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Wild Ones®

NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

JOURNAL

JULY/AUGUST 2005
VOL. 18, NO. 4

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Thank You! Back Cover.

Working toward our next
25 years restoring native plants
and natural landscapes.

The WHOLE WORLD *in my* BACK YARD

By Janet Allen – President
Habitat Gardening Club of Central New York

But I've also come to understand much about the world beyond my yard. My habitat garden has become a microcosm of the whole world for me.

In order to create a backyard wildlife habitat, I provided food, water, cover, and a place to raise young. Those were the obvious things. In order not to harm the wildlife that answers my invitation I have learned to use sustainable gardening practices. I've come to understand that these practices are vital – not just for my own yard but for the world beyond.

One important sustainable gardening practice is to reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides and herbicides. My plants thrive without using any of these "cides." My diverse and abundant plantings invite into my yard many more beneficial insects than pests. Seeing how easy it is to have a yard full of life without the use of pesticides, I'm heartsick at the thought of the harm homeowners are causing children, pets, and wildlife by using so many of these poisons. I designed a "100% Pesticide-Free Yard" sign* to display in my yard by the roadside. I hope when people see this sign in the midst of my flourishing plants they'll realize how unnecessary these chemicals are.

One reason they're unnecessary is that I use organic gardening methods. I've seen the magic of compost. Who needs chemicals when you have compost? Making compost in indoor worm bins and in outdoor compost bins is one way I recycle waste on my own property. I'm appalled when I see people throwing out food scraps, grass clippings, and fall leaves as if they were garbage! Knowing how valuable this organic matter is, it's distressing to see our town using pay loaders to scoop leaves into huge, polluting dump trucks to cart them away.

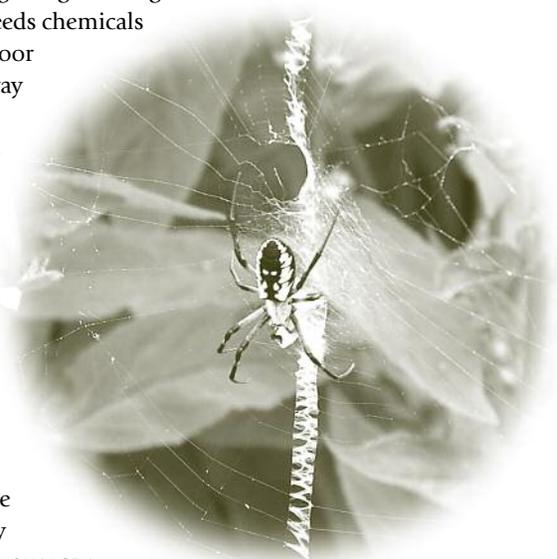
Unfortunately my habitat garden is like the world in another way: it has its own invasive species. Ironically, plants on my state's invasive plants list, such as Japanese barberry and burning bush, have caused no problem in my own yard. Some of these invasive plants are popular in home gardens precisely because they're carefree and very ornamental. It took all of my newly

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

A few years ago I became more than just a gardener. By creating a habitat garden I became a steward of my own little piece of the Earth.

Along the way, I've learned to identify songbirds, butterflies, and even dragonflies. As I've strived to restore lost habitat, I've learned to

appreciate native plants and learned that there are grasses other than turf grass.



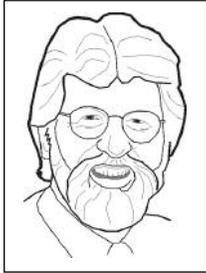
One important sustainable gardening practice is to reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides and herbicides. My plants thrive without using any of these "cides."

Notes from the President...

Ecoscaper Certification Underway and Lorrie Otto's Birthday

People are signing up for our new Ecoscaper Certification Program.

Help the Seeds for Education Program by sending Lorrie Otto a birthday card.



A new spring arrival is now available to Wild Ones members, the **Ecoscaper Certification Program**. We have been talking about it for almost two years and the program has finally

been implemented. A big *thank you* to Kathy McDonald and the rest of the Certification Committee for their hard work! For those who are interested in certifying their knowledge and expanding their advocacy for native plants, visit our web site and sign up now. The program is directed toward those members who have gotten a good start on their own yards and are looking to share that knowledge and experience with others in their community, or are looking for a simple structure by which to continue their own learning.

Another very important Wild Ones program, the Seeds for Education (SFE) Grant Program, was discussed at our Q2 meeting, hosted by the Menomonee River Valley

(WI) Chapter in early May. Contributions to the program are down, and the funding mechanism voted on at the 1999 Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin to provide \$0.80 per member from National's General Fund, has never been implemented due to continuing budget issues. While there are funds saved from a fund appeal two years ago for future SFE awards, the need to continue replenishing those funds has not diminished.

A possible solution was suggested by Jan Koel who helped host the board meeting: Why not send a contribution to National along with a birthday card for Lorrie Otto, whose 86th birthday is September 9th? SFE was established to honor Lorrie for her continuing educational efforts, and to remember Lorrie with a contribution to SFE in time for her birthday is an excellent way to generate funds for the SFE Grant Program. So please send Lorrie a birthday card with a contribution to SFE in her name and help this important program continue to provide grants for the development of native landscaped outdoor learn-

ing areas. We'll deliver them to Lorrie at the 2005 Annual Meeting hosted by the Twin Cities (MN) Chapter on September 10th. Just send your cards to P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, Wisconsin 54912. Or send your birthday greetings via the internet: www.for-wild.org/wildevents/birthdaycard.html.

Speaking of Lorrie Otto, the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation (WGCF), at their recent annual convention in Madison, honored Lorrie with their Bronze Award. The award is the highest state award given to non-members for their exceptional and outstanding accomplishments that advance WGCF objectives. Congratulations to Lorrie on this prestigious recognition! ❖

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

"The course of Nature is the art of God!"
Edward Young (1683-1765)

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

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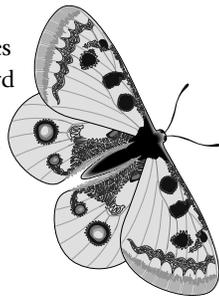
Alice Thompson is a wetland ecologist and owner of Thompson and Associates Wetland Services of South Milwaukee. She consults on wetland issues and projects throughout the state of Wisconsin.

The photo on page 9 was taken by **Kathleen Griswold**, who has a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science and Geography from Carroll College, Waukesha. Her professional interest include wetland soils, delineation and mitigation, and conservation planning. She is a member of the Society of Wetland Scientists and a member of the St. Louis (MO) Chapter of Wild Ones.

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The sketches on page 10 and 11 are by **Sally Hiott** of the Detroit Metro (MI) Chapter.

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Left: With one wheelbarrow and many buckets, these students show that enthusiasm and energy will get the job done. Center: Fifth-grade stewards take a break from moving wood chips. Right: Quietly raking mulch in the woodland seems a relaxing task for this Northville student. *Photos by Wendy LaValle – Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

It All Started With Some Trees: Stewardship from the Ground Up

By Linda Cody – Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter

The Wild One's Seeds for Education committee can attest to the fact that there is no shortage of creative and dynamic projects occurring across the nation that involve school gardens, learning cycles, and native plants. At the same time, it is also true that many teachers and administrators are hesitant to initiate such projects. Where to start? Where to find funding? How to plan for the long term? Will it be used? Who will care for it over the summer? These are reasonable questions in the world of abbreviated school budgets and limited resources.

