

a voice
for the natural
landscaping
movement



JOURNAL

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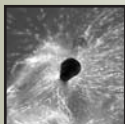
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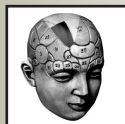


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Thank you. Back cover.

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



HOME AT LAST

Wild Ones EcoCenter and National Headquarters now a reality

We have recently completed the purchase of our new home, along with 3 unimproved acres of land on Little Lake Butte des Morts, an inlet to the Fox River in Wisconsin. Here we will have room for educational activities, a boardwalk, and several demonstration gardens. And the building has space for our executive offices and our library – along with space enough to rent to, and forge bonds with, other like-minded groups.

This is just the first step toward the development of the Wild Ones EcoCenter and National Headquarters. The rest of the acreage, including the marsh is not ours yet – but this is a great start.

Our next step is to make the facility handicap accessible, which includes a boardwalk around the EcoCenter. Until we have the facility accessible to handicapped people, we will not be able to open to the public.

Be sure to watch the *Journal* for further news as we move forward with our plans for the building, the land, and our hopes for the marsh and other acreage. And don't forget to contact us with any ideas you come up with.

This is the beginning of a new era for Wild Ones, and as Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter member and National Board member Pat Armstrong says, "I'm excited for us!" ■

The Small Things We Do Will Make a Big Difference



In 1992 I attended a conference on global warming, and I learned that a vast majority of scientists on the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) believed the climate was changing due to increases in global warming gases in the Earth's atmosphere, and that human activity was a key cause. As I recall, there seemed to be little public interest at the time. Today, in 2007, polls find that "sixty-two percent of respondents believe that life on earth will continue without major disruptions *only* if society takes immediate and drastic action to reduce global warming," and "an overwhelming majority of those polled (79%) believe that there is solid evidence that the average temperature of the earth has been increasing over the past several decades..."

So what does sustainable landscaping have to do with slowing global warming? Obviously a patch of black-eyed Susans in every yard won't provide some magic fix. I'll be honest: on an individual basis and by itself the correct answer is likely "a little." But, as a collective activity, sustainable landscaping is one of the countless things you can do that can make a big difference, along with driving less and improving your mileage (keep those tires inflated), using a clothes line more and a dryer less, growing more of your own food and buying less food that has been transported over long distances, and so on. Just like the expansion of your waist over the holidays or the occasional higher-than-expected VISA bill, *all the little things add up; the effects are cumulative.*

In regard to climate change, sustainable landscaping is one of the things you can do to make a big difference.

The public interest in all things "green" seems to be at an all-time high. The time is ripe for Wild Ones members to find a growing audience interested in sustainable landscaping that can help reduce energy use, sequester carbon, and help (by planting trees on the south side) cool buildings and parking lots. Sharing information about the potentially devastating impacts of climate change on the native plants, as described by John Pastor on page 10 of this *Journal*, is also important.

Not sure where to start? You may find inspiration in Nancy Small's article on page 8. If you haven't posted a Wild Ones sign in your wild yard yet, add one, and share information with your friends and neighbors. Are you new to Wild Ones and looking to learn? Come to a chapter meeting or embark on our Ecoscaper Program that is designed to lead you through the learning experience at your own pace. If public speaking is your forte, sign up to speak at a local event or conference, (Wild Ones can supply the presentation). If you prefer a smaller audience, just mention to any local gardening club that you'd be happy to come talk to them and believe me – they'll say yes, *and* you'll have fun doing it (at least I always do).

If nothing else, keep planting more native plants, mowing less lawn, and, along with all the other little things you do, make whatever difference you can. ■

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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The praying mantis drawing on the back cover is by **Kathy Meyer**.



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.

What Do We Need to Know, and How Soon Do We Need to Know It?

By Tom Small

If, as Wild Ones members, we are to fulfill and extend our native-plant mission, persuading our skeptical neighbors that natural landscaping is indeed an essential “survival skill” in this century of species extinction and global warming, we need sound information, creative ideas, improved organizational skills, and lots of encouragement. The resources I’m offering here have helped me lessen my ignorance and survive my despondencies. I hope they will help you.

The National Wild Ones Board has endorsed Focus the Nation (FTN), and calls on chapters to join over a thousand organizations, colleges, and universities in participating in Focus the Nation Day, January 31, 2008, a key moment in an ongoing campaign to limit climate change. So there’s no better place to begin this list than with the book by the founder of FTN, Eban Goodstein, **Fighting for Love in the Century of Extinction**, (2007). Unlike most global-warming books, it’s brief. And while it has depressing moments, it celebrates the gifts we hold in our hands, gifts for future generations, *if we act in time*: “What amazing gifts. What a time to be alive,” Goodstein marvels.

We do not need to save the planet, he affirms; the planet will be fine, with or without us. What “those of us fortunate enough to have fallen in love with the natural world” must do is pass on to the future as much as possible of what we love. So Goodstein writes about both wealth and knowledge – both politics and spirit. He’s determined not to let us get depressed, but also to keep us “focused.” For more on FTN, see www.focusthenation.org.

For knowledge, I can think of no better book than Tim Flannery’s **The Weathermakers**. A famous Australian writer and scientist, Flannery places global warming within its political and evolutionary contexts, makes the science accessible and vivid, and considers carefully the pros and cons of various proposed remedies.

For a visionary book that may change the way you imagine and relate to the Earth, try Stephan Harding’s **Animate Earth: Science, Intuition, and Gaia**, (2006), a powerful dramatization of the planet’s – or Gaia’s – self-regulating energies, how we disrupt them, and how we can cooperate with them.

There are also scary books out there. There’s none more powerful than Fred Pearce’s **With Speed and Violence: Why Scientists Fear Tipping Points in Climate Change**, (2007). Well-written, it explains the “feedbacks” and prospects for sudden and violent changes that the latest IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) reports don’t take into account. Lester Brown, president of Earth Policy Institute, says if you can read only one book on climate change, “This is it.”

