

a voice  
for the natural  
landscaping  
movement



## JOURNAL

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Thank You! Back Cover.

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

## Before and After: A Journey from Lawn to Native Plants

By Rebecca Chesin

**When I heard the Wild Ones' call for "Before and After" stories from members, I leapt at the chance to share my story, and the wisdom hard-earned by the sweat of my brow.**

**BEFORE:** Little did I know just what I was getting into when I vowed on that summer day three years ago to never again mow a lawn! It all started with a grant invitation from my city to replace turf grasses with native plants. Yes, that's right. Plymouth, Minnesota, is so committed to improving water quality in the three watersheds within its borders that they offer an Alternative Landscaping grant to residents.

"Why not apply?" I wondered. After all, I had the summer off and we had moved to the suburbs so I could do more gardening. I didn't enjoy mowing the lawn or the passive interaction with nature from sitting in a lawn chair gazing at a monotonous expanse of 3-inch high grass. Or, more like 6 inches, given my level of interest in mowing. With my yard across the street from a park and public walking path, I figured I had a good shot at being selected for a grant. I sent in my proposal, told my husband not to fill up the mower's gas can, and crossed my fingers.

When my acceptance letter arrived one blistering hot July day, I gleefully calculated the reduction in mowing time on my half-acre plot. I blame math because that's when it happened. "Not enough!" a tiny voice inside cried out. My front yard is smaller than the back, so I wasn't even cutting my mowing time in half.

"Why not go all the way?" this same insidious, ambitious voice wheedled. Lacking a countervailing voice (of experience or caution), the squeaky little anti-mowing voice prevailed. Oh, I probably would still have eventually replaced the whole lawn, but perhaps not all in the same year.



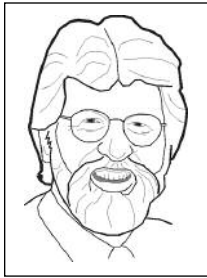
Before: Note the two trees that in future photos will be stumps.



Early After: What is hard to see in this photo are the stakes, ribbons, and hoses outlining the potential pathways. The seeming chaos of a prairie planting is in fact, planned.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## The Amazing Adaptability of Native Species in Harsh Conditions, and the Passing of Senator Gaylord Nelson



Recently, Diane and I went to Colorado to visit the alpine areas of the Rockies. My brother John, with whom I had not vacationed in over 35 years, accompanied us to the top of

Mount Evans (14,260 feet), driving a highway that was completed in 1927. As children growing up in Colorado, we had taken the same trip with our parents. While I don't remember the flowers from the childhood trips, now I can't get them out of my mind!

It simply amazes me every time I go above the tree line and observe the plant life in this rarified air. Even with very short growing seasons and an extremely harsh environment, plants flower in beautiful abundance and variety. In the alpine areas of Alberta, Montana, Colorado, and Vermont (Mount Washington), Diane and I have seen the flowers that peek out for that short period of time when they are not cov-

ered with snow. We have some of those plants right here in Wisconsin, but in a different form. Forget-me-nots and clover were two that we saw this time. I didn't even recognize the clover on the alpine tundra because of its dwarfed stature and modified shape. It is literally inches tall.

While the plants we observed are capable of withstanding climatic extremes and hardship, they are not prepared for human traffic over them. Some traffic can be tolerated, but too many people getting off the path can cause damage that takes over 100 years to heal. The reality is that this is true everywhere we (humans) move through our environment. We need to be careful of how we interact with the landscape – try to do no harm – try to find ways to sustain the natural beauty that surrounds us.

Recently, the noted environmentalist Gaylord Nelson, one-time governor and then United States senator from Wisconsin, founder of Earth Day, passed away. As senator, he worked closely with our Lorrie Otto in getting DDT banned from use in

this country. His legacy as an environmentalist has improved the future for our children's children. As Wild Ones, we all should strive to emulate the example of Gaylord Nelson and Lorrie Otto! We need to act and speak out, to protect and sustain the alpine meadows, the natural area down the road, and the ecology of our own yards! This is what Wild Ones is about! ❖

*Joe Powelka*

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



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

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The cartoon on page 15 is by ecologically minded cartoonist and Partner-at-Large, **John Klossner**.

The drawing on the back cover is one of a set donated to Wild Ones by **Judy Catlin**. She lives in Neenah, Wisconsin.

*Listen! the wind is rising,  
and the air is wild with leaves,  
We have had our summer evenings,  
now for October eves!*  
Autumn (Resignation) [1926]  
Humbert Wolfe

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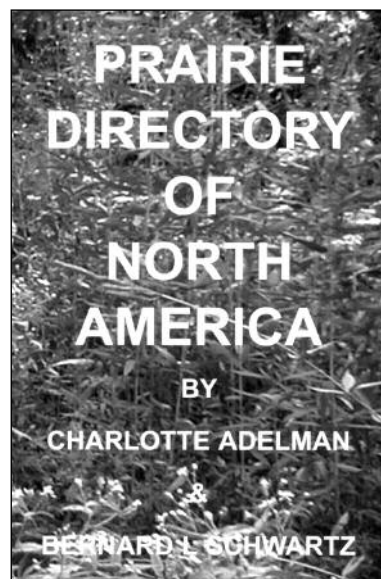
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Editor-in-Chief, Mariette Nowak, said, "Prairie

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## Gaylord Nelson 1916 - 2005

Former Senator from Wisconsin, Gaylord Nelson, died July 3, 2005, at age 89. Always a staunch advocate for the environment, in 1965, following the tremendous effort Lorrie Otto and numerous other Midwestern citizens made to gather evidence against the use of DDT, Nelson introduced the first legislation to ban the pesticide DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane) in the United States. In 1969 Senator Nelson became the political impetus behind a growing notion of Earth Day. His energy prompted 20 million people to participate in the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. Twenty-five years later, Nelson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, for his lifelong environmental efforts. President Bill Clinton's proclamation read: "As the father of Earth Day, he is grandfather of all that grew out of that event: the Environmental Protection Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act."

During his tenure, he authored laws that protected America's finest wild and scenic rivers, sponsored legislation to preserve the 2,000 mile Appalachian Trail in the eastern United States and the National Trail Systems Act which became law in 1968. He wrote the bill that banned the use of phosphates in laundry detergents. He authored or co-authored new, stronger federal laws on air and water pollution and toxic substances in the 1960s and 1970s. He wrote the bill that created the Environmental Education Act, assuring that generations of children in America would learn the importance of protecting the environment.

During his lifetime, Nelson was also presented with the United Nations Environment Programme's Only One World Award (1992), and he received the Ansel Adams Conservation Award (1990), which is bestowed upon a federal official who has shown exceptional commitment to the cause of conservation and the fostering of an American land ethic. With his death, environmentalists have lost a champion.

# THE CAREFUL FOOT

By Jerald Winakur

Almost 40 years ago, long before the term “ecology” registered in the public consciousness, I spent an undergraduate summer in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona with my freshman biology professor, Michael Rosenzweig.\* I did not become an ecologist, but I never forgot that summer or that ecosystem – rattlesnakes and hummingbirds, banner-tailed kangaroo rats and badgers, chollas and ocotillos.