However, for as many as are hesitant to embark on a habitat restoration or native planting, there are those brave souls who have plunged right in, whether from sheer determination or unrelenting optimism. So if you are thinking about tackling a schoolyard habitat project and are timid about taking the plunge, here is a story that may help. Like so many other stories, it involves a class of elementary students, their teachers and parents – this time in Northville, Michigan. And it is about a one-half-acre woodlot that sits along a busy suburban road, between a middle- and an elementary school.

The woods had been there as long as anyone could recall, and teachers occasionally took their students to the woods for science, creative writing, and art projects. But in 2001, teachers and students organized a concerted effort to restore the woods and define it as an outdoor classroom and natural area accessible to everyone in the community.

The significance of this project is that it is representative of many successful school projects in that it did not involve a large amount of money, and it brought together parents, teachers, students and the community in a collaborative effort. A particularly unique feature is that it sparked an environmental initiative within one fifth-grade teacher's classroom that has reverberated throughout the middle- and elementary school.

The site first needed to be cleared of trash and invasive plant species, so the Eagle Scouts organized a group of volunteers. Creating mulched paths followed and provided easy access throughout the site. More than 120 sixth-grade students helped to plant nearly 1,000 wildflowers that had been "rescued" nearby. The children helped in many ways. They heave-hoed tree trunks to the woodland edge for chipping and shredding. Then shoveled mulch and dragged it into the woods. One parent noted that the dirtier and more challenging the task, the more the children seemed to like it.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Woodlot Reflections

Musings of fifth-grade students inspired by their woodlot.

With each visit the woodlot changes, the changes caused by the seasons and the ash tree clean up. It's so nice to have a getaway, a place where nature is the only thing that matters. A time when homework is forgotten, friendships can be built, and fun can be had. I enjoy the break, and wish the woodlot would remain there forever. – SR

The Hillside Woodlot to me is a special thing. It is a quiet, peaceful place to do work. Having an outdoor education area is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to take some of the boringness out of assignments with a place to chill. The woodlot is fairly easy to care for. It is awesome. – ER

The woodlot means to me a place where you can go and relax. It also means a place where you can go and help out nature. I find the woodlot a very effective place to learn because of all the nature in it. It is nice to know that the work I have done will leave a mark for years to come. – LJ

fortified sense of stewardship to dig up and discard these plants solely because they might harm ecosystems beyond my own yard! I did appreciate having more space, though, to plant some of the beautiful native plants I've since discovered.



A cardinal taking a bath in our backyard stream.

But there are exotic invasive animals as well as plants. One of the most distressing is the house sparrow. I've seen firsthand how destructive these non-native birds can be. They badger the smaller birds and, by their sheer numbers, intimidate the larger birds. They take over nestboxes meant for native birds that need these places to raise their young. I see daily evidence of how their presence reduces the diversity of birds in my yard – and how difficult it is to manage the problem. I better understand the problems caused by invasive species in the world beyond my yard, but I have found no solutions.

A habitat garden should conserve water. After my husband constructed two rain barrels, I was astonished to see how much water collected from just one of our four downspouts. Even a brief rainfall filled the barrels to overflowing. I suddenly realized how much our own impervious roof and driveway must be contributing to our overburdened municipal sewer system. I have become keenly aware of how our cities and suburbs are covered with acres of impermeable roofs, driveways, roads, and parking lots.

I decided to add a further conservation element to my habitat garden – a clothesline. As I take action in my personal life to prevent global warming, my clothesline has become an essential energy-saving component of my yard. Our hybrid Prius sits in our driveway.

A few years ago, we added a pond and stream with three waterfalls. It has been exciting to add a whole new ecosystem to my habitat. I've enjoyed immensely learning about native aquatic plants, seeing the little water bugs, and watching the wildlife attracted to the pond. At the same time, though, I'm keenly aware that my pond's pump, though one of the most efficient available, is using a good bit of energy. I improved my habitat garden by adding this water feature, but does this justify its extravagant energy use? Coincidentally, though, my state's utility companies began offering a renewable energy option the same month I plugged in my pond! I assuaged my guilt somewhat by being one of the first to sign up to purchase 100% clean, renewable wind energy. But I now identify even more strongly with the kinds of difficult decisions we need to make on a national level regarding our energy policies. And my second pond was designed as a wildlife pond, with no pump at all.

Over the past few years, I've given a lot of thought and energy to my habitat garden. I've studied books. I've dug holes. I've lugged

stones. I've searched for sources of native plants. I've dug up and discarded my formerly favored, but now unwelcome exotic invasive plants. But my habitat garden has given much more back to me. It has reconnected me to the natural world, providing much joy and satisfaction. I've met many wonderful people by sharing my excitement about my yard. But the greatest gift of all was that it was a powerful source of peace and solace after September 11.

I appreciate more than ever the spiritual value of the natural world.

Creating my habitat garden has been one of the most creative, rewarding things I've done. I feel a strong sense of stewardship for all the creatures that visit my yard. I can provide for their simple needs in my own yard, but what about the world beyond my yard? I wonder what will happen to my monarch butterflies when they leave my yard. Will there be enough nectar to sustain them on their long journey to Mexico? Will my hummingbirds find a winter home when so much rain forest is being cut down? Will pesticides kill my busy bees when they travel down the street?

And so my habitat garden has led me out of my yard, and into the world. It has taught me much about the natural world, but most of all it has inspired an intense sense of stewardship of the world beyond my yard.

It has led to my becoming a Habitat Steward Volunteer for the National Wildlife Federation so I can help and encourage more people to preserve and restore habitat, one yard at a time. It has led me to work with others to form the Habitat Gardening Club of Central New York, which last year became a chapter of Wild Ones.

My habitat garden has led me to become an Environmental Justice Coordinator for the United Methodist Church, working not only for stewardship of the Earth but also for justice for people all over the world today, and for future generations. Participating in the Wild Ones Ecoscaper Program will present an additional opportunity to increase my knowledge and skills.

It has led to my work as an advocate for a world where fewer chemicals are used, where we value our natural resources and ecosystems, and where we make clean renewable energy a priority. In short, a world in which we are good stewards of all of the Earth. My hope is that the world outside my yard will adopt the principles of Wild Ones and of the Backyard Wildlife Habitat program – and that my future grandchildren will someday have the opportunity to enjoy their own habitat gardens in a healthier world! ♦

**See our Wild Ones yard signs at www.for-wild.org/store/*

An earlier version of this article first appeared in the National Wildlife Federation's *Habitats* newsletter, Winter 2003, and is posted on the Backyard Wildlife Habitat web site at www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/wholeworldwinter.cfm.

Janet Allen's Stewardship Garden web site is at www.StewardshipGarden.us.



A toad laying eggs in our pond. A pair lays thousands of eggs, which look like a black pearl necklace.