Once you get through Pearce, you may need some encouragement. For assurance that you’re not facing the crisis alone, that there are millions working with you, turn to Paul Hawken’s **Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Movement in the World Came Into Being and Why No One Saw It Coming**, (2007). Hawken brings together in one compact volume the myriad communities involved in a global movement for restoration; he also tells how to get in touch with them.

If you want a cheerful guide to getting through the day with minimum damage to yourself and the planet, try the Grist guide to “greening your day,” **Wake Up and Smell the Planet**, (2007). Not only is it lighthearted and witty, it will gladden your heart with its injunction to “Quit it with the lawns. Embrace native species and a less-manicured look.” Keep in touch with Grist at www.grist.org.

Other useful guides include Greg Horn’s **Living Green**, (2006), especially for its “Resource and Product Guide” to web sources, and Laurie David’s **The Solution is You**, (2006), especially for annotated lists of books, web sites, and organizations. These two handbooks offer very useful information – including statistics – about the climate-change damage done by lawns and lawn-care machines (e.g., one hour of gas-powered leaf blowing equals 350 car miles); but why do so few “green living” guides include an injunction about replacing lawn with native plants like the one in the Grist guide? *Shouldn’t we be trying to inform the authors and editors of these handbooks about our organization and the importance of our mission?*

Bill McKibben, who had it right about global warming 20 years ago in **The End of Nature**, (1989), has a very useful handbook on community organizing, **Fight Global Warming Now**, (2007). It mingles practical advice with creative stimulus, persuading us that effective organization is essential to making a difference. For me, its most useful advice comes in chapter 5, “Make It Creative (and Fun!),” and in the afterword, “Make It Last.”

David de Rothschild’s **The Live Earth Global Warming Survival Handbook**, (2007), provides information, entertainment, and 77 “survival skills.” It not only shows how to plant a tree, it tells you what’s good and what’s maybe not so good about tree planting as “survival skill.”

If you’re ankle deep in books, and needing a good film, or have friends who need visual evidence but can’t abide Al Gore, try the Canadian film “**The Great Warming**,” available in DVD from thegreatwarming.com, in four versions, designed for different audiences, including faith communities, hunters and fishermen, church and synagogue leaders, and teachers. All versions include interviews with Rev. Richard Cizik, Vice President of the National Association of Evangelicals, and are narrated by Keanu Reeves and Alanis Morissette. If all that still won’t do it, the web site has very persuasive material for downloading.

If your skeptical friends need further evidence that climate-change issues are bipartisan (or, more accurately, multi-partisan), suggest Newt Gingrich’s **A Contract With the Earth**, (2007).

And, of course, there’s the internet, with an endless variety of resources. For sound scientific information, I’ve found especially useful realclimate.org (a first-rate blog), pewclimate.org, and www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/hadleycentre. For lively, accurate news and comment on matters environmental, especially as related to climate change check Grist at www.grist.org.

There’s a lot of support out there. I hope this is just the beginning for an exchange of resources and skills that can help Wild Ones members in making an even greater climate-change difference. Please share your own favorites. Send them to the Wild Ones Climate Change Committee at climate@for-wild.org. ■



Can Books Help Fight Global Warming and Climate Change?

Yes. But only if you find the right books, crack them open, and actually read them. If you've read through Tom Small's book recommendations on the previous page, you may already be wondering where to find some of the great books he's mentioned. If so, there's no better place to start looking than the **Wild Ones Amazon-Associate Bookstore**.

All the important books on climate change and global warming are available through Amazon at significant discounts – and shopping through our online bookstore means you won't burn up gasoline driving to every bookstore in town, while pumping more CO₂ into the atmosphere.

Just one more reason we think shopping for books, computers, software, cameras, (and a whole lot more) through our Amazon-affiliate store makes a lot of sense. 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.

Design Your Natural Midwest Garden

Patricia Hill's new book, *Design Your Natural Midwest Garden*, was published by Trails Books this summer. Pat, of the Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter, has been a professional Landscape Designer since 1982, and during the last 10 years, has been designing with Midwestern native plants only. Besides the introduction which gives reasons why landscaping with native plants is good for the environment, there are essays on the demise of our woodlands, the folly of having leaves hauled away, and the importance of infiltration of rainwater instead of drainage. There are also 32 designs featured, including explanations for the designs, and over 200 photographs. You can easily purchase Pat's book through our Amazon-Associate Bookstore at www.for-wild.org/store/bookstore.

Is It Spring Yet? *PH*ind Out! By Janet Allen



Phrenology: Pseudoscience purporting that the bumps on one's cranium indicate character and even criminal tendencies. **Not** the topic of this discussion.

We Wild Ones members spend the winter months eagerly awaiting signs of spring. Those first hints of green poking through the earth. Leaf buds swelling on trees and shrubs. We may not realize it, but when we look for these events, we're practicing the science of phenology. In other words, the study of the timing of biological events related to season and climate. And don't confuse "phenology" with "phrenology" – the 19th century belief that the bumps on one's cranium indicated one's character and mental abilities!

The word "phenology" may be unfamiliar, but people have made use of plants' life-cycle events as far back as the last Ice Age. Ancestors of the Blackfoot tribe, for example, took the blooming of buffalo bean as a sign to hunt bison. Farmers have used phenological events as a guide for planting and tending crops. And people for centuries have recorded these events just because they were interested in nature. More than a few Wild Ones members keep such notes for just this reason!

In the 1950s, Montana professor Joseph Caprio took advantage of this interest. He recruited volunteers to collect information on lilac's and honeysuckle's bud and bloom times. The data these citizens collected from 1957 to 1994 have already proven their worth. They show that in the second half of this time period, the plants bloomed about five to 10 days earlier than in the first half. This volunteer network ultimately stretched across the country and became the National Phenology Network, parent to Project BudBurst.

