a voice for the natural landscaping movement

Wild Ones®

Native Plants, Natural Landscapes

JOURNAL

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inside

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

A MYSTERY EXPLORED

PART 3

By Maryann Whitman

It's All One Piece

We continue to explore man's traditional treatment of the soil, the results of this treatment, and the benefits that accrue through the planting and tending of natural landscapes, using native plants.

Photosynthesis

Land plants and a few algae and bacteria can do something that no other naturally occurring entity on Planet Earth can do: Through the process of photosynthesis, they can harvest minute portions of the light energy from the sun and store it in chemical bonds. It is not an overstatement to say that life on Earth depends on the process of photosynthesis. It is through the manipulation of chemical bonds that all life persists.

It happens that plants take in carbon dioxide (CO_2) from the atmosphere, and water (H_2O) from the soil, then, using the energy harvested from the sun, restring their component atoms together into molecules that most other organisms on the planet can use: Sugar molecules. These sugar molecules are the basic currency of life.

To complete their own life processes, plants can harvest the energy stored in these molecules to string together yet other molecules necessary for their own structure and functions – like reproduction. And they can exude the sugar molecules through their roots to influence their own growing environment. As was discussed in the last issue of the *Journal*, this growing environment, with the appropriate soil management techniques can be densely populated by a large variety of organisms – soil biota who make up the soil food web.

Among the soil biota are a specialized contingent of bacteria, called nitrogen fixers, that form symbiotic relationships with the roots of plants of the Legume family *(Fabaceae)*. These bacteria are able to take in nitrogen (N_2) from the air in the soil, harvest the energy from the energy-rich bond that ties two nitrogen atoms together, and fix single nitrogen atoms into organic molecules for use by the host plant, in exchange for the carbon-containing sugar molecules made by the plants. When the leaves and roots of the host plants die and decompose, nitrogen levels increase in the surrounding soil, improving the growth of other plants.

N, P, K and Soil Food Web

Nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, along with a number of microelements necessary for plant growth, are indeed available in healthy, soils that are rich in organic matter. Organic matter is made up of anything that is, or once was, living – plant or animal. It's valuable in that it retains and filters water and nutrients, but it is not usable by plants in this form. Organic matter must be decomposed by the soil food web, and transformed into inorganic matter in order to become available to plants.

Nitrogen is made available by soil bacteria; phosphorus and potassium are tied up in mineral form in the soil itself and are made available by geochemical processes and the agency of algae and fungi.

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Who's On Board?

"Getting on board." It can have so many meanings. I could encourage you to get on board with the sustainable landscaping movement if you are new to Wild Ones, or to find new ways to promote native landscaping if you are an experienced member. Or I could encourage you to write an article for the *Journal,* and share your experiences with other Wild Ones members.

But no – I'm actually writing to celebrate the people who are literally *on* our boards – both chapter boards and the National Board of Directors.

At the third quarter meeting our National Board welcomed four new directors. We also said a fond "thank you" and "see you soon!" to the outgoing directors, including Portia Brown, Steve Maassen, Mark Charles, and Debi Wolterman, all of whom brought different skills, interests, and personality traits to the board.

I appreciated that Portia was never afraid to voice important questions or point out potential pros *and* cons of a board action. (It is a great skill to be able to say "that seems a bit stupid" in such a kind way.) Debi lent us her great organizational skills and seemingly endless enthusiasm, while Mark never ceased to amaze me with his ability to think beyond the status quo and wonder what things will be like in the future, and what Wild Ones needs to do to get prepared for such changes. In fact, it was Mark who first propelled Wild Ones onto the Internet in 1998. Steve Maassen's passion for improving education by creating natural areas that are also integrated into school curricula has helped ensure that our focus always includes educating the next generation.

Who are these people that make up our illustrious National Board? Are they high-powered lawyers, authors, landscape professionals, and other VIPs? Well, some of them might be. But I'll tell you a secret: Most of us are just regular people who got hooked on landscaping with native plants for whatever reason, joined Wild Ones, and next thing we knew were on (the) board. As my mother used to say, "it takes all kinds," and that is what we have on the national and chapter boards. Secret #2: most of the time we have fun.

You could play an important role on either the national or one of the chapter boards.

Secret #3: What is as important, if not more so, than the National Board? Answer: Chapter boards. Some chapters have large, formal boards, with very regular meeting schedules (and oh how I admire their coordination and accomplishments). Some (like my own chapter) are more informal, and do our best work with refreshments in hand, after which we form committees, go great guns for a few months, taper off, then regroup to start another season of programs and outreach activities. And I think that's OK, too.

Every one of us, be you loud or quiet, thoughtful or impulsive, pragmatic or a dreamer, can play an important role. If you haven't tried it already, take a crack at being "on board." ❋

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

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Wild Ones National HQ Has a Name

We are pleased to announce that our National Headquarters, located on 16 lovely acres near Appleton, Wisconsin, has a new, official name: The **Wild Ones Institute of Learning and Development** or **WILD Center**.

Last winter we asked you, the Wild Ones members, for name suggestions. The six entries received were brought to the National Board for a vote, which resulted in the selection of the WILD Center, with Wild Ones Ecology Center (EcoCenter) coming in a close second.

We feel that this is a fitting name, as we hope that over the years many, many people will visit the WILD Center to **learn** the importance and "how to's" of sustainable landscaping, while we use our HQ to continue to **develop** and expand our national educational efforts.