A Campsite Full of Opportunities

By Barbara Bray

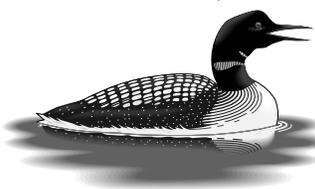
Summer is the perfect time for getting away from it all. We pack our pop-up camper, load the car with anything that doesn't fit in the camper, and head to one of our favorite destinations – a Michigan state park or recreation area. Our destination may be as close as the next county or a full day's drive away, but we always approach our trip with the same enthusiasm. Why? Because not only is it a chance to have fun, but it is also an opportunity to help our children experience the simple enjoyment of being part of the natural world.

Let's say that you decide to go on a camping trip this summer. What should you consider? First, leave the television and electronic games at home. The kids will initially complain that there is nothing to do at the campsite. (I call this "Game Cube withdrawal" in our house). Surprisingly, children are very resilient and they will soon see a smorgasbord of possibilities. Interesting sticks become magic wands, scattered rocks become stepping stones, and leaves become umbrellas or wrapping paper for "natural presents." When children are confronted with boredom, it forces them to use their imagination and to pay attention to their surroundings. Second, don't be afraid to let them explore on their own near your campsite. All children like to be explorers of a "new land." A quick lesson on poison ivy would be appropriate now, as well as a reminder to tread lightly.

What happens when you confront adverse conditions? Last year, when we went camping over Memorial Day weekend, we had two days of rain. We set up our campsite in a downpour and then ate dinner inside our camper. The next morning, it was still raining. Rather than stay inside our camper, we decided to go to a picnic shelter in the day-use area for our breakfast. As we ate our oatmeal, a wood thrush was singing nearby in a forested low area just above a lake. Then I heard the sound of a loon. I excitedly asked my children if they wanted to go down to the lake to see it. They agreed and all three of us sprinted down the wet hillside. At the lake's edge we listened as the loon's call faded into the thick gray mist. We never saw the loon, but it was exhilarating just the same. The rain started falling again, so we turned to walk back up the hill. Pausing for a moment, my son asked me if I had noticed the wildflowers blooming next to the beach. I smiled and told him yes, and thought to myself how wonderful it was that *he* had noticed them too.

Camping trips often provide special opportunities to see something unusual, or perhaps notice something that one never paid attention to before. If it is raining on your trip, watch for interesting creatures like slugs which seem quite at home in a totally drenched environment. Show your children a "really cool" plant that has a funny name or perhaps looks unusual. Float an oak leaf

"boat" down a stream, and watch where it drifts. Weave dried grasses or yarn on the branching ends of a small stick for a natural art project. The possibilities are endless, and limited only by one's imagination! ♦



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at home. This is known
as "Game Cube
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The Grapevine

By Maryann Whitman

Protests of Roadside Spraying

Marilyn Logue, president of the Columbus (OH) Chapter tells us that residents of Ohio are writing letters to the Ohio Department of Transportation requesting that ODOT consider using brush cutters along state routes to control brush growth for highway safety. ODOT has been using a herbicide containing triethylamine to control brush growth. The herbicide has been ranked by Environmental Defense as one of the most hazardous compounds (worst 10%) to ecosystems and human health.

It's a Small World

In our concern about, and battle with, invasive species we tend to think in terms of our own back yards, local natural areas, and possibly our local ecoregions. It's jarring to think that every other country on the planet, at some level, is experiencing the profound negative effects of invasive species. Lake Victoria in central Africa, the second largest fresh water lake on the planet, is being choked by purple hyacinth, just as are canals in Florida.

In 2004 the Global Invasive Species Information Network (GISIN) was formed so that standardized information about invasive species could be shared worldwide. GISIN will be coordinated with Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) which also has portals in

Thoughts on Ecoscaping

Somewhere between a prairie and a formal planting lies the fertile potential of native plants in an ornamental design, the domain of the Ecoscaper – which is a brilliant synthesis in language of the two concepts, landscaper and ecologist. Getting the name right is the first step in defining and shaping an understanding of what you want to accomplish.

LONNIE MORRIS – GREATER DuPAGE (IL) CHAPTER,
A PARTICIPANT IN THE ECOSCAPER PROGRAM.

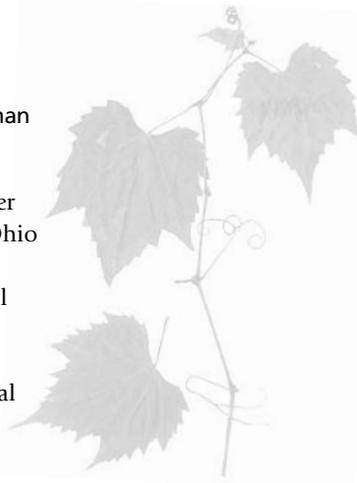
countries all over the world. With species fact sheets, images, maps, and identification tools, GISIN can help in modeling and forecasting the spread of invasives by answering basic questions about those species' names, home ranges, biology, pathways, and management. "For GISIN to germinate and bear fruit we need broad collaboration through strong partnerships with many other global, regional, and national organizations. We cannot limit our partnerships to invasive species organizations. Since all invasives are native somewhere, it is essential to compile basic species information from where a species naturally occurs so that we can find methods (biological, chemical, and mechanical) to control it where it is invasive." So says Annie Simpson of the U.S. Geological Survey, and chair of GISIN's interim steering committee. (from (July) 2004. *BioScience* 54 (7):613-614).

An Old Word in a New Context

Hysteresis represents the *history* dependence of physical systems. If you push on something, it will yield: when you release, does it spring back completely? If it doesn't, it is exhibiting hysteresis, in some broad sense. Applied to ecological restoration, the concept of hysteresis suggests that reversing a disturbance process will not necessarily reinstate an intact ecosystem. This idea, given the inkling that we have of the complexity of functioning ecosystems, seems self evident, but it's nice to have another word to account for failure. ❖

PHOTO CONTEST

Just a reminder that the new photo contest guidelines for 2005 are available at www.for-wild.org/events.html. Be sure to let the kids know about the new Kids' Photos category. Deadline for mailed submissions is September 2, 2005. Photo contest entries personally delivered to the conference site must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., September 9, 2005 at the Bunker Hills Regional Park in Minneapolis / St. Paul, Minnesota.



Become a...

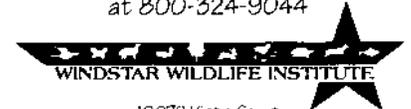


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On Friday, May 20th, Columbus (OH) Chapter President Marilyn Logue and Vice President Mary Mayeres, attended the Ohio Heritage Garden’s Spring Dedication and Reception at the Governor’s Residence where they presented the First Lady with a membership to Wild Ones because of Mrs. Taft’s contribution to environmental education through her role in the development of the Ohio Heritage Garden.

Marilyn received a really nice thank-you e-mail from First Lady Hope Taft, for the gift to her of the membership in Wild Ones. Mrs. Taft wrote:

Subject: many thanks

Dear Marilyn,

Thank you so much for coming to Friday’s dedication of the Ohio Heritage Garden and giving me a membership in the Columbus chapter of the Wild Ones.

