

a voice
for the natural
landscaping
movement

Wild Ones

NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

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Thank you. Back cover.



What Birds Know

Birds can't afford to miss clues about environmental change, and it's possible that they know a lot more about it than we do.

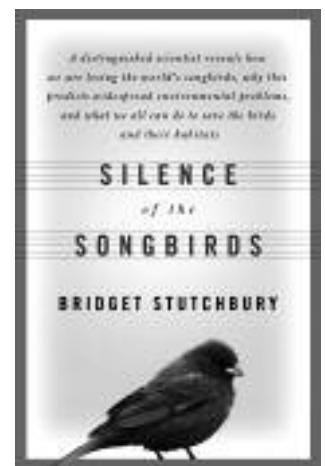
By Bridget Stutchbury

As I sat at my kitchen table one morning in late May, putting the final touches on my new book, I could barely believe that songbirds really were in trouble. As daylight gradually crept in through the windows, the backyard of our farmhouse exploded with voices. The first was the dawn song of the tree swallow, joined soon after by the eastern phoebe, yellow warbler, indigo bunting, wood thrush, hooded warbler, scarlet tanager, cardinal, field sparrow, house wren, American redstart, common yellowthroat, song sparrow, and least flycatcher. There are lots of birds around, aren't there? The slow, insidious decrease in numbers is hard to notice because it happens over a time span of decades. Without the 40 years of monitoring by the Breeding Bird Survey and bird-banding stations, we would not know that a crisis is unfolding across two continents.

Although bird watching and bird feeding are among the fastest-growing pastimes in North America, there remain millions of people who have never experienced the joy of seeing a wood thrush, Kentucky warbler, eastern kingbird, or bobolink. What does it mean to them that songbirds are disappearing? It's hard for people to be concerned about the loss of something they've never seen, or have no use for. If I read a newspaper headline announcing that spinach would no longer be sold in grocery stores, I would be slightly curious but not alarmed, because I don't especially care for this vegetable and rarely buy it. Would a ban on guanabana sales spark a public outcry? (Most people in North America have never even heard of this tasty tropical fruit, though in Panama it was my favorite flavor of milkshake.) How many people in Toronto, Pittsburgh, or Chicago know what an eastern loggerhead shrike is, or would care if they knew that in a decade or two it will probably be extinct in the wild?

In the past few decades, the environmental crisis has grown from the confined problem of extinctions of individual species to a full-blown global biodiversity crisis. We are losing entire groups of animals and plants, not just one species at a time. The migratory songbird declines are not limited to just a handful of unlucky birds – instead, dozens of species are in a chronic downhill slide. They come from every walk of life: grassland birds as well as forest birds, birds that spend the winter in Mexico and those that go all the way to Argentina, insect eaters and fruit eaters, those that breed in the far north and others that prefer the southern states. Their common decline tells us that our environmental problems are sweeping in scale, large enough to affect birds as they travel across two continents.

If a species goes extinct, or its population drops to very low numbers, the ecological roles that it played in nature are lost. Some species are so specialized that their services cannot be replaced by other animals, so their loss creates a ripple effect. The bellbird that disperses the seeds of the *Ocotea endresiana* tree in Costa Rica is an example. The scale of biodiversity loss is so huge today, and includes such plummeting numbers, that we risk losing the general basic services that sustain ecosystems. Although fewer than 2 percent of bird species have gone extinct in the past 500 years, by some estimates the total number of birds has dropped by 20 to 30



Get a discount when you buy Bridget Stutchbury's new book through our Wild Ones Bookstore at www.for-wild.org/store/bookstore.

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

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Greetings Fellow Wild Ones Members, From the New National President



As excited and honored as I feel about taking on the role of Wild Ones National President, I feel some trepidation as well at the thought of trying to fill the shoes of outgoing President, Joe Powelka, (and not only because of the actual differences in our shoe sizes). Joe and other national presidents before him have accomplished much.

I hope to follow their lead while adding some new ideas and approaches of my own.

One goal that I have for my term is continuing Joe's efforts to get to know the chapters – their successes and concerns. I also want to make sure that I find ways to communicate with our members-at-large who are not affiliated with a chapter – a group that makes up 10 percent of our membership.

Growing our membership through new memberships, as well as retaining existing members, is another goal I have set, knowing that this is an endeavor apparently easier said than done.

When my friends who work in marketing tell me that being "green" is a growing hot trend, I feel that Wild Ones is in an excellent position to help teach people a great way to embrace a sustainable lifestyle through natural landscaping.

I will also continue Joe's, Donna's, and the National Board's commitment to operating with a balanced budget, and we will ensure that fiscal responsibility plays a role in the opportunity to grow into a new home for our National Office – a move that could include the "Ecocenter" under consideration.

One goal that I have for my term is continuing Joe's efforts to get to know the chapters...and also find ways to communicate with our members-at-large.

As for me, I live with my family on an urban lot in Duluth, Minnesota, that we've converted largely from lawn to native plants as time and budget allow. I am a founding member and President of the Arrowhead (MN) Chapter. In addition to chasing 4-year-old twins, I work part time as a consulting environmental engineer. I became interested in landscaping with native plants in 1996 after attending a one-night workshop in St. Paul. I liked how gardening and native plants served my interest in being a good environmental steward.

I look forward to meeting and serving you, our wonderful Wild Ones Members. ♦

Carol Andrews, Wild Ones National President
president@for-wild.org



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

NATIONAL OFFICE

Executive Director

Donna VanBuecken
P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, WI 54912-1274
877-FYI-WILD (394-9453)
920-730-3986
Fax: 920-730-3986
execdirector@for-wild.org

President

Carol Andrews • 218-730-9954
president@for-wild.org

Past President

Joe Powelka • 608-837-6308
vicepresident@for-wild.org

Secretary

Debi Wolterman • 513-934-3894
secretary@for-wild.org

Treasurer

Marty Rice • 952-927-6531
treasurer@for-wild.org

Communications Committee Chair

Bret Rappaport
comco@for-wild.org

Seeds for Education Director

Steve Maassen • 920-233-5914
sfedirector@for-wild.org

Web Site Coordinator

Peter Chen • webmanager@for-wild.org

LIBRARIAN

Robert Ryf • 920-361-0792
library@for-wild.org

MEETING COORDINATOR

Mary Paquette • 920-994-2505
meeting@for-wild.org

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WILD ONES JOURNAL EDITOR

Maryann Whitman • 248-652-4004
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

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Writers & Artists

Bridget Stutchbury is a professor of biology at York University in Toronto, Canada. This essay is excerpted from *Silence of the Songbirds*, published in June, 2007, by Walker & Company.

Tom Small is, with his wife Nancy, a co-founder of Kalamazoo Area (MI) Wild Ones.

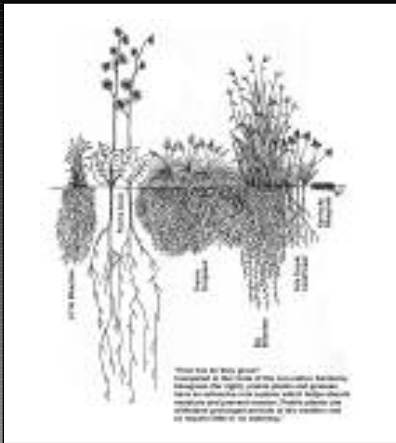
Thirteen-year-old **Harold Eyster** has been a naturalist for three years. He carries his journal and plant press with him on tromps through field and forest.

Barb Bray is the President of the Oakland (MI) Chapter of Wild Ones.

Peter H. Raven is a world-famous botanist and President of the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis, Missouri.

Christian Nelson, Twin Cities (MN) Chapter, is the Wild Ones Associate Editor and Creative Director.

Ney Tait Fraser is a long-time member of the Milwaukee-North (WI) Chapter and a professional photographer.



GET YOUR ROOTS POSTER

This laminated 18 x 26-inch poster features the same design by Janet Wissink as our Roots t-shirts. A simple black-and-white print shows just how deep our impressive prairie plants grow. On the reverse side is a copy of the article "The Root of the Matter," from our November/December, 2002 *Wild Ones Journal*, that discusses the root systems of prairie plants. \$30 includes shipping and handling, in the Wild Ones Store, www.for-wild.org/store.

