

a voice
for the natural
landscaping
movement



NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

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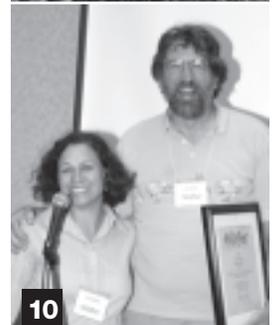
Thank you. Back cover.

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

**Wild Ones
Conference and
Annual Meeting
Dayton, Ohio
August 17-19, 2007**



1. The 150-acre campus of Mount St. John houses the Bergamo Center, where this year's annual meeting was held, and encompasses a 100-acre prairie. Dr. Bob Henn led one exploratory tour. 2. Former National Vice President Mariette Nowack was there signing copies of her new book. 3. Marty Rice of the Twin Cities (MN) Chapter presented Executive Director Donna VanBuecken with a donation of \$1,000 from her chapter, for the Wild Ones EcoCenter. 4. Chris McCullough (seated), President of the hosting Greater Cincinnati (OH) Chapter, was one of the people working at the registration desk. 5. Two-time winner in the annual Photo Contest, Tim Lewis takes a good picture. 6. Michele Banker, one of the stewards of the Mount St. John Prairie Preserve, led us on a tour of the prairie. 7. At the 1,000-acre Glen Helen Nature Preserve & Raptor Center, a docent introduced us to one of her charges, a barred owl. 8. Mount St. John Prairie Preserve. 9. Jim McCormac, keynote speaker, explored the ecological relationships that rely on native plants, and assured us that native plants in urban landscapes can take on global significance to winged wildlife. 10. Incoming National President Carol Andrews presented a plaque to Past-President Joe Powelka for his six years of outstanding service as Wild Ones President. Joe went on to be elected our new National Vice President. **Photos by Carrie Hill, Greater Cincinnati (OH) Chapter and John Arthur, Twin Cities (MN) Chapter.**



Need Some Inspiration? Don't Forget Your Own Personal "Field."



Last February I was asked to speak at a conference hosted by the Wild Ones Twin Cities (MN) Chapter. My assigned topic was "the spiritual and sensual side of native gardening." As the conference grew near I began to worry. What could I, a left-brained engineer type, ever say about such a right-brained, philosophical topic? Then it occurred to me that maybe there is something deeper than logical reasons like providing wildlife habitat that have drawn me to native gardening and Wild Ones. Ah ha! The Field! Behind the suburban house where I grew up there were several acres of undeveloped land with a mix of woods and open field where I spent much of my time through all the seasons. A wave of emotion rolled over me as memories of The Field flooded back.

Think back to what got you interested in native gardening. Might there be a special place that is calling you back or asking you to be sure to provide some place wild and wonderful for today's children (or just your own inner child)? Chances are that wild place of your childhood permeated your bones not only because it was a nice to look at. I'll bet the sensations that filtered deep into your brain also got there through your non-visual senses. I remember the swishing sound the grasses made in the fall and winter, the feel of the sumac leaves as we played chase around their little trunks, and all the different smells. We weren't allowed to forage, so I will admit that I don't recall any tastes associated with our field, but in my wild gardens now I am sure to include plenty of junberries,

Wild Ones Gift Memberships are a great way to provide support while helping us solidify membership at 3,000+ once and for all.

blueberries, and wild strawberries, thus helping to satisfy all my senses.

Next time you are looking for new landscaping inspiration, try thinking back in time. Ask not only "what can I do for my garden?" but "what can my garden do for me?" and think about how it can help satisfy all your senses, including your inner child and fondest memories.

And now – back to the future: there are two business-related things I need to mention. First, the potential for our owning a building, to be called the "Ecocenter," by the end of the year continues to look good. Therefore our Wild Ones Annual Appeal will include a request for funding for demonstration gardens around the Ecocenter, along with a reminder that Wild Ones **gift memberships** are a great way to provide support while helping us to solidify membership at 3,000+ once and for all.

Finally, watch for an idea-packed issue of the *Journal* in January. Because of the potential impacts of climate change on native plants and the importance of discussing this possibility, the January-February issue will be devoted primarily to this subject. If you are not convinced that there is a connection, well – give it a read and let us know what you think. ❖

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

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Wild Ones BUSINESS MEMBER CHALLENGE

This year's new Business Member Challenge was again a tie. Both the Mid-Missouri (MO) Chapter and the Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter brought in one new business member during the six-month period of the challenge, so each chapter received a check for \$75.

Congratulations!

Could your gift be the one that saves the Earth?



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.

An Introduction to Michigan's Stewardship Network

By Sarah Baughman

If there's truth in the old adage that strength comes in numbers, Wild Ones members will be pleased to know they're not the only ones for whom "garlic mustard" is a four-letter word.

The Stewardship Network, an Ann Arbor-based nonprofit organization "working to protect, restore, and manage Michigan's natural lands and waters," shares Wild Ones' commitment to preserving native habitats. Through educational programming, the Stewardship Network seeks to raise public awareness of environmental issues, and create connections between different conservation-oriented organizations.

To this end, the Stewardship Network facilitates frequent hands-on educational workshops and volunteer restoration projects open to professionals and enthusiasts alike. While its primary focus lies in Michigan, monthly webcasts devoted to ecological restoration are open to anyone with an internet connection, regardless of where they live.

"Keep it grassroots, keep it linked"

The Stewardship Network grew out of a desire to coordinate volunteer efforts, and avoid overlap between different conservation groups. What began locally, as a union between Ann Arbor-area organizations to form a Huron River Watershed Volunteer Stewardship Network, expanded within five years to include a much broader geographic area throughout lower Michigan. The organizational leadership comes from a Steering Committee, consisting of five to 15 individuals representing statewide ecological interests.

Lisa Brush, Executive Director of the Stewardship Network, points to the formation of the Steering Committee as a key element of the Stewardship Network's continued success. "It was really rooted in talking with people who worked daily with the issues of caring for natural areas," said Brush. Steering Committee members include conservationists, land trust leaders, and native ecosystem ecologists.

The challenge of balancing local with statewide interests and regional differences with overarching common goals continues to drive the Stewardship Network's unique collaborations.

"A challenge is how to keep it grassroots *and* keep it linked," said Brush. "I strongly encourage us to focus on our areas of commonalities and the importance of caring for and stewarding natural areas. But each of us can have our own missions. We should respect and appreciate differences too." Many organizations with different specific aims can sit and collaborate at the Stewardship Network's common table. The Nature Conservancy, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and YMCA Storer Camps are among over 30 organizations and local land trusts that share partnership with the Stewardship Network.

Making connections

An invasive-ridden school natural area containing few native species, suggested Brush, might not be viewed as a "key restoration site" from a regional perspective, but it can be essential from a different, yet equally important, standpoint. For students, learning the importance of land stewardship is vital, but field trips to higher quality sites might be difficult to arrange frequently, so caring for a local plot can give students a chance to hone their skills while also grasping why regional land stewards choose different focus sites.

At Mill Creek Middle School in Dexter, Michigan, where Ecology Club students are devoted to removing buckthorn from the wooded area adjoining their school, a new generation of future Stewardship Network volunteers is living the principle of ecological preservation. The school group might have a different immediate focus than other conservation organizations, but the ultimate goal of gaining appreciation for natural ecosystems and working to protect them, Brush suggests, is exactly the same.

The Stewardship Network takes particular pride in facilitating the second part of its title – networking between different community members is one of the highlights of the organization's sponsored events. Wild Ones Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter member Celia Larsen hosted a "Lakeshore Ecology by Kayak" field day for the Stewardship Network during which one of the participants, an Ann Arbor Public Schools teacher, expressed interest in getting her students involved with restoration efforts at local sites. A representative from the University of Michigan's Botanical Gardens immediately suggested working at their location, and even offered to provide transportation for students, while the Stewardship Network offered the use of its tool shed, which stocks enough tools for a 15-person workday. In just five minutes, the university, a public school, and the Stewardship Network became valuably linked.

Brush remembers when the Roving Field Crew, part of the Stewardship Network's Southwest Corner Cluster, worked with the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy's van to do work at the Edward Lowe Foundation. "After that," said Brush, "one of the people at the Edward Lowe Foundation approached the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy and said 'hey, do you guys need a truck?' They got a 4x4 truck!"

"These kinds of things happen all the time at the Stewardship Network," said Brush, showing that the mission of "pulling together for nature" is frequently fulfilled.