I look forward to receiving the Wild Ones Journal and learning more about native plants and the organization, because I really want to encourage others to preserve our native genotypes and species.

I am thrilled to be part of your organization and hope you will bring your members over to see what we are doing here in the Ohio Heritage Garden.

Marilyn’s comment: “What a great lady! What a thrill for us to receive such a nice letter.”

Chapter Partnership

Barb Bray, President of the Oakland (MI) Chapter, wrote to tell us the great news about a partnership that her chapter has formed with three other local entities. With the help of the Oakland Land Conservancy, Clinton River Watershed Council, and Oakland County Planning & Economic Development, they have set up what is called “The Oakland Native Partnership Initiative.” The purpose of this partnership is to promote the initiation of and continued stewardship of high-quality native landscape restorations and community native gardens on public spaces within the Oakland area. Each of the organizations will contribute something: funding, expertise, or promotional support.

ECOSCAPER PROGRAM UPDATE

We are pleased that our Ecoscaper Program has several enrollees already working on their certification requirements. Congratulations to Deborah Wissman, of the Greater Cincinnati (OH) Chapter, who was our first applicant. Deborah passed the test and now is hard at work on the fieldwork and project portion of the Ecoscaper Level I Program.

We are also delighted to report that we have a request from Tracy Samilton, a programmer with Michigan Radio, who would like to do a series on Michigan Wild Ones Ecoscapers as they progress. If anyone is interested in participating in the Ecoscaper Program and taking Michigan Radio up on their request, please contact the National Office at 877-394-9453 or e-mail at execdirector@for-wild.org.

For more information about the Wild Ones Ecoscaper Program, go to www.geostar.com/econoone/ecoscapemain.htm, or contact the National Office at 877-394-9453.

An Asian insect pest, the emerald ash borer, has devastated ash trees in Michigan. It contributed to tree removal in the woodlot, killing nearly fifty trees. However, ever turning adversity into opportunity, stumps were left for an outdoor classroom, and biological diversity was increased with the addition of more native species of herbaceous and woody plants. Loss of the trees opened space in the tree canopy for light to reach the woodland floor and plants to flourish.

A local tree company offered its services to remove the dead ash. This donated time and materials along with that of school staff and others was leveraged into matching funds for other grants. Funding was

Treetops

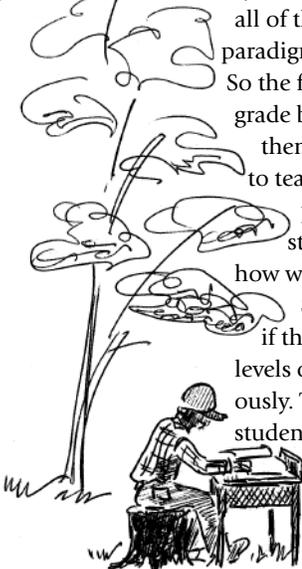
I tilt my head so that I can see,
So that I can see the treetops.
They tilt it seems,
Into a peak like a mountain.
Only a small portion of the sky can be seen,
In the center of the world.
- CL

received from the Mother's Club of Northville, DTE Energy Company, and the Michigan DNR. And in the end, a little over \$3,000 was raised for the project, with over 90 trees, all species native to Michigan, planted in the woods.

The woodland restoration is ongoing, but the bulk of the work described here took about three years. During that time teachers used the woodland for science and creative writing projects as well as to teach stewardship. And the project was timely, as tightening budgets led to loss of funding for buses used in field trips. This natural area was a short walk from the classrooms of both middle- and elementary students.

Restoration projects can seem an enormous undertaking. And clearly each one is unique. However, this project demonstrates what can be accomplished with little money but with great spirit. The commitment of time and effort, the willingness to get dirty and to work alongside your classmates was enough to get things going. It doesn't always require a team of experts. It often just requires a "team."

Wendy LaValle had an idea that began to take hold as her first fifth- grade "woodland stewards" moved across the street to middle school. They had already forged a connection to the woodland and had helped to introduce the next fifth grade to their new responsibility. But Mrs. LaValle reasoned that if they kept extending a hand down the grades, as each new class arrived they would come with a seed already planted; an interest ready to be cultivated. Eventually they could reach



all of the grades and in so doing establish a paradigm for environmental education. So the fifth-grade students were paired with first-grade buddies and charged with introducing them to the woodland. They were challenged to teach them about the woods and most importantly to make it fun! Mrs. La Valle's students then devised a plan to evaluate how well they had accomplished their task. Several months later they returned to see if they remembered. As you can see, many levels of learning were happening simultaneously. The woodland continues to engage the students and they continue to pay it forward. The children are still writing about the woods, learning about the habitat and seeing firsthand the value of stewardship. ❖

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NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Mouse House

By Alice Thompson – Milwaukee Southwest-Wehr (WI) Chapter
Photo by: Kathleen Griswold.



It was late November and we were still delineating the edges of wetlands. The mild fall weather and current lack of snow had permitted our work past its usual season. Dressed in coveralls, hats, scarfs, and mittens, by mid-day we had shed layers and continued to work steadily through the short day. The sun was weak, wheeling low in the sky and by 3:30 in the afternoon we could no longer see the colors of soil in our pits. By 4 o'clock we were heading home.

We were making our way along the wetland edge, a farm field to one side, the wetland on the other when Kathleen spied a wasp's nest swinging on a willow branch. The gray tattered ball floated above some cattails, and as I caught the willow branch, we were startled by a small whiskered furry face that thrust out of the ball. In another instant a mouse leaped out of the nest and disappeared into the marsh.

We stared in delight at this recycled mouse home. Golden cattail fluff was stuffed into the wasp cone and battened down to insulate and caulk up the gaping paper walls. The clever mouse had built something out of nothing. How did the mouse locate the empty nest swinging high above the ground? How many trips did the mouse make, carrying cattail fluff down the stalk and back up the willow to pack the nest? We continued on our way in the fading light, imagining the mouse returning to the warm paper husk swinging above the silent marsh. The ingenuity, resourcefulness, and courage of that mouse awaiting spring in such handmade splendor was our winter's inspiration. ❖

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Wild Ryes for the Natural Landscape

None of these common but elegant grasses can be characterized as a long-lived perennial, but their value in the landscape is great.

By James C. Trager – Shaw Nature Reserve of the Missouri Botanical Garden

The wild ryes, genus *Elymus*, belong to a group of grasses that includes cultivated and wild species of wheat, barley, and rye. Most of them naturally grow on ground that is periodically or recently disturbed. The nutritious grains of these species are borne in dense spikes, and their bristly awns protect them

from herbivory by browsing mammals. The combination of relatively large and nourishing grains with an affinity for growing in disturbed soils is certainly what led to many of them coming to be cultivated in the Old World, and to their being harvested as a wild food by the indigenous peoples of the New World.

When I spoke to Scott Woodbury, president of the St. Louis (MO) Chapter, about writing an article on wild ryes for Wild Ones, we had a nice discussion of the virtues of the various species, but he finished up by saying, in a somewhat wistful tone,

Leaf parts.

