slow the water down, allowing the water to infiltrate the soil and be taken up by the plants. The slowing of the water also allows sediments to settle out before reaching the stream. Trees and shrubs along a stream also contribute organic material to the water, such as leaves and logs or branches. The leaves tend to biodegrade in the water, providing food for aquatic organisms. The logs and branches provide habitat structure for spawning fish, and loafing turtles and ducks to name a few. The streamside vegetation also shades the water and keeps it cool for fish and other aquatic inhabitants. Lastly, the roots of the plants keep the banks of the stream in place, providing erosion protection and minimizing sediment in the streambed. So the riparian corridor not only provides a link for moving wildlife safely from one green space to another, it also protects the water quality within the stream itself.

How do Corridors Help Native Plants?

This article sounds like it's more about wild "life" than wild "plants"! Well, the lesson here is – if we help wildlife to move from natural area to natural area, we will also help the wild plants do the same. A study undertaken by researchers at the University of Florida showed that more birds were flying between natural areas that had a connection, than between natural areas that weren't connected. Birds eat berries, and are important dispersal agents for the seeds in the berries. In a similar study by the same group, it was shown that plants were more consistently pollinated between connected natural areas than unconnected ones. This means that the butterflies and bee pollinators could make it safely from one area to the other through the connecting corridor.

Tree rows, sometimes known as hedgerows, also provide an opportunity for wildlife and plant migration. These landscape elements are often narrow rows of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants that are in place to separate properties or farm fields in agricultural areas. Tree rows can be made up of native or non-native plant species, depending on the amount of past disturbance. If native vegetation exists, the tree row can be an important source of seed in a highly disturbed landscape. Tree rows can be continuous, or can provide "stepping stones" from one large habitat area to another. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources reports that a patchy tree row with trees and shrubs can attract up to 38 different bird species, and a similar but continuous tree row can attract up to 48 different bird species. Many communities strive to retain tree rows as important landscape elements when farm properties are developed.

Human Corridors

As you can imagine, there are many types of corridors that are the result of human

Continued on page 17

The Grapevine

By Maryann Whitman

Traditional American lawn on the way out?
Roundup-Resistant Bentgrass Creeping Your Way?
How about an odorless, bugless, and waterless lawn?

We Are Not Alone

"The field of landscape design is changing, becoming more sensitive to the environment. The traditional American lawn – just 'mow, blow and go,' using chemical fertilizers and lots of water to keep it green – is being gobbled up by plantings of ornamental grasses; native plants are replacing bulbous shrubs." This is the assessment of the landscape architects interviewed by *Newsweek* and printed in the March 1, 2004 issue (pp 62-63).

Monster in the Making?
Roundup-Ready Creeping Bentgrass
(Agrostis stolonifera L.)

Creeping bentgrass, by best estimates, was brought to this continent in the mid-1700s for use as a forage plant. A facultative wetland inhabitant, spreading by seed and underground rhizomes, it has become established throughout the Great Plains and into California. Besides providing forage it has also been recognized as useful in lawns and especially in golf courses.

Recognizing an opportunity, Monsanto created a genetically modified version of this plant that can withstand applications of glyphosate (Roundup). Using such a grass, golf course managers can count on being able to grow monocultures – a highly desirable faculty.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has responsibility under the Plant Protection Act (1990) to prevent the introduction and or dissemination of plant pests into the United States or interstate introduction/dissemination.

With Scotts Co. (manufacturers of Ortho, Miracle-Gro, Roundup and Turf Builder products), Monsanto has submitted a request to APHIS for a determination of unregulated status for Roundup-Ready Creeping Bentgrass, arguing that this Agrostis does not present a "unique plant pest risk." They note that "the agronomic consequences of volunteer [modified] creeping bentgrass would be minimal because the plants are easily controlled by mechanical means or by [application of] one of a number of other currently registered herbicides."

