a voice for the natural landscaping movement

Wild Ones
NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

JOURNAL
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2006
VOL. 19, NO. 5

inside

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

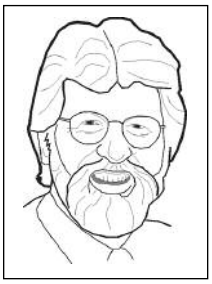
Fun at the Wild Ones Conference and Annual Meeting

Sincere thanks to our hosts, Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter.

Photos: **A.** Carolyn Finzer's naturally landscaped garden, one of the well-attended tours, is as exuberant and unrestrained as Carolyn herself. Carolyn, Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter, is a storyteller, and designs her own fairy and butterfly costumes. **B.** Wild Ones honorary national director, Darrell Morrison, partner-at-large from New York, was the keynote speaker after our dinner (Alaskan salmon in a dill sauce and filet mignon with sautéed fresh vegetables – not the usual conference fare). **C.** Pat and Chuck Armstrong's house and garden have become an institution in the area. Having designed and built the house themselves, they knew the structure could support the weight of a roof garden without any reinforcing structural modifications: the roof rafters were 2 x 12s to begin with. Pat and Vicki Nowicki were co-founders of the Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter, in 1992. **D.** Wild Ones national webmaster, Peter Chen, Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter, was a member of the conference-planning committee. **E.** Carol Andrews, our national vice-president, and president of Arrowhead (MN) Chapter, accepted the first prize in the Children's photos on behalf of her daughter, Geneva, who is 3-3/4 years old. **F.** Tim Lewis, Wild Ones national board member and president of Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter, on the far left, and Chris McCullough, president of the Greater Cincinnati (OH) Chapter, along with several other Wild Ones members at the Naperville Area Native Landscapes tour, just one of the many interesting field trips offered at this year's conference. Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter will be hosting the 4th quarter 2006 national board meeting, and Greater Cincinnati (OH) Chapter will host Wild Ones next year's annual meeting. See back page of this issue for early details on next year's conference.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Diversity in Everything: Including Landscaping Ideas



Recently I made a site visit to a client's house to talk about a house addition. The house is located in a rural development outside of Madison, Wisconsin. What was striking about driving up to and through the development was the profusion of native plants that were in bloom in the ditches and fields surrounding this upscale neighborhood. The contrast between the lavender monarda and the golden yellows of the gray-headed coneflowers and silphiums was spectacular! And the smell of a prairie in bloom under a hot sun is unforgettable. Add to that, the sound of the insects buzzing and the birds singing – my senses were overloaded.

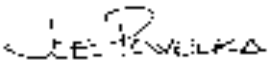
I pulled into my client's driveway and admired the huge stand of cup plants on the other side of a mowed yard. I commented to her on the joy in seeing the cup plants. She replied that she too enjoyed the show that the native areas of her yard were putting on and that she appreciated my compliments. She went on to tell me, however, that her son the landscaper was helping her to bring some control to her yard with more defined landscape settings. Her front yard had been entirely prairie when she moved in several years before, and the broad swath of mowed yard had been added.

What is important to note from this apparent dichotomy of "ideal landscape solutions" is that there is a diversity of opinion regarding what is desirable in our landscapes. Before I have some of you screaming about the right and wrong of what I described above, let me say that the contrast of the mowed grass in front of the mass of cup plants and associated native grasses really set off the beauty of the taller plants. The mowed area almost disappeared in the dazzlingly lush display of native vegetation, a display that might not have been as powerful without the clipped yard in front of it.

The contrast of the mowed grass in front of the mass of cup plants and associated native grasses really set off the beauty of the taller plants.

I have talked before about the purist and the eclectic approach to native landscaping. This yard was an excellent example of an eclectic triumph in a minimalist approach to defining control. This woman expressed concern about the "wild" appearance of the original yard. Her approach was not to eliminate the prairie altogether but rather to emphasize the beauty of the natives by adding an edge.

As Wild Ones, we need to be more accepting of the diversity of ideas about how natives are to be integrated into our landscapes – just as this woman is. ❊



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

Wild Ones Journal (ISSN 1551-9155) is published bimonthly by Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes.

WILD ONES JOURNAL EDITOR
Maryann Whitman • 248-652-4004
E-mail: journal@for-wild.org
(Please indicate topic in subject line.)

WILD ONES JOURNAL STAFF
Barbara Bray, Contributing Editor
Celia Larsen, Contributing Editor
Mandy Ploch, Contributing Editor

Writers & Artists

Don and Benia Zouras are members of the Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter.

John Arthur of the Twin Cities (MN) Chapter, **Tim Lewis** of the Rock River (IL) Chapter, **Peter Chen** and **Pat Armstrong** of the Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter, povided photos for the 2006 annual meeting/conference layout.

Barb Bray is the president of the Oakland (MI) Chapter and a contributing editor of the *Wild Ones Journal*.

John Klossner, who provided the cartoon on page 9, is a partner-at-large who lives in Maine.

Donna VanBuecken, Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter, serves as the chapter plant rescue coordinator.

Steven Moss is executive director of San Francisco Community Power, a locally based non-profit organization that works to improve environmental and economic conditions.

Janet Allen, president of the Habitat Gardening of Central New York (NY) Chapter, prepared the book review on page 19.

Andrew Williams is a fellow at the University of Wisconsin Department of Entomology.

Lucy Schumann, long-time Wild Ones member from Milwaukee-North (WI) Chapter, has been allowing us the use of her artistry since the Vol. 2, No. 2 issue of *The Outside Story* (Nov./Dec. 1989).

Janet Wissink, of the Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter, regularly provides graphics for the *Wild Ones Journal*.

With fall cleanup soon to be upon us, we should be very aware that…

A Native Planting Is More Than Just Plants

By Andrew Williams

If our goal is to conserve prairie biodiversity, we would do well to remember that prairie is a biotic community, not simply a plant community. Though we recognize a prairie most easily by its characteristic plant species, plants actually comprise a minority of the life forms present. In any prairie, there is much greater diversity of fauna than there is of flora.

I used to resent the weevils feeding on the aster seeds and the baptisia seeds I was collecting to further prairie conservation through restoration plantings. Now I realize that every prairie plant is a stage on which various, marvelous animal dramas take place every day. The presence of a plant species enriches a given prairie simply by being there, but it contributes far more to biodiversity by supporting a diverse array of animals.

In my research on the various fauna using a single prairie plant, marbleseed, *(Onosmodium molle)*, I found about 120 different species using this plant in different ways, and several that are utterly dependent on it. If you were to lose *O. molle* from your site, you would lose those specialist insects, too. This is not exceptional, but typical. The animals using *O. molle,* but not restricted to it, would also lose the resources they had found when *O. molle* was present.

As for the various fauna overwintering inside the stems or somehow using the stem for shelter, I found an average of 15 different species of arthropods using each of these plant species as a winter refuge. These animals included eggs or early instars, emerging in spring as immatures, and others that overwintered as larvae, pupae or adults, emerging as adults. These included herbivores, detritivores, predators, and many different parasitoids, tiny wasps that develop within the bodies of other insects. Most of these animals are very tiny in contrast to the charismatic megafauna that get most of the prairie conservationists' fond attention, gigantic creatures like the regal fritillary. Our knowledge of insects is many decades behind our knowledge of plants. For example, in three timely visits to your prairie remnant, I could produce a list of the plants growing there, a list that would include 95% of the flora at a minimum. This is one way in which I earn my living. But if I were to devote 10 years of my time, and arrange for help from dozens of insect taxonomists, specialists in various groups, I could not produce a list anywhere near as representative of the fauna on your prairie remnant.

Another example of our ignorance of prairie insects is that most of what we know about the insects that require prairie is based on the food-plant preferences of herbivores. Many insects are very particular about what plants they use as food. These herbivores are close to the base of the trophic pyramid. We know essentially nothing of the parasitoids high on the trophic pyramid, parasitoids which in some cases have a very narrow range of insect hosts.

I urge you to focus more closely on the little animals that contribute so much to making your prairie such a wild, beautiful and fascinating place. If you stand still in your prairie during daylight hours on a windless day, quietly scanning the stems and leaves and flowers nearby, you will usually see many different kinds of insects. Flowers of some plants are especially attractive to insects which may be pursuing nectar, pollen, or both, or they may be waiting among flowers for prey or for the insect host they will parasitize to assure their next generation. Goldenrods are remarkable in this way, but Virginia mountain-mint is the plant that attracts the most astonishing diversity of insects in my experience. This activity, sorting out various insects using flowers, is something children often enjoy. Perhaps, in this way, I've never grown up.