Birds, Bees, and Bases: How military natural resource managers can help local pollinators, and why they should care

By S. Buchmann, P. Kevan, L. Adams, and A. Dalsimer

The Department of Defense (DoD) manages over 29 million acres of land in the United States, with 320 federally listed species, a wide diversity of habitats, and tens of thousands of historic buildings, structures, and sites.

In 1990, Congress passed legislation establishing the Legacy Resource Management Program to provide financial assistance to the Department of Defense (DoD) efforts to preserve our natural and cultural heritage. The program assists DoD in protecting and enhancing resources while supporting military readiness. A Legacy project may involve regional ecosystem management initiatives, habitat preservation efforts, archaeological investigations, invasive species control, Native American consultations, and/or monitoring and predicting migratory patterns of birds and animals.

This article was written by biologists in the public sector and published in a newsletter published by the DoD, called *Natural Selections*.

Benefits of Pollinators and Why Diversity Matters:

North American forests and meadows are awash in pollinators – perhaps more than 50,000 flower-visiting flies, beetles, butterflies, moths and wasps that provide essential pollination services for native plants and myriad crops. While some plant species rely on single species pollination (examples include figs and fig wasps, and yucca moths and yucca plants), it is generally rare for a plant to be pollinated by only one kind of insect. Most flowering plants from temperate zones rely upon guilds of diverse pollinating insects to move their pollen from plant to plant. Open flowers (e.g., sunflowers) are visited by flies, wasps, beetles, bees, and butterflies. More specialized flowers, such as flowers with narrow tubular corollas or complex shapes, are visited by highly specialized pollinators (e.g., hummingbirds), while fragrant flowers with deep throats that open at night are visited by hawk moths *(Sphingidae)*. In all, thousands of insect species, and dozens of bird and bat species, provide vital pollination services that maintain our diverse natural and managed ecosystems. Maintaining an abundant diversity of pollinators is therefore crucial.

Pollinator Losses

Around the world, pollinating animals and their host plants are declining, sometimes precipitously and inexplicably. Already some pollinators have gone extinct, while others remain critically imperiled. Anthropogenic causes are largely to blame for pollinator and plant declines. Habitat losses, especially from the conversion of wildlands into agricultural and urban landscapes, have resulted in local pollinator and plant extirpations.

Disease organisms (e.g., microsporidian protozoans) have caused populations of certain U.S. bumblebee species to plummet or disappear entirely, and invasive plants and animals have challenged and stressed native pollinators and their floral hosts.

Further, toxic chemicals (i.e., insecticides and herbicides) used on farms, lawns, and gardens kill pollinators and eliminate "weeds," including native roadside wildflowers, resulting in degraded habitats with fewer pollinators and fewer nectar- and pollen-yielding plants.

A recent study in the prestigious journal, *Science*, highlighted pollinator losses over the past several decades in European countries. In the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, populations of flower flies (family *Syrphidae*) and native bees, keystone mutualist pollinators in these countries, have declined as much as 40 percent to 60 percent since 1981, as have certain indigenous flowering plants. In response, the European Union has initiated and funded a comprehensive multi-year continental pollinator survey called ALARM.

A recent U.S. National Academy of Sciences study titled "Status of Pollinators in North America," called for similar baseline studies of plants and their pollinators in the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

In the United States, recent pollinator extinctions include at least seven species of yellow-faced bees in Hawaii, the Franklin's bumblebee in the Pacific Northwest, and several butterflies. Many other U.S. pollinators may be critically imperiled,

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As soil organisms consume organic materials, they retain *(immobilize)* nutrients in their cells. This process prevents the loss of nutrients, such as nitrogen, from the root zone. When fungi and bacteria die or are eaten by other organisms, nutrients are *mineralized*, that is, slowly released to the soil in plant-available forms. Nutrient immobilization and mineralization occur continuously throughout the year. This is what's happening in the soil under our native plantings.

Contrast this with lawns and crop fields, which lack the full complement of soil microorganisms. Annual crops don't allow sufficient time for the formation of a complex soil food web. They are fertilized to give the crops nutrients. And it is precisely because they *are* fertilized with chemicals that are destructive to the soil microorganisms that the soil food web has trouble forming. The fertilizers are in concentrated form that rapidly dehydrates the bodies of microorganisms. Further, fungicides and fumigants do exactly what they are designed to do: They kill soil fungi. It's even been suggested that watering young seedlings with chlorinated tap water slows the establishment of the soil food web around the roots.

As mentioned earlier, plants produce sugars that they exude through their roots, while also sloughing off root cells. All the microorganisms that inhabit the soil are drawn to this special environment that is produced by growing plants. And when the plants cease to perform life-building processes (they die), the microorganisms proceed to dismantle all the fixed organic molecules and excrete inorganic molecules that continue the recycling process. The soil food web is cyclical and continuous; life forms ingest other life forms and excrete material in a form that plants can use.

The 6 to 10 inches of soil around plant roots is alive: In the case of native plants with roots that extend several feet into the soil, life extends for several feet into the soil.

The N, P, K exist in the soil around native plants and are immobilized in the bodies of microorganisms and in organic matter in general. Water carrying these nutrients is filtered by the organic matter in the soil. Our ground water stays clean.

Fertilizers

We are familiar with the elements nitrogen (N), potassium (K), and phosphorus (P) that make up commercially available fertilizer. Let's consider, for the sake of elucidation, why food-crop farmers and growers of lawns find it necessary to use fertilizers: Given their soil management techniques, there simply is not enough of these elements retained in the soils to produce the bountiful harvests that the market requires.