You Heard It Here First

Odorless, bugless, and, best of all – waterless grass. Orange County, the Astrolawn company, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California are trying out synthetic lawns at several locations and so far, reports the *Los Angeles Times,* suburbanites love them. A "soft, supple virtual lawn" is expensive at $6 to $7 a square foot, and at first the green blades shine with a disturbing sheen. But the sheen fades, and more than one homeowner reports that Astrolawn feels like the real thing. If the experiment succeeds, the water district says it will pay homeowners a rebate for installing waterless lawns. ❦

Notes from the Library

Did you know there is an index of materials available through the Wild Ones Library on the Wild Ones web site? Go to the member log-in on the Wild Ones website home page, www.for-wild.org, and check it out. Rob Ryf, Wild Ones national librarian, would love to hear from you. He can provide you with a variety of information and answer many of your questions. All you have to do is ask. Rob's e-mail address is library@for-wild.org.

A new DVD is available through the library entitled *Oak Openings Region: Discovering Our Natural Heritage.* Produced by WGTE Public Broadcasting, it is an introduction to the Oak Openings Region – a rare jewel in northwest Ohio, and the efforts of the partners of the Green Ribbon Initiative to preserve these undeveloped lands that create corridors connecting fragmented protected land. This 30-minute DVD was donated by Jan Hunter of the Maumee Valley Seedling Chapter and co-owner of Naturally Native Nursery, one of our newest advertisers.

Amendments, Additions, and Apologies

• In the March/April issue, the article titled *Cookie-Cutter Capitals* should have been attributed to Janet Allen. Our apologies, Janet.

• Pat Armstrong, owner of Prairie Sun Consultants in Naperville, Illinois and frequent speaker at native landscaping conferences and workshops, sent along this reminder as a follow up to the *Chaparral* article. I enjoyed the article on Chaparral. It is good to feature plants that are not from the Midwest. However, people that live in the chaparral zone know that these plants are considered *fire climax,* and planting them close to your house will no doubt help the wild fires consume your house. People should not build their houses in fire climax vegetation. If they do, the best defense is a very large mowed land and no trees or shrubs close to the house. I guess a moat would be the very best solution.

• Due to space limitations and editorial cuts last month, the *Spring Ephemeral* piece was misleading. Ephemerals are plants that are indeed transitory; the whole plant matures, flowers, seeds, and disappears within a short time period. Pat Armstrong also sent along a list of true ephemerals that you might want to choose from, depending on your site and location. Another word that comes to mind with these plants is "shade" plants. But these plants do require sun; they grow early and quickly before the canopy leafs out. A few of them will grow in a meadow setting, where it is summer forbs and grasses that provide the canopy. Depending on how the word is used, they are not really shade plants. If grown on the north side or in heavy shade they will probably drop out over time as they exhaust their root storage system and are unable to replenish it.
Wild Hyacinth, *(Camassia scilloides)*
Bulbous Spring Cress, *(Cardamine bulbosa)*
Purple Spring Cress, *(Cardamine douglassii)*
Pennsylvania Bitter Cress, *(Cardamine pensylvanica)*
Wild Chervil, *(Chaerophyllum procumbens)*
Blue-Eyed Mary, *(Collinsia verna)*
Crinkleroot, *(Dentaria diphylla)*
Toothwort, *(Dentaria laciniata)*
Squirrel Corn, *(Dicentra canadensis)*
Dutchman's Breeches, *(Dicentra cucularia)*
Shooting Star, *(Dodecatheon meadia)*
Harbinger of Spring, *(Eriginea bulbosa)*
White Trout Lily, *(Erythronium albidum)*
Yellow Trout Lily, *(Erythronium americanum)*
Virginia Blue Bells, *(Mertensia virginiana)*
Violet Wood Sorrel, *(Oxalis violacea)*

Photos of most of these flowers may be found on the Connecticut Botanical Society web site: www.ct-botanical-society.org/galleries/galleryindex.html

Continued from page 15 development and technology – roadways, railroads, utility linecorridors, canals, and trails to name a few. Unlike natural corridors, the main purpose of human corridors is to move people from place to place. However, conservation of the natural landscape on both sides of these corridors can also provide significant – and in some places the only – connections between patches of nature. In this article, we'll focus on two of these corridors: the abandoned railroad right-of-way, and the utility line corridors.