Go out on your prairie at night with a headlamp or flashlight. Most flies, bees, and wasps will no longer be flying, though you'll find them sleeping on leaves and flowers. The sounds of their wings will be gone, but other sounds characterize the night. Crickets and katydids dominate the night symphony in late summer, but there is a great diversity of small voices as well. Stand still and peer closely at the plants around you and you'll probably see many different insects. You'll see more spiders at night than during the day. Warm, humid, windless nights are best. For many insects and spiders, the threat of desiccation and overheating in the windy, hot daytime is very real. Many insects lie hidden in the prairie litter during the day, but come out to feed at night, so you'll see species you've not seen before. Some species only become active late at night, but many are spurred by hunger to forage shortly after dark. Mosquitoes may be out foraging, too. ❊

NATIVE SUBURBIA THE FIRST YEAR

By Don and Benia Zouras

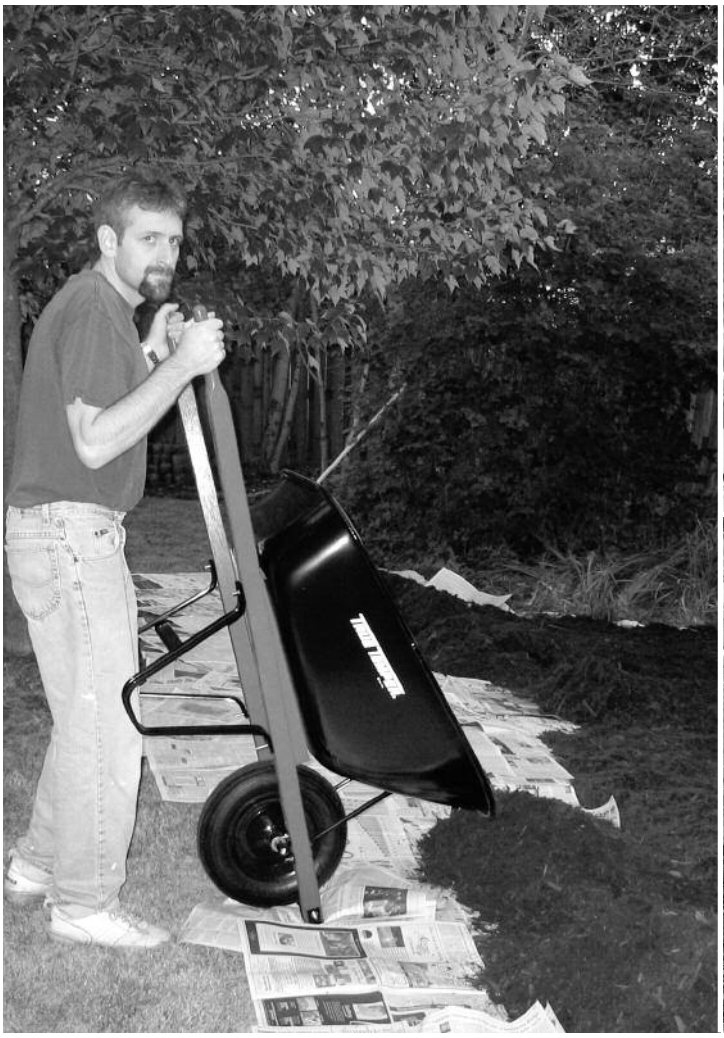
In early 2004 we moved to our current home in Bartlett, Illinois. Our dislike for cutting grass led us to search for lawn alternatives. During our research we realized the importance of water conservation, plant and wildlife preservation, and protection of the environment in general. Instead of manicured carpets of grass, we decided to take a different approach by transforming our little corner of land into what we fondly call "Native Suburbia."

We found our community's vague municipal landscape codes online. They are open to broad interpretation, but we wanted to believe that no one could object to a yard filled with wildflowers. We found several notable books. *Noah's Garden*, by Sara Stein, is a particularly enjoyable read, encouraging readers to garden with nature, not against it. The *Peterson Field Guide to Wildflowers* has been a very helpful resource for identifying plant species. *Plants of the Chicago Region*, by Swink and Wilhelm. came highly recommended, but as novices, the lack of a common plant name index or pictures was frustrating.

We spoke with the neighbors on either side of our house in advance, informing them of our intention to transform our landscape. We presented the project in terms of growing "wildflowers," which evokes pretty pictures in the minds of most people. The neighbors politely accepted our plans, with little interest in our long-term goals.

Ultimately, we will convert our entire yard to native landscaping, but we decided to take a phased approach, especially in the front yard, to minimize any possible negative reactions from the neighbors. We allowed some non-native border plants and shrubs to stay during this stage, but their days were numbered.

We assessed our options on how to kill the lawn. The most common method was the application of glyphosphate-based herbicides, such as Roundup. We rejected this method immediately on principle.



Photos, clockwise from left: 1. It took many trips with the wheelbarrow to move the hardwood mulch from the driveway onto the yard. The mulch further blocks the sunlight from the doomed grass. It will also decompose and form a rich, soft layer for the prairie seeds to sprout and take root. 2. The time had come to try our hand at seeding. The native seeds were fluffy, and tended to stick together. To facilitate uniform spreading, I mixed the seeds with fine, clean sand. 3. I spread the seed by hand. Based on what we had read, the use of mechanical spreaders is not recommended. This is not typical grass seed.

The neighbors politely accepted our plans, with little interest in our long-term goals.

Another popular suggestion was to "solarize" the grass by covering it in black or clear plastic, and letting the heat of the sun kill it. This approach did not appeal to us because of the amount of non-biodegradable plastic required. Some people remove lawn with sod cutters, but this method would remove valuable topsoil as well as create a disposal issue.

To kill our lawn, we decided on a method that basically amounted to composting the grass in place. We covered the grass with a biodegradable barrier of old newspapers and finely shredded hardwood mulch, which would rob it of the sunlight it requires for survival. We gathered all the free newspaper we needed from the neighborhood recycling bins on "trash days." We aimed to use only the black-and-white pages, avoiding the colored inks, which may contain heavy metals.

After considering the many types of mulch on the market, we chose triple-shredded, hardwood mulch that's been composted at least six months and is free of herbicides, fungicides, and artificial colors. It's natural, looks like soil, and decomposes quickly. After contacting several providers, we decided to buy from nearby Prestige Nursery, in West Chicago, Illinois. Their dump truck delivered a mountain of mulch onto our driveway, as we instructed. By early August, 2004, all the materials were gathered, and it was time to get to work.

To kill our lawn, we decided on a method that basically amounted to composting the grass in place.

One last mowing of the lawn at the lowest setting weakened the grass and made it less likely to survive the smothering. We spent as much time as we could over the next two weeks, working on one manageable section at a time. The process started with laying down about four to eight sheets of newspaper over the grass. Immediately moistening the paper with a garden hose prevented it from blowing away and also helped to begin the composting process. Mulch was then spread over the newspaper to a depth of 2 to 3 inches.

It took many trips with a wheelbarrow to move the mulch from the driveway to each section. This was definitely a labor-intensive approach, but in the end, our yard was covered with a dark brown chemical-free blanket that looked like fresh soil.

Before doing any planting, we laid out a stone path in our back yard. We imagined a day when we would stroll among tall grasses and wildflowers, enjoying the fruits of our labor. We chose natural flagstone, which we moved a few pieces at a time in our sturdy wheelbarrow. Boy, is that stuff heavy! The path seemed to design itself, as we casually placed the stones around the yard. Once we had traced out the basic route, we filled in with smaller stones and settled them all into the mulch.

Now all Native Suburbia needed was native plants. For economy we started with seeds, rather than live plants. We purchased our native seed mixes from The Natural Garden, in nearby St. Charles, Illinois. We learned that seed from locally grown plants is best, because it has a better chance of thriving in a soil and climate for which it is genetically prepared. Sun exposure and soil type need to be considered when choosing which plants to grow. Typical for this area, our soil consists of a thin topsoil layer with solid clay underneath – but it is fairly well drained. Our collection of trees and shrubs provides us with a mix of sunny and shady patches. We decided that the "Savanna Part Shade Seed Mix," and "Prairie Full Sun Seed Mix" would represent an appropriate variety of native forbs and grasses for this environment. Based on estimated coverage per ounce of seed, we bought one "savanna" and two "prairie" mixes.

We seeded in late November. Planting in autumn is important because it allows the native seeds to follow their natural cycles. It also reduces the number of birds that might snack on our expensive seeds. These seeds are not your typical lawn mixture, so the use of mechanical seed spreaders is not recommended. Our seeds were fluffy and tended to stick together. In order to facilitate more uniform spreading, we mixed the seed with fine sand and spread it by hand, scattering it directly onto the mulch. We then roughed the mulch up a little with a leaf rake to help the seed settle in.

NATIVE SUBURBIA

Now all the pieces were in place. The grass was gone, and the seeds were planted. We waited through the long winter months to see where the next steps on this journey would take us. ❊

To be continued next issue.

Wild Ones Photo Contest Winners
The Wow of the Conference

By Tim Lewis, Photo Contest Chair

Our annual photo contest was held at the national conference held in Naperville, Illinois. The contest continues to grow and draw excellent photos taken by our members. Thank you to all who entered the 32 photos. Photos were entered in all seven categories, with the youngest entrant being 3-3/4 years old, and the oldest entrant was – well, we will not say.