I live now on a rocky farm in the Texas hill country. I abandoned the suburbs six years ago – sold my home with its swimming pool and irrigated lawn. I’m not a radical environmentalist. I’m hooked up to the grid. I even drive an SUV that is perfect for negotiating the rough road into my place, and carrying the essentials I need.

Not long ago creeks flowed everywhere in the hill country. Buffalo grazed in shoulder-high grasses, and were hunted by nomadic peoples. The first German settlers began arriving in the 1850s. These hardworking folks did whatever it took to make a living – they raised cattle, sheep, and finally goats. But in the end the prairies were overgrazed. Prickly pear and twist-leaf yuccas consumed the pastures. Thirsty mountain junipers spread out of the draws into higher elevations. Lush grassland once brimming with springs began to look like desert. When I spot a painted bunting migrating back from Central America in the spring, I wonder if my great-grandchildren will ever see this lovely creature.

On a place like mine, the projects are never ending. I’ve banished mice from the walls, ring-tailed cats from the attic, shredded the fields around the barn, and cleared a series of walking paths. I’ve tilled the ground in the old horse pens and planted a vegetable garden. I’ve cut and stacked wood for winters to come. But I wanted to do more. I wanted to see how the land had once looked.

I could have raised longhorns or angoras or run Arabian horses or grown a feed crop, but this land had been abused enough. I didn’t want to breed exotic game – blackbuck antelope from India or fallow deer from Europe – so that “hunters” could sit in a blind and blast a wall trophy out of an unsuspecting creature coming to a feeder. The reality, however, is this: to afford a small parcel of land in the country, millions like me have to maintain it in a lower-taxed “agricultural” category. This means the land must produce something, even if it is a losing or subsidized proposition. So what most people do, at least in Texas, is the simplest thing – they throw a few animals out to graze their already overgrazed plots, further degrading the land. I couldn’t do it.

To my surprise, in 2001, the state of Texas established a “wildlife management” tax category that provides the same benefit as an agricultural exemption. The law provides that the “land must be used to generate a sustaining breeding, migrating, or wintering population of indigenous wild animals...for human use [including] bird watching, hiking, photography...[as well as] the owner’s passive enjoyment.” To be considered for this exemption I had to develop a wildlife management plan, and was told to hire a biologist or conservation ecologist to prepare the complicated paperwork. I wondered where I was going to find such a person – until I remembered that long ago I was an ecologist, at least for one memorable summer.

I waded through piles of technical literature, sharpened my natural history skills, and got out my Peterson Field Guides. I’ve identified dozens of butterflies, dragonflies, snakes, lizards, frogs,

turtles, mammals, shrubs, and trees. Fifty grasses, a hundred kinds of wildflowers. So far I’ve seen 130 species of bird here, and I’m working to supply them with their favored habitats: native seed and berry sources, nest boxes, brush piles, and supplemental water. My plan was approved in 2002.

And then I met Mike Rosenzweig again. We went birding on my place. I showed him a few south Texas specialties he hadn’t seen yet: the black-crested titmouse and golden-fronted woodpecker just outside the kitchen window, and black-bellied whistling ducks on the pond. I explained my plan to do a series of controlled burns to encourage the regrowth of native prairie grasses so that bobwhite quail might return, and told him how I planned to preserve mature mountain junipers to maintain their papery bark, which the golden-cheek warbler requires for its nests.

“You’re practicing reconciliation ecology,” Mike said as we walked back to the house. He quoted the ancient Chinese sage who wrote, “The careful foot can walk anywhere.”

If Rosenzweig’s philosophy were to take hold, think of how the Earth might appear from above: each of us on our plot of land, tending native plant species, putting up nest boxes, digging small ponds, and untended edges merging together. Suburbs and city parks sheltering islands in the midst of our commerce. Farms and ranches acting as mini-preserves along our interstates. And farm-to-market roads extending and expanding our parks and reserves – right back into our own yards. From above, to the painted bunting migrating over my piece of prairie in my great-grandchildren’s time, it will look like home. ♣

\*See March/April, 2005, *Wild Ones Journal* for article by Michael Rosenzweig.

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## Bucket Hats & Wild Caps



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# Your Network? It's All Around You.

Networking for New Members Isn't as Hard as You Think

By Tim Lewis



I am a wholehearted believer in networking. No, not computer networks – I mean networking as a method of building relationships and connecting with others to get a job done in an efficient manner. I network in my business and personal life and I have found it beneficial for me *and* the people I meet. Experts say that networking is the most effective method of “selling” something, whether it is merchandise or an idea.

Your network is a group of people who you come into contact with and share information. We all network in some way or another with friends and family. For example, when you see a good movie or find a great place to eat, you tell people in your network. They then tell people in their network and so on. Most of us, including me, joined Wild Ones because someone else told us about the group and invited us to a meeting.

In a letter recently, our National President, Joe Powelka, asked members to “encourage your relatives, friends, neighbors, employers, and even clients to join you in Wild Ones.” He is challenging chapters to increase membership so that Wild Ones will be a stronger advocate for native plants, and to increase revenue so that we can fund outreach programs.

The best way to convince someone to try native plants is by example. Telling someone that they *should* plant natives never works. You don't need to use high pressure or start a telephone campaign to tell your network about natives

and Wild Ones. It is easier, and makes your network more comfortable, if you approach people in a non-threatening manner.

Simply tell people about your own experiences with native plants. Start a conversation with your neighbor and ask how their garden grew last year.

Look for ways to mention how you incorporated native plants in your landscape. Tell them how impressed you are with your native plants, and that you have noticed more birds, butterflies, and bees in your yard because of the plants. Brag about how you are reducing or eliminating pesticides, fertilizer, and reducing water usage.

If you work at a business that has a landscape, talk to the person responsible for it. Tell them about how natives will reduce their costs, and invite them to a meeting.

I want to ask you to tell people in your network about native landscaping and Wild Ones. Ask your chapter president for copies of the Wild Ones membership brochure.

I am asking you to not put the brochures aside. Give them to anyone who might like to learn more about native landscaping. Invite them to attend one of our meetings, as your guest, so they can see what we are about. And then invite them to join Wild Ones. You can be a determining factor in helping nature by encouraging your network to plant native plants and join Wild Ones. ❀

## Our Members Send Us Letters

Although the photos Theda sent were not clear enough to be printable in the *Journal*, we wanted to share her letter with you. We felt it would be good inspiration for other Wild Ones members – not just to do what she is doing, but to write and tell us about it.

I am going to send you a few pictures of my wildflower area and a list. The pictures didn't come out too well. The back of our lot was never cleared, though a drainage ditch was run the length of the block. I call it a “ravine,” and have planted the sides of it with wild ginger, ferns, and yellowroot. There was a lot of poison ivy and Japanese honeysuckle back there, as well as native plants. Poison ivy comes up every year, but I dispose of it, though I know the birds love it! The honeysuckle is restricted to the chain-link fence. The rest of the back has some things that were here when we came and others that I dug from the woods at the dead-end of our street before they built the mini-mansions there.

The phacelia came from a place in Chattanooga and a few plants came from the Chattahoochee Nature Center not far from here. They have a native plant sale every year.