Project BudBurst

Two traits make plants ideal subjects for tracking climate change. Although the



Phenology: The study of the timing of biological events related to season and climate – the topic of this discussion – fun and enlightening for the citizen scientist. **Not** to be confused with phrenology.

timing of buds bursting varies from year to year, historical records show that first flowering is related to air temperature. It's also noted that plants native to farther south are surviving our northern winters because of our warming climate. And now, by joining Project BudBurst, we Wild Ones members can use our native plant expertise to help scientists learn more about this topic.

Officially beginning January 1, 2008, Project BudBurst is the newest of many citizen-science projects. These projects are ideal for research that requires more data than scientists themselves could collect. Scientists benefit, of course, but citizen participants benefit, too. They develop observation skills that enhance their enjoyment of nature. They can explore their own and others' data online and can archive their data – even data they collected before joining the project. And they have the satisfaction of knowing they're helping scientists learn about issues they care about.

How to participate

To get started, register on the Project BudBurst web site at www.BudBurst.org, and begin your career as a citizen scientist!

- *Select and identify your plants.* Choose plants to study from the lists provided on the web site. There's a variety of native trees and shrubs, native wildflowers, common non-native weeds, and common non-native ornamentals. Everyone in the country is sure to have at least one of these plants in their yard.

- *Provide information about your site.* Spring comes at different times in different parts of the country, so you'll be asked to provide information about your site such as its elevation, latitude, and longitude. It's easy to find this

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

The Fearsome Doodle Bug

By Barbara Bray

Out of sight, under the sand, live the doodle bugs. The doodle bug patiently waits at the bottom of a conical-shaped pit until an unsuspecting creature falls over the edge. As the animal struggles to climb out, loose sand slides down carrying the victim toward the bottom. The doodle bug quickens the animal's descent by tossing sand at the creature. Finally, at the bottom, the doodle bug reaches up with its sharp pincers and drags its prey below the sand. It then injects it with a paralyzing fluid, sucks the body dry, and tosses the victim's



Ant Lion (Doodle Bug): Family: *Myrmeleontidae*.
Photo: Clemson University – USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, Bugwood.org.

corpse out of the pit. While the doodle bugs are ferocious predators, many people never notice them. Why? Doodle bugs are actually very small, only 1/8- to 1/2-inch long, and their conical pits are only 1 to 2 inches in diameter. Because the doodle bug is buried under the sand at the bottom of its small pit, a person could easily miss seeing this insect.

I first became aware of the infamous doodle bugs while camping at Warren Dunes State Park in the southwest corner of Michigan. A park ranger was talking about different animals living in the park, and mentioned how the small doodle bug "boogies" in sandy soil to make its conical pit. Doodle bugs are actually the larvae of net-veined insects known as antlions. Adult antlions resemble damselflies but have longer antennae, with clubs at the tips. While damselflies are strong fliers, antlions fly with weak, fluttering strokes. Adult antlions are hard to find, but you can occasionally see them near other pits, and also around lights at night in the summer. Adult females lay several eggs singly in sandy areas with some protection from rain such as under a tree or an overhang. As soon as the tiny larvae emerge from the eggs, they back around in a spiral to make a pit to catch their first meal. As they eat and grow, their pits become larger and larger. The doodle bugs will spend one to three years in the larval stage. Finally, when it is mature, it will make a parchment-like cocoon at the base of the pit and eventually emerge as an adult. Interestingly, adults drink nectar, eat bits of pollen, or don't even eat at all.

Doodle bugs are known worldwide, and it is children who notice them. In China they are called "di-gu-niu", which means "ancient earth cattle." On the Caribbean islands of Antigua and Barbuda, they are called "John-pee-pee" or "Jam-pee-pee." South Africans call them "joerie," and Mexicans call them "toritos" or "little bulls." No matter what the name, many cultures seem to have traditions involving charms to coax the doodle bugs out of the sand. The charms involve getting your face down as close as possible to the ground. Then you recite a charm while gently twirling a thin stick or blade of grass along the sides of the doodle bug pit. The doodle bug will start to flick grains of sand at your stick or may even come out of the sand. Here are three charms:

"Doodlebug, doodlebug, come out your house

*Your house is on fire, your children are all gone
Doodlebug, doodlebug, come out your house."*

"Doodle, doodle, come and get some bread and butter;

Doodle, doodle, come and get a barrel of sugar"

"Antlion, antlion, catch the blade of grass

*Antlion, antlion, when fun things are happening
quickly time will pass.*

Once you have "charmed" the doodle bug from his home, you can pick it up in your hand. The doodle bug is a voracious consumer of ants, but it will not hurt you. Watch as they move backward in a circle on your hand. The doodle bug is an example of an insect that expertly exploits its habitat to catch its meal rather than running after it. Thank the ant lion for the wonderful job it does helping to keep our ant (and other insect) populations under control! ■

**Wild Ones Sweatshirts
and Long-Sleeve T-Shirts
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Are Fun to Wear, and
Make Great Gifts**



For those cool nights, we recommend these Wild Ones Sweatshirts or Long-Sleeve T-Shirts. Available in Hunter Green, White, Copper, and Ivy, and with different graphic designs and several sizes, you'll always be cozy and warm in these eye-catching shirts. Prices start at just \$18, which includes shipping and handling.

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

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Grapevine

By Maryann Whitman

Killing catalog clutter

Catalog Choice is a free service that lets you decline paper catalogs you no longer wish to receive. Reduce the amount of unsolicited mail in your mailbox, while helping to save trees. A sponsored project of the Ecology Center in Berkeley California, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Natural Resources Defense Council – and funded by the Overbrook Foundation, the Merck Family Fund, and the Kendeda Fund – the web site is at www.catalogchoice.org.

Christian Nelson, *Journal* Creative Director, reports that his wife, Cathy, has taken

advantage of the service to remove the two of them from the mailing lists of over 160 mail-order catalogs.

