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landscaping
movement



JOURNAL

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Thank You! Back Cover.



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

NATIVES IN THE HOLLYWOOD HILLS



Is Wild Ones
going Hollywood? No, but you
might say a famous Hollywood star is going native.

Story by Susan J. Tweit. A longer version of this story appeared in Audubon Magazine, July 2005.

At the end of a lane in the Santa Monica Mountains outside Los Angeles, an other retaining wall topped with native sandstone rises above the road but doesn't quite conceal the quiet revolution in landscaping taking place behind it. The plants that spill over the wall in colorful profusion are native to these steep canyons: Cedros Island snapdragon with vivid scarlet flowers; silver-gray mats of hummingbird sage; rosettes of spiky foothill yucca, and succulent dudleya; California wild grape; ceanothus with wrinkled green foliage and snow-white blossoms; coast tassel bush; and a California sycamore with patchwork bark.

For the past century southern Californians have been replacing these "weeds" with every exotic imaginable, from Cuban palms to South African calla lilies, transforming the region and inadvertently eliminating habitat for many wildlife species. Now the natives have a champion in actress Rene Russo, the star of such box office hits as "Lethal Weapon 3," "Tin Cup," "The Thomas Crown Affair," and her latest, "Yours, Mine, and Ours."

Russo is so passionate about southern California's natural heritage that she is rooting out the exotic plants and restoring the natives on the 2-1/2 acres she owns with her husband, screenwriter Dan Gilroy. This landscaping ethic, often called wildscaping, aims to restore habitat and honor the character of the site by relying on indigenous plants and those non-natives adapted to the local conditions and friendly to wildlife. It also avoids the use of pesticides, fertilizer, and supplemental water. Russo is an advocate for a campaign to convince gardeners to embrace native plants in a region better known as the home of Hollywood than as the home of California holly, the indigenous shrub that is the town's namesake.

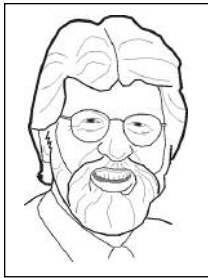
Russo had no idea of the scale of the project she would be getting into when she toured a ridgetop house with a mountain view six years ago. An expanse of water-hungry green lawn and weeping willows made the place look, as Russo puts it, "like Connecticut." But something about the site with the steep slope dropping to a canyon felt right. CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* sp.), a California native plant, with upright leaves and mahogany red bark, does well on infertile, rocky hillsides.

Native Landscaping Is the Mission of Wild Ones, the Most Important Thing We Do. And It's Something We Can't Do Without New Members.

Our Chapters Work Hard to Keep Those New Members Coming.



Last year's challenge pitted chapter against chapter in the race to add the most new household and business members. The results are in and the determination of the winner is not easy.

Based on the rules published with the challenge, the winner of \$200 for introducing the most new households is the Habitat Gardening Club of Central New York (NY)

Chapter (highest percentage of gain). There is a tie between the Twin Cities (MN) and the Rock River Valley (IL) chapters for new business members. A check for \$150 will be sent to each of these two chapters. I want to thank all the chapters who took the challenge seriously and added so many new members to Wild Ones!

Chapter	New Household	Percentage	New Business
Fox Valley Area	35	14%	
Twin Cities	34	47%	2
Rock River Valley	31	20%	2
Greater Cincinnati	21	40%	
Habitat Gardening Club	16	89%	
Western Reserve	11	52%	
Partners-at-large			3

Membership is the bedrock of what Wild Ones is. While native landscaping is the mission of the organization, our membership is the lifeblood of our existence. Without both new and sustaining members, we would cease to exist.

Over the last 4-1/2 years as president I have met a variety of dedicated and interesting people. I have talked with several of the original nine members and with Lorrie Otto about the early days of the organization and why it is so vitally important to continue to spread the word. I have met with local members at the quarterly board meetings as we have moved among chapters, discussing the problems typical to all chapters and sharing visions of what native landscaping is all about. I have shared stories with long-time members and encouraged new members with their efforts. While our mission is vitally important to our future, it is the people with whom we share the vision that make each trip so worthwhile.

Best wishes to all of you in this new year and may your Wild Ones activities bear long-term results, both in the landscape around you and in the people that surround you. ■

Joe Powelka

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

Editor's Note: Thanks to Joe for his generosity in donating the money for the prizes.

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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Janice Stiefel, Door County (WI) Chapter. Janice is an avid entomologist and writes and lectures on a variety of subjects related to native plants and insects.

Celia Larsen, who has been a member of the Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter for many years, is a naturalist working to establish school habitats in her local area, where she focuses on developing curricular tie-ins with elementary age children.

Sally Hiott, has been a member of the Detroit Metro (MI) Chapter for many years and often donates the use of her drawings to Wild Ones. See her drawings on page 20.

Photos on pages 1 and 14 used with permission of **Mike Charters**, www.calflora.net.



The **ALIEN** at My Doorstep

By Pam Westfall

While they may be beautiful to look at, some non-native plants don't play nice when they move into the neighborhood. With such tricks as over-active seeding, shading out the competition, and poisoning the neighbors, these aliens soon take over the landscape – much to our dismay.

We've all had the impulse at some point in time. We're at the garden center, behaving splendidly until that amazing plant grabs our attention. We simply must have it. And why not? It looks pretty enough, and seems innocent. Country of origin is the last thing on our minds. So we buy it and plant it. Next thing we know, it has taken over the yard, the house, and is considering an all-out assault on the neighbor's property as well. During the next walk at the local nature preserve, we see even greater extent of the damage inflicted. Most non-native plants are polite guests, and pose little threat to natural areas. But some aren't so nice, and end up creating ecological disasters.

Two factors seem to be at play: the increased sprawl of suburban populations and, ironically, an increased interest in gardening. The first factor contributes in obvious ways. Many natural areas that were once vast and continuous tracts are now disconnected islands, surrounded by suburbia. As the homeowners get bitten by the garden bug, they rush off to the local garden center and buy what is available. No warning is ever issued about the potential for a plant to cause havoc in natural areas. Most non-native plants, according to Kayri Havens, conservation science director of the Chicago Botanical Gardens in Glencoe, Illinois, do not become pests. But when the alien gets aggressively ugly, the effects are hardly unnoticeable. The damage can be costly, both in terms of loss of biodiversity and also in efforts spent to eliminate the invader.

So how do the aliens manage to do it? They act like out-of-towners on Bourbon Street, exhibiting behavior they would never do at home. Their mechanisms are varied, from copious seed set, to shading out the competition, poisoning the neighbors, and even genetically mixing in with the locals.