The blossom time of the ravine is over, and marsh marigold, and others, are going dormant. The birds like the ground-level birdbath there and spend a lot of time in the bushes – I don't want to disturb them by looking for nests. That area is still my sanctuary, but this time of year I work on the perennials, daylilies, etc., that are in the front of our property. Some natives are in that sunny area, too – penstemon and fire-pink, for example.

I'm a senior citizen and had a partial knee replacement last fall, but my joy is working with all of my plants, and look forward to seeing what is blooming every day.

*Theda Davis*

*State of Georgia Partner-at-Large*

P.S. I see there is a chapter in Hammond, Indiana. I used to live in Dyer, Indiana, just south of Hammond. That was over 20 years ago and there was little interest in nature at that time. When we were back some years ago, we were delighted to see that the swampy area at Griffith had been preserved. I used to drive past it on my way to work and had always loved the iris there.



**IN BETWEEN:** In July I started smothering the grass by covering it with layers of newspaper and wood chips begged from local tree service companies and the city's tree management department. In the interest of covering the entire space before my back gave out from all the bending over, I soon graduated to cardboard scavenged from bins at the local recycle center and then to shipping boxes from a friendly appliance store.

My soil tends toward clay – where it isn't of outright pot-throwing quality. No worries though, since I would be planting at least 80% native plants (one of the city's requirements). That's the native soil, right? I did however want to aerate the soil and incorporate more organic matter. I resorted to an old fisherman's trick. Coffee grounds attract worms, and worms help aerate the soil. I made many, many trips to Starbucks, exchanging an empty 5-gallon pail for one full of used coffee grounds, which I liberally sprinkled about my yard. Here's the picture so far: 21,780 square feet of coffee-smelling wood chips – got that? (I've since learned that earthworms are not native to Minnesota, and in fact are doing a great deal of damage to our forests, so fishermen: don't dump out your extra bait just any place. However, the ones in my yard aren't getting transported around, and there's no way to eliminate them anyway, so there they stay.)

Now, you are no doubt wondering about our neighbors' responses. For better or worse, we live in a neighborhood that does not have much of a sense of community. In addition, our house is situated such that we enjoy a fair amount of privacy from two houses hidden behind privacy fences and hedges. Finally, to be honest, I'm rather independent and a bit of a nonconformist, so "taking the heat" doesn't bother me. However, we had let all of our nearby neighbors know about our project.

We only lightly hit upon our reasons, as we live in the midst of neatly mowed lawns. I also made sure I was familiar with the relevant city ordinances. Three neighbors were very encouraging, three didn't seem to care, and one – I suspect – was unhappy – but thanks to "Minnesota Nice," wasn't unpleasant about it. Although someone did once call the city to complain about a newly delivered load of wood chips before we got it distributed. I knew it wasn't against any city ordinance, and the visiting inspector concurred that his visit was more a matter of form.

The city supported me further by offering grant recipients the opportunity to order seedlings through them (at below retail cost), and holding classes to provide guidance in planning the design and layout of our gardens. Aided by these and my own research efforts, I was soon ready to begin.

In September I held a planting party, and with the generous aid of family, friends, and people I was able to blackmail into it, we got most of 1,200 seedlings in the ground. I had already marked out pathways, and plants were installed in groups – a clump of five or six goldenrod next to a clump of five or six big bluestem, and so on. The last plant was in the ground by mid-October, along with ten trees and 39 shrubs. The majority of the plants were for the front yard – the small numbers planted on the sides and in the

back yard left those areas mostly bare. I am filling them in as time and money permit.

At this point the yard looked, quite frankly, awful. Imagine a vast expanse of wood chips in various shades of brown, interspersed at about 1-foot intervals with 1- to 3-inch sticks, and a few leaves here and there. But already they were my babies and I tried to envision what the yard would look like in a few years.



First growing season, with branches neatly outlining future paths. It's important to be prepared for at least one "pitiful-looking" season.

Even though many Minnesota natives are well suited to the current soil, light, and moisture conditions, I chose to add some compost to each planting hole. What difference it makes I can't tell, as I have no control group. The only other care these plants received was supplemental water – we had a late winter so I was out there on December 1st, watering. The following spring many gardeners in my area suffered a high rate of winter kill while my own losses were negligible.

**AFTER:** The following year, almost everything bloomed. I collected most

of the seed and did some seed trading, sharing with others, and

donated the remainder to some nearby restoration projects. I did the same the following summer, so most plants have not had much chance to re-seed. Golden Alexander has re-seeded a bit, but I like it and don't mind



Second growing season. The area is starting to look inhabited.

deadheading or harvesting the seeds before they fall. Silky rye is too prolific for my taste, and since much of the attraction of grasses for me is the seed heads, over winter I will be removing it completely. Common milkweed spreads enthusiastically in my yard, and the jury's still out on whether I'm willing to put up with its maintenance requirements for the benefit of butterflies. I might use some kind of edging to restrain it to a specific part of the yard. Anise hyssop also reseeds with vigor, but is easy to pull, and I love the wildlife benefit (e.g., bees, soldier beetles, and finches) it provides, plus the occasional taste of minty licorice when I chew on a leaf.

I have a couple of patches of quack grass that did not become apparent until a year into my project. It will take some time to eradicate as it's in with the desirable plants, unless I decide to lift them out and keep the area bare until the quack grass is all gone. The mulch is too thin (less than 3 or 4 inches) in a few areas, and *Oxalis stricta* and wild violets are the most common annoyances. Of course, anywhere I plant something, the soil, and therefore any seed bank, gets stirred, up so I sometimes have weeds growing right next to the plants I want. But I was prepared for several years of establishment.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

**ADVICE:** My most important advice would be: don't skimp on the planning stage. Know your site and your plants' requirements and habits. Time spent in preparation will be time saved later in revising a less than optimal situation. I knew this, I did it, and I should have done even more of it. And be prepared for surprises and subsequent tweaking. The rue is growing much taller than expected, so next spring I will have to re-locate it.

Finally, know well the amount of time needed to do the project right. For most people, starting small and expanding a little every year will be the best way to go.

Now, two-and-a-half growing seasons later, the yard has filled in to an amazing degree. I have delighted in the wildlife that visits my yard: caterpillars and butterflies, birds and bees, and one magical



One of the inhabitants, a whitelined sphinx or hummingbird moth on a cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*).

evening of sphinx moths. Every day is a joy – even the weeding – and I love the closer relationship I have with nature (excepting rabbits and deer, where the relationship is at times somewhat adversarial, although truly, their depredations aren't too severe). My garden grounds me and has taught me more patience, the delight of serendipity, and acceptance of change when something doesn't work out as hoped.

I have learned so much and have come to appreciate gardens and native plants so much that I've since become

a Master Gardener. Sharing my knowledge and love of gardening has been a fun way to give back to my community and meet like-minded souls, as has been my involvement with Wild Ones.

Happy gardening! ❁

Rebecca Chesin invites you to contact her at [spiralenso@yahoo.com](mailto:spiralenso@yahoo.com).



Blazing star, marsh (*Liatris spicata*). Photo courtesy of Fermi National Accelerator Lab.