One of the goals of the contest is to encourage members to go out and appreciate natural landscapes through the lens of a camera. Another goal is to be able to use some of the entries for Wild Ones literature and presentations. This year's collection certainly fulfills these objectives.

The photos were judged by Dr. Michael Jeffords, who is a Senior Professional Scientist at the Illinois Natural History Survey and Associate Professor at the University of Illinois. He is an entomologist, freelance photographer, writer, and educator. First, second, and third prizes were given in each category, as appropriate. Dr. Jeffords wrote helpful comments on the entry forms of the winners. During the conference, attendees voted for their favorite photo. The photo display made a nice addition to the conference.

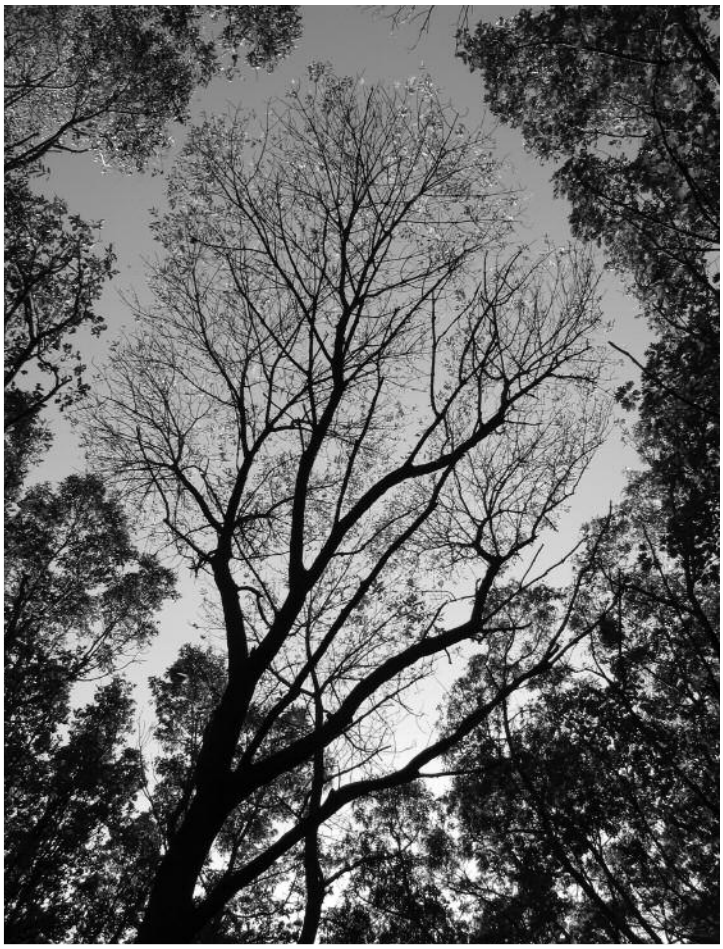
The most popular categories were Flora and Pollinators, Insects or Bugs. Three of the categories; Landscaping, Child or Children, and Kid's Photos, had only one entry each. This suggests that you might consider entering in these latter categories for a chance to win an award.

Now that this year's contest is over, it does not mean you should forget about next year's contest. Pick up your camera, go outside, and take pictures. While you are at it, take kids with you and have them explore with a camera. The Wild Ones web site, www.for-wild.org, has this year's rules and tips for taking photos. The rules may change a little, but pay particular attention to the tips for getting good photos.

I would like to thank the rest of the committee which consisted of Donna VanBuecken and Carol Andrews for their help. A big thank you also goes to the Greater DuPage Chapter conference committee who provided the space for judging and display at their conference. Of course, thanks to Dr. Jeffords for an excellent job of judging. ❊

See full list of 2006 contest winners on page 13.

Don't forget that our Wild Ones Bookstore (in association with Amazon.com) is filled with tons of books and equipment that will improve your photo-taking abilities before next year's contest. And almost anything you buy results in a percentage paid back to Wild Ones. www.geostar.com/wobookstore/.



Photos, pages 6 and 7, clockwise from top left: First Place in Pollinators, Insects, or Bugs and People's Choice Award: John Arthur, for "Dance of the Jewelwings." First Place in Flora: Tim Lewis, for "*Trillium flexipes* (Declined Trillium)." Third Place in Scenery: Jonathan B. Vanderbrug, for "Space Enough." Second Place in Scenery: Robert Miller, for "River of Trillium."

THE NEXT GENERATION

Five, Six, Pick Up Sticks

By Barbara Bray

A few years ago, two neighborhood boys came to my door asking if they could pick up sticks in my back yard to earn money. I agreed and let them use my wheelbarrow. After they had filled the wheelbarrow, they wanted to get rid of the sticks. Imagine their surprise when I told them I wanted the sticks for my new woodland garden area. They stared at me in utter disbelief, but I explained that the sticks were like a treasure from Mother Nature and not something to be thrown away.

Sticks are not unfamiliar to us. In fact, we are surrounded by sticks as my children happily point out – chopsticks, carrot sticks, pick up sticks, pretzel sticks, glue sticks, hockey sticks – just to name a few! But these are the "sticks" of civilization – perhaps a reminder of our earlier connections to the natural world. Think back to your childhood and the rhyme: "One, two, buckle your shoe. Three, four, shut the door. Five, six, pick up sticks. Seven, eight, lay them straight. Nine, ten, a good fat hen…" This rhyme seems to beckon children to leave the house and go outside, maybe to do chores or maybe to play, but good advice either way. Sticks are perfectly sized for children to handle, plus they are full of interesting things like beetle- larvae tunnels and millipedes.

We are surrounded by sticks: chopsticks, carrot sticks, pick up sticks, pretzel sticks, glue sticks, and hockey sticks, just to name a few.

Plain old sticks have an almost limitless number of applications. I use large sticks to mark planting areas and smaller sticks to discourage nibbling critters such as rabbits and deer. Kids, however, will take these same sticks and use them in a hundred different ways. Sticks piled across a small stream become bridges to cross or dams to hold back water. Small sticks float downstream as boats and rafts. On land, sticks become the building materials for small shelters, pretend campfires, and even "hidden traps" (a hole covered with sticks). Sticks are also balance beams to walk on, walking sticks to hike with, and tools to write with in the dirt. Sticks can be piled, sorted, collected, colored, painted, and glued. Not bad for something that is absolutely free.

But do sticks offer even more? Might they not be a back door route to learning about nature? Let me illustrate with another story that took place last year. My son Ben went outside one day, picked up a stick, and started swinging it back and forth in an overgrown corner of our yard. I eventually discovered that he was fighting an enemy – Canada thistle. Canada thistle? Yes, at 10 years old, Ben has started battling an invasive plant in our yard with a stick! This is such fun that he even recruits his friends to go outside with him to "whack the weeds." While a few innocent plants probably have suffered a whacking or two, something unexpected has resulted from this experience.

In the process of looking for thistles to cut down, the kids have unintentionally learned to identify other plants such as goldenrods, raspberries, and cottonwood seedlings. They also are learning about native and non-native plants and successional plant communities. Best of all, these lessons come naturally and in the form of play, which is much better than me giving a lecture. Invite your children to play with sticks too, and watch what happens. ❊

Marty Rice First to Complete Ecoscaper Level I Certification

Wild Ones is pleased to announce that we have awarded our first certificate of completion for Ecoscaper Level I to Marty Rice of the Twin Cities (MN) Chapter. Marty received her certificate at the 2006 annual meeting. Congratulations, Marty. Good job!

Marty's comments: "When you hear various figures on how much water the typical residential yard uses, how much gas is used, and pollution is created when cutting the typical lawn, and how much herbiciding and pesticiding the average yard gets, topped off by the urban sprawl so many communities are now seeing, it becomes increasingly apparent that it's a wise choice to find an alternative to the typical green-grass yard. Thoughts of paving or artificial turf make native landscaping the only reasonable route to take.

"But how to get there? It seems a big step for many of us, myself included, to visualize what a partially or totally native yard would look like in a residential setting. And how does one approach it and figure out the many other questions that are likely to arise? I think the Ecoscaper program provides some good direction and inspiration in these areas, especially for those of us with little to no formal background in landscaping, ecology, or related fields. And maybe we can be of help to others as they begin their trip down that lovely 'go native' route." ❊

Wild Ones Business Members

Wild Ones
Native Plants, Natural Landscapes

Business Member
Toward Harmony with Nature

Renewing Wild Business Members

Barr Engineering
4700 West 77th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55435-4803
(800) 632-2277
candrews@barr.com
www.barr.com
Barr also has branch offices in Ann Arbor, MI; Jefferson City, MO; and Hibbing, MN.
Arrowhead (MN) Chapter

EnergyScapes Inc.
3754 Pleasant Ave. S
Garden Level
Minneapolis, MN 55409-1227
(612) 821-9797
douglas@energyscapes.com
www.energyscapes.com
Twin Cities Chapter

ONE Plus Inc.
113 West Main Street
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-2905
(608) 837-8022
jpowelka@chorus.net
Madison Chapter

Prairie Moon Nursery
31837 Bur Oak Lane
Winona MN 55987-4291
(866) 417-8156
info@prairiemoon.com
www.prairiemoonnursery.com
Partner-at-Large

Renewing Wilder Business Member

John Jay Landscape Development
282 Katonah Ave #268
Katonah NY 10536-2110
(914) 232-0399
johnjay@landdesign.net
www.landdesign.net
Partner-at-Large

Wild Ones recommends that you patronize businesses that support our policies regarding species provenance and habitat preservation. This listing does not constitute an endorsement by Wild Ones of any organization or product.