Two organizations, one similar goal

Bob Grese, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment, straddles both organizations – he was a founding member of both the Stewardship Network and the first Wild Ones chapter in Michigan (the Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter).

Grese remembers the initial Michigan Wild Ones meeting – "it was held in my yard—in my driveway actually," he said. Even then, Grese could see "tremendous interest," and Wild Ones has since blossomed to include 10 Michigan chapters.

"It's been rewarding to see the group expand," said Grese. "Clearly there was a strong interest in encouraging homeowners to take a look at what they could do with landscape conservation in their own yards, as well as a lot of folks interested in working in schoolyards or natural areas."

For Grese, the philosophical connections between Wild Ones and the Stewardship Network are strong – both organizations, for example, are helping people to understand the value of native ecosystems. "The two groups have been somewhat parallel," he noted. "One of the key things for both is the intent to support grassroots efforts." In addition, the two organizations share a focus on "empowering local groups" that work to promote a common larger goal. For Wild Ones, those groups are called chapters –

at the Stewardship Network, local “clusters” across southern Michigan coordinate events and meetings to address specific community needs.

While Wild Ones and the Stewardship Network have worked together on invasive plant and plant identification workshops, the future could hold more extensive collaboration. Grese views the Stewardship Network’s capacity for communication and education as particularly promising.

“One of the goals of Wild Ones has been to help people become more knowledgeable about native flora, and the best way to do that is to become involved with local groups that are trying to manage lands,” said Grese. “The Stewardship Network can really provide opportunities for Wild Ones members to get that hands-on learning.” In August, the Stewardship Network offered a series of three workshops that culminated in an Invasive Plant Control Certificate. Fall event titles include: Great Lakes Dune Protection and Restoration, Propagating Native Shrubs, and Managing Invasives on Public Land.

A chance to get involved: 2008 Conference

Another excellent opportunity for Midwest Wild Ones members comes on January 25-26, 2008, at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing, Michigan. The Stewardship Network has organized a conference titled “The Science, Practice & Art of Restoring Native Ecosystems.” Enrollment is open to “everyone interested in caring for natural lands and waters,” and the conference aims to help bring both researchers and practitioners together.

The Science, Practice, & Art of Restoring Native Ecosystems Conference January 25-26 • Kellogg Center • East Lansing, Michigan www.stewardshipnetwork.org

Stephen Packard, Director of the Chicago-area programs of the National Audubon Society, will be the keynote speaker. Packard has worked primarily in prairie restoration and has been particularly commended for his work with oak ecosystems.

“I believe that everyone who attends the conference will walk away with at least a handful of gems of information they can take back,” said Brush. “It may transform or subtly tweak the work they’re already doing.”

Brush also hopes the conference will allow participants to “make new connections, be re-energized to continue to do the important work they’re doing, have fun, and realize they’re not alone.”

The Stewardship Network is currently seeking oral and poster presentations for this upcoming conference. Presentations may cover multiple subjects related to ecological restoration, including projects that exemplify successful partnerships in natural areas stewardship. You can visit www.stewardshipnetwork.org, and click on the Conference icon for more information about registering and applying to become a presenter.

Even if your calendar is full in January, you can still browse the Stewardship Network’s web site for information about cluster meetings, upcoming webcasts, education and restoration practice days, and becoming a member. Future webcasts include “Status of Significant Plant Invaders in Michigan & Prioritizing Control Efforts” with Phyllis J. Higman on October 10th, and “Predators, Parasites, and Native Hosts” with Anna Fiedler on November 14th.

“There’s such a strong connection between landscaping with native plants and protecting our natural areas,” said Brush, encouraging even more Wild Ones members to get involved.

And that’s good news for everyone but the garlic mustard. ❄

Lady Bird Johnson

December 22, 1912 – July 11, 2007

By Donna VanBuecken

Claudia Alta “Lady Bird” Taylor Johnson was First Lady of the United States from 1963 to 1969, as the wife of U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson. She was an advocate for the beautification of the nation’s cities and highways and for the conservation of our natural resources. Throughout her life, she was an entrepreneur, creating the \$150 million LBJ Holdings Company, and she was a pioneer in the modern environmental movement.

As a child she spent much of her time alone in the outdoors in the tall pines and bayous of East Texas, developing her lifelong love of the environment and watching the wildflowers bloom.

She studied journalism and art at St. Mary’s Episcopal School for Girls, a junior college in Dallas, and graduated with honors from the University of Texas with a bachelor’s degree in Arts in 1933, and a degree in Journalism in 1934 – a time when women were not encouraged to attend college or have a career of their own. She married Lyndon on November 17, 1934, who three years later ran for Congress from Austin’s 10th district.

In 1943, Johnson spent \$17,500 of her inheritance to purchase KTBC, an Austin radio station which became the \$150-million LBJ Holding Company. She remained involved with the company until her 80s.

As First Lady, Johnson started a capital beautification project by planting millions of flowers to improve physical conditions in Washington, D.C., both for residents and tourists. She was also instrumental in promoting the Highway Beautification Act, and sought to beautify the nation’s highway system by limiting billboards and by planting roadside areas with wildflowers.

Johnson served on the National Park Service Advisory Board, the American Conservation Society Board, and was the first woman to serve on *National Geographic’s* Board of Trustees.

On December 22, 1982, she and actress Helen Hayes founded the 60-acre National Wildflower Research Center, a nonprofit organization devoted to preserving and reintroducing native plants in planned landscapes in Austin, Texas. The Center opened a new facility southwest of Austin in 1994, which was named the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in 1998, devoted to preserving and researching native American flora. In 2006 the University of Texas at Austin incorporated the 279-acre Wildflower Center into the University.

Lady Bird Johnson was a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honors. The citation for the Presidential Medal of Freedom reads: “One of America’s great First Ladies, she claimed her own place in the hearts and history of the American people. In councils of power or in homes of the poor, she made government human with her unique compassion, and her grace, warmth, and wisdom. Her leadership transformed the American landscape and preserved its natural beauty as a national treasure.” ❄

Where the Slugs Are

By Barbara Bray

The slug was dangling precariously from the bottom edge of our garage door, which had been opened earlier in the morning by my husband. A length of slime almost 8 inches long was the only thing that kept the poor slug from crashing down 6 feet to the garage floor. It must have been a horrifying experience for the slug to find itself rising up higher and higher as the garage door opened. I rescued the slug and placed it in the leaf litter under some trees in my backyard. That was one lucky slug! For me, this was the point when I stopped labeling slugs as "icky" and started seeing them as an interesting part of our natural environment.

It seems that slugs have earned a bad reputation, even with very young children. Show a child a slug and many of them respond, "Yuck! They're slimy!" It really is too bad because slugs are interesting creatures and are pretty easy to observe.

Slugs are closely related to snails and both belong to a group of animals called *gastropods*. This term means "bellyfoots" and refers to the flat muscular underpart of their bodies. Slugs and snails live in damp places, such as under decaying leaves, logs, or even under stones. They produce slime to help them move along the ground. This slime keeps dirt from sticking to their bodies, but it also helps hold in moisture.

For slugs, this is especially important, since they lack a snail's protective shell. A slug's slime is so protective that the slug can climb over sharp edges unharmed. This slippery mucus is produced from glands on the slug's body. If a slug is disturbed or injured, the slug can produce sticky mucus. Sticky mucus discourages would-be predators from snacking on the slug, and it may help it to escape dangerous situations. This probably explains how the slug on my garage door was able to save itself from falling.

Slugs are primarily nocturnal feeders, but on rainy days you can often find them out in the open. On a rainy camping trip a few years ago a slug "came to dinner." I had a can of cooked chicken on a metal table, and noticed a brownish-yellow slug crawling across the sharp edge of the can lid. It proceeded to eat a 1/4-inch chunk of chicken, as we watched it slowly open its mouth and scrape it away little by little. Amused by our "dinner guest," my son suggested we feed it some canteloupe, too. The slug ate that, and then rolled over as if totally satisfied. A few minutes later, the slug righted itself, and left the table.

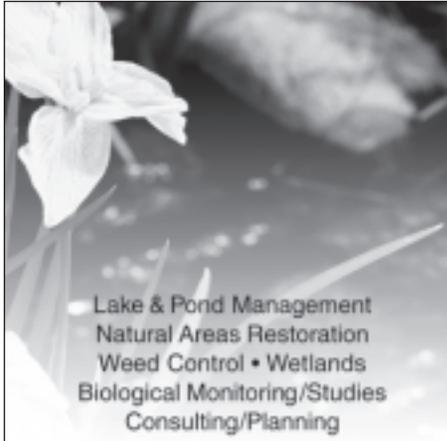
Paying attention to small creatures like slugs helps us to understand that the natural world is not made up of plants alone. Plants and animals are interconnected in many important ways. Sure, slugs eat some of our flowers and vegetables, but they also work as decomposers in our woods and meadows.