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# Fluff & Fuzz

By Barbara Bray



What is it about non-native dandelions that attracts so many children to them? When most people are scrutinizing their lawns for the first sign of these invaders, children are anxiously awaiting their appearance. They will pick them singly or in bouquets. They might pop the "heads" off or peel the hollow stems into curly strips. But this all leads up to the most exciting event – when the dandelion goes to seed! Other flowers have seeds, of

course, but the fuzzy seed-head of the dandelion is absolutely irresistible to children. One light puff of breath blown onto the dandelion seed-head sends the seeds aloft like a battalion of army parachute-jumpers. Can we take advantage of this interest?

Soft, fuzzy things are so enticing to touch. Think about all the stuffed animals children love to collect on their beds. Think about how we all love to pet baby animals, like kittens, puppies, or chicks. We wear fuzzy clothes like sweaters and socks. In our homes, we have fuzzy carpeting, fuzzy blankets, and fuzzy towels. Sometimes we even have fuzzy "dust bunnies" under our sofas. Fuzz is everywhere, yet how often do we stop to look at it?

With a simple magnifying glass, you can send your children around the house on a "fuzz hunt." Although fuzz comes from many different sources – animal and plant – it really is all alike. It is made up of tiny threads called *fibers*. Most fuzz is made up of short fibers, but there are also some that are very long. Fuzz is important for warmth because it can trap air and slow down the escape of heat. Sheep's wool, animal fur, and hair all do this, and are called good insulators. Fuzz can be used to make things. Examine the fibers in a cotton rag. Pull out a thread and explain that the cotton rag was spun from cotton fibers. Examine real cotton balls if you have them. Other interesting materials to look at are old silk scarves (made from fibers in silk-moth cocoons) and paper (made from tree fibers).

The fuzz hunt does not have to end inside the house. Many plants have interesting adaptations for seed dispersal. Native cottonwood trees send their cotton-topped seeds floating through the air in late spring. The green pods that sometimes fall to the ground before opening are fun to pull apart and find the "cotton" inside. Toward fall, milkweed plants release their seeds on fluffy fibers so soft that early pioneers once stuffed pillows and mattresses with the fluff.

Fuzzy cattail seeds can easily spread into new wet spots by floating away on the wind. Fuzz also provides protection for plants from both heat and cold. Prairie smoke and pasque flower are two examples of early-blooming prairie plants. Both have fuzz on their leaves and stems to protect them from the cold. Other plants have fuzz on their stems and leaves to create minute amounts of shade, shielding the plant surface from intense sunlight. This adaptation, seen in many prairie plants, such as stiff goldenrod, compass plant, and blackeyed Susans, helps also to prevent water loss. How many other plants can you find that have fuzzy leaves and stems?

When you finish your "fuzz hunt," you might find that you want to know even more. ❀

To learn how to become a "fuzz scientist," see: *Fuzz Does It!* by Vicki Cobb; 1982; J. B. Lippincott: New York.

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## The Xerces Society Red List of America's Most Vulnerable Pollinators

By Scott Hoffman Black



The endangered Karner blue butterfly (*Lycaedes melissa samuelis*). Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For many animals, such as birds and mammals, the basic information that allows people to identify key species in need of conservation already exists and is accessible. For many insect pollinators, however, information is hidden in scientists' files or is lacking altogether. The first step to effectively protect pollinators at risk of extinction is to identify those species in need of conservation and pull together information on life history, status, conservation, and research needs.

To that end, the Xerces Society, in cooperation with scientists across the United States and Canada, has produced the *Red List of Pollinator Insects of North America*.

The Xerces Society Pollinator "Red List" includes 115 species and subspecies: 57 butterflies, two moths, and 56 bees from across the United States and Canada. Each species has a brief status review that distills the current state of knowledge of life history, distribution, threats, conservation needs, and research needs into a single document. The status reviews also include discussions of taxonomy, identification, and lists of contacts, publications, and web sites. "For many of these species more research is needed into population distribution, life history, and habitat needs so we can determine the course of conservation action," said Scott Hoffman Black, executive director of the Xerces Society.

Pollinators are keystone species in terrestrial ecosystems. They provide the critical ecological function that guarantees rich and diverse plant communities, which, in turn, provide food and other commodities for us, and form habitat for wildlife.

Many of the pollinators included in the "Red List" suffer from destruction of their habitat for intensive agriculture and urbanization. Pesticides have negatively impacted pollinator populations and pose a continuing threat. Introduced diseases and parasites are a leading factor in the decline of several species.

The Xerces Society Pollinator "Red List" represents the most complete assessment of the state of the continent's at-risk pollinators and is the most comprehensive source of information on these insects. ❖

Shepherd, M. D., D. M. Vaughan, and S. H. Black (Eds). 2005. *Red List of Pollinator Insects of North America*. CD-ROM Version 1 (May 2005). Portland, OR: The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

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# So You Want a 'No Mow' Lawn

By Bill Sloey

So you want a "no mow" lawn, huh?  
I have one, and I love it – but is it right for you?



"No Mow" provides a pleasant backdrop for trees and shrubs on a berm that serves as a property line. The woody growth is still young, and will fill in, creating a visual screen.

Since incorporating "No Mow" into my landscape some six years ago, I have been queried by dozens of Wild Ones members on its qualities, and, "Would it be right for me"? Here is a little bit about my experience with "No Mow" in the hope that it will help you to decide if you would like to try it.

**What is "No Mow" grass?** What I'm talking about here is not artificial turf, but fine fescue grasses from the genus *Festuca*. The "fine" fescues, as a group, are smaller species of grasses. They are slow growing, narrow leaved (0.3-2mm wide) grasses with blades that are very lax and flexuous so that they tend to lay down nearly flat by mid-summer. They are found throughout cool climates of the Northeast and upper Midwest. They tend to be quite shade tolerant and are, in fact, an important component in "shade grass" seed mixtures.

The ones used in lawns, are not clump formers, so they provide a very uniform cover. They spread by rhizomes and stolons, and re-seed well. Not all are native to North America, but they are highly naturalized. They may be mowed on occasion, or left unmowed.

I used a proprietary blend of these fine fescues sold under the moniker

of "No Mow," lawn mix, by Prairie Nursery of Westfield, Wisconsin ([www.prairienursery.com](http://www.prairienursery.com)). I might add that I have no association with Prairie Nursery other than as a customer. Other nurseries may sell one or more fine fescues as "shade grass." Check with the vendor to be certain that you have only fine fescues.

## Where is it appropriate to plant

**"No Mow"?** "No Mow" has been wonderful for me around my prairies, under my mature trees, and around the trees and shrubs that I have planted on my two acres.

Around my prairies, I use the "No Mow" to separate various stands and to protect my surrounding trees and shrubs when I burn. I mow paths about 8- to 10-feet wide after the flowering heads form in June, and I mow once again in autumn. I set my mower deck as high as it will go – that's about 4 inches. This makes for pleasant, but informal walkways from which to enjoy my prairies. Be careful not to cut much shorter than 4 inches, because you will destroy the meristem at the bottom of each plant (culm) where new cells are formed. Unlike bent grass and bluegrass, which have their growth points at ground level, fescues have theirs a couple inches above ground level.

I transplanted some 200 or so small trees and shrubs (many from Wild Ones plant rescues) directly into the "No Mow" without mulch, and have seen no effects from competition. The woody plants started to shoot up in the third year as one would expect, even though the dense "No Mow" grass around them had never been cut.

