

a voice  
for the natural  
landscaping  
movement

# Wild Ones®

NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

## JOURNAL

JULY/AUGUST 2008  
VOL. 21, NO. 4

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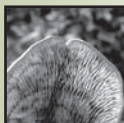
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Thank you. Back cover.



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

## Wild Ones Annual Meeting and Conference In Celebration of Nature

August 22-24, 2008



Mark your calendars for August 22-24, 2008,  
for the Wild Ones Annual Meeting and first  
glimpse of the Wild Ones EcoCenter.

The Wild Ones Annual Meeting/Conference will  
be held in conjunction with the first viewing of the  
Wild Ones EcoCenter this August 22-24, 2008,  
in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Speakers include: **Anne Rosenberg** who is a local  
raptor rehabilitator; **Anita Carpenter**, showing us  
"Birds, Bugs & Butterflies"; Kettle Moraine Land-  
scaping owner, **Connie Ramthun**, speaking on  
"Favorite Prairie Forbs & Grasses;" **Professor Dave  
Kopitzke**, carrying us away with "Fun Facts about  
Woodland Plants"; and **Professor Greg Summers**,  
telling us about "Environmentalism in the Fox  
River Valley and the rest of the USA." Rounding  
out the event will be Prairie Nursery owner, **Neil  
Diboll**, telling us about "What's on the Horizon."

And don't forget the photo contest, silent auction,  
leadership workshops, EcoThink Booksellers, the  
Wild Ones Store, banquet, and tours – including  
the Wild Ones EcoCenter.



**Registration Deadline August 8.**

Lots to do at the Annual Conference.

Be sure to bring or send your items for  
the silent auction. Also available: new  
mugs, Wild Ones tote bags, and the  
"Die Buckthorn Scum" t-shirts.

## Joy (noun): source of pleasure; delight; wonder; charm.



I recently had the chance to visit Holland and Greece for a bit of vacation during which I spent much time observing their approaches to gardening. Virtually every abode, whether it was a stand-alone house (only for the very rich, at least in Holland) or a townhouse, has beautiful gardens. In Greece the production of food seemed to take priority, even on the tiniest plot of land, with lemon and orange trees surrounded by vegetable patches and flowerbeds. In Greece I never saw any lawn, while in Holland fewer than 10 percent of the homes I saw had any lawn at all, featuring instead a mix of colorful perennials around paths and sitting areas.

It reminded me of the presentation by Professor Joan Nassauer at the Wild Ones Annual Conference in the Twin Cities, in which she presented results of her research that showed the high degree to which following the local norm and having a yard that looked like the other yards on the block was a driver in determining people's landscape preferences. It is fun to picture a time when landscapes featuring more gardens of native plants and edible plants and less lawn could become the norm in North America.

On the flight back I watched a movie called "Bucket List." At one point the character played by Morgan Freeman tells his friend Edward (played by Jack Nicholson), that the ancient Egyptians believed that when you died and arrived at the gates of heaven you were asked just two questions: "Did you find joy in your life? Did you bring joy to others?" Now, I'm not sure if that is true or just

the idea of a screenplay writer, but I found they were interesting questions to ponder. The sources of joy in my life, I concluded, would place enjoying my gardens in the top five along with family and a good bike ride.

What about bringing joy to others? Hmmmm...well, one of my neighbors currently has a photo exhibit in town that includes some pictures of my native plants; perhaps some of my blooms brought joy to her as well as to the more frequent visitors, the bees, butterflies, and birds. Every time I teach a class on gardening with native plants, and someone declares, "Thank you so much, this is exactly the kind of thing I want to do with my yard!" if I can get past my Minnesota-nice tendency to be overly modest, I could assume that I had brought joy to this person's life for many years to come. My final conclusion is this: sharing any type of gardening help is sharing joy. Helping someone learn about gardening with native plants is sharing joy that *also* resounds even further, with its benefits that go beyond the "pretty."

**Don't forget to register for our Wild Ones Conference and Annual Meeting (see inserts), by August 8, 2008. Even if you're new – no, *especially* if you're new – we would love to see you there. ▲**

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

**Your Wild Ones National Board election ballots are due August 20th. And be sure to register for the Annual Conference by August 8. (See inserts for details.)**

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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## Writers & Artists

**Neil Diboll** is the owner of the Prairie Nursery, and is a Wild Ones' business member.

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**Apology:** Due to an editing error, credit for the "Roots" drawing on page 14 of the May/June, 2008, issue of the *Journal* was incorrect. The artist credit should have read, "**Janet Wissink**, Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter."

## Plant Rescue



As Wild Ones members, we are in a unique position to recognize the need for a plant rescue, and

also to take charge of a situation and rescue native plants in danger. Every day native plants and their habitats are destroyed, lost forever to the sharp blades of bulldozers and earth-moving shovels. While we can't stop the developers, we *can* rescue the plants.

Find out how at [www.for-wild.org/download/plantrescue/plantrescue.html](http://www.for-wild.org/download/plantrescue/plantrescue.html).

# Pitcher in the Bog

**Some nectar, the right shape, and there's no escape.**

By Anita Carpenter

Article from *Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Magazine*; June 2002, reprinted with permission. Photograph by Donna Krischan, used with permission.

**Anita Carpenter** will be a speaker at our Wild Ones Conference in Appleton, Wisconsin. She is a naturalist, writes a column for the Wisconsin DNR, and is adjunct faculty at University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh.

How could a hungry insect resist? The sweet aroma permeates the northern Wisconsin air. Attracted to the alluring source, the insect discovers nectar drops clinging to the hooded margins of a boldly patterned plant. The insect lands, drinks, and walks around and down inside the hood. The nectar meal is rich, nourishing and filling. The insect turns around to climb up and out, but its path is blocked by a wall of downward-pointing hairs. The insect is now hopelessly trapped. Unaware of its fate, the insect turns around and walks farther into the plant. It reaches a smooth, waxy area where it can't maintain a foothold, slips, and falls into the water-filled abyss, and drowns. The pitcher plant has snared another meal.



A trap for the unwary, a pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*) stands ready to catch an insect meal.

Pitcher plants live in wet, acidic, nutrient-poor environments. They survive by luring and trapping insects that become their source for nitrogen. Nine of the 10 pitcher plant species found in the United States grow in the South. Only *Sarracenia purpurea*, the northern pitcher plant, thrives on sphagnum moss mats of northern bogs.

Northern pitcher plants are perennials, each with a rosette of 8-inch leaves that grow together, modified into tubular water-holding traps about 1 to 2 inches in diameter. The green trap leaves, striated with burgundy veins, flare out prominently near the mouth, and collect rainwater. A vertical lid or hood rises from the top. Each trap leaf has four zones. The upper zone, the hood, has all the accoutrements (smell, nectar, bold pattern) to entice insects. It is also covered with downward-pointing hairs that encourage the insect's descent, and block its ascent. The second zone, the upper third to half of the leaf, lacks hairs but is coated with smooth plant wax that impedes an insect's footing. The diameter of the opening narrows, restricting room for flight as an alternate means of escape. In the third plant zone, the waxy cuticle is absent, and the unwaxed surface absorbs nutrients. Deep within the trap, the fourth zone has a mesh of more downward-pointing hairs which also prevent the insect's exit if it hasn't already drowned.

Most pitcher plants secrete digestive enzymes to breakdown the insect's exoskeleton and release its nutrients. Our northern pitcher plants are the least efficient member of the family, secreting weak digestive solutions, if they do so at all. Mostly they rely on the digestive activities of microbes – bacteria, fungi, protozoans, algae, and other small microscopic organisms living in the rainwater soup that accumulates in the base of the plant. The microbes all eat and benefit from the trapped insects, and ultimately provide life-giving nutrients to the host pitcher plant.

Interestingly, two insect species, the pitcher plant midge (*Metriocnemus knabi*), and the non-biting pitcher plant mosquito (*Wyeomia smithii*), depend solely on pitcher plants, living in the "soup" for all of their lives except for a short-lived adult phase.

Northern pitcher plants blossom in early spring, before or just as new pitcher plant growth appears. A solitary nodding flower tops a leafless stalk or scape. Five burgundy-red sepals radiate from the stalk on top of five strap-like petals.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

# FURTHER MYSTERIES EXPLORED

By Maryann Whitman

## It's All One Piece

Landscaping practices as promoted by Wild Ones have far-reaching implications, with beneficial effects on biodiversity and atmospheric carbon dioxide. ¶ This series of articles explores the ways we are part of this delicate system of connections.

In the May/June issue of the *Journal*, we discussed what it is about native plants that makes them unique. We concluded that their long lives, with the resultant massive root structures, and millennia of adapting to their life space, while also co-evolving with other living organisms in their life space, were all relevant factors.

Quoting Dr. Elaine Ingham, a soil biologist at Oregon State University, we listed the numbers of soil organisms that come in contact with the roots of native plants. She said, "If you grow the proper number and types of bacteria, fungi, protozoa, nematodes, microarthropods, and mycorrhizal fungi in the root systems of the plants...if the soil is healthy for the types of vegetation desired...there should be no reason to use pesticides and fertilizers."

One square millimeter of healthy soil, laid out under a microscope would give us a rough idea of what goes on among the roots of our native plants. Remember that a millimeter is one thousandth of a meter – less than the length of this hyphen (-).

Every bit of soil among our native plants' roots is potentially teeming with activity, as microorganisms go about their business, eating, excreting, and reproducing, and in the process, helping our plants grow. As the plants grow, they slough off root cells, excrete gases, amino acids, and sugar solutions, and finally about a third of

the root structure of a plant dies each season, to be replaced and added to the following season. Every niche and crevice may contain a microhabitat that may be wet or dry, acidic or basic, oxygen-rich or oxygen-poor, nutrient-rich to nutrient-poor. The chemistry of life is happening everywhere; with chemical bonds being made and broken, energy is exchanged and harvested. All of this comprises soil organic matter, which is 58 percent carbon.

The final remains, the residue of these life processes, is humus – a relatively stable form of carbon sequestered in soils for decades and centuries. It is made up of all the remnant bits and pieces of plant, animal, microbial, organic material that is termed recalcitrant organic matter – it doesn't break down easily.

*This is natural carbon sequestration in healthy, undisturbed soil.*

Though some of the concepts have been relabeled, few are new. In 1961, J. E. Weaver, whose career as a plant and soil biologist was launched with his first publication in 1914, wrote:

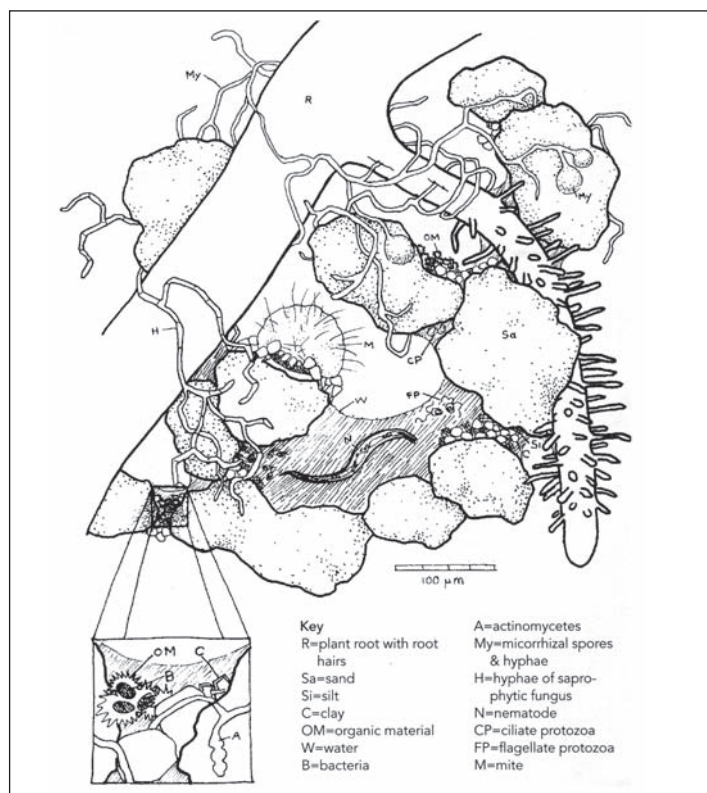
Root channels furnish entry for a vast number of organisms that live in the soil. Many are animals that subsist mostly on living plant materials; others are largely predatory, or are parasitic, or subsist on plant residues. Algae, fungi, actinomycetes, and bacteria are representative plants. Each absorbing root is encased in an extremely well-populated but thin layer of soil – the rhizosphere – in which micro-organisms are especially abundant and active. Many or most of the various soil organisms probably also occur in the parent materials and add to the amount of organic matter, which is chiefly furnished by roots, and thus play a role in the preparation of soil from parent materials.