In California, South American Shrub, (*Sesbania punicea*), has plagued the Sacramento River delta by creating dense stands of thickets. Barry Rice, from the Nature Conservancy in Davis, California, says that in a drier situation, it is well behaved. Yet by air or water the seeds find their way to the area and create havoc. Another garden thug unleashed unknowingly is the Midwestern favorite European buckthorn (*Rhamnus sp.*). CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Conference and Annual Meeting

Naperville Illinois (just outside Chicago)

Sponsored by Greater Dupage Chapter

Friday July 14 to Sunday July 16 2005

Keynote Speakers:

Dr. Gerould Wilhelm, author of *Plants of the Chicago Region* and inspirational speaker, speaking on the state of native plants and their communities in the greater Chicago Region (which includes counties in Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan;

Michael R. Jeffords, photographer with the Illinois Natural History Survey speaking on the native plant communities of the state of Illinois.

On Saturday there will be 28 concurrent sessions dealing with design, habitats, animals, education, plants, and life style to mention a few. The dinner keynote will be **Darrel Morrison**, Landscape Architect (FASLA) and honorary director of Wild Ones.

On Sunday, five half-day and five all-day field trips are being planned. Field trips will consist of visits to local yards, forest preserves/prairies, organic seed farms, and nurseries, etc. Leadership workshop and photo contest will be held in conjunction with the conference.

It has found its way from suburban backyards and into forest preserves. The canopy of buckthorn creates dense shade, which allows for very few native under-story plants to grow. According to Patti Vitt of Chicago Botanical Gardens, only "poison ivy, a few woodland sedges, and the occasional viola" can withstand such conditions.

The Chinese tree of heaven, *Alnus altissima*, does not make polite company at a cocktail party. Its antisocial behavior comes from a toxic chemical secreted by its roots, which prevents other plants from germinating. The chemical is known as ailanthone. In addition to ailanthone, four other poisons, also secreted by the roots, have been identified. And Chinese tree of heaven doesn't stop there. If it can't poison the competition, it then sets copious amounts of seed, which in turn germinate readily and grow a tap root within a few months.

In a novel move, desert salt cedars (*Tamarix sp.*) showed a more promiscuous side which no one could have predicted. The natives proved to be too beguiling, and they actually produced a successful hybrid. So successful, in fact, that currently hybrids of the pair dot the arid landscape. Foresight of this was not plausible, since they do not even share the same plant range. Yet they hybridized nonetheless. Desert salt cedar trees have become one of the most invasive plants in this country.

Fire cycles that were once typical in the Midwestern prairie, were also once a rarity in the desert Southwest. With the introduction of Eurasian grasses in the backyards of Arizona, these non-native marauders have now set up shop in the desert. Fire has become more frequent, using the dry grasses for fuel. Unfortunately, drought-tolerant cacti are not also fireproof, and the effect has been devastating to the native ecosystem of the Sonoran Desert. Not plagued by fire, but stimulated by the importation of its native pollinator, ornamental figs, *Ficus microcarpa*, in Florida are now taking over natural areas. The pollinator was not present in the United States when the fig arrived initially, and the plant actually had to be hand pollinated in order to propagate. Twenty years ago, that changed when the first fig wasp landed on American soil, fresh off the boat from Eurasia. Human pollination services are no longer needed.

Birds have also assisted many a foreigner with seed dispersal. Often, gardeners who like to watch birds also like to plant plants that attract them. However, some of the plants recommended for their berries are non-natives with a penchant for growing over the natives. Oriental bittersweet vine (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) and porcelain berry vine (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) are two of the worst offenders. They can cover the tallest trees, and within a couple of decades can even uproot trees with their weight.

All this invading by foreigners has roused the natives. In 2001 a group of invasive-plant experts converged at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis to create a voluntary agreement to prevent such ecological disasters. The agreement includes provisions for the prevention and management of invasive plant outbreaks, encouragement of research, controlled introduction of new cultivars, as well as informing the public about plant aggressiveness. In Massachusetts, testing of plants for aggressiveness is now being done, along with developing standards to assess for such behavior. This has helped develop a database to determine a plant's wayward tendencies, and has led some nurseries to stop selling those that make the bad plant list. It also has provided customers with some guidance in making sensible choices.

Despite their beauty, aliens may not be the best selection to make. We need to examine a picture larger than our own backyard. Sensible choices are ones we should all make next time at the garden center. ■



LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS

Wild Ones

The National Board is pleased to announce that we are now able to offer lifetime memberships in Wild Ones.

\$1,200 per household, payable over three years.

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Local chapters will still receive their annual dues reimbursement for lifetime members.

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Wild Ones Business Member Wins Award for Exceptional Efforts Toward Good Environmental Stewardship

American Family Corporate Headquarters wins the John Nolen Award

Wild Ones Business Member, American Family Corporate Headquarters recently received the John Nolen award from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum for their support of native ecosystems.

A corporate headquarters becomes a showplace for natural landscaping

Pat Brown of the Arboretum's Publications and Public Relations Department told us that the Arboretum commissioned this award for organizations (or individuals) in order to create an opportunity to recognize exceptional efforts toward good environmental stewardship. Located in the northeast corner of Madison, the American Family Corporation has transformed 85 acres of ordinary farm and countryside into grasslands, prairie, woods, savannas, and a pond.

It started with a dickcissel

Facility site maintenance manager Rita

Garczynski, whose background in horticulture includes a distinct predilection for native plant species, explained that American Family's Habitat Enhancement Program grew from the discovery of a dickcissel, a grassland bird, on the property. This small, migratory bird breeds in the grasslands of North America. Dickcissel populations are dwindling because grasslands are declining. From such humble beginnings evolved a landscape that invites a diversity of plants and animals to make themselves at home, and the public to enjoy its nearly 5 miles of paths.

The American Family WIND Club

Besides the valuable advice of experts including biologists from the DNR, the UW-Madison, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Dane County Parks, and other sectors, American Family employees have played an important role. Called WIND (Working Within Nature and Development) Club, employees have been getting

rid of invasive honeysuckle shrubs and buckthorn, and monitoring bluebird nesting. Such firsthand involvement with the project, Garczynski said, has given them a lasting appreciation of habitat needs and has helped spread the word to their families.