Take a walk on a rainy day, and you might see slugs at work. Look for them munching holes on wet fallen leaves. Look for slugs on decaying logs, and watch them slide from one spot to another. Look for baby slugs. They look just like the adults, only smaller. In dry weather slugs retreat to moist environments under leaves and logs. Look in these spots and you might find slugs as well as other critters like salamanders and centipedes. If you are adventuresome, maybe you too can invite a slug to dinner. *



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Grapevine

By Maryann Whitman

And the times...they are a-changin'...

Apologies to Bob Dylan, but duh...that is the nature of time.

Where I live is a park of a hundred-and-some acres that encompasses open fields, woods one may get lost in, wondrously inhabited hedgerows, and variously sized marshes, swamps, and plain-old mud holes. Children bussed from local schools, are ushered around "stations" where experienced naturalists help them find bugs, worms, and salamanders. The children are enthralled, and invariably, before the day is done, someone manages to fall into a mud hole, and is followed by the rest of the group under one pretext or another. Controlled mayhem reigns under tolerant eyes of the docents, until it's time to get back on the bus.

When I was a child, falling into mud holes was not quite as attractive, because they weren't all that unusual. In fact we had one at the "bottom" of the school yard. In this grove of a half dozen trees surrounding some cattails, we found bugs and garter snakes under the tutelage of the older children, who, in the spring, also introduced us to the odors of ramps.

The lessons were not as calm as those of the docents in Bear Creek Nature Park, but Mrs. Gaw, our teacher, somehow managed to put her own organized stamp on them when we came in from recess. She told us how snakes moved though they had no feet, and explained that ramps were wild onions that were among the first fresh vegetables to be had in the spring, and that Indians and early settlers were always pleased to add them to their stews.

Somehow we were able to step through the portal created by Mrs. Gaw's stories into the world of Nature that surrounded us – it made sense and we became part of it.

Our rare bus trips took us to far-away places that were foreign to our every-day existence, like the Art Museum and the Parliament



American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*). USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *Illustrated Flora of the Northern States and Canada*. Vol. 1: 615.

buildings. We knew these things existed but they had no real impact on us.

I wonder how the children who are bussed to Bear Creek Nature Park feel about their experience, and where it fits into the greater scheme of their lives.

Sometimes you settle for what you can get

Known as the "sequoia of the East," the American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) was once dominant in forests from Maine to Georgia, a majestic giant that easily grew to 4 feet in diameter, 120 feet high, and lived for centuries. Its nuts were an important source of food for animals and humans – its rot-resistant wood prized by timber and furniture companies.

Sometime before 1905, a fungal blight was accidentally imported from the Far East. First noticed in the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens in 1904, by 1950 it is estimated that 3.5 billion American chestnut trees – 25 percent of the trees in the Appalachian Mountains, had been wiped out by the fungus.

Until recently, fewer than 10 mature specimens were known to be surviving in their original area of distribution. Earlier this year, an actual grove of American chestnuts was discovered in Georgia. Another 100-or-so mature trees are found growing in planted hedgerows in Wisconsin, Oregon, and in British Columbia, Canada, surviving geographically isolated and out of their native range.

For the last 25 years, researchers have been cross pollinating American chestnuts with naturally blight-resistant chestnuts from China. This has been a tedious task, as young trees do not bear fruit until their sixth year, time enough to succumb to the blight. They now have a tree that is 15/16ths American chestnut, that will grow tall and true, with 1/16 Chinese chestnut resistance. One such tree was planted on the White House lawn in 2005, and is still doing well.

By 2010 it is optimistically predicted that 10,000 blight-resistant, American chestnut hybrids will be ready for trial plantings in forests in the Appalachian Mountains. *

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To place an order, and for full details, check out the Wild Ones Store at www.for-wild.org/store.

Tim Lewis Receives Ecoscaper Level One Certification



Having achieved the first level of the Ecoscaper certification has given me a great deal of satisfaction in that I have learned a lot about Wild Ones and natural landscaping. It validates the several years that I have attended meetings and conferences to learn more. The more I learned, the more I wanted to know. Now it is my turn to teach others about natural landscaping and I look forward to working on the next Ecoscaper level.



CHILDREN'S BOOKS

For kids, teachers, and anyone else who likes to learn and be inspired.

By Celia Larsen



Several authors of adult non-fiction, including Richard Louv and Lowell Monk, encourage us to unplug our children and get them into nature as much as possible to help them be physically, mentally, and spiritually healthy.

Congress is even considering the "No Child Left Inside Act" to strengthen and expand environmental education so that children may learn more about their "natural environment and the enormous challenges it faces." We must be careful, however, as David Sobel points out in *Beyond Ecophobia*, to nurture an empathetic relationship between our children and the nature they encounter *near home* before we trouble them with the world's ecological plights. In other words, we must help them learn to love squirrels and acorns before we burden them with the potential tragedies of global warming.

The following children's books can help set the mood for an outdoor nature study exercise, or they can inspire with great illustrations, or they can just be a great way to "visit" nature on a nasty, sleety day when you want to curl up by the fire. Check them out for yourself and the young folks in your life, and consider giving one to your child's teacher for the holidays. Or perhaps even donate one of these to your library.

Butterfly Eyes and Other Secrets of the Meadow (2006) by Joyce Sidman, illustrated by Beth Krommes.

This book has it all: fantastic, colorful scratchboard illustrations, charming poems *and* lots of science. The author has paired two riddle-style poems on facing pages – milkweed and monarchs, rabbits and fox – and follows each pairing with interesting scientific facts. She starts in the morning with dew and moves through the day, ending with Krommes' illustration of an owl flying through the night. She has even written a poem about spittlebugs: "...Beautiful bubbles/bubbles of foam/Bubbly castle/ snug bubble home/ keeps my skin tender/ saves me from drought...Until I'm a grownup/and wings fully sprout..." Sidman also wrote *Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems*, with verse on duckweed, dragonflies and other wetland denizens. I hope she will consider a book on forest ecosystems soon. *Recommended for grades K-5.*

Frog Heaven: Ecology of a Vernal Pool (2006) by Doug Wechsler, photographs by the author.

A pond with no fish? A pond that dries up? Wechsler expertly details the yearly cycle of a vernal pool in the woods of Delaware with vivid full-color photographs and well-

researched prose. Much of the book focuses on the animals of the pool, and rightly so – frogs and salamanders, birds and snakes, butterflies and dragonflies all make for great pictures and interesting reading.

But the book really won me over with the four-page spread on buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*). Wechsler describes how amphibians lay their eggs among buttonbush's underwater twigs, caterpillars eat its leaves, butterflies sip the nectar of its Dr.-Seuss-looking spherical flowers, and birds build their nests in its twigs. After soaking up this book, you'll understand the complex connections critical to the health of vernal pools, as well as the importance of vernal pools to the overall health of larger ecosystems. *Recommended for grades 3-6.*

All the Stars in the Sky: Native Stories from the Heavens (2006) by Mohawk storyteller and painter C.J. Taylor.

Though Wild Ones usually look toward the earth, admiring plants, I suspect many of us look to the sky as well – if only to give our backs a break from weeding. This collection of Native American legends about the sun, the stars, and the moon is suffused with magical lessons that remind us of the sacredness and beauty of all life. In a comical tale, we learn how Opossum and

Buzzard got their bare tail and head (by trying to snatch sunlight). In another, more tragic, tale, we learn how misbehaving, disrespectful children became the constellation known as the Pleiades. *Recommended for grades 3-6.*

For Native American legends that focus more specifically on plants, see Joseph Bruhac's *Native Plant Stories* (1995). And for a charmingly illustrated 2008 celestial calendar, look for "Fairy Tale Moons," by Mary Adams and Patricia DeLisa.

Walking the World in Wonder: A Children's Herbal (2000) by Ellen Evert Hopman, with photographs by Steven Foster.

This book covers the uses of a lot of great native plants, including trees (e.g., oak, walnut, pine, aspen) – shrubs (e.g., blueberry, sumac, elderberry) – wildflowers (e.g., trillium, wintergreen, echinacea, goldenrod) – and even ferns and club moss. Each entry, told from the "first person" point of view of the plant, consists of a physical description, followed by a description of and recipe for the uses of the plant for food (candied violets), medicine (bee balm tea for your tummy), or fun (ink made from pokeweed).