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A Wild Ones Gift Membership

If you're tired of handing out loud neckties, plaid socks, and wooly underwear, why not give something fun that also shows how much you care about the future of our planet?

Can't think of anyone who would enjoy a Wild Ones membership? How about those new neighbors down the street who aren't sure what to do with their yard? Or maybe those relatives who keep borrowing your lawnmower. And what about the local "weed inspector" who keeps eyeing your prairie? Better yet, just think what a Wild Ones membership will do for the kids at your neighborhood school!

Those neckties and socks will just end up in the back of a drawer, and those underwear – well, we don't even want to know. But your gift of a Wild Ones membership might be the start of a journey that leads someone to saving the Earth, or at least a small part of it.

Three levels of membership are available, and each new gift membership gets one or more Wild Ones promotional items along with the standard benefits and a subscription to the *Journal*. We'll even send them a holiday gift card so they'll know it's from you.

Helping to save the Earth, and your favorite Wild organization, has never been so easy. The journey starts at www.for-wild.org/joining.html. Go there now.

Birdscaping in the Midwest

By Peter H. Raven

Editor's Note: Most of the examples of plantings in this book are from yards of Wild Ones members, so it would be fair to say that this is a book about landscaping ideas encouraged by Wild Ones. I would go a step further, and call this a very well-illustrated "textbook" for Wild Ones in the Midwest. Good work, Mariette!

Earth, as far as we know, is the only place in the universe with birds, plants, and a great array of other species, including us humans. Yet many of the organisms around us – and not just the tigers of the world – are facing extinction. With the destruction of habitats, the spread of invasive species, the selective gathering of plants and animals in nature for food and medicine, and global climate change, it is likely that a majority of all the kinds of plants and animals in the world will become extinct during the course of this century. This book, with its emphasis on habitat restoration, shows how individuals, in their own yards, and on their own properties, large or small, can begin the important steps toward reversing the destruction.

I firmly believe that individuals can and must play an essential role in preventing the loss of species. Like it or not, we're in the position of Noah just before the flood, looking at ongoing and worsening rates of extinction, and realizing that we alone are responsible for saving as many creatures as we can. And these creatures must be kept alive and well in many places to insure their survival in an unpredictable world, where small, isolated populations can so easily be wiped out and lost forever. Unless we do so in our gardens, parks, and other urban and suburban spaces, the level of extinction will be much greater – nature cannot be preserved in protected areas alone. And it is mainly in our gardens, city parks, and other such spaces that children will come into contact with nature, another deeply significant contribution to the future.

Gardeners can play a vital role by restoring and preserving many small patches of native communities with their associated plants, birds, and other wildlife. As gardeners everywhere take up this enterprise, the various species will indeed have multiple chances for survival in many yards and neighborhoods and rural back forties. Ideally, these patches will, in time, become enlarged into corridors and broader expanses of native plant and animal communities interwoven within the fabric of human affairs. And the native species of every neighborhood and community will survive and thrive.

In *Birdscaping in the Midwest*, Mariette Nowak takes the reader step by step along the path toward habitat restoration. While the focus is on bird habitat, other animals and plants will benefit from these restorations. Indeed, birds are considered barometers of the health of an ecosystem, and as birds increase or decrease, so also do all other species within that ecosystem.

In part 1, Nowak describes the complexities of coevolutionary relationships between birds and native plants. She defines the particular geography of a plant implied in the descriptive term "native," and explains the indispensable role that native plants play in providing habitat and resources for birds and animals. The threat posed by invasive exotic plants, especially as they affect birds, is appropriately highlighted.

In part 2, the stories behind natural habitat gardens in eight Midwestern states are presented – gardens created on small city lots, in suburban subdivisions and on old farm fields. The gardeners share their motivations and methods, their challenges and rewards.

The rest of the book provides in-depth coverage of the nuts and bolts of habitat restoration. Part 3 outlines the basics of habitat restoration, with practical hands-on information on planning, design, site preparation, planting, and seeding.

Part 4 sets this book apart from other treatments of landscaping for birds, with its specific plans and instructions for creating nine different habitat gardens for birds – the hummingbird garden, prairie bird garden, bluebird savanna garden, woodland bird garden, wetland bird garden, migratory bird garden, shrub land bird garden, winter bird garden, and water bird garden. While hummingbird gardens have long been popular, little has been written of the creation of these other distinctive and important bird habitats.

Part 5 provides details of the physical characteristics and cultivation of recommended plant species, along with their native ranges in the Midwestern states. No other book on landscaping for birds provides as extensive coverage of the native plants of the Midwest.

Part 6 covers the maintenance of a habitat garden and its enhancement with feeders and birdhouses. Nowak also gives abundant practical advice on the problems gardeners may encounter, from plant-devouring deer and predatory cats to window collisions and bird diseases.

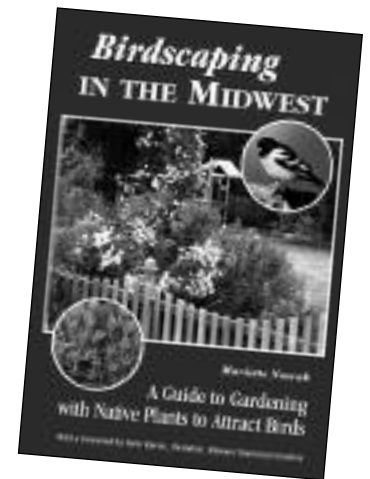
Many sources of further information are provided – books, pamphlets, web sites, organizations, and native-plant nurseries and consultants – all of which will be invaluable for readers.

Throughout the book, Nowak uses case histories and personal stories to illustrate her themes. And in the conclusion, she describes how the gardeners featured earlier have gone beyond their own garden gates to work for the protection and restoration of habitat on a larger scale in their neighborhoods and communities.

As I have often pointed out, ordinary people in the United States must think carefully about their own surroundings and how to preserve the biodiversity that occurs around them. The world that results will be a patchwork with bright spots, richer places, and more beautiful areas. And that will happen because individuals took responsibility and acted.

We have relatively short lives, and yet by preserving the world in a condition that is worthy of us, we win a kind of immortality. We become stewards of the Earth, and our work lives on, generation after generation.

This readable and richly detailed book will serve as an indispensable reference for Midwestern gardeners wishing to leave such a legacy. Unlike books that are national in scope, this one presents valuable information specific to the Midwest. Every region of our country needs its own guide of this kind. ♦



fall color legend AND FACT

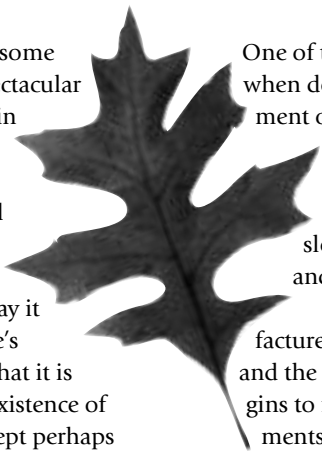
There is much speculation and some folklore associated with the spectacular color changes we generally see in the autumn in our hardwood forests. One "theory" has to do with warm sunny days and cool nights. Another is based on the changes in the length of the days as fall approaches. Some say it is related to soil acidity or a tree's location on the slope. Others, that it is related to frost, or maybe, the existence of wood elves. All these ideas, except perhaps the very last, are true to some extent.

A common misconception about leaf change is that the leaves are dying. The development of fall colors is an active process and trees must be alive to undergo the change in color and to drop their leaves. Trees which are killed during the growing season do not undergo color change – their leaves simply dry up and do not fall from the tree.

Chlorophyll, the compound most responsible for the manufacture of foods (carbohydrates) by plants, gives them their green color. Chlorophyll breaks down under bright sunlight, and is constantly being replaced. As long as plants are actively growing, enough chlorophyll is produced to keep them green. Other pigments are also present in green plants, but in smaller proportions than the chlorophyll. They serve as "energy absorbers" in the process of photosynthesis, and help chlorophyll do its job. They appear mostly yellow and orange in color but they are not seen much as long as chlorophyll is being manufactured in the leaves.