From: JE Weaver 1961. The living network in prairie soils. *Botanical Gazette*, 123:16-28.

*Footnote: The "parent material" is the ancient primary material from which the surface, fertile soil is formed. Its depth varies, from inches to hundreds of feet.*

Within the past decade enough research has been done with the microorganisms in the soil for biologists to have come the conclusion that specific plants grow better in the company of specific soil organisms – and vice versa. Not only do soil organisms mediate the production of different nutrients, not all plants are able to deal with the same nutrients. The "Soil Web of Life" is a complex one that changes over time as plants mature and alter their life spaces. In his book, *Bringing Nature Home*, Dr. Douglas Tallamy tells us that specific insects prefer to live with, and in fact rely on for livelihood, specific native plants. It does not require much of a stretch of the imagination to suspect that the "Soil Web of Life" has similar essential, unconditional relationships – that specific native plants prosper in the company of particular native species of soil organisms.

We will continue to explore the mysteries of the "Soil Web of Life" in the next issue of the *Wild Ones Journal*. ▲



This drawing illustrates a soil habitat containing mineral soil particles: sand (Sa), silt (Si), clay (C); organic matter (OM), water (W), a plant root with root hairs (R) and, soil organisms: bacteria (B), actinomycetes (A), mycorrhizal spores and hyphae (My), hyphae of a saprophytic fungus (H), a nematode (N), ciliate protozoa (CP), flagellate protozoa (FP), and a mite (M).





## Show Me/Help Me Tours By Joan Rudolph

Do you need help with your native plantings and plant identification? Would you like to have your chapter members offer tips to improve your prairie or woodland garden? All of our gardens have different considerations that change with soil type, sun exposure, and whether we have a wetland. Are you gardening to attract birds or butterflies? Do you have a woodland that is a small wildlife refuge? Are you in a city and dealing with neighbors or difficult ordinances? What are your problem areas, and would it help you to hear of other gardeners' experiences?

Talk to your chapter Program Chair about participating in a Show Me/Help Me Day. The board can set aside a day to have their chapter members and their guests visit three or four members' gardens. This can be a shared learning experience for everyone. Suggestions and comments from your visitors can be discussed at future meetings, and lead to program planning for your chapter. As each garden is toured, participants may fill out survey forms to be given to the homeowner after touring each site as reminders of helpful suggestions and comments. Visitors may make their own notes as well.

Choose a chairperson, set a date, and have some members volunteer their gardens. Maybe you only want to have a prairie or woodland tour by just visiting that part of each garden. Some of your members may have problem areas that need help. Set a time schedule allowing a minimum of 45 minutes for each garden plus travel time between locations. This way, people can join at any stop.

Contact each homeowner ahead of time and discuss their landscape and their objectives. Find out if it is a wooded or open site, country or city setting, wet or dry, or any variables. If the site is too big to cover in the time allowed, pick the most important areas. The goal is to show successful plantings, share failures, and to describe how the site was developed. Plant identification is especially important. You may want to have name tags and any printed handouts available at each site.

If you are scheduling a full day, you may need to allow a lunch break, and consider using a site where a washroom is available.

Maps, property descriptions, date and times, directions, and any lunch plans should be included in your chapter newsletter. Maps should be simple and easy to read and follow. Drive the route to verify the directions, mileages, and travel times. Include in your announcement that the Show Me/Help Me tour is for members and guests.

Follow up with the homeowners to see if they have suggestions on how to improve future tours. ▲



## Get Involved • Stay Involved Wild Ones Legacy Program

You can help Wild Ones promote environmentally sound landscaping practices. Here's how:

**Wild Ones Champions** provide dependable income for Wild Ones programs through convenient monthly deductions. **Burr Oak Circle** donors make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more. **Oak Savanna Circle** members have supported wild Ones for at least 15 years. **Employee Matching Gifts** will match your contributions. **Special Gifts and Heritage** let you gift Wild Ones with appreciated stock, real property, and other gifts. **Volunteers** put in their time and energy for Wild Ones programs. And **Lifetime Members** prove their long-term commitment to Wild Ones. Contact Executive Director, Donna VanBuecken toll-free at 877-394-9453, or [www.for-wild.org/legacy/](http://www.for-wild.org/legacy/).

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# Worrying About Milkweed

By Barbara Bray



Stick mantis sits on a milkweed pod.

Poisonous plants have attracted the attention of people for a long time. Through trial and error, people discovered how to use small doses of some plants medicinally to treat illnesses and injuries. Hunting and fishing also benefited from toxic plants. Arrows tipped with poison could help to kill an animal, and certain plants thrown into water would stun fish for easy catching. In the early 20th century, poisonous plants drew the interest of scientists. Poison ivy's irritating nature inspired them to create a new weapon for warfare: mustard gas. Although it might seem like poisonous plants are sometimes trying to hurt us, they simply are doing what nature intended – preventing a herbivore from eating them.

As native-plant gardeners, we will inevitably come face to face with poisonous plants. Should we be afraid, and ban certain species from our gardens? Just this sort of question came up recently in regard to milkweed. As we all know,

monarch caterpillars feed upon various milkweed species, and in the process absorb toxins that make them unpalatable to predators. These same toxins might be of concern to us. Various web sites mention cases of milkweed sap accidentally getting into the eyes, and causing corneal trauma and blurred vision. One case occurred when a woman picking milkweed leaves forgot to wash her hands and then put in her contact lenses. Other people suffered swollen eyes and blurred vision for over two weeks after accidentally getting milkweed sap in their eyes. These were adults.

Now imagine a group of children standing in a meadow, admiring the pods, leaves, or flowers of a milkweed plant. Does this sound risky? To help answer this question, I spoke with personnel from five different nature centers in my area. Thousands of children visit these locations each year, and that means many opportunities for poisonous plant encounters. Overall, these nature centers do not worry about children and milkweed, except in the case of preschoolers. Children younger than 5 years of age often do not follow directions, and are more likely to put their fingers in their mouths or rub their eyes. Older children generally listen to instructions. I was also told that other poisonous plants are even more worrisome than milkweed: poison ivy, wild parsnip, and poison hemlock, just to name a few. These plants cause severe rashes or are extremely deadly. The nature centers try to teach the children how to identify these plants so they can avoid them. Only one nature center wouldn't allow children to touch milkweed.

Milkweed is a poisonous plant, but it is *not* the most dangerous or the only poisonous plant that children might encounter. You might be surprised at how many plants are on the poisonous plant list. Here are a few: daffodils, holly, jack in a pulpit, blue cohosh, English ivy, mayapples, boxwood, elderberries, burning bush, cowslips, morning glories, rhododendron, snow on the mountain, spurge, wisteria, bleeding heart, Dutchman's breeches, iris, lily of the valley, hyacinth, lobelias, privet, bloodroot, wild black cherry, tomato, potato, Chinese lanterns, yews, Virginia creeper, plus many more. Children need to learn about nature and develop a respect for plants. To help avoid poison ivy, they might learn the saying, "Leaflets three, let it be." Another good lesson is never put any berries, leaves, bark, seeds or nuts from any plant in your mouth directly from their wild environment. If you are handling milkweed, don't touch your eyes. Milkweed sap can also irritate open cuts and mucous membranes. Don't forget to wash your hands after handling milkweed.

Life is full of risks and consequences. Friends have told me about playing with milkweed pods, and sticking the sap on each other's skin with no consequences. Another person said that their cat ingested milkweed leaves out of boredom and fell seriously ill. When I was a child, I stupidly cut a path through a patch of poison ivy with a pair of hand clippers. It was stupid because I knew it was poison ivy when I did it. After itching for two weeks, I vowed never to disrespect poison ivy again. What is the greatest risk to children? The greatest risk to children is not a patch of milkweed or poison ivy. The greatest risk is that children might not go outside at all. That truly would be worrisome. ▲

## Wild Ones Photo Contest 2008



**Set your shutter speeds. Flip your f stops. And get focused in on the 2008 Wild Ones Photo Contest.**

It's coming up soon – don't wait until it's too late. Natural landscapes, Wild Ones people, interesting native plants – whatever catches your eye – your photos could be winners. Enter your best photos, and you might just see them displayed at the new Wild Ones headquarters in Appleton, Wisconsin. There are the six usual categories plus the children's category, and all Wild Ones members can submit up to four entries. Mail-in **deadline is August 18, 2008**. See guidelines for more options and full details: [www.for-wild.org/conference/2008/photo/](http://www.for-wild.org/conference/2008/photo/) or call the National Office at 877-394-9453.



### Our Wild Ones "Roots" T-Shirts Hats and Caps Keep You Cool During These Summer Days

Featuring the famous "Roots" drawing, these shirts clearly project a great message, and look great while doing it – while our bucket hat and cap let everyone know just how wild you really are. Hats are \$18, caps are \$15. T-shirts come in lots of colors and styles, and start at just \$20. All prices include shipping and handling.

To place an order, and for full details, check out the Wild Ones Store at [www.for-wild.org/store](http://www.for-wild.org/store).



## BLACK SWALLOWWORT

By Janet Allen

# INVASIVES ON THE HORIZON

Last summer at the edge of my yard, I spotted a vine with an unusual purplish-black, star-shaped flower. In the past, I might not have noticed it. But courtesy of the hours we Habitat Gardening in Central New York (NY) Chapter members spent in intimate contact with that plant, I immediately recognized the villain: black swallowwort<sup>1</sup> (*Cynanchum nigrum*, also known as *C. louiseae* or *Vincetoxicum nigrum*). The related pale swallowwort (*C. rossicum* or *V. rossicum*) is similarly invasive.

Our service project took place in a shady, wooded area of a local park. We gloated over the many garbage bags we filled with the weed, but we had hardly made a dent in the kudzu-like infestation. Even worse, since we were asked only to hand pull the plant, we weren't killing it, just preventing it from producing seeds that summer. This was helpful, of course, since it

can shed up to 2,000 seeds per square yard, and some of the seeds are polyembryonic, and so produce several seedlings. But since it also spreads by rhizomes, ours was only a temporary victory. To eradicate it, we would have had to dig up the crowns or use a herbicide. We had hoped to leave at least a small section of the park swallowwort free, so the outcome was disappointing. Still, the experience was instructive. Seeing the consequences of this plant invasion convinced us that it's easier to prevent an invasion than to cure one. The despoilment of this formerly beautiful Central New York landscape is a sight we will not soon forget.

We also learned to identify – and notice – this plant, essential for preventing new invasions. Not only did I detect more than one swallowwort growing in my own suburban yard, but we also spotted it on rural land during a Show Me, Help Me tour.

This invasive plant creates some unique problems for wildlife. **It harms monarch butterflies in two ways. Since swallowwort is in the milkweed family (*Asclepiadaceae*), it's similar enough to native milkweed that monarchs lay their eggs on it. At the same time, it's different enough that the caterpillars cannot eat it, so they don't survive.** And the impenetrable swallowwort mat crowds out other vegetation, including native milkweed – the essential monarch caterpillar food plant. It also impacts hawks and other predators. The excellent cover afforded mice and similar prey means scanty meals for their predators. And areas infested with swallowwort, aptly nicknamed “dog-strangling vine,” are inhospitable to all wildlife. To people, too.