Both crop soils and lawns require the addition of chemicals that are in a form that plant roots can absorb directly. And, this feeding process, in some instances, may need to happen several times during the growing season because the chemicals do not persist in the soil – there is no soil food web to immobilize them. Biologists have realized that these chemicals sluice past the plant roots, through the soil, and on into our ground water, delivering nitrate and phosphorus pollution. The soil lacks the wherewithal to retain the chemicals.

Traditional proper farming practices have always required clean fields and monolithic crops. (Only one crop is grown at a time, for harvesting efficiency). The farmer plants his oats or corn, and at the end of the season is obliged to remove every shred of plant material that appears above ground. The seed is taken in by one method and the stems and leaves by another – leaving behind nothing but bits of stubble and meager, dead roots. In temperate climates that have winters, the earth stands naked in the off season, and dust devils whip around fine silt that ends up in drainage ditches and in our streams in the spring. There is little life in the soil, no living plant roots, and few microorganisms to stabilize the silt.

In the case of manicured lawns, the clippings (think organic matter) are removed each time the lawn is trimmed. The soil is purposely leveled and compacted, reducing any gaps and air spaces that might give room to microorganisms. In contrast to our native plants, lawn-grass roots rarely extend more than 6 inches into the soil, and this environment entertains few microorganisms to filter water or to retain and recycle nutrients.

Our soil management techniques and practices developed during a period of time when the soil retained fertility that had been laid down prior to the arrival of the first plows – and land was plentiful. Our attitude toward the soil was influenced by discoveries in science and by modern technology. We had the sense that technology would make up for our inattention to, if not outright misuse of the services provided by the natural world. These "services" were recently given a price tag by a Cornell University researcher – it was a staggering figure of several trillions of dollars annually. Those of us who promote the use of native plants in our landscapes recognize some of these services and are trying to turn the attention of others. For many of us, gardening with native plants has become more than a pastime, more than just another way of gardening, more than just another group of plants to collect – it has come to reflect a way of life.

In the next issue we will explore some specific interactions between the soil biota and plant roots in healthy soil. ❋

By blending water and minerals from below with sunlight and CO_2 from above, green plants link the earth to the sky. We tend to believe that plants grow out of the soil, but in fact most of their substance comes from the air. The bulk of the cellulose and the other organic compounds produced through photosynthesis consists of heavy carbon and oxygen atoms, which plants take directly from the air in the form of CO_2. Thus the weight of a wooden log comes almost entirely from the air. When we burn a log in a fireplace, oxygen and carbon combine once more into CO_2, and in the light and heat of the fire we recover part of the solar energy that went into making the wood. Quote from Fritjof Capra, *The Web of Life: A New Scientific Understanding of Living Systems.*

Wild Ones Legacy Program

Get Involved, Stay Involved, With Wild Ones

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

Annual Support: Wild Ones Champions provide dependable income for Wild Ones programs by making their annual gifts through convenient monthly deductions via credit card or direct debit from a designated financial account.

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

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

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

Special Gifts and Heritage: The Wild Ones Legacy Program provides the opportunity to gift appreciated stock, real property, in-kind gifts, IRA-rollover gifts (option through December 2007 per the Pension Protection Act of 2006) and multi-year commitments. Bequests, charitable gift annuities, trusts and other planned giving vehicles provide significant support to Wild Ones while also benefiting the donors and their families.

Volunteer: More than 4,000 people annually volunteer their time and energy for land conservation, and community garden plantings and for the Wild Ones EcoCenter.

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

For more information on supporting Wild Ones through the *Get Wild Stay Wild Program*, please contact Donna VanBuecken, Executive Director, Wild Ones, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, Wisconsin 54912 877-394-9453 execdirector@for-wild.org, or check us out at our web site: www.for-wild.org/legacy/.

Out My Window

By Maryann Whitman

Yesterday I was looking out my kitchen window; about 150 feet away and down the hill is a mucky bottomed, shallow pond. On the edge of the pond was a mature great blue heron, in a spot where I had seen him/her before – must be a good hunting ground, I know the frogs have been loud.

I could see water stirring about 20 feet from the heron, behind a very old, overgrown buttonbush; something was swimming toward the heron.

A mature Canada goose hove into view of me and the heron. I could see the goose coming to a halt in the water (must be hard to backpedal in water), having spotted the heron. He bobbed his head, tested the air, but made no noise. He swam a little closer.

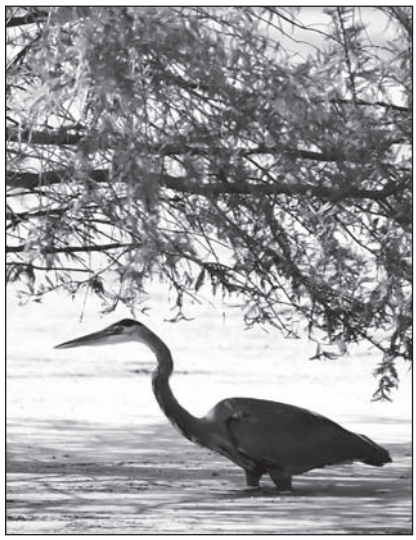
The heron was frozen in space. Not an eye blinked.

Apparently satisfied, the goose moved on.

At the periphery of my vision I spotted something else approaching on land, hidden from the heron by dense undergrowth. A very large tom turkey came strolling into view. (I know – what are the chances?) He, too, spotted the heron and stopped. Bobbing and weaving his head, he stayed in place for a long moment and then resumed his trek into the woods.

