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movement



JOURNAL

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Thank You! Back Cover.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dropping Our Tools on the Way to the New HQ

This is a great site for the new Wild Ones Headquarters. Rather than operating out of private homes, the trunk of a car, and a post-office box, Wild Ones will gain real credibility with a real HQ. This new HQ will be a destination for Wild Ones members everywhere, a place for landscape demonstrations, and a center for learning.

In the last issue of the *Journal* I talked about National's unexpected opportunity to assume ownership of a building and 12-1/2 acres of land near Appleton, Wisconsin. Since that time, I have received a number of letters of support, and some letters of concern. Most people are enthusiastically suggesting that we "go for it!" Others are concerned about the possible negative effect that the "gift" might have on National's continuing monetary challenges.

Since I wrote the "Message from the President" for last issue, I have visited the site myself. For those of you who do not know, I am an architect (building, not landscape) by profession. The purpose of my visit was to conduct a preliminary condition analysis of the building and the site. I found the house to be in excellent physical condition. There will be no immediately necessary changes. Some will be needed in the future, but we will only undertake rebuilding when we have the funds in hand.

The site is well kept and appears to be ready for Wild Ones to begin our demonstration projects. The marsh is in good shape. During a recent visit to the site, Rick Buser, Chair/Team Leader of the Fox Valley Technical College Wildlife and Fish Management Department, noted that, "The emergent marsh vegetation contains a diverse mix of native species and is doing its job as both habitat and a riparian buffer." CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Centrally located in an accessible part of Wisconsin, the new HQ will become a destination for Wild Ones members and others who want to learn more about natural landscaping.

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

CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING JULY 14-16, 2006



If you have not yet registered for the Wild Ones Conference and Annual Meeting, being hosted by the Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter, in Naperville, Illinois, you can do it on our web site at www.for-wild.org/2006Annual.

You can also choose your tours and day trips, see the schedule of events that have been planned, and find out where to stay. Take care of everything online, or mail in your registration form and fees. We even take credit cards and PayPal! If you have questions or just enjoy hearing a human voice, call Marie Herman at 630-551-4998.

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Sally Elmiger is a landscape architect and longtime member of the Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter.

Ilse Gebhart studies Lepidoptera, and has been a member of the Kalamazoo Area (MI) Chapter since its inception.

Nancy Aten is a student of Darrel Morrison's. She is a member of the Milwaukee-North (WI) Chapter.



ECOSCAPER PROGRAM

The *American Gardener* magazine, March/April, 2006, featured a nice article on the Wild Ones Ecoscaper program. Thanks to them for thinking of us.

The term Ecoscaper refers to the concept and practice of ecological landscaping. With that in mind, 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.

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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Our Executive Director, Donna VanBuecken, has been busy working with Leslie Taylor, a Wild Ones member who is a grant writer, to complete the purchase and grant request requirements. They are identifying possible tenants to help us pay for the utility and maintenance costs associated with operating an office building.

Bret Rappaport, our past National President and an attorney, has been acting as one of our legal representatives for the purchase. He has also spent a great deal of time thinking about what acquiring a national headquarters might mean to Wild Ones. The following is a synopsis of his thoughts:

I support the acquisition of the West Shore Prairie Preserve for a Wild Ones Headquarters (HQ). I have thought a great deal about an HQ and what it means for Wild Ones. There are long-term and short-term consequences, but in the end, the decision to do it has everything to do with a simple cost/benefit analysis overlaid with a bit of faith to "drop your tools."

There are four main benefits. First, operationally, there is no question that an HQ will benefit Wild Ones. Currently, our facilities consist of Donna's basement, garage, trunk of her car, with a bit in Joe's office, three file drawers in an empty room at my firm – well you get the idea. We need space, computers, fax machines, storage for merchandise, etc. It is neither fair, nor effective to run an organization of our size and scope out of a duffle bag. With an HQ, Wild Ones will have all the space to do what it cannot do now. Volunteers and members can come and go without invading Donna's private home, and everything will be in one location – including the Wild Ones Library, which is now on the second floor of Rob Ryf's private home. There is no question that, organizationally, this is a great benefit.

Second, there is an economic benefit. Unlike the organizational benefit, the economic benefit cannot be quantified. There are two components. First, if we rent space we will have income to offset the expense of ownership, and at the same time will be able to reduce our fixed costs by sharing fax machines, phone lines, support staff, etc., with other organizations. Second, by having an HQ we may attract volunteers to do work that is otherwise being done by Donna, or not being done at all. This may translate into increased efficiency, and that means more money. How much? Who knows?

Third, the headquarters would be the site of a demonstration landscape. The lands adjacent to the home will be landscaped with native plants. Wild Ones will put its philosophy into practice for all to see, feel, smell, touch, and explore. This will in turn serve two goals. First, the landscape will be a living laboratory and showplace for members and visitors. It will serve as a source of pride and inspiration. Wetlands, woodlands, prairie and other plant communities will be shown off at the site. There can be experimental gardens to see what works where and with what, and there can be legacy gardens where members will plant forbs, trees, or shrubs to honor a person or idea. The second benefit of a demonstration landscape at headquarters is that it opens additional funding sources. By having a

site to employ the practices that we espouse, Wild Ones will have a platform from which to secure site-specific grants from the Wisconsin DNR and others.

Fourth, there is a spiritual benefit. Like Dorothy said, "There's no place like home, Toto – no place like home." Well, Toto, Wild Ones has no home. An HQ would mean we exist. We are not just a mailbox. HQ will become a destination. Having a home changes us from a loose affiliation of chapters and partners-at-large across the country, held together with a national organization and a journal, to an organization of permanence with many branches. Having an HQ will engender a special sense of pride, purpose, and permanence that could not otherwise exist.

The burden is simple: if it does not work for any reason, we are stuck with a house that we have to sell. Since there are restrictions on the property, we would have to find a like organization to take over and that would take time. During that period we would have to continue to pay the insurance of \$200 or so each month.

On balance, by a huge distance, all factors point toward enthusiastically pursuing this opportunity. We should!

In deference to those who may be reluctant, I challenge you to "drop your tools." This metaphor comes from a paper written many years ago by a professor of administrative science who studied fatal forest fires. In studying two fires he found that the firefighters died because they refused to drop their heavy saws and gear and to take cover. They clung to what they knew – what was familiar – and they died. The lesson is clear – you have to be willing to take a well-thought-out leap of faith, and abandon that which may be comfortable, but ineffectual. We have been at the same membership level for many years. We have used the same model to try to grow chapters and members for as many years, and we continue to be challenged with attrition and apathy.

Maybe we need to drop our tools and take that leap of faith. Given that the state of Wisconsin is willing to support us in this venture, the answer seems totally obvious.

I support Bret's analysis and feel firmly that we need to press on. I hope that all of our members will support us in this endeavor. Please plan to attend the annual meeting to be held July 15, at this year's annual Wild Ones conference, to get an update on how we're doing with this project, and to participate in further discussion about how to proceed. You can register on our web site at www.for-wild.org/2006Annual. ♠

If you want to learn more about "dropping your tools," see www.acij.uts.edu.au/archives/profprac/Dropyourtools.pdf.

Joe Powelka

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





The size of the monarch caterpillar increases phenomenally from the time of hatching to the chrysalis stage. Note the black, fleshy filaments – these are not antennae.

ON RAISING MONARCH BUTTERFLIES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MONARCH WAYSTATIONS

By Ilse Gebhard

After retiring, I became interested in landscaping with native plants, which our native fauna needs to thrive, and in some cases, survive. All the books on landscaping for butterflies claim that if you intersperse caterpillar food plants with favored nectar plants, you will have butterflies. The books are right! In a 5 x 30-foot flowerbed of native prairie flowers and grasses we had 14 species of butterflies one August afternoon.

Little did I know at the time that this flowerbed, along with several similar ones added later, would become Monarch Waystation #77, as certified by Monarch Watch, an organization dedicated to the study and conservation of the Monarch butterfly. The intent of monarch waystations is to provide habitat for monarchs as they go about reproducing during the spring and summer and fueling up for their migration to Mexico in the fall.

Milkweeds are not only an excellent nectar source for butterflies in general, but are the host plant for the caterpillar of the monarch (*Danaus plexippus*). Many butterflies are host-specific and the monarch is one of them. Its caterpillar will only feed on milkweeds – they will starve to death rather than eat anything else. I had planted both common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) and butterfly

weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) to attract them and the first monarch, burnt-orange with prominent black veins and black borders sprinkled with white, and a wingspan of 4 inches, came wafting by on May 27. On June 7 I saw one visiting some of the young milkweed plants. As she flitted from plant to plant, she momentarily would land on the edge of a leaf, curl her abdomen under the edge for an instant, and then flit on. On checking these plants I found my first eggs, one to a plant.

