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for the natural
landscaping
movement



JOURNAL

MARCH/APRIL 2006
VOL. 19, NO. 2

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Thank You! Back Cover.

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

Dawning of a Botanist

By Gerould Wilhelm

Dr. Gerould Wilhelm is scheduled to be a keynote speaker at the Wild Ones Annual Meeting and Conference, July 14-16, 2006, in Naperville Illinois. This is his account of formative experiences as a young botanist and later of his role in ecological history, and the publication of a classic: *Plants of the Chicago Region*. He was drafted into the Army Corps of Engineers in 1971, immediately upon finishing a Bachelor of Science degree at Florida State University.

After a few months of basic training, I was ordered to report to the Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, Mississippi, following a two-week leave in Milton. About the 1st of May, Margaret packed up our few belongings and trekked to Vicksburg, from where I was convinced they would send me to Vietnam after a bit of technical training. I believed that, given my background in construction, heavy equipment, and SCUBA, I was ripe for combat engineering in Vietnam.

Luckily, I was mistaken. They put me, instead, to work on a team that was to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposed construction site for a duplicate lock and 12-foot channel at Lockport, Illinois. A curious assignment inasmuch as my technical knowledge lay in the fishes, algae, and mollusks of Florida and the Gulf of Mexico.

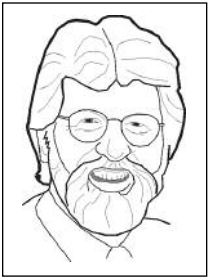
Obviously in need of a plant specialist, the Army enlisted the services of Floyd Swink and Ray Schulenberg to assist me in my effort to understand the vegetation of the Lockport area and to establish a context for their significance within the EIS framework, a new application that resulted from the implementation of the then 2-year-old National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. Both Floyd and Ray have since become beloved by Midwestern biologists, but at the time, they worked in relative obscurity at the Morton Arboretum. They changed my life as they have changed the lives of many others before and since. It was with Ray, however, that I experienced what only can be described as an epiphany. CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Three generations of Wilhelms: young Van with his grandfather Jerry, and his father, David.

A Rare Opportunity

This permanent base of operations will give Wild Ones a place to show who we are and what we do, and will bring added credibility to the fundraising needed to support our important programs and initiatives.



It has been 10 years since Wild Ones was incorporated in the state of Wisconsin and became a national organization. Our purpose since then has focused on education and advocacy for natural landscaping. Another part of our purpose, however, gives us the ability "to invest in, receive, hold, use and dispose of property, real or personal as may be necessary or desirable to carry into effect the aforementioned purposes."

Recently, Wild Ones National was approached by a member who was representing a "conservation buyer" (a person who is willing to purchase and hold a property for conservation purposes until a non-profit or local government entity can secure the funds to take over the property), who was interested in transferring to Wild Ones a building and 13 acres of land near Appleton, Wisconsin (the location of National's post office box address). The wisdom of including the acquisition language in our original charter has now become apparent. We have the right, as a Wisconsin corporation, to accept this property and the associated responsibilities as long as the acquisition supports the purpose of our organization.

The property has three main ecosystems – woodlands, marsh and lakeshore, a vacant lot suitable for a prairie planting, and a newer two-story home surrounded by a yard in need of someone to restore its gardens. The site is adjacent to land owned by the Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust (NEWLT), which is held for the preservation and restoration of the marshes and lakeshore. The 1/2-acre parcel on which the house sits was originally offered to NEWLT, but the Land Trust did not want responsibility for the building, and accepted ownership only of unimproved land and marsh. Wild Ones is now in the process of weighing our ability to take responsibility for the building, and stewardship of the unimproved land and marsh being offered.

The Wild Ones member who brought this opportunity to us is also a grant writer and has been working with the Executive Director in preparing and submitting grant requests to the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and the Natural Resources Damage Assessment funds for the restoration of the Fox River. The latter granting agency is the same one that funded the acquisition by the Land Trust of the adjacent land.

The Board of Directors Executive Committee has been monitoring this process since the offer was made. We felt it prudent to pursue this rare opportunity and authorized our Executive Director to keep our options open. At our February 4th Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors, the opportunity was presented to the board for consideration and approval. A very spirited debate was conducted. In the end, the majority of the board voted to continue the process of seeking funding for the acquisition of the site.

What does this all mean? At this point it means that a fortuitous set of circumstances has opened the possibility to the national Wild Ones organization to obtain a permanent base of operations. Identifying with property, beyond a post office box, would allow us to provide a visible presence of ourselves on a national level – something analogous to the Garden in the Woods of the New England Wildflower Society in Massachusetts or the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Texas. Having real assets should help us in raising funds through grants or endowments to support our programs and initiatives. Having a building to house our national operations gives each of our members a destination to visit and provides us with a greater sense of permanence. Having demonstration areas to showcase the landscaping practices we promote should lend credibility to our philosophy.

This would be a major event in the brief history of our young organization, and we need to review pros and cons thoroughly. We need to define and analyze possible income and expense

streams associated with property ownership. We need to investigate and understand thoroughly expectations and obligations, both real and moral, associated with occupying conservation easement land. We need to identify and approach potential partners for using the site. Much work remains to be done in order for us to capitalize on this opportunity. To that end a committee is being formed.

If our grant requests and the purchase of the property are successful, the outcome for the next decade should be very different from the last.

Some of you may not share the board's enthusiasm in pursuing this. Others may feel that these events are moving too swiftly, or have misgivings about taking on this awesome responsibility. In any case, this rare chance has been presented to us and the board feels we must pursue it. If we do not, we forfeit the possibilities that the land and this building could provide.

The Board of Directors has shared this information with the presidents of the chapters and has asked for their feedback. I am asking each and every one of you, our members and readers of this *Journal*, to join us in this effort. Please contact me, the members of the board, or your local leaders, and let us know what you think.

I can be reached at president@for-wild.org. Contact information for the National Board can be found at www.for-wild.org/contacts.html on the web site, or you can call toll-free to 877-394-9453 to leave a message with the Executive Director. Please check your chapter webpages for contact information for your local boards. We look forward to hearing from you. ♡

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

**The intent is
to purchase the
property with
funds provided
entirely by grant
sources.**

Writers & Artists

Gerould and Margaret Wilhelm, are members of the Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter of Wild Ones. Dr. Wilhelm now works for the Conservation Design Forum, having been for many years with the Morton Arboretum in Illinois.

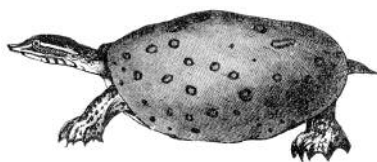
Tim Lewis is president of the Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter and a National Board Member. He has authored many of the chapter guidebook guidelines for Wild Ones, and participates actively in National business affairs.

Sally Elmiger, who will be writing the "Stewardship News" column, is a landscape architect and longtime Wild Ones member with the Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter.