My swallowwort experiences highlight misconceptions people have about the natural world. A few months after our service project, I happened to be at the park where our chapter had volun-

teered. In addition to growing in woodland shade, swallowwort also thrives in moist areas, and I spotted it growing near the lake. I pointed it out to my fellow walkers, lamenting that it had spread to this area of the park. To my surprise, one woman assured me that it wasn't a problem “out here in the wild.” It took me a second to understand what she meant: that we needn't be concerned since it was “only” in this natural area, and not harming our home landscapes.

This attitude isn't surprising. As Douglas Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, points out, “When people see green open spaces they think nature has taken over. What they don't recognize is that the fields of green are overrun with 90 percent non-native growth. A green field in which native plants have been choked out by invasive non-native ones is no more productive than a parking lot when it comes to providing food for insects, birds and other animals.”<sup>2</sup>

As we work to prevent such invasive plant “parking lots,” we Wild Ones also help people understand the difference between monocultures of plants like swallowwort and natural landscape full of native plants. Important work, indeed. ▲

1. Sometimes spelled “swallow-wort.”

2. “UD scientists fears insect food supply affected by non-native plants.” [www.udel.edu/PR/experts/foodsupply.html](http://www.udel.edu/PR/experts/foodsupply.html).



Black Swallowwort (*Cynanchum nigrum*). To make inroads with this newcomer from Europe, the crowns must be destroyed.



Collecting the seed pods is a last resort at preventing spread of the wind-blown seeds. Be careful: the pods look like those of some desirable native *Asclepias* species.

# Chapters in the News

## Louisville MetroWild (KY) Chapter Receives Award

By Rick Harned

At the end of Eastern Parkway, a statue of Daniel Boone guards the entrance to Cherokee Park, one of three major parks in Louisville designed at the end of the 19th century by the renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. Just to Daniel's right lies a 5-acre wooded tract known as Wildflower Woods, a site which has been a major continuing project for the Louisville MetroWild (KY) Chapter. Thirty-four years ago, the mature trees in this forest were broken and uprooted by a tornado. Despite civic efforts to replant, 12 years ago the new young trees were hidden and all but choked out by oriental bittersweet and other invasive vines. Vistas were blocked by large stands of bush honeysuckle.

With permission from the Parks Department, the Louisville Metrowild (KY) Chapter took on the project of making Wildflower Woods once again safe and attractive for native plants and for park visitors. Many weekends were devoted to a full-scale attack on the bush honeysuckle and to cutting off the vines above eye level, so that they would die back and could be removed without harming the supporting trees. Led by long-time member Ward Wilson, volunteers still patrol the area one Saturday morning a month, year-round, to stop the vines that dare reappear, fight back the garlic mustard, and to keep the pokeweed from shading out more desirable plants. And they *have* come back. Spring ephemerals such as trillium, squirrel corn, and dutchman's breeches are abundant in April – by summer, jack-in-the-pulpits may reach 3 feet high, under the shade of the elderberries. Witchhazel, ironwood, and buckeye trees are growing up in the shade of the canopy trees, many of which still show bent and twisted trunks from their struggle with the vines.

This year, Metro Parks and the associated Olmsted Parks Conservancy organization recognized the chapter's work at their major fund-raising celebration, and installed a self-guided trail in Wildflower Woods with stations instructing about the native plants that have returned, and about the conservation practices that have restored this inviting, open woodland oasis for city residents. ▲

### PITCHER IN THE BOG CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Nectar-producing glands lie at the base of each petal. Many stamens surround the ovary and hang down under the petals so the whole structure resembles an open, inverted umbrella.

A bee enters the flower at the only visible parting of the petal curtain. As the bee passes through the curtain, it brushes over a stigma lobe, pollinating the flower with pollen it has carried from another pitcher plant. As the bee walks around inside the flower searching for the nectaries, it picks up pollen that rains from the overhanging stamens. The bee drinks its nectar meal and exits by pushing aside a petal and taking flight from one of the wide umbrella edges, bypassing the stigmas on its way out.

After pollination and fertilization, the petals drop, but the red sepals and umbrella remain all season. The five-parted ovary swells, and in autumn, brown tubular seed pods split along the five seams, shedding teardrop-shaped light brown seeds. After exposure to cold temperatures, they germinate the following year.

Pitcher plants are truly unique plants, worthy of slogging through soggy, boggy terrain for a closer look. ▲

## Grapevine

By Maryann Whitman

You may have read about **Project Budburst** in a recent *Wild Ones Journal*. It's a nationwide volunteer effort to observe buds, leaves and blossoms on trees as part of tracking climatic variation over time. Herbaceous and non-native plants are also targets. You can learn more, and sign up at [www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen\\_science/budburst/](http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst/).

"As a point of observation," writes somebody on one of my lists, "all the black locust around here (Ann Arbor area) would have come from the Southeast, *Amelanchier canadensis* will have come from points farther east, (our native trees would be *A. arborea*, *A. laevis*, or *A. interior*), and nursery-grown red maples may have originated anywhere from Florida to Maine. Planted tulip poplars could have come from anywhere within their range as well, although we do have native ones in moist woods. There's likely to be variation in those plants based on where the parent is from.

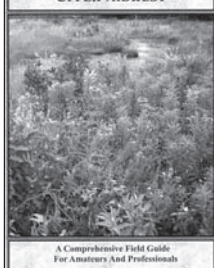
"Where they are planted is also something to make note of. The plants along streets and sidewalks are likely to have a warmer micro-environment than those in surrounding woods or depressions where cold air settles. This might create local variations in leafing out/flowering by two weeks or more."

What an interesting point. I suppose that as these data are collected across the continent and over the long-term, the geographic provenance and growing conditions of individuals may not matter as much as the overall trends, and variations from some baseline. And perhaps the designers of this study have already accounted for that in the data that they receive.

Perhaps the greatest value will be in getting people to pay attention to the phenology of local species and how climate change may be affecting these plants.

The same correspondent went on to suggest that it might be interesting to create a display planting of red maples, selecting plants at a variety of points along its range, from north to south and east to west, to showcase the genetic memory related to the geographic location of the parent plants. If you'll check *Peterson's Field Guide of Eastern Trees*, you'll note that the range of the red maple extends along the 48th parallel from the southern tip of Newfoundland, west to Minnesota, and south to the tip of Florida.

### WILDFLOWERS OF WISCONSIN AND THE UPPER MIDWEST



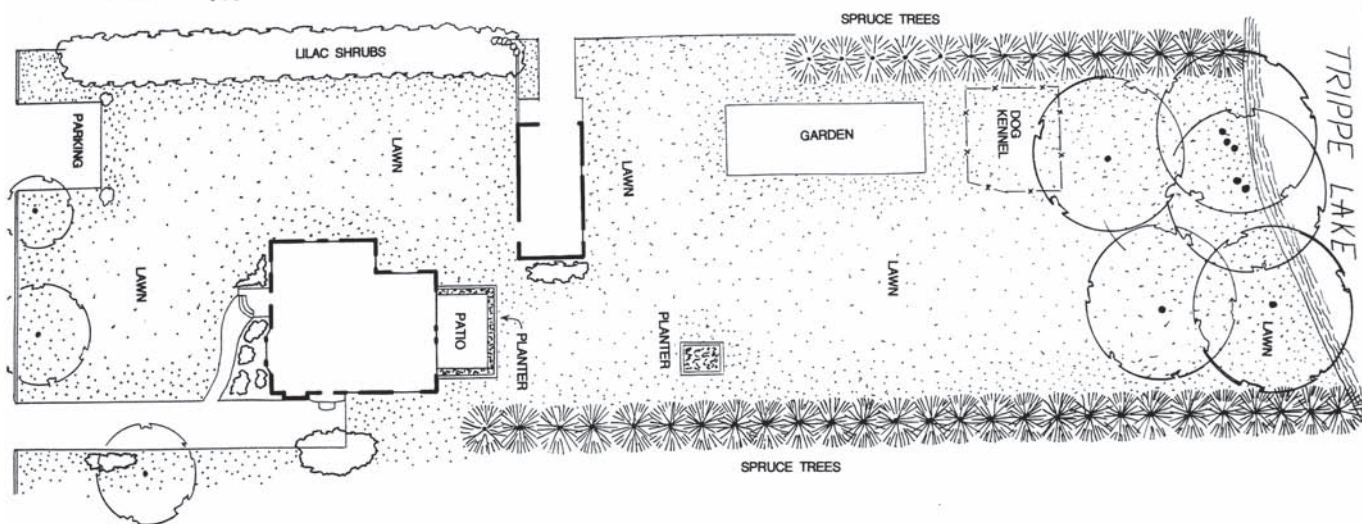
#### Wildflowers of Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest A Comprehensive Field Guide for Amateurs and Professionals

Covering the wildflowers of Wisconsin and parts of Minnesota, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Ontario, this book describes 1,087 species from 459 genera in 100 families, and includes over 2,100 photographs, 300 drawings, as well as 1,085 Wisconsin county distribution maps. The plastic-coated cover and durable stitching mean you can take it out with you, and using its simple identification framework, you can quickly identify the plant family of a given wildflower and then the genera. Signed by one of the authors, Prof. Emmet Judziewicz, the Curator of Vascular Plants at the Robert W. Freckmann Herbarium at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, or Merel Black, an honorary fellow in the biology departments at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. \$39 postpaid. [www.for-wild.org/store/bookstore](http://www.for-wild.org/store/bookstore).



1993 LAWNSCAPE  
GREEN GABLES  
WHITewater, WI  
LOT SIZE 102' x 311'  
SCALE 1" = 20'

When the Ehrenbergs bought this property in 1993, Richard, a landscape architect, was able to look past the lawn, lawn, and more lawn, and recognize the potential. Although it looked nothing like the storied "Green Gables," that was what he named it.



The last issue of the *Wild Ones Journal* published an "introduction" to my naturally landscaped residential yard in Whitewater, Wisconsin. Fourteen years have passed since the inception of a dream to make Green Gables a reality by converting a traditional landscape of lawn and foundation plantings into an environment of native plants and wildlife, i.e., an American landscape. The dream became a reality as the result of planning, which is the focus of this article. The planning and design factors I will talk about may help you in planning your dream. In future articles there will be more detail about various aspects.

Planning for a natural landscape is different from planning a garden or creating flower gardens in one's lawn. Lawns are fairly simple to plan. Plop down a tree or shrub here and there, locate a flower bed or two, grow a hedge around the property, crowd plants next to the house, and mow the rest. If the plants do not fit well together, simply limit their growth by pruning or shearing. Natural landscaping, on the other hand, is the creation of an environment which looks like, feels like, evolves like, and smells like nature. It may or may not be showy, but it will be alive with the seasonal changes of the climatic region and the activity of its wild creatures.

The first and most important step in planning is deciding what plant communi-

## Green Gables An american landscape designed with nature in mind

By Richard J. Ehrenberg

Part 2 of a series.

ties are best for the site, and will provide the aesthetics one wants. By "aesthetics" I am referring to selection of the view one wants to plan for: open sunny views of a prairie environment, versus a shaded canopy of a forest, versus a blend of forest edges with open views, or dappled sunlight through a scattered canopy of vegetation.

The second step involves determining what human activities to plan for, and how best to incorporate them with a minimal impact on the natural landscape.

The third step in planning is deciding how to link the human activities and provide access to and through the yard, since extensive lawn areas may not be available to walk on.

**Planning Step No. 1** One major reason for purchasing the .80-acre lot by Trippe Lake was to be able to design my own naturally landscaped yard. The yard on first sighting

consisted of a lawn edged on both sides by straight rows of spruce trees and lilac shrubs. Four trees provided shade by the lake shore. The house and separate garage were bathed in sunshine. Nothing in the yard stood to limit potential planting plans.