A few days later I spotted the first caterpillars. The eggs are off-white and not much bigger than a printed period on this page. The caterpillars, when they first emerge, are the size of a comma, and in a couple of days have acquired their colorful black, white and yellow stripes. By laying only one egg per plant the female assures an adequate food supply for each caterpillar. Studies have shown that only about 5 percent of monarch eggs become butterflies in the wild. Egg, caterpillar, and chrysalis all host bacteria, viruses, fly and wasp parasites, and along with the butterfly, have a wide range of predators despite their unpalatability, which is due to the toxin the caterpillar sequesters from the milkweed it consumes.



The monarch chrysalis – jade with gold markings – is exquisite in form and function.

Could I increase the odds of survival? Since the monarch is the most studied of our butterflies, raising them can easily be learned from books. During the course of the summer I collected 32 eggs and caterpillars of varying sizes and brought them inside. I placed them in individual containers, transferring them to larger ones as they grew. Each day I collected fresh milkweed leaves, soaked and rinsed them in cold water to remove any predators, and stored them in the refrigerator to use as needed throughout the day. Luckily, I had enough milkweed in the yard to feed them. Of the 32, one egg did not hatch, three caterpillars died, and one chrysalis

turned dark soon after formation and no butterfly emerged. That is an 84 percent success rate.

One of the eggs that I observed being laid hatched in six days. Then it took the caterpillar 17 days to grow to about 2 inches. It seemed to eat continuously and produce lots of little black barrels of caterpillar scat called frass. Four times it stopped eating and shed its outgrown skin, just to resume eating. The fifth molt revealed, not another caterpillar, but the next stage of metamorphosis, the chrysalis. The stages between moltings are called instars, and all five instars of the monarch caterpillar look slightly different. All but the first instar have a pair of black fleshy filaments in front and back, which grow successively longer with each instar. The chrysalis stage lasts 10 days, after which the butterfly emerges. Mine was a female ready to mate and lay eggs for the next generation – all in one short month. Unlike many butterfly species, the male monarch can readily be distinguished from the female. The male has a small black spot in each hindwing, which the female lacks.

Although at first I kept missing the actual transformation to chrysalis and the following emergence of the butterfly, I soon learned the tell-tale signs. The first clue is when a fifth instar caterpillar starts to roam, looking for a place to attach itself by its rear end. Once attached, it hangs upside down in the shape of a “J” for about a day. While it still looks like the caterpillar, a sign that the last molt is about to occur is when the caterpillar’s front filaments become limp and curly. Finally the caterpillar’s skin, thinner than tissue paper, splits and drops off. Revealed is a beautiful inch-long, jade colored chrysalis with gold markings. What a remarkable transformation to have occurred inside the caterpillar while it hung as the “J”!

At the tenth day, just before the butterfly emerges, you can see its full colors inside the now clear chrysalis. Finally, in less than a minute the chrysalis splits and the butterfly emerges holding onto the empty chrysalis with its legs. At first the butterfly seems mostly abdomen with stubby wings about one-fourth their final size. In about half-an-hour it has pumped the liquid from its abdomen

into the wings to expand them. Then it hangs there for a few hours until the wings are stiff enough to fly. The temperature needs to be at least 60 degrees before the newly emerged butterfly takes off.

As I watched my last butterfly emerge in early September and take off in a stiff breeze, I was reminded of Robert Frost’s words, “Fate had made thee for the pleasure of the wind, with those great careless wings.”

It is not important that everyone with an interest in landscaping with native plants starts raising monarch butterflies, but what is important is that they incorporate into their plantings the elements needed for the Monarch’s survival –

namely larval food plants and nectar plants for the adult butterfly. Both a formal garden bed or a wild area in a corner of the yard can work, as long as the needed plants are present.

In Michigan, and I believe it applies to the Midwest in general, common and swamp milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca* and *A. incarnata*) are not only favored larval host plants, but also easy to grow both from plants and seeds. Although butterfly weed (*A. tuberosa*) is a less-favored caterpillar host plant, it is such a stunning-looking plant, and such a good nectar source that it definitely should be incorporated.

When choosing nectar plants for the adult butterflies, attention should be paid to having something blooming at all times from spring to fall. People interested in landscaping with flowers already do that anyway and it can be done very effectively with native plants. Monarch butterflies are a lot less fussy about their nectar plants than their caterpillars are about their food plants. Almost any good nectar plant that is known to attract butterflies in general will also attract monarchs. And it should be remembered that native trees, shrubs and vines along with wildflowers can be good nectar sources.

If the landscaping in your yard includes milkweeds and a variety of flowering, nectar-providing plants, your yard likely qualifies as a monarch waystation. Don’t be dismayed by the checklist of predominantly non-native nectar plants. It is geared for people who don’t have good access to native plants. Getting the average gardener to incorporate milkweeds into their landscaping is already a big step. Just list all your native wildflowers – after all, our native insects have evolved with our native plants. ♠

MONARCH WATCH

Monarch butterflies overwinter in Mexico and migrate long distances. Lots of dangers lurk along the route, and if you build a Monarch Waystation in your yard, it could really help. www.monarchwatch.org.

BUTTERFLY BOX

Build one for the butterflies that might come to your own yard. www.for-wild.org/download/ngso03.html.



It takes several hours for the newly emerged butterfly to pump fluid from its abdomen into its wings in order to stiffen them.

Chapter Notes

Susquehanna Valley (PA) Chapter, along with several other chapters, is doing some innovative networking:

- A Members Directory listing chapter members' interest and volunteer availability.
- Wild Ones Buddy System: Chapter members with e-mail team up with members who don't, to keep everyone informed of chapter activities and updates.
- Native Plant/Seed List which includes chapter member wishes for, and available extras of, native plants and seeds.

Door County (WI) Chapter sent this suggestion for a Round Table Discussion of Wild Gardening! Members are asked to:

- Bring stories (and pictures if you have them) of your successes and failures in 2005.
- Bring your questions about last year or the coming garden season.
- Bring winter branches for show & tell.
- Bring your friends and neighbors. This meeting is open to the public.

Kalamazoo Area (MI) Chapter announced an energetic program of indoor presentations and outdoor field trips on the theme of "Plantings for Sunny Areas."

- 2006 will be the first year of a coordinated three-year program on landscaping with native plants in southwest Michigan.
- The second year (2007) will focus on Plantings for Shady Areas.
- The third (2008), on Plantings for Ponds, Streambanks and other Wet Areas.

Programs and field trips are open to the public.

Co-President **Nancy Small** wrote: "If the participant's small or large property includes sunny or open areas, we hope during this first year of the series to show why a prairie or savanna planting can improve the quality of your life by bringing nature closer to you and you closer to nature. Such a planting, even a small one, also has enormous environmental benefits."

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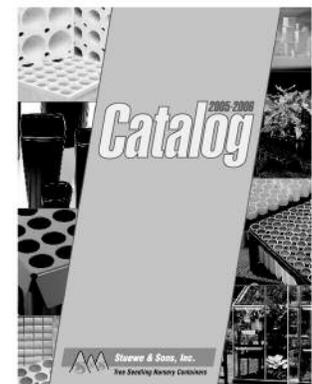
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Paper From the Prairie?

By Barbara Bray

Not long ago, the "ragman" wandered the streets of America, collecting old clothing and rags to sell to the paper mills. The cotton and linen clothes were cut up and pounded by hammermills into fibers for making "rag" paper – an early form of recycling. By the mid 1800s, however, a lack of cotton combined with a growing use of paper led people to seek out a new source of

fiber: trees. Now we are surrounded by paper, and with this bounty come concerns about the environment and throwing this resource away. Paper recycling in the United States currently recovers about 50% of paper used each year, but the demand for paper is outpacing the supply of fiber once again. Is there a new source of fiber for the future?

The paper you make might contain interesting things such as bits of flowers, leaves, and even seeds.

In the early 1990s, Resource Efficient Agricultural Production (REAP)-Canada began studying the suitability of switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) as a source of pulping material for paper. Switchgrass stems can be easily processed and pulp yields are similar to wood. Studies done by pulp and paper companies indicate that a mixture of switchgrass and wood fibers produces fine quality papers. Paper is not the only benefit derived from switchgrass. This wonderful native grass can also be used as a bio-fuel to produce electricity, can be burned in pellet or log form in fireplaces or stoves, or turned into ethanol, animal bedding, or mulch for mushroom growers. Planted as buffer strips, it will reduce run-off from farm fields and help prevent erosion. It seems that switchgrass might be the solution to many problems.