That's going to save at least a few trees, lower some transportation-caused emissions, greatly reduce the recycling load, and make for an easier walk up the hill from the mailbox.

Ancillary Costs of Unnatural Landscapes

A major aspect not mentioned in most press releases and editorial comments with regard to energy usage and climate change is maintenance of landscapes. Namely, not using leaf blowers and electric pruners,

not mowing lawns more than once a week and/or instead using human-propelled mowers (I just conjured up an image of a human leaf blower. I like it; it's certainly quieter.). Growing native plants and no-mow grasses eliminates the need for carbon-spewing, gasoline-powered engines, and for manufacturing and transporting additives such as fertilizer, herbicides, and insecticides.

Where are we going...and why am I in a handbasket?

With all the talk about floral and faunal species moving uphill (to where it's cooler), and poleward in both hemispheres, comes the realization that this movement is not likely to be an orderly affair. It will more closely approximate the movement of a herd of cats than buffalo. One wonders about the effect this will have on our biological communities and the ecological services they perform.

Bringing Nature Home

Released by Timber Press in December of 2007 is a book that is destined to have a significant effect on thinking about native plants: *Bringing Nature Home: How native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our*

Gardens, by Douglas Tallamy. Don't wait for our review next issue to get your hands on a copy. ■



IS IT SPRING YET? CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

information using a GPS, with internet tools such as www.earthtools.org, or by calling your public library's information desk.

• *Determine which life cycle events to look for.* The phenophase to study for each plant is listed on an information sheet. For example, you'll look for the "first flower" of the eastern red columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*). For the chokecherry (*Prunus Virginiana*), you'll check "first leaf" and then "first flower." The web site defines each phase. For example, "full flower" is "the date when 95 percent of the flowers on the shrub are fully opened."

• *Begin your observations.* Each day, check your selected plants, starting a few weeks before the average expected date. Remember, the key is the date the event first appears, and this date may be earlier than in the past. You don't want to miss it! Choose plants that are convenient for you to monitor – that serviceberry next to your back door, not the columbine in the woods out back.

• *Submit your data online.* If you're not on the internet at home, perhaps a friend could submit the information for you, or you could use the computers at your public library.

• *Compare your data.* Scientists will use the data for their research, but you'll be able to explore the data, too. And you can continue to add and keep information about your plants all year. As the amount of data increases, so will its value as patterns begin to emerge.

• *Spread the word and learn.* So spread the word! Besides Wild Ones, this project is ideal for families, Scouts, and for teachers and students. In fact, the web site includes materials for the classroom.

When you participate in Project BudBurst, you join fellow citizen scientists around the country and around the world. Together we'll figure out how to prevent further global warming and how to adapt to changes already underway. We'll help protect not only our native plants and plant communities but also the world our children and their children will inhabit.

So don your phenological hat, and put your spring fever to good use this year. Become a Project BudBurst citizen scientist! ■



Somewhere between a prairie and a formal planting lies the fertile potential of native plants in an ornamental design, the domain of the Ecoscaper.



Vibeke Vendena Completes Ecoscaper Level I

Announcing our newest Ecoscaper I, **Vibeke Vendena**, of the **Detroit Metro (MI) Chapter**. Vibeke completed Fieldwork item 8, in which she described the ecoregion in which she lives based on the TNC (The Nature Conservancy) ecoregion map.

Her project was the installation of a portion of the naturally landscaped site she designed under item 6 of her fieldwork. Congratulations, Vibeke! You did a great job!

Making Our Yards and Projects More Visible

By Nancy Cutbirth Small

By reducing the size of our lawns, and landscaping with native plants, Wild Ones members do more than most gardeners to slow climate change. We save energy and water, emit less carbon than we might, and even help sequester it. But this is no time for complacency. What can we do to make our good examples – the properties we’re naturalizing – more visible and compelling?

Our only reasonable choice is to keep doing what we’ve been doing, but to do it more energetically and on a broader scale. We must also make our message still clearer and more pointed: conventional lawns, and efforts to keep them alive, are harmful to Earth’s inhabitants. Native plants support wildlife and conserve vital resources better than non-native plants do. In this time of crisis, the landscaping practices advocated by our organization and exemplified by its members are more appropriate, more responsible, and more public-spirited than the practices of conventional landscaping.

Fortunately, the beautiful properties of some Wild Ones members are in plain sight. However, many properties are barely visible, or not visible at all, from the street or road. Owners of less-visible properties might locate a few showy plantings where passersby can’t miss them – around a mailbox on a country road, for example, or on either side of a driveway. And the power of signage to explain our aims – briefly and clearly – should be utilized by all Wild Ones members, however visible their yards, and however inclined they themselves to reticence or anonymity.

Wild Ones National offers two excellent yard signs: the metal Wild Ones sign (“Toward Harmony With Nature”) – and the yellow plastic sign identifying a property as pesticide free. Most, if not all, Wild Ones members can also obtain the certification that allows them to display the National Wildlife Federation’s Backyard Wildlife Habitat Sign and the Monarch Watch sign, designating a waystation that supports the migrating butterflies. We can even put up our own signs, as suggested in Bret Rappaport’s “Grow It! Don’t Mow It,” article, in the March/April, 2002, issue of the *Journal*, (also available online at www.for-wild.org). Grouped together near the street or road so that pedestrians or drivers can’t help but see them, signs can identify and characterize properties that are out of sight, and make the aims of visible properties clearer. (Where plants are near the street, small signs identifying them, especially threatened species, can slow or stop pedestrians.) It’s important to let people know that we landscape with native plants not merely for aesthetic reasons or simply to be different or because we’re just weird.

Another way to make our examples more visible is to invite people into our yards. Instead of waiting to be asked to give yard tours, we can recruit visitors, not only among garden clubs and environmental organizations, but also among neighborhood associations, church and civic groups, city and county officials, school principals and teachers – the list is practically endless. By visiting a naturally-landscaped yard, people who know little or nothing about native plants (or plants in general) – and that’s most people – can get a good look at the plants’ beauty, variety, and versatility.