Green Gables is located in a large swale between two glacial drumlins, close to lake water level. The resulting rain run off from the higher topography provides above-average moisture. However, the sandy loam soil assures no standing water shortly after, even heavy rainfalls.

Only near the lake's edge does one find moist soil. I quickly decided the north, shady front of the house would be a deciduous forest in order to provide the aesthetic of a vegetative screen between the house and the city street and to avoid shading the more secluded south end of the yard. The overlapping shade from the front-yard forest would shade the on-street parking spaces – an added benefit. No evergreens would be included since the only two which are native to southeastern Wisconsin, would quickly be shaded out by the faster-growing deciduous trees.

The back yard, looking south from the house, would become a prairie-plant community of species adapted to well-drained, fertile soil. A forest environment suited to moist soil conditions would be restored near the lake shore

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

# Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*)

By Janice Stiefel

Reprint of article from 2001.



Photo: Larry Allain © USGS National Wetlands Research Center.

Reprinted below is one of Janice Stiefel's early articles which appeared in the July August, 2001, Vol. 14, No. 4 issue of the *Wild Ones Journal*. Janice, an early pioneer in teaching about the benefits of using native plants in natural landscaping, wrote 71 articles under the heading of "The Inside Story" between 1990 and 2002.

We've come a long way in our knowledge about native plants and their importance to the environment since 1979, and Janice had a big impact on the learning curve.

This is just one of the articles which will be published in book form with the memorial funds being received in remembrance of Janice's short time with us. Janice passed away March 18, 2008.

Send your donations made out to Wild Ones FBO Janice Stiefel Memorial, to Wild Ones, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, WI 54912.

**Family:** Leguminosae (Pea)

**Other Names:** False indigo, prairie shoestring, wild tea, buffalo bellow plant, bird's wood, bird's tree.

**Habitat:** On dry sandy prairies and hills.

**Description:** There are many small, blue flowers in spike-like clusters on a gray-colored shrub with white hairy stems. The flowers are 1/6 inch long, with one petal (the standard) and 10 bright orange stamens. The pinnately compound leaves

are 2 to 4 inches long and covered with dense, short hairs, giving a grayish appearance. They are divided into 15 to 45 leaflets, each about 1/2 inch long.

**Height:** 1 to 3 feet.

**Flowering:** May to August.

**Comments:** Our native leadplant has very deep roots (4 feet or more). Therefore, it avoids competition from surrounding grasses.

Superstitions held that the leadplant was an indication of the presence of lead ore. In reality, it indicates a well-managed, native pasture or prairie remnant.

The leaves can be used to make a pleasant-tasting, yellow-brown tea. The Lakota Indians drank this leaf tea and used the dried crushed leaves, mixed with a little buffalo fat, as a smoking material.

Joseph N. Nicollet, a French explorer, wrote in his 1838 journal that Leadplant was used by the Sioux to attract buffalo. This "concoction" was prepared by pounding up the roots, moistening them and mixing them together. Whoever rubbed the mixture on his clothing had the power to attract buffalo and to kill as many of them as he wanted.

**Medicinal Use:** The Omaha Indians powdered the dried leaves and blew them into cuts and open wounds. The astringent property of the leaves encouraged scab formation. The Potawatomi Indians made a leaf tea to kill pinworms, various intestinal worms, and the liquid tea was used to cure eczema.

**Name Origin:** The genus name, *Amorpha* (a-MORE-fa), is from the Greek word, *amorphos*, meaning "deformed," from the absence of four of the petals (usually found in the pea family). The species name, *canescens* (kan-NESS-senz), means "graying-pubescent." The common name is from its leaden hue, not an indication of lead.

Because of the laced-shoestring look of the leaves and roots, it was also called prairie shoestring. The Omahas and Poncas called this plant buffalo bellow plant because it was the dominant prairie plant in flower during the rutting season of the buffalo. The Lakotas called it bird's wood or bird's tree because birds perched on it for lack of trees on the prairie.

**Superstition held that the leadplant was an indication of the presence of lead ore. In reality, it indicates a well-managed, native pasture or prairie remnant.**

**Author's Note:** For several years we had a beautiful specimen of the leadplant growing on our Plymouth, Wisconsin, property. Unfortunately, every year it got an attack from hundreds of beetles. They totally devoured the blossoms; rarely eating the leaves. I would capture the beetles in a jar but more kept coming until the blossoms were totally consumed. Then the insects mysteriously disappeared. The plant would return each year, seemingly more robust than ever. Could it be that those beetles were good for the plant?

I've also seen the same insect eating the leaves of queen-of-the-prairie (*Filipendula rubra*) on our property north of Bailey's Harbor, Wisconsin. In that case they only wanted the leaves, not the blossoms. Here again I captured as many as I could in a jar, froze them, and dumped them on the compost pile.

After describing this beetle to Andrew Williams, fellow in the Entomological Department at UW-Madison, he told me the insect was *Anomoea laticlavata* (Forster). It did not appear to have a common name, so I named it leadplant beetle (appropriately). If anyone knows of another name for this insect, please let me know. ▲

## Propagating Leadplant

As with other members of the pea family, the use of an inoculant is advised. Seeds can be slow to start; scarification helps. Suckers or layering in summer may be an easier method of propagation. Green wood cuttings grow readily under glass early in season. Hard wood cuttings planted in an open protected place and given a year to grow can also be successful.



# Propagation of Herbaceous Native Perennials

as presented to the International Plant Propagators Society  
September 27, 2004

By Neil Diboll • Prairie Nursery



Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*)

Herbaceous native perennials include wildflowers, grasses, sedges, and rushes. Most of these plants can be readily propagated from seed; some exhibit complex seed dormancies and are more easily propagated by root division or stem cuttings. This article will focus on propagation of wildflowers and grasses using seed, as this is the commonly used, but often misunderstood, method of producing native herbaceous perennials. The methods described herein are based upon our 30 years of experience at Prairie Nursery in propagating a wide variety of native plants from seed.

Most native perennials require that their seed be pre-treated to break dormancy prior to seeding. There are four basic types of seed treatments or planting methods that we use to overcome seed dormancy:

**Dry Stratification:** Seed is exposed to freezing temperatures for 30 or more days.

**Moist Stratification:** Seed is mixed with a damp inert substrate and stored in a refrigerated environment at 34-36 degrees Fahrenheit (1-2 degrees Celsius). The seed should not be frozen, as this may damage the cell walls and destroy the seed.

**Scarification:** Seed with hard seed-coats are scratched with sandpaper to allow moisture to penetrate into the seed and initiate the germination process.

**Hot Water:** Seeds that are stimulated to germinate by wildfires are treated with near-boiling water.

## 1) Dry Stratification

Many native seeds require exposure to cold temperatures as a protective mechanism, so that they do not germinate in fall and have their tiny seedlings killed over winter. The term "seed stratification" originated many years ago when wildflower seeds were originally pre-treated by planting them in layers of damp, clean sand and refrigerating them to mimic the effects of winter. Many native seeds require exposure only to cold temperatures *without the addition of moisture* to break dormancy. The process of treating seeds to freezing temperatures to break dormancy is referred to as "Dry Stratification."

Most of the prairie grasses and many prairie flowers require simple dry stratification. Seed can be dry stratified by placing it in a refrigerator or freezer for 30 to 90 days prior to seeding. Large quantities of seed can be stored in an unheated building over winter in rodent-proof metal containers.

## 2) Moist Stratification

Many of the prairie flowers and most woodland wildflowers require moist stratification to break dormancy and yield high rates of germination. For example, Shootingstar (*Dodecatheon meadia*) has a zero rate of germination when dry stratified, but after 30 days of moist stratification it will germinate close to a 100 percent rate.

Different species require varying lengths of moist stratification to break dormancy. Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) requires only 10 days. After two weeks of treatment, it will often begin to germinate while still in the refrigerator. Members of the genus *Iris* require 90 days of moist stratification to yield good germination. Dormancy in most species can be broken with 30 days with this treatment. Some prairie species that benefit from moist stratification of their seeds include:

## Wildflowers

Latin Name	Common Name	Stratification Time
<i>Allium cernuum</i>	Nodding Pink Onion	30 days
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Red Milkweed	10 days
<i>Baptisia</i> species	False Indigos	90 days
<i>Callirhoe triangulata</i>	Poppy Mallow	30 days
<i>Camassia scilloides</i>	Wild Hyacinth	30 days
<i>Cassia hebecarpa</i>	Wild Senna	30 days
<i>Dodecatheon meadia</i>	Shootingstar	30 days
<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	Pale Purple Coneflower	30 days
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Rattlesnake Master	30 days
<i>Eupatorium</i> species	Joe Pye Weeds, Boneset	30 days
<i>Helianthus</i> species	Sunflowers	30 days
<i>Iris</i> species	Wild Iris, Blue Flag	90 days
<i>Liatris</i> species	Blazingstars	30 days
<i>Lobelia</i> species	Cardinal Flower, Blue Lobelia	30 days
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Wild Lupine	10 days
<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>	Wild Quinine	30 days
<i>Penstemon</i> species	Penstemon, Beardtongues	30 days
<i>Ruellia humilis</i>	Wild Petunia	30 days
<i>Silphium</i> species	Compass-plant, Prairie Dock, etc.	30 days
<i>Tradescantia</i> species	Spiderworts	30 days
<i>Verbena</i> species	Blue & Hoary Vervain	30 days
<i>Vernonia</i> species	Ironweeds	30 days
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's Root	30 days
<i>Zizia</i> species	Golden Alexander species	30 days

## Grasses, Sedges, & Rushes

Latin Name	Common Name	Stratification Time
<i>Carex</i> species	Sedges	30 days
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	Canada Bluejoint Grass	30 days
<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	Prairie Cordgrass	30 days
<i>Scirpus</i> species	Rushes, Bulrushes	30 days

Seed can be moist stratified by mixing it with an equal or greater volume of slightly damp, inert material. We have found that oak or pine sawdust works admirably for this purpose. It is easy to work with, absorbs moisture and transfers it to the seed well – and the relatively high acidity of the sawdust limits the growth of bacteria during the stratification process. Vermiculite, perlite, and peat moss can also be used as the inert material.

The inert matter should be only lightly dampened prior to mixing with the seed. If water can be wrung out of the sawdust or peat moss by squeezing it, then it is too wet. Vermiculite and perlite should be moistened in a bowl or colander, so that excess water will drain off. Mix the seed and inert matter together thoroughly, place in a zip-top plastic bag, labeled with the species and date, and place it in the refrigerator for the specified amount of time for the species being treated.

Another method of moist stratifying seed is to plant the seed directly into flats, cover them with plastic wrap to retain moisture in the soil, and store them in a refrigerator or walk-in cooler. If such facilities are not available, the flats can be seeded in fall, and stored over winter in an unheated building or greenhouse. Make sure that the flats are protected from damage by mice and other animals during winter storage.

*Timing of Moist Stratification Pretreatment* The initiation of moist stratification should be timed so that the seed will be removed from the refrigerator at the appropriate time of year for optimal germination. Cool-season plants should be started in mid-March to early April when temperatures are still cool. Warm-season plants can be started once the air temperature reaches the high 70s or low 80s F.

### 3) Scarification

Seeds with hard seed coats often require scarification, or scratching of the outer seed surface, to allow penetration of water into the seed itself in order to initiate the germination process. This can be accomplished by placing a single layer of seed in the bottom of a wooden box and rubbing it with sandpaper wrapped around a wooden block or sandpaper holder. Rub the seed with the sandpaper just hard enough to scratch the outer surface, being careful not to grind the seed into flour. Light pressure is usually sufficient to scarify all but the most resistant seeds.