Most children are familiar with saving newspapers from their own households for recycling. Less familiar is the process of making paper. With a few supplies, you can make recycled paper at home (see below). Include bits of flowers, leaves, seeds, or other plant fibers from your native garden for an interesting touch. Supplies needed:

- Blender
- 5 cups of water
- Large square pan at least 3 inches deep
- 2-1/2 pages of newspaper
- Piece of wood about the same size as your pan
- Piece of metal window screen that fits in the pan
- Whole section of newspaper

Instructions: Tear the 2-1/2 pages of newspaper into small pieces and put them in the blender. Add the water. Put the blender cover on and blend it until the mixture turns pulpy. Pour about 1 inch of water into your pan, and put the screen in the water. Pour one cup of the pulp mixture over the screen and spread it out with your hand. Lift the screen out of the pan and let the water drain. Open up the newspaper section to the middle and place the screen with the pulp on it. Close the newspaper of the top of the screen. Carefully flip the newspaper over so that the screen is on top of the pulp. Place a board on top of the newspaper section and press to squeeze out as much water as possible. Open up the newspaper and remove the screen. Leave the paper open and let the pulp dry for one day. The next day you should be able to lift a new sheet of paper off the newspaper! ♠

For a more complicated project making paper from prairie grasses, see the web site for "The Prairie Paper Project" at www.cs.uiowa.edu/~jones/prairiepaper.



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Prairie for Sale: House Included

By Sally Elmiger

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



The unusual white spires of the culvers root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*) are bound to catch the eye of passersby.

On a 1-acre parcel in Scio Township, Michigan, Laura Liebler and her husband, Rick Neubig, have been living with a prairie in their front yard for the past seven years. Laura shared her experiences about installing and living with a young prairie in the March/April issue of the Wild Ones Journal. Now Laura and Rick have moved into a new house (with plans for a new prairie), having sold this house to a new owner who loves the prairie and intends to maintain it.

Her Seven-Year-Old Prairie Today

When asked about her first prairie experience, Laura still claims she has mixed feelings. However, when pressed, she admits that the pleasures of the prairie outnumber its faults. She and Rick both enjoy the sensory experiences the prairie provides. She explains that, "Seeing the neon-blue spikes of hairy vervain and the bronze leaves of little bluestem – hearing the buzz of bees and the rustling of grasses, smelling the odors of wild bergamot and mountain mint, feeling the softness of Indian grass seedheads and the roughness of prairie dock leaves, and tasting the tiny wild strawberries" are some of the qualities she loves. An encounter with a traditional lawn can't provide these experiences.

Rick in particular is enamored with birds, and has seen many species use the prairie during all seasons. Goldfinches,

chipping sparrows, flickers, and Cooper's hawks, among others, come to the prairie to feed. Goldfinches are especially fun to watch. They land at the seed head of grasses and ride the stem as the head gracefully descends to the ground. Then they use their body weight to hold the stem down, and eat the seeds at their leisure. Other visitors to their prairie include butterflies of every description, dragonflies, many other insects, and small mammals like rabbits. Their planting proved the adage, "If nothing but a lawnmower moves in your yard..." The prairie is just never still.

Laura also loves how she got to know the plants. Her chore of weeding became a learning experience as she became skilled at identifying the leaf shape of each species, and only pulling the weedy invaders. During the first season, they didn't worry too much about the weeds, and allowed the plants to grow up and reveal themselves before pulling anything. She always picked the brains of fellow Wild Ones if she found something she couldn't identify. Then she'd go back home and start pulling horseweed, lambsquarters, black medick, or whatever invader was thriving at the moment. Through several seasons of observation, Laura also learned the intimate characteristics of the native plants. She would watch them grow from spring to fall, and learn what the youngest

sprouts of each native species looked like. She also observed the order in which the plants emerged in spring, and would know what was coming even before the leaves unfurled.

The mixture of plants provided hours of enjoyment, especially in the spring and early summer. (See sidebar for seed list). She would look for the special characteristics of each plant – like the dew drops on the lupine's leaves – and feel satisfaction knowing that they were there in her yard. Each day brought something new that they hadn't noticed the day before. In fact, that is the outcome of the prairie experience that Laura and Rick are most passionate about – the seemingly inexhaustible opportunity for learning, right in their front yard. Being able to see the plants change day after day, season after season, allowed this couple to learn more about the individual species and prairie ecosystems than any book or lecture ever could.

Their prairie has also brought a lot of pleasure to their neighbors. The installation and subsequent burns always attracted nearby kids and adults curious to learn more. In a neighborhood with traditional landscapes, nearby home owners were very accepting of this new landscape design. Many a summer evening found strollers in the neighborhood parked in front of the prairie asking questions about how they could have a prairie in their yard. One friend of Laura's daughter would detour through the prairie to reach the front door each time he visited the house.

Laura's Prairie Seed Mix

<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	big bluestem
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	wild columbine
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	common milkweed
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	butterfly-weed
<i>Aster laevis</i>	smooth aster
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England aster
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	sand coreopsis
<i>Coreopsis tripteris</i>	tall coreopsis
<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	showy tick-trefoil
<i>Liatris aspera</i>	rough blazing star
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	wild lupine
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	wild bergamot
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	switch grass
<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	hairy beard-tongue
<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	common mountain mint
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	yellow coneflower
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	black-eyed susan
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	little bluestem
<i>Senecio obovatus</i>	round-leaved ragwort
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	old-field goldenrod
<i>Solidago rigida</i>	stiff goldenrod
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian grass
<i>Verbena stricta</i>	hoary vervain
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	culver's root

When They do it Again

Like any experience, Laura and Rick have learned some things about prairies, and how a prairie planting jibes with their lifestyle and expectations for their landscape. Here are a few things they will do differently the second time around:

1. They thought the seeded portion of the prairie looked gorgeous in the summer, and in snow. But Laura thought there were some times during the year that it didn't look its best. For instance, "When the plants are brown and beaten down, it only seems to amplify the dead, colorlessness of a Michigan winter." This was disappointing to her because it was inconsistent with her initial thought that a prairie would be beautiful all year round. While she now acknowledges this was somewhat unrealistic, she was also more critical of the prairie's appearance because the planting was visible from the street. If she thought the prairie wasn't attractive, she was sure her neighbors would agree. While she normally doesn't give a "hoot" about what other people think, she felt keenly about showing these species at their best so that others were inspired to plant them. So, in her next prairie, she is going to minimize this look by using plugs to design a more traditional plant arrangement in highly visible areas, rather than spreading a seed mixture.

2. Going a little further with this idea, Laura had originally intended to plant a "demonstration garden" of prairie species near the street. She wanted to arrange the plants in a traditional arrangement, and label them to help educate interested neighbors about each species. While it never happened at this home, hopefully Laura can find the time to plant a demonstration garden at her next home.

3. They would not use annual oats again as a cover crop. Laura thought it looked ugly because it is very coarse and goes dormant (brown) in the middle of the summer, displaying a very unsightly appearance. So, for her next prairie, she will use annual rye as a cover crop, which looks like a soft meadow of bright green floppy grass.

4. Both Rick and Laura enjoyed the woody plants that were part of their prairie planting. But because the herbaceous plants grew so fast, they overwhelmed the small woody plants. Not having more mature

woody plants to give the garden some vertical interest also made Laura think that the somewhat consistent height of the prairie was uninteresting. To get around this issue, they will plant the trees and shrubs at least a year earlier than the prairie to allow them to become established and get a head start.

5. The woodchip paths through the prairie were originally 3 feet wide. But, as the plants grew, the taller ones would flop over the pathway, making it difficult to walk. Their next prairie will have wider paths to avoid this problem.

The Move

No doubt Laura and Rick will miss the prairie they've nurtured over the past seven years. They hope the next homeowner will appreciate their landscape and keep the prairie flourishing for many seasons to come. But they are also looking forward to creating another prairie planting. Both agree that they will never go back to turf grass! With a little experience under their belts, they'll avoid a few design and installation pitfalls. But the next time around will also certainly provide new lessons about prairies, and the larger lessons we learn about ourselves from nature. ♣

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



Laura and Rick proudly display their Wild Ones sign. It goes a long way toward explaining the intentions of the native planting.



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Where Are They Now?

A report on several past Seeds for Education grant recipients.

By Celia Larsen

Over a year ago, a fellow Wild One handed off to me an envelope full of “year end reports” written by past Seeds for Education grant recipients. The task seemed easy enough – contact the project managers at the six different sites and see how their outdoor education areas had been maturing over the last three years. All but one responded to my request for information, although changes in personnel and e-mail addresses required a bit of sleuthing to find valid contacts. The one recipient that didn’t respond had noted in their year-end report that deer had eaten all of their plants the very same day they were planted. How disheartening! Of the five that did respond, I am pleased to report that four are going strong and maturing nicely, each with a unique story that I will summarize below. The fifth site, an elementary school in Missouri, was unfortunately

“terminated,” mown flat by their district’s maintenance crew. So let’s get the bad news over with first.