As hosts of yard tours, we must not allow ourselves to concentrate solely on identifying plants and answering questions about how to grow them. At the risk of seeming preachy or obsessed, we must emphasize to our visitors the mission of Wild Ones and assure them that both our national organization and local chapter will help them switch to a more responsible kind of landscaping.

In addition to providing information about the organization, we can supply practical information about natural landscaping downloaded from the Wild Ones web site or generated by our chapter or ourselves. We can also give visitors seeds or a native plant or two.

A variation of this is an “open house” allowing the public to visit the yard of a Wild Ones member – or two or three wild yards – on an afternoon in summer or early fall. To make such occasions still more interesting and educational, the hosts or their assistants can demonstrate useful techniques ranging from identification of unknown plants, to transplanting, to installing a small native planting. Such occasions also permit distribution of information about our organization, natural landscaping, and climate change.

Far more visible than individual yards or properties are native plantings in the local community. Alone or in conjunction with other groups, Wild Ones chapters can undertake still more plantings in urban areas, e.g., on publicly-owned property such as schoolgrounds, city parks, the grounds of public buildings, or the banks of urban creeks. Such plantings might even offer homes on protected land for plants rescued by the chapter. Establishing native plantings in the community involves people of different backgrounds and ages with native plants and with each other – relationships that should be strongly encouraged. The more people who can be engaged in a community project, the greater its educational value and the greater the chances of its long-term sustainability. So that projects will have the greatest possible impact, we must carefully explain, to anyone who works on them or tours them, what we are doing and why. We must also make sure that the signage of each project conveys our message clearly and gives directions for getting in touch with Wild Ones National and the local chapter. Yet another benefit of undertaking community projects is the favorable notice they – and we – gain from city officials and local media.

Another way to make our yards and community projects more visible is through presentations at conferences large and small, and before groups and organizations that routinely offer programs. My husband, Tom, and I have been giving such presentations for a long time though we aren’t botanists, ecologists, or landscape designers. We show the native plants and plantings in our mesic yard and explain what we’ve done, how we’ve done it, and why. Images of the chapter’s community projects let us show plants and plantings for areas wetter and drier than our yard.

But – instead of seeking audiences, we’ve let people come to us. We’ve also failed to recruit other chapter members to give similar presentations. Now, however, we must do things differently. As everyone will be affected by global warming, presentations on native plants and natural landscaping will be more relevant than ever to the members of most groups and organizations. While “recruits” are preparing their own presentations, they might use the PowerPoint presentation available from the National Office. (For a copy of the presentation, contact the Executive Director at execdirector@for-wild.org.) The advantages, however, of using local images drawn from one’s yard, other members’ yards, the chapter’s community projects, and nearby natural areas, are enormous. Also, having one’s own collection of images allows the tailoring of presentations to many occasions and audiences. Presentations – and all gatherings where people “table” – also offer opportunities to get information about our organization and its concerns into people’s hands. ■

Get Involved, Stay Involved, With Wild Ones

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.

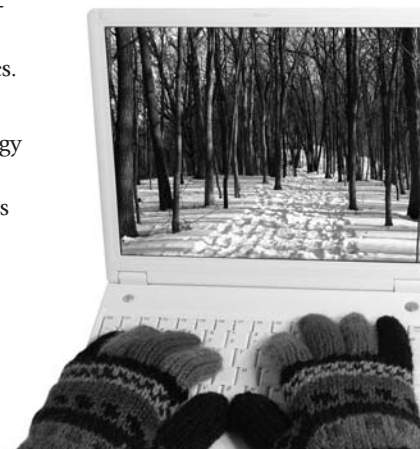
Employee Matching Gift Program: Many companies and organizations will match employee contributions.

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/.



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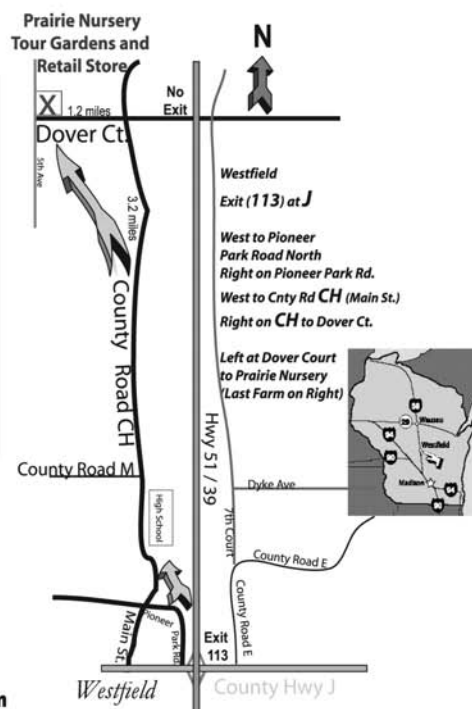
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Global Climate Change and the Preservation of Wild Flora



How will our native plants survive climate change and global warming? As temperatures warm, some plants can “migrate” to friendlier climates by floating their seeds off on currents of air (as the milkweed in the photo is doing). But even these plants (and many others) may need our help to survive. By John Pastor

It's hard to pick up a newspaper these days and not read about the expected warming of the climate in the coming decades because of our loading of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere from our addiction to burning fossil fuels. This is now certain beyond any reasonable doubt: the climate will warm by 2 to 6 degrees Centigrade (4 to 12 degrees Fahrenheit) in the next 50 years. The warming will be greater in winter than summer, which may be welcome news for many homeowners facing winter heating bills, but not so welcome for many wildflowers.

In mid-continent areas, precipitation is likely to decrease, which does not bode well for our gardens. In coastal areas, the frequency of severe storms will increase, which also does not bode well for many wildflowers and trees. On the whole it is likely that our native plants are in for a rough ride.