The good work will continue

Ongoing development will include restoring two wood lots to oak savannas by removing invasive species, seeding native species, using herbicides judiciously, and regular prescribed burning. Grassland mowing schedules are being timed so nests are not destroyed. The property's two pond systems are maintained for habitat diversity. Thirty-four bluebird houses are cared for and monitored. And a butterfly garden thrives in the prairie area. ■

For more information about the John Nolen award, go to http://uwarboretum.org/foa/Leopold_Restoration_Award_Program.htm



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INFORMATION SESSION:
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Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder

by Richard Louv

Publisher: Algonquin Books. ISBN: 1565123913. Publication Date: April 2005. Review by Celia Larsen

Can you imagine: the "average" American watches more than three hours of TV each day. By the time this "average" person is 70, he/she will have spent almost 10 years watching the screen. Ten years! And this doesn't even include time surfing the internet or playing video games. All this sedentary, passive viewing has, not surprisingly, contributed to obesity in our country. But of greater concern, in the opinion of many, is that it often leads to depression and attention-deficit disorder in many children. It seems we are a nation suffering a sort of spiritual malaise, and the cure, according to author Richard Louv, may be as simple as spending more time in beautiful natural areas. In *Last Child in the Woods*, Louv summarizes, in a very readable manner, all the latest scientific research on the benefits of contact with nature. The book is filled with entertaining interviews and anecdotes that support the idea that our children are disconnected from nature. Louv describes the history of how we got to this point and he gives a blueprint for a new future, one where children could again enjoy their awesome, joyous place in this world.

Through Louv's stories we come to learn that not only do children need the natural world, but also the natural world needs children. Or else where will the next generation of environmental activists come from?

He allows for the need of future environmentalists to be a bit rough with nature. President Teddy Roosevelt, as a youngster, annoyed his washerwoman by having a snapping turtle tied to the leg of her sink. Apparently, the future president had a virtual museum of natural history in his bedroom, and I doubt that "virtual" in the cyber-sense would have quite the same impact. Our children need to have repeated hands-on, direct experiences with nature, or we may ultimately lose the beautiful lands President Roosevelt fought so hard to protect. Even the beloved children's author, Beatrix Potter, tore things up a bit. She and her brother would boil down animal carcasses to study their bones. Later in her life, she became an avid proponent of land conservation in England. We must

teach our children to respect nature, but we must also give them opportunities to really get to know it – to learn, for example, why bloodroot and skunk cabbage are so named.

In Louv's chapter titled "Scared Smart: Facing the Bogeyman," he talks about "positive nature-risk." In this chapter he discusses parental fears about letting children play on their own in nature. Yes, our kids would be quite "safe" if they just sat inside all day and watched TV. But they really need unsupervised – yes, you can be there, but you don't have to be *right there* – unstructured time outside. Louv believes that children need to explore their surroundings. He suggests sending

older children with a cell phone and traveling with buddies to help ease parental anxiety about abductions. He clearly explains the statistics that show just how unlikely kidnappings or other violent acts against children are, and how the fear that we may instill is more harmful for a child's development than the rare incidents



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I let my kids climb tall trees, walk on slippery rocks, and sit on the porch to watch thunderstorms. I encourage them to chop wood and build fires. Dangerous? To let them do these things – or to keep them from such things?

that might occur outside. Most abductors are not strangers, and most outdoor injuries occur during organized sports. Despite the statistics, one can empathize with background anxiety of parents. I am always relieved when my son returns home from a long bike ride – with his helmet buckled – or my daughter walks home safely from school – with her cell phone in her backpack. I let my kids climb tall trees, walk on slippery rocks, and sit on the porch to watch thunderstorms. I encourage them to chop wood and build fires. Dangerous? To let them do these things – or to keep them from such things?

Last Child in the Woods supplies all the “proof” anyone could need to encourage children (and adults) to watch less TV and spend more time outside. Louv uses the last third of the book to give uplifting examples and ideas of ways to reconnect our families with the natural world. His descriptions of “green urbanism” are especially hopeful. He quotes architect William McDonough as saying that cities should be “sheltering – cleansing of air,

water, and spirit – and restorative and replenishing of the planet, rather than fundamentally extractive and damaging.” Louv envisions our schools using their surrounding natural environments as classrooms, focusing on their local, rich array of indigenous species, before learning about remote, untouchable rain forests. Louv even has the courage to tackle the intersection of religion and environmentalism. I like his telling of Mr. Rogers’ answer to Louv’s 9-year-old son on whether or not God and Mother Nature are married.

I encourage you to read this book, but only if it will *not* take time away from your being outside with children, taking them to a local community farm, turning the compost, or reading out loud to them while you swing in a hammock (surrounded by the blooms of trumpet vine, being visited by hummingbirds, sipping on nectar, locally brewed of course.) ■

You may also want to read:

Beyond Ecophobia: Reclaiming the Heart in Nature Education, by David Sobel (part of Orion’s Nature Literacy series; 1996) ISBN 0-913098-50-7.

WILD ONES

Chapter Notes

We have a new seedling chapter, **Habitat Resource Network**, organizing in the Chester and Delaware County areas of Pennsylvania, southwest of Philadelphia. If you live near this area, don’t hesitate to become part of this newest chapter. See page 17 for contact information.

DRAGONFLY CALENDARS

John Arthur’s (Twin Cities (MN) Chapter) 2006 Dragonfly calendars are now available at the Wild Ones Store, or by writing to the National Office. Courtesy of John Arthur, \$5 of the price comes back to Wild Ones, along with matching funds. Check the Wild Ones Store at www.for-wild.org/store.

What are you doing this summer?



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American Painted Ladies

By Barbara Bray

After reading my "Simple Act of Kindness" article about American painted lady caterpillars in the most recent issue of the *Journal*, Janice Stiefel of the Door County (WI) Chapter sent us a note relating some of her own experiences with the American painted lady larvae and butterflies.

From Janice: *I read, with interest, your article on American Painted Lady larvae in the November/December 2005 issue of the Wild Ones Journal. I, too, have had experience with that species. After rearing hundreds of larvae of various species of moths and butterflies, I would say that American painted lady larvae are the hardest to deal with. When rearing them in captivity, they seem to eat forever, hide themselves in messy silken webs so it's hard to monitor their development, and they take a long time to pupate. You were wondering where the larvae went when you could no longer find them on the sweet everlasting. In the wild, the larvae just disappear. I have never*

found where they actually form their chrysalis.

In Door County, Wisconsin, the larvae favor the perennial pearly everlasting (Anaphalis margaritacea). Some years there are large populations of American painted ladies. During those times, the plants are covered with hundreds of eggs. There would never be enough leaves for all of them, so many larvae die. To help Mother Nature a tad, I used to be able to buy an extra plant or two from the local nurseries, but they don't carry them anymore. I asked why. The answer was that people don't like the plants because they get too "buggy." I also reared the larvae when we lived in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. In that location, they favored the perennial field pussytoes (Antennaria neglecta). They will readily accept either plant. Published books list several other host plants for the American painted lady, but my experience has shown that the larvae have no interest in them. Perhaps it's because they've become "hooked" on pearly everlastings or pussytoes and no other plant is acceptable. It would be educational to hear the observations from others who have reared this species.