At the height of railroad transportation, there were almost 300,000 miles of rail lines. Today, this form of transport is gradually being replaced with the automobile and truck. When the trend in transportation shifted, and rail lines became obsolete, people started transforming the lines into "rail-trails." As of 2002, more than 11,600 miles of rail line are being used as bikeways, hiking and horse trails, and in-line skating routes.

But rail-trails have more to offer than just places for human transportation and recreation. In the Midwest, many railroad lines traversed fire-dependent plant communities, such as prairies and oak openings. The sparks from the rail cars often started fires next to the tracks, which, in turn, sustained the plants within the railway corridor. Remnants of these communities exist today next to abandoned rail lines, providing native food sources and habitat for wildlife, as well as native seed for dispersal.

Utility line right-of-ways are another opportunity to enhance or create wildlife corridors. In most cases, utility companies trim trees and mow the ground layer of a utility easement so that the lines are easily accessible for repair and not affected by vegetation. This maintenance can be expensive. Creative partnerships have been made between concerned organizations to assist the utility companies in maintaining their easements, but in a much more wildlife-friendly manner.

For instance, an alliance between the National Wild Turkey Foundation, the U.S. Forest Service, Outward Bound, and the East Coast energy company of Haywood EMC was formed to enhance habitat for wild turkey in utility easements on U.S. Forest Service parklands. This project was centered in North and South Carolina, and Georgia. The group worked together to identify six sites where permanent grass and forb wildlife openings were established and are now being managed to benefit wild turkeys, as well as other wildlife species.

What's Next

Now that you know which landscape features constitute a corridor, check out your community to see how your natural areas are linked. If your town or city has some work to do, the next article in this series will talk about several successful corridor projects that extend habitat areas, promote non-motorized transportation and offer recreation, all through the same linear routes. These popular amenities are called "greenways," and are growing in popularity and miles. ❦

References

Ecology of Greenways. Design and Function of Linear Conservation Areas; Smith, Daniel S., Hellmund, Paul Cawood, eds.; University of Minnesota Press; Minneapolis, Minnesota; 1993.

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

Power Lines; Haywood Electric Membership Corp.; Waynesville, North Carolina; December, 2003.

Rail-Trails and Safe Communities; Tracy, Tammy and Morris, Hugh; Rails-to-Trails Conservancy; Washington D.C.; 1998.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources website: www.michigandnr.com

University of Florida News and Public Affairs web site: www.napa.ufl.edu.

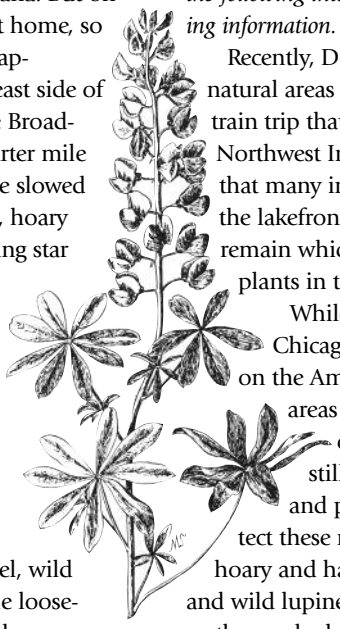
Railroads and Remnants

By Donna VanBuecken

Many of the last great prairie remnants are found along railroad tracks.

My husband, John, and I Amtraked to Lancaster, Pennsylvania last May where I participated in the Native Plants Conference sponsored by Millersville University, and John explored the wonderful world of yesterday's trains. On the way out of Chicago I was busy reading *The Ghosts of Evolution*, by Connie Barlow, as we passed through Chicago and into Indiana. But on the way back, I was eager to get home, so I watched more intently as we approached Hammond. On the east side of the railroad tracks just after the Broadway Street sign, I noticed a quarter mile or so of spiderwort. Then, as we slowed prior to the Hammond station, hoary puccoon, spiderwort, and blazing star on one side – and the big lake on the other. **Were we near the Gibson Woods Nature Center at which Gibson Woods Chapter meets?**

As we approached Chicago, I started to see some little bluestem, and although I continued to see spiderwort, I also began to see invasives, i.e., teasel, wild parsnip, phragmites, and purple loosestrife. What a shame. Many of the last great prairie remnants are found along railroad tracks, but just as many railroad right-of-ways contain nothing but the scars of some forgotten invasion.