Laura Liebler is the owner of Sorus Plants, www.sorusplants.com, specializing in Michigan native ferns, and is a longtime Wild Ones member with the Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter.

Cindy Crosby writes freelance, and often submits articles to the *Wild Ones Journal*. She is a member of the Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter.

Tom Schneider is a biologist working for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and a longtime member of the Columbus (OH) Chapter of Wild Ones.



Softshell turtle of the genus *Trionyx*.



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

The term "Ecoscaper" was coined to refer to the concept and practice of ecological landscaping. We have developed the Ecoscaper Certification Program which will allow Wild Ones members to both enhance their knowledge and receive credit for their accomplishments. For more information or to enroll go to www.for-wild.org/land/ecoscaper/ or contact the National Office.

correction

We were remiss in not mentioning the artist who drew the cartoon that appeared on page 15 of the January/February issue of the *Journal*. **John Klossner** is a Wild Ones Partner-at-Large (ME). We are grateful to John for his periodic donations of very funny cartoons.

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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Printed on recycled paper.

I had met and worked with many ecologists and biologists and been in contact with some of the premier ones of the day, but the best of them seemed merely brilliant compared with Floyd Swink and Ray Schulenberg. None had what I could recognize as a philosophy in which the doctrines of their day could be examined. The “ecological” aspects of EIS’s at that time, and for years after, consisted primarily of inventories, lists of organisms. There was no way qualitatively to discriminate an old field from a prairie, a woodlot from a woodland, a cattail marsh from a fen. Indeed, the concept of a non-native plant was virtually unformed and certainly not deployed. **Ecologists generally regarded nature as random aggregation of value-neutral organisms that lived outside the realm of human culture, typically in a community in some arcane state of “succession.”** Actually, this remains a primary doctrine of Western ecological thought.

Trained killer meets living encyclopedias

I spent the first of three field days with Floyd Swink, a lithe living encyclopedia of natural history. Never in my life had I come in contact with such a mind. The plants of 15 or so of the 50 potential “spoil” sites (where the dredged river mud could be placed) were well documented with inhabitants, including the vascular plants as determined from the remnant sticks and debris as seen by Floyd in late October. The second day, Floyd was indisposed, so his colleague, Ray Schulenberg, graciously agreed to accompany me, this callow character from the Corps of Engineers, this “trained killer,” saved from the jungles of Vietnam by a guardian angel.

Much like Floyd, Ray patiently but relentlessly, dictated the inhabitants of another 15 or 20 potential spoil sites. My Latin training facilitated the taking of dictation, but I remained in awe of these botanists’ abilities to recognize the plants in that cold, overcast autumn. On each new site, the job became a little easier, because the plants were everywhere similar: *Aster pilosus*, *Pastinaca sativa*, *Arctium minus*, *Melilotus alba*, *Populus deltoides*, *Geum canadense*, *Poa pratensis*, *Poa compressa*, *Brassica nigra*, etc. Ray, after each site, however, did something unique at that time in ecological history. He uttered decisively yet humbly, “You can spoil here Jerry. You cannot hurt it. It could grow back.”

I was mystified; my countenance must have been indescribable. Here was this overwhelmingly knowledgeable practitioner, who obviously cared deeply about plants and animals, telling a factor from the Corps of Engineers that every site we had been on could be despoiled! **This was counterintuitive to a 60s-generation eco-freak who had been taught that land (like morality) was value-neutral.** One vegetated landscape was not to be discriminated from another. Each was an “ecosystem,” governed by sacrosanct successional processes, on its way to a “climax.” Some ecologists even had drawn out esoteric energy pathway schematics that reduced ecosystems to little more than solid-state electronic paradigms.

“You can spoil here. You cannot hurt it. It could grow back.” This enigmatic mantra proclaimed at each site we visited drew my mind to the much overlooked directive in the NEPA that required one to evaluate the extent to which the impact on an area was “irreversible or irretrievable.” Who was this guy, Ray Schulenberg? I lay awake that night in my motel room in Downers Grove, wondering, as the television announcer droned on helpfully on the

progress of a World Series baseball game.

Next day was the same. Site after site, Ray declared that each was recoverable, that they contained only weeds. Finally, as we approached an area south of Division Street at Lockport, unceremoniously designated “Spoil Site L2,” Ray stopped short on a berm that was dominated by the ubiquitous *Brassica nigra*, black mustard. He extended his arm to

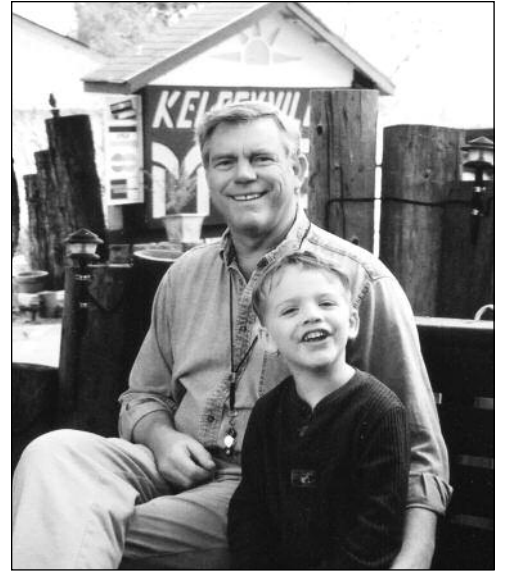
block any further advance on my part – as if I would actually find myself leading him! He nodded toward a small vegetated vignette, then spoke with the deepest reverence the following hallowed names: *Andropogon scoparius*, *Bouteloua curtipendula*, *Muhlenbergia cuspidata*, *Isanthus brachiatus*, *Verbena simplex*, *Kuhnia eupatorioides corymbulosa*, *Allium cernuum*, etc.

Don’t spoil here – this is America

After a moment, he placed his hand upon my shoulder and admonished me in the most authoritative but gentle way, “Don’t spoil here, Jerry, for this is America, and it will not grow back.” I was stunned, agape. My knees were weakened as I looked soulfully at America. America! “This is America. It will not grow back,” I muttered to myself. I resolved then and there that I did not want to live another day of my life not knowing whether or not I was in America. I learned that the only way to know this was to learn the plants, to discover which ones were the “Old World weeds” and which were the natives.

So, I returned to Vicksburg and began the painfully tedious but sublime process of learning the plants of Warren County, Mississippi. I also tried to explain to my boss, an engineer by the name of Major Emge, that Spoil Site L2 was “America,” and should not be spoiled upon. You would have had to have been a male private first class in the United States Army in 1972 to appreciate how well that went over. The fates were such, however, that Spoil Site L2 was spared and is now part of the “Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve.” I later discovered that it was one of the world’s last remaining sites for the now federally threatened leafy prairie clover and Hines emerald dragonfly.