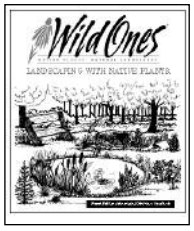
Great Stuff At The Wild Ones Store

Roots T-Shirt
The roots of native prairie plants grow deep. Get the message out and look great at the same time in one of these 100% cotton t-shirts. Various colors and styles. Short-sleeve and long. **$20** to **$22**

Bucket Hats and Wild Caps
Look cool. Be cool. Wear a Wild Ones cap or bucket hat wherever you go. This fine quality headgear keeps you "a head of the crowd." Both hats in khaki with Wild Ones logo in Wild Ones Green and Purple flower on front. 100% pigment-dyed cotton twill. One size fits all. Bucket hat **$21**
Cap **$19**

Wild Ones Yard Sign
This enameled, weather-proof sign not only looks great, but also lets everyone know that your yard is in harmony with nature. **$29**

Landscaping with Native Plants



Newly revised to include a wider variety of native landscaping eco-regions, this comprehensive guidebook continues the tradition of "how to" information, along with Wild Ones history and everything you'll need to know about being a member of Wild Ones. **$10**

Easy Ordering Online
For more information, contact the National Office at 877-394-9453 or e-mail to info@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 online payments, Wild Ones uses the convenient PayPal online payment system. *Order online at www.for-wild.org/store/.*

Grapevine By Maryann Whitman

Invasive and destructive gypsy moths fall prey to a "fungus among us." Homeowners begin to realize that their lawns really do suck (too much water). And does NASA still go where no one has gone before?

Surprise, surprise

When populations of gypsy moths reach outbreak proportions, the caterpillars can completely defoliate host trees over a wide geographic area. Consistent or repeated defoliation over several years can have devastating effects, often leading to tree stress and death.

Gypsy moths have a wide host-range, which includes oak *(Quercus sp.)*, crabapple *(Malus sp.)*, linden *(Tilia sp.)*, poplar *(Populus sp.)*, beech *(Fagus sp.)*, willow *(Salix sp.)*, birch *(Betula sp.)*, sweetgum *(Liquidambar styraciflua)*, serviceberry *(Amelanchier sp.)*, and hawthorn *(Crataegus sp.)*. Trees less-susceptible to attack by gypsy moth are ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*, sycamore *(Platanus sp.)*, indian bean *(Catalpa sp.)*, honeylocust *(Gleditsia sp.)*, dogwood *(Cornus sp.)*, junipers *(Juniperus sp.)*, yew *(Taxus sp.)*, lilac *(Syringa sp.)*, arborvitae *(Thuja sp.)*, arrowwood *(Viburnum sp.)*, and tulip tree *(Liriodendron tulipifera)*.

Conifers are more susceptible to death than deciduous trees because they don't produce another flush of growth once defoliated. Conifers, such as pine *(Pinus sp.)* and spruce *(Picea sp.)*, are unable to produce new leaves (needles) after defoliation as compared to deciduous trees. As a result, conifers can die after one severe defoliation.

The ecological and economic impact of gypsy moth is a serious concern. Gypsy moth defoliation can change the complexity of understory growth thus resulting in an increase or decrease of certain fauna or flora. Defoliation may predispose trees to attack by opportunistic insects or diseases. For example, Gypsy moth feeding can increase a tree's susceptibility to the attack by the shoestring fungus, *Armillariella mellea* and the two-lined chestnut borer, *Agrilus bilineatus*.

While major damage has tended to occur in the Northeast and Upper Midwest, gypsy moths are caught in pheromone traps across the country. This indicates that they are continually present at low levels in scattered locations across the United States.

Native to Asia and Europe, gypsy moths were accidentally introduced into the Boston area in 1868 or 1869, (the fellow thought they might help him make his fortune in the silk industry – but that's another story). Apparently they were causing enough damage in the New England States for desperate measures to be taken in 1910 and 1911 – a fungus *(Entomophaga maimaiga)*, known to affect only Japanese gypsy moths was introduced in Massachusetts. And then the fungus disappeared.

New information out of Cornell University, Department of Entomology confirms that the fungus is still alive and well. It surfaced again in 1989, when gypsy moth larvae were found dying and dropping out of the trees.

The fungus has had a century of opportunity, but does not seem to infect any other *Lepidoptera*. Now it's just a matter of figuring out how to harvest, reproduce and spread the fungus in the infested areas.

Lawn Gone: Homeowners rethink their water-sucking lawns

A "delawning" movement is sprouting up around the United States, as a handful of homeowners switch from resource-intensive grassy green expanses to drought-tolerant, native, and/or edible gardens. "It's about shifting ideas of what's beautiful," says Fritz Haeg, a Los Angeles architect whose Edible Estates project transforms front yards into fruit and vegetable gardens. A new report from the Public Policy Institute of California provides more fodder for the anti-lawn set. It asserts that thirsty home landscaping will suck up a troubling amount of water in the state over the next 25 years if the love affair with lawns continues. California is expected to add 11 million new residents by 2030, with at least 50% settling in hotter inland regions where single-family homes with lawns are common, according to the report. Some neighbors, however, don't appreciate creative gardening. "What happens in the backyard is their business," said one man who lives near a yard now being used to grow 195 various edibles. "But this doesn't seem to me to be a front yard kind of a deal."

NASA Lapso: NASA deletes planet-protecting phrasing from mission statement

The phrase "to understand and protect our home planet" was quietly deleted from NASA's mission statement in February. The agency's mission now is "to pioneer the future in space exploration, scientific discovery, and aeronautics research." NASA's 19,000 employees were neither consulted nor informed ahead of time of the deletion. The planet-protection phrase had been added to the mission statement in 2002. Scientists say it shaped research priorities, and the deletion will reduce incentive for research on phenomena like – oh, to pick one at random – climate change. ❊

"Lawn Gone" and "NASA Lapso" reprinted by permission from *Grist Magazine* (www.grist.org). For more environmental news and humor, sign up for Grist's free e-mail service, www.grist.org/signup.

This deep-rooted, carbon-storing perennial has great potential for biofuel production.

A joint feasibility study by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Energy says that relief from soaring prices at the gas pump could come in the form of plants like the native prairie grass called switchgrass *(Panicum virgatum)*.

Plant-based biofuels, such as ethanol, significantly reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases compared to petroleum-based fuels. The plants grown for biofuels also store carbon in soil, which acts to mitigate the effects of industrial greenhouse gas emissions.

Switchgrass has one of the highest potentials for use as a biofuel crop in the United States, mainly because it grows well under a wide range of conditions.

It's a perennial, so after establishment, it doesn't require annual tillage. This increases soil carbon at the surface, and reduces losses of soil, water, and fertilizer. It also provides excellent habitat for pheasants, ducks, and other wildlife.

Switchgrass is high-yielding over much of the country – from 7 to 16 tons an acre in the Southeast, to 5 to 6 tons in the western Corn Belt, to 1 to 4 tons in North Dakota. Each ton of dry switchgrass might yield as much as 96 gallons of ethanol.

Switchgrass has high potential for use as a biofuel.

Switchgrass could be economical with other crops, especially in the Northern Plains, and reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil. It could also have the added advantage of helping to build a bioenergy industry in remote areas, thereby boosting rural economies.

This native perennial has been shown to store more soil carbon than the major U.S. farm crops. A study by soil scientist Mark Liebig, rangeland scientist Holly Johnson, and colleagues at the ARS Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory in Mandan, North Dakota, explained how.

They found that switchgrass stores most of its carbon deep underground. While previous studies only measured carbon retained in the top foot of soil, Liebig and Johnson sampled 4 feet beneath fields of switchgrass, corn, and wheat on 42 farms in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota.

The researchers found that switchgrass fields had much more soil carbon than nearby corn and wheat fields – about 7 tons more per acre, on average. This was true at all depths, but the advantage was most pronounced at 1 to 3 feet below the soil surface. And according to Liebig, "The deeper you store carbon, the less chance of its returning to the atmosphere as carbon dioxide."