The heron remained frozen throughout this moment, as he had done in the one preceding.

What I was most aware of was the fact that each of the birds first recognized the other as something outstanding in the landscape, and then as something "familiar" and apparently non-threatening. Both the goose and the turkey had spotted the motionless, "invisible" heron, as I surmise he had spotted both of them.



If it had been one of my dogs stalking, or me approaching however stealthily, pandemonium would have broken loose. But these three species "recognized" (I would like to think), each other, nodded, and went on about their own business. ❋

Black Walnut: An unearned bad reputation

The black walnut has unfairly earned a reputation as a difficult tree.

It gets along quite unobtrusively with its natural community of native plants – anything that might grow at the edges of a mesic forest along with white ash, sugar maple, black cherry, beech, basswood, white oak, and red oak.

What does suffer within the drip line of a black walnut is its own seedlings, some cultivated fruit trees, and definitely garden vegetables – especially peppers, tomatoes, and potatoes (these last all members of *Solanaceae* family).

Walnuts are shade intolerant, very fast growing in their youth on fertile soil, and are not readily transplantable beyond their first year. They have an extensive taproot that grows from the nut before there is much evidence of a tree above ground.

They are a major caterpillar food of the beautiful luna moth *(Actias luna)*.

NEXT GENERATION

Experiencing Nature Up Close and Personal

By Barbara Bray

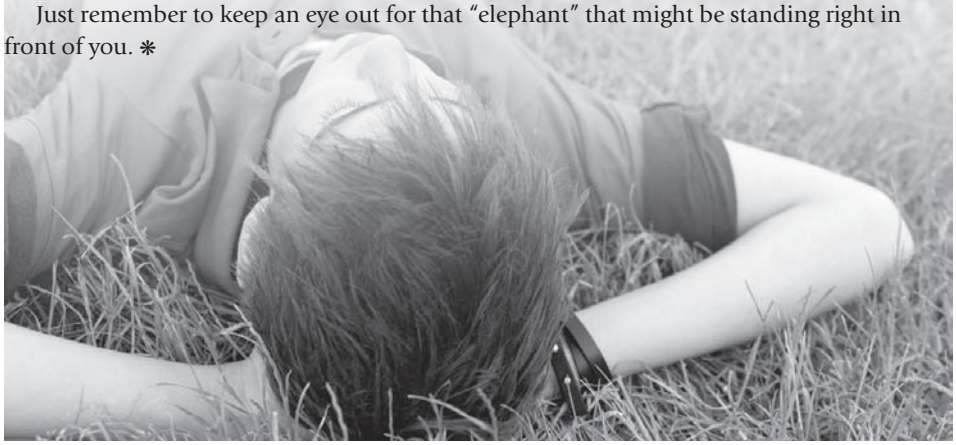
What is the best way to experience nature? As a naturalist, I lead groups of children through a nature preserve during the school year, helping them to learn about habitats, life cycles, and food chains. Our programs complement the schools' curricula, and fit in with the teachers' lesson plans.

Sometimes I find it comforting to know exactly what I will teach on a particular day. Teachers have expectations of what will be covered, and if I touch on all the benchmarks properly, I will have done a good job. Or have I? A good naturalist friend of mine will often say something like, "Don't ignore the elephant standing right in front of you," which means it's OK to get distracted. One time, children interrupted me in the middle of answering a question, to turn my attention toward the woods behind me. There, maybe 10 feet away, was a doe with a fawn. Another time, I was supposed to be talking about dinosaurs, but the children kept drawing me toward the fallen logs to see sow bugs, spiders, and even an ichneumon wasp laying eggs with its 4-inch long ovipositor. If I hadn't stopped with my planned instruction, we would not have had these wonderful experiences.

Sometimes the trick to experiencing nature is just to slow down. A couple of weeks ago, I succeeded in coaxing my almost 13-year-old son to set up a chair next to mine. As he unfolded the chair, I told him he was facing the wrong way. He looked at me with confusion. I told him we were going to sit facing my butterfly garden to watch the insects flying to the blossoms. Truthfully, I was surprised that he agreed to do this with me at all. We sat together for about 15 minutes before he decided Mom had lost her marbles. Those few moments we shared, however, were filled with honeybees, skippers, and some other tiny buzzing insects. We talked about how the little skippers looked like jet planes as they flew from flower to flower. We watched as the yellow heads of the coreopsis danced in the light breeze. We listened to crickets singing nearby. These simple pleasures were ours to share because we slowed down enough to notice them.

Of course, you don't need a chair to stop and look around you. If you go for a walk in the woods, you can try this: As you enter the woods, lie down on your back and look at the tree tops above you. (Make sure you are not lying in a patch of poison ivy, of course!) How far away are the tree tops? Look at the leaves on the branches. Do you notice the spaces in between them? Are leaves moving on the trees? Do you see any animals moving in the tree tops? What does the ground feel like under you? Is it hard or soft? Now you can sit up and look at the ground below. Are there plants and leaves around you? Explore the leaves for insects and other interesting creatures. Does it have a smell? Is the soil under the leaves moist or dry? Sit quietly for five minutes and listen and look around you. Watch the comings and goings of birds. Listen for the chattering of squirrels. Look closely at the plants around you. Are they flowering? Do they have seeds? Are there any animal homes in them or on them? Spiders sometimes have webs on plants, and caterpillars can sometimes be found in rolled-up leaves. When you are satisfied with what you have experienced, continue on your walk and maybe try it again in a different location.