Begin to learn plants I did, but I was frustrated that all the available books failed to inform me as to whether or not a plant was adventive or native – such a simple yet ill-formed concept. When I terminated military service, I hoped that I might be able to follow Ray Schulenberg around for a while to gather in from him this important idea, which only he seemed to have organized into a philosophy of living and relationship with our landscape. As it happens, he needed an assistant at that time, so, in February of



Gerould Wilhelm, shown here with grandson, Van, says that, “A native landscape is not a garden – it is a child. It needs to be cared for, guided, and nurtured and nurtured and nurtured.”

“Don’t spoil here, Jerry, for this is America, and it will not grow back.”

1974, I began working in the herbarium of the Morton Arboretum, which he curated. Intending to stay only a year or so, I did not leave the employ of the Arboretum until January of 1996.

Working on the book

Soon after I joined the Morton Arboretum, I became deeply involved in the second edition of *Plants of the Chicago Region*, a follow-up volume to Floyd Swink's first edition, which had appeared in 1969. In this first edition, Floyd catalogued all the vascular plant species that were known from the region at that time – the body of the text was written largely by Ray Schulenberg. They produced a book unlike any other in the history of local floras. Rather than present the plants in a traditional but esoteric “phylogenetic order,” Floyd listed them alphabetically. He reasoned that the user of the book was certain to know the alphabet and was interested in the associated plant communities and specific local habitats of local plants. He knew they were not interested in becoming sharpened on the latest phylogenetic arrangement. Each species was accompanied by a map of the 22-county region that detailed each plant's known distribution in three southeastern Wisconsin Counties, 11 in northeastern Illinois, seven in northwestern Indiana, and one in southwestern Michigan. This emphasis on a plant's associates and local distribution, along with the book's encyclopedic arrangement, made Floyd a pioneer among floristicians – and an annoyance to doctrinaire botanists of the time.

Plants of the Chicago Region was first published by the Morton Arboretum right at the time the people of our country were becoming aware of the environment. The book's appearance coincided with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. All 500 copies of the print run were purchased quickly by a public ever more interested in understanding the Chicago region landscape. In 1974, Floyd produced a second edition that sustained the innovations of the first and added much new information on local species – it provided 1,000 copies, which seemed improbably optimistic. These, too, were all soon in the hands of grateful students of the flora. My role in this edition was to put the distribution maps together. Ray and I had made a significant effort over the growing season of that year to voucher many of the “sight records” that comprised the maps of the first edition.

Five years later I collaborated more intimately with Floyd to produce yet a third edition. This one preserved the substance and innovations of earlier editions, but added identification keys to each species. Also, the methodology for the evaluation of floristic quality of vegetated landscapes, which I had described and published locally in 1977, was described in more detail and presented along with “coefficients of conservatism” for all the native plants of the Chicago region. For the first time in the history of botany, students of the flora had a practical, dispassionate, and repeatable metric that could be applied in the qualitative evaluation of remnant landscapes. It also contained a complete bibliography for students interested in pursuing a deeper understanding of local plants. *Plants of the Chicago Region* continued to break new ground.

There was a four-year hiatus from September, 1980 to May, 1984, during which I pursued a Ph.D. in Botany from Southern Illinois University. My dissertation was on the vascular flora of the Pensacola, Florida area, but my now lifelong study has been the

For the first time in the history of botany, students of the flora had a practical, dispassionate, and repeatable metric that could be applied in the qualitative evaluation of remnant landscapes.

flora of the Chicago region, having attached myself to Floyd Swink, as well as Ray, during my sojourn at the Morton Arboretum.

After 15 years, a new edition

After 15 years of use, the third edition, which had numbered 2,000 copies, was long out of print and a new generation of users lobbied for an update. So Floyd and I, still at the Morton Arboretum, worked together to accommodate a throng of local botanists with yet another edition. In 1994, the Indiana Academy of Sciences sponsored

the production of the now widely acclaimed fourth edition. It included all the features of the previous editions, but provided much more, including a refined methodology for floristic quality assessments, an illustrated glossary, and several additional sections that detailed the phylogeography and authorship of local plants. More than 5,000 copies were printed, of which 40 percent were sold prior to publication. All were sold by the end of 2001, and by then *Plants of the Chicago Region* had become a required reference to anyone interested in local botany and ecology. Many far outside the region found the book to be indispensable. By now the concept of species conservatism and floristic quality assessment had become widely used and much appreciated as a tool by many practitioners of restoration land management.

I may say here that all in America who discriminate today the adventures from the natives, the conservative from the “weedy,” owe their deployment of that philosophy to the late Raymond F. Schulenberg. *Requiescat in pace!* ♣

See Cindy Crosby's interview with Dr. Wilhelm starting on page 6.



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A Conversation with Dr. Gerould Wilhelm

With Cindy Crosby

Gerould Wilhelm is a respected botanist who studied as a young man under Floyd Swink and Ray Schulenberg, is a widely known writer who has worked on the ground-breaking *Plants of the Chicago Region*, spent 30 years with Chicago's Morton Arboretum, is currently working with the Conservation Design Forum, and also just happens to be the next-door neighbor of Wild Ones member Cindy Crosby.

Wild Ones: Do you have a favorite plant?

Dr. Gerould Wilhelm: Prairie satin grass – (*Muhlenbergia cuspidata*). When I first saw it, I wanted to become a botanist. In *Plants of the Chicago Region*, I write about myself in 1972 that: "...the junior author, a mere tad at the time who knew virtually nothing about botany, remembers watching Ray Schulenberg, who had not seen the plant in all his life, discover prairie satin grass along the bluff of the Des Plaines River near Lockport. Ray stopped, and stood transfixed. Then he knelt beside it and gazed appreciatively at the ineffable autumnal beauty of the tussocks of this rare native grass. Consulting the senior author's first edition (Swink 1969), right there in the field, he read to me about its history. That was the day the junior author, who stared awestruck and slack-jawed, began to study botany."

WO: What is your approach to the landscape today?

GW: I look to old stories, such as those passed down in the Bible, where it says that our whole purpose in being revolves around the idea that we take care of the Earth. We are all brothers and sisters, and we need to take care of our children and our elders. There is no other reason for being. We must take care of the land, the birds, and the beasts.

WO: How do these ideas fit into your current position with the Conservation Design Forum?

GW: Our philosophy is that rainwater is a resource which should not be treated as a waste product. We want to help clients receive rain as a gift – to understand that all the waters that flow from the land over which they own custodianship will leave clean and metered, in the aboriginal way. If you are gentle with water it will be gentle with you. Our Great Lakes aboriginal elders taught the little ones that "Turtle Mother" needs clean water

to sustain her children that there might always be a Turtle Mother to carry the Earth on her back. There is much wisdom in old told stories, lovingly transmitted by elders in whose gentle nurturing the children may bask in incorrupt truth.

WO: You do a lot of speaking at conservation events and banquets (including the upcoming Wild Ones Conference), as well as writing and field work. What do you enjoy the most?