While these changes are continent-wide, what happens in any one locale depends on local conditions. Any gardener knows that what survives and thrives depends on the soil, especially the ability of the soil to hold water. Sandy soils can't hold much water while clay soils hold much water (perhaps too much!). Where droughts increase, the soil type in your garden may make the difference between what species can hang on, which new species to encourage, and the wildlife your garden attracts.

A garden on silty or clay soil that can hold water may be able to survive droughts every few years, while drought-intolerant species in a garden on a sandy soil right across the road probably won't be able to tolerate a warmer and drier climate. Building up your garden's organic matter, which holds much water, is probably the best step you can take now to mitigate against the deleterious

effects of warmer temperatures and less rainfall.

A warmer winter may be welcome to many of us, but not for many species of wildflowers. The seeds of many wild plants need prolonged periods of cold before they can germinate, a sort of cold dormancy clock. The reason for this is because most seeds are shed during the fall, and if they germinated immediately, the seedlings would soon be killed by the coming frost.

Evolution has selected in favor of plants whose seeds need a long cold period of winter before the genetic processes leading to germination begin. That way the seed “knows” that winter is almost over and it is safe to begin germination. However, we know very little about exactly how long a period of cold stratification is needed for most of our wild flora. Various books such as William Cullina's *New England Wild-*

Desynchronization of flowers and their co-evolved pollinators (caused by climate change) may cause rapid extinction of both.

flower Society Guide to Growing and Propagating Wildflowers, give estimates for cold stratification, but these are best guesses based on the current climate.

If either the period of winter cold or its intensity is decreased in a warmer world, certain species may not germinate at all because the alarm of their dormancy clock has not yet "rung." We need to begin performing experiments on many species to determine the required period of cold stratification in order to prepare for a warmer world.

Temperature, along with day length, synchronizes many species interactions, most especially the interactions between flowers and their pollinators. Over evolutionary time, flowers and their pollinators have co-evolved so that the timing of flowering coincides with the appearance of their pollinators, because both take their development or migratory cues from the same climate or day length signals.

Many plants are highly specialized to attract a single species of pollinator. By being so specialized, they avoid competing with other plant species for pollinators, but this specialized coevolution also may put both plant and pollinator at risk. If both the plant and the pollinator take their cue from day length, then climate warming will probably not affect their interaction, since day length will not change with climate warming.

But if the flowers and pollinators respond differently to increased temperatures, then their development may be desynchronized. Plants may flower before or after their preferred pollinator appears, and so may not be pollinated at all. Simultaneously, the pollinator may not get the preferred nectar it needs to produce eggs for the next generation. *Desynchronization of flowers and their co-evolved pollinators may cause rapid extinction of both.*

Wild Ones members obviously will play an important role in preserving populations of wild species in the gardens that can serve as seed sources for

rescuing species. But Wild Ones members can also be early warning observers of the responses of their wild species to local climate change. Many of us keep a notebook of when different species emerge, flower, who pollinates them, and other features of the timing of their life history collectively known as phenology.

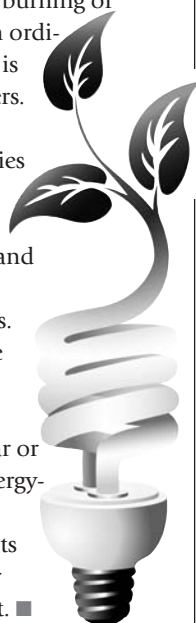
The best thing for each of us to do is to change the way we live, to reduce our input of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Your wildflower gardens will thank you for it.

Recently, the National Phenology Network has begun standardizing the collection and reporting of these data, which will greatly help us monitor the progress of climate change and its effects on ecosystems. To find out more about how you can participate, visit their web site at: www.uwm.edu/Dept/Geography/npn/data/index.html.

But the best thing for each of us to do is to change the way we live, to reduce our input of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Change out all your incandescent bulbs to compact fluorescent bulbs this week: each compact fluorescent bulb saves 1 ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime compared to ordinary bulbs.

Moreover, although they contain some mercury, compact fluorescent bulbs actually put less mercury into the atmosphere compared with the amount of mercury emitted during the burning of the coal needed to power an ordinary bulb. And the mercury is recoverable at recycling centers. Get an energy audit of your home: most power companies will do this for free. If you follow their suggestions, the savings in your heating and electric bills will pay for the improvements in a few years.

After that, the savings are yours to spend as you wish (perhaps on new plants!). And when you buy a new car or appliance, find the most energy-efficient model in the class of car or appliance that meets your needs. Your wildflower gardens will thank you for it. ■



Plants Might Move to Better Climates, But How Far Can They Go, and How Fast Can They Do It?

Cannot the plants and their pollinators migrate to their preferred climate elsewhere? More and more, it is looking like this is unlikely.

First, the rate of climate change in the next few decades is going to be many times more rapid than even the warming after the Ice Age. Plant populations may not be able to disperse their seeds fast or far enough to keep up with the rapidly shifting climate: the climate may simply move out from under the ranges of the species currently adapted to it.



Second, the current landscape is so fragmented with urban areas, shopping malls, roads, lawns, etc., that patches of suitable habitat may be separated by many miles of hostile environments, thereby preventing the plants from migrating in incremental steps.

Moreover, there is growing evidence that different subpopulations within each species are best adapted to their local environment. Thus populations of species in cold Minnesota may not do as well if the relatively warmer Iowa weather moves north, even though the same species is currently also found in Iowa.