The amounts of these other pigments in various plants depend on the particular tree species, soil acidity, and the availability of trace minerals in the soils where the trees grow.

The changing of leaf color is associated with winter dormancy in all perennial plants. A chemical called phytochrome triggers plants to go into the dormant period when nights get long enough. Therefore, day length does trigger leaf-color change.



One of the things that happens when dormancy begins is development of a corky layer of cells between the leaf stalk (petiole) and the woody part of the tree. This "abscission layer" slows the transport of water and carbohydrates.

As this happens, the manufacture of chlorophyll is slowed, and the green color in the leaves begins to fade, allowing the other pigments to show through. Since the transport of water is slowed down,

food manufactured by the remaining chlorophyll builds up in the sap of the leaf and other pigments are formed, which cause the leaves to turn red or purple in color, depending on the acidity of the sap.

For example, sumac almost always turns red because red pigments are present, and its leaf sap is acidic, while many of the oaks and sometimes ashes will get a purplish color because the sap is less acidic. Trees like birch and aspen don't have much orange pigment, so they appear mostly yellow in the fall. Others don't have much yellow pigment, and turn mostly orange or red. Some trees have a balance of pigments, and look pinkish. The brown color of many oaks and hickories can be attributed to a buildup of tannin, which is a waste product in the leaves. There are endless variations of pigmentation in trees which changes as the fall season progresses.

Weather throughout the fall season has much to do with the development of fall color in trees. Cool night temperatures destroy chlorophyll quickly, but below-freezing temperatures inhibit production of red pigments. The brightest displays of color occur when we have an early fall of bright sunny days and cool nights. These are excellent conditions for the development of red pigments.

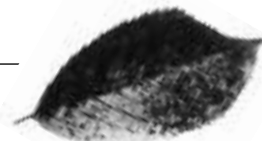
Cloudy days and warm nights will produce less brilliant colors because chlorophyll breaks down slowly and the red pigments are not formed quickly enough. Dry weather causes a greater

buildup of sugars in the leaves, enhancing the production of the red pigments. Windy, rainy weather causes many leaves to fall prematurely, lessening the intensity of the display.

A killing frost can destroy the leaf cells, and the coloration process will not function effectively. Many plants can sustain cellular function after below freezing temperatures – you could say they have "anti-freeze" qualities. But during the leaf change, there are many active functions happening in the leaf cells. Pigments are breaking down and new ones are being manufactured. If temperatures decline to the point where leaf cells are killed, all these processes cease to function, and the leaves will eventually abscise and fall. You might notice that many trees which are north of their natural range rarely get fall color – no antifreeze. Their leaf cells are killed before they have a chance to extract their chlorophyll. Once we have a killing frost, these trees simply drop their mostly green leaves.

Probably the most important thing for us to keep in mind is to get outside and enjoy the display while it lasts. ♦

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Leaf Color Characteristics of Some Common Plants

Walnut Turns yellow in fall. One of the first to change color and drop leaves. One of the last to leaf out in spring.

Red Oak Brilliant red leaves in fall. Color probably not as intense as some hard maples.

White Oak Subdued red color of leaves in fall, which then turn brown, often staying on the tree until new leaves begin to grow in the spring.

Bur Oak Buff to yellow, turning brown before falling.

Hickory Leaves turn yellow, then brown before falling.

Ash Leaves turn yellow, but some have a purplish cast. Leaves fall after walnut but earlier than oaks and maples.

Elms Leaves turn yellow, some turn brown before falling, others while still yellow.

Soft Maple Leaves turn yellow. They don't turn brown before falling.

Hard Maple Brilliant red hues. Red pigmentation of some leaves breaks down before falling.

Sumac Redder and anything, but often overlooked because it is a small tree confined to openings and edges.

Virginia Creeper Bright red. Very spectacular when it grows on dead snags.



Why Wild Ones? Why Me? And What Then?

By Tom Small

To what mission, as a member of Wild Ones, am I called? I answer that question as a restorationist, a social activist, and a lover of nature.

In successive issues of the *Journal*, our President, Joe Powelka, first called us to "develop programs regarding climate change to assist chapters with dialogue in their communities." Next, he called us to "set examples" in dealing with climate change: more native plants, larger gardens. In short, as I understand Joe, we are called to act in accordance with our beliefs.

Such action involves, for me, what poet Gary Snyder has called a "practice": a discipline and a way of life. What would such a practice mean for Wild Ones members with respect to climate change? Surely, it begins with what we are already doing: the advocacy and practice of natural landscaping. What more? It always involves recognizing and taking responsibility for the painful truth of one's own situation and one's own complicity and guilt, changing one's own life in accordance with that recognition, and seeking to bring others to recognize the truth, and therefore to change direction.

What, then, is our "true situation," especially with regard to this long emergency called climate change? We know already that possible consequences of climate change range through widespread disruption, devastation, suffering, and death – in the extreme case, a collapse of civilization

as we know it. Moreover, as members of Wild Ones, we see global warming within a context of extinction – the Sixth Great Extinction of species, already well under way, and likely to be greatly exacerbated by climate change.

We also know that despite Live Earth and the signing of pledges, our civilization is not yet serious about changing direction: melting of the Arctic ice is leading to new territorial claims and a race to drill for oil; the coming peak-oil crisis is spawning costly and carbon-producing schemes for liquefaction of coal; the building of monster houses on ever larger lots is increasing; even the switch to alternative fuels such as ethanol may create as many problems as it solves; and, perhaps most significant for us, as members of Wild Ones, the problem remains, for most people in developed nations, one of preserving us, "our way of life" – not one of preserving and cherishing the Earth as a whole, which, from Adelie penguins to tigers to common backyard birds, is diminishing and disappearing before our eyes.

Terry Glavin's new book, *The Sixth Extinction: Journeys Among the Lost and Left Behind*, moves me deeply. Glavin writes not just about extinction in and of "the wild" but also extinctions of languages, cultures, domesticated species of animals, grains, and vegetables.

On one level, the book is a classic "jeremiad" – a denunciation of our venality, heedlessness, profligacy, with prophecy of dire consequences to come. "The harvest is done," says Glavin, quoting Jeremiah, "and we are not saved." But the book is also a love story – a "Song of Solomon," if you will. It celebrates the "lovers" who selflessly work against the odds to save the integrity of our home, the Earth, one plant at a time, one species at a time, one acre at a time.

Wendell Berry is one of my favorite lovers of the Earth. He tells good stories, makes good sense, celebrates the soil and its fruits, and denounces our follies simply and powerfully. For him, planting a garden is a powerful "act of opposition or protest." But more than that, it's what he calls "a complete action." It deals in a very practical, immediate way with the emergency situation itself – an energy crisis and an intense assault on the natural world. It is, in short, an entire way of restorative life.

Of course, Berry has in mind the planting of vegetable gardens (not a bad idea for members of Wild Ones, too). But what he

says pertains even more to native-plant gardens and natural landscaping because they provide sustenance for countless creatures other than just ourselves. Just as much as a vegetable garden, our Wild Ones gardens and restorations are what the founders of the Anathoth Community Garden in Cedar Grove, North Carolina, call "a way of living in place that, if practiced, might begin to repair some of the damage we have inflicted upon our neighbors, the fertile soil, and ourselves." Our neighbors include all our fellow creatures, even those with roots and those that live in the soil itself.

For me, natural landscaping is a redemptive act. To redeem is to make amends; to restore or recover; to recover something of the nature which we have left behind. We redeem the soil; we redeem the spirit.

With our acts as members of Wild Ones we restore a relationship, a sense of community with one another and with all our fellow creatures – with the beloved community. One yard at a time. One step at a time. And every step is peacemaking.

For me, a native-plant garden is an act of opposition and protest against the way of life that has brought us to this climate-change crisis.