GW: I enjoy the field work. Writing is painful. It's very hard to say what you really mean. A pile of facts adds up to nothing – there being an infinite number of them.

Metaphors and allegories, old stories, particularly when told by wise ones,

can add up to everything and provide wisdom.

WO: Speaking of writing, what's the status of the much-talked-about revision of *Plants of the Chicago Region* you're working on with Laura Rericha?

GW: What we're working on will be a different book with a different name. We're focusing on plant associates plus every insect that we have seen that has an intimate relationship with the plant. It will also include associated birds, lichens, and mosses. We'll dedicate it to Floyd Swink or have his name on it in some manner.



Dr. Gerould Wilhelm

Rainwater is a resource which should not be treated as a waste product.

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WO: Why is it, do you think, that more people don't incorporate native landscaping into their yards or business landscapes?

GW: They have gotten accustomed to the golf club sort of chemically dependent yard – they're in love with the sterile. They are discomfited by living things – particularly free living things. They're uncomfortable with children. They are not inclined to nurture, rather they want to accumulate things. A native landscape is not a garden – it is a child. It needs to be cared for, guided, and nurtured and nurtured and nurtured – but always entreating more species. It seems that landscapes we design today have no tomorrow in them, no past in them. They incorporate drug-dependent rugs, lollipop trees, poodle shrubs, concentration camp plants, which die – to be replaced only by whimsical wardens. Children are unknown and forsaken.

WO: What advice would you give someone new to the idea of native landscaping?

Landscapes we design today have no tomorrow in them, no past in them.

GW: Learn the plants. Learn where they grow; learn everything about them. Start by keying out one a night, and in 2,500 nights, you will have keyed out every plant in the flora. It will get easier every day. There is much more opportunity now for book-learning than when I was starting out. Search it out. But be

wary of all written words, the authorship of which is usually unknown, the information often corrupt. You will learn the truth from free plants and animals, who are not, as we are, infinitely ig-

norant, tenure-tracked, callow, hubristic, and even evil. They will grow and flourish if we nurture them well, or they will languish if even our good intentions are inappropriate.

WO: For native landscaping "veterans," what additional advice do you have?

GW: Keep enlarging and diversifying your plant communities. Keep entreating the plants to grow. Look to ants and beetles and insects, and find out everything that is going on in your yard. Burn every year.

WO: How do you exercise your land ethics in your suburban subdivision yard?

GW: We provide habitat for as many native living things as will grow here, without cultivation. We use a reel mower in the front yard. We burn.

WO: How do the neighbors respond?

GW: One neighbor thinks I'm too lazy to mow. But if I had let people's resistance to things I do get in my way over the years, I wouldn't have gotten very far in life.

WO: What legacy do you hope to leave? What's important to you?

GW: I would go to my grave happy thinking the next generation was being cared for. The work is gratifying, but what's important to me is my 6-year-old grandson, Van. I want to take care of the Earth for him, and for his generation, and the next, and the next – to help people care for the kind of landscape that will be sustainable for the next seven generations. ♡

Dr. Wilhelms' article, "Dawning of a Botanist," starts on page 1.

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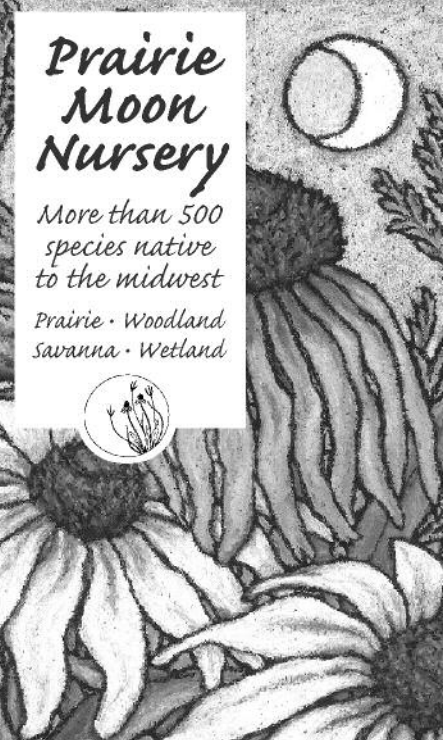
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YAHOO! and Yippee!

Wild Ones Online Discussion Group Just About Ready to Go

By Tim Lewis

Those of you who are fortunate to be able to participate in Wild Ones chapter meetings, probably notice that a lot of people stand around before and after the program and discuss various things about native landscaping. Some get as much out of these discussions as they do from the program. Some people “lurk” around these small groups because they do not have information to share but they learn from the discussions.

Sharing information and expertise

Having the ability to learn from our fellow members is an important benefit of Wild Ones. Wild Ones brings people together to talk about native plants. These informal small group discussions at chapter meetings are great. People are willing to share information and it creates a community of like-minded people, while building relationships.

Although these discussions have their advantages, there are disadvantages. After the event that brought people together is over, the discussions usually end. Other people who could not be at the event, or were talking with someone else, miss out on information that could be useful. Because the groups are small, the sources of information can be limited. And what about those members who aren't able to participate in Wild Ones meetings because they don't have a chapter nearby?

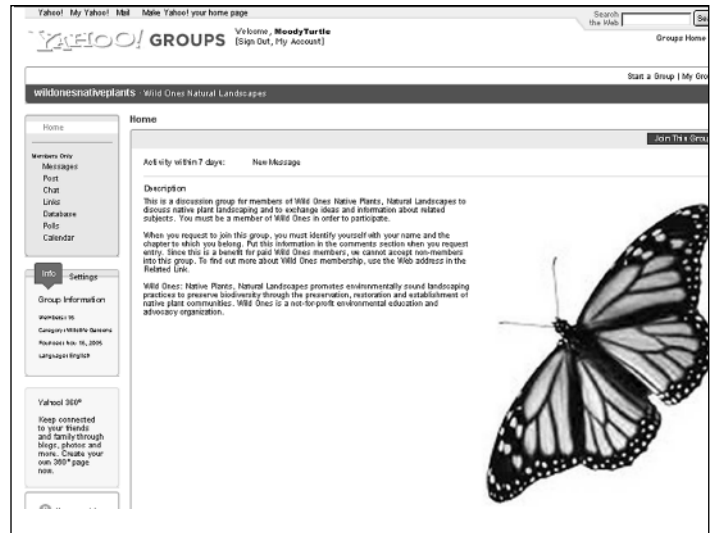
Get in on the discussion 24 hours a day

Fortunately there is a way to exchange native plant information with people 24 hours a day. That way is through a Wild Ones Internet discussion group. There are other “native plant” discussion groups on the Internet, including at Yahoo, but they are not exclusive to Wild Ones members, and often the discussion includes gardening with non-native plants.