Wild Lupine
(Lupinus perennis)

In answer to Donna's question, *Wild Ones member* ***Joy Bower****, who is the Outdoor Education Supervisor at the Gibson Woods Nature Center, responded with the following interesting information.*

Recently, Donna asked me about some natural areas that she observed during a train trip that brought her through Northwest Indiana. In spite of the fact that many industries are located along the lakefront, many natural gems still remain which contain some of the rarest plants in the state.

While passing through Gary, East Chicago, Whiting, and Hammond on the Amtrak line, there are many areas where hundreds of species of native plants and animals still thrive. Many efforts past and present have helped to protect these remnants. Many dune plants, hoary and hairy puccoon, butterfly weed, and wild lupine, to name a few, inhabit the sandy dune ridges.

They are home to the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly that depends on the wild lupine to survive, and the state endangered Franklin's ground squirrel.

These last remaining wild places are the first landfall where migrant birds, flying over Lake Michigan, can rest and feed before continuing on their long journey. They are also a valuable seed source for prairie and savanna restoration projects. Thankfully, they add a little interest and color to an otherwise bleak landscape.

Thank you, Donna, for noticing the natural beauty that can still be found here.

References

The Ghosts of Evolution: Nonsensical Fruit, Missing Partners, and Other Ecological Anachronisms, by Connie Barlow. ISBN 0-465-00551-9. Copyright, 2000.

Millersville University's 14th Annual Native Plants Conference. www.millersvillenativeplants.org

Midwest invasives. ww.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive/nonnative.htm

Editor's Note: See also *Reading the Landscape of America,* by May Theilgaard Watts, a classic in eco-literature.

Websites for further research

Indiana: Places We Protect: Southern Lake Michigan Rim Project Office. nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/indiana/preserves/art5854.html

The Migrant Trap – Indiana Birding Guide. www.indianaaudubon.org/guide/sites/migtrap.htm

Nature and Science at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. www.nps.gov/indu/pphtml/nature.html

If you have questions about this area, contact Joy Bower at (219) 844-3188 or e-mail teetrsnipe @aol.com

…as we slowed prior to the Hammond station, hoary puccoon, spiderwort, and blazing star on one side – and the big lake on the other.

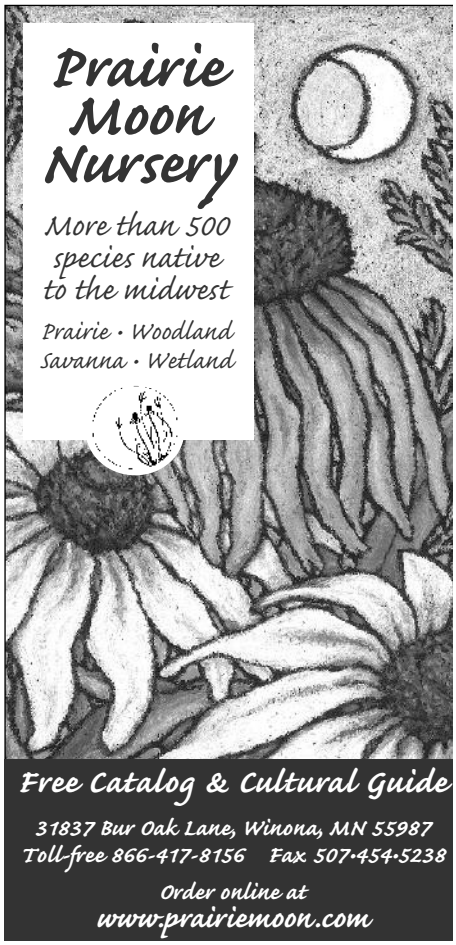
Welcome Wild Ones Business Members

Renewing their membership is **Hiawatha National Forest** of the U.S. Forest Service in Marquette, Michigan, where visitors are always welcome to see the progress they've made in restoring the ecosystem through weed control, preservation of rare plants and reseeding of areas with native species. Contact Jan Schultz, Forest Plant Ecologist at (906) 228-8491 or via e-mail at (906) 228-8491 for more information or to volunteer your services. Or see their website at www.fs.fed.us/rd/hiawatha.