"No Mow" loves moderate to fairly intense shade. Under my mature white pine, spruce, shagbark hickory, and green ash trees, it grows soft and slender, and lies down by mid-summer to

form a dark green, shiny carpet some 3 to 5 inches deep. It looks just like it does in the woods here in the Midwest where these fescues grow naturally. It's beautiful! When you walk on it, you stay right on top with the soles of your shoes barely covered. The only maintenance I engage in is to use my weed whip to knock off the sparse flowering heads around the first of June. Even that is not necessary as the flowering stalks and seed heads are quite small and unobtrusive.

The only place I am less than totally happy with it is on a steep, sunny slope next to my garage where I am afraid to venture with my riding mower. The growth habit coarsens in the afternoon sun, producing flowering stalks that are more stiff than shade-grown ones. These stiffer stems prop up the green blades causing the fescues to stand taller and look a bit shaggier (a little like Brad Pitt's famous hairdo).

I also planted "No Mow" along the road ditch right-of-way in front of my rural property. I had hoped to let this patch lie down unmowed to make a foreground for my split rail fence and mound/prairie. In spite of its low profile and neat appearance, however, the road crews scarf a swath through it every summer. This has stunted the "No Mow," and encouraged weeds and wild grasses. So I now mow this area like I do around the prairies in back.

## Where is it not good to plant

**"No Mow"?** I would not recommend "No Mow" on small city lots, or where there is going to be a lot of traffic from dogs, vehicles, or kids. The fescues do not tolerate heavy abuse like the turf grasses do. You can still plant fescues under shade trees or in a corner if you set it off and discourage heavy traffic. Also, even in the country, I suggest at least a small area of manicured turf-grass

**What I'm talking about here is not artificial turf, but fine fescue grasses from the genus *Festuca*.**

lawn around the house. Visitors just feel more comfortable with it, kids and dogs have a place to play, and it does set off your plantings and natural areas better. I maintain a 50-foot band of perennial rye around my house.

#### **What other maintenance does**

**"No Mow" need?** It needs very little TLC. It does not want or need fertilizer (unless you have virtually pure sand). This is another reason that dogs are not really welcome. I have never put any fertilizer on mine, and it stays dark green even during summer droughts when my perennial rye lawn is turning brown. It does need plenty of oxygen, and does not like to be buried under leaves for long periods. Be sure to rake or blow sooner rather than later – blowing is louder but more gentle, and works better. The "No Mow" stays green until freeze-up here in east-central Wisconsin, and greens up a couple of weeks later than my lawn in spring, because of its slower growth rate and thicker thatch.

**What about weeds?** I have had some broad-leaved weeds like sweet clover, black medic, Canada thistle, and ash

seedlings trying to invade, but less than in my regular lawn. I apply a liquid broadleaf herbicide (like Weed-Be-Gone), from a dispenser on the end of my hose, about twice a summer. I just use a small squirt for each weed, not a general application.

I'm also having a problem with broad-leaved grasses like brome and reed canary grass invading, especially in the sunniest areas. I am just learning how to deal with these. A judicious use

**It's beautiful! When you walk on it, you stay right on top with the soles of your shoes barely covered. The only maintenance I engage in is to use my weed ship to knock off the sparse flowering heads around the first of June.**

of RoundUp, may be called for. My lot has heavy, clay-based soil and is surrounded by reed canary grass. If your soil is lighter, you may have no problem at all. Strangely, I planted "No Mow" right through a dense stand of reed canary grass down almost to a small stream in the back of my lot. After six years, the reed canary grass, with its notorious rhizomes, has failed to penetrate the "No Mow" even a little bit!

#### **When and how do you plant**

**"No Mow"?** Without a doubt, the best time to plant these fescues is early autumn, around Labor Day. This gives you the summer to kill off everything currently on the site.



Mid-June, the fine fescues around the bench and tree are unmowed and starting to lie down. In the background, on the other side of the mowed path, is Bill's prairie planting.

If you are replacing lawn, or even an old field, cut and dispose of the large residue, but leave the remaining short stalks as a thatch to hold the seeds and prevent runoff. Do not disturb the soil. Doing so will only bring up a fresh set of weed seeds.

On small sites, you can simply broadcast the seeds on top.

On larger sites, you may want

to have them drilled in with a Brillion planter. I have done both with equal success.

**Final analysis:** "No Mow" grass is not a substitute for turf grass in busy lawns, but it is a low maintenance compliment to natural landscapes, and is delightful under trees and shrubs. It is a versatile, user-friendly ground cover that can take the sun, and loves moderate to fairly dense shade.

There is one final bonus. Inasmuch as the "No Mow" is never cut before mid-June, I have planted spring bulbs like jonquils, tulips, and even dwarf iris in little clusters all about my landscape to serve as little spring surprise packages for my neighbors. I love to watch their heads swivel as they go by on their morning walks. Later this year, I plan to start embedding some of my larger wildflowers like mandrake (*Podophyllum peltatum*), bellwort (*Uvularia sp.*), and wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*). ❀



"No Mow" grows in the shade around flower beds, separated from the house by a neatly tended strip of perennial rye grass. Note the effective use of rocks as dividers. Everything looks like it was done on purpose – sometimes a hard illusion to create.

# The Grapevine

By Maryann Whitman

## Got Milkweed?

In my area, my truck is recognized by my Wild Ones "Got Milkweed?" sticker in the rear window. It was designed by Jim Gallion, Wild Ones Partner-at-Large from Maryland, who is very active in the Monarch Watch program. Wild Ones donates a portion of the proceeds from sales of the bumper sticker to Monarch Watch. Jim has just completed a sign that reads "Monarch Waystation," to help raise funds for Monarch Watch. While the Monarch Waystation web site promotes all naturalized landscaping that can serve as habitat, and does not promote native plants exclusively, I think that Wild Ones can get behind this effort.

Jim says, "The idea is to get more people interested in using milkweed, as well as creating or restoring habitat, and using fewer pesticides or herbicides. These folks at Monarch Watch are 'bug people.' They are learning. We need to be patient with them as they develop better plant lists." Maybe we can gently nudge them along by gifting them a Wild Ones membership.



Some of our favorite garden signs, including the new Monarch Waystation at bottom of post. For more information, check [www.monarchwatch.org/ws/](http://www.monarchwatch.org/ws/).

## Something to think about: Benefits of a messy yard

Winter is months away, but since we may not be able to afford a November/December issue of the *Journal*, this seems like a good time to mention some fall caretaking strategies for our native plantings. Here are some things to think about:

Remember that what you have planted is a habitat garden. That habitat may be occupied by lots of pretty butterflies, as you intended, but don't forget all the other insects that are probably "invisible." This would include the pollinating bees that like hollow stems for overwintering, the beneficial ladybug beetles and the lacewings who overwinter in crowns of native grasses and just plain garden duff, and the moths and butterflies who spend the winter in the pupa or chrysalis stage or the adult stage somewhere on the ground under leaves.

An article by researchers Tooker and Hanks, in the September, 2004, issue of *Biodiversity and Conservation*, reported that compass plant and prairie dock (*Silphium laciniatum* and *S. terebinthinaceum*) harbor the greatest numbers of insects in their detritus. ❁



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# My Biohedge: Or What I Did Last Summer.