A new discussion group has been created on Yahoo Groups, called Wild Ones Native Plants. It promises to be easy to use. This is a discussion group for members of Wild Ones to post questions, discuss native plant landscaping, and to exchange good ideas and information about related subjects. It offers a convenient way to connect with others who share the same interests and ideas. People can post messages whenever they want and everyone does not have to be present at the same time.

WildOnesNativePlants is currently being tested by the Rock River Valley chapter and the National Executive Director, and will be opened soon to all Wild Ones members. If you would like to participate in the group now while we're still ironing out the bugs, please feel free to sign up.

If you are not already a Yahoo User, you must first sign up at Yahoo. It is really easy. Then you just request to join the group. Once your Wild Ones membership has been verified, you will be accepted into the Yahoo group. ♡



Signing in to the Group

If you do not have a free Yahoo account, you need to sign up to get it. If you have a Yahoo account, all you need to do is sign in with your ID and password.

To Set Up a Yahoo! ID and Password

1. Open your Internet browser and go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wildonesnativeplants/>.
2. Click the “Join This Group” button.
A “Join This Group” page is displayed.
If you already have a Yahoo ID, enter it and skip to the next set of instructions.
3. Click the “Sign Up” button.
The Yahoo Groups “Sign Up” page is displayed.
4. Fill in the required text boxes.
NOTE: You do not have to get a Yahoo e-mail address – you can continue to use your own e-mail. To keep your own e-mail, clear the checkbox next to “Create My Free Yahoo E-mail Address.” Be sure to enter your correct e-mail address in the appropriate text box. You will receive an e-mail from Yahoo requiring you to verify the e-mail.
5. Follow the steps in the next set of instructions after you receive and reply to the verification e-mail.

To Sign Up for the Wild Ones Group

1. Open your Internet browser and go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wildonesnativeplants/>.
2. Click the “Join This Group” button.
3. Sign in to Yahoo with your Yahoo ID and Password.
A “Join This Group” page is displayed.
4. Fill in the required information.
5. In the “Comments” text box, identify yourself to the list owner with your name and the chapter to which you belong. This helps us verify if you are a member.
6. Click the “Join” button.
You will receive a confirmation e-mail when your membership has been approved.

After You Have Joined – Participate

The success of a discussion group is based on having a lot of people joining it and participating in the discussions. When others see that there are a lot of members, they are more likely to join.

1. Read some of postings at the web site and see if there is something that interests you and contribute to the discussion.
2. Post a question about something that you have been wondering about. If you want to lurk for a while that is OK, too.
3. Your first step is to sign up.

Nature's Guardians

By Sally Elmiger

The etymology of the word "steward" includes meanings such as "overseer of workmen," (c. 1300); "one who manages affairs of an estate on behalf of his employer," (c. 1386); and "officer on a ship in charge of provisions and meals," (c. 1450). Today, we use this term more broadly, describing one who manages something – commonly property and natural resources. This new *Journal* column is dedicated to those people who manage natural areas – those who take time out of their busy lives to make sure some plot of ground can sustain its stand of oaks or alternate-leaf dogwoods, or a prairie meadow. While we know of many projects, we're interested in hearing about more. Please e-mail the *Journal* at stewardship@for-wild.org if you are involved in or know about stewardship activities. All Wild Ones who have planted native species in their yards are stewards – we hope this column expands your view of what is possible in caring for our natural places.

Wisconsin

State of Wisconsin bestows First Annual Invader Crusader Awards

"The health of our ecosystems, our economy, and our way of life rests in large part on the acts of individuals and organizations." – *Wisconsin Governor, Jim Doyle.*

Invader Crusader Awards are presented by the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species to individuals and organizations that have gone above and beyond the call of duty to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in Wisconsin.

Among recipients of this year's awards were two Wild Ones members.

Kelly Kearns, a long-time member of the Madison (WI) Chapter, is the Plant Conservation Program Manager with the Endangered Resources Bureau for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Kelly has been deeply involved in all aspects of invasive plant management including public education, development of regulations, and bringing together diverse groups to join forces against invasive species. Although invasive species are an integral part of Kelly's current job responsibilities, Kelly's interest, enthusiasm, and efforts have far exceeded what is required. Kelly is a co-editor of a widely used manual on invasive species and was "a strong advocate for the need to update Wisconsin's noxious weed law, becoming the 'sparkplug' of the 20-member task force." Kelly was also a key factor in the creation and continued growth of the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin.

Betty Czarapata, a long-time member of the Milwaukee-Southwest-Wehr (WI) Chapter, received a posthumous 2005 Invader Crusader Award citation from the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species. Betty's husband, Lee Czarapata, accepted the award on her behalf. Betty has been honored as an Invader Crusader because of her remarkable contributions – increasing people's awareness and actions to recognize, prevent and remove invasive plants.

A school teacher by training, Betty wrote an elementary- to middle-school curriculum to educate students about invasive plants. In 1999, she self-published *Invading Weeds: A Growing Threat to Wisconsin's Biological Diversity*. Betty was one of the first volunteer coordinators of Weed Out, a program in Milwaukee that organizes volunteers to control invasive plants in the Milwaukee County Park System.

Betty's efforts will reach an even larger audience with the recent publication of her new book, *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest: A Guide to Their Identification and Control*. Betty took most of the photographs and described more than 100 native and non-native invasive plants and various control methods. We lost this amazing crusader in 2003 to cancer, but her greatest work in invasive plant education has been realized with the release of her book. In this way her legacy will live on.

You can buy a copy of this book at the Wild Ones Store, www.for-wild.org/store.

The health of our ecosystems, our economy, and our way of life rests in large part on the acts of individuals and organizations.

Kentucky

The Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District (APCD) recently announced the winners of the nation's first Juried Low-Maintenance Landscaping Design Contest. Homeowners as well as professional landscape designers competed for national recognition and cash prizes in the nation's first local competition showcasing sustainable and replicable low-maintenance landscape designs.

Phyllis Fitzgerald, the coordinator of the competition – and a Wild Ones member – was impressed with the innovative entries. "One of the designs is a rain garden. Though small in scale, it will prevent erosion and add beauty and value to the property. Other designs utilized all native plants. One established design is so drought-tolerant, the homeowner only uses a watering can on occasion."

Low-maintenance landscaping embraces strategies and practices designed to reduce the use of high-polluting gasoline-powered, lawn care equipment, frequent chemical applications, and excessive water consumption. Low-maintenance landscaping designs also reduce the expense, time and labor required to maintain large grassy lots.

APCD has made the winning designs available on their web site, www.apcd.org, and all designs may be used free of charge for homeowners, businesses, and communities to replicate and promote low-maintenance designs in their communities. A tour of the winning implemented designs is planned for summer of 2006.