Seedheads of switchgrass, a native grass that could become an important source of biofuel. Photo by Lynn Betts, United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The reason for this depth advantage lies in the fact that switchgrass has an extensive root system – with some roots as long as 8 feet – so much of the plant's carbon is in its roots and the below-ground crown tissue just above them. *[Editor's note: One would almost think they had discovered something.]*

"The sites we studied are representative of about 74 million acres of the Northern Plains and northern Corn Belt," Liebig says. "Next, we need to conduct similar studies in other regions to better understand the quantity and depth distribution of carbon stored by switchgrass and see whether this deep carbon storage holds true elsewhere." There are plans to evaluate switchgrass at the Henry A. Wallace Beltsville (Maryland) Agricultural Research Center. ❊

Reprinted from July, 2006, issue of *Agricultural Research* magazine which is published by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Switchgrass Facts

• Switchgrass is great at capturing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and trapping it underground in its 12-15-foot-deep roots, thus acting against the gas which is produced by burning fossil fuels and which many scientists say is the main reason for global warming. Because it is a perennial it requires no tilling and breaking of the soil.

• Switchgrass can grow to more than 12 feet in height with stems as thick and sturdy as pencils.

• Researchers at Michigan State University are experimenting with converting harvested switchgrass into a form that can be used to generate heat and electricity.

• Brazil has weaned itself off foreign oil over the past 30 years by producing fuel from sugarcane – its gasoline is required to contain 25% ethanol. Similar standards are in place in Thailand and the Philippines. Currently sugarcane can only be grown in southern states of the United States.

• Cellulosic ethanol wins the support of environmental groups for its clean-burning qualities. Fuel grade ethanol is about 99% pure alcohol. Ethanol contains a high percentage (35%) of oxygen that encourages a hotter, more complete combustion thereby reducing harmful emissions.

• Most U.S. ethanol efforts to date have focused on corn, a crop that experts say falls short of sugarcane's qualities because of the energy needed to grow it – in the form of fertilizer and cultivation – and its lower efficiency rating. These ratings rank how much energy is contained in a fuel product relative to the units of fossil fuel used in its production. Ordinary gasoline has a 0.8 fossil energy balance rating; ethanol from corn, 1.5; ethanol from sugar cane, 8; and the emerging category of cellulosic ethanol, such as that from switchgrass, a range from 10 to 36, based on current experiments.

• Canadian firms are likely to be in production in three to five years. During an interview, Andy Kydes, a forecaster at U.S. Energy Information Administration, stated that they believe cellulose ethanol is still too expensive to compete in the market place with corn ethanol and gasoline. The U.S. federal government is looking at 2012 [mentioned by President Bush in a recent speech] for commercially available switchgrass ethanol.

To express your views to your congressman, go to: www.phonebook.doe.gov/hqmail.html or www.ci.doe.gov/cias2.htm.

Native grasses planted on highly erodible land in Clarke County, Iowa, offer wildlife habitat, improved water quality, and protection against soil erosion. Photo by Lynn Betts, United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Chapter Notes

Several chapters have sent out membership surveys this year. The **Louisville (KY) Chapter** has as their leading activity choices: seeing what members are doing in their yards/landscapes and the speaker/educational programs.

Many chapters are also involved with projects, which include developing outdoor native garden displays. The **Flint River (MI) Chapter** recently received a grant from Keep Genesee County Beautiful to install two native plant rain gardens at the Flushing Township Hall. They had two separate teams working on the two gardens.

Plant sales again were a huge success this year. Nan Calvert, president of the **Root River (WI) Chapter** recently wrote: "Thanks for the recent two e-mails regarding inquiries after our unbelievably successful plant sale. We opened the doors at 9 a.m. By 9:15 all the woodland plants were gone, and by about noon, most of the remainder were also gone. People were lined up in their cars about 1 mile north of the nature center. It was nuts! By the end of the day, I thought I would pass out if I heard my name one more time. My husband had to direct traffic! We got 13 new memberships – about half as a result of buying over $100 worth of plants, and the others just because they wanted to join. Perhaps more will come…"

And some hopeful news from **Central Wisconsin (WI) Chapter**. Dan Dieterich, chapter president, wrote: "The big change at the MREA Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Fair this year was in tone. People were upbeat because they could see that the national attitude toward renewables was undergoing a major change. I don't know whether the attendance numbers were up or not, but our members fully staffed our Wild Ones booth from beginning to end of the fair. For all I know, renewable energy professionals may be so busy now, that attendance may actually have declined. Our home was again on the MREA's Solar Homes Tour, and we had many more people visit our house this year than last. All this means good things for renewable energy and sustainable living." *(Executive director's note: This year's attendance was 18,600 or so. Last year's attendance was reported to be 16,000.)*

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.

Wild Ones ECOSCAPER Check It Out!

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.

Plant Rescues: Do It Right

By Donna VanBuecken, Wild Ones Executive Director and Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter Plant Rescue Coordinator

I recently received an e-mail from a member letting me know that they were not renewing their membership because they were upset with Wild Ones, because trespassers and thieves of native plants on the property they managed for a local conservancy had claimed they were Wild Ones members. I responded with an e-mail assuring them Wild Ones members would not trespass on another's property, nor would they remove plants that were obviously in no danger. I further asked if they had confirmed the thieves were Wild Ones members by asking for their membership identification card. The person who sent the e-mail did not reply to my response. Nevertheless, I thought this would be a good time to reprint the Wild Ones Code of Plant Rescue Ethics.

Please do not remove plants from any site that are not in danger. And, above all else, do not remove any plants even though they are in danger, without the owners' permission.

For more information about proper procedures related to plant rescues, go to www.for-wild.org/download/plantrescue/plantrescue.html.

Wild Ones Plant Collection Code of Ethics

• I will respect both private and public property and will do no collection on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

• I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

• I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

• I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind – fences, signs, buildings, etc.

• I will leave all gates as found.

• I will discard no burning material – matches, cigarettes, etc.

• I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock or people.

• I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

• I will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

• I will cooperate with plant rescue leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

• I will report to Wild Ones officers any plants on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

• I will observe the Golden Rule, will use good outdoor manners, and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of Wild Ones members everywhere.

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

2006 Contest Winners
Prizes and ribbons were awarded to the winners during the conference banquet. Prizes consisted of books, t-shirts, and mugs.

Photos were judged on: technical merit (composition, sharpness, exposure, color), appropriateness to category, and presentation (mounting neatness).

Flora
1st Tim Lewis for "*Trillium flexipes* (Declined Trillium)"
2nd Barbara Gore for "Showy Lady's Slipper *(Cypridedium reginae)*"
3rd Susan Kirt for "Frosted Black-Eyed Susan"

Scenery
1st Denise Sandoval for "Prairie Kaleidoscope"
2nd Robert Miller for "River of Trillium"
3rd Jonathan B. Vanderbrug for "Space Enough"

Pollinators, Insects or Bugs
1st John Arthur for "Dance of the Jewelwings"
2nd Mary Kuller for "Glover's Silk Moth"
3rd Ann Thering for "Banded Hairstreak"

Child or Children
1st Carol Andrews for "My Watering Helper in the Wild"

Landscaping
1st Hans Evers and Ann Wallace for "Prairie Christmas"

Wild Ones Activities
1st Carol Andrews for "Digging in Hartley Nature Center"
2nd Tim Lewis for "Rain Garden Tour in Maplewood, Minnesota"
3rd Donna VanBuecken for "Board Meeting Tour"

Kid's Photos
1st Geneva Schaub for "Canada Anemone"

People's Choice Award
John Arthur for "Dance of the Jewelwings"

For more information about our photo contest and to see other winners, go towww.for-wild.org/conference/2006/photo/.

Wild Ones Library

Recently added to the Wild Ones Library: **Native Plants in the Home Landscape – for the Upper Midwest**, by Keith Gerard Nowakowski, donated by the Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter. To borrow this book, e-mail library@for-wild.org, or contact the National Office.

Just a reminder: If you have articles, books, or even posters that you think would be of interest to others, and would like to make them available through our Wild Ones library, please don't hesitate to send them to the National Office.

Urban Land Trusts: A Commentary

By Steven J. Moss, San Francisco Community Power

Millions of dollars are spent internationally each year to buy and protect wilderness areas. Large swaths of old-growth redwood forests in the Pacific Northwest, rain forests in South America, even swamp lands in the southern United States have been purchased by government agencies and private trusts. Yet hardly a dime is tossed toward systematically reclaiming urban ecosystems. With a majority of the world's population soon to live in cities, it's time to focus on recreating sustainable wilderness areas in our own back yards.

Urban green spaces have traditionally consisted of vacant lots, "pocket parks," and, in some cases, larger expanses of what might be called artificial-natural recreational areas – Central Park in New York, Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, and Rock Creek Park in the District of Columbia. In some cases these citified wilderness areas provide important habitat to native and imported species, ranging from frogs and birds to even coyotes and mountain lions.

But, by and large, even the largest urban parks can hardly be considered thoughtful expressions of ecosystem preservation. They tend to be too small to suitably house migratory, or even "walk about," species, and hyper-focus on activities inside their boundaries, ignoring what happens to a plant or animal once it leaves the park.