By Nancy Perchard

*Looking for ways to begin your Wild Ones transformation without starting from scratch? Here's how one person approached this task. Her approach allows existing non-native plants to be retained until such time as their presence is no longer desired, and their space can be used to add more of the beautiful native plants.*

When I moved into my house about 10 years ago, the space north of my driveway was all lawn, with a couple of spruce trees. Over the years I have planted a variety of trees and shrubs in the approximately 1/3-acre space, as well as creating a biohedge last year. I researched my shrubs extensively to make sure I met their cultural requirements before I bought and sited them. The site is full sun, all day, with open exposure to southern and western winter winds. The soil is somewhat clayey and very moist, if not wet, in the spring and part of winter. However, the drainage is fairly good and water percolates through within 24 hours after a heavy rain. During a drought, however, the soil can be very dry and parched.

The plants I chose had to be tolerant of full sun, winter exposure, and be able to withstand excessively wet and dry condi-

tions. As a rule, I always plant new shrubs in soil augmented with a good quality planting mix that is a blend of peat, manure, and compost.

A biohedge is the new term for an eco-friendly planting of shrubbery or a shrub border that preferentially uses native plants. According to Carolyn Harstad in her book, *Go Native!*, a biohedge is created for the following purposes: it is low maintenance, it can handle crazy Midwest temperature extremes, and it attracts a variety of wildlife. It could also be used to eliminate mowing in problem areas such as wet spots or slopes.

I wanted to keep some of the mature lilacs that already anchored the site and provided a screen for neighbors. I interplanted the existing exotics with a mix of shrubs native to this area, such as red twig dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), ninebark cultivars (*Physocarpus opulifolius*), cranberry viburnum (*Viburnum trilobum* 'Compactum'), shrubby St. Johnswort (hybrid *Hypericum* 'Hidcote'), arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*), a male and a female Michigan holly (*Ilex verticillata*), common witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*), and potentilla (*Potentilla fruticosa*). Tough and resilient, these native shrubs, once established, would be able to take care of themselves. Now in its second season, the biohedge looks really good. It is great to see birds nesting in this area, bunnies playing and eating, and dragonflies and bees flying around. In summer the space is cool and pleasant as opposed to the former baking hot, scorched, grassy expanse.

I have powdery mildew on the lilacs, dogwoods (*Cornus stolonifera*), and magnolia, but it doesn't bother me too much, and it really won't hurt the plants. I saw some type of tent or bagworm in the river birch (*Betula nigra*), but after a couple days the birds ate the larvae and solved that problem. I decided not to use chemicals since that would truly defeat my back-to-nature intent. I suppose if something really destructive got into the biohedge, I might attack it using Integrated Pest Management methods – but for the most part, all the plants should be fairly disease- and insect-resistant.

I feed the shrubs slow-release organic fertilizer; although I understand that for native plants this really is neither necessary nor desired. However, the shrubs do respond with bigger blooms and a more robust appearance. I'm amazed at how little maintenance the biohedge requires. After initial spring pruning and mulching with a combination of shredded leaves and cedar bark mulch, I have only needed to pull the occasional weed and water the newer plants while they are establishing. As the density increases, I will need to monitor seedlings brought in by the birds. I know what young buckthorn, honeysuckle, and garlic mustard look like, and will need to be vigilant with their removal.

I'm very happy with my biohedge, and will continue to add native shrubs and trees as space permits. It will be interesting to see which plants thrive in this site, and which ones might struggle a bit. I realize my biohedge comes with a tolerance of wildlife and insects, as there is certainly an abundance of both.

How do I feel about bunnies sampling my shrubs, especially during the winter? Should I use barrier methods to protect the plants or do I accept rabbit-pruned shrubs in the spring? For me, the jury is still out on this. Because the biohedge is only about a year old, I am still observing what is going on and will draw conclusions later. ❁

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## BOOK REVIEW

# Farming with the Wild: Enhancing Biodiversity on Farms and Ranches

By Daniel Imhoff

San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 2003

\$29.95 U.S., paperback

182 pages

ISBN 1-57805-092-8

Review by Lorraine Johnson, Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter

As advocates for wilderness protection, we're used to dichotomies: natural areas versus cities, natural areas versus agricultural areas, the wild versus the tame. Such oppositional thinking, though, quickly runs up against some basic realities: we need to live somewhere and we need to eat.

*Farming With The Wild* ditches the dichotomous paradigm, shifting from opposition to partnership, asking how farming practices can make peace with the land. It is based on the premise that, "Our relationship with food was once, and arguably should always remain, one of our deepest connections with the biotic community..." Some of the main questions at the heart of this visionary book are: what is the role of wildness in productive farming, and how can farming practices actually help restore interconnected healthy ecosystems?

Based on years of research and travel that took him through 21 states and two countries, author Daniel Imhoff chronicles

dozens of inspirational stories of farmers and ranchers who are restoring wild habitats on the lands they cultivate. For example, the reader is introduced to farmers in the Santa Cruz River region who are creating habitat to encourage pollinators, insects that are crucial to fruit production. Many other stories detail the ecological services of benefit to farmers when farmers view and manage their land as functioning pieces of a natural system. Along with pollination,

*Farming with the Wild* asks how farming practices can make peace with the land.

benefits included biological pest control (through efforts to create habitat for beneficial insects), weed suppression (through the re-introduction of fire, for example), and flood prevention (through the restoration of healthy riparian areas). All these efforts and more provide payback not only for the farmer, but for the broader ecosystem as well.

While the book doesn't put a price tag on such benefits, its economic message is clear: the current, dominant agricultural model of production is not sustainable (not economically, not environmentally), and the farmers profiled here are offering a sustainable alternative that improves the land's capacity to renew itself (and excellent definition of ecosystem health).

While agricultural lands are traditionally thought of as places where the wild is tamed, this book makes a resoundingly sensible and hopeful argument that farms can be places where the wild actually enhances harvest, in the broadest possible sense of that word – not just as a crop but as a reward. ✿

This review first appeared in *Blazing Star*, the newsletter of the North American Native Plant Society, Spring 2005.

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BOOK REVIEW

# The Herbaceous Layer in Forests of Eastern North America

Edited by Frank S. Gilliam and Mark R. Roberts  
New York: Oxford University Press, 2003  
408 pages  
ISBN: 0-19-514088-5

Review by Barbara Ramov

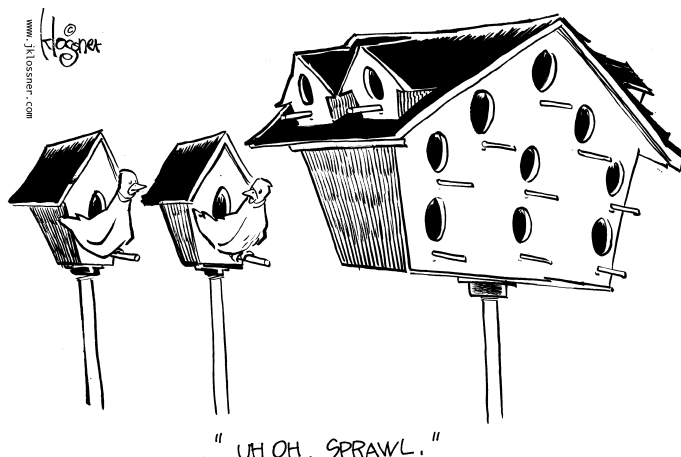
In the world of forests, herbaceous plants are often neglected in favor of the impressive, predominating trees. To remedy this situation, Frank Gilliam and Mark Roberts have provided a compilation of the current knowledge of the complex and diverse herbaceous plant layer in eastern North American forests. This work will be useful to anyone interested in forest ecology, but is primarily aimed at the scientific community.