Several years ago, I was giving a butterfly/moth slide lecture to a district garden club in a fairly large central Wisconsin city. During the

program, the women had been whispering among themselves about something I put up on the screen like, "Oh, we had those last year, but I didn't know what they were." When I got to the American painted lady, I mentioned its love affair with the pearly everlasting plant... how the larvae almost defoliate the plant, but pointed out that the plant will come back. They do not kill it. After this last statement, there was a hush over the audience and no one spoke.

When the lecture was finished, a sweet, gray-haired lady came up to me and said, "Honey, we had those caterpillars all over our pearly everlasting plants last year - all over the city. Not knowing what they were, we just sprayed, squashed, and poisoned them. After what you just said, we are feeling real guilty. We had no idea they would end up to be beautiful butterflies."

The lack of knowledge about these creatures is sad. It's not something that is generally included in school curricula, and they certainly don't get it when they go off to college, unless they're majoring in entomology - and even then, I doubt that they learn details like this, unless they do their own research and rearing. Thank you for your "simple act of kindness."

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE.



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Barb responds: Thank you for your kind comments and for sending along your own experiences. I find I get a lot of good information from friends' experiences.

I did do a bit more research and found out that my sweet everlasting (*Gnaphalium obtusifolium*) are annuals. So the butterfly larvae are feeding on plants that will complete their life cycle at the end of the season, having produced seeds that will germinate in the spring.

In *Michigan Butterflies and Skippers* by Mogen Nielsen (Michigan State University Extension; 1999) I found this list of the American painted lady larval food: pearly everlasting, pussy-toes and cudweed. I'm sure that by cudweed he meant the native sweet cudweed or sweet everlasting (*G. obtusifolium*) and not the European cudweed (*Gnaphalium uliginosum*).

He further lists that adults take nectar from these native plants: aster, choke-cherry, dogbane, common milkweed, bog-rosemary, and Labrador tea. ■

For more information:

wisplants.uwsp.edu/scripts/detail.asp?SpCode=ANTNEG
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Wild Ones Compiling Registry of Michigan Outdoor Educational Areas with Native Plantings

Send in your information.

Wild Ones Seeds for Education and the Wildflower Association of Michigan (WAM) are jointly endeavoring to compile a registry of Michigan outdoor educational areas with native plantings. The purpose of this registry is to facilitate networking among existing sites and to encourage the development of new sites. We envision registrants sharing information such as "how to" advice for getting started and lesson plans that meet our state benchmarks. We also hope that sites would be able to share materials like surplus seeds and wayward plants (e.g., all those asters that volunteer in woodchip paths). Once the registry is published online, one would be able to find out what sites are in any given county, what type of habitat(s) a particular site contains, and how the site was funded. If you would like your site to be included in the registry, please contact Celia Larsen at cislarsen@comcast.net or Maryann Whitman at maryannwhitman@comcast.net. ■



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If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.

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Environmental Impacts of Deicing

To keep us from sliding all over the roads and sidewalks, we sometimes have to deice with salt or chemicals. But to prevent damage to plants and other living things, it's best to follow some precautions.

Every winter, to provide for public safety, communities and homeowners across the United States pour hundreds of thousands of tons of salt and other deicing materials on driveways, roads, and highways. The most commonly used deicing agent is sodium chloride (NaCl) because it is relatively inexpensive and readily available. The salt and deicing chemicals are carried by melting snow and ice onto vegetation along the roadside and eventually to local rivers, streams, and other bodies of water. Depending on the amount of deicing chemicals used, this can have significant environmental impacts.

The salts can accumulate in soils along roadsides, affecting trees and other vegetation. Elevated salt levels in soils inhibit plants' ability to absorb water and nutrients, and impedes long-term plant growth. Degradation of roadside vegetation can also reduce the ability of these areas to act as buffers to slow runoff of contaminants into the watershed. In some areas, plants that are salt-tolerant (halophytic), such as cattails and the common reed (*Phragmites* sp.) have colonized roadside areas.

Salts carried by runoff into aquatic ecosystems can build up to concentrations sufficient to affect plants and other organisms. Fish species vary widely in their tolerance to salt levels; however, if concentrations remain high over a prolonged period, some species will be affected. Macroinvertebrates (e.g., aquatic insects, mollusks, and crayfish) are less tolerant to salinity; reductions in these populations will have effects throughout the food web.

Excerpted from the web site of the Environmental Literacy Council
www.enviroliteracy.org/article.php/709.html.

Some Things You Can Do in Your Own Yard

Keeping ice and snow off your driveway and sidewalks is important for safety. The following tips can help you choose the best deicing product for your home and the environment.

Know Your Salt Risk Zone. You wouldn't want to kill your favorite tree, shrub or grass, so check out the plants that grow within 5 or 10 feet of your driveway and sidewalk (and the road, for that matter). The table below summarizes some of the salt-sensitive plants that might be at risk. If you have salt-sensitive trees, shrubs, or grasses in this zone, you should avoid any deicing product that contains chlorides (rock salt and calcium chloride), or use very small doses. You may want to use CMA as a safer alternative, or stick with sand for traction.

Landscaping Areas	Species at Risk from Salting
Deciduous Trees	Tulip Polar, Green Ash, Hickory, Red Maple, Sugar Maple
Conifers	Balsam Fir, White Pine, Hemlock, Norway Spruce
Shrubs	Dogwood, Redbud, Hawthorn, Rose, Spirea
Grasses	Kentucky Bluegrass, Red Fescue

Avoid Products that Contain Urea. Some folks recommend the use of urea as a safer alternative to more common deicing products, arguing that it does not contain chlorides and, as a form of nitrogen, will help fertilize your yard when it washes off. In reality, urea-based deicing products are a poor choice. To begin with, urea is

fairly expensive and performs poorly when temperatures drop below 20°F. More importantly, the application rate for urea during a single deicing is 10 times greater than that needed to fertilize the same area of your yard.

Of course, very little of the urea will actually get to your lawn, but will end up washing into the street and storm drain. Given that nitrogen is a major problem in most of our watersheds, it doesn't make sense to use nitrogen-based products, such as those containing urea, for deicing.



Apply Salt Early, but Sparingly. Remember what your Mom may have told you at the dinner table: "A little salt goes a long way." The recommended application rate for rock salt is about a handful per square yard treated (after you have scraped as much ice and snow as possible). Using more salt than this won't speed up the

melting process. Even less salt is needed if you are using calcium chloride (about a handful for every three square yards treated – or about the area of a single bed). If you have a choice, pick calcium chloride over sodium chloride. Calcium chloride works at much lower temperatures and is applied at a much lower rate.