There are emerging exceptions, in which significant care is being taken to reclaim land to close to its natural state. In San Francisco, Crissy Field, which for decades was the site of an abandoned and decaying military outpost, recently was transformed back into wetlands. The nearby Presidio, another former military installation, likewise is being slowly altered to be more hospitable to native plants and animals. But even in these cases while significant public and private sector dollars have been invested into restoration efforts, almost no attention has been paid to an issue central to true wilderness preservation – whether the protected area is large enough to provide a home to naturally free range species.

In the absence of thoughtful human intervention, urban animals have found their own way to roam. Relying on an unintentional patchwork of back yards, vacant lots, street medians, and other green spaces, raccoons, coyotes, quail, and snakes find ways to travel through cities in search of food, shelter, and mates. But they risk being squashed by cars, eaten by cats, and poisoned by household chemicals. Less hardy species don't have a chance.

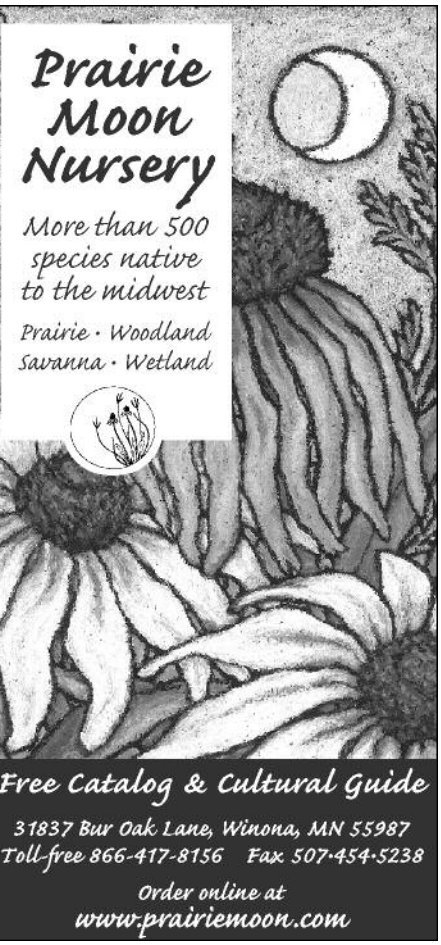
The way to solve this problem is to start treating urban areas as potential wilderness, map out land-purchase or protection strategies, and begin making the right investments. Thousands of creeks are hidden beneath city streets and back yards, waiting to be rediscovered, as are historical migration pathways for birds, mammals, reptiles, and insects. Rather than slapping up sterile pocket parks or requiring deeper lawn-planted setbacks on new developments, networks of green spaces could be formed in a way that creates thriving, integrated, regional wildness areas.

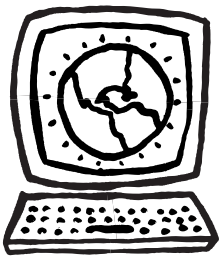
My own San Francisco back yard, located in one of the least green areas of the city, is adjacent to six other backyards which, if thoughtfully directed, could form the basis for a sustainable chain of green areas through the region. Rather than just rats and spiders – as well as more exotic creatures – my small property could serve as an integrated habitat for a host of plants and animals.

Adjacent back yards which, if thoughtfully directed, could form the basis for a sustainable chain of green areas.

While undertaking this strategy may be expensive – urban land is typically more costly to buy or "encumber" than remote wilderness areas – substantial existing resources could be leveraged on its behalf. For example, rather than charging case-specific "mitigation fees" for new construction, or requiring site-specific set-asides, new developments could be assessed a municipal wildness reclamation fee. A nascent effort to develop such a system is currently emerging in San Francisco's Dogpatch neighborhood, where large swaths of formerly industrial land are being hungrily eyed by developers.

More than a century ago forward-thinking civic leaders set aside valuable land in rapidly growing cities to create now essential green spaces. It's impossible to think about Manhattan without Central Park, or San Francisco without Golden Gate Park. It's now time for a similar vision to transform the uncompleted business of greening our cities into a thoughtful expression of our deep need for wilderness. After all, while several thousand people may visit the Headwaters Forest in Northern California each year – protected at a cost upward of a billion dollars – millions of people would visit an integrated and sustainable ecosystem in Chicago, Rio, or Delhi. That's worth paying for. ❊





FOR-WILD.ORG

What's new on the Wild Ones web site? Several things:

If you haven't been to the **Wild Ones Bookstore** yet, you should check it out soon. Go to www.geostar.com/wobookstore/ and take a look. Remember that if you enter Amazon.com through our web site, Wild Ones receives a referral fee for almost any items purchased.

The "**Die Buckthorn Scum**" t-shirt was a big hit at the 2006 Wild Ones Annual Meeting/Conference, so we only have a couple sizes left including children's sizes. So if you want to purchase one of these special edition shirts, don't hesitate one day longer.

Also, the new **classified ad web page**, which features natural landscaping items available for sale by our members, currently lists a native-landscaped home in Ballwin, Missouri, owned by Nathan Pate and Janet Kennedy of the St. Louis (MO) Chapter, and one in Elgin, Illinois, owned by Marianne Nelson. Go to www.for-wild.org/members/classified/real/060601.html.

Having difficulty with the **weed police** in your municipality? Go to www.for-wild.org/weedlaws/weedlaw.html for lots of different types of information which may be of help to you in your debate.

Lastly, the **U.S. Forest Service** has recognized us with several prominent references on their new web site. Go to www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/nativegardening/ and then click on "Wildflower Ethics," which brings you to www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/nativegardening/genetics.shtml, and then go to the bottom of the page www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/nativegardening/ and click on the first link under "Resources and Links" www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/nativegardening/index.shtml.

Seeds for Education

Most Wild Ones members know **Lorrie Otto** as the godmother of the native landscaping movement, and for that reason we continue to honor Lorrie on her birthday with a request for donations to her favorite program, **Seeds for Education (SFE)**. This will be Lorrie's 87th birthday. Please plan to send your cards and donations before September 6th, and we'll be sure to get them to her in time for her birthday.

To make an online contribution to SFE, go to www.for-wild.org/download/bd/lorriebirthday.html, or send your personal card to: Wild Ones Lorrie Otto's Birthday, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, Wisconsin 54912-1274.

For those of you who aren't familiar with Lorrie's contributions to the environment, go to www.for-wild.org/people/otto.html, or for more information about the SFE go to www.for-wild.org/seededuc.html.❊

Seeds for Education Grant Program

November 15th is the deadline for getting Seeds for Education Grant Applications in to the Wild Ones National Office. If you know of a school, church, or other public not-for-profit facility that is developing an outdoor learning center, please make them aware of the Wild Ones SFE grant program, and encourage them to apply for a grant. For more information about the grant application process go to www.for-wild.org/seedmony.html, or call the National Office for a copy of the grant application. ❊

Happy Birthday, Lorrie!

Last year we established a Seeds for Education fundraising initiative in honor of Lorrie Otto's birthday. Her birthday is in September, and she will be 87. Please send your gifts by September 5th so we can get your cards and letters to Lorrie in time for her birthday. You can download a special birthday card for Lorrie at www.for-wild.org/download/bd/lorriebirthday.html.

Wild Ones Lifetime Memberships Now Available

Wild Ones is pleased to announce that we have two lifetime memberships within our midst. **Bret & Jina Rappaport** of the Lake-to-Prairie (IL) Chapter, and **Kay MacNeil** of the Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter. Thank you for your gracious support.

As you are probably aware, the Wild Ones board – after having deliberated for several years about the pros and cons– finally initiated a lifetime-membership level this year. So what does that mean to Wild Ones and to its members?

What is a lifetime membership? Payment of the dues for a lifetime membership means the Wild Ones member household will no longer get annual dues renewal reminders! It also means that they will receive a special token of our appreciation recognizing their contribution to Wild Ones. This recognition is being developed through discussions with the lifetime members, and we'll have a decision at some future date. Suggestions so far range from something as small as a special embroidered patch or as large as an embroidered jacket which will only be available for the lifetime member household use.

What is the cost? The dues for a lifetime membership are $1,200 per household, and can be paid in a lump sum or over a period of three years in $400 increments.

The membership applies to the household, which includes children under 18 years of age. One address per membership. What becomes of the funds? The funds are placed in a restricted trust account from which only the interest can be drawn upon to help defray Wild Ones operational expenses and pay the local chapter their annual dues reimbursement.

What are the benefits to Wild Ones as an organization? Trust funds, which count toward assets, and vested dedicated members.

What are the benefits to the lifetime member? Simplicity of maintaining their membership and the tax deduction plus the bi-monthly publication of the *Wild Ones Journal*, membership to the local chapter in their area, and all the other great benefits available to Wild Ones members. ❊

Woodland Carex of the Upper Midwest

A new book by Linda Curtis is now available. Carex is one of the most common species in the Upper Midwest, and so few people know what they are, or how beautifully they can be naturalized in shade and woodland gardens.