Also renewing their affiliation are Dale Hendricks and Becky Long with **North Creek Nurseries Inc.** Located in Landenberg, Pennsylvania, this native plant nursery specializes in eastern natives, perennials and grasses, as well as cultivars. Contact Dale or Becky at (610) 255-0100 or go to their website at www.northcreeknurseries.com.

Northern Sunset Perennials from Germantown, Wisconsin is our newest wholesale nursery. The Northern Sunset Perennials brand name consists of over 1,200 varieties of perennials, including about 120 native species of forbs, ferns and grasses. Look for the "NATIVE: Naturally!" logo on the tag when shopping for new seedlings. For more information e-mail info@northernsunset.com or go to their web site at www.northernsunset.com to find the location of a nursery closest to you.

Shooting Star Nursery, located in Frankfort, Kentucky, has also joined us as a business member. This nursery, with its friendly, knowledgeable staff, offers a diverse assortment of plants and seeds native to the forests, prairies, and wetlands of the eastern United States. Contact them at (502) 223-1679 or via e-mail at shootingstarnursery@msn.com. And don't forget to check out their website at www.shootingstarnursery.com.



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

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
Meetings at Prairie Crossing, Grayslake, west side of Rt. 45, south of IL 120, north of IL 137.

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 writer.lewis@att.net
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.
See web site for May-June meeting schedule.
Woods Saturday Work Day:
Ward Wilson: (502) 299-0331, ward@wwilson.net
Allan Nations: (502) 456-3275

MAINE

The Maine Chapter #75 (Seedling)
Barbara Murphy (207) 743-6329
bmurphy@umext.maine.edu
Oxford County

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

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 #61
Pat Landry (906) 428-4053
aries1@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 Ritzenhein (517) 336-0965 mritz@acd.net
Third Wednesday, 7-9 p.m.
Room 139, Radiology, MSU campus.
For details: www.for-wild.org/redcedar

Oakland Chapter #34
Barbara Bray (248) 601-6405
kbray@bigzoo.net
Third Thursday, 7 p.m.,
Old Oakland Township Parks/Police Building,
4392 Collins Rd., Oakland Township.
See web site for program info.

MINNESOTA

Arrowhead Chapter #48
Carol Andrews (218) 727-9340
carol_andrews@hotmail.com
May through summer, meet fourth Thursday for outings; see web site.

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
Third Thursday, 7 p.m., Stillwater Town Hall

Twin Cities Chapter #56
Marty Rice (952) 927-6531 jcrmfr@msn.com
Third Tuesday, 7-9 p.m.
Nokomis Community Center,
2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy, Minneapolis.
See web site or contact above for March-April meeting schedule.

MISSOURI

Mid-Missouri Chapter #49
Lesa Beamer (573) 882-6072
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

OHIO

Greater Cincinnati Chapter #62
Roberta Trombly (513) 751-6183,
btrombly@fuse.net
Chris McCullough: (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

North Chagrin Chapter #73 (Seedling)
Barb Holtz (216) 382-3595
bph@clevelandmetroparks.com
Cleveland

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 8:30 a.m. 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.

Suggested motels are Days Inn (800) 329-7466, Best Western Hitch Inn (847) 362-8700, and Travellodge (847) 549-7878 all located at IL Hwy. 21/Hwy. 137, and about three miles from Prairie Crossings. 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

April 20-21, Brodhead, Wisconsin
Two-day workshop at Applied Ecological Services / Taylor Creek Nurseries, Brodhead, Wisconsin. The Practice of Restoring Native Ecosystems is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

April 23-25, Greenville, South Carolina
The South Carolina Native Plant Society will host its 7th Annual Native Plant Symposium in Greenville, South Carolina. This year's symposium is entitled *Jocassee, Jewel of the Upstate*.