Just remember to keep an eye out for that "elephant" that might be standing right in front of you. ❋



NIPPED IN THE "BUDD"

By Janet Allen

INVASIVES ON THE HORIZON

Nothing draws people's ire as quickly as suggesting that they not plant buddleia in a butterfly garden.

It's understandable that people plant buddleias *(Buddleia davidii* or *B. alternifolia*; sometimes spelled *Buddleja*). After all, most garden books and web sites include them in their lists of butterfly garden plants. And it's easy to see why people like them: They're colorful butterfly magnets.

I used to have almost a dozen butterfly bushes (buddleia's common name[1] summer lilac is another). I enjoyed watching butterflies drawn by buddleia's abundant nectar. In fact, after buying the first one, I grew more each year. They were so easy to start from seed. That's the problem. Not only do they grow easily from the seed you intentionally plant, but they also generously volunteer in your yard and beyond.

Invasiveness

Not a problem in the north? Despite the fact that some say they have trouble overwintering them, this has not been my experience here in central New York – one of the colder, more wintry areas of the country. My buddleias had faithfully returned each year. Last summer I became convinced of their potential invasiveness when I found a small butterfly bush ready to flower. It was growing *in the shade, six years after* I had eradicated all my butterfly bushes.

But this didn't happen just in my yard. Native to China, and introduced to North America about 1900, buddleia now is found throughout the eastern, southern, and western states. It also has displaced native species all over Europe, even becoming a safety risk along railroads. And it's a major problem in New Zealand.

Resistance

Why then is there such resistance to the suggestion that it not be planted? At the heart of this attachment to buddleia may be one's calculation of environmental risks, and perhaps one's relationship to our gardens and the natural world.

It's true that many who plant buddleia may not yet see it invading nearby natural areas. But when its invasive potential is documented in similar areas, is it wise to wait for it to become a problem in our own area before we stop planting it? If only we had stopped planting multiflora rose, kudzu, or similarly destructive invasives when their invasive tendencies were first noted. Experience shows that some invasive plants that had seemed relatively well-behaved for decades after introduction have suddenly exploded out of control. Furthermore, global warming appears to be favoring the spread of invasive plants northward, with the result that we can no longer depend on cold winters to keep these plants in check. Abiding by a "precautionary principle" that treats such problematic plants as guilty until proven innocent, not the reverse, seems to be the wisest choice – the choice most likely to leave a healthy planet for our children and grandchildren.

The passionate response this plant evokes is perhaps also because people enjoy watching wildlife and they like to help wildlife – both laudable activities. But in my own gardening life, I try to distinguish between *attracting* wildlife, and *providing for* wildlife. I do sometimes attract wildlife – for example, by providing birdfeeders. However, I try to make most gardening decisions based on what provides healthy habitat for wildlife now and in the future, not just for my current enjoyment. Butterflies like buddleias, and it is fun to watch them flock to the plants, but given the destructive nature of invasive plants in the larger ecosystems, is including buddleias ultimately the healthiest choice for wildlife? As the amount of truly wild areas relative to managed areas diminishes, we'll be increasingly faced with similarly consequential decisions.

Creating butterfly habitat

The good news is that butterflies will visit your yard even without buddleia. Don't forget that providing appropriate food plants for the caterpillars – not just nectar plants for the adult butterflies – is key to creating butterfly habitat.

Conclusion

There's no reason to plant buddleias when there are so many other native plants that also provide nectar for butterflies without the risk of degrading our natural areas. But while you're waiting for an opportunity to replace any buddleias in your yard, please minimize the risk by faithfully deadheading spent flowers. ❋

1 Don't confuse butterfly bush *(Buddleia spp.)* with the native butterfly weed *(Asclepias tuberosa)*. Butterfly weed is a milkweed, and therefore a larval host plant for the monarch butterfly. And it's a good nectar plant in general.

Photo by Richard Old, XID Services, Inc., Bugwood.org

Native Alternatives to Buddleia

From the book *Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants*, by C, Colston Burrell, Janet Marinelli, and Bonnie Harper-Lore:

Buttonbush *(Cephalanthus occidentalis)*
Summersweet *(Clethra alnifolia)*

From the New England Wildflower Society (www.newfs.org/docs/docs/invalt2.pdf):

Bottlebrush buckeye *(Aesculus parviflora)*
American beautyberry *(Callicarpa americana)*
California lilac *(Ceanothus spp.)*
Bush-honeysuckle *(Diervilla spp.)*
Wild hydrangea *(Hydrangea arborescens)*
St. John's wort *(Hypericum spp.)*
Sweetspire *(Itea virginiana)*
Sourwood *(Oxydendrum arboreum)*
Azalea *(Rhododendron spp.)*
Elderberry *(Sambucus spp.)*
Meadowsweet *(Spiraea spp.)*
Snowberry *(Symphoricarpos spp.)*
Viburnum *(Viburnum spp.)*

From Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas, by the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic):

New York ironweed *(Vernonia noveboracensis)*
Butterfly weed *(Asclepias tuberosa)*
Blazing star *(Liatris spicata)*

Chapter Notes

We are delighted to be able to share this recent communication from the **Root River Area (WI) Chapter** with you. Donna VanBuecken, the Wild Ones Executive Director, had written to Nan Calvert, Chapter President, inquiring about the success of the chapter plant sale, and whether or not they would be making another donation to the Wild Ones EcoCenter from the proceeds. This was Nan's response:

Hi Donna,

Sorry for the slow response. Summer has been very, very hectic. Yes – I/We plan on making a hefty donation toward the building. I have to round up the board – no easy task in summer to be sure – and get their approval/input, and then a check or checks will wing their way homeward as it were. I/We also want to give something toward the Journal *and SFE as well.*

I am happy to report that we had hardly any plants left over, because we were able to supply the Pike River restoration project with plants for the upland slopes, and a good deal of plants went to the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative's rain garden project, for which I am the coordinator. We still have a few that I have held back for donations. For instance, we have a new urban environmental education center that needs vegetation badly. How cool is that? Sadly, we – that is Root Pike WIN funded a big rain garden there, and the garden was vandalized soon after planting.