Again, we know precious little about the variation in cold and drought tolerance within a species; such knowledge will be crucial for protecting species from extinction in a warmer world. But it would be unwise to begin planting more southern varieties to northern locales until we know more about genetic variation in climate tolerance within a species. ■

SEEDS FOR EDUCATION

Seeds for Education Grant Program

2003 Grant Program

Keith Hannaman of the Blue Springs South High School, of Blue Springs, Missouri, wrote National Seeds for Education (SFE) Committee member **Celia Larsen, Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter**, to share some good news with Wild Ones. Keith wrote: "Our projects keep moving along and expanding. I received word yesterday I have received the Missouri Conservation Educator of the Year Award for work with natural resource conservation and environmental education. All of this would have never happened without help and support from great folks like you (Celia) and Wild Ones. Thank you so very much." Keith's Thomas Young Park Prairie Project received a 2003 SFE grant toward the development of a research area for advance placement environmental science students in the park adjacent to the school.

2008 Grant Program

We received 56 grant applications from throughout the United States, including Hawaii, for the 2008 grant program year. To date, this is the most applications we've received for any year. We'll be calling upon a lot of people for assistance. ■

Congratulations to our newest Lifetime Members!

Karen Trenkeschu
Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter

Kathy E. Carter and
Mack T. Ruffin
Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter

Laura Heden
Lake-to-Prairie (IL) Chapter

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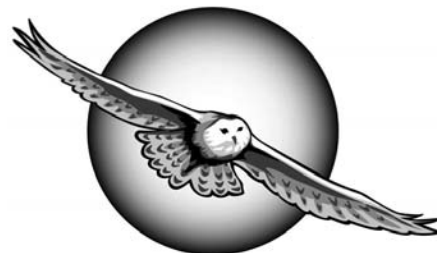
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Chapter Notes

President **Ann Kemble** of the **Columbus (OH) Chapter** wrote these words to her chapter members. Wonderfully written, we paraphrase them below because we feel they apply to all Wild Ones members.

Event-Filled Year It's been a wonderful and eventful year. It is truly amazing the impact that Wild Ones and its members have made on the environment. Our thanks goes out to all of you who have spoken at a school, donated plants, worked at events and booths, planned programming, created materials, or shared your special knowledge and talents in so many ways. By "thinking globally, but acting locally" you did what so many people only talk about. You made a difference.

We'd like to ask you to make a difference again in 2008. We need those special talents and knowledge to increase outreach to the entire American community. In this age of change, natural landscaping, which conserves resources and is a kinder, gentler way of living is appealing to many. Sharing your knowledge will help it spread. There will be opportunities in the new year to engage new members, work with others to educate the public at community events and learn about native plants through hands on learning experiences. Whether you have one hour to give or 100, your contribution is valuable. We'll be getting more information out over the next month about specific opportunities to get involved. I hope you'll choose one to make your own.

Election of New Board Members

There are a few officer positions that need to be filled for the new year. Many board members have served in their positions for a long time and will be moving on to other challenges. Over the past years, board members have had an opportunity to meet many people in the environmental community that they wouldn't have met without being in these positions. The officer and committee chair roles have been both rewarding and challenging. Please consider serving a year at the helm of this wonderful organization. Any of the past or current board members will be happy to answer any questions you have about the positions."

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

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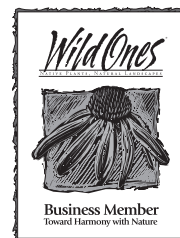
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Are You Up For the EcoCenter Challenge?

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.



Welty Environmental Center's Bird and Butterfly Garden in Beloit, Wisconsin

By Celia Larsen and Tanya Zastrow



The Welty Environmental Center is located outside of Beloit, Wisconsin, within the Beckham Mill County Park, which is surrounded by midwestern farms. Carl Welty, an ornithologist and professor at Beloit College until 1968, wrote the textbook, *Life of Birds*, the fourth edition being published in 1986, the year Professor Welty died. The Friends of the Welty Environmental

Center (FWEC), in large part Welty's former students, formed in 1998 to honor Carl Welty.

When the FWEC hired their first employee in 2003, they applied for a Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education grant for a Bird and Butterfly Garden. Chris Nelson, FWEC board member, and a member of the Rock River Valley (IL) chapter, wrote the grant request. Upon receipt of the grant, Chris designed a children's program to go along with the Bird and Butterfly Garden. Children of ages 6-12 years participated in Chris's program to learn about the many plants that attract butterflies and insects. The children helped pick the plants and lay out garden. They designed a small, "manageable" garden, approximately 15 feet by 15 feet, and chose native perennials appropriate for the sandy soil found at the site. At the Welty Nature Rendezvous Festival in May, 2004, the children planted lupine, bergamot, little bluestem, prairie drop seed, and the curiously named rattlesnake master (American Indians used a root poultice to heal rattlesnake bites). Chris Nelson and her family continue to maintain the garden.

Tanya Zastrow, Welty Center Director, now uses the garden for school and public programs through all four seasons. This past year over 4,000 students visited the center. As students learn about insects, they visit the garden in search of bumblebees on the bergamot, and monarch butterfly caterpillars on the butterfly weed. Using butterfly nets, the children "catch and release" various insects, temporarily housing them in bog boxes. The children sketch the insects, determine their identity using field guides and then release them back into the Bird and Butterfly Garden. They use "Super Ears," a kind of personal sound enhancing device, to hear caterpillars chewing on leaves and bees busily buzzing around.

For programs focusing on all the senses, students can touch the spiky heads of dried coneflowers, feel the square stem of yummy-smelling mint plants, see the blue-purple flowers of lupine, and "pet" the soft seed heads of native grasses. In addition to the Bird and Butterfly Garden at the center, students can visit other habitats in the 50-acre Beckham Mill Park, including an oak savannah, a pond, and a prairie. Ms. Zastrow urges everyone to see the new fish ladder at the mill on Raccoon Creek, a tributary of the Pecatonica River. "Wisconsin has very few fish ladders," she points out, "The ladder not only allows fish to travel between the stream and



CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



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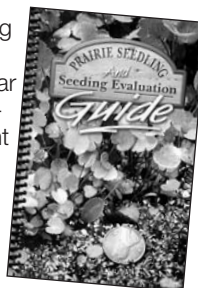


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The Meeting Place

Chapters, please send your chapter contact information to:
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920-994-2505 • meeting@for-wild.org

Chapter ID numbers are listed after names.