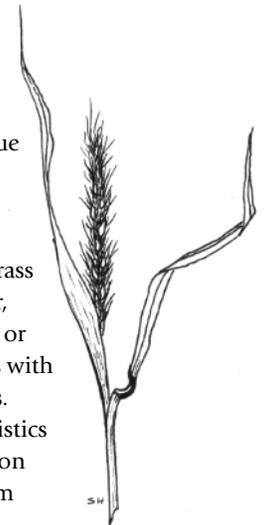
“The problem is, none of them last.” While it is true that none of these common, but elegant grasses can be characterized as a long-lived perennial, their value in the landscape as successional or placeholder species is great.

Midwestern prairie planters have long known of the value of Canada wild rye (*Elymus canadensis*) as a grass which appears quickly and out-competes many annual

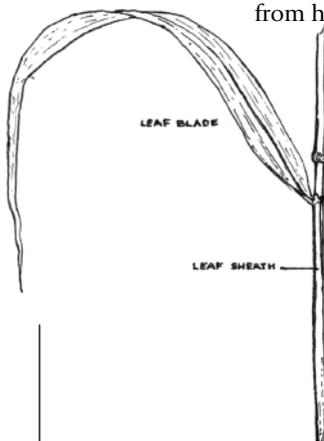
and biennial weeds, while the slower-growing perennial prairie plants become established underneath its swaying, grain-laden stalks. What is true of this species may also be said of the other Midwestern wild ryes in the preferred habitat of each one. Along with the mesic, black-soil prairies, the tallgrass region was home to prairies on poorer, dryer soil and on periodically flooded or saturated soil, as well as in woodlands with a variety of soils and moisture regimes.

Below, I provide suites of characteristics and preferred habitats of seven common species of the genus *Elymus*. All of them make a fine addition to your prairie or woodland native planting, even if, once established, they will be present in much lower numbers than in the early establishment phase. (Note that *virginicus*, *jejunus*, and *glabriflorus* are traditionally treated as varieties of *virginicus*, but in Missouri and Illinois, at least, they grow in different habitats, have different flowering times, and do not seem to interbreed or be connected by intermediate types, so I call them species.)

Note: Glumes are paired scales or bracts occurring at the base of grass spikelets, each spikelet consisting of one to several flowers or florets. In *Elymus*, the glumes and a third bract called the lemma (the base of which encloses the grain) are all elongate and usually bear an even longer bristle, called an awn.



Elymus virginicus



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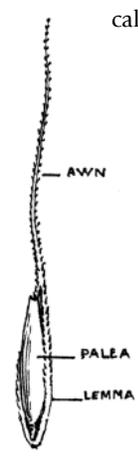
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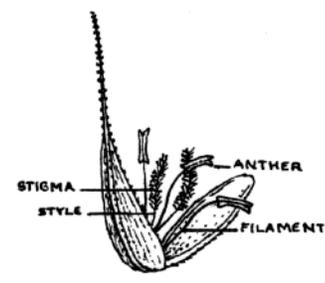
Spikelet



Glumes



Closed Floret



Open Floret (Flower)

Dissected spikelet under magnification.

All these species make a fine addition to your prairie or woodland native planting, even if, once established, they will be present in much lower numbers than in the early establishment phase.

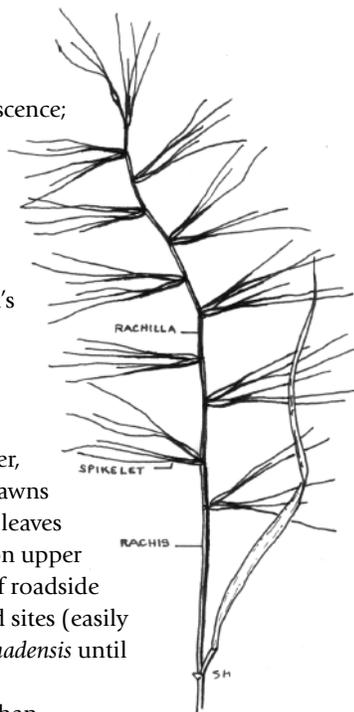
Group A

Species with nodding inflorescence; florets fall or are relatively easily stripped off by hand, leaving the glumes attached:

- *canadensis* – Spike robust, 150-200 mm long, nodding; awns long, curly (like a piglet's tail), and arched outward; prairies, openings in rocky woods.

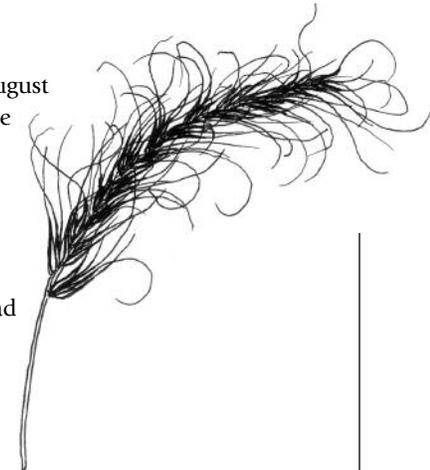
- *riparius* – Spike a bit more slender and on average smaller, 100-175 mm long, nodding; awns long, at most slightly curved; leaves glabrous and slightly rough on upper surface; stream banks, edge of roadside ditches, moist open disturbed sites (easily confused with *villosus* and *canadensis* until you learn them).

- *villosus* – Spike usually less than 100 mm long; awns proportionately shorter than those of *riparius* (relative to overall size of spike); leaves with fine appressed hairs on upper surface giving a satiny look and feel; lower surface silky, pleasant to touch, due to the thick fine hairs; upland woods, especially recently opened up or otherwise disturbed sites, persisting and maybe even spreading after clearing, often on loess-derived soils.



Elymus hystrix

- *glabriflorus* – Flowers in July-early August with grains persisting into fall; mature plant to 2 m tall; spike 100-200 long, erect; inflorescence clearly exerted 30-60 mm above leaf sheath; awns weakly ascending to fully spreading, 10-20 mm long; open upland woods, upland prairies, roadsides and railroad rights-of-way, most often on well-drained, often clayey or cherty, low-fertility soils.



Elymus canadensis

Group C

Inflorescence erect or nodding, spikelets widely spaced on rachis, so that they do not form a solid spike.

- *hystrix* (formerly known as *Hystrix patula*) – Spikelets perpendicular to rachis, their bases well-spaced from one another giving the inflorescence the appearance of an old-fashioned wire bottlebrush; at maturity, spikelets and glumes fall together, leaving a naked rachis; glume short-awned; habitat dry to mesic woods, savannas and woodland edge, often found in somewhat more shaded locations near *glabriflorus* or in association with common woodland brome *Bromus pubescens*. ❖

Drawings

Elymus drawings by Sally Hiott – Metro Detroit (MI) Chapter.

Books of Interest

How to Identify Grasses and Grasslike Plants. H.D. Harrington. Swallow Press, Ohio University Press. ISBN 0-8040-0746-2.

Plant Identification Terminology: An Illustrated Glossary. J. G. Harris and M. W. Harris. Spring Lake Publishing. ISBN 0-9640221-6-8.