For me, a native-plant garden is an act of opposition and protest against the way of life we have come to depend upon and has brought us to this climate-change crisis. In many ways I see it as a countercultural act, in opposition to widespread homogenizing and laying waste of the land and its life. Moreover, natural landscaping is indeed a complete action – sufficient in itself but also, I hope, expressive of an entire way of life – a way of simplicity, a way of peace and nonviolence in a time of wars in which we are unwilling or even unwitting participants – wars within ourselves, against our fellow human beings, and against nature.

Perhaps, as many of the scientists tell us, our Earth will experience cataclysmic changes. The waters will rise, and havoc will come upon us. But we are nonetheless, whether we will or no, saviors. We have no choice. We are lovers. We will save as much as we can of what we love. In the concluding words of Terry Glavin's loving jeremiad, "You join the epic battle with the demons that are devouring the world, and you do what you can. It's all anyone can expect of you. You do everything you can."

What then is the next step for us – for the Wild Ones? Let us respond wholeheartedly to Joe Powellka's call. Set new examples: more native plants, larger gardens, more outreach and restoration. Form the committee to "develop programs regarding climate change to assist chapters with dialogue in their communities." Let us make greater effort to live our lives so as to heal and cause no further harm. In short, let us act according to our beliefs, our love, our grieving for what we have done and left undone.

As yet, the "climate change" page on the Wild Ones web site, is incomplete. Fill in the spaces, with thoughts, practices, strategies, and campaigns. Communicate. Act: do everything you can.

In engaging our communities in dialogue about climate change, we will realize more fully the "beloved community" that Wild Ones is and must become – the community that is our covenant (from *con-venire*, to come together) with the Earth. ♦

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THE NEXT GENERATION

Where the Crickets Are

By Barbara Bray

Theirs is the sweet sound of summer time – a love song beautifully played as if by a musician with a violin. The song repeats over and over, sometimes slow, and at other times fast. It rises in anticipation, and then seemingly fades away. Male crickets are the singers, and female crickets are their audience. Crickets are part of an order of insects called *Orthoptera*, which means "straight-winged." This order also includes katydids and grasshoppers.

Orthopterans have unusual front wings that are often thick and leathery. Male crickets chirp when rough "teeth" on one front wing are rubbed against a ridge on the other front wing. The wings are usually held up at a 45-degree angle, creating an "echo chamber" between the wings and body. This echo chamber raises the volume of the cricket's song – loud enough to attract our attention too. The female cricket has smooth wings, and thus cannot make chirping sounds, but she can hear the songs with her legs. For upon her two front legs are hearing organs functioning much like our own eardrums. The male cricket will continue to call until the female cricket finds him.

A walk in my neighborhood last week revealed a sad fact – many people do not hear crickets in their yards. I walked past lawn after lawn wondering where the crickets were. Finally I heard a lone cricket chirping under a Colorado spruce tree. Then – silence down the rest of the street. Would this one lonely cricket ever find a mate?

I turned a corner and walked up the next street along a swatch of land that had been graded for building about two years ago. Since then it has filled in with a weedy growth of yellow vetch, spotted knapweed, and non-native grasses.

Now I could hear four crickets singing their song. A little farther down the street was a grassy hillside next to a parking lot. The hillside, being too steep to mow, had grown tall with weeds. Two crickets were calling from there. I followed the

street as it curved past a retention pond and an open field. This field is as yet undeveloped, but houses will come sometime in the future.

Can a Cricket Tell You the Temperature?

Maybe. The frequency of a cricket's chirps varies depending on the temperature. For a rough estimate of the temperature, count the number of chirps in 15 seconds, and then add 37. The number you get will be fairly close to the outside temperature.

As I stood in the middle of this street, with a chorus of crickets chirping around me, I noticed two crickets crossing the road. They were females, and they were running toward one of the singing males. I lost sight of them as they entered the grass, but knew they would find a mate.

The crickets I saw in the road were field crickets. They are common, and are found in many parts of the United States. Field crickets make their home in lawns, grassy areas, and pastures. They also inhabit my native prairie garden next to my house, where I can hear their lovely songs through the living room window.

But does it really matter if we have crickets or not? Crickets and their relatives (grasshoppers and katydids) are often the most abundant insects above ground, especially in sunny areas such as prairies and pastures. In some places they can be the dominant herbivore (Capinera 2004).

Their feeding affects plant community composition and also helps to break down plant material. Without small insects like crickets, nutrients would pile up in dead plant tissues and be unavailable for new plant growth. Many animals including birds, mice, moles, spiders, wasps, and snakes (just to mention a few) eat crickets. They are high in protein, and just the right size to eat. Many seed-eating birds feed insects to their rapidly developing young.

What would we lose if we leave no place for crickets to live? We lose an important part of our natural community, and we are left with an empty silence on a summer's evening. ♦

Capinera, John L., Ralph D. Scott, and Thomas J. Walker. 2004. *Field Guide to Grasshoppers, Katydids, and Crickets of the United States*. Cornell University Press



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|--------------------------|
| A YARD TO ATTRACT |
| WILDLIFE |
| <i>OR</i> |
| MAKE WAY |
| FOR DUCKS |

Article and photos by Ney Tait Fraser



Clockwise from upper left: The Hanson/Ueberroth family has worked most imaginatively to have their home become an integral part of the small Eden of biodiversity they have created. • Native plants like these Solomon's seals, May apples, and native shrubs and trees provide food and shelter for both resident and migrant wildlife. • The rock piles around the pool, and scattered here and there around the yard, give shelter to snakes and ground squirrels. • A truly inventive endeavor was using leafless tree branches to warn birds from crashing into windows. • Their conversion of a formerly labor-intensive swimming pool into a duck pond was a stroke of genius.

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS MIGHT AS WELL BE PLASTIC ASTROTURF TO WILDLIFE

Acting on advice from the National Wildlife Federation, the Hanson/Ueberroth family has created a small Eden of biodiversity in a sad wasteland of poisonous lawns. Not long ago, migrating birds and butterflies were sustained on their long journeys by a cornucopia of berries, seeds, plants, and insects. Now they can barely survive.

Kentucky bluegrass might as well be plastic Astroturf to wild life. Many butterfly larvae are specific about the plants they can eat. For example, black swallowtail caterpillars prefer golden Alexander leaves. Monarch caterpillars can only eat milkweed leaves. Violets are Wisconsin's state flower – fritillary butterflies depend on them. Without native plants, many butterflies would become extinct. Already they are disappearing fast.

In addition to having a wide variety of native plants, including milkweed in her yard, Delene Hanson (Milwaukee-Southwest/Wehr(WI) Chapter) protects monarch butterfly eggs and caterpillars from predators by raising hundreds of them in terrariums in the breezeway of her house. The terrariums are kept scrupulously clean, with paper towels on the bottom to catch the caterpillar droppings (frass). Every day fresh milkweed leaves are given to the caterpillars. Plastic sauce cups containing water with a hole in their lids to hold milkweed leaves prevent leaves from wilting. Open water is never placed in the terrariums. Wire screen covers provide a place for the jewel-like monarch pupae to hang before hatching into butterflies.

Delene's husband Tom Ueberroth transformed the yard's seldom-used and high-maintenance swimming pool into a shallow pond surrounded by stones. The swimming pool had a thick plastic lining around the sides, which was left intact. The deep hole was filled with wooden pallets which were lashed together and arranged to form shelves at different levels. These were covered with thick felt and a pool liner.

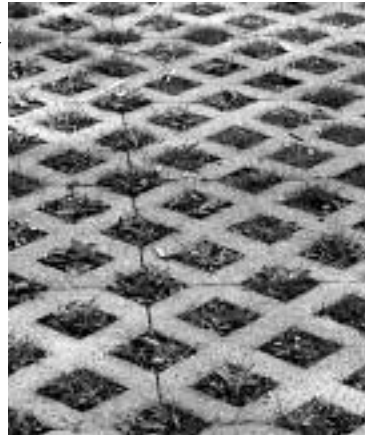
River stones collected (with permission) from construction sites surround the pool, and aquatic plants were added to purify the water and make the area attractive. At a workshop given by the Waterfowl Association, Ueberroth learned how to construct wooden duck houses. Because the lot was wooded and had a pond, wood ducks had already been visiting it. They are widely

recognized as one of America's most beautiful ducks. The boxes not only provided places for wood ducks to raise their young, but also two types of screech owls (gray morph and red morph) hatched families of furry little owls. Watching these birds has been a rewarding experience.