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www.stormcenter.com/envirocast/2003-01-01/envirocast.php#article4.

New Road Surface Could Mean Fewer Salt Trucks

Russ Alger, of the Institute of Snow Research at Michigan Technological University, has come up with an aggregate that can absorb road salt. The aggregate is glued to the road surface with a tough epoxy. Alger says the aggregate can absorb road salt into its matrix for an entire season. That means when it gets cold, the salt will prevent ice from forming.

"In essence what we've done is we've lowered the freezing point of the pavement itself, and what that means is ice won't form at the surface of it."

Furthermore, the salt cannot wash off when the snow melts. It's there, ready for the next snowfall or to prevent a "black ice" event. Alger is working on a contract from the FAA to run tests this winter on a service road at O'Hare, in Chicago, and on a section of a taxiway at Atlantic City Airport in New Jersey.

Some of the greatest benefits could be closer to home. "You could mix up a pail and put it on your front walk," Alger says. Imagine: no more salt on your driveway or walkways. ■



A Sense of Place

By Tonie Fitzgerald

We have become a culture that “visits” nature and “lives” more and more in a built environment – in a “geography of nowhere.”

In Washington State, it has been over 200 years since indigenous peoples described where they lived as “the place where camas blooms” or “the place where wild onions nod.” In other parts of the country, it has been even longer.

Where Native Americans lived – and the plants and animals that lived there – determined *if* they lived. Survival required intimate contact with the natural world. Without guidebooks, maps, or internet access, they knew weather patterns, ocean tides, hydrology, topography, and the life cycles and habits of plants and animals in the places they lived. They had a very strong “sense of place.”

Now, most Americans are able to get through a day with little outside-world contact. We may not prefer it that way, but it's common for us to spend the greater part of our days in a human-built environment. Typically, our “sense of place” comes from the locations of our houses, offices, schools, gyms, restaurants, stores, libraries, or other buildings.

Can we even tell if we're near the ocean, in a desert, on a plateau, or by a grassland prairie by looking out a window? Infrequently. In America, the natural landscape, with its millions of plants, animals, birds and insects, is disappearing at an alarming rate – 220 acres per hour! – due to urban and suburban sprawl. And what isn't street, parking lot, or edifice is apt to be an ornamental landscape meant to please the human eye rather than sustain biodiversity.

Ecologically, the plants in these landscapes are not the ones that thrived there before the land was changed by human activity. While North America is home to about 20,000 native plant species, most landscapes since the 1950s have been designed and planted with cultivars of a couple hundred plants and trees that lend themselves to mass production, marketing, and sale. So a person traveling from Boston to Seattle or Atlanta to Los Angeles sees not only the same chain stores, restaurants, and housing developments, but also the same northern – or southern – palette of plant materials across the nation.

This “geography of nowhere” was identified by James Kunstler in his 1993 book of the same title. In essence, in today's built environment, we can't tell where we are when we look around.

We are losing our sense of place. We may not like it, but we accept it as the inevitable cost of progress.

The acceptance of the geography of nowhere is puzzling when one considers that so many of us claim to be “outdoorsy” and go to great lengths to connect with nature. We hike, we camp, we go to the lake. We breathe, we relax, and we re-connect with ourselves. And then we drive home to jobs, school, housework, and other aspects of our busy lives. We have become a culture that “visits” nature and “lives” more and more in a built environment.

Many people have become dismayed or depressed by what is happening to our natural world. Others have become gardeners. Gardening, this includes landscaping, ranks as America's number one leisure activity. Research indicates why. Studies have linked people's proximity to nature – primarily plants – with stress relief, shortened hospital stays, increased mental acuity, lowered blood pressure, reduced domestic violence, and a host of other good things. We may not be highly conscious of it, but we feel and act better when we're around plants.

Evidently, gardeners know the benefits of being among plants. It's hard to find one who doesn't spend much of his or her time tending to plant and soil needs, watching for the first new growth, waiting for bloom time, and so on. Gardeners must be in tune with the natural world, for it's the sun or shade, the wet or dry, the hot or cold, that determine how their gardens grow. Gardeners have their sense of place in this world.

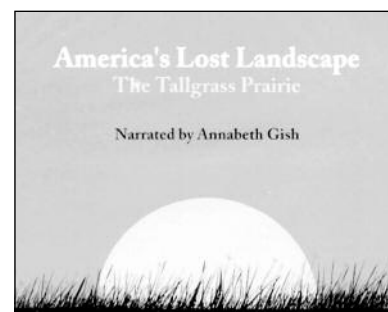
“Naturalized landscaping” is the fastest growing style of gardening. Naturalized landscaping can be loosely defined as landscaping with plants adapted to the places where we live. Naturalized landscapes use plant types and groupings that welcome and sustain the diversity of birds, animals,

insects, and soil microbes that make for a healthy ecosystem. Natural landscapes welcome people to walk through them, sit in them, and do less maintenance in them. Think pine-needle paths instead of edged walkways, natural plant shapes instead of sculptured hedges, drought-tolerant ground covers instead of thirsty lawns.

Perhaps more importantly, landscapes that reflect the local natural surroundings give us that sense of where we really live. ■

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America's Lost Landscape The Tallgrass Prairie DVD



This amazing DVD tells the rich and complex story of one of the most astonishing alterations of nature in human history. Prior to Euro-American settlement in the 1820s, one of the major landscape features of North America was 240 million acres of tallgrass prairie. But between 1830 and 1900 – the space of a single lifetime, the tallgrass prairie was transformed into farmland. This powerful and moving video experience tells the story. **Just \$33** including shipping and handling. Available on our web site at www.for-wild.org/store/.

The Grapevine

By Maryann Whitman

My Cup-Plant Runneth Over

The notion of invasiveness in native plants is one that is distasteful to contemplate. Usually we prefer to say that a native plant is a "strong spreader" or an "aggressive spreader." At some point it may be necessary to stop splitting hairs. I'm thinking particularly of cup-plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*). It first caught my attention when it appeared in a news item as having spread aggressively along a riparian stretch in upper New York state, where it is not native. It had been introduced by a landowner and happily galloped on from there. It is now "potentially invasive" and banned in Connecticut.

In my own yard in southeastern Michigan I introduced it as seed some years ago, oblivious of the fact that it is not native to my own county. It is spreading quite aggressively. Fortunately it grows quite large, is hard to miss, and therefore easy to chop down.