Agnes Chase's First Book of Grasses: The Structure of Grasses Explained for Beginners. Agnes Chase. Smithsonian Institution Press. ISBN 156098-656-5.

Manual of Grasses of the United States, Vol. 1. A. S. Hitchcock. Second edition revised by Agnes Chase. Dover Press. ISBN 0-486-22717-0.

Group B

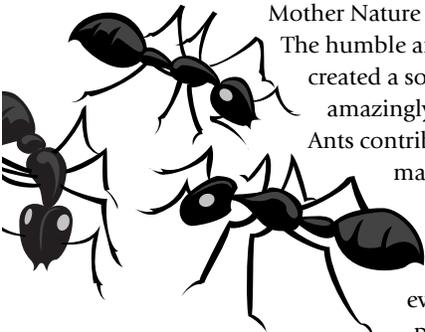
Species with erect inflorescence, glumes strongly bowed outward at base; spikelets falling with glumes attached, leaving a bare rachis, more resistant to hand-stripping.

- *virginicus* – Flowers in May, with grains falling off plants by late summer, plant less than 1 m tall; spike 50-100 mm long; inflorescence slightly inserted in leaf sheath to somewhat exerted; awns somewhat spreading, awns about 10 mm long; bottomland forest (i.e., with nettles) or rich mesic forest

- *jejunus* – Flowers in late June-early July with grains persisting into fall; plant about 1 m tall; spike 75-125 mm long; base of inflorescence always firmly inserted in leaf sheath, the basal 5-10 spikelets thus hidden; awns only slightly spreading, at a 10-20 degree angle to the long axis of the spike; glumes about 1.5 mm wide at base, awns often less than 10 mm long; openings in disturbed mesic forest, shady fencerows, roadsides and ditches in good but well-drained soil.

The Mighty Ants of the Prairie

By Pam Westfall



Mother Nature creates plenty of wonders.

The humble ant is one of them. In it, she has created a social insect capable of surviving in amazingly varied ecological conditions.

Ants contribute to the complex web of life in many ways. They scavenge and forage, burrow, drag massive amounts of debris underground, aid in seed germination and dispersal, and even help protect plants from predators. All of these activities

contribute to the decomposition of detritus and preservation of biodiversity, leaving behind fertile soil that would be the envy of any gardener. These are big jobs for a creature so small.

The Ant Life Cycle

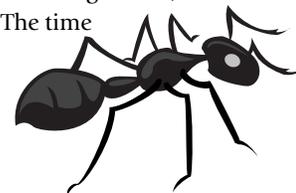
All of the thousands of species of ants that inhabit the Earth live in colonies of one or more egg-laying queens and numerous non-reproductive workers. Owing to their social structure, their lives are orderly and organized. Each ant has its own function, and that function changes over time. This division of labor according to

relative age of individuals is known as temporal polyethism.

In the beginning, the youngest ants tend to the hungry larvae and the mother queen. They also carry and clean the eggs and pupae. As they age, they move on to other responsibilities such as nest-building and ultimately, outdoor work – that is work outside of the nest. The oldest ants forage, guard the nest, retrieve prey, and defend the nest.

Ants have smart reproductive strategies as carefully executed as a well-rehearsed waltz. Partner selection, timing and even the scent of the queen's perfume, or pheromone, all contribute to the success of a colony. The waltz begins with a nuptial flight: a virgin queen takes to the air and mates with one or more males, storing the sperm internally. After mating, the males die. The inseminated queen then begins the process of setting up the nest. As simple as the nuptial flight may seem, all of the processes that lead up to it are not. Both queens and males must emerge at the right time, and then must decide to fly at the right moment. The time of flight actually seems to be species specific.

Under these conditions only individuals of the same species can breed and the queen can bear viable offspring.



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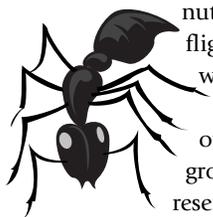
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After the nuptial flight has ended, the queen removes her wings and determines where to build a nest. In the prairie, the nest is built in the soil. The queen feeds the larvae with her own fat tissues and



nutrients from the discarded flight muscles. Some queens will also forage for food to feed their broods, but others will remain underground using only their body reserves to start the colony.

Once the first workers have matured, they take over the nest-keeping tasks and the queen focuses solely on the production of more fertilized eggs.

The Prairie Ants

Conditions in the prairie are tough: frequent fire, periods of drought, extremes in temperatures, and few, if any woody species. All of this makes survival a risky proposition. In fact, animals best suited to these conditions are burrowing ones, and ants fit the bill nicely. Soil-nesting ants are able to thrive; in fact, the prairie provides prime real estate for them. Two species of ants enjoy greater numbers in the prairies than anywhere else: *Formica montana* and *F. incerta*, but there are several dozen others that may be found there as well. Ants that are more sensitive to fire, such as leaf-litter dwellers and arboreal ants are practically nonexistent in the prairie. Also conspicuously missing from the prairie are stem-inhabiting species and litter inhabitants, both of which tend to live in more wooded neighborhoods.

Ants of the prairie are not finicky eaters. In other parts of the world, ants can be more selective in their dining preferences and specialize on one form of prey, or harvest specific seeds. Some even cultivate mushrooms. Prairie ants, however, appear to eat anything. They dine on invertebrates and decomposing vertebrates, and also enjoy a sugary snack in the form of honeydew or extra floral nectar. They even eat the fatty tissue that envelops or attaches to certain seeds.

Ants provide a couple of services to plants: protection and help with seed dissemination. Ants act as guards, attacking any foreigner approaching their territory. This helps keep many insects away, including leaf-eaters, benefiting the plant immensely.

Another form of plant protection comes as a mixed-blessing. Aphid-infested plants can be at greater risk of developing disease,

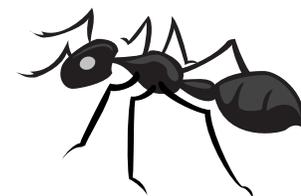
which can make them unable to set seed. Yet, when attended by ants, the aphid-infested plants are protected from other herbivores. The leaf predators are thwarted, and other pests are kept at bay. At the very least, the plant has enough energy to set seed, despite the aphid infestation.

In addition to plant protection, the ants participate in a marvelous co-evolution with some plants, aiding in their seed dispersal. Some plants produce fleshy tissue called elaiosomes on their seeds. The sole purpose of the elaiosome is to attract ants to the seeds and then to reward them when they carry the seeds away to a new location. Ants find the structures irresistible, and carry the seeds back to the nest. In the nest, the tissue adhering to the seeds is eaten, and the seeds disposed of in the ant version of a garbage heap. In this organic-rich environment the seeds find the perfect conditions for germination.

Ecologists have found that seeds carried off and planted by ants are twice as likely to germinate and survive, when compared to seeds planted directly where they fall. In addition to providing the seeds with fertile soil in safe sites away from predators and competing plants, ants also scratch the hard seed coats while removing the elaiosomes, allowing water and oxygen to more easily penetrate the seed, thereby facilitating germination. Elaiosomes are characteristic of many plant species, but seem to occur rather randomly within genera and families. They are found in grass, sedge, legume, aster, borage, and mint families, to name a few, and in a wide range of habitats.