Over the years, birds died in the yard because they collided with windows of the house. This was tragic because they were often warblers, ovenbirds, or some other wonderful migrating species. Millions of birds are killed by windows every year in America. On Earth Day at the Wehr Nature Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, The Humane Society promoted a thin, transparent film which allows light into the house, but reflects UV light so that birds can see glass. Hanson and Ueberroth go a step further, and prop sticks and branches against their windows to warn birds. The result? No more collisions.

To prevent rainwater from leaving the yard, the impervious asphalt driveway was removed. Bit by bit, Ueberroth broke it up with a sledge hammer and transported the pieces to a recycling center in a pickup truck. A layer of gravel and sand was put down, and turf stones went on top of that. Each turf stone weighed about 80 pounds, so the project was labor intensive. Now the driveway has become a nursery for native plant seeds. It is mowed from time to time, using a reel mower. Instead of having rainwater hurry off to the sewer, it is absorbed and put to good use.

Initially, the lot, a remnant woodland, was wooded along the sides and bottom, with large trees in the center. The front consisted of lawn. Removing lawn is an easy task. All one has to do is put down a layer of newspaper or cardboard, and cover the paper with three alternating layers of leaf mulch and sand. Do not use soil, because it is full of invasive seeds. Composted leaf mulch can be obtained free of charge from your town's department of public works. Plants may be introduced directly into the leaf mulch/sand mixture.



Delene Hanson, along with her husband Tom Ueberroth, are a truly remarkable couple. Properly laying a foundation for 80-pound pieces of turf stone (after sledge-hammer removing the concrete driveway), is what makes this ecologically sound driveway give rainwater a useful place to go.

Many of the plants in the yard were obtained from plant rescues. Joining an organization such as the Wild Ones enables members to dig up native plants in areas that are scheduled to be developed. On October 13 there will be a conference at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to advise people how to go about transforming lawns into sustainable landscapes which provide sanctuaries for birds and butterflies. (For more information, go to www.for-wild.org/conf) or call 414-299-9888, ext 2, Wild Ones Milwaukee-Southwest/Wehr Chapter's voice mailbox to leave questions).

Natural landscaping makes enchanting places for children to play and bond with nature. Fall need not be a season of deafening noise from leaf blowers wasting energy. In native landscapes, leaves remain on the ground to decay and nourish the soil. Sustainable landscapes do not need lawn mowers polluting the air with toxic fumes, and wasting millions of gallons of gasoline every year. Neither is it necessary to use dangerous chemicals on native plants.

If anyone is in any doubt about the harmful effects of lawn chemicals, they should look up the landmark case of the municipality of Hudson Quebec in Canada vs. Chemlawn. This prompted the banning of the cosmetic use of lawn chemicals in many Canadian cities and towns.

Shrubs should not be pruned. Their berries are important food for birds in the fall. Finally, native plants have adapted to Wisconsin's climate over thousands of years. They are drought resistant and do not need watering. ♦

Are You
Up For The
**EcoCenter
Challenge?**
Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter
sets the pace for EcoCenter funding.

Challenge Multiplies Your Chapter's Financial Contributions to Wild Ones EcoCenter and Headquarters

Now is the time to act! We have a rare and exciting opportunity to step up our promotion of environmentally sound landscaping practices. A permanent National Wild Ones Headquarters, along with a working ecology center, will help immensely in this effort. Having it in Wisconsin's Fox Valley, home of one of the largest PCB contamination cleanup projects in the world, will help make the EcoCenter a showplace of what can be done to restore the health of an ecosystem.

Members of the **Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter** of Wild Ones (FVAC) wish to show our support for purchase of the Wild Ones EcoCenter with a 1:2 pledge of an amount up to \$20,000, and a challenge to Wild Ones chapters across the country. FVAC will match \$1 for every \$2 raised by Wild Ones chapters across the country, with the hope that our \$20,000 will raise an additional \$40,000 by March 1, 2008.



Our chapter has been fortunate in the past 12 years to have raised substantial funds through our annual conference and plant sales in order to be able to support worthwhile efforts like this. Please encourage your chapters to step up to the challenge. – **Karen Syverson, President of Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter.**

Wait! There's more!

We have a new funding challenge for the EcoCenter – this time targeting Wild Ones members. Another of our long-time members from Illinois has offered a 1:2 match, up to \$20,000, for individual (non-Wild Ones chapter) donations toward the Wild Ones EcoCenter. This is for new donations submitted by Wild Ones members and friends, beginning July 1st. This member will match \$1 for every \$2 donated by Wild Ones members and friends, up to \$20,000, beginning July 1st. Donations made prior to July 1st will not count toward this challenge.

If you haven't already sent in your donation, now's the time to step up and meet the challenge. Thank you so very much. This is another awesome opportunity for Wild Ones.

Contact Donna VanBuecken,
Wild Ones Executive Director,
for more information. Toll-free
at 877-394-9453.



Grapevine

By Christian Nelson (Guest Writer)

Yes, Guest Writer. And you can be one, too.
Read elsewhere on this page for more info.

What's that you say? You don't believe in global warming? That's OK...the planet still needs your help.

Whether or not you believe in man-made global warming (or climate change as it's now being called), if you're a regular reader of the *Journal*, you're most likely aware of the fact that planet Earth has been in trouble for a long time now.

Even if you can ignore all the bad news about climate change, you can't just forget about the mass extinctions caused by our encroachment into the wild, the threats posed by all sorts of invasive species (plant and animal), and the man-made pollution that has ruined so many rivers and caused so much illness and other problems.

The loss of biodiversity is a real problem that affects every person on Earth – even you. Our non-stop habit of pumping carbon dioxide and other pollutants out of the tailpipes of our cars will eventually poison us all, even without the added possibility of global warming. And once all our fresh water becomes polluted, what will we drink?

Even if you're turned off (as many of us are) by the current hysteria, this doesn't give any of us a free pass on helping our favorite planet stay alive.

Pay attention. Stay involved. Stick with Wild Ones. Share your ideas for making things better.

Now is not the time to withdraw. Do everything you can think of to improve the health of our planet. Future generations will be grateful.

The revenge of the worm

In the last issue of the *Journal*, there was an article describing the damage being done to our forests by exotic, non-native earthworms. What a surprise. Who would have guessed that those squiggly wigglers impaled on our fishing hooks could be such nasty creatures?

Now comes news from Germany that the worms may be implicated in global warming. The German government has mandated big increases in the composting of organic waste, and they're putting worms to work to speed the process.

There's a problem though. A recent study has shown that these worms produce

greenhouse gases that are "290 times more potent than carbon dioxide." What's next? A ban on composting?

Smoke on the water

It was 1972 when the British rock group Deep Purple released an album with the soon-to-be iconic "Smoke on the Water." That was a good thing.

But there's another smoke on the water that's not so good. The International Council on Clean Transportation recently announced results of a study, saying that there are now more than 90,000 commercial ships crisscrossing the oceans, and that these ships belch out more carbon dioxide than all but 10 of the 39 industrial nations originally included in the Kyoto Protocol.

And it gets worse. In addition to all that carbon dioxide, this worldwide armada emits more sulfur dioxide than all the land vehicles on the planet – and a sixth of all the nitrogen oxides pumped into the atmosphere.

Fuel standards for ships are much looser than standards for land-based emissions. Diesel fuel sold in the U.S. cannot exceed more than 15 parts per million of sulfur on average, while some fuel used by ships contains 27,000 parts per million.

If only we could talk them into growing native plants on the decks of these ships as partial offsets for these pollutants. SS Hoary Puccoon, anyone? ♦

Spaceship Earth



On Spaceship Earth there are no passengers; everybody is a member of the crew. We have moved into an age in which everybody's activities affect everybody else.

Marshall McLuhan,
1911-1980
Media Critic and Writer



Is It Possible to Have Too Many Books?