This is a clear example of a native plant that behaves well in its traditional plant community, in its traditional habitat only to become a pest when moved by humans into areas that it might not have moved into on its own.

No-Till, No Problem

A brief article was published recently in the *Journal of Environmental Quality* relating no-till farming practices and increased emissions of greenhouse gases – most notably nitrous oxide. Since natural landscaping also employs essentially no-till methods it may be a short, though erroneous, leap in logic, in some minds, to connect natural landscaping and increased emissions of greenhouse gases.

It's important to know the rest of the story: The problem of greenhouse gases arises when fertilizers are spread on top of last year's crop residue of corn stalks or soy straw, landing several inches above the mineral soil. When the fertilizer is injected several inches below the surface of the soil, greenhouse gas emissions are no longer a problem.

Since natural landscaping does not use fertilizers in any case, it is safe to conclude that gardening methods using minimal soil disturbance will not result in the increased emissions of greenhouse gases.

It's All One Piece

In the early 1990s deformed frogs with oddly shaped, missing, and extra limbs were discovered in a pond in Minnesota. To date, 40 states have reported similar discoveries, and speculation runs rife as to any causal relationships – exposure to pesticides like Atrazine; exposure to ultraviolet light from the thinning ozone. Pieter Johnson, a researcher at the University of Wisconsin, says his theory is supported by the most solid evidence so far. He says that all the frogs with deformed limbs that he has studied were infected by flatworm parasites, called *trematodes*. He believes that agricultural and residential fertilizers are contributing to the parasite's growing numbers.

The relationship is not by any means a direct one. The parasite's life cycle involves birds, in which it releases its eggs, that end up in bird droppings, some of which fall in pond water and hatch; pond snails, which are the primary host of the parasite through maturity; and finally frogs, into whose joints the adult parasites burrow, interfering with limb development. Birds eat the frogs and the cycle is repeated.

Johnson believes that human land-use practices have contributed to the increased populations of trematodes. "With this trematode parasite in frogs, what we've been finding is that nutrient pollution or eutrophication, basically elevated levels of nitrogen and phosphorus in aquatic systems, can have a really strong promoting effect on the parasite."

Here is the rest of the relationship that follows from what Johnson has found evidence for: eutrophication promotes the aquatic plant growth that feeds increasing numbers of pond snails. Eutrophication also decreases the percentage of dissolved oxygen in the water. The primary predator of the snail is the crayfish; crayfish require high percentages of dissolved oxygen in their habitat.

So there it is – all odds in this complicated tale are stacked in favor of the parasite. And by the way, while many states have banned the use of phosphorus in lawn products, it is still widely used in agricultural fertilizers and some dishwasher soaps. Phosphorus does not break down easily in soils – it can persist from 20 to 100 years. ■

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After purchasing the place, Russo discovered a huge, multi-branched California buckeye tree hidden in the dense growth of exotics. When the buckeye lost its leaves that summer, Russo, fearing the tree was dying, called arborists for advice. They told her, "It's a native. That's what they do in summer." (Summer is the dry season in southern California; the rains that green – and some-

**As Russo stopped flooding the soil
and eliminated invaders, sprouts of toyon,
flowering gooseberry, and other natives
emerged, "just as if they were
waiting to come back."**

times flood – these semi-arid landscapes come in winter.) Landscaper Stephanie Wilson Blanc, an independent garden designer specializing in native plants and habitat restoration, inventoried the property before Russo began making changes.

As soon as Blanc looked beyond the lawn and weeping willows, she recognized the source of the property's appeal: a grove of native coast live oaks nearly buried in what Russo describes as "a jungle" of exotic trees and shrubs spawned by previous owners' plantings. The twisted trunks of the live oaks triggered a memory from Russo's childhood: "There was a street I loved to walk on because of the trees. They were just so beautiful and, I guess, peaceful."

Thus was rekindled Russo's love affair with southern California's neglected heritage – its indigenous plants. She and Blanc embarked on a mission to save her live oaks, nearly drowned by over-watering and half strangled by the vines of invasive vinca and English ivy, and by thickets of exotic sweet gum, pittosporum, Brazilian pepper, and bottlebrush trees.

The first step was to quit watering. As Blanc reminded Russo, the native plants were adapted to essentially two alternating seasons – rain in winter and drought in summer. Next they set to work evicting alien plants, including at least 150 trees. As they stopped flooding the soil and eliminated invaders, sprouts of toyon, flowering gooseberry, and other natives emerged, "just as if they were waiting to come back," says Russo. "The land knew what to do."

Russo and Blanc followed the land's guidance. They watered sparingly and only in the driest times, and planted clumps of native shrubs and wildflowers with names that evoke California's Spanish heritage: manzanita and osoberry, both from the Spanish for their fruits – the first looking like little apples (manzana); the second, beloved of bears (oso) – along with Catalina perfume, mountain mahogany, chaparral honeysuckle, and coast tassel bush.

To mimic the pools in native dry streambeds and increase habitat diversity without wasting water, Blanc designed "watering rocks," shallow basins cut in the tops of sandstone boulders that are flushed twice daily by an automatic system. Since the region averages only about 16 inches of precipitation a year and must import water from as far away as the Colorado River to supplement its meager local supply, the rock pools had to be efficient. Each holds less than a cup of water, yet even that small amount creates runoff that nurtures seep areas for moisture-loving natives, including red twig dogwood, California maidenhair fern, stream orchid, and yerba buena.

Wandering the path that crisscrosses the steep slope under the dappled shade of the coast live oaks one February morning with

Blanc, Russo picks a sprig of leaves from a bush sage, inhales its pungent aroma, and hands it to me. "There's not much in bloom now," she says. Still, we find the dark-red flower tassels of Catalina perfume, the just-opened buds of white-flowering currant, and one early blue-violet spray of mountain lilac.

As we scuff through oak-leaf litter next to dry-laid sandstone retaining walls, Russo exults over both the shiny new leaves on a mahonia that was slow to take hold and the sprouts on a Catalina cherry, as proud as any mother showing off her brood. She points out a woodland strawberry bearing a few starry white flowers, and a mahogany and gold blossom of a Douglas iris.

We stop to watch a ruby-crowned kinglet foraging for insects in the branches of a large California bay laurel. A male Anna's hummingbird chatters nearby, defending his patch of Cedros

Island snapdragon blossoms. "It's magic," said Russo. "I have always loved the plants, but I didn't understand that by bringing them back I'd get the birds and other wildlife, too."

One day in 2002, the driest year on record in southern California, Russo and Blanc attended an event at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden in Claremont, a facility devoted to showcasing California's thousands of native plant species. There Russo met Adán Ortega Jr., then vice-president of external affairs for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern Cali-

fornia, a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 18 million people from Ventura County to the Mexican border.