Not all of the projects we help fund are long-term successes. If this sample of six is representative, one-third of our grant recipients may only grow for a year or two. The project manager of the Missouri site, a teacher at the school, had done her work – she coordinated students, teachers, maintenance staff, local businesses, and a conservation expert. She had the principal’s approval and the district’s blessing. The coreopsis and black-eyed Susans were thriving, the primrose and verbena were beginning to spread, and even indigo and blazing stars were scattered throughout the plot. But somebody complained. The district decided to remove all wildflower

plots because they felt they were eyesores and they wanted to “landscape” the areas. They wanted a “clean, clear look.” How could this have been avoided? Perhaps the front-and-center location of the plot was not the best choice. Perhaps more teachers needed to be involved from the beginning. But most importantly, I want to make clear that the project was not a “failure.” The *process* teaches just as much, if not more, than the outcome. The students got to work in the earth, and some of their fruits are still being dispersed. Seeds were collected and have been given to a student-run greenhouse. Hopefully, the next generation of plants will grow and be valued for the critical resource they are.

One site munched by deer, another lost to typical suburban aesthetics. But two-thirds of this small sample is doing incredibly well. **Jodi Hinrichs** and **Carolyn Tiller** of **Doudna Elementary in Richland, Wisconsin**, report that approximately 30 of their teachers regularly use their nature area. They credit much of her site’s success

to proper site preparation – they smothered weeds and grass with a thick layer of newspaper, and had the students plant directly through the paper mulch.

Since the site is adjacent to their playground, the children “can be found exploring in the nature area any time of day.” Students often excitedly report animal viewings, like deer and snakes. The Doudna team has increased the nature area, originally just a prairie, by planting trees and shrubs to create a woodland prairie and a bird-observation area.

Ms. Hinrichs states that the “nature area is very much a part of the school,” and is “an educational area for the community.”

Similarly, **Lynn Futch** of **Mill Creek Elementary, in Georgia**, reports that they plan to improve their outdoor education area by installing a pond, if awarded a county foundation grant for which they have applied.

She feels the installation of a sprinkler system (afforded by a \$1,200 Human-I-Tees fundraiser led by parents) has been critical to the long-term success of their project. In third grade, students focus on their home state of Georgia and learn about native plants like columbine, milkweed, and monarda. Then, in fourth and fifth grade, they weed and care for the raised beds that the plants grow in. Ms. Futch points out that the botanical garden at Georgia Southern University has been a great resource, providing additional species of native plants as well as curricular activities to help teachers use the site.

At **Velma Hamilton Middle School, in Madison, Wisconsin**, the centerpiece of the outdoor classroom is a huge 12 x 12-foot table that an entire class can gather around. And gather they do – practicing skits, warming up for band sectionals, reading, sketching, writing haiku poetry, picnicking, and meeting for knitting club. They also do



Students trek through the woods at the Lorado Taft Field Campus of Northern Illinois University, near Oregon, Illinois.

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some "real" science, including soil testing, ecosystem population studies, and geology. Teacher **Sarah Waddell** is very supportive of the outdoor classroom, but she laments the loss of half of the original team of teachers who worked on the project, either due to retirement or other career moves.

Ms. Waddell, along with Ms. Futch, strongly encourages others who are just starting to plan an outdoor classroom to get as many teachers and staff committed to the project from the beginning, to ensure proper maintenance and to get as many students learning outside as possible.

Outdoor education areas on school campuses are perhaps the best way to ensure regular contact between students and the out-of-doors. No bus is needed, no permission slips have to be signed – if the curriculum sparks an interest, and the weather is agreeable, teachers can immediately take a class outside for study.



But the Lorado Taft Field Campus of Northern Illinois University seems to me like the perfect place for an overnight field trip if you're lucky enough to live in the northern half of Illinois. Next to the scenic Rock River and Lowden State Park, more than 6,000 students in the fourth through eighth grades will visit the Lorado Taft Campus this year – and they will all spend three days and two nights there, taking part in classes like orienteering, animal tracking, instincts for survival, and night hiking.

Cheryl Thompsen, the environmental education coordinator, describes how the currently all-grass North Field prairie will be burned for the first time this spring. They will begin to diversify the prairie this year by adding wildflower seed collected from their small remnant prairie, including false indigo, rattlesnake master and shooting star. What a wonderful submersion in nature for the students who get to visit this former artist colony. Let's hope some of the students, teachers and chaperoning parents have been inspired to create their own nature study areas. ♠

For more information On Seeds for Education grants go to the Wild Ones web site at www.for-wild.org. To learn more about the Lorado Taft Field Campus go to www.niu.edu/taft.

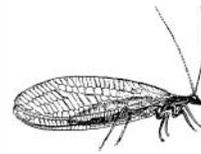


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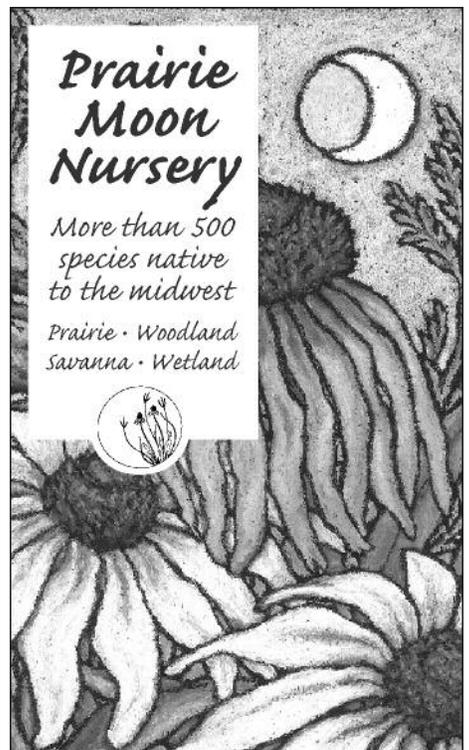


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DARREL MORRISON

Merging Art with Ecology in Landscape Design

By Nancy Aten



Darrel Morrison practices landscape architecture and ecological art, studying natural landscapes as an inspiration for designed and managed landscapes. His design commissions include the Native Wisconsin Garden at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Texas, and the Utah Botanical Center. Darrel is professor emeritus of landscape architecture and dean emeritus of the School of Environmental Design at the University of Georgia. He formerly taught at the University of Wisconsin. He grew up on a farm in Iowa. He now spends much of his time in the landscapes of Manhattan, teaching occasionally there and in New Jersey, and traveling to teach and lecture in some of his other favorite places, including Wisconsin, Utah, and Brazil. Nancy Aten is delighted to call herself his student and friend.

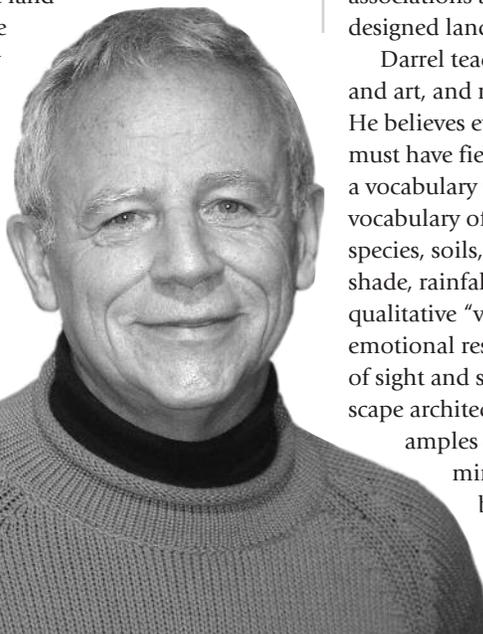
Darrel Morrison is scheduled to be a keynote speaker on Saturday night, at the Wild Ones 2006 Conference and Annual Meeting, July 14-16, 2006.

I first met Darrel Morrison at The Clearing, Jens Jensen's landscape and school of nature and art, in Ellison Bay, Wisconsin. Darrel was teaching a course titled "Merging Art and Ecology in Landscape Design." That subject, and a gentle push from fellow Wild Ones member Mandy Ploch, had been enough to get me there. I quickly learned that merging art and ecology was the central thought in all of Darrel's teaching: link the function of ecology to the beauty of the landscape.

The process of learning from Darrel Morrison and his work flows in much the same way as he himself describes our response to landscapes. In the beginning, we respond to the "pretty." After a time we begin to see *patterns* within species and associations between species. Still later, we recognize and begin to understand the *processes* behind the patterns.