Some genera, such as *Baptisia* and *Iris*, require scarification followed by moist stratification. Following scarification, the seed should be moist stratified as described in the directions above.

### 4) Hot Water

A few species are known to benefit from treatment with hot water, which mimics the effect of a wildfire. Some seeds have dormancy mechanisms that require exposure to high tem-

peratures, signaling that a fire has recently occurred and there will be open soil available for germination and growth of new seedlings. The prairie shrub, New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) is one that exhibits higher germination following exposure to hot water, followed by 30 days of moist stratification.

Place the seed to be treated in a bowl. Heat water in a teakettle to boiling, then turn off the heat and allow the water to cool for a minute or two. Pour the hot water over the seed and allow it cool down to room temperature. Pour off the water, and the seed can be seeded directly, or in the case of New Jersey Tea, mixed with a damp inert material and moist stratified for 30 days prior to seeding.

Other growers have reported to have good results using the hot water treatment with the genus *Baptisia*, followed by placing the seed in the freezer for a short period, until ice crystals begin to form on the wet seed (about one hour or less). One grower uses this treatment three times in succession (hot water followed by near-freezing) to obtain high rates of germination on this notoriously recalcitrant genus.

## Other Considerations in Native Seed Propagation

### Fleshy Fruited Seeds

Some species have a fleshy pulp on the outside of their seeds. The pulp often possesses compounds that can prevent seed germination, and therefore must be removed prior to sowing. If the seed is collected when ripe, the flesh is usually soft and can be readily removed. Wash the seed with water while rubbing the seed carefully across a screen with openings smaller than the seed (a 1/4-inch screen works for most species). The flesh will go through the screen, and the seeds will remain on top where they can be collected. If the flesh is hard, allow it to soften for a week or longer, storing the seed in a cool, damp place until soft.

Many woodland species have fleshy fruits, including (not all have elaiosomes):

Latin Name	Common Name
<i>Actaea</i> species	Red Baneberry, White Doll's Eyes
<i>Aralia</i> species	Spikenard, Wild Sarsaparilla
<i>Arisaema</i> species	Jack in the Pulpit, Green Dragon
<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	Blue Cohosh
<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	Bunchberry
<i>Hydrastis canadensis</i>	Goldenseal
<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	Canada Mayflower
<i>Panax quinquefolium</i>	Ginseng
<i>Polygonatum</i> species	Solomon's Seal
<i>Smilacina</i> species	Solomon's Plume, Starry Solomon's Seal





**2008**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**

AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup>-24<sup>TH</sup>

APPLETON, WISCONSIN

In  
Celebration of  
Nature

HOSTED BY  
WILD ONES NATIONAL  
WITH THE ABLE  
ASSISTANCE OF  
FOX VALLEY  
AREA CHAPTER



## The Schedule

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 22ND AT WILD ONES ECOCENTER

PM	2:00	Q0308 Board Meeting
	4:00	Deadline for Photo Contest Submissions
	4:00-6:30	Registration for Conference
	5:00	Reception and Buffet
	5:00-6:00	Professional Judging for Photo Contest, Eileen Herrling
	6:00	Photo Critique Session with Eileen Herrling
	6:30	<b>Raptors: Up Close &amp; Personal</b> , Ann Rosenberg

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 23RD AT FOX VALLEY TECH COLLEGE

AM	7:00-8:45	Late Registration
	All Day	Attendee judging for Photo Contest; Silent Auction; Refreshments
	8:00-8:45	Wild Ones Annual Meeting
	8:50	Welcome
	9:00	<b>Birds, Bugs &amp; Butterflies</b> , Anita Carpenter
	10:00	Break
	10:15	<b>Favorite Prairie Forbs &amp; Grasses</b> , Connie Ramthun
	11:15	Break
	11:30	<b>Fun Facts about Woodland Plants</b> , David Kopitzke
PM	12:30	Lunch
	2:00	Workshops (concurrent) <b>(A) Getting to Know the Chapter Guidebook</b> , Workshop Leader Donna VanBuecken <b>(B) Seeds For Education and EE</b> , Workshop Leaders Steve Maassen & Wild Ones SFE Committee
	3:15	Break
	3:30	Workshops (concurrent) <b>(C) Networking with Chapter Boards</b> , Workshop Leaders Kris Kauth & Kay Lettau <b>(D) Marketing &amp; Membership Promotion</b> , Workshop Leaders Carol Andrews & Wild Ones Membership & Marketing Committees
	4:30	Break
	4:35	Silent Auction Closes

### EVENING ACTIVITIES AT WILD ONES ECOCENTER

PM	5:30	Hors d'oeuvres & Wine Tasting
	6:00	Dinner
	7:00	Banquet Keynote: <i>Greg Summers</i> <b>Environmentalism in the Fox River Valley and the rest of the USA</b>
	8:00	Awards; Silent Auction Results

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH AT WILD ONES ECOCENTER

AM	8:00	Refreshments
	8:20	Wrap-up
	8:30	Conference Keynote: <i>Neil Diboll</i> <b>What's on the Horizon? The Future of Natural Landscaping</b>
	10:00	<b>Tours</b> : See page 4 for details

## The Speakers & Workshop Leaders

### **"Raptors - Up Close and Personal"**

Ann will talk about the natural history of some of the more common raptors in the greater Fox Valley area. Speaking about her rehabilitation efforts and what people can do when they find injured or orphaned wildlife, she will show us the three educational birds she is licensed to have: a Screech Owl, a Red-tailed Hawk and a Great Horned Owl. These birds are un-releasable.

**Ann Rosenberg** has had a great love for wild animals and an interest in our environment all of her life. Ann started working at a rehabilitation center 15 years ago. When the center closed, she applied for her own license and educational permit. She lives outside of Neenah, Wisconsin where she spends some of her free time rehabilitating birds and doing educational programs with raptors to enable people to see them "up close".

### **"Birds, Bugs and Butterflies"**

Whether they be scratching the earth for wild seed, hiding under leaves or nectaring on prairie blooms, birds, bugs and butterflies enhance the enjoyment and accomplishment of turning a sterile lawn into a wild place. Join Anita as she reveals secrets of the interesting and often overlooked creatures found in our back yards.

**Anita Carpenter** has been interested in the natural world since childhood. Though her education led her into a career as a registered pharmacist, she still made time to earn a master's degree in biology. She serves as adjunct faculty on the UW-Oshkosh Biology Department spring field trip to Florida where she shares with students the excitement of discovering the natural world. As a nature writer, she is a frequent contributor to Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine.

### **"Favorite Prairie Forbs & Grasses"**

Wisconsin is home to nearly 2,000 species of native plants, with about one quarter of these originally associated with prairies. Today these plants are being used in prairie restorations and natural landscaping. Learn about our native wildflowers and grasses; what makes many of these native prairie plants favorites in natural landscapes.

**Connie Ramthun** is the owner of Kettle Moraine Natural Landscaping which specializes in local eco-type seed mixes for southeastern Wisconsin. She has provided consulting for the establishment of native prairies and wildflower gardens for the past twenty-five years.

### **"Fun Facts About Woodland Plants"**

There is so much more to learn about native woodland plants than merely their names: unexpected pollination, odd legends, little known food, medicinal, and craft uses are just a few of the topics of this talk.

**David Kopitzke** has taught classes in Biology, Botany, Ecology, and Tropical Ecology at the University of Wisconsin campus in Richland Center. Prior to his teaching career he worked for the Bureau of Endangered Resources (Wisconsin DNR) and as Curator of Botany at the Milwaukee Public Museum. All these jobs have presented opportunities for him to put his deep affection for the natural world into action.

### **"Environmentalism in the Fox River Valley and the rest of the USA"**

A history of the development of environmentalism in the Fox River Valley and a brief look ahead at the challenges of protecting nature.

**Gregory Summers** received his Ph. D. in United States history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Since then he has taught environmental history at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. He is author of Consuming Nature: Envi-



ronmentalism in the Fox River Valley, 1850-1950, which was published by the University Press of Kansas in 2006. His next book is The Comforts of Nature: A Natural History of the American Home to be published by the University of Washington Press.

### ***"What's on the Horizon? The Future of Natural Landscaping in America"***

Do we dare to hope that people are finally coming to their senses? Now that the Era of Cheap Energy is over, will the citizens of our land finally embrace the values of conservation and stewardship? As with almost all human endeavors, change comes painfully, and usually as a result of economic forces. The only thing that has gotten people to give up their gas guzzling SUV's is the high price of gas. Nothing else has.

The only thing that will increasingly push people to living more sustainable and ecological lifestyles is the increasing cost to push Nature around. As the price of gasoline, fertilizers, and pesticides increases, the lawn begins to look like a luxury (which it was originally in 19<sup>th</sup> century England). When it hurts your pocketbook to fill up your riding mower, then more natural landscaping may be on the horizon.

**Neil Diboll** received his degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1978. He has since worked for the U.S. Park Service in Virginia, the U.S. Forest Service in Colorado, and the University of Wisconsin. In 1982, Neil began his involvement with Prairie Nursery, producing native plants and seeds and designing native landscapes. He has since devoted his efforts to championing the use of prairie plants, as well as native trees, shrubs and wetland plants, in contemporary American landscapes.

Neil's work includes designs for residential, commercial and public spaces throughout the Midwest and Northeast United States. The essence of Neil's philosophy is that we, as stewards of the planet, must work to preserve and increase the diversity of native plants and animals, with which we share our world. The protection of our natural heritage and our soil and water resources is essential to maintaining a high quality of life for today, and for the children of future generations to come.

**Eileen Herrling** has a music degree and teaches privately and also has over thirty years experience in photography. She has been active in local, national and international photography organizations as a star exhibitor and judge.

**Donna VanBuecken** has been Executive Director of Wild Ones since 1988 and holds a BA in organizational management from University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

**Steve Maassen** has been Seeds for Education (SFE) Director since 2000 and active in the Fox Valley Area Chapter SFE Program since 1994. He was a founding member of the national Green Charter Schools organization and he has helped develop a multitude of outdoor learning areas within the Fox Valley.

**Kristin L. Kauth**, Co-President FVAC-WO, is a retired community development/outreach professional in academic, corporate and non-profit settings.

**Kay Lettau**, currently Co-President of the FVAC-WO, holds BS degrees in Biology and Natural Science (Geology emphasis) from UW-Oshkosh, and has recently retired after teaching 32 years of high school science.

**Carol Andrews** currently serves as national Wild Ones President. She has been president of the Arrowhead Chapter since 2000. Carol hopes to use her business experience to help Wild Ones build on our existing efforts by coordinating a long-range marketing plan.



## Registration Form

**PLEASE COMPLETE ONE REGISTRATION FORM FOR EACH ATTENDEE.**

Register on-line at [www.for-wild.org](http://www.for-wild.org) with credit card

**OR**

complete this form, both sides, and mail with a check made payable to **Wild Ones 2008 Conference**

to: Wild Ones 2008 Conference

PO Box 1274

Appleton, WI 54912

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Affiliation or PAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONFERENCE TOTAL \$** \_\_\_\_\_

(from reverse side)

### **Saturday Workshop Choices:**

Please circle your choice for each time period so we can plan room sizes and handouts. See page 2 for brief description under "The Schedule".

**2:00**    A    or    B                      **3:30**    C    or    D



## Questions?

Email: [conference@for-wild.org](mailto:conference@for-wild.org)

Or call 1-877-394-9453

**Directions:** The Fox Cities are along US Hwy. 41 approximately 100 miles north of Milwaukee. The Wild Ones EcoCenter is located at 2285 W. Butte des Morts Beach Rd., Neenah, and Fox Valley Technical College is at 1825 N. Bluemound Rd., Appleton. For a map, go to [www.for-wild.org](http://www.for-wild.org) and click on the 2008 Annual Conference link. All lodging and planned non-tour activities are within four miles of each other.

## Lodging

There are numerous motels in the Fox Cities area. These two have agreed to provide special room rates and limited shuttle service to FVTC and WO EcoCenter.