Funnily enough, last year the Plant Committee and the Chapter Board were a little hesitant about again offering free memberships to people who spend over $100 – only because the response was so overwhelming that we weren't certain it would justify the expense. So this year we reworded the sales slip to really emphasize that we really want active people with time and energy to spare – and we got more than last year!

Anyway – look for checks in the next few weeks. We still have some money coming in as yet.

Thanks for all you do.

Nan

WILD ONES STEWARDS

Ducks Unlimited Dedicates Prairie and Wetland Project

Wild Ones members **Charlotte Adelman** and **Bernard Schwartz** (North Park Village Nature Center (IL) Chapter) were recognized by Ducks Unlimited on July 2, 2008, at a dedication ceremony for the Mola Prairie and Wetland Preserve. The preserve is located at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie near Joliet, Illinois.

The Mola Prairie and Wetland Preserve was a joint effort by Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Forest Service that restored 60 acres of high quality prairie and wetland habitat featuring more than 100 different plant species. Funding for the project was provided by a grant administered by CorLands, a Chicago-based non-profit conservation organization.

Ducks Unlimited dedicated the project to Adelman and Schwartz in recognition of their passion and support for prairie and wetland conservation. Both have authored books on prairies, and have traveled extensively, visiting prairies in Illinois and across the United States.

"We are very fortunate to have people like Charlotte and Bernard who recognize the beauty and value of native prairies to both wildlife and people," said Eric Schenck Regional Biologist for Ducks Unlimited. "With their support, more projects like this will be possible in the future."

With more than a million supporters, Ducks Unlimited is the world's largest and most effective wetland and waterfowl conservation organization with more than 12 million acres conserved. The United States alone has lost more than half of its original wetlands – nature's most productive ecosystem – and continues to lose more than 80,000 wetland acres each year. ❋

Grapevine

By Maryann Whitman

Sustaining Life

According to the new book, *Sustaining Life: How Human Health Depends upon Biodiversity*, we need birds, bugs, and bacteria a lot more than they need us.

Dr. Eric Chivian, sharer of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985, and Founder and Director of Harvard Medical School's Center for Health and the Global Environment, was recently interviewed about the book he co-authored with Dr. Aaron Bernstein.

He was asked: "If there was one species that you could save right now that's endangered that really has consequence today in our lives, what would it be?"

Dr. Chivian answered: "I think if we were talking about groups of species I could answer that and I would give you several candidates because all life on earth is dependent on it. Plants: We have no oxygen without plants. Microbes: Of all types, the microbes that break down decaying organisms and return the nutrients to the soil and to the oceans. Nitrogen-fixing bacteria: We would have very few crops without nitrogen-fixing bacteria."

Which Came First?

A Canadian biologist doing research with invasive plants suggests that they are not as much a cause of environmental degradation as "eco-opportunists taking advantage of disturbed habitats."

Environmental degradation may result from any event that serves to diminish local biotic diversity – pollution, habitat fragmentation, erosion, clearance of native vegetation, intentional introduction of alien species, deforestation, monoculturing, urban development with impervious surfaces, or outright habitat destruction like wetland drainage or conversion to agriculture. These are the obvious events.

Less obvious are the rapidly increasing concentration of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere, and concomitant climatic changes. It is these last changes that research is predicting will be particularly beneficial to invasive plants.

It seems our native plants can't win for losing. ❋

though scientists lack historic baseline data to demonstrate long-term population trends and substantiate these suspected losses. Anecdotally, in February, 2007, U.S. beekeepers in more than 20 states began reporting that many of their honeybee hives were empty, containing only a queen and a few sick bees where once there were thousands of worker bees. The origins and causative agent(s) of this phenomenon, called Chronic Collapse Disorder (CCD), remain unknown. Sadly for pollinators and food eaters alike, the effects of CCD are likely to continue.

International Partners Working Together

Since 1999, a consortium of federal, state, provincial government environmental authorities, NGOs, policy-makers, corporations, and individuals have cooperated to preserve and protect pollinators and their host plants. This tri-national (Canada, United States, Mexico) group, known as the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign or NAPPC, is working hard on the issues of pollinator conservation and restoration, and, as a group, offer the main source of pollinator and pollination expertise in North America.

Aside from its science-based efforts, NAPPC members have worked hard to raise public awareness about pollinators and their plight. In the last two years alone, the group has developed a pollinator curriculum for students in grades 3-6, titled "Nature's Partners," secured a special-issue stamp from the U.S. Postal Service, and formally established (via the U.S. Senate and Secretary of Agriculture) a national Pollinator Week for the third week in June.

Military Installations and Pollinators

Many military installations in the United States are large and protected from unrestricted public access, and many employ wildlife biologists who have environmental stewardship responsibilities mandated by the Sikes Act, and guided by compliance with the Endangered Species Act, Executive Order on Invasive Species, and other federal regulations and DoD policies. The result is greater protection for all native plants and animals on installation lands.