A clear color photograph accompanies each entry. Strong cautions and a frowny face mark all poisonous plants. I only wish the author had included the habitat in which each plant grows in the wild. Hopman includes non-natives like chamomile and burdock, and even a few invasive species like barberry and wild carrot, but I wouldn't let that keep you from enjoying this information packed book. *Recommended for grades K-5.*

Handbook of Nature Study (1911) by Anna Botsford Comstock, reissued in 1986, with black and white photographs and some line drawings.

Comstock's book is a classic nature study book that every classroom should have. At nearly 900 pages, it covers everything: wildflowers, trees, weeds, crops, garden flowers, and flowerless plants – insects, mammals, fish, amphibians, birds, and reptiles – earth and sky.

The first part of the book is devoted to "The Teaching of Nature Study," and I am amazed at how current Comstock's words seem: "...if the love of nature is in the teacher's heart...such a teacher, no matter by what method, takes the child gently by the hand and walks with him in paths that lead to the seeing and comprehending of what he may find beneath his feet or above his head. And these paths, whether they

lead among the lowliest plants, or whether to the stars, finally converge and bring the wanderer to that serene peace and hopeful faith that is the sure inheritance of all those who realize fully that they are working units of this wonderful universe."

Comstock apologizes in the preface for the large size of the book, but points out that "it does not contain more than any intelligent country child of 12 should know of his environment – things that he should know naturally and without effort – although it might take him half his lifetime to learn so much if he should not begin before the age of 20." I love to have this book on my shelf, as a complement to Google. Originally written for elementary-school teachers, I recommended this book for all families and classrooms as an indispensable reference book and constant source of inspiration and affirmation. ✨



Who Says Kids Don't Like to Read?

More and more, parents, teachers, and grandparents are finding out that if you turn off the television, hide the computer, and show your own enthusiasm for reading, kids will respond. All it takes is some interesting books, and you showing them the way.

When you're looking for some great children's books, don't forget our Wild Ones Amazon-Associate Bookstore. The selection is amazing, you can "see inside" lots of the books before you purchase – and there are lots of readers' reviews that help you decide which books are just right for the children you have in mind.

The store is open 24 hours a day, and Amazon pays Wild Ones a nice commission for almost every purchase.

www.for-wild.org/store/bookstore

Get Involved Stay Involved

There are many ways to help Wild Ones promote environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities.

Annual Support: Wild Ones Champions 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.

Burr Oak Circle: Donors who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more

Oak Savanna Circle: Members who have loyally supported Wild Ones for at least 15 years or more.

Employee Matching Gift Program: Many companies and organizations will match employee contributions

Special Gifts and Heritage: The Wild Ones Legacy Program provides the opportunity to gift 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. Bequests, charitable gift annuities, trusts and other planned giving vehicles 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, and community garden plantings and for the Wild Ones EcoCenter.

Lifetime Members: Long term commitment to Wild Ones mission and its goals.

For more information on supporting Wild Ones through the *Get Wild Stay Wild Program*, please 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/legacy/.

2007 Photo Contest a Big Success

By Tim Lewis – Photo Contest Chair



Above: "The Forest Floor," by Robert Lauer Sr. Scenery category.
Below: "My Ditch Garden," by Tim Lewis. Landscaping category.



People's Choice Award: *Asclepias tuberosa* Seed Pod with Red Aphids by Chan Mahanta. I shot these seeds of a just-opened pod of an *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly milkweed, pleurisy root) just a few days before the contest deadline, right outside my office next to our home in suburban north St. Louis. The geometric formation of the yet-to-disperse silky seeds still attached to the freshly opened pod glistening in the afternoon sunlight caught my eye. But by the time I could get my camera out, the ray of sunshine coming through an oak tree that showed the seeds so brilliantly had moved away. Undeterred, I went back to the office, got a plastic mirror panel, arranged it to reflect the sunlight, and shot a number of images with my Canon Digital EOS fitted with a Canon Macro EFS 60 mm lens.

This year's annual photo contest brought in a record-breaking 82 entries – 50 more than last year. This increase is partly attributable to a change in rules: the number of entries each individual may submit was raised to four. First, second, and third places were awarded in each of the seven categories. The photos taken by Kids' category drew 16 impressive entries – an encouraging event in its own right. The category with the most entries was Flora.

Dr. Tom Barnes, internationally published, award-winning photographer and author of *Kentucky's Last Great Places*, judged the entries. He is a Kentucky State Extension Wildlife Specialist and a Professor in the Department of Forestry at the University of Kentucky. He has authored numerous books on wildflowers, birds, and ferns.

Attendees of the conference were given an opportunity to vote for their favorite photo, regardless of category. This photo won the People's Choice Award.

The contest encourages members to appreciate natural landscapes through the lens of a camera, an activity that, by its nature, causes one to choose and concentrate on a representative aspect. Photos will be put on the Wild Ones web site (www.for-wild.org) so that we all might share in this appreciation. Wild Ones also uses some of the photos in our promotional materials.

The photo contest committee wishes to thank the conference-organizing committee who provided the space for judging and display at their conference. The committee also provided several of the prizes. We are indebted to Dr. Tom Barnes for his invaluable help. ❄

Dear Wild Ones Member:

In accordance with our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, the Wild Ones Nominating Committee is presenting eight board member nominees. All nominees are Wild Ones members and are volunteers. All will serve a four year term. If you will not be attending the Annual Meeting on August 23, 2008 at Appleton, Wisconsin, we would like you to cast your vote for the newest board members prior to the meeting.

Please complete the attached ballot, fold and mail to Wild Ones headquarters by August 15, 2008, or go to the Wild Ones website and cast your ballot by August 20, 2008. To get to the electronic ballot, go to the member login button in the upper right-hand corner of the Wild Ones website homepage. If you haven't already registered, do so. Your entry into the secure pages of the Wild Ones website will bring you to a number of pieces of information including the ballot. Click on the link to the ballot and cast your vote. (www.for-wild.org/members/ballot.html)

The following table lists the nominated Wild Ones board members: 01 Pat Armstrong, 02 Kathy T Dame, 03 Teresa Gallion, 04Tim Lewis, 05 Chris McCullough, 06 Carol Phelps, 07 Bret Rappaport, 08 Karen Syverson