Several of the winning entries came from Wild Ones members of the Louisville Metrowild (KY) Chapter: **Lori & Craig Belling, Barbara Berman, Karen Bess, Joan Brown, Portia Brown, and Richard Wolford**. For information about the competition, contact the competition coordinator at 502-574-5322 or ncare@apcd.org. ♻️

The Vernal Pool

A Place of Wonder

By Tom Schneider, Columbus (OH) Chapter

As a young boy, my brothers and I often visited a pond in the woods just beyond our property. Each spring, just as the warm sun marked our escape from winter's enclosure, it also revealed the arrival of many egg masses in "our pond." Thousands of eggs in clumps, strings, and masses were scattered throughout the pool. These eggs contained small creatures with feathery attachments to their heads. Now, as a biologist, I know that "our pond" was a vernal pool and those eggs were from a special group of salamanders. Not only did "our pond" provide a home and nourishment for many young salamanders and frogs, it also nourished the imagination and sense of discovery in our young minds.

Vernal pools are unique and interesting wetlands, usually found in forested areas. They are essential to the life cycle of many amphibians, which include frogs, toads, and salamanders, as well as invertebrates, including fairy shrimp and dragonflies. Vernal pools go by many names including ephemeral wetlands, seasonal ponds, and playas in some western states. They are wet only for a period of time each year. During this period, many animals are in a race against time. They need to hatch, grow, and in some

cases reproduce before these small wetlands dry out.

The pools fall between what has been discussed in this publication as rain gardens and what we all know as ponds. They hold water for a minimum of six weeks a year, some for up to six months, and still others will only dry out every other year or so. Most pools are 3 feet deep or less at the wettest time of the year. Because of the periods of dryness, vernal pools almost never have a permanent fish population. Fishless waters are essential to the successful reproduction of many amphibians. Any fish would quickly eat the young amphibians.

In vernal pools around the country, a millennia-old ritual occurs during the first warm, rainy night(s) of late winter/early spring. Usually occurring between Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day, this first warm rain above 50°F, sparks the mass migration of mole salamanders (spotted, small-mouth, Jefferson, tiger, and others), frogs, and toads. Over the course of this "big night" and the following days and weeks many different salamanders, frogs, and toads may migrate to the pool where they were born. At this natal pool they repeat the mating ritual of their parents.



Spotted salamanders (*Ambystoma maculatum*), are usually associated with heavily wooded, mature beech-maple forests and mesic oak woodlands. Breeding occurs in vernal ponds, marshes, and swamps within, or at least mostly surrounded by woodland.

Mole salamanders are named for the fact that they live underground most of the year, burrowing or using other animals' burrows. The first of the mole salamanders to arrive at the pool is the spotted salamander. Heeding an instinctive call to return to their natal waters, they travel over snow, rocks, logs, and other obstacles to enter pools that are often partially covered in ice. Eager males await the arrival of females, which results in a "congressing" of individuals, during which eggs are fertilized. Females lay their eggs in masses. Each salamander, frog, or toad species' egg mass is different, and you can generally identify the species they came from. These egg masses mark the beginning of the race against dryness that will face residents of the pool. While the adults leave



A small vernal pool like this one will likely dry out by mid-summer or early fall.

the pool shortly after reproduction, the young must emerge from their eggs, feed, grow, and transform from aquatic larvae to air-breathing adults capable of surviving on land before the pool dries out.

Wood frogs are the first of the frogs and toads to migrate to their vernal pools. Following a short courtship, male and female wood frogs pair up. Eggs are laid in large communal mats at various locations in the pool. Similar to the salamanders, the tadpoles must develop fully and leave the pool before it dries out. Other organisms in the vernal pool have different adaptations for surviving the drought periods. Some remain as cysts, or dry-tolerant eggs, while others burrow into the mud bottom of the pool to wait for the water to return. A given group of cysts will often hatch at differing times within the same year or even across multiple years, thus increasing the chance some eggs will hatch on a good year. Regardless of the mechanism, vernal pool species must win the race against dryness, if not every year, then at least frequently enough to ensure successful production of another group of adults.

Vernal pools occur in varying habitats and portions of the country. Vernal pools in northern and eastern portions of the country have a variety of plants associated with them. The type of plants depends upon whether the pools are located in upland woodland areas or as parts of larger wetland/swamp

complexes. Some plants familiar to native plant landscapers are components of vernal pools. Herbaceous plants such as cardinal flower, sensitive fern, blue-joint grass, and many sedges grow in these habitats. Shrubs such as buttonbush, winterberry, spicebush, viburnums, and others are often associated with vernal pools.

Vernal pools often go unnoticed because their cyclical nature has them at their most active and full when we are least likely to be out in areas where they exist. Not many have the calling to go out on a cold rainy night in February seeking the elusive "big night" migration. Vernal pools may appear as simple depressions in a woods or field during the summer, and can be defined by water marks on trees, buttressed tree trunks, vegetation types, and other subtle differences from surrounding landscape.

Not just the pool is important. **The adult salamanders and frogs only spend about two weeks of the year in the water – the rest of the year is spent in the surrounding forests and fields.** In fact, the surrounding habitat is essential for adult amphibian survival. Most salamanders reside within 300 meters of their vernal pool the rest of the year. The trees, plants, logs, stones and leaves that surround the pool provide shelter and food. The native plants that we strive to maintain in our yards, gardens, parks, and preserves are another essential link in the life cycle of these fascinating creatures of our youth. Development, roads, drainage, etc. have caused significant habitat reductions and subsequent population declines for amphibians. Not only do roadways result in destroyed habitat but they can also present barriers to movement, leading to mass deaths by vehicles during the spring migrations.

Vernal pools are educational openings for learning skills from measurement, graphing, and observation – to trophic levels, energy transfer, and adaptation. Vernal pools are wonderful windows into the complexity of natural systems. They provide endless opportunities for discovery and astonishment. Even after all these years, spring time in a vernal pool refreshes my sense of wonder and awe. ♡

For more information on vernal pools, along with techniques and tools for education through stewardship, go to www.vernalpool.org.



Ice on the water does not stop mating and egg-laying.

Grapevine

By Maryann Whitman

When frogs are afraid to go into the water, should we be worried, too?

After **Sally Pick**, a Wild Ones Partner-at-Large (MA), called me in response to a note about malformed frogs in the January "Grapevine," I felt compelled to hit the stacks.

It seems that the modern-day maladies of frogs take many forms: extra and malformed limbs; missing body parts; frogs that resemble males on the outside and females on the inside; altered DNA; tad-

Everything is attached to everything else. Multiple factors are at work in our environment, producing ecological effects, some of them blatantly obvious, many of them harmful to living things in subtle and unexpected ways.

poles that fail to mature into adults; deadly infections; meningitis; inability to hold up head; frogs with signs of poisoning in distended, yellow livers. Remember always that frogs are, for humans, a form of "canary-in-the-mine-shaft." Whatever befalls them, we may also be heir to.