As they talked about the persistent drought and the opportunity it provided to educate people about saving water, they realized they shared a passion for native California. Growing up in east Los Angeles, Ortega remembers discovering the incredible wetlands at a Malibu Canyon camp for inner-city kids. He also recalls walking to school up a hill with a patch of native brush that "most people would have called weeds." The scrub looked dead most of the year, but after the winter rain, it came alive with blossoms that would draw "huge swarms" of butterflies. Since the vegetation was converted to lawn long ago, the butterflies flutter only in Ortega's memory. "I miss them," he says.

Ortega told Russo that exotic landscaping and excessive watering were not only harming native plants and wildlife, they were also affecting the region's native people. He recalled meeting the treasurer of the Pachanga Mission Indians, who mentioned her concern about the extinction of the native sages, which were sacred to her people. Ortega connected that to the loss of critical habitat for southern California wildlife, including the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher.

In his work for the Metropolitan Water District, Ortega had begun shaping an effort to motivate landowners and developers to conserve water used in landscaping, which accounted for nearly



Hillside gooseberry (*Ribes californicum*), has great flowers, tasty fruit, fragrant foliage, and good fall color.

half of domestic water use in the district. He was searching for a way to connect water conservation to restoring the region's sages and other native vegetation.

By the end of their conversation Russo and Ortega had agreed to cooperate, and within months they had convened a forum includ-

"It's magic," said Russo. "I have always loved the plants, but I didn't understand that by bringing them back I'd get the birds and other wildlife, too."

ing builders, the water district, environmental groups, and native-plant enthusiasts. Out of that effort came the California Landscape Heritage Campaign, a drive to educate nurseries, landscapers, developers, and homeowners about native species and "California-adapted species," those exotics that thrive in California's climate without crowding out natives. People could thus save water and help replant southern California's vanishing indigenous habitat, yard by yard.

With Russo lending her passion for native plants to the project as an advocate, and with Ortega persuading the Metropolitan Water District to invest its financial resources and political muscle, the Landscape Heritage Campaign soon took off. Home-improvement stores such as Home Depot and Lowe's, as well as Armstrong Garden Centers and other regional nurseries, now feature California native flora. Large developers are joining the effort, too, touting model homes landscaped with native and California-adapted plant species, and, in one case, an entire development designed to integrate with the surrounding vegetation, rather than replacing it, which has been the norm in southern California.

Last year Metropolitan Water awarded \$750,000 to community-based organizations, including the Buena Vista chapter of the Audubon Society, which is working in cooperation with the city of Oceanside. The funds are for landscaping in public places using native and "California-friendly" plants. In 2003, the first year of the Landscape Heritage Campaign, Russo, who helped conceive of the grant idea, assisted in giving out the awards. In April 2005 Russo earned an award of her own when Audubon California gave her its Audubon At Home Award for creating a sustainable, healthier habitat for plants, birds, and other wildlife.

Back at home, the actress is engaged in an improvement project of a different sort: remodeling her house with environment-friendly, nonflammable materials such as native sandstone, and earth-tone stucco and concrete that will protect against wildfire and complement the ridgetop view. The construction gave Blanc the opportunity to try out a new idea: a formal garden surrounding the house that would restore habitat. Terraces below the remodeled house, for example, will be edged with hedges evoking a clipped Mediterranean garden. But instead of traditional boxwood, a water-thirsty exotic, Blanc plans to plant a drought-tolerant, low-growing form of manzanita to attract native butterflies and bees.

Like every garden, Russo's landscape is a work in progress. Still to come is a small lawn watered

by "gray water" reused from sinks and washing machines, and a cistern system that will collect rainwater. She also has plans for a small orchard under-planted with native wildflowers to attract pollinating bees in order to increase fruit production. But the first goal of Russo's landscaping project has already been accomplished: The coast live oak grove is thriving. And the whole property is so easy to care for, Russo admits, as she stoops to tug a weed out of a particularly vivid patch of blue lupine and orange California poppies, she tends it herself.

Walking down a set of sandstone steps with Blanc, Russo stops to look back over her shoulder. "It's a good thing I met Stephanie," she says, "or I would still be pulling up toyon [also called California holly, for its evergreen, holly-like leaves and clusters of bright red berries] and over-watering my oaks." She points up at the still-bare slope. "That was full of toyon, and I pulled most of it out – I've never told her before."

Farther down the path, Russo points to a grove of toyon on the slope across the gully on a neighbor's property. A big eucalyptus tree, native to Australia, and a good-size South African pittosporum tower over the thicket.

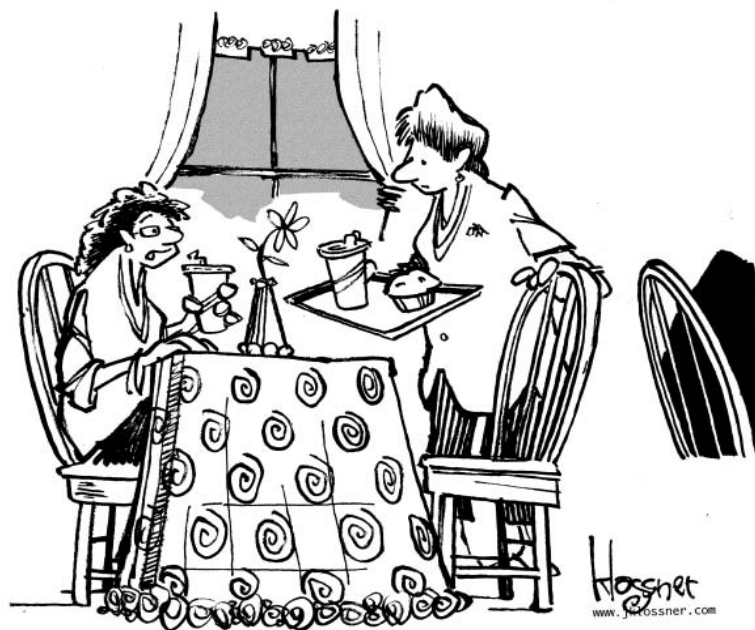
"They'll shade out the toyon," she says. "You should see the masses of birds that feed on the berries in the winter. They just flock in there."

"I'm going to see if they'll let me cut those down," she says. "I'll ask nicely."

"And if they say no," she pauses, her blue eyes alight with mischief, "maybe they'll just blow over some night in a winter storm."