Masters of earth-moving technology, ants have the ability to move tremendous amounts of soil, and mix in large amounts of organic material, including inedible plant parts and prey exoskeletons, their deceased and their own waste products. All of these factors contribute to the enrichment of the soil. In northern prairies, where native earthworms are scarce at best, ants are largely responsible for the aeration and movement of soil.

Ants are significant contributors to the ecology of a prairie. They provide many services, and thrive under difficult conditions. Their stature may be small, but their role is great. ❖



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Correction: In our last issue's listings, we included an incorrect e-mail address for new business member **Simply Natural**. Please note Simply Natural of Louisville, Kentucky, can be reached by e-mail at simplynatural@insightbb.com or by phone at 502-454-4007, or cell at 502-417-9824.

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Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter

*Jay Archer of John Jay Land Management Corp. was the first person to register for this year's annual meeting/conference hosted by the Twin Cities Chapter.

For more information about these businesses and their services, please see the Wild Ones web site resources link or contact the National Office at 877-394-9453.

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BOOK REVIEW

The Once and Future Forest – A Guide to Forest Restoration Strategies

by Leslie Jones Sauer and Andropogon Associates. Published by Island Press, 1998

Book review by Mark H. Charles

This is a very valuable handbook for anyone interested in restoration and land management. While the examples are drawn primarily from woodland management in the northeastern United States, the author also addresses prairies, meadows, wetlands, and other ecotypes.

One exciting aspect of this book is the synthesis across multiple dimensions. The author describes restoration strategies that encompass soil microorganisms, storm water management, plants, wildlife, and human impacts. In addition, the focus includes a range of scales – from individual parcels to entire watersheds and regions.

The book abounds in practical strategies. There are excellent discussions and photos of methods to control invasive plants and to nurture native species. There are photos and discussion of erosion control. Human

impacts ranging from rogue trails to soil compaction by maintenance practices are discussed.

Many Wild Ones members are active beyond their own back yards. They belong to neighborhood associations, park commissions, school boards, and similar bodies. They will find this book both exciting and challenging. Most public parklands

in North America are at risk of severe degradation, yet these lands can also be focus for restoration. In addition to its practical strategies, this book addresses the difficulties and opportunities of public involvement – as volunteers, as public officials, and as public employees.

This book is similar to a healthy woodland – rich in color and texture, diverse in content, beautiful both in broad vista and in minute detail. It's valuable both to enjoy and to use. ❖

Quotes from the Book

For many of us, urban and suburban forests are the closest we can come to nature. Sadly, these beloved places are deteriorating throughout the country. Some forests are destroyed in a moment – cutover and built upon. Others, especially urban parks and remnant woodlands, die more slowly. Their destruction is caused not by a single act but by an accumulation of daily assaults – by public use of the landscape as well as by the public agencies responsible for their care.

We undertake to restore indigenous communities and ecosystem function in the face of great uncertainty. We do not know very much about how natural systems work, and we do not even have all the component pieces.

The management of complex living systems necessarily involves many interrelated natural processes and functions. Some of these natural processes and functions we may seek to replace or emulate; others we may try to rehabilitate or reestablish. The cumulative result is intended to move toward restoration. This is a heuristic process in which we will learn as we go along. If we are committed to sustaining indigenous plants and animals, we will, over time, discover new approaches and techniques that cannot be implemented, or even imagined, today.

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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, clancyj2@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.

Macomb Chapter #42 (Seedling)

Margaret Ovitt 309-836-6231
card@macomb.com
Macomb, Springfield, Decatur area.

North Park Chapter #27

Bob Porter 312-744-5472
bobporter@chicagoparkdistrict.com
Second Thursday, 7 p.m.,
North Park Nature Center
5801 N. Pulaski, Chicago.

Rock River Valley Chapter #21

Tim Lewis 815-874-3468
natives.tim@insightbb.com
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
No meeting in July and August.
Gibson Woods Nature Center,
6201 Parrish Ave., Hammond.

KENTUCKY

Frankfort Chapter #24

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

Lexington Chapter #64

Russ Turpin 859-797-8174
isotope909@aol.com
First Wednesday of month, 7:30 p.m.,
McConnell Spring.

Louisville Metrowild Chapter #26

Portia Brown 502-454-4007
wildones-lou@insightbb.com
See web site for meeting schedule.
Wildflower Woods, Cherokee
Woods Saturday Work Day:
Ward Wilson: 502-299-0331,
ward@wwilson.net
Allan Nations: 502-456-3275,
alan.nations@loukymetro.org

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

Carol Spanninga 517-857-3766
spanninga8@hotmail.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
No regular meetings for July and August.
Special events scheduled – see web site
for details.

Detroit Metro Chapter #47

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

Flint Chapter #32

For information, contact Thomas Enright.
taenright@comcast.net
Plans for programs are in the works.

Kalamazoo Area Chapter #37

Nancy & Tom Small 269-381-4946
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
brayfamily@netscape.com
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
candrews@barr.com
September through April, Wednesdays 6 p.m.,
Hartley Nature Center.

Otter Tail Chapter #25

Karen Terry 218-736-5520 terry714@prtcl.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 Chapter #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 jrcmfr@msn.com
Native plant care activities, first and third Tuesdays
in July and August.
Nokomis Hillside Garden
50th St. and Nokomis Pkwy, 6:30 to sunset.

MISSOURI

Mid-Missouri Chapter #49

Scott Hamilton 573-882-9909 x3257
scott.hamilton@mdc.mo.gov
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, 6:00 p.m.
Location varies. See web site.

NEW YORK

Habitat Gardening Club of Central New York #76

Janet Allen 315-487-5742
jkallen@twcny.rr.com
See web site for meeting dates and details.
Fourth Sunday, 2 p.m., locations vary.
Liverpool Library, 310 Tulip St., Liverpool 13088.

New York Capital District Chapter #69

Laurel Tormey Cole 518-872-9458
laurel.tormey-cole@oprhp.state.ny.us
Albany/Schenectady/Troy/Saratoga.

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 419-833-2020
nnn@naturallynative.net
Meeting dates and times vary. Call for details.

Toledo Chapter #77 (Seedling)

Todd Crail 419-833-2020
nnn@naturallynative.net
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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.

September 9 & 10 Twin Cities Chapter (Q03 and annual meeting) at Minneapolis, Minnesota's Bunker Hills Regional Park. Return to nature – Living Landscapes Conference, Photo Contest Judging, and Leadership Workshop. Details at www.for-wild.org/events.html.

October 8 Greater Cincinnati Chapter (Q04) at Cincinnati, Ohio.

OTHER CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

August 6 Schlitz Audubon Nature Center will host the **27th Annual Lorrie Otto Wild Yard Tour** on Saturday, August 6, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Participants should bring a bag lunch with a drink, and board buses at the Center, 1111 E. Brown Deer Road to tour some of the area's most beautiful natural landscaped yards that contain plants native to Wisconsin's prairies and woodlands. \$17 for FOSANC and Wild Ones members; \$20 for non-members. Adults only.