While frogs in Minnesota may indeed be multi-limbed and infected with parasites, frogs in Vermont are malformed but don't have multiple limbs, and show no sign of parasites. A researcher in Oregon is collecting evidence that UV radiation is deforming Pacific tree frogs. A Canadian researcher who has evaluated more than 30,000 frogs over years of studying a 150-mile stretch of the St. Lawrence River has found too many forms of infirmity to list. He reports that the incidence of limb malformation averages 20 percent in areas subject to pesticides and other chemicals, and 1.5 percent in non-agricultural areas. That's a significant difference to any statistician.

One piece of research out of UC Berkeley further implicates agricultural pesticides. The scientists replicated what frogs might realistically encounter in the environment. They exposed tadpoles to a mix of pesticides at extremely low concentrations (0.1 part per billion) like those widely

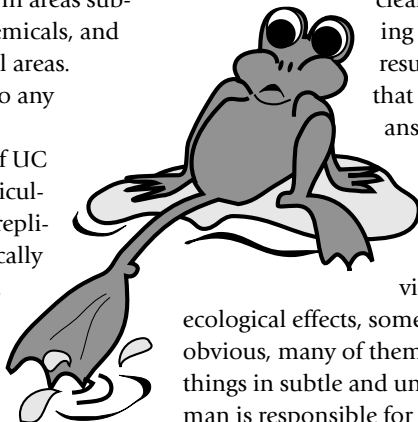
found around farms. When the tadpoles were exposed to any one of the pesticides singly, 4 percent died before they had matured to adults. But when the herbicide Atrazine and eight other pesticides and fungicides were mixed to match what might be found in a corn or soybean field, 35 percent of the tadpoles died before maturing. It appears that the chemicals worked differently when combined.

Researchers from Yale working in Vermont are convinced that chemicals in the environment combined with multiple other stress factors are responsible for the malformations, diseases, and infections by parasites. The researchers reason that frogs have dealt with parasites, diseases and drought for a long time before we added chemicals to their water, and disrupted their ecosystems in untold ways. Atrazine and a number of other herbicides and pesticides disrupt hormones, both plant and animal – hormones regulate bodily functions, including reproduction, immune functions and general body development. The disruption of the immune system, along with other, as yet undefined environmental factors, results in increased vulnerability to age-old parasites and disease vectors.

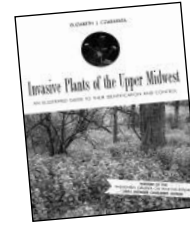
One of the experiments performed by the pair of Yale researchers exposed tadpoles to levels of Atrazine that were well within EPA limits in drinking water; some of these animals developed into hermaphroditic frogs; none of the frogs raised in

clean water did. (Nothing subtle about those results.) The upshot is that there are no simple answers – everything is attached to everything else. Multiple factors are at work in our environment, producing

ecological effects, some of them blatantly obvious, many of them harmful to living things in subtle and unexpected ways – and man is responsible for most of them. ♻



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Wild Ones New and Renewing Business Members

Because the Wild Ones annual meeting/conference is early this year and we wanted to give you ample time to get your registration in, we are not including the business member yellow pages in this issue. Rest assured the yellow pages will be featured in the May/June 2006 issue of the Journal and is already featured on the Wild Ones web site at www.for-ild.org/download/businessdirectory/yellowpages.pdf.

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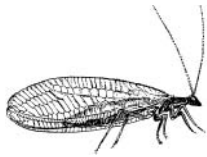
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My Prairie Garden

By Laura Liebler

Recounting the ups and downs of converting a front yard into
a beautiful prairie. (Part one of a two-part story.)

For the 10 years that my family and I lived in our Scio Township home, just outside of Ann Arbor, Michigan, I had tried to create a more wildlife-friendly habitat on our 1-acre, suburban-style lot. Progress was slow, however, and far too much turf grass remained. In the spring of 1999, my husband and I decided to take more resolute action and turn much of the front yard into a prairie.

We were glad to finally be making significant progress in lawn reduction, and we were excited about having our very own natural area. My husband, more easy-going than I, enjoyed the transformation of our front lawn into prairie. I, on the other hand, alternated between elation and despair as the process unfolded. I was quite unprepared for this emotional roller coaster.

Anticipation

We began the prairie project by enlisting the aid of David Mindell of PlantWise Native Landscapes. David drew up a landscaping plan that included shallow-rooted wildflowers over the septic drain field, water-tolerant plants in the drainage ditch, shade-loving plants under the two existing trees, and mixed prairie grasses and forbs elsewhere. He also included two oak trees, plus some smaller trees and shrubs, and two woodchip paths.

I thought the plan was perfect, and I was eager for the work to begin. I was appreciative when David carefully sprayed herbicide on the grass in the prairie area, and cheered when the grass turned brown. I eagerly helped spread woodchips for the paths, and I was elated when a crew showed up to plant the first of the wildflowers. I thought prairie restoration couldn't be more fun!



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our national activities.



Reality

Then, as the prairie began to develop, my spirits sank. The annual oats, used as a cover crop, seemed coarse and out of place. When they turned brown in midsummer, I began to despise the unsightly plants. I was especially disappointed by the patchiness of growth in the areas that had been seeded with prairie grasses and forbs. I worried when the wild bergamot leaves developed powdery mildew, and I was enraged when I discovered that browsing creatures had eaten the beautiful blue-flowered spiderworts down to the ground. And I was discouraged by the profusion and variety of weeds – everything from lamb's quarters, which was easy to pull, to crabgrass – which was impossible even to *dig* up. This was *not* the prairie I had envisioned.

Over the course of the summer, however, there were moments of joy amidst the doom and gloom. I was enthralled by the variety of insects that the developing prairie attracted, and I tried unsuccessfully to count the many species of bees and wasps I saw there. I was



delighted when my daughter and a friend happily popped out of a hiding place they had discovered between the tall plants in our yard and a shrub in the neighbor's. And I stood in drop-jawed astonishment when a hawk I had flushed rose up from the prairie with lunch in its talons – one of the many sparrows attracted to the seed heads of those awful annual oats.

A turning point of sorts occurred for me in late November. I was

wandering through the largely dormant prairie when I spotted tiny yellow flowers on one of the witch hazels. The other witch hazel had bloomed a month earlier, so these blossoms were a total surprise – a cheery and unexpected gift left outside my front door on a dreary November day.

Insight

I realized then that these opportunities for discovery, these unexpected events, were what I loved about the emerging prairie.

I decided that, for now, I needed to focus on the details and not the whole—to look at the trees and not the forest, as it were. I resolved that I would not dwell on the field of dead oat stalks and the bare spots and the weeds. Instead, I would admire the beautiful seed heads of the bottlebrush grass, enjoy scattering aster fluff on the wind, and be entertained by a neighborhood preschooler running delightedly along the woodchip paths.

Beyond the First Year

In a few years the prairie will look fine, and I'll be able to enjoy the whole as well as the parts. The weeds will have mostly disappeared, having been pulled, or crowded out, or burned. The bare spots will fill in. Even as I write this, in the spring of 2000, we have wild strawberries and lupines in bloom, buds on the columbine, leaves emerging on the pasture roses, and lots of rosettes of black-eyed Susans and coreopsis. For now, that's what I'll be looking at – and that's what will make this sometimes distressing process all worthwhile. ♣

You can see a web site about this prairie project at <http://warbler.med.umich.edu/yard/>.