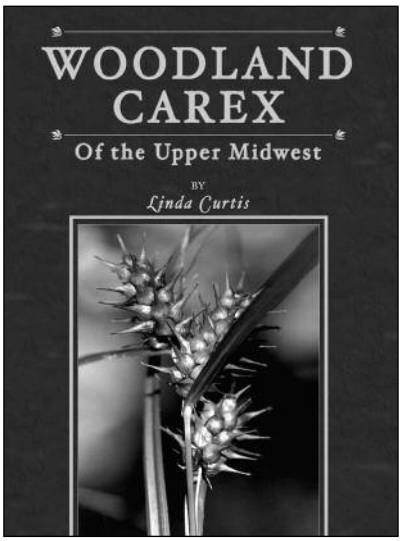
Linda's new book has been self-published this year. See her web site at www.curtistothethird.com.

First book signing will be at Ryerson Forest Preserve in Lake County, Illinois, on September 23, 1:30 to 3:30. A trail walk will follow the presentation. ❊

New Headquarters Status Report

There have been no new developments regarding our request for funding for the assumption of the proposed environmental center on the marsh of Little Lake Buttes des morts in the Fox Valley area of Wisconsin. Although we have gotten a response from PCB cleanup funded NRDA (National Resource Damage Assessment) program, we have not gotten a decisive response from the WDNR. It looks like maybe September. We'll keep you posted. ❊

At Last! A New Carex Book!



This new book on Carex, those grass-like plants with triangular stems, is rich with over 200 macro-photos, plus illustrations of this difficult-to-identify genus. Order from Curtis Third Productions, P.O. Box 731, Lake Villa, Illinois 60046. $19.95, plus $3.00 shipping.

BOOK REVIEW

Native Plants of the Northeast: A Guide for Gardening and Conservation

Don Leopold

Copyright 2005 by Timber Press

Review by Janet Allen

Good news for Wild Ones of the Northeast! No longer are we Northeasterners the poor stepchildren of the native plants, natural landscaping movement! With the publication of *Native Plants of the Northeast: A Guide for Gardening and Conservation*, by Don Leopold, we have an authoritative reference to guide our home-landscaping and conservation efforts.

The book reflects Leopold's broad and varied background: professional credentials in horticulture and botany, and also in forestry and ecology. He's a Distinguished Teaching Professor at the State University of New York's College of Environmental Science and Forestry, as well as a native plant enthusiast, home gardener, and popular speaker here in central New York. In fact, our Wild Ones chapter's best-attended program so far was Leopold's presentation about this new book.

The bulk of the book features detailed descriptions of almost 700 species of native plants, accompanied by an abundance of full-color photographs. The "Northeast" of the title refers to plants native to northeast North America, including eastern Canada, but is also relevant to the plains states and south into northern Florida.

A standard template is used for each description, so information is easy to find. Each plant is listed by its botanical name, followed by its common name and family, and then provides information on hardiness zones, soil and light requirements, attributes, propagation, notes, and concludes with its natural range.

Unlike most books, this book covers the whole range of plants we use in our gardens: not just the usual wildflowers, but also trees and shrubs, and even vines, grasses, and ferns – plants that are often neglected. The book is organized by these plant categories, so it's easy to browse for the type of plant you're looking for.

Leopold celebrates the virtues of native plants, but he's not a purist. He describes cultivars of native plants, and includes a few native plants slightly outside their natural range. In his own garden he often groups plants by cultural conditions, but provides information for the gardener who wants to re-create plant communities.

He notes with irony that many of our native plants are admired around the world – everywhere except right here in their native region. He also laments the use of exotic species that are creating monocultures replacing formerly diverse ecosystems. He is especially concerned about large public planting projects in the Northeast that still use non-native plants – even those that are already escaping cultivation. He concludes that "(w)hether the planting scenario is a modest one around one's house or involves substantial acreage and public funds, native plants should be given first consideration."

He emphasizes the importance of using the right plant in the right place, and shows that no matter what the vagaries of your own yard, there is a native plant that will grow and thrive there. Don't overlook the appendices. You'll find many useful lists: plants that tolerate wet soil, plants that tolerate dry soil, plants for shade, plants that attract butterflies and hummingbirds, plants with fruits that attract birds, and plants with fruits that attract mammals.

Like most of us here in the Northeast, I've cobbled together a library of books that provide the bits and pieces of information I need – books that were almost, but not quite appropriate for us in the Northeast. This book will now become the keystone of my native plant library – a book written for us, the native plant gardeners of the Northeast. Finally! ❋

Help support Wild Ones by getting this book through the Wild Ones Bookstore.

Highbush Cranberry *(Viburnum trilobum)*.
Drawing by Janet Wissink.

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 College Arboretum Mountain Laurel Chapter #78
Kathy T. Dame 860-439-2144
ktdam@conncoll.edu

ILLINOIS

Greater DuPage Chapter #9
Message Center: 630-415-IDIG
Pat Clancy 630-964-0448, clancypj@sbcglobal.net

Lake-To-Prairie Chapter #11
Karen Wisiol 847-548-1650, kawisiol@pcbb.net

Macomb Chapter #42 (Seedling)
Margaret Ovitt 309-836-6231 card@macomb.com

North Park Chapter #27
Rick and Wilma McCallister
rich.mccallister@utstar.com

Rock River Valley Chapter #21
Tim Lewis 815-874-3468
natives.tim@insightbb.com

INDIANA

Gibson Woods Chapter #38
Joy Bower 219-844-3188 Jbower1126@aol.com

KENTUCKY

Frankfort Chapter #24
Katie Clark 502-226-4766 katieclark@vol.com

Lexington Chapter #64
Russ Turpin 859-797-8174, isotope909@aol.com

Louisville Metrowild Chapter #26
Portia Brown 502-454-4007
wildones-lou@insightbb.com

MAINE

The Maine Chapter #75 (Seedling)
Barbara Murphy 207-743-6329
bmurphy@umext.maine.edu

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor Chapter #3
Susan Bryan 734-622-9997
susanbryanhsieh@yahoo.com

Calhoun County Chapter #39
Carol Spanninga 517-857-3766
spanninga8@hotmail.com

Central Upper Peninsula Chapter #61
Tom Tauzer 906-428-3203 ttauzer@chartermi.net

Detroit Metro Chapter #47
Connie Manley 248-538-0654
cmanfarm@mich.distance.net

Flint River Chapter #32
Thomas Enright taenright@comcast.net

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

Mid-Mitten Chapter #80
Judy Packard 989-686-1231 jpwild1s@charter.net

Oakland Chapter #34
Barbara Bray 248-601-6405
brayfamily@netscape.com

Red Cedar Chapter #41
Mark Ritzenhein 517-336-0965 mritz@acd.net

MINNESOTA

Arrowhead Chapter #48
Carol Andrews 218-529-8204
carol_andrews@hotmail.com

Otter Tail Chapter #25
Brad Ehlers 218-998-3590 frostbit@prtel.com

St. Cloud Chapter #29
Greg Shirley 320-259-0825 shirley198@charter.net

St. Croix Oak Savanna Chapter #71
Diane Hilscher 651-436-3836
hilscherdesign@comcast.net
Dan Shaw 651-665-9500 x16
dshaw@greatrivergreening.org

Twin Cities Chapter #56
Mary Schommer 612-729-5274
rmschommer@hotmail.com

MISSOURI

Mid-Missouri Chapter #49
Scott Hamilton 573-882-9909 x3257
scott.hamilton@mdc.mo.gov

St. Louis Chapter #31
Marilyn Chryst 314-845-2497 tchryst@swbell.net

NEW YORK

Habitat Gardening of Central New York #76
Janet Allen 315-487-5742
jkallen@twcny.rr.com

New York Capital District Chapter #69 (Seedling)
Laurel Tormey Cole 518-872-9458
laurel.tormey-cole@oprhp.state.ny.us

OHIO

Greater Cincinnati Chapter #62
Roberta Trombly 513-542-0893,
btrombly@fuse.net
Chris McCullough: 513-860-4959,
gordchris@fuse.net

Columbus Chapter #4
Shelby Conrad 614-784-1992
shelbyconrad@yahoo.com

Maumee Valley Chapter #66 (Seedling)
Jan Hunter 419-833-2020
nnn@naturallynative.net

Toledo Chapter #77 (Seedling)
Todd Crail 419-539-6810, tcrail@utnet.utoledo.edu

Western Reserve Chapter #73
Barb Holtz 440-473-3370
bph@clevelandmetroparks.com

PENNSYLVANIA

Habitat Resource Network of Southeast Pennsylvania Chapter #79
Maureen Carbery 484-678-6200
pahabitat@comcast.net

Susquehanna Valley Chapter #68
Jim Hitz 717-741-3996 jrhitz@suscom.net

WISCONSIN

Central Wisconsin Chapter #50
Dan Dieterich 715-346-2849
dan.dieterich@uwsp.edu

Door County Chapter #59
Peter Sigman 920-824-5193 peter@sigmann.net

Fox Valley Area Chapter #8
Karen Syverson 920-987-5587 ksyve@core.com

Green Bay Chapter #10
Cindy Hermsen, 920-434-6866,
scentedgardens@athenet.com

Lake Woods Chapter #72
Jeanne Munz 920-793-4452
flower_power@wildmail.com

Madison Chapter #13
Laurie J. Yahr 608-274-6593
yahrkahl@sbcglobal.net

Menomonee River Area Chapter #16
Jan Koel 262-251-7175
Diane Holmes 262-628-2825

Milwaukee North Chapter #18
Message Center: 414-299-9888

Milwaukee Southwest-Wehr Chapter #23
Message Center: 414-299-9888

Root River Area Chapter #43
Nan Calvert 262-681-4899 prairiedog@e-3.cc

Wisconsin Northwoods Chapter #63
Diane Willette 715-362-6870 diane@bfm.org

Wolf River Chapter #74
Marge Guyette 715-787-3482
jkgmeg@athenet.net

For meeting and activity information, call the chapter contact person or check the chapter web site.