Causes and effects start to fall together. We become aware of the movement of rainwater, and how small indentations in the ground can harbor dampness that determines species. We come to understand the term "microhabitat" in a more molecular way. Even something as seemingly stable as pH of the soil can vary in a matter of feet, given the appropriate conditions and history. By lying under different trees and gazing into the branches we come to experience and understand the reason for the difference in light under an oak compared to a maple. Eventually, this awareness can lead us to love, protect, and help perpetuate the landscapes we have come to know so well.

Darrel himself followed this progression



Darrel Morrison

of thinking, studying, and learning. He began his career designing more "traditional" landscapes of very few species, until he began to pay attention to patterns in natural landscapes. He was influenced early on by a little book he happened upon, called *American Plants for American Gardens*, (1929), written by two women, botany professor Edith Roberts, and landscape architect Elsa Rehmann. (Darrel had this book reprinted by University of Georgia Press in 1996).

Darrel is best known for encouraging the designer to study and become intimately familiar with all the underpinnings of an ecosystem that she/he is trying to approximate in a design. He uses that knowledge as a foundation to choose a diversity of species for a designed landscape. He also recognizes the importance of the design of space, like shady refuges, sunlit openings, paths that are river-like, and paths through landscapes rather than around the edges of gardens.

As his design vocabulary has developed over decades of practice, he often sounds poetic and lyrical. Underlying the poetry, however, are the practical elements of how he practices and teaches. First and foremost is intensive, basic field work, outdoors in natural landscapes. Then, design techniques are brought to bear that include analysis of site conditions and history, the consideration of mass and space in the landscape, and a translation of native species and patterns into appropriate associations and conditions in the designed landscape.

Darrel teaches through both science and art, and most sharply in the field. He believes every landscape architect must have field time in order to develop a vocabulary with which to work – a vocabulary of natural ecosystems, their species, soils, bedrock, slopes, sunlight and shade, rainfall and wind. There is also a qualitative "vocabulary" of aesthetic and emotional responses, including memories of sight and sound and smell. If a landscape architect has seen only typical examples of designed landscapes with minimal diversity, she/he has no basis from which to expand.

During my interview with Darrel in December, 2005, at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum, he gazed

out the window at the 4-acre prairie garden he designed for the Arboretum, and told me he couldn't have designed it had he not first known the Avoca Prairie, a Wisconsin

Underlying the poetry are the practical elements of how he practices and teaches.

Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) State Natural Area. His design is based very much on the combinations of species in microhabitats there, and their patterning. It's a subtle but important point: his design is based not just on species chosen from among a wet prairie "list"; a choice is made for every plant in every place. These are species associations just for this site and its conditions. The choices include such elemental considerations as how a drying wind might move through the planting, colored by Darrel's own response to this place and Avoca as a natural model. Milwaukee naturalist and Lorrie Otto's close friend, Richard Barloga, told a meeting of environmental professionals recently how much he liked this designed landscape, because every species was in just the right place. From Richard, this is high praise indeed, and Darrel was gratified to hear it.

I like that Darrel's landscapes are sometimes seen as not "designed"; that his painstaking artistry enriches the experience and function of the landscapes without being noticed. I like that you can be in a place and it just feels good, because the details have been worked out. Darrel sees design in nature – a complex order he may not always fully understand. In this "design" in nature, every plant grows in a particular place for a reason, and spatial patterns occur for reasons. It could be the height of a particular plant and its effect on neighboring plants; it could have to do with how some specific plants reproduce – by spreading underground roots, or by wind-dispersed seed. In his design work Darrel applies this knowledge as second nature.

His "knowing" of Avoca was developed when he immersed himself in this prairie through intensive field observation, quadrat sampling, and sketching. In this same way, he has always taught classes in the field, and his lessons are to be found everywhere. He plans routes, approaches

and walks, and times of day for the effects of light, to provide the most seamless and unfolding awareness of each natural landscape. He combines many ways of learning, including expressive writing, botanizing and field ID, qualitative assessments, quantitative sampling, and sketching with watercolors.

In his upcoming book Darrel writes of one such field day in the xeric sandhills in central Georgia:

Darrel G. Morrison: What this extremely dry site possessed was, first, intactness. In this harshly xeric environment where the sand deposits may be 10 or more meters deep, we found only native vegetation that is adapted to almost perpetual drought. Exotic agronomic weeds and invasive landscape plants simply can't make it in this extreme environment.

Here, in the sandhills at the upper border of the coastal plain, each species' physiology is in some way matched with the environmental constraints: the vertical orientation of turkey oak leaves minimizing direct and reflected solar exposure; the diminished leaves of scrubby post oak, sparkleberry and red basil and the rolled, wire-like leaves of wiregrass minimizing water loss; the thick bluish-green pads of prickly pear stem segments storing fluids.

These plants clearly belong here, just as the gopher tortoise belongs here. They

are in their place. They are of this place. They are sustainable in this place. Out of this fitness grows an aesthetic integrity. I would go so far as to suggest that such aesthetic integrity is almost assured whenever we have just the plant species that are native to a specific habitat growing together in that habitat. This landscape integrity contrasts with the lack of integrity in, say, green lawns in this or other arid environments (like the sprawling suburbs of Phoenix, Arizona) where they are so obviously out of place and so clearly dependent on borrowed resources for their survival.

In addition to the intactness of the sandhills site that emanates from the fitness of the vegetation, are there other characteristics that contribute to its aesthetic quality? It doesn't possess the physical characteristics traditionally associated with beautiful landscapes. It is far from pastoral, in the sense of a Reptonian English landscape or an Olmstedian American landscape of greensward rolling over voluptuous rounding earth forms and clumps of trees. And there is no open water visible; there are no broad swaths of colorful flowers.

But there is an intimacy and an intricacy in the small spaces formed by the dwarf oaks and sparkleberry shrubs. Complexity grows out of the fine-grained nature of these spaces, and the intricate light-and-shade

patterns, enhanced in the early evening by the golden tone of the low-angle sunlight. Backlit, the already yellowish-green sharp-tipped turkey oak leaves are luminous. The dappling of light and bluish shadows adds to this complexity. The plants themselves are intricate and small in scale: the very narrow, rolled leaves of wiregrass, the diminutive, drought-adapted leaves of many of the species growing here; the tiny flowers of sandwort, tread-softly, and red basil; and the patterns of lichen and mosses on the sandy floor: they add up to a landscape of great detail: one that can keep you engaged for a long time, since there's always more to discover.

Yet this complexity is balanced by coherence and a sense of unity resulting from the repetition of forms and colors: the overriding dominance and abundance of turkey oaks; the relatedness of gray to silvery-green Spanish moss in those dwarf trees and the cushions of gray to silvery-green lichens on the ground.

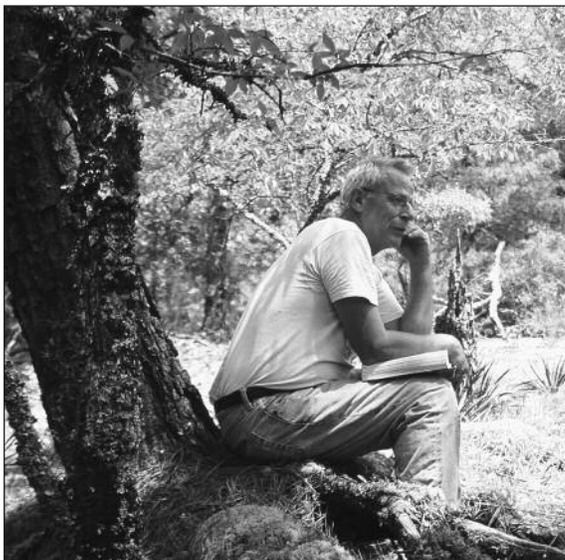
What truths lie in these sandhills that transcend the specific landscape? First, and perhaps foremost, is the idea that there is an intrinsic beauty in landscapes which are so clearly "of the place." To try to modify a landscape in the sandhills at Kite to become a more traditionally pastoral scene would be wrong aesthetically – and would most likely be doomed from the beginning.

Second is the revelation that seemingly harsh environments can produce some of the most intricate landscapes. Survival in hot, dry places like these sandhills requires specialized plants adapted to them. We shouldn't be in a big hurry to manipulate every site to become the "ideal" mesic site with deep, rich soil, "moist but well-drained." Instead, when we have seemingly less-than-ideal variations in site conditions, such as rocky, dry areas or poorly-drained depressions, we should make the most of these micro-habitat differences rather than homogenizing them through modifying them. The result can be far richer, experientially and ecologically. And we might just save some specialized species that are increasingly rare. These are some of the things the sandhills at Kite told us."

That excerpt, along with another below, is from Darrel's upcoming book, *Southeastern Odyssey: Reflections on Landscape and Design*, to be published later this year by the Center for American Places.