**Best Western Midway Hotel . . . \$79/night (until 8-8-08)**

3033 W. College Ave., Appleton, WI 54914

920-731-4141; FAX 920-731-6343

[clay-appleton@bwmidway.com](mailto:clay-appleton@bwmidway.com)

Reference Group Code: **WILDONES**

[www.midwayhotels.com/appleton](http://www.midwayhotels.com/appleton)

**Settle Inn & Suites . . . \$89.00/night (until 8-8-08)**

1565 Federated Dr., Appleton, WI 54913

920-560-3000; FAX 920-560-3001

[guestservices@settleinnappleton.com](mailto:guestservices@settleinnappleton.com)

Reference Group Code: **WILDONES**

[www.settleinnappleton.com](http://www.settleinnappleton.com)

<b>Conference Fees (entire):</b>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Nonmembers</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Registration by July 25	\$70.00	\$80.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Registration by August 8	\$75.00	\$85.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Register at the door	\$100.00	\$110.00

<b>Conference Fees (partial):</b>	<u>Member/Nonmember</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 Friday Only	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$55.00 Saturday All Day incl. banquet & workshops	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00 Saturday morning speakers and lunch only	
<input type="checkbox"/> Free Saturday afternoon workshops (circle your choices on other side)	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 per person Saturday evening dinner & keynote speaker only	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 Sunday morning keynote speaker	
\$ SUBTOTAL	

**Sunday Tours** (Choose one - see details in next column):

<input type="checkbox"/> EcoCenter no charge, no transportation provided	
Bus transportation provided for the following 3 tours:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Niendorf Prairie Restoration	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Rosenberg Rain Garden & Raptors	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Stroud Remnants & Restoration	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Box Lunch (Optional)	\$10.00

**Please fill in costs from above:**

Conference Fees (Entire)	\$ _____
Conference Fees (Partial) Subtotal	\$ _____
Sunday Tour	\$ _____
Tour Box Lunch	\$ _____

**CONFERENCE TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Transfer CONFERENCE TOTAL to reverse side of this form.**

## Notes & Reminders

- Interested in carpooling and room-sharing with other attendees? Email: [conference@for-wild.org](mailto:conference@for-wild.org)
- Plan to enter the photo contest. Details at [www.for-wild.org/conference/2008/photo](http://www.for-wild.org/conference/2008/photo)
- Bring an environmentally focused item to donate to the Silent Auction.
- Book vendor EcoThink will be on-site with the latest environmentally focused books.
- New Wild Ones mugs and tote bags along with Die Buckthorn Scum T-shirts and the usual shirts, hats and caps will be for sale.

## The Tours on Sunday

**Prairie Restoration Tour - Bob and Carol Niendorf** invite you to walk through the prairie they have restored at their home just west of Oshkosh which sits on the shore of pre-historic "Lake Oshkosh". In 1989, with the help of Prairie Nursery, the Niendorfs converted a half acre of lawn to a prairie garden. Delighted with the results, they converted two acres of old field to a shortgrass and tallgrass area in 1997. They have about 50 or 60 species. **Bob Niendorf** is Emeritus Professor of Finance, UW-Oshkosh. **Carol Niendorf** is Retired Manager of the Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra. We will also stop at Sheldon Nature Area/Oakwood Environmental Charter School restoration project. *3-1/2 hours with travel.*

**Rain Garden and Raptors Tour - Ann Rosenberg** lives on the homestead of her great, great grandparents in rural Neenah. She purchased the home and just under three acres of land in 1998 and is slowly landscaping her yard. She wants to reduce the amount of mowed lawn and create spaces requiring less maintenance that encourage wildlife. Her rain garden was awarded to her by the Fox Valley Area Chapter as part of an "extreme yard make-over". This has given her the opportunity to spread the word about Wild Ones and native landscaping as she educates and excites people about our environment and rehabilitates raptors. *2-1/2 hours with travel.*

**Remnants & Restoration Garden Tour - Marilyn and Ron Stroud** began their prairie project following Marilyn's University of Wisconsin course on the environment at which Carol Niendorf of Wild Ones was a featured speaker. Their garden is 35 acres consisting of fifteen acres of prairie that was planted in 1998, a native remnant, a one acre wildlife pond, eight acres of wildlife swamp, and a five acre oak savannah. *3-1/2 hours with travel.*

**Wild Ones EcoCenter Restoration Plans** - Located on the west side of Little Lake Butte des Morts, the Wild Ones EcoCenter is currently comprised of deep and shallow water marshes bordered by hardwood, floodplain forests. Throughout the last several decades, anthropogenic activities from the surrounding urban setting have impacted water quality and floral diversity within the wetland complex, which has directly impacted wildlife and their habitats. Wild Ones along with Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust (NEWLT) and several other conservation organization partners will be improving aquatic, near-shore and riparian habitat quality in the lower Fox River by conducting restoration activities over the next few years at the Stroebe Island Marsh. James Havel will explain the various activities to be undertaken from rain gardens to improving the Stroebe Island Road causeway.

**James Havel** has a Master of Science Degree in Environmental Science with an emphasis in ornithology from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Management and Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. He is currently employed by NES Ecological Services as a wetland/restoration ecologist. *1 hour.*

## Fun Things to do in the Fox Valley Area

**Barlow Planetarium** ([www.uwfox.uwc.edu/barlow/](http://www.uwfox.uwc.edu/barlow/)) A world-class facility for 3-D excitement, giant full-color special effects and crystal-clear, five-channel, 10,000 watt THX surround sound with 48-foot projection dome.

**Weis Earth Science Museum** ([www.uwfox.uwc.edu/wesm/](http://www.uwfox.uwc.edu/wesm/)) The official State Mineralogical Museum of Wisconsin.

**Outagamie Museum** ([www.foxvalleyhistory.org](http://www.foxvalleyhistory.org)) Preserves and exhibits the history of Outagamie County and lower Fox River Valley. Operates the Charles A. Grignon Mansion, the Outagamie Museum, and gathers, interprets, and disseminates information related to the life and career of Harry Houdini who claimed Appleton, Wisconsin as his home-town.

**Hearthstone Historic Museum House** ([www.focol.org/hearthstone](http://www.focol.org/hearthstone)) Tour the first home in the world lit by hydroelectricity!

**Trails of the Fox Cities** include some of the best walking trails in the state. City of Appleton has recently been named the best walking city in Wisconsin by Prevention magazine and American Podiatric Medical Assn. Trails will take you from Fox Valley Technical College to the Wild Ones EcoCenter (5 mile walk). [www.foxcitiesgreenways.org](http://www.foxcitiesgreenways.org)

**Nature Net**, the Environmental Learning Network, lists a multitude of environmentally focused destinations in the Fox Cities including many nature centers and preserves. [www.naturenet.com/RegionalPartners/Fox\\_River\\_Valley.html](http://www.naturenet.com/RegionalPartners/Fox_River_Valley.html)

If you are driving, plan to stop at **Horicon Marsh** ([www.dnr.state.wi.us.org/land/wildlife/wildlife\\_areas/horicon/index.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us.org/land/wildlife/wildlife_areas/horicon/index.htm)) or the **International Crane Foundation** ([www.savingcranes.org](http://www.savingcranes.org))

Last, but not least, the **Fox River Mall**, located between the FVTC and the EcoCenter, on the Fox Cities Trails system ([www.foxrivermall.com/html/index13.asp](http://www.foxrivermall.com/html/index13.asp)) features over 180 stores like Macy's, Younkers, Scheels, Pottery Barn, Coldwater Creek, Chico's, Target, Ann Taylor, Abercrombie & Fitch, Aeropostale, and Build-a-Bear Workshop! Great choices for family dining include Northwood's Café, Fratello's Restaurant & Brewery, Atlanta Bread Company and TGI Friday's.

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](http://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
Pat Armstrong Greater du Page Chapter (IL)	<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><b>Vision for Wild Ones:</b> I love native plants and wild nature and Wild Ones.</p>
Kathy T Dame Mountain Laurel Chapter (CT)	<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><b>Vision for Wild Ones:</b> 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>
Teresa Gallion Partner at Large (MD)	<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 Catocin 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 Catocin 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><b>Vision for Wild Ones:</b> 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>
Tim Lewis Rock River Valley Chapter (IL)	<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><b>Vision for Wild Ones:</b> 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
Chris McCullough Greater Cincinnati Chapter (OH)	<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><b>Vision for Wild Ones:</b> 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>
Carol Phelps River City Chapter (MI)	<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><b>Vision for Wild Ones:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 - Adding more active, and dedicated, Wild Ones Clubs throughout the US.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>
Bret Rappaport Lake-To-Prairie Chapter (IL)	<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><b>Vision for Wild Ones:</b> 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>
Karen Syverson Fox Valley Area Chapter (WI)	<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, nestling 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><b>Vision for Wild Ones:</b> 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 <a href="http://www.forwild.org">www.forwild.org</a> If you haven't already registered, do so now. This will bring you to <a href="http://www.for-wild.org/members/">http://www.for-wild.org/members/</a> 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 style="text-align: right;">_____/_____/_____ Signature of Wild Ones® Member                      Date</p> <p><b>We must receive your mailed ballot no later than August 15, 2008.</b></p>
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**Members on the National Wild Ones Board of Directors:**

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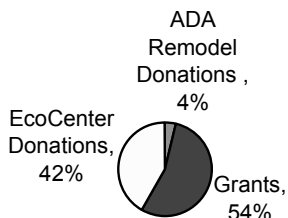
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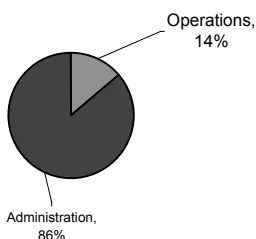
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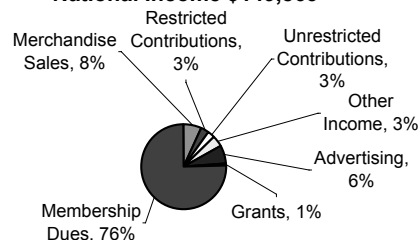
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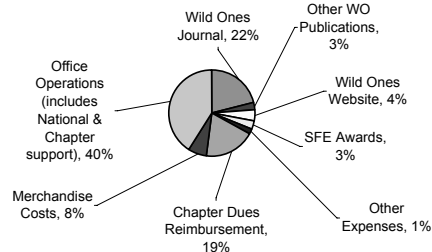
## EcoCenter Expenses \$6956



## National Income \$149,863



## National Expenses \$150,258





## Double Dormant Seeds

Some species, especially members of the Lily Family, exhibit a phenomenon known as “double dormancy.” These seeds require exposure to two winters before they will emerge from the soil. Some will “germinate” in the first year, but all of their development is underground, and no leaves are produced. The seedlings emerge in the spring after the second winter, almost two years after seeding.

The seed of these species is typically sown fresh directly in beds in the ground, or allowed to overwinter in flats, either in a cooler or in a greenhouse at ambient temperature. During the growing season, the flats are kept in a cool greenhouse or shade house. They are then allowed to experience a second winter in the flat, stored in a cooler over the winter or in an unheated greenhouse. The seed will then germinate the following spring.

Some growers accelerate this process by tricking the seed to “think” that it has experienced two winters in a one year period. After the seed has been cold treated over the first winter, the flats are placed in a cooler in early to mid-summer for a month or two to mimic winter conditions. The flats are then brought out in late summer and early fall and placed back in a cool greenhouse, where the seed will then germinate. This process stimulates germination eight months earlier, and allows for the development of the seedlings in the fall of the first season, rather than in the spring of the second season. The plants that germinate in the fall can be grown until the onset of winter, at which time they are allowed to go dormant. They will re-emerge the following spring with a head start over those flats that were not treated with a summer cool period.