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The Meeting Place

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

Chapter ID numbers are listed after names.

Meet us online at www.for-wild.org



CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Chapter #78 (Seedling)

Kathy T. Dame 860-439-2144
ktadam@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, kawisiol@pcbb.net
Programs usually second Monday, 7:15 p.m., in
Byron Colby Barn; some field trips. Prairie Crossing,
Grayslake, west side of Rt. 45, south of IL 120,
north of IL 137

Macomb Chapter #42 (Seedling)

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

North Park Chapter #27

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

Rock River Valley Chapter #21

Tim Lewis 815-874-3468
natives.tim@insightbb.com
Third Thursday, 7 p.m., usually at Burpee Museum
of Natural History, 737 N. Main St., Rockford

INDIANA

Gibson Woods Chapter #38

Joy Bower 219-844-3188 jbower1126@aol.com
Meeting March 4, 10 a.m.; Native Plant Sale April
29, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 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.
Meet on 4th Saturdays at Wildflower Woods in
Cherokee Park between Cherokee Parkway,
Barney Ave., and the Scenic Loop for Saturday
Work Day. Contact Ward Wilson, 502-299-0331,
ward@wilson.net

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

Tom Tauzer 906-428-3203 ttauzer@chartermi.net
Meetings/activities: Fourth Wednesday of the
month. See web site for details.

Detroit Metro Chapter #47

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

Flint River Chapter #32

For information, contact Thomas Enright.
taenright@comcast.net
Mott Community College's Prahll College Center
Genessee Room

Houghton-Hancock Chapter #60 (Seedling)

Kristine Bradof 906-482-0446 kbradof@mtu.edu

Kalamazoo Area Chapter #37

Dave Lemberg 269-375-7313 lemberg@wmich.edu
Fourth Wednesday of month, 7:30 p.m.
Christian Church, 2208 Winchell, Kalamazoo

Oakland Chapter #34

Barbara Bray 248-601-6405
brayfamily@netscape.com
Meeting dates and times vary.
Check web site or call for details.

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
carol_andrews@hotmail.com
Fourth Wednesday, 7 p.m. September through April
Hartley Nature Center

Otter Tail Chapter #25

Brad Ehlers 218-998-3590 frostbit@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

Linda Decker 651-739-8041
linda.b.decker@comcast.net
Third Thursday, 7 p.m., Stillwater Town Hall

Twin Cities Chapter #56

Marty Rice 952-927-6531 jcrmr@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

Marilyn Chryst 314-845-2497 tchryst@swbell.net
First Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.
Location varies. See web site.

NEW YORK

Habitat Gardening Club of Central New York #76 (Seedling)

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

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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.

2nd Quarter 2006 National Board Meeting will be hosted by Oakland (MI) Chapter on Saturday, May 27, 2006. Go to the Oakland chapter's web site for a map – www.for-wild.org/.

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 will be hosted by Mid-Missouri (MO) Chapter at an office of the Missouri Conservation Department,

1110 South College Avenue, Columbia, MO 65203. October 7, 2006.

OTHER CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

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.

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

Lifetime Memberships

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. Not inheritable. Applies to household, which includes children under 18 years of age. Local chapters will still receive their annual dues reimbursement for lifetime members.

One address per membership.

Contact the National Office, toll-free, at 877-394-9453 for details.

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 jrhitz@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 Strong's Ave., Stevens Point.
Times, places vary in summer. Check web site.

Door County Chapter #59

Peter Sigman 920-824-5193 peter@sigmann.net
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
See web site for details.

Green Bay Chapter #10

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

Sue Ellingson 608-259-1824,
suellingson@sbcglobal.net
Meetings last Thursday of the month at Willy Street
Co-op Community Room, 7 p.m. 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
Note: April meeting only will be fourth Tuesday.

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

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

Wolf River Chapter #74

Marge Guyette 715-787-3482
jkgmeg@athenet.net
Menominee, Oconto, Shawano, & Waupaca
counties

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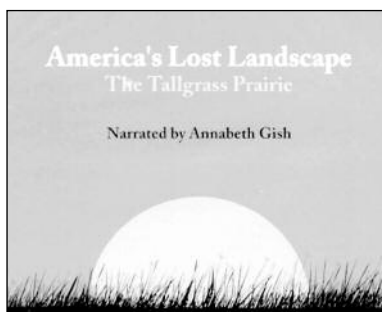


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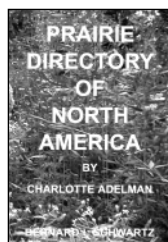
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Chapters listed in "The Meeting Place."

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

Thank You!

Challenge Grant from Rock River Valley Chapter

In response to the need to guarantee the continued bi-monthly publication of the *Journal*, and following in the footsteps of **Oakland (MI)**, and **Madison (WI)** Chapters, the **Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter** has offered a challenge to the Wild Ones chapters. Rock River Valley Chapter will match \$1 for every \$2 contributed toward the **Journal Challenge Grant**, up to a matching \$1,500. To date the following chapters have responded to the challenge:

Menomonee River Area (WI) Chapter
North Park Nature Center (IL) Chapter
Otter Tail (MN) Chapter
Wolf River (WI) Chapter

FAST FORWARD COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN 2005-6



Our many thanks go out to all our wonderful members who have already contributed so generously to our annual fund-raising campaign. Through your thoughtfulness and dedication to the Wild Ones mission, we are already working on updating and expanding our communication efforts through the Wild Ones web site, and we feel confident in the continuation of bi-monthly issues of the *Wild Ones Journal*. Thank you all so very much.

MATCHING DONATIONS

John Arthur • Twin Cities (MN) Chapter
\$35 matching donation from **American Express Foundation**

SEEDS FOR EDUCATION

Patricia & Chuck Armstrong • Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter
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Kerry Thomas • Menomonee River Area (WI) Chapter
Anne D. Meyer • Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter
Ken & Donna Schenk • Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter
Larry Keassa • Habitat Gardening Club of Central New York Chapter
Marsha & Richard Krueger • Milwaukee-North (WI) Chapter
Mark & Terri Chelmowski • Milwaukee-North (WI) Chapter

GENERAL OPERATING FUND

Ann Demorest • Milwaukee-North (WI) Chapter
Boyd & Karen Gibbs • Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter
Alan Bayersdorfer and Cyane Gresham • Columbus (OH) Chapter

SARA STEIN MEMORIAL FUND

With a last donation from **Katrina R. Hayes**, Partner-at-Large (TN), we are pleased to tell you that through the generosity of our members, we were able to forward a total of \$190 to the Sarah Stein Memorial Fund, to be used for the local Vinalhaven (Maine) library native gardens.