Change, too, is important in thinking about landscapes – the things that happen over time, in seasons, cycles, and over longer periods through ecological succession and dynamics such as fire. I learned ecological succession and disturbance in the Georgia Piedmont forests and old fields, where Darrel lived for more than 20 years.

Darrel spends a great deal of quiet time immersing himself in the sights, sounds, and even the air movements within natural landscapes.



Darrel G. Morrison: “The 5 acres of the Georgia Piedmont bordering on the Oconee River where I have lived, is, in its way, representative of tens of thousands

If I could come back to the ruins of my little shelter in the woods a hundred years from now, what would I see?

of acres of piedmont land which only two centuries ago was a mosaic of natural plant communities, mainly forests or savannas, in Indian territory. Next it was almost totally cleared of trees and often terraced, cultivated and planted in cotton. The transformation from a diverse forest and savanna landscape to one with rows of cotton in cultivated fields represents an extreme simplification. That simplification, and that cultivation, led, for a time, to economic gain, but it also led to losses: losses of function (e.g., wildlife habitat, protection from erosion), and massive losses of topsoil, of biotic diversity, and of beauty.

The unfolding story of secondary succession on these 5 acres and throughout much of the Piedmont is still being written. The forest around my sheltered perch is maturing, but it’s less than a century old. And while this land of self-restoration is a miracle of sorts, it has not restored a diverse herbaceous layer. Although the top layer of soil is increasingly enriched with organic matter with each year’s leaf fall, the seeds, spores, roots, and rhizomes of ground-layer species are simply not present in many cases. The seeds, spores, tubers, and roots went downstream, along with the top foot or more of soil that eroded away during the cotton-farming era. Pockets of greater ground-layer diversity do remain in places that couldn’t be plowed: rocky outcrops, very steep slopes, wet seeps. Gradually, certain of the plants in those pockets may spread into adjacent spaces, if those spaces are not already occupied by invasive exotic species.

If I could come back to the ruins of my little shelter in the woods a hundred years from now, what would I see? Any

number of possibilities exist, of course. A big windstorm could, at any time snap off or uproot the trees I see around me, or a gap might develop when a tree is split by a lightning strike; a blight as yet unknown could arrive on this continent and spread through the white oak population much like the exotic chestnut blight wiped out the American chestnut population.

Or the autumn olive seedlings that I try to pull as they appear could get ahead of me as I totter along the path in my old age, and could a century from now fill the ravine, swamping the Christmas ferns and the bloodroot and the Catesby’s trillium.

Or in an act of collaboration with nature, I – and the people who follow me on this land – could keep the exotic plants at bay and begin to spread wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), May apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) – all plants that I’ve seen in isolated niches on this land – into areas where they might logically be re-established.

For sure, there will be change in this forest, just as there has been dramatic change in the past, both before and after settlement of this land. And perhaps, with even a little collaboration from me, the natural processes of healing and regeneration already underway will continue.”

The work of environmental psychologists Rachel and Stephen Kaplan, at the University of Michigan, are often referenced by Darrel. His design techniques take into account what they identify as important landscape characteristics that are appreciated through human experience: mystery, complexity, coherence, and legibility.

When Darrel was teaching in the School of Natural

Resources there for a time, he invited Rachel Kaplan to speak to his landscape architecture studio course. She agreed, on one condition – that Darrel illustrate her lecture and these landscape concepts as she spoke. Such multidisciplinary collaboration is characteristic of Darrel: psychologists, scientists, artists, musicians.

Darrel has described himself as “someone whose life has been perhaps uncommonly influenced by *places*.” When he refers to places, it is in the most personal sense of being part of a particular landscape, for each place has its own character and reason. When Darrel speaks of his hopes for his book of essays, he touches on one of the deepest lessons I continue to learn from him. It is about “sense of place” – about what makes my southeastern Wisconsin landscape, and your own landscape, distinctive and to be celebrated.

Darrel G. Morrison: “Diverse as they are, the places that form the basis for these essays have something in com-

Experiencing a natural hillside in a misty rain can be inspiring. Darrel is noted for not being daunted by the weather when it comes to acquiring “vocabulary.”



mon. Each of them still has what we could call, for want of a better word, its *sense of place*. They are predominantly what we think of as "natural" environments, but each bears the imprint of humans to a lesser or greater degree. Several of them are undergoing what we could think of as a process of self-restoration after previous human activity changed the pre-existing landscape dramatically. They remind us of how natural processes and cultural practices have become inextricably intertwined in the landscapes we see today, even those we think of as natural.

Most of the landscapes we explore are, in their way, "beautiful." The beauty may lie within the range of obvious and conventional notions of beauty: a forested mountain or a glistening ocean beach. The beauty may emanate from commonplace or subtle elements: a clump of broomsedge catching the coppers light of a late afternoon sun in December, something we may have come to overlook.

The beauty may be derived from the fitness of a community of plants adapted to an extreme environment, like that in the xeric sandhills. The beauty may be on a grand scale: the broad horizontal expanse of a saltmarsh at sunset; or it may be on a diminutive scale: beech leaves unfurling after a warm rain in April. The beauty may lie in our knowledge of the rarity of a landscape type, or

a species in it, like the rare snorkelwort in an ephemeral pool in a piedmont granite outcrop.

Or it may lie in our understanding of processes: the rejuvenative role of fire in a longleaf pine savanna; the restorative role of decomposition and decay in a piedmont forest.

Among the most important things we can do in the 21st century, individually and collaboratively, is to protect natural beauty where it remains, and to manage for its perpetuation. In places where it has been lost, even on so small a place as a back yard or so big a place, collectively, as the school grounds and roadsides of this country, we can work to restore it.

And with the restoration of natural beauty, we will be providing places for the plant and animal life that has been silently, insidiously, disappearing from our world and our lives.

It is my hope, most of all, that these essays may in some way facilitate seeing, understanding, and genuinely loving these and other landscapes and the life in them. And that that genuine love translates into genuine care and concern for our world."

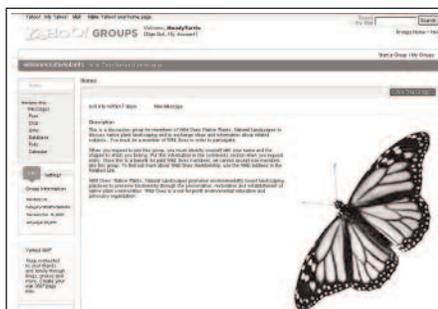
Darrel now spends much of his time in Manhattan. He continues to develop his ideas about the element of art in design – adapting native plant communities and natural plant diversity into an urban setting. ♠

Feel like talking about native plants? Our new online discussion group is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We're off to a great start with the Wild Ones Internet discussion group. Some of the topics of discussion have centered around leach fields, container gardening, cupplant, rodentia, and some good old-fashioned mudslinging at a very misguided anti-environment article titled "Border War," by George Ball, *New York Times*, op-ed page, March 19.

To join the information sharing (and the fun) go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wildonesnativeplants/>.

We're ready for discussion any time you are. Give it a try. Right now. Really.



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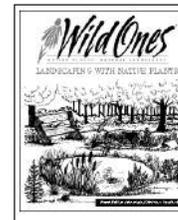
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For more information, contact the National Office at 877-394-9453 or e-mail to merchandise@for-wild.org. Checks payable to Wild Ones at: Wild Ones Merchandise, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, Wisconsin 54912. Prices include shipping and handling. *For maximum convenience, order online at www.for-wild.org/store/*

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Grapevine By Maryann Whitman

Bring the Buffalo and Native Grasses Home to the Range

Common wisdom has assumed that exotic plants thrive on our continent because they lack natural enemies in their new range. Not so, says a recent paper in the journal *Science*. Findings suggest that native herbivores (the deer and the antelope of song) suppress the abundance of exotic plants. Further, exotic herbivores (cattle, pigs, Old World goats, and rabbits) facilitate abundance and species richness of exotic plants. The researcher suggests that our native herbivore population has been driven close to extinction by settlers who also introduced their Old World herbivores. This replacement of native with exotic herbivores "eliminates an ecosystem service, helps alien plant invasions, and triggers an invasional 'meltdown.'" *I wonder if we can teach our native deer to suppress our alien garlic mustard.*

The search is on to find some way to identify either species or habitat characteristics that predict invasiveness of exotic species in given areas. A researcher out of University of California at Davis, considered all the grasses known to be growing in California, and confirmed what had been assumed as common sense – the more genetically related the exotic invader is to the species growing on a site, the less likely that invader will be able to move in.