NOMINEE	FUTURE VISION FOR WILD ONES
<p>Pat Armstrong Greater du Page Chapter (IL)</p>	<p>Pat has been planting native plants in her yard since the 1940s. She has experience with prairie, savanna, woodlands, and wetlands. She started the first out-of-Wisconsin Wild Ones chapter, the Northern Illinois Chapter, which has grown to several separate chapters. She has a Masters Degree in Biology, Botany, Ecology from the U of Chicago. Pat owns Prairie Sun Consultants and has been teaching about native plants as a public and private school teacher, at the Morton Arboretum and Chicago Botanic Garden, at park districts and colleges since the 1950s. She is a frequent speaker at environmental related conferences and workshops. She lives in a home she and her husband designed and built to fit into the natural ecosystems of northern Illinois. It is passive solar, energy-efficient and landscaped with over 330 species of native trees, shrubs, prairie grasses and wildflowers. They put 1500 square feet of "green" roof on their home in 2004-5 including about 100 species of native plants and sedums on the roof. Pat is actively involved in living joyfully with nature.</p> <p>Vision for Wild Ones: I love native plants and wild nature and Wild Ones.</p>
<p>Kathy T Dame Mountain Laurel Chapter (CT)</p>	<p>Kathy T. Dame is Assistant Director of the Connecticut College Arboretum in New London, CT. In that capacity, she directs public education and community outreach, public relations, and recruits and manages Arboretum volunteers. Kathy has kept a movement called SALT (Smaller American Lawns Today) alive at the college after the passing of its founder in 1999, by conducting a SALT all day symposium annually. The SALT movement was her inspiration for founding a Wild Ones chapter in CT. While SALT is a concept, there is no formal membership. Wild Ones is the perfect compliment to SALT as both promote using native plants and naturalistic landscaping.</p> <p>Kathy is very interested in teaching young people about nature and creating in them a love for the natural world. She strongly feels that if people love the natural world, they will become life-long stewards of the Earth. In this capacity, she recently established a children's education and outreach program in addition to the educational opportunities for adults. She is a member of the New London Environmental Education Coalition (NLEEC), serves as New London country representative on the Board of Directors for CT Outdoor and Environmental Education Society (COEEA), and is a member of the Five River Consortium. She also co-teaches a Sunday School class for children, and recently has developed a strong interest in promoting stewardship of the Earth in places of worship. She loves to spend time with her three grown children and five young grandkids. She is a news buff, and loves knitting, reading, and the theater.</p> <p>Vision for Wild Ones: My vision for Wild Ones on a "local" level is to see more chapters established in the State as many people have to travel considerable miles to attend our meetings. My broader vision for Wild Ones is not only to establish more chapters across the country, but to include a public educational component as a community outreach project for all Wild Ones chapters. We need to emphasize the same ideas we currently do but in a way that is "user-friendly" to the public, emphasizing the beauty of naturalistic landscaping. Many people do not know what a native plant is, but all people know what beauty is!</p>
<p>Teresa Gallion Partner at Large (MD)</p>	<p>Teresa is a Wild Ones member at large from the State of Maryland. She is a National Wildlife Federation Habitat Steward and Frederick County Maryland Master Gardener. Her quarter-acre suburban property is certified with the NWF as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat as well as the Maryland DNR Wild Acres program, BayWise (a Chesapeake Bay watershed program) and as a Monarch Way Station through Monarch Watch. Teresa is a lifetime member of the Maryland Native Plant Society (MNPS) and a founding member of the Catoctin Chapter of MNPS. She is a member of Sierra Club and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.</p> <p>Teresa is a former board member at Fountain Rock Nature Center where she conducted educational talks for all ages as well as raised money to benefit this under-funded nature park. Teresa is a volunteer at ThorpeWood environmental education center, leading hikes through the Catoctin mountain forest and speaking at community events. She has written numerous articles on gardening, native plants and butterflies for a variety of publications and has appeared on Maryland Public Television's "Outdoors Maryland" while filming sequences on her property. Teresa is a Quality Assurance Document Control Manager at a biotechnology company in Walkersville, MD where she has planned and directed co-worker volunteers planting a riparian buffer on company property, using this opportunity to educate individuals, the corporation and the public on the importance of native plantings.</p> <p>Vision for Wild Ones: Environmental education provides the public with the tools required to create, protect and conserve habitat, biodiversity and natural places. By sharing information with children, neighbors, schools, corporations, developers, landscapers, and politicians, everyone can create a positive impact in the natural world.</p>
<p>Tim Lewis Rock River Valley Chapter (IL)</p>	<p>Tim has been a member since July 1996 and has served as the Rock River Valley Chapter Plant Rescue Chair, Election Chair, Webmaster, President and continues to serve in numerous capacities. At the national level he is the Photo Contest Chair and on the membership committee. He is also Wild Ones Discussion Group Lead Moderator. Tim is the second person to earn the Ecoscaper I certification. He helped national revise the Natural Landscapes PowerPoint presentation and has given the presentation several times to various local groups. He has written articles for the <i>Journal</i> and wrote or rewrote several Wild Ones guidelines including Involvement in Coalitions and Mentoring Program and Plant Rescues. He is an active member and volunteer in several environmental organizations, serving his second year as President of the Four Rivers Environmental Coalition, a non-profit organization in IL. He has his own business as an independent technical writer, writing instruction manuals for many companies. He and his wife live on a subdivision lot that contains over 150 species of native plants and continue to replace lawn and non-natives with natives.</p> <p>Vision for Wild Ones: With global warming on people's minds, Wild Ones is in a good position to be a national leader in conserving resources by planting natural landscapes. We have been teaching this concept for over a quarter of a century.</p> <p>The purchase of the EcoCenter is a huge positive step for our organization. I believe properly managed, it can move Wild Ones to a higher level of recognition within environmental communities. Having a physical property opens new opportunities for, some we do not even know about yet.</p> <p>Not only do we need to support Wild Ones at the national level, we need to support our local chapters. National committees need to be re-established and we need to give them the responsibility and resources to support to the chapters. The local chapters, and our Partners at Large, are where the "plants meet the ground." We have to make sure the chapters have the tools to recruit members, educate them and retain them as members, and that our Partners-at-Large have the means to expand and grow as well.</p>

NOMINEE	FUTURE VISION FOR WILD ONES
<p>Chris McCullough Greater Cincinnati Chapter (OH)</p>	<p>Growing up in a rural area in northeastern Ohio, Chris enjoyed exploring the wooded areas nearby, appreciating spring ephemerals at an early age. She graduated from Michigan State University with a major in Elementary Education. Although teaching in a classroom setting was a brief three years, she has continued teaching by coaching competitive swimming at Lakota High School in West Chester and in a summer recreational league). She established and is the president of the Tri-County Swim League (since 1979), an organized summer swimming league for approximately 1600 swimmers.</p> <p>In 1992 she became a master gardener in Hamilton County. A traditional gardener initially, her interests include native woodland plants, houseplants (succulents and tropicals), vegetables and perennials. After reading <i>Noah's Garden</i>, native plants and ecology became a passion. At a local elementary school she established a butterfly/hummingbird garden, a native grass garden, and an alphabet garden. As president of the Greater Cincinnati Chapter Wild Ones, she has come full circle and found her niche: giving presentations to numerous groups to educate people about non-native, invasive plants and the joys of restoring habitats for native plants and all sorts of nature's critters.</p> <p>Other activities include: volunteer docent at Krohn Conservatory in Cincinnati, volunteer at the Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati, board member of the OH Invasive Plant Council, board member and former president of Greater Cincinnati Master Gardener Association, origami instructor for Cincinnati Parent Association for Gifted Education, and grandmother of three adorable children.</p> <p>Vision for Wild Ones: Concerned about the disappearance of wildlife habitat due to agriculture, uncontrolled development, destruction and disruption by an overpopulation of deer, and the encroachment of non-native invasive plants, I feel Wild Ones needs to encourage and influence state extension master gardener programs to "go green"; that is, create new programs to educate potential master gardeners in the crucial importance of using native plants in the landscape. Master Gardeners can be the vehicle to implement a change of attitude toward traditional landscaping and can influence and teach their neighbors and others to do so as well.</p>
<p>Carol Phelps River City Chapter (MI)</p>	<p>Carol is currently the President of the recently formed chapter of Grand Rapids, Michigan – River City Wild Ones. She has served, for 3 years as the State Chairman of the Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary for Michigan Garden Clubs. This Preserve is the only wildflower sanctuary in the Nationwide USFS system. The Preserve is located just north of White Cloud MI in the Huron- Manistee National Forests. She received a special recognition on March 2008 for her "Dedication and Hard work in the Restoration of Loda Lake Wild Flower Sanctuary". This award was presented at the state wide Wildflower Association of Michigan conference.</p> <p>She is a Advanced Master Gardener and Master Naturalist, a new program sponsored by MSUE. She serves on the Board of the Master Naturalist Classes. Also she serves on the Board of the Grand Rapids Audubon Club. She has been a member of the Michigan Botanic Club for 15 years, and is an active volunteer for the West Michigan Environmental Action Committee in Grand Rapids. Both local and state offices have been held on the Michigan Garden Club Committees, including being a Flower Show Judge.</p> <p>Vision for Wild Ones:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Adding more active, and dedicated, Wild Ones Clubs throughout the US. 2 - Market our national message to schools, clubs, municipalities, and colleges through timely press releases. The message should dispel the misconception that native plants are weedy, hard to grow, difficult to purchase and generally inappropriate for schools, parks, or public gardens. 3 - Create an overall national campaign that native plant communities are appealing and a joy as well as a major part of our natural heritage.
<p>Bret Rappaport Lake-To-Prairie Chapter (IL)</p>	<p>Bret is a former Wild Ones national President and has served as a board member since Wild Ones established a national organization. Bret is a nationally known expert on weed laws and the impact that those laws have on natural landscapers and their efforts to change the world "one yard at a time." He has written extensively on the issue of weed laws impacting on natural landscaping and has been interviewed for various newspapers, magazines and garden books. Bret has spoken around the country on natural landscaping including recent conferences in California and Florida. Bret also serves as Wild Ones' attorney.</p> <p>Vision for Wild Ones: My late father was fond of saying "from small acorns do large Oak trees grow" and I cannot help but think about that as Wild Ones opens the EcoCenter. From a small group of committed ladies in 1979 we have grown to a nationwide organization with a national headquarters. Who knows what great things lie ahead. We must not only tend that Oak, but never forget to keep planting acorns. To me that is what Wild Ones is all about.</p>
<p>Karen Syverson Fox Valley Area Chapter (WI)</p>	<p>Karen has been a member of the Fox Valley Area Chapter (FVAC) of Wild Ones since 1998. She served as chapter President from 2003 to 2008 and has also served as chapter newsletter editor, program chair, conference chair and special events coordinator. Karen is retired after 33 years as an elementary school teacher in Appleton, WI and now lives in Waushara county on a 15 acre property along the Pine River which includes an Oak and white pine woodland habitat. In 2007 Karen worked with the Friends of the Pine River Library to design and plant a garden in front of the library featuring Waushara County native plants. At her property in Pine River, Karen maintains several native plantings around her house and a small savanna prairie and works to maintain wildflower growth in the Oak woodland.</p> <p>"Growing up in South Dakota, I remember looking for the Pasque flower in the spring on the way home from school, the smell of the wild Prairie rose, nesting in the tall prairie grasses, and wondering what were the real names of the summer pasture flowers. Wild Ones has been a big part of my life since 1997 when I attended FVAC's first Toward Harmony with Nature Conference. That conference led me to contacts and information that helped me form plans to establish a nature area on the school grounds." The Highlands Habitat, was started in 1998, involving 600 students and teachers. Karen has continued working in the care and maintenance of the area through her teacher emeritus</p> <p>Vision for Wild Ones: The acquisition of the new National Headquarters in Wisconsin is tremendously exciting and offers potential for growth for Wild Ones and the natural landscaping movement. My vision for Wild Ones is that our organization is visible as a resource for sustainable and "green" land use practices in communities throughout the country.</p>