For information on other relative native landscaping conferences, please see Wild Ones web site at www.for-wild.org/chapters/Conf.

The Meeting Place *(continued from previous page)*

Western Reserve Chapter #73

Barb Holtz 440-473-3370
bph@clevelandmetroparks.com
Meetings every third Thursday, 7 p.m., North Chagrin Nature Center (North Chagrin Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks, off Rte. 91 in Willoughby Hills).

PENNSYLVANIA

Susquehanna Valley Chapter #68

Contacts: wild_ones@earthlink.net
Jim Hitz 717-741-3996, jrhitz@suscom.net
for calendar listings.
Activities: Weeding & Brunch every third Saturday morning.

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, 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
May-September tours and field trips.
See web site for details.

Green Bay Chapter #10

Debi Nitka 920-465-8512, debnitka@new.rr.com
Cindy Hermsen, 920-434-6866, scentedgardens@athenet.com
Usually third Wednesday. Most meetings at Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Rd., except in summer.

Lake Woods Chapter #72

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

Madison Chapter #13

Laurie Yahr 608-274-6539, yahrkahl@sbcglobal.net
See web site or contact above for details.

Menomonee River Area Chapter #16

Jan Koel 262-251-7175
Diane Holmes 262-628-2825
Indoor meetings: third 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.

Wolf River Chapter #74

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.

Looking for a Stamp Collector

National Board member Pat Armstrong of the Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter has suggested a fundraiser used by an organization she belongs to. The basis of the fundraiser is stamp collecting, and the funds would come from the people who are passionate collectors and in need of stamps which we might receive through our daily mailed transactions.

Pat explains, "The way it works is that one member of the organization is a knowledgeable stamp collector. He receives all the stamps that people save and send to him, and he stores them in his house (piles and piles and piles). He then matches what he has with what collectors are looking for. He is in the loop so he knows where to go and how to market them."

If you are a stamp collector or you know a stamp collector who would be interested in working with us on this fundraiser, please contact the National Office at 877-394-9453 or via e-mail at execdirector@for-wild.org. We get hundreds of envelopes every week with lots of different stamps on them!

Czarapata Book Now Available

Elizabeth J. Czarapata's last book is now available for sale. *Invasive Plants of the Midwest: An Illustrated Guide to Their Identification and Control*, is an essential resource. This guide includes 250+ color photos that help identify problem trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, sedges, and herbaceous plants (including aquatic invaders). It offers details about identification, control techniques, herbicides, and suggestions for ecological restoration and community education. The content was carefully reviewed by Wisconsin DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources and University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum staffs.

Paper, ISBN 0-299-21054-5, \$26.95; Cloth, ISBN 0-299-21050-2, \$60.00. \$4.50 S&H for first book and \$1 for each additional book. Call (773) 702-7000 for order form. Author Betty Czarapata (1950-2003) was a member of the Milwaukee-Southwest/Wehr (WI) Chapter, director of the Weed-Out Program of the Park People (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), member of the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin, and founder of the Wind Lake Environmental Club (WI).



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In the News

Valerie Richardson, a programmer at WPKN-FM, a community radio station in Connecticut, has contacted Wild Ones about participating in a public affairs interview focusing on gardening, and specifically native species. Wild Ones member **Kathy Dame** who works with the Connecticut College Arboretum will participate in the interview. The Arboretum has a program called SALT (Smaller American Lawns Today) which complements the Wild Ones mission, which Kathy refers to as her "pet."

Wild Ones member **Lynn Steiner**, St. Croix Oak Savanna (MN) Chapter, a freelance author and photographer, is writing a series of new books on landscaping with native plants. *Landscaping with Native Plants of Minnesota*, along with similarly titled books for Wisconsin, and Michigan, are designed to enlighten people about their states' native plant communities, and encourage them to use native plants whenever practical.

Lynn recently contacted **Marylou Kramer** and **Nancy Haman** of the Green Bay (WI) Chapter, and theirs are just two of the urban yards that will be featured in Lynn's Wisconsin book. Lynn is also looking for successful prairie- and savanna-type gardens to photograph this July for the Wisconsin book. If you're interested, call Lynn at 651-433-5360 or e-mail her at theseiners@prodigy.net.

Dan Dieterich, president of the Central Wisconsin (WI) Chapter, reports that after some local newspaper coverage of Wild Ones, **Allen Toser**, a Stevens Point resident, donated over 100 books on native plants and related matters to University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Library and the Portage County Library, to establish a Central Wisconsin Wild Ones library in memory of his sister, Jenifer E. Kohn.

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Click on item 2 (Update Personal Membership Info) and enter the appropriate changes.

Thank You!

Wild Ones Library

A big thank you to **Kathleen Coleman** of the **Gibson Woods (IN) Chapter** for the contribution of two Michigan wildflower posters to the Wild Ones Library.

Wild Ones Journal

Recent contributions toward the publication of the sixth issue of the *Wild Ones Journal* for 2005 came from:

- **Calhoun Chapter** (\$250),
- **Mandy Ploch, Erin (WI) Chapter** (\$100),
- **Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter** (\$500) in honor of charter members **Bob and Carol Niendorf** on the occasion of the chapter's tenth anniversary
- **Mudlark Papers, Inc.** (\$400) of Bolingbrook, Illinois, for **Nino Musil** who won the donation for his design of new stationery. Nino accepted the donation in his wife's name, **Annette**, since the design was her suggestion. Nino and Annette are long-time members of the **Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter**.

Sara Stein Memorial

Sara Stein Memorial contributions include \$10 from **Anne Spencer, Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter**, \$30 from **Jeanne Clear, Milwaukee-North (WI) Chapter**, and \$100 from the **St. Louis (MO) Chapter**.

Seeds for Education

We have received individual contributions toward our Seeds for Education Grant Program from **Julie Macier, Green Bay (WI) Chapter**, **Michelle Hobig, Detroit Metro (MI) Chapter**, **Dean Klingbeil, Milwaukee-North (WI) Chapter**, and **Ginny Watson, Flint (MI) Chapter**.

Organizational

Donations were received from the **Michigan Woman's National Farm and Garden Association** in the amount of \$50 from the **Franklin Branch** and \$174 from the **Warren, Saginaw, Rochester, and Dearborn** branches. **Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter** donated \$200 in honor of charter member **Steve Maassen** on the occasion of the chapter's tenth anniversary. **Anne Spencer** of the **Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter** sent in a contribution toward publication of the CD-ROM version of "A Tapestry of Learning: Creating School Natural Areas."

Membership Drive

As part of our year-end appeal to add new members, Wild Ones has received a pledge from business member, **One Plus, Inc.** to reward chapters for their efforts. The chapter with the largest percentage increase in individual new memberships in 2005 will receive \$200. To date, the chapters are the **Habitat Gardening Club of Central New York (NY) Chapter** with 50%, **Greater Cincinnati (OH) Chapter** with 30.8%, and **Otter Tail (MN) Chapter** with 21.7%.

Most New Business Members

The chapter with the largest number of new business members in 2005 will receive \$300. To date, the winner is the **Partner-at-Large** category with two new business members. Come on chapters – let's not let this reward go to waste!