Some of our best known wildflowers produce seeds that are typically double-dormant:

Latin Name	Common Name
<i>Allium tricoccum</i>	Wild Leek
<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	Blue Cohosh
<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	Canada Mayflower
<i>Polygonatum species</i>	Solomon's Seal
<i>Smilacina species</i>	Solomon's Plume, Starry Solomon's Seal
<i>Trillium species</i>	Trilliums
<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	Bellwort

## Timing of Seed Sowing and Pretreatment

Different species germinate at different times of the year. Most summer-blooming prairie flowers and grasses are “warm season” plants, and germinate best at temperatures around 80 degrees F. (27 degrees C.). The warm season prairie grasses are best seeded in mid to late spring or early summer, and not in fall. The exceptions include the cool-season native grasses, which do best when seeded in fall or early spring. Spring-blooming prairie and woodland flowers are “cool season” plants, and typically germinate in early spring at cool temperatures in the 60s and 70s F. (15 to

21 degrees C.). The following prairie grass genera germinate well at warm temperatures:

Latin Name	Common Name
<i>Andropogon species</i>	Bluestems
<i>Bouteloua species</i>	Grama Grasses
<i>Elymus species</i>	Wild Ryes
<i>Panicum species</i>	Switchgrass, Panic Grasses
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little Bluestem
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indiangrass
<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	Cordgrass

Cool season prairie grasses typically germinate best when sown in early to mid-spring when temperatures are cool. They also can be planted in fall as a dormant seeding, and will germinate in early spring when conditions are optimal. Prairie Cordgrass, although a warm season grass, germinates best when sown in fall because it requires an extended period of moist stratification to break dormancy.

Latin Name	Common Name
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	Bluejoint Grass
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Junegrass
<i>Hierochloa odorata</i>	Vanilla Sweet Grass
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie Dropseed

## Planting Freshly Collected Seed

### Woodland Wildflowers

Certain wildflowers of both prairies and woodlands are known to do best when the seed is sown fresh, immediately upon collection in late spring or summer. This is particularly true of woodland wildflowers that possess *elaiosomes*, a fleshy, strap-like appendage that is attached to the exterior of the seed. Rich in lipids and proteins, elaiosomes attract ants, which harvest the seeds and take them back to their nests. After the ants have consumed the elaiosomes, they take the seeds to their waste disposal site, and “plant” them in this nutrient rich environment. This symbiotic relationship benefits both parties, and has been observed with a number of different species of ants and plants.

If the *elaiosome* is allowed to dry out, the seed will often enter a state of “deep dormancy” in which it becomes resistant to germination. Once a seed enters deep dormancy, it typically requires extended exposure to cool, moist conditions to overcome it. Planting the seed fresh, immediately upon harvest is recommended for the following species and genera of woodland wildflowers:

Latin Name	Common Name
<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Wild Ginger
<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	Blue Cohosh
<i>Hydrastis canadensis</i>	Goldenseal
<i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i>	Twinleaf
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	Bloodroot
<i>Trillium species</i>	Trilliums

Some other species that do not possess elaiosomes but appear to benefit from seeding immediately after collection include:

Latin Name	Common Name
<i>Actaea</i> species	Red Baneberry, White Doll's Eyes
<i>Claytonia virginiana</i>	Spring Beauty
<i>Hepatica</i> species	Hepaticas
<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Virginia Bluebells
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	Foamflower
<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	Bellwort (double dormant)

These seeds generally will not germinate until the following spring, or the second spring if their seeds are double dormant. Planting the seed immediately after collection prevents it from drying out, and allows the process of internal seed "after-ripening" to proceed under conditions similar to those in nature. It can be seeded directly into the ground or into flats. Keep seeded flats in a cool shade house, and avoid exposure to high temperatures and dry conditions during the summer. In fall, move the flats to a secure, unheated building or cooler that is protected from rodents that might damage the flats.

### General Rule of Thumb for Seeding Woodland Wildflowers

When in doubt, plant the seed fresh and allow it to experience the natural seasonal cycles.

### Spring-Blooming Prairie Flowers

Certain spring-blooming prairie flowers will often germinate in late summer or early fall when their seed is planted immediately after being collected in summer. The seedlings will develop in fall, in preparation for their most active growth period early the following spring. Species and genera whose seed will often germinate shortly after sowing in summer include the following:

Latin Name	Common Name
<i>Anemone patens</i>	Pasque Flower
<i>Delphinium</i> species	Larkspurs
<i>Geum triflorum</i>	Prairie Smoke
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Lupine
<i>Ranunculus</i> species	Buttercups
<i>Tradescantia</i> species	Spiderworts

### Summary

By following these procedures and using quality seed from a reliable supplier, the mysteries of propagation of native species from seed can be unraveled. With a little patience and experience, one can obtain reliable results when growing seeds of our beautiful native wildflowers and grasses. ▲

Neil Diboll will be the keynote speaker at our Wild Ones Conference in Appleton, Wisconsin. He is a naturalist, author, and an internationally known speaker, as well as being the owner of Prairie Nursery in Westfield, Wisconsin.



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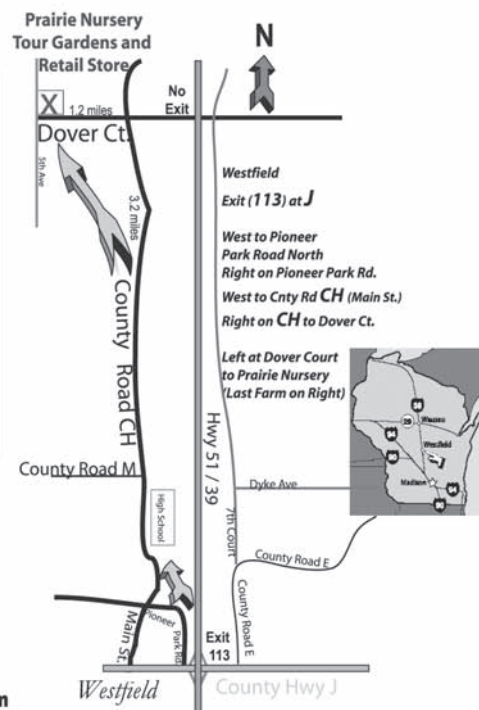
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# The Prairie Pots Project

While you may not be able to grow a complete prairie on your deck, it is possible to grow prairie plants in a very small space. By Elizabeth Plonka

I began a very exciting experiment in 2002. It all started when I moved from the suburbs to the city of Chicago. I was happy to leave behind the work of my suburban yard, but I thought having some container gardens on my new deck would be manageable. I volunteer in natural-areas restoration, and I wanted to have some of my favorite prairie plants with me in the city.

The deck has full sun with south and west exposures. I started with nine pots of various sizes up to a 2-foot diameter, and two window boxes. Most of the containers are plastic to reduce weight, and the potting medium is a mix of garden soil and compost. I do have to water the plants every two or three days in the summer depending on conditions. The pots are out in the winter without any extra protection. The majority of the plants I've tried are doing well, and survive as perennials so far. My collection has grown to over 55 species in 21 pots. I purchase 3-inch plugs; I do not use rescued plants.

The five plants that have not survived so far simply did not come back after their first winter, leading me to believe that they may not have been hardy in a container situation. Since I usually have only one individual of each species, when one dies, it is hard to tell if the species is not suitable to the conditions, or if that individual was weak. As time goes on, however, I expect that competition in the pots will cause some mortality. In that case I may plant a new individual of the missing species in a new pot rather than trying to divide the plant or plants that crowded the species out. If the whole pot begins to decline – only then would I dig out, divide, and repot – but so far this has not happened.

I began the project with plants from the dolomite prairie ecosystem since I thought they might have the best chance of survival in containers. Dolomite prairies sometimes have very little soil above the bedrock, but there are species that adapt to those conditions. As the experiment continued, many of the plants thrived, and I began to use more experimental species. Now I like to try something new every year. Last year I added a gazebo, and I am training native vines, riverbank grape (*Vitis riparia*), bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*), and Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) over the top. Next year I am planning to fertilize. I may try a top dressing of compost and the ash from the burned dead winter stems in some pots, and fish emulsion on others. Also, I will be adding some wet pots, with their drainage holes 3 inches up the side of the containers, so I can try some wetland species.

Some of the species change their behavior as a container plant. For instance, wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) and downy sunflower (*Helianthus mollis*) both started out strong, but by the third year they had stopped blooming but spread throughout the pot. This may have happened because of competition from the other species in the pots. Obviously, I am most pleased with the species that survive the winter, but there are some species that are so charm-

ing that I am willing to plant them every year as annuals. prairie petunia (*Ruellia humilis*) and bird's foot violet (*Viola pedata*) are two species that do not consistently make it through the winter but they are very charming in a window box and I usually replace them.

A few species are doing well, but just might not be old enough to prove themselves by blooming. Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*), Canada milk vetch (*Astragalus Canadensis*), and New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) have all survived the winter, but they have yet to bloom. I have a few plants that are normally very large but in the confined container space they have become dwarfed. Jerusalem artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*) and cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*) are both about one-third their normal size.

There are a number of species that have made it through at least one winter, and had at least two summers of bloom. I feel these species can make an impressive container prairie garden. The following list is for full sun. I cannot help but feel that there are many woodland and savannah plants that could be grown in containers in shade situations. I will begin experimenting with this myself as soon as I get enough shade from the vines growing on my gazebo.

If you begin your own experiment, do not forget to include some of your favorite plants, even if they are unproven or someone tells you they will not work. Including some of your special species makes the trial and error of the experiment more fun. ▲

## Good Performers in My Containers

Purple giant hyssop	<i>Agastache nepetoides</i>
Nodding wild onion	<i>Allium cernuum</i>
Little blue stem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>
Heath aster	<i>Aster ericoides</i>
Smooth blue aster	<i>Aster laevis</i>
New England aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>
Side-oats grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>
Virgin's bower	<i>Clematis virginiana</i>
Shooting star	<i>Dodecatheon meadia</i>
Prairie smoke	<i>Geum triflorum</i>
Fetile sunflower	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>
Prairie alum root	<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>
Junegrass	<i>Koeleria cristata</i>
Two-flowered Cynthia	<i>Krigia biflora</i>
Beardtongue foxglove	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>
White prairie clover	<i>Petalostemum candidum</i>
Yellow cone flower	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>
Pasture rose	<i>Rosa carolina</i>
Sweet black-eyed susan	<i>Rudbeckia subtomentosa</i>
Blue-eyed grass	<i>Sysirinchium albidum</i>
Stiff goldenrod	<i>Solidago rigida</i>
Prairie dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>
Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>
Kitten tails	<i>Wulfenia bullii</i>



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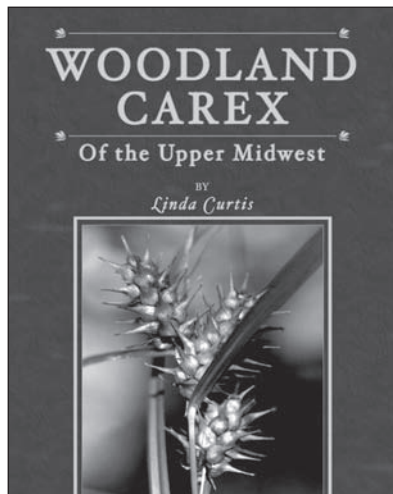
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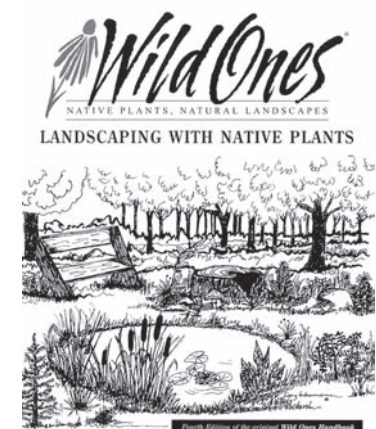
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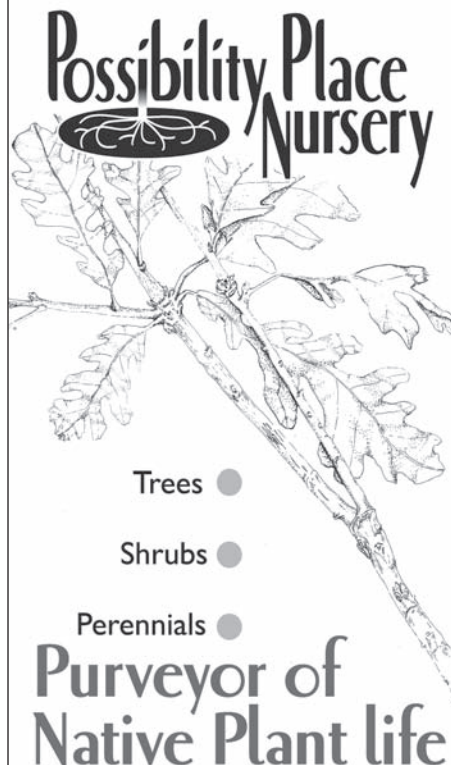
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in order to provide the aesthetic of privacy and shade. Moisture-loving wildflowers would provide the necessary ground cover.