Nahhh..we don't think so, either. That's why we make the Wild Ones **Amazon-Associate Bookstore** our favorite place to shop for books. And more. Books, computers, software, cameras. Whatever it is, there's a good chance you can find it in our Amazon-Associate Bookstore. The store is open 24 hours a day, the prices are competitive, and the selection is amazing – plus Amazon pays Wild Ones a nice commission for almost every purchase. www.for-wild.org/store/bookstore.



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. With this in mind, Wild Ones has developed the Ecoscaper Certification Program. Enhance your knowledge and get credit for your accomplishments. Visit www.ecoscaper.org for more information or to enroll.

Be a Guest Writer

Do you have something you'd like to say? Or some facts you'd like to report? We'd like to hear it, and maybe other Wild Ones members would be interested, too.

Journal editor, Maryann Whitman, keeps us informed every issue with her famous "Grapevine" column, but now she's decided to give you a chance to have your say.

Send Maryann an e-mail (journal@for-wild.org), and tell her what you have in mind. Maybe you'll see your own name in lights soon...or at least here in the *Wild Ones Journal*.

Wild Ones Legacy

Helping You Help Wild Ones After You're Gone

The Wild Ones Finance Committee, chaired by Kathy McDonald, Greater Cincinnati (OH) Chapter, has been hard at work developing a financial program for members and friends to use in supporting the Wild Ones mission. Today we are introducing the Wild Ones Legacy Program. If you have comments or further suggestions, please contact the National Office at 877-394-9453.

To fund its important programs, Wild Ones depends heavily on private contributions from caring individuals. Donors are discovering the benefits of supporting charities through their estate plans. Through the **Wild Ones Legacy Program** we will work with you and your estate-planning professionals to help you help Wild Ones after you are gone.

These donations (often called planned gifts) can offer many advantages:

- Reduce estate taxes.
- Provide a life-income stream.
- Allow you to make a much larger gift than you thought possible.
- Receive a current income-tax deduction.
- Reduce or avoid capital gains tax.
- Support Wild Ones mission and work.

If you have not yet included the Wild Ones in your estate plans, the following are some

of the most popular methods to accomplish that. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact National Treasurer, Bret Rappaport, at 312-845-5116 or b.rappaport@comcast.net, or the Wild Ones National Office at 877-394-9453 or execdirector@for-wild.org.

Wills

One of the simplest and most common ways to remember Wild Ones and help us carry on our mission is to leave a bequest through your will. The following is suggested language to use in wills and a variety of other estate planning tools – feel free to print this and take it to your attorney when you are discussing your estate plans.

When making a gift to the Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, Ltd., use this language:

"I give and bequeath the sum of \$ _____ (or _____% of my estate) to the Wild Ones Natural Landscapers Ltd., to be used for its general purposes."

You may also give a particular asset ("my shares of XYZ stock...") or a portion of the residue of your estate after other bequests have been paid ("50% of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate...").

Trusts

There are many different types of trusts that can serve a variety of purposes. It would be impossible to give even a brief explanation of the many types of trusts in this information. The advice of an attorney and qualified financial planner is necessary to assess your situation and decide which trust might best serve your goals. Please know, however that it is easy to include a gift to Wild Ones through your trust by using the language set forth above.

Also, there are trusts (called Charitable Remainder Trusts) that can provide you or your loved ones with a life-income stream while also providing a gift to support the programs of the Wild Ones. Please check with your financial advisor to determine what is best for your situation.

Life insurance

Life insurance can be a valuable tool in estate planning. By naming beneficiaries on policies, the proceeds can be paid directly to that person or organization without having to go through probate. Life insurance also offers a wonderful way to make a charitable gift. It is possible to make gifts with "paid-up" policies, policies with premiums still due,

policies where you can retain the right to a policy's cash value, or by assigning the dividends in a participating policy. Check with your insurance agent to see which option would be best for you.

Pay on death or transfer on death accounts

This estate planning tool can be an effective way to quickly transfer assets – such as bank accounts – to a beneficiary, because it avoids that asset going through the probate process. It also allows you to change the beneficiary at any time.

When establishing the account, tell your banking representative that you wish it to be a “Pay on Death” account. They will ask you for the name of the person or charitable organization you wish to receive the property upon your death.

Gifts of securities

While a gift of securities is not strictly an estate-planning tool, there are significant advantages to this type of donation that have allowed many donors to make gifts that will live on after they are gone.

If you have owned stock for at least one year that has increased in value, you can donate that stock to a charitable organization without having to pay capital-gains tax on the increase. Additionally there is an income-tax charitable deduction equal to the full current market value of the securities (up to 30 percent of the donor's adjusted gross income). Using appreciated stock to fund a gift annuity offers added tax benefits to that gift.

Note: In order to receive the most favorable tax treatment, you must donate the securities to the Wild Ones – you cannot sell the stock and donate the proceeds. If you would like more information on how to make this transfer, please contact the Wild Ones National Office.

Retirement plan assets

With the increase in the variety of retirement plan assets that people own, an important aspect of your estate planning should be making sure that the money invested in these accounts goes to the people or organizations you wish to receive them.

Examples of these different retirement plans include IRAs, pension plans, Keogh, and 401(K) accounts. If you are contemplating a charitable gift in your estate plans, using assets such as those in retirement plans can maximize your donation while allowing other property that is not subject to some taxes to be passed to your beneficiaries. Consult your financial advisor to see what is best for your particular estate plan.

GET WILD STAY WILD

How You Can Help Support Our Mission



There are many ways you can help Wild Ones promote environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities – including financial support or volunteering your time. You can choose to provide additional support in various ways. Which of these might work for you?

Annual Support

Annual gifts, in addition to membership fees, provide critical ongoing resources to support daily operations and enable Wild Ones to carry out its mission throughout the year. **Wild Ones Stewards** provide dependable income for Wild Ones programs by making their annual gifts through convenient monthly deductions via credit card or direct debit from a designated financial account. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

Burr Oak Circle

Donors who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more are honored through this leadership circle program, and are provided with special benefits such as special viewing days at the soon-to-be Wild Ones headquarters and a 10 percent discount on items at the Wild Store.

Oak Savanna Circle

Members of this circle have loyally supported Wild Ones for at least 10 years or more.

Employee Matching Gift Program

Many companies and organizations match employee contributions, greatly increasing the impact of a charitable gift to Wild Ones. Please contact your human resources office for further information.

Special Gifts and Heritage

Contact the Wild Ones Executive Director for further information about the **Wild Ones Legacy Program** which includes making gifts of appreciated stock, real property, in-kind gifts, IRA-rollover gifts (option through December 2007 per the Pension Protection Act of 2006), and multi-year commitments. The Legacy Program (see opposite page) also can include bequests, charitable gift annuities, trusts, and other planned giving vehicles which provide significant support to Wild Ones while also benefiting the donors and their families.

Volunteer

More than 4,000 people annually volunteer their time and energy for land conservation, community garden plantings, and other chapter and national Wild Ones activities. Please consider becoming a “plants-roots” partner with Wild Ones.

Lifetime Members

Lifetime members have shown a long-term commitment to the Wild Ones mission and its goals.

Gift Memberships

One of the easiest ways to advocate and help others who are not already Wild Ones members learn about the benefits of using native plants in their landscaping is to give them a gift membership.

For more information on supporting Wild Ones, contact Donna VanBuecken, Executive Director, Wild Ones, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, Wisconsin 54912-1274, 877-394-9453 (toll free), execdirector@for-wild.org, or visit our web site at www.for-wild.org/. ♦

percent. In the coming century, roughly 30 percent of bird and mammal species worldwide will be threatened with extinction or will become so small in number that they are functionally extinct. Their jobs as pollinators, fruit eaters, insect eaters, scavengers, and nutrient recyclers will not get done, and this will disrupt ecosystems and affect everyone on the planet.