Studies by Buchmann, et al., have revealed high alpha diversity of native bees on U.S. military reservations. Specifically, multi-year studies of bees at Yuma Proving Grounds, Arizona, and White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), New Mexico, have shown pollinator diversity numbering in the hundreds of species present. In these studies, new species of *Atoposmia* mason bees (Yuma) and specialist bees associated with ultra-basic gypsum soils and rare plants (WSMR) were collected, utilizing netting at flowers or traps (e.g., pan traps filled with soapy water), thus demonstrating that this technique can be used effectively to monitor native pollinators on military lands.

Simple Things You Can Do

Note from Editor: While these recommendations were written specifically for base personnel and their families, they are equally relevant to Wild Ones members and non-military families.

Creating pollinator habitats on installations provides local insect and bird species with nesting and foraging sites, *and* builds a living laboratory for base personnel to enjoy and learn from. Because pollinators require relatively small patches of land, creating "pollinator buffers" around buildings, near exercise and parade grounds, and in the "roughs" or out of play areas on golf courses can all make a difference. Because roadway access and military training field exercises have the greatest impact on native floras and faunas including plants and their pollinators, consider adopting "pollinator friendly practices" such as:

• *Plant for Pollinators.* Consider re-vegetation of degraded military lands using native locally-adapted (to soils, climate) native flowering plants. These plants will cost less to maintain than non-native species, and pollinator gardens (for butterflies, birds, bees, bats) can become havens not only for wildlife, but for military personnel and their families.

• Avoid excessive mowing of roadside "weeds." Roadways provide extensive habitat for native annual wildflowers and their pollinators. Ideally, plant native species in these areas, then mow only after they have flowered and set seed.

• Consider deploying hummingbird feeders and drilled board "bee condominium" nesting boxes for native leafcutter and mason bees. Roadside plantings of local wildflowers will attract many butterflies and native bees to these areas where they can feed and nest.

With large areas protected from public access, some military bases offer great protection for native plants and animals.

• Avoid extensive herbicide spraying of native wildflowers for the same reasons. Additionally, keeping areas of nectar-producing wildflowers at hand provides refuge sites for parasitic wasps that combat pest-insect populations.

• Consider placement of houses for bats and purple martins on poles. Aside from pollination services, bat and martin populations will help reduce pest insects, such as mosquitoes. Similarly, placing bat-friendly "gates" at mine entrances will allow bats to come and go, while keeping mine entrances safe for people.

And Even More We Can Do

On a personal level, in addition to the actions above, we all can help promote pollinator services with actions as simple as buying locally grown and organic fruits and vegetables, switching to shade-friendly coffee, planting flower gardens, or participating in an outreach activity during National Pollinator Week. All these can make a positive difference toward maintaining the pollinators which are so vital to our world. For even more ideas and activities, including a curriculum (Nature's Partners) that can be used at installations, visit the Pollinator Partnership website at www.pollinator.org. ❋

Author Notes:

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A. Dalsimer – Associate, Booz Allen Hamilton, VA.

In 1993, when the Ehrenbergs moved in, the house looked like many houses with extensive, unimaginative lawns do – alien to its setting, on top of the soil.

The following year, 40 6-foot young trees were planted in a 50-foot x 85-foot area, between the house and the fronting sidewalk.

Green Gables
An american landscape designed with nature in mind: A Front-Yard Forest

By Richard J. Ehrenberg

Part 3 of a series.

This third article about Green Gables, my home in Whitewater, Wisconsin, focuses on the front-yard forest that measures 50 feet x 85 feet. It fills the front yard from the driveway to the side yard, and from the house to the front sidewalk. In the spring of 1994 I planted 40 6-foot trees and proceeded to water every three to four days, slowly soaking each tree for 15 minutes during the warm, dry days of summer. Each tree was given a root stimulant at planting time. All survived.

The initial planting of 40 included only four different species of native trees and one cultivar of a native. For a number of reasons the black cherry *(Prunus serotina)* dominated my selection. It is one of my favorite native trees, though it is seldom seen in established woodlands. They prefer full sun, and since I was planting into a previously mowed lawn area with shade from only two street trees, I knew the black cherry would do well. The good qualities of this species are many: It's a fast-growing hardwood; has showy, white, spring flowers; in the fall, the fruit – black cherries – are loved by many birds; and its fall color is a striking combination of purple and orange. A few red oaks *(Quercus rubra)*, were planted, but have not done well, only holding their own and dying off as the shade from the fast-growing black cherries took over. Four quaking aspens *(Populus tremuloides)*, were located on the southern edge of the planting, in order that they might get maximum sun once the trees have matured. Eastern redbuds *(Cercis canadensis)*, were planted for their unique pink spring flowers. A few white ashes *(Fraxinus americana)*, and a cultivar, "Autumn Purple Ash," were added for fall color.

Fortunately, additional species emerged in 1994 and 1995, as soon as mowing was discontinued. Black walnuts, planted by my neighborhood squirrels, came up all over. I learned quickly to cover them with protective screening since the squirrels dug them up as quickly as they discovered this spring delicacy.

The black walnut *(Juglans nigra)*, I discovered, is an extremely fast-growing tree. They quickly extended their height above the trees I had planted, and have become tall, straight, and impressive. Their presence has not affected the other trees, nor decreased the number of wildflowers; natives seem to be tolerant of the walnut's toxic chemical, which can destroy a vegetable garden. American linden, or basswood *(Tilia americana)* also appeared, along with hackberry *(Celtis occidentalis)*. Both are very shade tolerant, and have grown extremely well, also growing faster and higher than my plantings.