**Planning Step No. 2** At this point one needs to evaluate one's life style: what activities do you want to provide for the enjoyment of yourself and your family? If playing football or baseball with your children is important, you may want to find the nearest park for such activity, or settle at this point for lots of lawn.

My neighbors' four grandchildren played all kinds of games in their lawnscapes, but were often in my yard running down the paths as well, presumably enjoying nature, or the simple pleasure of running through unfamiliar terrain.

Viewing and otherwise experiencing nature is the number one human activity in my yard. This occurs each day when one might stroll the paths for relaxation, checking to see what the weather is like. It happens when one walks to the garage, to the lake, or to the car. Nine additional activities were included in the plan for Green Gables.

The next five of these activities are nature related. An area for visiting with family and friends, or times for solitude, would be located by the lake within the shaded tree canopy. Cookouts, with the warmth of a campfire, the breezes off the lake, bright stars at night, were all anticipated experiences by the lake. A bird-feeding station needed to be located near the house and beside a path for easy accessibility. Bird houses and bat houses would be scattered in the yard as needed. A patch of native wild black raspberries would be planted along the lake path. Easy access for picking makes these delicious July delicacies available while on a stroll to the lake. A bench for spontaneous relaxation, contemplation, or for inhaling the beauty and smells of nature was located along a path near the house. The final nature-related activity included a fishing and boat-docking pier at the end of the lakeside path.

Of the remaining four activities for which I planned, the childhood experience of swinging on a rope-supported wooden swing had to be included. A section of pathway would do double duty as

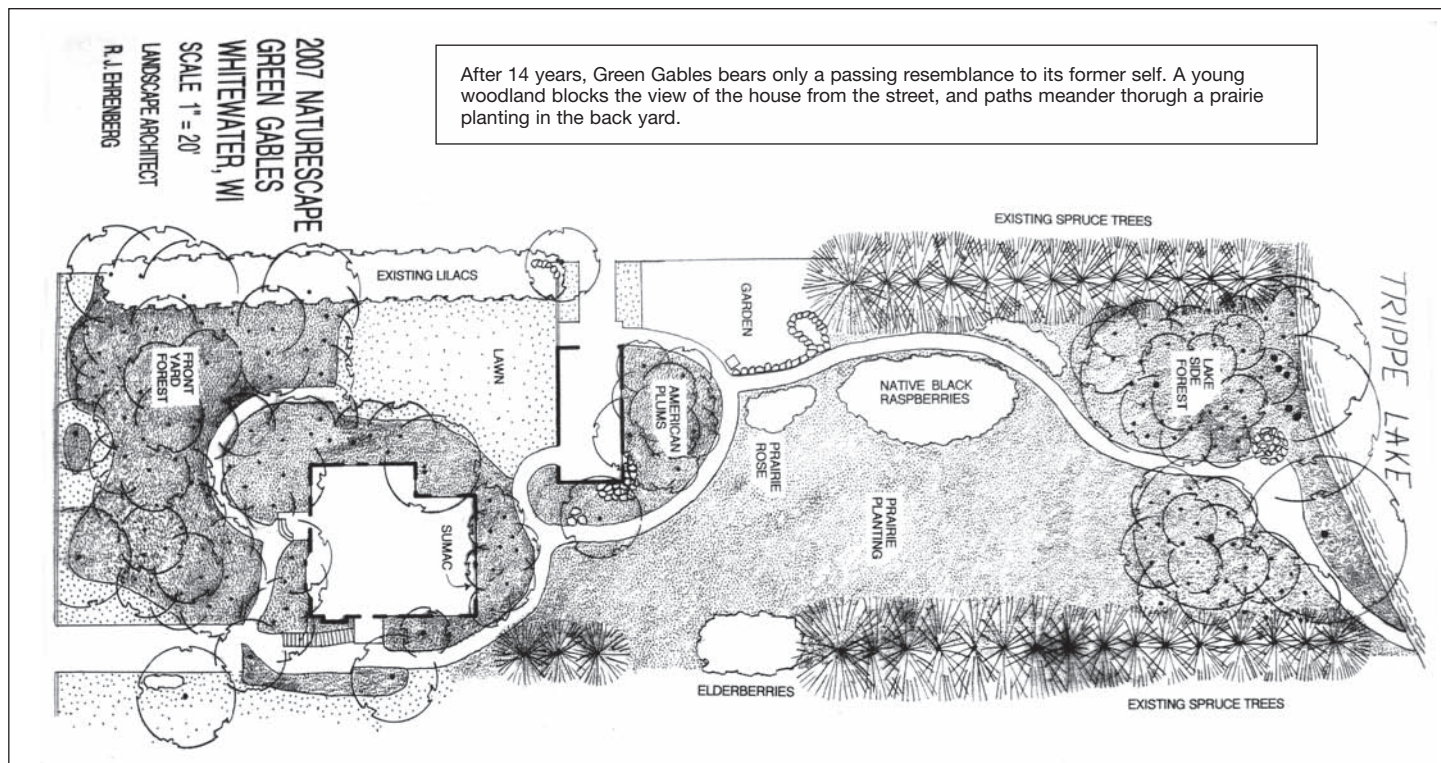
the runway, thereby not requiring any land to be taken away from nature. An area, 30 feet x 50 feet, on one side yard was set aside for games of croquet, badminton, a movable tennis table, and for throwing tennis balls for our dog. The detached garage has to be provided for as an active destination for parking the car, for going to the workshop, and for storage of gardening tools and supplies: two paths provide access. Finally, a vegetable/flower garden and orchard of dwarf apple trees were combined in one location, near the garage for easy access to tools.

**Planning Step No. 3** A path system to connect all activities and to minimize impact on the plant communities was an absolute necessity. The design ties the whole landscape together, and determines how one views the yard as you move through it, defining to some degree the "feel" of the site.

Natural landscaping, if it is to function well, plans for nature and for people. There should be room for us to enjoy our yards and room for nature/wildlife to coexist. We need to live side by side. For too long Americans have excluded nature, and destroyed habitats in order to plan only for their own needs and wants. Homeowners, especially those who have retired, often come to realize that nature in their yards adds to the human experience. Properties become more interesting and rewarding places when nature is preserved and included.

For many years Green Gables has enjoyed the company of a resident groundhog. During two summers there were youngsters romping around the yard, running to their in-ground nesting sites whenever they saw a human approaching. Nature provided all the green vegetation they needed to survive. The large burrow in the ground, surrounded by a mound of dirt, was well camouflaged by prairie plants, thereby not offending anyone's aesthetic sensibilities.

Planning for natural landscaping provides habitat for wildlife, and allows the beauty of nature to be part of our yards and our lives. We create a "habitat" for ourselves. ▲





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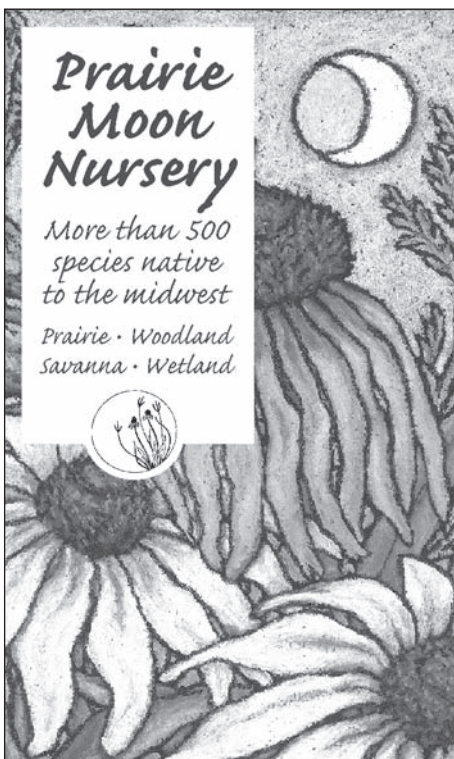
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*All members are invited and encouraged to attend the quarterly meetings of the National Board of Directors. If you'd like to participate in the meeting by conference call, please contact the National Office (toll-free) at 877-394-9453 for instructions.*

**3rd Quarter 2008 and Annual Meeting and Conference: In Celebration of Nature.** Appleton, Wisconsin. August 22-24, at the new Wild Ones EcoCenter. Guest speakers, photo contest, silent auction, leadership workshops, vendors, banquet, tours, and fun. **Registration deadline August 8.**

**4th Quarter 2008.** Midland, Michigan. Tentatively October 4. Hosted by the Mid-Mitten (MI) Chapter.

### Natural Landscaping With Native Plants.

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### Second Biennial Native Plant Symposium.

September 27, at The Center, Purdue University-Calumet, 2300 173rd Street, Hammond, Indiana. Doors open at 7 a.m. for a day of education, camaraderie, and fun. Sponsored by the Gibson Woods (IN) Chapter. Call Joy at 219-844-3188 or Pat at 219-865-2679.

**35th Natural Areas Conference** October 14-17, 2008 at the Doubletree Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. Sponsored by the Natural Areas Association and the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils. The conference will focus on ecological management themes with an emphasis on invasive exotic species and the effects of climate change. The NAEPPC will bring its invasive species expertise to the conference and the two organizations will provide synergy in organizing an outstanding event. Sessions will address the conference theme, "Tuning into a Changing Climate and Biological Invasion." Field trips and workshops will provide training opportunities for participants. Join us for an informative and rewarding experience. Call for papers deadline April 22, 2008. For details visit [www.naturalarea.org/08Conference](http://www.naturalarea.org/08Conference).

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To date we have collected over \$180,000 toward the purchase of the EcoCenter, as well as nearly \$40,000 toward the remodeling, computer equipment, and demonstrations gardens. This does not include the thousands of dollars which have been contributed through in-kind donations and still-to-be contributed through in-kind donations.

Architect **Joe Powelka**, who is doing the building design related to the remodeling of the EcoCenter, estimates the total cost of the remodeling work to be about \$100,000, but we anticipate cutting that cost down substantially through the generous offers of labor which have been coming in from Wild Ones members and local community residents.

Wild Ones National appreciates your donations and your offers of assistance. Everyone will be acknowledged at some future date in some very special way at the EcoCenter.

We thank you for your generosity.



## Happy Birthday, Lorrie

A few years ago we established a Seeds for Education Fundraising initiative in honor of Lorrie Otto's birthday. Her birthday is in September, and she will be 89.

Please send your gifts by September 5th so we can get your cards and letters to Lorrie in time for her birthday. You can download a special birthday card for Lorrie, and make your contribution online [www.for-wild.org/download/bd/lorriebirthday.html](http://www.for-wild.org/download/bd/lorriebirthday.html).

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