Even if we live in cities, we cannot escape the fact that we are intimately connected to the natural world. This truth has hit home most deeply with the suspicion, then certainty, that humans are warming up their planet. Mining fossil fuels then burning them in cars, homes, and factories has altered the global atmosphere and triggered a noticeable change in climate. The amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased by about 20 percent since 1960. Global temperatures have already increased by almost one degree Celsius, and even the most conservative projections suggest the temperature will climb another two degrees Celsius by the end of this century – some of the bleakest predictions forecast an increase well over six degrees Celsius. Ecologically and economically, it makes a huge difference whether the future unfolds as a best-case or worst-case scenario. To stop this accelerating increase in temperature, not even to bring it back down to normal level, we need to reduce our carbon-dioxide emissions. At the same time, we need to shore up the ecosystem services that naturally keep carbon-dioxide levels in check.

Forests are a storehouse for carbon, so are intricately linked to our global climate. Trees and other plants use carbon dioxide for their growth, and store carbon in their tissues – the boreal forests of the northern hemisphere probably store more carbon than is contained in the world's known fossil-fuel reserves. The boreal forests of Siberia absorb 10 percent of the human-caused carbon-dioxide emissions each year, and North America's boreal forests probably match that amount. It simply doesn't make sense to clear-cut boreal forests even though they may seem like an endless resource that is ripe for the taking. We need those intact forests more than ever before, and we need birds and all the other key players in the ecosystem to maintain healthy forests.

Tropical forests are being cleared at the highest rate in the history of mankind, and the amount of original forest that has been lost is expected to double by 2050. When tropical forests are cleared, they are usually burned, releasing their stored carbon into the air in quantities that rival fossil-fuel burning. Deforestation releases carbon into the atmosphere, and at the same time cuts short the forest's natural role in using up the carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere. Global warming is expected to affect northern climates most severely, and threatens the boreal

forest that the world depends on already for cleaning up our carbon emissions. Global warming is expected to speed up over the next hundred years because climate change will cause widespread shrinking of the boreal forests, which will in turn reduce the ecosystem's ability to buffer carbon-dioxide increases in the atmosphere. Tropical deforestation in the Amazon and logging in the remote boreal forest do affect the lives of people living far away in cities.

Birds have noticed the change in climate. Nest records from thousands of tree-swallow nest boxes dating back to the early 1950s allow us to look for changes in the timing of their breeding in response to global warming. Female birds are careful to time the laying of their eggs to match good spring weather – a bird cannot afford the expense of making eggs unless her own body is in good condition – and once the eggs are laid she has to sit on them and keep them warm. If a female tree swallow jumps the gun, it will be hard for her to find flying insects in the cold weather, and she may be forced to abandon the clutch to save her own life. Since the 1950s, tree swallows in North America have advanced their breeding by about nine days, coinciding with an increase in air temperature over the same period.

Climate change affects the nesting success and survival of neotropical migratory songbirds as well.

Over the short run, the natural ups and downs of global climate change are generated by cycles driven by changes in the temperatures of the Pacific Ocean near the equator. During an El Niño year, ocean temperatures are unusually warm, which triggers global changes in air circulation high in the atmosphere, and changes in rainfall patterns. This short-term climate change gives us a chance to get a preview of what will happen in the future if such changes were more permanent. A long-term study of black-throated blue warblers found that over 10 years, the survival of birds on their winter territories in Jamaica dropped during both El Niño years that happened during the study. Black-throated blue warblers are territorial and eat insects during winter, so face an annual food shortage during the dry season in February and March. Rainfall in Jamaica becomes unusually low during El Niño years, making food even harder to find, and fewer birds survive. On the breeding

grounds in New Hampshire, climate patterns affect breeding success. Females laid fewer eggs in El Niño years, and their nestlings left the nest skinnier than in normal years. Global warming is expected to increase the severity of El Niño years, so migratory songbirds will be shaken with higher death rates in winter, and in summer will produce fewer young to replace them, driving populations even lower.

We have learned that birds are not just bio-

Forests are a storehouse for carbon...the boreal forests of the northern hemisphere probably store more carbon than is contained in the world's known fossil-fuel reserves.



Will our grandchildren be happy living on a planet that will have at least 12 billion people by the end of this century, doubling our already crowded world? Certainly not, especially with a projected 50 percent decrease in the amount of tropical forest and global climate change.

indicators of environmental change – they are nature’s blue-collar workers – helping to sustain the environment that we share with them. The planet’s ability to cope with increasing carbon-dioxide levels depends in large part on the health of our forests – healthy forests will soak up more carbon dioxide and buy us more time to get our carbon emissions under control. Birds are intimately tied to the health of forests, and vice versa. Tropical deforestation is cutting migratory bird populations off at the knees – they are losing their best wintering habitat and suffer lower survival and often longer-term consequences too – like delays in migration and lower breeding success. Tropical deforestation also has a hidden cost: It forces migrants out into agricultural landscapes where they find less food, and are likely to encounter deadly pesticides. Migrants connect the ecosystems of the tropics and the northern forests; their own healthy populations depend on both, and so do our human populations.

In many ways we live in a fantasy world, consuming resources on our planet with abandon and ignoring the realities of how ecosystems really function and support life and human society. Will our grandchildren be happy living on a planet that will have at least 12 billion people by the end of this century, doubling our already crowded world? Certainly not, especially if they also have to live with a projected 50 percent decrease in the amount of tropical forest, a boreal forest that has been logged over half of its area, and global climate change. Where will their clean air, fresh water, and rain come from? Without nature’s services intact, including the forests, birds, and bees, it will be difficult to support such a large human population.

How can the vicious cycle be broken? The global problems of overpopulation, overconsumption of natural resources, broken ecosystems, rising temperatures, and increasing world poverty seem inevitable and overwhelming. Even solving one part of the problem, the collapsing bird-migration system, seems insurmountable. Consider all the environmental roadblocks birds face during their journey: Tropical deforestation, lethal pesticides, loss of important habitat used for migration, cats, colliding with buildings and towers, and, as if all this were not bad enough, loss and fragmentation of their rich breeding grounds.

Yet there is hope for migratory birds and the state of the planet. There are simple actions we can take every day that will help to promote a healthier world for birds, for ourselves, and for our grandchildren. We can help our migrants find safe winter homes by buying shade coffee as well as bird-friendly produce like organic pineapples and bananas. To help save the boreal forest, North America’s bird nursery, we can buy “green” paper products made from recycled paper, and wood products from forests that were harvested sustainably. It is so easy! People living in major cities can turn their lights out at night, and everyone can keep their cats indoors and ask their neighbors to do the same. Our day-to-day choices add up to an enormous ecosystem boost for birds and other wildlife. ♦

Essay from Bridget Stutchbury’s *Silence of the Songbirds*, Walker & Company, 2007. Reprinted with permission of Walker & Company.



The bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), one of many birds who may soon find life more difficult. Photo by S. Maslowski, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



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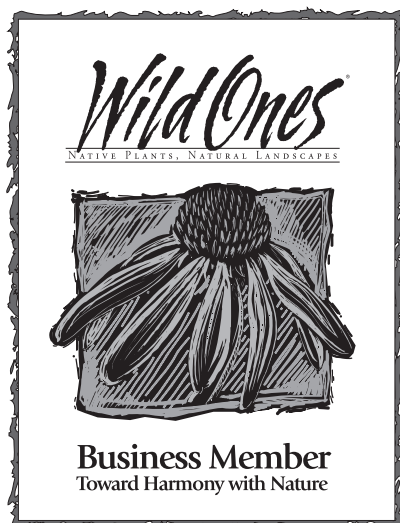
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Wild Ones in the News

Bob Freckmann, co-founder of the **Central Wisconsin (WI) Chapter** of Wild Ones, was recently named 2007 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Foxfire Botanical Gardens Foundation in Marshfield, Wisconsin. Chapter President Dan Dieterich said "There certainly could be no more worthy recipient of this award. I was honored to be able to represent our chapter and give one of the many tributes to Bob at the recognition ceremony." Bob is a professor of Botany at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point which also maintains the Robert W. Freckmann Herbarium.