Although many scientists study herbaceous plants, as the numerous contributors demonstrate, this book is one of the few to integrate multiple facets into forest ecology. The varying perspectives provided by the authors gives a clear understanding of the dynamic nature of herbs, while exploring related subjects such as nutrient cycling, invasive species, and conservation.

Chapters are enveloped by four broad themes: the environment of the herb layer, population dynamics, community dynamics across space and time, and the role of disturbance. The book includes countless research articles (over 1,000 references), but the

reader is not overwhelmed by details. Rather, a sense of the "big picture" predominates, leading, arguably, to the best part of the book: the last chapter. Here, we not only have a synthesis of the main ideas from each theme, but there is also a useful section outlining topics that require further research. These included the contribution of herbs to carbon production, the effects of herbs on tree composition and how non-native plants invade natural ecosystems. ❀

This review first appeared in *Blazing Star*, the newsletter of the North American Native Plant Society, Spring 2005.



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

Chapter ID numbers are listed after names.

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



## CONNECTICUT

### Connecticut Chapter #78 (Seedling)

Kathy T. Dame 860-439-2144  
[ktdam@conncoll.edu](mailto:ktdam@conncoll.edu)  
Connecticut College Arboretum

## ILLINOIS

### Greater DuPage Chapter #9

Message Center: 630-415-IDIG  
Pat Clancy 630-964-0448, [clancypj2@aol.com](mailto:clancypj2@aol.com)  
Third Thursday Jan., Feb., Mar., Sept., Oct.,  
Nov., 7 p.m. 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 Oviatt 309-836-6231, [card@macomb.com](mailto:card@macomb.com)  
Macomb, Springfield, Decatur area.

### North Park Chapter #27

Bob Porter 312-744-5472  
[bobporter@chicagoparkdistrict.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jbower1126@aol.com)  
September: Seed gathering, Oak Ridge Prairie.  
October: Members-only activity.  
Gibson Woods Nature Center,  
6201 Parrish Ave., Hammond.

## KENTUCKY

### Frankfort Chapter #24

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

### Lexington Chapter #64

Russ Turpin 859-797-8174, [isotope909@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ward@wwilson.net)  
Allan Nations 502-456-3275,  
[alan.nations@loukymetro.org](mailto:alan.nations@loukymetro.org)

## MAINE

### The Maine Chapter #75 (Seedling)

Barbara Murphy 207-743-6329  
[bmurphy@umext.maine.edu](mailto:bmurphy@umext.maine.edu)  
Oxford County.

## MICHIGAN

### Ann Arbor Chapter #3

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

### Calhoun County Chapter #39

Carol Spanninga 517-857-3766  
[spanninga8@hotmail.com](mailto:spanninga8@hotmail.com)  
Fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m.  
Calhoun Intermediate School District building  
on G Drive N. at Old U.S. 27, Marshall.

### Central Upper Peninsula Chapter #61

Pat Landry 906-428-4053  
[aries1@chartermi.net](mailto:aries1@chartermi.net)  
Meetings/activities: Fourth Wednesday of the  
month – see web site for details.

### Detroit Metro Chapter #47

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

### Flint Chapter #32

For information, contact Thomas Enright.  
[taenright@comcast.net](mailto:taenright@comcast.net)  
Meetings/lecture series second Tuesday of the  
month, October through March.  
The Prowl Center, Mott College, 7-8:30 p.m.

### 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](mailto:mritz@acd.net)  
Third Wednesday, 7-9 p.m.  
Room 139, Radiology, MSU campus.  
For details: [www.for-wild.org/redcedar](http://www.for-wild.org/redcedar)

### Oakland Chapter #34

Barbara Bray 248-601-6405  
[brayfamily@netscape.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mcholst_7351@msn.com)  
Third Thursday, 7 p.m., Stillwater Town Hall.

### Twin Cities Chapter #56

Marty Rice 952-927-6531 [jcrmrfr@msn.com](mailto:jcrmrfr@msn.com)  
Meetings third Tuesday of the month,  
Social/Set-up 6:30 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.  
Nokomis Community Center,  
2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Minneapolis.

## MISSOURI

### Mid-Missouri Chapter #49

Scott Hamilton 573-882-9909 x3257  
[scott.hamilton@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:scott.hamilton@mdc.mo.gov)  
Second Saturday, 10 a.m.  
Location varies. See: [wildones.missouri.org](http://wildones.missouri.org)

### St. Louis Chapter #31

Scott Woodbury 636-451-3512  
[scott.woodbury@mobot.org](mailto:scott.woodbury@mobot.org)  
First Wednesday, 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](mailto: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](mailto:laurel.tormey-cole@oprhp.state.ny.us)  
Albany/Schenectady/Troy/Saratoga.

## OHIO

### Greater Cincinnati Chapter #62

Roberta Trombly 513-751-6183,  
[btrombly@fuse.net](mailto:btrombly@fuse.net)  
Chris McCullough: 513-860-4959,  
[gordchris@fuse.net](mailto:gordchris@fuse.net)  
Monthly meetings or field trips; see web site.

### Columbus Chapter #4

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


### Maumee Valley Chapter #66 (Seedling)

Jan Hunter 419-833-2020  
[nnn@naturallynative.net](mailto:nnn@naturallynative.net)  
Meeting dates and times vary. Call for details.

### Toledo Chapter #77 (Seedling)

Todd Crail 419-539-6810, [tcraill@utnet.utoledo.edu](mailto:tcraill@utnet.utoledo.edu)  
University of Toledo's Stranahan Arboretum.





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#### **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](http://www.for-wild.org/events.html).

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

#### **OTHER CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS**

##### **September 21, Lincoln, Nebraska**

"Changing Natural Landscapes: Ecological and Human Dimensions." The Natural Areas Association (NAA) and the Center for Great Plains Studies (CGPS) announce a joint conference to be held at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska. This is the 32nd NAA annual conference and the 29th CGPS annual interdisciplinary conference which will be focused on both the ecological and human dimension of our changing natural areas. Presentations, workshops, field trips, and social events will explore our ever-changing natural landscapes, both as they affect and are affected by human activities. More information is available at [www.unl.edu/plains/seminars/2005/sympindex.html](http://www.unl.edu/plains/seminars/2005/sympindex.html).

mation is available at [www.unl.edu/plains/seminars/2005/sympindex.html](http://www.unl.edu/plains/seminars/2005/sympindex.html).

##### **September 30, Anchorage, Alaska**

8th World Wilderness Congress, "Wilderness, Wildlands and People: A Partnership for the Planet" to be held in Anchorage, Alaska from September 30 through October 6, 2005. This is the first time since 1987, that the Congress will be held in the United States. This is a unique opportunity to join over 1,000 delegates from approximately 40 countries around the world in dialogue and formulation of practical solutions to many environmental issues with which the world currently is faced. To register or for more details, visit [www.8wwc.org/index.htm](http://www.8wwc.org/index.htm) or contact [info@8wwc.org](mailto:info@8wwc.org).