By order of the Wild Ones Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee.

We also want to thank the Wild Ones members who are stepping down from their positions as national board members. Please share with me a huge thank you to Portia Brown, Louisville MetroWild (KY) Chapter, who has served on the board since 2000 and held the position of Secretary from 2001 to 2005 as well as serving on several national committees including as Chair of the Mission/Name Change Committee 2002-03; Mark Charles, Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter, who has served on the board since 2000, who introduced us to the Internet and will continue to provide his services to the SFE Committee; Steve Maassen, Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter, who has served on our board since 2000 as the SFE Director and who will continue to provide his services to the SFE Committee, and Debi Wolterman, Greater Cincinnati (OH) Chapter, who has served since 2006 as Secretary. We'd also like to thank Kathy McDonald, Greater Cincinnati (OH) Chapter who served from 2004 to 2006 as Treasurer, who Chaired the development of the Ecoscaper Program and several other national guidelines, and continues to serve on the National Financial Stability Committee. Thank you all for your past and continuing support. We really appreciate all your efforts.

Donna VanBuecken
Executive Director

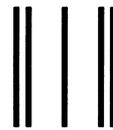
TRI-FOLD AS INDICATED, STAPLE OR TAB, AFFIX 42¢ STAMP AND MAIL

B A L L O T	<p>This is the official ballot for Board of Directors for Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, Ltd. Cast your vote to elect 8 directors to the Board of Directors and mail in to Wild Ones headquarters by August 15, 2008 or go to the member login button in the upper right-hand corner of the Wild Ones website homepage www.forwild.org If you haven't already registered, do so now. This will bring you to http://www.for-wild.org/members/ to vote electronically by August 20, 2008.</p>
	<p>NOMINEES: 01 Pat Armstrong, 02 Kathy T Dame, 03 Teresa Gallion, 04Tim Lewis, 05 Chris McCullough, 06 Carol Phelps, 07 Bret Rappaport, 08 Karen Syverson</p>
	<p>FOR all nominees listed, except as marked to the contrary. <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>Nominees names withheld: _____</p> <p>(enter number designations only)</p>
	<p>WITHHOLD authority to vote for all nominees listed. <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>WRITE-IN nominee: _____</p> <p>_____/_____/_____ Signature of Wild Ones® Member Date</p>

We must receive your mailed ballot no later than August 15, 2008.

Members on the National Wild Ones Board of Directors:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Chapter Affiliation</u>	<u>National Positions Held</u>	<u>Board Status</u>
• Janet Allen	Habitat Gardening (NY)	Ecoscaper Com Chair; Ecospace Com Chair; Climate Change Com;	Continuing
• Carol Andrews	Arrowhead (MN)	2003-5 Photo Contest, 2004 Chair; 2006-07 Vice President; Membership Com Chair; President	Continuing
• Pat Armstrong	Greater du Page (IL)	2006 Annual Meeting/Conference Com; Ecoscaper Review Com	Nominee
• Kathy T Dame	Mountain Laurel (CT)		Nominee
• Teresa Gallion	Partner at Large (MD)	EcoSpace Committee	Nominee
• Tim Lewis	Rock River Valley (IL)	2004-05 Coalitions/Liaisons Chair; 2004-05 Plant Rescue Com; 2004-05 Mentoring Chair; 2003-04 Photo Contest, 2006-07 Chair; Discussion Group Lead Moderator; Membership Com	Nominee
• Chris McCullough	Greater Cincinnati (OH)	2004-06 Ecoscaper Com; 2007 Annual Meeting/Conference Com	Nominee
• Carol Phelps	River City (MI)		Nominee
• Diane Powelka	Madison (WI)	Publicity Com, Photo Contest 2003 Chair; 25 th Annual Meeting Banquet Chair; Climate Com Co-Chair	Continuing
• Joe Powelka	Madison (WI)	2001-07 President; 1998-2001 Secretary; 2001-07 Membership Com Chair; Climate Change Com Co-Chair; EcoCenter Architect; Com Co-Chair	Continuing
• Bret Rappaport	Lake to Prairie (IL)	1995-2001 President, 2003-07 Com Co-Chair 2006-07 Treasurer	Nominee
• Marty Rice	Twin Cities (MN)	Treasurer; Financial Stability Com Chair; EcoCenter Steering Com	Continuing
• Karen Syverson	Fox Valley Area (WI)	EcoCenter Steering Com	Nominee
• Maryann Whitman	Oakland (MI)	2003-06 Vice President; 2002-03 Mission/Name Change Com; 2004-06 Ecoscaper Com; Climate Change Com; SFE Com; Membership Com; Journal Editor-in-Chief	Continuing
• Scott Woodbury	St Louis (MO)	2003 Annual Meeting/Conference Chair; Com Co-Web Chair	Continuing



PO Box 1274
Appleton, WI 54912-1274



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Wild Ones

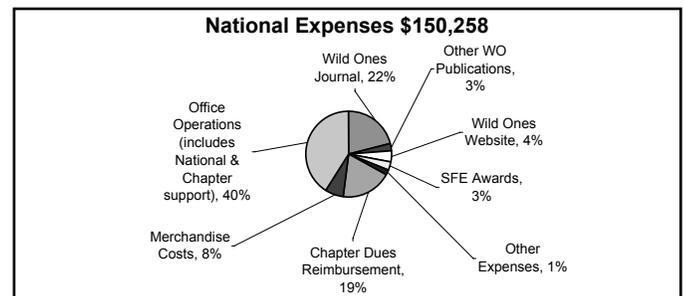
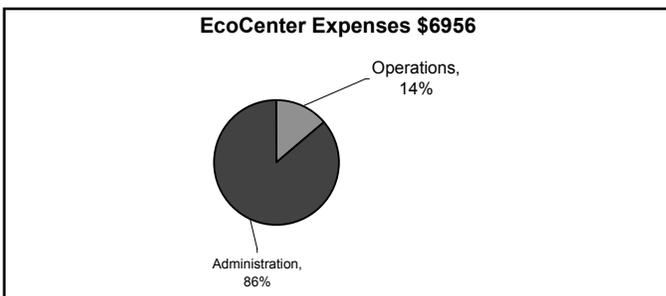
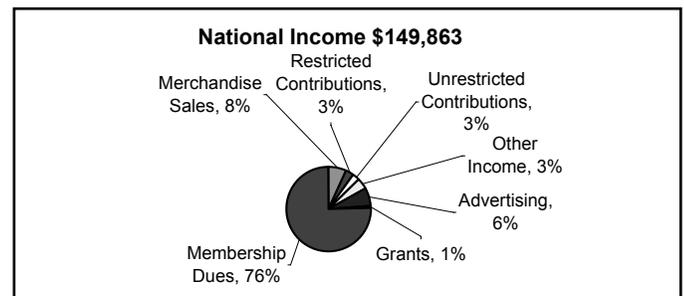
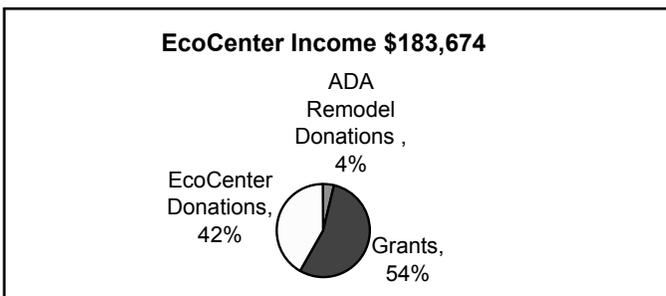
the voice for the native landscaping movement



If you have not entered your vote electronically at the Wild Ones website, please fold this panel back and fold the address panel over the top. Scotch tape or staple loose edge. Affix a 42¢ stamp and mail.