Lynn Steiner's book, just published, *Landscaping with Native Plants of Wisconsin*, features several of our **Green Bay (WI) Chapter** members and their yards. Shots of **Bonnie and Harold Vastag's** back yard and **Bob and Marylou Kramer's** yard are in the book, and she also credits Amy Wilinski and Cindy Hermesen and Wild Ones for their help. Other Lynn Steiner books include *Landscaping with Native Plants of Minnesota* and *Landscaping with Native Plants of Michigan*.

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Chapter Notes

A new-member development idea came from **Bill Turner**, Treasurer of the **Root River (WI) Chapter**. "We offered a one-year membership to all those who purchased \$100 or more in plants. This was only for those who were not already members. Whether or not all these people show up at our meetings and/or take an active role is yet to be seen. Even if a third of them do so, it will be worth the cost." Root River (WI) Chapter has 35 new members as a result of this promotional effort.

Program Co-Chair **Sandi Morris** told us that the **Lake-To-Prairie (IL) Chapter** presented their very first Show Me/Help Me event this year at the home of **Tom Nowak**. Tom's property was one of three "demos" in the Bull Creek watershed in which redesign to incorporate native plants was begun in 1999 as part of a Wild Ones project. Members will tour Tom's property, hear about his successes and non-successes with native plants, and his plans for the future – and share with him ideas for future landscaping. This is not a work event, so members get to leave their gloves and tools at home. Only lots of ideas and the willingness to network and share are required.



More Lifetime Members

Congratulations to our new Lifetime Members, **Hope Kuniholm**, of the Habitat Gardening in Central New York (NY) Chapter, and **Karen Matz** and **John Skowronski**, of the Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter. Thank you for your support and your dedication to Wild Ones.

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A few years ago we established a Seeds for Education fund-raising initiative in honor of Lorrie Otto's birthday. Her birthday is in September, and she will be 88 years old.

Please send your gifts as soon as possible so we can get your cards and letters to Lorrie in time for her birthday.

You can download a special birthday card for Lorrie, and make your contribution online at www.for-wild.org/download/bd/lorriebirthday.html.

And don't forget to remind your fellow members and chapter boards alike to send their contributions to the Seeds for Education Grant Program, in honor of Lorrie. Let's make this a really excellent year for her.

Dogbane, Flytraps, and Metallic Beetles in the Park

By Harold Eyster

When I walked into Forster park, a small Ann Arbor, Michigan city park near Barton pond, last year in June, I encountered a blazing hill of delicate pink flowers 1/4 of an inch long, with bell-shaped recurved lobes, white with delicate pink longitudinal veins on the inside. The leaves were opposite, entire, broadly oval, paler and slightly hairy below, with milky sap.

Can you identify this plant? Hint: it is in the dogbane family (*Apocynaceae*). It is also called flytrap dogbane, honey bloom, wandering milkweed, and bitter-root – its most popular common name is spreading dogbane (*Apocynum androsaemifolium* L.). It is a perennial that grows 1- to 4-feet tall, with forking, spreading branches. The plants spread widely from horizontal rootstock, hence the common name. It grows in open woods, roadsides, thickets, stream banks, and meadows.

Although I did not see them, the fruit grow as pods in pairs, and are 3 to 8 inches long in late fall. While you might confuse this plant with the intermediate dogbane (*Apocynum medium*), (intermediate between indian hemp and spreading dogbane, therefore the name), flowers are usually white, and lack recurved lobes. Native people used the dead stalk to make string and rope. The root of the dogbane, contains apocynamarin, which is extremely poisonous, is used as a cardio-active drug, and has been used as a tonic.

This was a plant I had never seen before, and it was, by far, one of the most beautiful flowers I have ever seen. Because the flowers are so attractive, many insects are attracted to them, such as bees, moths, flies, and butterflies – especially the last, which prefer dogbane. If another insect, especially a fly, attempts to drink the nectar of the flower, its short tongue can become wedged in the vice-like grip of the dogbane, and there the fly stays until it starves to death because it does not have the strength to pull its tongue out. This is the punishment it receives for stealing the butterfly's nectar. You can often see dead insects sticking out of the flowers, hence the alternate name, flytrap dogbane.

Also look for the distinctive insect resident, a beautiful metallic beetle, the green dandy or dogbane beetle (*Chrysochus auratus*, formerly *Eumolpus auratus*), whose larvae feed on the roots of the spreading dogbane. The adult is not golden, as the species name *auratus* implies. In July, the foliage of spreading dogbane is covered with these beautiful beetles.

To prevent themselves from being eaten by birds and the like, they have a trick of drawing in their legs, and falling off the plant into the grass. If you go to the park this summer, look for the spreading dogbane and its friend, the green dandy. ♦



Flytrap dogbane
(*Apocynaceae*).
Drawing by
Harold Eyster



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Carol Phelps 616-233-0833

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4th Quarter 2007 National Board Meeting will be hosted by **Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter** on **September 28th at the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District Headquarters.** Following the meeting, we will tour Nygren Wetland.

1st Quarter 2008 National Board Meeting will be a conference call.

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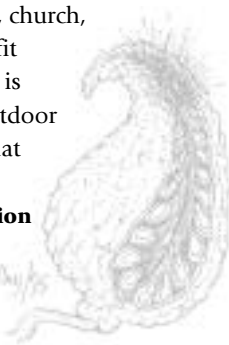
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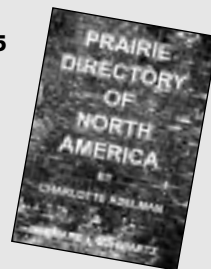
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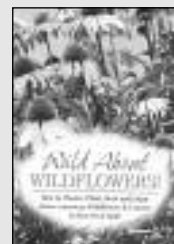
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Thank You

To **Mark Friday**, Menomonee River Area (WI) Chapter, for the promotional idea through Birds & Blooms magazine. We'll keep you posted on any progress.

Seeds for Education

Ann K. Wakeman of the Mid-Missouri (MO) Chapter, and **Kurt Sonen** of the Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter.

Matching Donations

From **Pfizer Foundation**, on behalf of **Erich Zinser** of the Kalamazoo Area (MI) Chapter, a 1:1 match.

General Operating Fund

Evie Dieck of the Green Bay (WI) Chapter, and **John S. Kreznar** of the Milwaukee Southwest/Wehr (WI) Chapter.

A special thank you to **Tim and Janaan Lewis**, Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter, for the donation of office supplies. We can always use padded envelopes.

Also a very special thank you to **Michael J. McGovern** and **Marta Levine**, of **Quarles & Brady, LLC**, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Their law firm very generously donated their services for the recent renewal of the Wild Ones trademark registration.

The Amazon rebates for the past two months were \$125.41. Thank you all for shopping Amazon.Com through our **Wild Ones Amazon AssociateBookstore** (www.for-wild.org/store/bookstore/).

HQ & EcoCenter Fund

Because we've had a really good response to our capital campaign, it is not possible to list all the names in this small space. We have received numerous donations from \$20,000 to \$5, and we appreciate them all so very much. Thank you so much, and we hope we can say the same thing again next issue. So please continue to send in your donations toward the development of the EcoCenter. We'll recognize you formally at a future date.

Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter \$20,000 1:2 Challenge:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Calhoun County (MI) Chapter | \$ 250 |
| Central Wisconsin (WI) Chapter | \$ 500 |
| Door County (WI) Chapter | \$ 200 |
| Gibson Woods (IN) Chapter | \$ 100 |
| Kalamazoo Area (MI) Chapter | \$ 250 |
| Habitat Resource Network of Southeast Pennsylvania (PA) Chapter | \$ 200 |
| North Park Nature Center (IL) Chapter | \$ 250 |
| Oakland (MI) Chapter | \$ 2000 |
| Otter Tail (MN) Chapter | \$ 200 |
| Red Cedar (MI) Chapter | \$ 100 |
| Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter | \$ 1770 |
| St. Louis (MO) Chapter | \$ 888 |
| Western Reserve (OH) Chapter | \$ 200 |
| Total | \$ 6908 |
| Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter Match | \$ 3454 |
| Grand total to date | \$ 10362 |

Thirteen chapters down, 30 to go before March, 2008.

Thank you to the boards and the rest of the members of these Wild Ones chapters. Both Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter and National Wild Ones appreciate your spirit.