During the '90s, some research on invasives was done using small, controlled plots. The results showed that the greater the diversity of natives in a planted plot, the less likely that the plot was invaded by exotic plants, and the exotic plants that did invade, did less well.

It's All One Piece Millions of acres of rangeland in the western states have been taken over by spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*). The cattle won't eat it – the elk have modified migration routes to avoid heavily infested areas, and land stewards are training dogs to help them find new patches of knapweed so they can eradicate them.

In the 1970s, a natural enemy of knapweed, a gall fly, was imported, tested, and released. Thirty years later a biologist reports in *Ecology Letters* that "the fly has not halted the spread of knapweed... but it has changed the ecosystem dynamics." The fly causes the knapweed to form a gall which protects the flies' eggs. Deer mice have learned to climb the stalks, during the winter months, to feed on the larvae of the fly in the gall. During a season that would normally kill most of the deer mice, they are instead thriving. Populations of deer mice have tripled with this new food supply. These mice can carry hantavirus, which in a human being can cause a fatal form of pneumonia. With their increased numbers they are more likely to come in contact with humans. *And we wonder where our rare diseases come from.*

It's possible that over time the pendulum will swing back and the populations will even out. However, they will even out at higher numbers than the system originally entertained because the new food source came from outside the system. What effect this will have and on whom can only be surmised.

Biologists researching bio-controls agree that exotic insects "are too liberally released... three times as many exotics have been released as there are target species." "Rather than reduce grazing," (which helps spread the invasive plants), contends one researcher from the University of Nebraska, "the agriculture officials release beetles, and the ranchers go on grazing."

I would argue that along with reducing grazing by exotic herbivores, the agriculture officials also need to consider densely, overseeding with a broad diversity of appropriate native plants. Appropriate in that they are not closely related to the exotic aliens that are already occupying the soil. ♠

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2006 Seeds for Education (SFE) Grants Awarded

By Steve Maassen, Seeds for Education Director



Wild Ones members are part of the natural landscaping movement because they believe using native plants in our landscaping is one way in which we personally can help to heal the Earth. Our children are the next generation of native landscapers. Helping to develop their personalities to embrace the same concerns we have about healing the Earth and restoring our environment through native landscaping will continue what we have begun.

Justice William O. Douglas, a staunch defender of the environment once wrote, "Every school needs a nature trail; and every person – adult or young – needs a bit of wilderness, if wonder, reverence, and awe are to be cultivated."

It is with these notions in mind that the Wild Ones Board of Directors created the Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Fund (SFE). Lorrie's life's work with students, young and old, has been to cultivate these feelings for the natural world, and to instill a desire to heal the Earth.

The Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Fund (SFE), established in 1995, supports schools, nature centers, and other places of learning for projects involving students creating natural landscapes, and outdoor classrooms using native plants. Through the generous donations of Wild Ones members and income from the growing SFE Fund we were able to provide these cash awards.

Applications came from all the coasts of the United States, and many of the states in between, as did the 41 judges who rated them. Our thanks to the judges for doing a great job of reviewing the applications and providing good ratings and meaningful comments making the award process that much easier.

Although each of the 41 applicants is deserving of praise and support, Wild Ones was able to fund only some of the projects. Grants were based on the actual amount of funds requested, the judges' ranking in comparison to all 2006 grant applications, and the available funds. Wild Ones is pleased to announce the 2006 Seeds for Education grant recipients:

Green Bay Botanical Garden – Green Bay, Wisconsin – \$500

Karner Blue Butterfly Demonstration Garden
Green Bay Chapter

Washington Elementary School

Marshfield, Wisconsin – \$350

Seeds for Tomorrow
Central Wisconsin Chapter

King Elementary School – Rockford, Illinois – \$350

Native Gardens at King
Rock River Valley Chapter

Ithaca Children's Garden – Ithaca, New York – \$200

Wetlands Ecology Education Program
Partner-at-Large

Booker T. Washington Middle School

Newport News, Virginia – \$200

Beyond the Watershed: Eco-Garden Project.
Partner-at-Large (The John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society will be adding another \$50.)

Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium

Fort Myers, Florida – \$200

Calusa Nature Center Avian Garden Renovation
Partner-at-Large

Rudolf Steiner High School – Ann Arbor, Michigan – \$100

Rudolph Steiner High School/Prairie/Oak Opening Restoration
Ann Arbor Chapter (Wildflower Association of Michigan has also presented a grant of \$1000.)

Pine Mountain Learning Center

Pine Mountain Club – California – \$100

Schoolyard Native Garden and Wildlife Habitat
Partner-at-Large

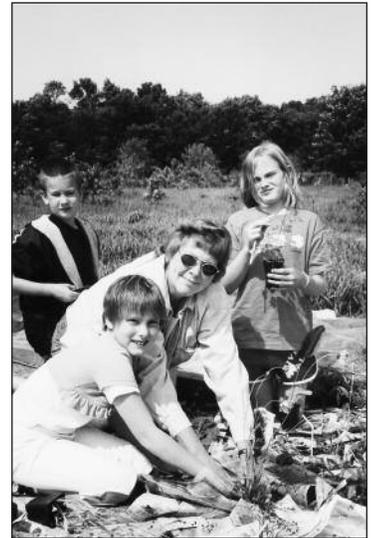
For a listing of previous Seeds for Education grant recipients go to www.for-wild.org/seedmony.htm.

The Success of These Projects

The success of these projects will depend in part upon the organization and its members who have developed them. The rest of the success will come from the community at large. Besides promoting the benefits of the project to the organization's members, it will also be important for project coordinators to educate the community – neighbors, friends, and other organizations – about the benefits of using native plants in landscaping.

That is where Wild Ones chapters and their members, and Wild Ones partners-at-large come in.

Wild Ones members who are located in areas near the Seeds for Education grant recipient projects should not hesitate to offer their help for these projects. Knowledgeable and dedicated Wild Ones members will make all the difference in the world to the success of these outdoor-learning centers. Members of the Green Bay (WI), Central Wisconsin (WI), Rock River Valley(IL), and Ann Arbor (MI) chapters are already working with the projects located in their areas.



It's so important for youngsters to gain ownership of their school's Outdoor Classroom. Participating alongside patient, supportive elders – teachers, parents, or Wild Ones members – can foster this.

SFE Nursery Partners

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

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

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

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

The nursery partners who will be working with this year's grant recipients, and their specialties with respect to each of the projects, are as follows. For a complete list listing of all nurseries who have volunteered to partner with the Seeds for Education program in the past, go to www.for-wild.org/seedmony.htm.



California

Cornflower Farms, Elk Grove. (916) 689-1015.
www.cornflowerfarms.com. Trees & Shrubs, Perennial, Wet Mesic, Wetland, Plants. (Wholesale only.)

Tree of Life Nursery. San Juan Capistrano. (949) 728-0685
www.treeoflifenuresery.com. Trees & Shrubs, Wet Mesic, Wetland, Prairie Plants.

Intermountain Nursery, Prather. (559) 855-3113.
www.intermountainnursery.com. Trees & Shrubs.

Florida

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. Sanibel. (239) 472-2329. www.sccf.org.
Wet Mesic, Prairie, Wetland Plants.

All Native Garden Center & Plant. Fort Myers. (239) 939-9663.
www.nolawn.com. Shrubs, Tropical Plants.

Red Buffalo Nursery. Hebron. (815) 648-4838.
Prairie, Shade, Wet Mesic, Wetland Plants, Prairie Seeds.

Illinois

Blazing Star Inc. Woodstock. (815) 338-4716.
www.blazing-star.com. Shade, Prairie Plants.

Indiana

J F New Native Plant Nursery. Walkerton. (574) 586-2412.
www.jfnew.com. Prairie, Wet Mesic Plants.

Maryland

Environmental Concern Inc. St. Michaels. (410) 745-9620.
www.wetland.org. Trees & Shrubs, Wetland Plants.

Michigan

Native Connections. Constantine. (269) 580-4765.
www.nativeconnections.net. Prairie, Shade Wetland Plants, Prairie, Wetland, Wet Mesic Seeds.

Native Plant Nursery LLC. Ann Arbor., (734) 677-3260.
www.nativeplant.com. Trees & Shrubs, Prairie Forbs & Grasses, Plants and Seeds.

Wildtype Native Plant Nursery. Mason. (517) 244-1140.
www.wildtypeplants.com. Trees & Shrubs, Prairie Forbs & Grasses, Wet Mesic Plants.

New York

Maple Hill Nursery & Landscaping. Manlius. (315) 682-8835.
Trees & Shrubs, Prairie, Wet Mesic Plants.

Southern Tier Consulting and Nursery. West Clarksville. (800) 848-7614. Trees & Shrubs, Wetland Plants, Ferns, Wetland Seeds.