Queen of the Prairie *(Filipendula rubra)*.
Drawing by Lucy Schumann.

On the Horizon

WILD ONES NATIONAL QUARTERLY BOARD MEETINGS

All members are invited and encouraged to attend the quarterly meetings of the National Board of Directors If you'd like to participate in the meeting by conference call, please contact the National Office (toll-free) at 877-394-9453 for instructions.

4th Quarter 2006 National Board Meeting – October 7 will be hosted by the Mid-Missouri (MO) Chapter at an office of the Missouri Conservation Department, 1110 South College Avenue, Columbia, MO 65203.

1st Quarter 2007 National Board Meeting will be a teleconference meeting.

2nd Quarter 2007 National Board Meeting will be hosted by the Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter.

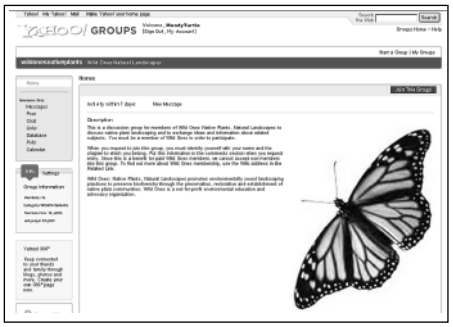
3rd Quarter 2007 National Board Meeting and Annual Meeting – August 17-19, 2007 will be hosted by the Greater Cincinnati (OH) Chapter, at Bergamo Center, in Dayton, Ohio. This is a great place, with much to do at the center and in the surrounding area – a peaceful setting. Watch for further details as they become available.

4th Quarter 2007 National Board Meeting will be hosted by the Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter.

Design for Nature – September 9 – Milwaukee Hosted by the Southeastern Wisconsin chapters of Wild Ones. Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee, in the Kliebhan Conference Center, Bonaventure Hall. Transform your yard and enjoy gardening. Wisconsin native plants, patterns, soil, rain, pleasurable spaces, happy accidents, and crafted details – learn from homeowners like you, from landscape designers, and from nursery, installation, and maintenance pros.To register online go to http://designfornature.mollyguard.com/ or download registration form at www.for-wild.org/chapters/milnorth/WOMilw-2006-Page1.pdf and www.for-wild.org/chapters/milnorth/WOMilw-2006-page2.pdf. For questions, call 414-299-9888, x2.

Go Wild With Natives – September 30 – Hammond, Indiana The Gibson Woods (IN) Chapter of Wild Ones will present a native plant symposium, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, September 30, 2006, at the Purdue-Calumet Conference Center, 2300 173rd Street, Hammond, Indiana 46323. Speaker presentations include landscaping with native plants, garden design, soil preparation, and photographing nature. Contact Pat at 219-865-2679 or the Gibson Woods Nature Center at 219-844-3188. Please register by September 9th.

Got questions about native plants, invasives, and natural landscaping? Feel like talking about it? Our new online discussion group is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



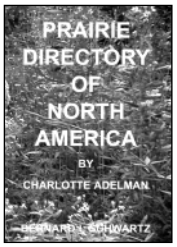
We're off to a great start with the Wild Ones Internet discussion group. Some of the topics of discussion have centered around leach fields, container gardening, cupplant, rodentia, and some good old-fashioned mudslinging at a very misguided anti-environment article titled "Border War," by George Ball,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

Join Wild Ones Get Something Free

Prairie Directory of North America



This fabulous directory of North American prairies is yours free when you join or renew your Wild Ones membership **at the $75 level or higher**. Normally retailing for $25 (including shipping and handling), this directory not only locates prairies for you, but also gives you quick facts about each one. Former Journal Editor-in-Chief, Mariette Nowak, said, "Prairie lovers everywhere, this is the book for you!" The *Prairie Directory of North America* is a must-have for your travel reference collection. Join or renew now!

Wild About Wildflowers

Are you wild about wildflowers? When you join or renew your Wild Ones membership **at the $50 level or higher**, you will receive, at no extra charge, this highly acclaimed video. Covering everything from how to choose, plant, grow, and enjoy native american wildflowers and grasses in your own yard, this item sells in the Wild Ones Store for $30, but now you can get it almost for free. Join Wild Ones or renew your membership today!

Wild Ones Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Annual Dues:	Wild	Wilder	Wildest
Household	☐ $30	☐ $50	☐ $75+
Business	☐ $200	☐ $500	☐ $1,000+

Limited income/full-time student household: ☐ $20/year

Lifetime ☐ $1200 (Or payable in three annual $400 installments.)

I am joining/renewing at the
☐ $50 or higher level. Send Membership Premium Video.
☐ $75 or higher level. Send Membership Premium Book.

Please check: ☐ new ☐ renewal ☐ new contact info

Amount enclosed $ _____ for _____ years.

Chapter preference _____
Chapters listed in "The Meeting Place."

If this is a Gift Membership:

My Name _____

Occasion for Gift _____

Entire Membership Fee Is Tax-Deductible.

Wild Ones • P.O. Box 1274 • Appleton, WI • 54912-1274

Wild Ones
Native Plants, Natural Landscapes

P.O. Box 1274
Appleton, WI 54912-1274
www.for-wild.org

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 90
OSHKOSH, WI

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL

Is your membership OK? How about your address?
If the imprint above is dated **11/1/06** or **12/1/06 or before**, your membership is about to expire.
If you are moving, either temporarily or permanently, please let the National Office know as soon as your new address is official. Returned and forwarded mail costs Wild Ones anywhere from $.70 to $2.36 per piece. You can mail your address information to Wild Ones, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, Wisconsin 54912, call toll-free at 877-394-9453, or go to the Wild Ones members-only pages at www.for-wild.org. Click on item 2 (Update Personal Membership Info) and enter the appropriate changes.

Thank You!

Thanks to your generous contributions, the important Wild Ones mission of promoting environmentally sound landscaping practices will continue. We couldn't do it without your help.

Matching Donations

John Arthur and Pamela Deerwood
Twin Cities (MN) Chapter
$25 through **Ameriprise Financial Employee Gift Matching Fund**

Fred and Patti Hessen Jr.
Milwaukee-Southwest (WI) Chapter
$100 through **Wisconsin Energy Corporation Foundation**

Margo Hickman and Joseph Gilmartin
Lake-To-Prairie (IL) Chapter
$30 from **HSBC Matching Gift Program**

Seeds for Education

Orlanda M. Gabaldo, Virginia R. McIlwain, and Peter and Colleen Bell
Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter

Ann Wakeman of **Rock Post Wildflowers**, Mid-Missouri (MO) Chapter

Ann Kinosian in memory of **JoAnn Gillespie**, Milwaukee-Southwest/Wehr (WI) Chapter for her work with the St. Leonard School outdoor learning center

Save the Date!

Our **3rd Quarter 2007 and Annual Meeting** will be held the weekend of August 17-19, 2007, hosted by the **Greater Cincinnati (OH) Chapter**. The meeting is being held at Bergamo Center, in Dayton, Ohio (1 hour north of Cincinnati). Lodging, meetings, and meals will be on the Bergamo campus, which includes the Mount St. John Nature Preserve. The Mount St. John Nature Preserve was named an Ohio Natural Landmark by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in 1988, recognizing it as "an outstanding environmental education area possessing exceptional value in illustrating and interpreting the natural heritage of Ohio." You will have the opportunity to network with fellow WildOnes, while relaxing on a campus that is dedicated to preserving our natural heritage. Further information will be available in future issues of the *Wild Ones Journal*, and on the Wild Ones web site.

Give to Wild Ones at No Cost to Yourself

Next time you're thinking of buying something – a book, a CD, a DVD, a digital camera, or even a new computer, consider buying it through our new Amazon-associate bookstore. Almost anything you buy at Amazon.Com, if you enter through our bookstore, will result in a percentage of the cost of your items being donated to Wild Ones – at no extra cost to you: www.geostar.com/wobookstore.