Despite the fact that we've done so much fundraising for the EcoCenter during the past few years, the budget is looking pretty good going into 2008. To see a complete financial statement check with your local chapter treasurer or contact the national office directly at 877-394-9453 or info@for-wild.org.

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The contest encourages members to appreciate natural landscapes through the lens of a camera, an activity that, by its nature, causes one to choose and concentrate on a representative aspect.

The Winners

The winning entrants received ribbons and prizes.

Photos were judged on:

- Technical merit (composition, sharpness, exposure, color)
- Appropriateness to category
- Presentation (mounting neatness)

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Chan Mahanta

For "Asclepias tuberosa Seed Pod with Red Aphids"

FLORA

- 1 **Chan Mahanta** for "Asclepias tuberosa Seed Pod with Red Aphids"
- 2 **Jim Gallion** for "Solomon's Seal"
- 3 **Kelly Daniels** for "Blood Root"

SCENERY

- 1 **Robert Lauer Sr.** for "The Forest Floor"
- 2 **Carrie Hill** for "Orchids in the Forest"
- 3 **John Arthur** for "Lone Lake Lotus #1"

POLLINATORS, INSECTS, OR BUGS

- 1 **John Arthur** for "Black Swallowtail on Golden Alexander"
- 2 **Kim Lowman Vollmer** for "Black Swallowtail Butterfly (*Papilio polyxenes asterius* Stoll)"
- 3 **Robert Lauer Sr.** for "Opposites Attract"

CHILD OR CHILDREN

- 1 **Heather Carter** for "Who Needs Toys 'R' Us?"
- 2 **Kim Lowman Vollmer** for "Carly and Friend"
- 3 **Carol Andrews** for "Freeing the Newborn Butterflies"

LANDSCAPING

- 1 **Tim Lewis** for "A Naturalized Home"
- 2 **Tim Lewis** for "My Ditch Rain Garden"
- 3 **Annette Weissback** for "Frogical Illusion"

WILD ONES ACTIVITIES

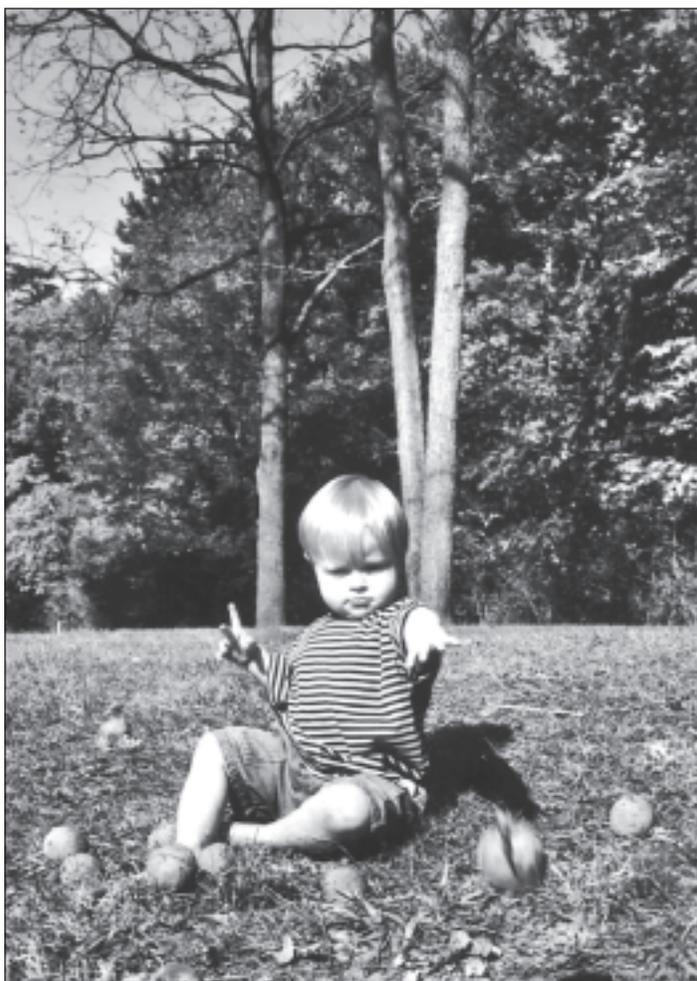
- 1 **Kim Lowman Vollmer** for "Wild Ones Show Me/Help Me Event"
- 2 **Tim Lewis** for "Show Me/Help Me Tour Plant Identification"
- 3 **Donna Van Buecken** for "Deciding where to Dig"

KID'S PHOTOS

- 1 **Erik Vastag** (age 11) for "Golden Splendor" (Flora)
- 2 **Carly Vollmer** for "Hungry Monarch Butterfly (*Danus plexippus*)" (Pollinators)
- 3 **Erin Vastag** (age 8) for "Brightest Prairie Flower, (*Callirhoe involucrata*)" (Flora)

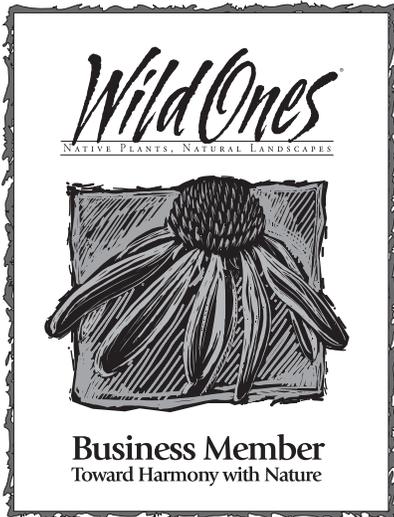


"Wild Ones Show Me / Help Me," by Kim Lowman Vollmer. Wild Ones Activities category.



"Who Needs Toys 'R' Us?" by Heather Carter. Child or Children category.

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Chapter Notes

Teresa Jaskiewicz, Secretary of the **Otter Tail (MN) Chapter** shared this bit of news with us regarding spring burns:

Godel Park – **Rud Wasson** and **Brad Ehlers** assisted the city fire department and the DNR crews in burning 10 acres of Godel Park (restored prairie by Wild Ones and others). Thistle has been greatly reduced, and we are hoping to just use spot mowing this summer to help control some undesirables.

Mill Street – The **Goldenstein's** and **Wasson's** have weeded the area and assisted the city in burning the plot in late April. Many seniors and others in the area enjoyed watching the burn. The area is looking pretty good.

James Havel, President of the **Green Bay (WI) Chapter** tells us that members recently helped plant leftovers from the plant sale at the Green Bay Botanical Gardens. The Botanical Garden has a monthly gathering called the Weed & Feed. Volunteers help with some weeding, and there is food afterward. Our members helped to install the woodland plants in the woodland garden portion of the Botanical Garden, and add prairie plants to a new prairie planting the garden is trying to establish on the slope south of the main building.

The **Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter** recently participated in a plant and bird inventory at Albert J. Miller Preserve, in

Dexter, President **Susan Bryan**

tells us. Members brought their expertise or came to learn new skills and help the preserve survey the plants and animals of a beautiful oak-hickory habitat with many vernal ponds.

Send news of your chapter happenings to **Donna VanBuecken** at execdirector@for-wild.org.



BOOK REVIEW

Landscaping With Native Plants of Wisconsin

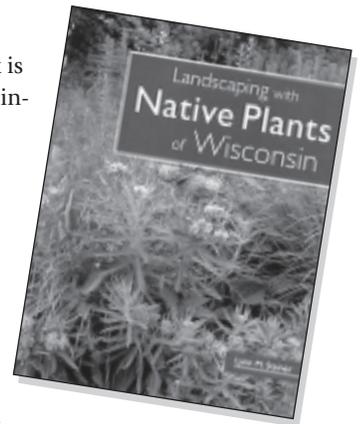
A book by Lynn Steiner

Aimed at beginners and veteran gardeners alike, this book is designed to help Wisconsin gardeners find, plant, and maintain the best native species for their specific sites, however modest or lavish. Gardening with native plants is an ever-more popular practice – and for good reason. Naturally suited to a region's climate and soil, native plants tend to thrive, and to reflect a true "fit" with the environment.