Amanda's Garden. Springwater. (585) 669-2275.
www.amandagarden.com. Shade Plants.

White Oak Nursery. Beneva.
www.whiteoaknursery.biz. Trees & Shrubs.

Virginia

Sassafras Farm. Hayes. (804) 642-0293.
Perennial Plants.

Wisconsin

Kettle Moraine Natural Landscaping. Campbellsport. (920) 533-8939. Prairie Plants; Prairie Seeds.

The Plantscapers. Green Bay. (920) 465-1941.
www.theplantscapers.com. Prairie Forbs & Grasses, Shade Plants, Ferns.

Taylor Creek Nurseries, Division of Applied Ecological Services. Brodhead. (608) 897-8641. www.appliedeco.com.
Prairie, West Mesic, Wetland, Shade Plants; Prairie, Wet Mesic Seeds

Northern Sunset Perennials. www.northernsunset.com.
Prairie, Shade Plants.

Prairie Nursery. Westfield. (800) 476-9453.
www.prairienursery.com. Prairie, Wet Mesic, Wetland, Shade Plants, Prairie, Wet Mesic Seeds

Thank You

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

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



Welcome to Our Newest Wild Ones Chapters!

Habitat Resource Network
in Southeastern Pennsylvania
Mid-Mitten in Central Michigan

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

North Park Chapter #27

Rick and Wilma McCallister
rich.mccallister@utstar.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
First Monday of month, 7 p.m. All meetings are
held at Gibson Woods Nature Center, 6201 Parrish
Ave., Hammond. See web site for details.

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
cmanfarm@mich.distance.net
Meeting dates and times vary. Please call for details.

Flint River Chapter #32

For information, contact Thomas Enright.
taenright@comcast.net
Toont Community College's Prah College Center
Genesee Room

Houghton-Hancock Chapter #60 (Seedling)

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

Kalamazoo Area Chapter #37

Tom Small 269-381-4946 yard2prairy@aol.com
Paul Olexia polexia@kzoo.edu
Fourth Wednesday of month, 7:30 p.m., Jan.-April
and Oct.-Nov., Christian Church, 2208 Winchell,
Kalamazoo

Mid-Mitten Chapter #80

Judy Packard 989-686-1231 jpwild1s@charter.net
Meeting dates and times vary, Chippewa Nature
Center, Midland

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 mritz@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
May 24, 6-7:30 p.m. Community Garden Work
Party Leif Erikson Park
June 15, Yard Tour

Otter Tail Chapter #25

Brad Ehlers 218-998-3590 frostbit@ptel.com
Fourth Monday, 7 p.m.
May 27, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Plant Sale
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

Mary Schommer 612-729-5274
rmschommer@hotmail.com
Meetings Third Thursday. See web site for details.
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 of Central New York #76

Janet Allen 315-487-5742
jkallen@twcny.rr.com
Fourth Sunday at 2 p.m., at a local library TBA.
"Show Me, Help Me" meetings at local gardens in
June, July, and August. See web site for details.

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.



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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 the Root River Area (WI) Chapter on Saturday, May 20, 2006, at the River Bend Nature Center, in Racine, Wisconsin.

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

4th Quarter 2006 National Board Meeting will be hosted by the Mid-Missouri (MO) Chapter at an office of the Missouri Conservation Depart-

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

Fourth Annual Wild Ones Photo Contest



The Wild Ones Annual Photo Contest will again be held in conjunction with the Wild Ones Annual Meeting and Conference. All photo entries

must be received by Monday, July 10, 2006, or delivered personally to the conference registration area by Friday, July 14, 2006. To see this year's guidelines and view past year's winning entries, go to www.for-wild.org/download/photocontest2006/photocontest.html.

For information on other native landscaping conferences, please see the Wild Ones web site at www.for-wild.org/chapter/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)

Columbus Chapter #4

Shelby Conrad 614-784-1992
 shelbyconrad@yahoo.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, tcrail@utnet.utoledo.edu
 University of Toledo's Stranahan Arboretum

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 of
 Southeast Pennsylvania Chapter #79**

Maureen Carbery 484-678-6200
 pahabitat@comcast.net
 Meetings, times, and locations vary.
 Please contact above or check web site for details.

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

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
 Activities May 6 and June 3.
 See web site for details.

Green Bay Chapter #10

Cindy Hermsen, 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 J. Yahr 608-274-6593
 yahrkahl@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

Milwaukee North Chapter #18

Message Center: 414-299-9888
 Meetings: Second Saturday of month, 9:30 a.m.
 at Brown Deer Park and Ride lot.

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@e-3.cc
 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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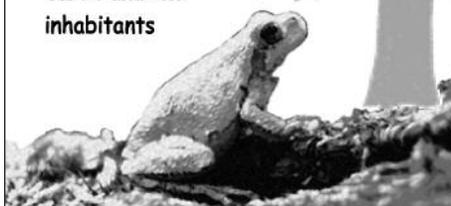
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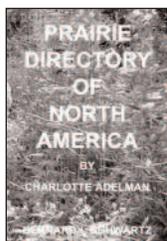
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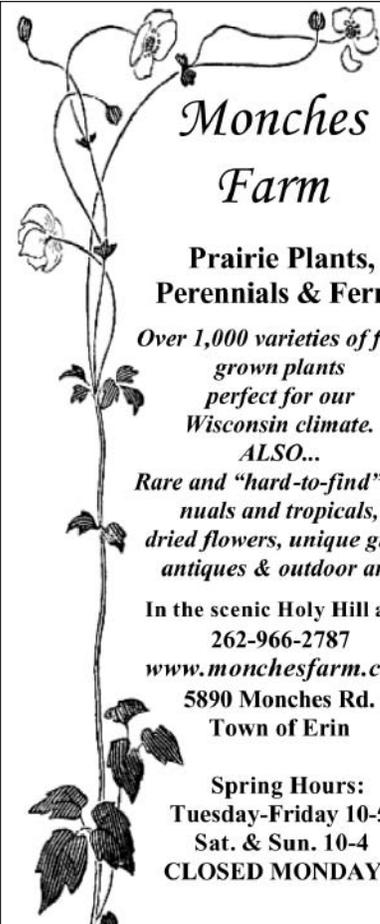
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Thank You!

Rock River Valley Chapter's Challenge Grant Building Excitement

It's really exciting that so many chapters have accepted our challenge. Our chapter will soon be writing a check for \$1,500 to help fund the sixth issue of the *Wild Ones Journal*. Our chapter has been fortunate in the last few years with constant growth and successful fund-raising events. Our board does not believe in letting the money sit in the bank, so we have been giving it away for worthy things.

We bought native plant books for local libraries, gave donations of plants for schools, and contributions to Seeds for Education. The "Journal Challenge" will be our biggest single contribution, but we strongly believe that we should give something back to National so that others will benefit from reading the *Journal*. It is an important publication that informs people about natural landscaping and promotes Wild Ones. Plus, National does not have the ability to raise extra money with plant sales and other fund-raising activities as the chapters can.

The following chapters have met our challenge:

North Park (IL) Chapter \$500
Gibson Woods (IN) Chapter \$50
Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter \$1,000
Arrowhead (MN) Chapter \$100
Otter Tail (MN) Chapter \$100
St. Cloud (MN) Chapter \$200
St. Louis (MO) Chapter \$250
Greater Cincinnati (OH) Chapter \$100
Western Reserve (OH) Chapter \$100
Door County (WI) Chapter \$100
Menomonee River Area (WI) Chapter \$300
Wolf River (WI) Chapter \$50
Totalling \$2,850. Only \$150 to go.

Matching Donations

Margo Hickman • Lake-To-Prairie (IL) Chapter
\$35 from **HSBC - North America**

Walt Obeheu • Kalamazoo Area (MI) Chapter
\$90 from **Pfizer Foundation**

Seeds for Education

John Dickson and **Mary Lannoye** • Madison (WI) Chapter

Judie Suit and **Darryl Wahler** • Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter

Marilyn C. Wyzga • Partner-at-Large (NH)

Chris Parker • Greater Cincinnati (OH) Chapter

Carolynn La Barbera • Lake-To-Prairie (IL) Chapter

General Operating Fund

Carolynn La Barbera • Lake-To-Prairie (IL) Chapter

Marsha & Richard Krueger • Milwaukee-North (WI) Chapter

Fast-Forward Communications Campaign 2005-2006

Our many thanks to all our wonderful members who have contributed so generously to our annual **Fast-Forward fund-raising campaign**.

Due to your thoughtfulness and dedication to the Wild Ones mission, we have added nearly \$9,000 to our balance sheet for updating and expanding our communication efforts through the web site, the *Wild Ones Journal*, and our other promotional materials. Thank you so much. We assure you we will put these funds to good use.