April 23-25, Madison, Wisconsin
The Land Trust Alliance & Gathering Waters Conservancy holds the Midwest Land Trust Conference, *Conserving a Sense of Place,* in Madison, Wisconsin.

May 1-2, Ashland, Wisconsin
The Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute of the Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin will host the *Growing Northern Native Plant Gardens* workshop. Call (715) 682-1490 for information.

May 14-16, Nellysford, Virginia
This is the 21st celebration for *The Spring Wildflower Symposium* hosted by The Wintergreen Nature Foundation.

June 3-5, Millersville, Pennsylvania
This year's 14th Annual Native Plants Conference at Millersville University features:

Bill Cullina: Nursery manager and propagator, New England Wildflower Society's Garden in the Woods – *Natural Models in Landscape Design*.

Holly Shimizu: Executive Director, U.S. Botanic Garden – *East Coast Native Gardens.*

Gary Smith: Landscape architect and artist – *The New American Garden Revisited.*

Dr. Arthur Tucker: Research Professor, Delaware State University – *What is Native?*

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 2004, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Much of the early pioneer work in prairie preservation, management, and restoration began in the Badger State and appropriately the Conference theme is *The Conservation Legacy Lives On*. www.napc2004.org

August 24-26, Victoria, British Columbia
The SER2004 World Conference (Society for Ecological Restoration International. www.ser.org

Various Dates and Places
Carol Rubin, author of How to Get Your Lawn and Garden Off Drugs, (Harbour Publishing), and other books on lawnscape ecology, is conducting a number of workshops in conjunction with Wild Ones chapters. For a complete workshop listing, call the national office at (877) 394-9453 or check www.for-wild.org/chapters/Watsnew/CarolRubinWorkshopItinerary2004.htm

For information on these conferences and more, go to www.for-wild.org/conf/ or call the national office at (877) 394-9453.

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
Third Thursday, 5 p.m.
Spoutwood Farm, 4255 Pierceville Rd.,
Glen 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.

Shawano Area Chapter #74 (Seedling)
Marge Guyette (715) 787-3482
jkgmeg@athenet.net
Menominee, Oconto & Waupaca counties.

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, Rhinelander area.

2004 *Wild Ones* Photo Contest

Guidelines

1. The subject of all entries must be native plant species or native species ecology found in the USA or Canada.
2. One entry per category; two entries per member.
3. Photos cannot have been previously entered in the Wild Ones Photo Contest.
4. All photos must be at least 5" x 5" and no larger than 11" x1 4".
5. Photos may be in color or black and white.
6. Each print must be mounted on mounting board. (Available through most photo shops and art supply stores.) Matting is optional.
7. A completed entry form must be affixed to the back of each entry. Entry forms may be photocopied.
8. Photographs will be judged according to the following criteria:
   a. Technical merit (composition, sharpness, exposure, color).
   b. Appropriateness to category .
   c. Presentation (neatness of mounting).

Categories

1. Flora: plant species native to the United States or Canada.
2. Scenery: any aspect of woodland, savanna, prairie, wetlands and rain gardens.
3. Pollinators: insects or bugs native to the United States or Canada.
4. Child/Children: exploring the natural environment (prairies, woodlands, or wet areas).
5. Landscaping: include residences, businesses, or recreational areas as part of the subject
6. Wild Ones activities: educational programs (monthly meetings, conferences, seed exchanges, seed gatherings, garden tours, etc.); public relations activities home & garden shows, festivals, etc.); plant rescues.

Notes

Winners may not be selected if the judges deem the photos submitted in a specific category are not worthy of an award. Photos will be judged twice this year. The first round of judging will be by a professional photographer who will be to determine first, second and third place in each category and grand prize winner chosen from the first place winners. The second judging round will be by Annual Meeting attendees who will determine first, second and third place People's Choice awards overall.

Entries will be returned by mail only if accompanied by self-addressed, postage-paid packaging.

By entering the contest, each photographer will be giving Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, Ltd. and its affiliates permission to publish his/her photograph.