Moments later she peers down into the gully, pointing to a red-flowering clump of shrubs. "See the currant I planted last year? It's really taking off," she says. "Isn't that beautiful? It's like the land was just waiting for us to treat it right." ■

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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

Chapter ID numbers are listed after names.

Meet us online at www.for-wild.org



CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Chapter #78 (Seedling)

Kathy T. Dame 860-439-2144
ktdam@conncoll.edu
Connecticut College Arboretum

ILLINOIS

Greater DuPage Chapter #9

Message Center: 630-415-IDIG
Pat Clancy 630-964-0448, clancypj@sbcglobal.net
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
taenight@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
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 U.S. 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 U.S. 27, Marshall.

Central Upper Peninsula Chapter #61

Pat Landry 906-428-4053
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
Meeting dates and times vary. Please call for details.

Flint River Chapter #32

For information, contact Thomas Enright.
taenight@comcast.net
Mott Community College's Pahl College Center
Genesee Room
Meetings January 12 and February 9, 6-9 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.

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.

Red Cedar Chapter #41

Mark Ritzenhein 517-336-0965 mrutz@acd.net
Third Wednesday, 7-9 p.m.
Room 139, Radiology, MSU campus.
For details: www.for-wild.org/redcedar

MINNESOTA

Arrowhead Chapter #48

Carol Andrews 218-529-8204
candrews@barr.com
Fourth Wednesday, 7 p.m.
September through April
Hartley Nature Center.

Otter Tail Chapter #25

Karen Terry 218-736-5520 terry714@ptel.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 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
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 513-542-0893,
btrombly@earthlink.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 419-539-6810, tcraill@utnet.utoledo.edu
University of Toledo's Stranahan Arboretum.



Please note that shipping and handling rates for Wild Ones Store items are going up after the first of the year to accommodate rising postal rates and other shipping increases as a result of out-of-action ports due to hurricanes and oil and gas shortages.

Wild Ones Library

Thank you to Deanna Larson, Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter and to Kathy Coleman, Gibson Woods (IL) Chapter for the magazine articles they've recently sent to the Wild Ones Library.

If you have articles or books or even posters that you think would be of interest to others through our Wild Ones library, please don't hesitate to send them to the National Office. ■



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.

1st Quarter 2006 National Board Meeting will be via conference call.

2nd Quarter 2006 National Board Meeting will be hosted by Oakland chapter in May.

3rd Quarter 2006 National Board Meeting and Annual Meeting in Naperville, Illinois, will be hosted by Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter, July 14-16, 2006.

4th Quarter 2006 National Board Meeting in Columbia, Missouri, will be hosted by Mid-Missouri (MO) Chapter, October 7, 2006.

OTHER CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

January 21, 2006

Annual **Toward Harmony with Nature Conference**, hosted by Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter, at the Hilton Inn, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The keynote address will be given by Neil Diboll, president of Prairie Nursery, who will present his thoughts on "developments in native plant landscaping over the past 25 years." For more information, or to request a brochure and registration information, contact Karen Syverson, 920-987-5587.

March 5-6, 2006

Wildflower Association of Michigan Annual Conference and Educator's Workshop. **Nature's Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together**, presented in partnership with the Michigan Stewardship Network. Among the speakers: Carolyn Harstad, author of *Go Native and Got Shade?*; agro-ecologist Dana Jackson, co-author of *The Farm as Natural Habitat*. To be held at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing, Michigan. For more information, contact Cheryl Tolley at 616-691-8214, cherylt@iserv.net, or Maryann Whitman at mwhitman@comcast.net.

February 25, 2006

Thoughtful Gardener Symposium co-hosted by Green Bay (WI) Chapter, at the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay Union. Neil Diboll's keynote presentation and workshop will be on "Adventures in Prairie Restoration." Additional speakers include Randy Powers and Gary Fewless. For more info call 920-465-2200 ext. 28.

February 25, 2006

Fourteenth annual Natural Landscaping Seminar, **Backyard Beauties and Beasts**. Sponsored by the Wildflower Preservation and Propagation Committee (affiliated with the McHenry County Defenders), held at McHenry County College, MCC Conference Center, Crystal Lake, Illinois, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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

Habitat Resource Network Chapter #79 (Seedling)

Derek Stedman 610-355-7736,
dcsahs@netreach.net
Maureen Carbery 484-678-6200,
pahabitat@comcast.net
Chester & Delaware Counties

Susquehanna Valley Chapter #68

Jim Hitz 717-741-3996 jrhit@suscom.net
Meetings, times, and locations vary.
Please contact above or check web site for details.

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.

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
January 21: 10th Toward Harmony with Nature
Natural Landscaping Conference, 8:30-4:30,
Hilton Garden Inn, Oshkosh.
February 23: Annual meeting and seed exchange,
7 p.m., Memorial Park Arboretum and Garden,
Appleton.
See web site for details.

Green Bay Chapter #10

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

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
Meetings: Second Saturday of month, 9:30 a.m.
at Urban Ecology Center, 1500 East Park Place,
Milwaukee.

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
First Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Riverbend Nature Center, Racine.

Wolf River Chapter #74

Marge Guyette 715-787-3482
jkmg@athenet.net
Menominee, Oconto, Shawano, & 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.

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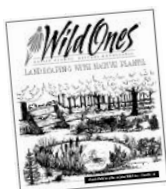
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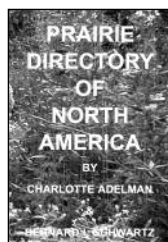
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Invasive Plants

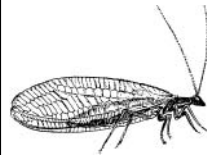


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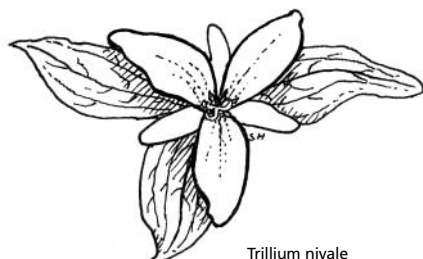
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Wild Ones Journal

A big thank you to **Judy Lechnar** and **Mary S. Huggins** of **Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter**, and **Lucy and Gary Lee** of the **Louisville Metro Wild (KY) Chapter**, for their contributions toward the publication of the *Journal*. Because of you, and other contributors like you, the National Board decided to use the funds which were set aside as the result of the 2002 Fast Forward Communications Campaign to offset the cost of publishing the January/February issue of the *Journal*.

Matching Donations

Walter and Bev Wieckert, Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter: \$150 triple match from **Illinois Tool Works**.



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A special thank you to **Tim and Janaan Lewis, Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter**, for the donation of miscellaneous office supplies.



Sanguinaria canadensis