The Native Plant Profiles section offers comprehensive descriptions of some 600 species of flowers and groundcovers, trees, shrubs, vines, evergreens, grasses, and ferns native to Wisconsin, as well as information on planting, maintenance, and landscape uses for each plant.

With advice on the process of designing a natural garden that fits each lifestyle and family, the book will guide readers to the level of native plant landscaping that is just right for them.

Other Lynn Steiner books include *Landscaping with Native Plants of Minnesota*, and *Landscaping with Native Plants of Michigan*. All are available through the Wild Ones bookstore at www.for-wild.org/store/bookstore.



More Lifetime Members

Congratulations to our newest Lifetime Members, **Corie Kase**, of the St. Louis (MO) Chapter, and **Mandy & Ken Ploch**, of the Menomonee River Area (WI) Chapter. Thank you for your support and your dedication to Wild Ones.

Are You Up For the EcoCenter Challenge?

Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter sets the pace for EcoCenter funding.

Now is the time to act! Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter of Wild Ones will match \$1 for every \$2 raised by Wild Ones chapters with the goal that their \$20,000 will raise an additional \$40,000 by March 1, 2008.

Wait! There's more!

A long-time member from Illinois has also offered a 1:2 match, up to \$20,000 between July 1st and March 1, 2008, for individual (non-Wild Ones chapter) donations toward the Wild Ones EcoCenter.

Do It Now!

If you haven't already sent in your donation, now's the time to step up and meet the challenge.



Friess Lake School Outdoor Classroom and Pond Needs Our Help

Diane Holmes, President of the Menomonee River Area (WI) Chapter wrote this note to her members regarding the Friess Lake School. Friess School received a \$400 SFE grant from Wild Ones in 2002 for their outdoor classroom and pond area:

Our chapter has the opportunity to help out with the outdoor classroom at Friess Lake School, located at the corner of Highways 167 & 164 in Hubertus. The school has outstanding natural areas for the students to explore and study, not only in their outdoor classroom area, but also in the 40 acres of wetland conservancy adjacent to the school, donated by the Audubon Society.

Since 1994 the hillside next to the school (300 square feet) has been planted with prairie plants by the students. Last August a presenter from the Madison Arboretum told them they had the best school prairie restoration that she has seen.

In addition to the north of the prairie is a 6-acre wooded hillside with sugar maple, basswood, American beech, and yellow birch. In the spring the wetlands are filled with skunk cabbage, marsh marigold, and trillium.

But as we well know, these school classrooms need help to survive. The science teacher at the school is asking for help. We can be a part of the valuable introduction to nature for these students with only a small amount of time committed. Plus our benefit is the use of the beautiful area for our chapter.

First, a few people are needed at their "FLEE" (Friess Lake Environmental Education) Fest. You don't have to make a commitment for the whole period. The purpose of this event is to share with the community the outdoor classroom, the nature trails, and the new web site with native plants info. Students will be giving nature tours and adults (us) are just needed to supervise and encourage, talk up native plants, assist students in the scavenger hunt, t-shirt painting, etc. Rain date is the following Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Plus this will give us a chance to familiarize ourselves with the area. Please e-mail me to commit to an hour or two (or more) to this project.

Second, Prairie Planting Day is Tuesday. Again adults are needed to supervise and encourage students with the planting. This is during the daytime. Please e-mail me to enlist for this project. I will be in touch later with exact times.

In the future there will be other opportunities. In October there will be a seed collecting day, and in spring Bob Ahrenhoerster of Prairie Seed Source, Madison (WI) Chapter, will burn the prairie, and will be looking for volunteers to assist. Wouldn't that be fun? There may be other "work days" to fix the trails, pull invasives, and the like. But first we must cover this month's events.

Let's practice what we preach and get out there and save this classroom for future generations of "Wild Ones." Please e-mail me to volunteer. I promise it won't be a huge commitment of time, and seeing the children react to nature is always a great experience. ❄



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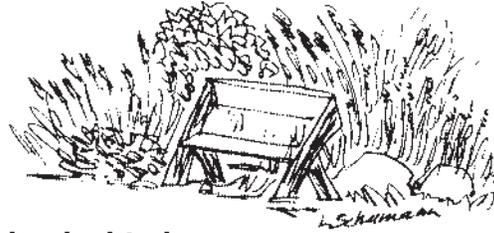
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Chapter ID numbers are listed after names.



Meet us online at www.for-wild.org/calendar.html

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ktdam@conncoll.edu

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

Wild Ones in the News

Habitat Resource Network of Southeast Pennsylvania (PA) Chapter got a nice mention in the *Philly Inquirer* in September. President **Maureen Carbery** noted that she got several calls in response to the article.

Sybilla Prest sent us an article about Whetstone Park's Prairie and Native Habitat, which was written by **Columbus (OH) Chapter** President **Ann Kemble**, and appeared recently in the *Columbus Dispatch*. It was a great promotional piece not only for the chapter, but also for Wild Ones.

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On the Horizon

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

1st Quarter 2008 National Board Meeting will be a conference call on Saturday, January 6th.

2nd Quarter 2008 National Board Meeting will be hosted by **Arrowhead (MN) Chapter** on May 17th, in Duluth, Minnesota.

OTHER CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

12th Annual Toward Harmony With Nature Conference hosted by **Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter** of Wild Ones. 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., at the Hilton Garden Inn, **Oshkosh, Wisconsin**. Keynote presentation: "My Yard, My Canvas, My Celebration: The Joys of Natural Landscaping." Author Mariette Nowak was director of Milwaukee County's Wehr Nature Center for 18 years. Now retired, she is a board member of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology and former National Vice President of Wild Ones. Nine breakout sessions will feature talks on a broad variety of topics

of interest: world of pond critters, threat of invasive species to native plant biodiversity, designing your natural yard, changing ecoscapes, shade gardening, conservation on private lands worldwide, stormwater management in your backyard, oak savannas and Karner Blue butterflies. There will also be vendors, concessions, and a silent auction. Contact person: Karen Syverson 920-987-5587. ksyve@core.com or www.for-wild.org/chapters/foxvalley/.



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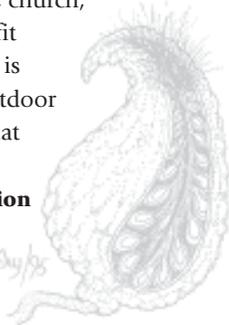
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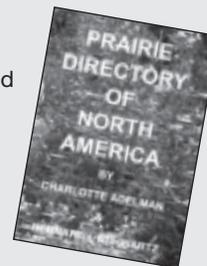
To learn more about the Seeds for Education Program (SFE), go to www.for-wild.org/seededuc.html – or to download the grant application, go to www.for-wild.org/sfecvr.html.

You might also check with your local Wild Ones chapter to see if they provide grant programs locally for SFE projects.

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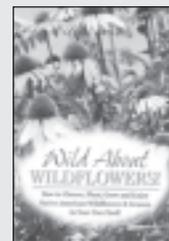
Prairie Directory of North America

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!



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INFORMATION SESSION:
 Saturday, February 11, 2006

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THANK YOU

SFE Donations in Remembrance of
Lorrie Otto's 88th Birthday

- Karen Smith, Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter
Louise Coumbe, Becky & Rick Krumwiede, Donna & John VanBuecken, and Jan Scalpone, Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter
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This brings the total donations to \$2,394.00. Lorrie thanks you all for your generosity.

HQ & EcoCenter Challenge Funds

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. Thank you so much, but please continue to send in your donations toward the development of the EcoCenter. We'll recognize you at some future date. Collections to-date from non-chapter Challenge contributors total \$2,515.

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

Table with 2 columns: Chapter Name and Amount. Includes entries for Calhoun County (MI) Chapter (\$250), Central Wisconsin (WI) Chapter (\$500), Door County (WI) Chapter (\$200), Gibson Woods (IN) Chapter (\$100), Southeast Pennsylvania (PA) Chapter (\$200), Kalamazoo Area (MI) Chapter (\$250), Lake Woods (WI) Chapter (\$200), Milwaukee Southwest/Wehr (WI) Chapter (\$400), 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), Twin Cities (MN) Chapter (\$1000), Western Reserve (OH) Chapter (\$200), Total (\$10,008), Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter Match (\$5004), Grand Total to Date (\$15,012).

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.