For a contest form or for more information, go to the Wild Ones website at www.for-wild.org or contact Carol Andrews, 2004 Photo Contest Chair, at Photo2004@for-wild.org or via phone at (218) 730-9954, or Donna VanBuecken at execdirector@for-wild.org or toll-free at (877) 394-9453.

Guidelines Changes

The photo contest committee has changed the guidelines for this year's contest. Main changes are:

1. No specified time frame for date photo taken.
2. Photos will be judged by a professional nature photographer, as well as annual meeting/ conference participants.
3. Size and framing requirements have been changed.
4. Due date has been moved up to July 20, 2004, with entries being mailed to the national office.

Please go to the "What's New" column on the web site to get full details, or contact national office at (877) 394-9453 for a copy of the complete guidelines.

Wild Ones Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Annual Dues:	Wild	Wilder	Wildest
Household	☐$30	☐$50	☐$75+
Business	☐$200	☐$500	☐$1,000+

☐I am joining/renewing at $50 or higher level.
Please send me the Membership Premium Video.

Limited income/full-time student household: ☐$20/year

Please check: ☐new ☐renewal ☐new contact info

Amount enclosed $ _____ for _____ years.

Chapter preference _____
Chapters listed in "The Meeting Place."

If this is a Gift Membership:

My Name _____

Occasion for Gift _____

Entire Membership Fee Is Tax-Deductible.

Wild Ones • P.O. Box 1274 • Appleton, WI • 54912-1274

Wild Ones
Native Plants, Natural Landscapes

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Appleton, WI 54912-1274
www.for-wild.org

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Appleton, WI 54912

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Update on the Oakland Chapter's Challenge Pledge

How much do you value the *Journal*?

In the last issue of the *Wild Ones Journal,* we told of having received a $1,500 challenge pledge from the **Oakland (MI) Chapter** for the production of one issue of the *Journal*. When the national Wild Ones board recommended that, in order to meet our financial obligations for the coming year, the budget for 2004 be based on one fewer issue of the *Wild Ones Journal,* Jessica Pitelka-Opfer, president of the Oakland Chapter, and her fellow members felt an obligation to try to reinstate that missing issue of the *Journal* into the budget. Since the issuance of Oakland's challenge we have received responding grants from these chapters:

Detroit Metro Chapter
Ann Arbor Chapter
Rock River Valley Chapter
St. Cloud Chapter
Gibson Woods Chapter
North Park Nature Center Chapter
Otter Tail Chapter
Mid-Missouri Chapter of Wild Ones

That is a total of $1,571. When we add in Oakland's 1 for 2 pledge we have a grand total (so far) of $2,356.50.

The *Journal* costs us approximately $4,500 (minus income from advertising) to publish an issue.

We still need approximately $900 to meet the cost of publishing an issue of the *Journal* (presumably $300 from Oakland and $600 from other chapters.

But consider this: In order to secure Oakland's total Challenge Pledge of $1,500 we need another $1,400 from the rest of the chapters. Eight chapters out of 38 have responded.

Won't you please encourage your chapter boards to consider sending a donation in response to Oakland's challenge pledge? We have until July to accomplish this.

Thank you!

Memorials and Gifts

Donations in memory of **Betty Czarapata** have been received to be put toward the publication of the 25th commemorative booklet. **Fran Galow**, Kalamazoo (MI) Chapter, sent $50 and **Mary Ann Crayton**, Gibson Woods (IN) Chapter, sent $70. Thank you both. There will be a special section just for memorials and gifts in the Wild Ones historical booklet.

We received a $50 gift toward Seeds For Education from **Mark and Terri Chelmowski**, Milwaukee North (WI) Chapter, in memory of **Jan Schops**.

Sister Mary Mark Schilling, Milwaukee North (WI) Chapter, of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother in Milwaukee donated $20 toward Oakland Chapter's *Journal* challenge pledge.

Matching Gifts

We also received a 3-for-1 matching donation on behalf of **Walter Wieckert**, and his wife **Bev**, of Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter from Illinois Tool Works Foundation.

Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and your generosity.