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



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jkgmeg@athenet.net

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

Dragonfly Calendar 2008

Wild Ones members John Arthur and Pamela Deerwood, Twin Cities (MN) Chapter, avid dragonfly and damselfly enthusiasts, have created a 2008 calendar filled with great colored photos of these wondrous insects. Available through the Wild Ones Store (www.for-wild.org/store) for just \$20.



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WILD ONES NATIONAL QUARTERLY BOARD MEETINGS

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

1st Quarter 2008 National Board Meeting will be a conference call on Saturday, Jan. 12th.

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

3rd Quarter 2008 National Board Meeting and Annual Meeting at the **Wild Ones Eco-Center and Headquarters** in Appleton, Wisconsin, summer of 2008.

4th Quarter 2008 National Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 4, in Midland Michigan. Hosted by the **Mid-Mitten (MI) Chapter**.

OTHER CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

January 25, 26, 2008, Stewardship Network Conference: Restoring Native Ecosystems. Keynote presentation by Stephen Packard,

Director, National Audubon Society - Chicago Area; at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing MI. For information go to www.stewardshipnetwork.org

January 26, 2008 – The 12th Annual Toward Harmony with Nature Conference hosted by the **Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter** of Wild Ones at the Hillton Garden Inn, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. For information go to www.for-wild.org/chapters/foxvalley/. Keynote address will be "My Yard, My Canvas, My Celebration: The Joys of Natural Landscaping" – by author of *Birdscaping in the Midwest*, Mariette Nowak, who was director of Milwaukee County's Wehr Nature Center for 18 years.

February 2, 2008 – Milwaukee Audubon Society Annual Conference at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Keynote speaker will be WDNR Secretary Matthew Frank "Protecting and Restoring the Waterbelt of the Nation – Our Great Lakes." For more information go to www.milwaukeeaudubon.org/

March 2, 3, 2008 – Wildflower Association of Michigan Annual Conference: Saving and Spreading the Wild, at Kellogg Center in East Lansing MI. Keynote speaker is Jeanne McCarty, Executive Director of REAL School Gardens. For information go to www.wildflowersmich.org.

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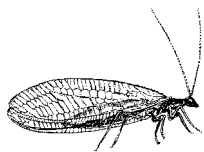
pond, it also provides excellent habitat for water snakes, snapping turtles, and blue herons. Children of all ages spend hours searching up and down the fish ladder for fish, frogs, crayfish, and more."

Teachers who decide to take their students to the Welty Environmental Center may have a hard time deciding which programs to choose and when to go. All of the programs are described on the Center's web site at www.weltycenter.org, with a listing of the environmental education and science standards that each program meets. Pre-schoolers can play "To Be a Tree" in order to begin to understand the form, function, and life cycle of a tree. Elementary students might study "Communities of the Wild" where they can compare the similarities and differences of wild communities with their own community. Middle schoolers might become "Garlic Mustard Warriors," and learn the difference between native and exotic species, and then devise methods to help control invasive species.

The Eco-Buddies program, for 6-12 year-olds, covers fun topics throughout the seasons, including night hikes, winter scavenger hunts, and a maple sugar festival. New this year is "Welty's Winter Campfire Feast," on February 2, where all the food will be cooked outdoors over a fire, including Pheasant Noodle Soup – mmm-mmm good.

The Welty Environmental Center's Bird and Butterfly Garden has been so successful that three other gardens have been added. To the west, there is now a traditional perennial flower garden with non-native plants. To the north and south of the butterfly garden, there are heritage gardens filled with vegetables and grains from the late 1800s and early 1900s, including broom-corn and flax. The newer gardens are used for educational purposes as well.

This special niche in a small park, filled with a variety of educational gardens, will continue to provide wonderful learning experiences for park visitors and program participants. You can visit the center at 8606 County Road H, Beloit, Wisconsin, 53511, right on the Wisconsin-Illinois border. To find out more about the center's educational programs, Program Director Tanya Zastrow can be reached by phone at 608-361-1377, e-mail at info@weltycenter.org, or you may visit www.weltycenter.org. ■



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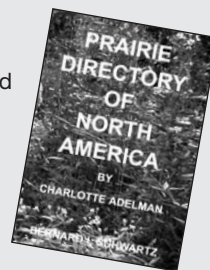
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SFE Donations in Remembrance of Lorrie Otto's 88th Birthday

Our final total rose to \$2,544 with a donation from the **St. Louis (MO) Chapter**. Also, one correction. Karen Smith's donation mentioned in the NovDec07 issue of the *Journal* was actually from the **Country Garden Club of Northville (MI)** on behalf of Celia Larsen, Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter.

General Operating Fund

Becky & Todd Chirhart, **Robert & Carol Niendorf**, **Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter**
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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 some future date. Collections to-date from non-chapter contributors total \$147,381.

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

Arrowhead Chapter	\$100
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Central Upper Peninsula Chapter	100
Central Wisconsin Chapter	500
Door County Chapter	200
Gibson Woods Chapter	100
Greater Cincinnati Chapter	1000
Greater DuPage Chapter	300
Habitat Resource Network of SE PA	200
Kalamazoo Area Chapter	250
Lakewoods Chapter	200
Milwaukee Southwest/Wehr Chapter	400
North Park Nature Center Chapter	250
Oakland Chapter	2000
Otter Tail Chapter	200
Red Cedar Chapter	100
Rock River Valley Chapter	1770
Root River Chapter	1500
St Louis Chapter	888
Twin Cities Chapter	1000
Western Reserve Chapter	200
Wolf River Chapter	100

Total **\$11,608**

Fox Valley Area Chapter Match **5,804**

Grand Total toDate **\$17,412**

Thank you to the 22 out of 44 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.

In-Kind Thank You that got missed in the Thank You insert
Curt Solberg. Thank you, Curt.