##### **October 8, Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

Milwaukee area Wild Ones chapters are hosting Wild Ones' Designer Day. Eight well-known area landscape designers will share their thoughts on converting a mowed lawn to a native planting. Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, Bonaventure Hall – the Kliebhan Conference Center. Registration opens at 8 a.m., or register online at [www.for-wild.org/conf](http://www.for-wild.org/conf). \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. \$15 for students with ID. For more information, call 414-299-9888, ext. 2.

*For information on other relative native landscaping conferences, please see Wild Ones web site at [www.for-wild.org/chapters/Conf](http://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](mailto: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**

#### **Habitat Resource Network Chapter #79 (Seedling)**

Derek Stedman 610-355-7736,  
[dcsahs@netreach.net](mailto:dcsahs@netreach.net)  
Maureen Carbery 484-678-6200,  
[pahabitat@comcast.net](mailto:pahabitat@comcast.net)  
Chester & Delaware Counties

#### **Susquehanna Valley Chapter #68**

Contacts: [wild\\_ones@earthlink.net](mailto:wild_ones@earthlink.net)  
Jim Hitz 717-741-3996, [jrhitz@suscom.net](mailto:jrhitz@suscom.net)  
for calendar listings.  
Meetings third Saturday of the month, 9 a.m. Demonstration Garden at Spoutwood in Glen Rock, for gardening and brunch. Contact above for business meeting and election information.

### **WISCONSIN**

#### **Central Wisconsin Chapter #50**

Dan Dieterich 715-346-2849  
[dan.dieterich@uwsp.edu](mailto: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.

#### **Door County Chapter #59**

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

#### **Erin Chapter #57**

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

#### **Fox Valley Area Chapter #8**

Karen Syverson 920-987-5587 [ksyve@core.com](mailto:ksyve@core.com)  
September 17, mentoring day. October, seed collecting. See web site for details.

#### **Green Bay Chapter #10**

Debi Nitka 920-465-8512, [debnitka@new.rr.com](mailto:debnitka@new.rr.com)  
Cindy Hermen, 920-434-6866,  
[scentedgardens@athenet.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.  
September Yard Tour; October Design Seminar, 8 a.m., Cardinal Stritch University.

#### **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](mailto: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](mailto:jkgmeg@athenet.net)  
Menominee, Oconto & Waupaca counties.

#### **Wisconsin Northwoods Chapter #63**

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

## WILD ONES *Chapter Notes*

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.

In the July/August 2005 *Journal* we printed a letter from Hope Taft acknowledging the gifted membership. It seems the story does not end there. Mrs. Taft writes:

Dear Marilyn,

Thank you so much for this wonderful note and offer of help. I too had a great time doing what I love to do most these days, share the Ohio Heritage Gardens and encourage the use of native plants.

I received the Wild Ones materials today and have already gathered lots of ideas from them as well as an Ohio plant source! Thanks so much for undertaking the creation of a reliable plant source list of Ohio – places that we can share with our many visitors and on our dreamed of web site. Can you recruit the other Ohio Wild Ones chapters to help with this project?

The Governor's Residence Foundation would be most appreciative of any help the Wild Ones would like to give. We have many needs for both plant materials and financial donations. Mark Bricker can give you a plant list of things we would like to show case in all the gardens if that would be helpful.

I also read about the Seeds for Education grants awards from the National Wild Ones and wondered if you thought we might be considered for one of these grants if we applied.

The better established all our gardens are and the more public participation we have in them before I leave, the better chance we have of having these educational gardens around for a long time to come.

Thank you so much for your help and support. Julie and Mark can answer all your questions and would love to work with you in a multitude of ways – from volunteers to help us maintain the gardens, and help create the database of plants, to donating plants themselves, to financial support and sharing our goals with others. They can be reached at 614-644-7644.

Thanks so much.

Hope Taft

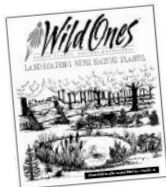
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### Native Solutions Environmental Consulting

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920-734-0757  
info@nativesolutions.net  
www.nativesolutions.net  
Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter

### Stone Silo Prairie Gardens LLP

4500 Oak Ridge Circle  
De Pere, Wisconsin 54115  
920-336-1662  
stonesilo@aol.com  
Green Bay (WI) Chapter

For more information about these businesses and their services,  
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members/business](http://www.for-wild.org/members/business).*

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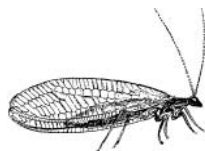
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## Thank You!

### Membership Promotion

A huge thank you goes to Wild Ones members **Charlotte Adelman** and **Bernard L. Schwartz** of the **Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter**. Charlotte and Bernie are the authors of *Prairie Directory of North America - U.S. and Canada*. They have presented a large number of copies of their book to Wild Ones, in recognition of, and to assist Wild Ones in furthering "its impressive contributions to promoting environmentally sound landscaping practices." Thank you Charlotte and Bernie; this is truly a magnanimous gift.

### Wild Ones Journal

A great big thank you to **Sally Hiott** and **Ecotink**, of Oakland, Michigan for their contribution of \$300 from recent book sales toward the *Journal* Fund, and to **Ruth and Glenn Beach** for their \$45. Thanks to these folks, and others before them, we were able to print this issue of the *Journal*. Now it's up to the National Board to decide whether or not we can afford to print the sixth issue (November/December, 2005).

### Matching Donations

\$30 received from **HSBC - North America**, on behalf of **Margo Hickman** of **Lake-To-Prairie (IL) Chapter**; \$50 from **Pfizer Foundation**, on behalf of **Carol Baker** of the **Kalamazoo Area (MI) Chapter**; \$50 from **PepsiAmericas Foundation**, on behalf of **Michael Kind** of the **Lake-To-Prairie (IL) Chapter**; \$50 from **Wisconsin Energy Corp. Foundation**, on behalf of **Fred Hessen** of the **Milwaukee-Southwest/Wehr (WI) Chapter**.

### Seeds for Education

**Else Ankle** of **Milwaukee-North (WI) Chapter**, \$30.

### 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)** with 61.0%, the **Greater Cincinnati (OH) Chapter** with 30.8%, and the **Otter Tail (MN) Chapter** with 30.4%. Following in the 20 percentile range are **St. Cloud (MN)**, **North Park Village Nature Center (IL)**, **Arrowhead (MN)**, and **St. Louis (MO) Chapters**, along with the **Partners-at-Large** category.

### 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. Chapters with one new business member each include **Arrowhead (MN)**, **Flint (MI)**, **Fox Valley Area (WI)**, **Greater Cincinnati (OH)**, **Green Bay (WI)**, **Kalamazoo Area (MI)**, **Lexington (KY)**, **Louisville MetroWild (KY)**, **Mid-Missouri (MO)**, **Milwaukee-North (WI)**, **Milwaukee-Southwest Wehr (WI)**, **Rock River Valley (IL)**, **St. Croix Oak Savanna (MN)**, and **Twin Cities (MN) Chapters**.