My experience with the walnut, basswood, and hackberry volunteers prompted this conclusion: Trees that grow from seed in one location and never have their roots disturbed, as do nursery-grown trees, grow faster than nursery trees. Even additional white ashes which volunteered in the constant shade next to the house outpaced all the nursery plantings. Thirty volunteers have graciously increased the front-yard forest to 70 trees, which shows how anxious nature is to fill a space if only we get rid of the lawn and the mower.

The design included a curvilinear edge for the planting, along my driveway, and along the street. By leaving an edge of mowed grass which is seen by my neighbors, the planting has

A strip of lawn surrounded the young woodlot, emphasizing it while also giving the impression that it was tended and intended.

Fourteen years after the original planting, the house no longer appears alien in its setting. Rather, it nestles among the trees and softening ground covers. It belongs. It is part of a larger habitat.

the appearance of a planting bed – it is intentional. The lawn blends in with the neighborhood lawns, and it reflects a casual artistic contrast between a manicured lawn and natural growth. The mini-forest was planted right up to the house, thereby avoiding any hint of a foundation planting. The woodland snuggles up to and incorporates the house into the landscape. Originally the house stood on top of the lawn and dominated the view and a visitor's initial experience.

In the fall, prior to my spring planting of the forest, I asked the city to dump 700 bags of collected leaves onto the front lawn, leaves that had been slated for the city composting facility. I hired a young man to spread the leaves approximately 18 inches deep, up to the designed edges and up to the house. A path of grass through the woods was allowed to remain. The winter snow packed down the leaves. When spring arrived, the mulch had done its work – there was no more grass, and the area was ready for planting. The weed problems over the years have been minimal. The tree seeds in the mulch added to the species list. And after 14 years, I'm still using the discarded plastic leaf bags for miscellaneous projects. The savings in plastic bags probably paid for the trees I purchased.

The understory consists mostly of alternate leaved dogwood *(Cornus alternifolia)* shrubs, which were first planted but now reproduce from seed. They do well in shade. Virginia creeper *(Parthenosisus quinquefolia)*, provides the dominant groundcover. It is a very fast-growing, creeping vine with attractive palmate leaves which sit about 8 to 10 inches off the ground. Its growth habit is open enough to allow wildflowers to grow through, unlike that of alien periwinkle or pachysandra whose compact growth suffocates any volunteering natives. The woodland violet, which is Wisconsin's state flower, branched coneflower *(Rudbeckia triloba)*, and Virginia bluebells *(Mertensia virginica)* add color to the dappled shade and otherwise green environment. The smell of wet leaves in the spring, and the smell of dry leaves in the fall, add to the woodland experience. Squirrels and birds abound around the edges. The shade reduces temperatures by 10 or 15 degrees during the summer, and keeps our bedrooms on the north side of the house comfortably cool. No need for air conditioning.

Maintenance has been minimal, primarily pruning dead branches that result from the increasing shade. Any small twigs or branches which fall are easily broken into smaller pieces and scattered in the woodland. No need to rake leaves. Nature will recycle. Leaves on the lawn edge are raked into the woodland. No need to bag any leaves. The front-yard forest is not only good habitat for wildlife, it is also good habitat for Kim and me – with much less work than lawn maintenance.

What is good for nature turns out to be very good for us as well. It is definitely a win, win situation. ❋

Young Woods and Woodpeckers

By Emma Bickham Pitcher

Our young woods is largely volunteer gray birch which doesn't offer much to attract woodpeckers, my favorite bird family. Cherries and some black walnuts have spread from the original farm field hedgerow. When I kept hearing a downy woodpecker go "Pick, pick, pick," quite some distance away I made him a present. I took a hatchet to the trunk of a tall 5- or 6-inch-diameter cherry, and removed the bark and the first half-inch of wood all the way around the trunk in a 15-inch wide strip. It took a long time to die – months – but in the years since, the downy has made some 25 excavations, varying in size from pock marks to 1-inch x 2-inch cavities. I'm about to take a hatchet to another surplus black cherry, a larger one this time, of sufficient diameter for a future nesting cavity. Downies are long-lived, year-round residents, therefore highly desirable friends to cultivate. ❋

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NEW BUSINESS MEMBERS

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PO Box 555, East Troy, WI 53120-0555
(262) 642-2651
skylark@manshire.com
www.fieldsneighborhood.org
Milwaukee-Southwest/Wehr Chapter

National Railroad Museum
2285 S Broadway Ave
Green Bay, WI 54304
(920) 437-7623 ext 17
metelzrow@nationalrrmuseum.org
www.nationalrrmuseum.org
Green Bay (WI) Chapter

RENEWING BUSINESS MEMBERS

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3754 Pleasant Ave Ste B3
Minneapolis, MN 55409-1227
(612) 821-9797
douglas@energyscapes.com
www.energyscapes.com
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113 West Main Street
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-2905
(608) 837-8022
oneplus@chorus.net
www.oneplusarchitecture.com
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The Natural Garden Inc
38W443 Hwy 64
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(630) 584-0150
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www.thenaturalgardeninc.com
Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter

Write for the Journal

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

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

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

Seeds for Education Grant Program Application Date Coming Up Soon

Now is the time to be thinking about your local school, church, or other non-profit organization that is developing an outdoor learning center that the **Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program** applications are **due November 15, 2008**.

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

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

Eighty by One Hundred

My Father loved
a tiny plot of earth.
In the middle of it
lived our house.
Some days he would
spread stuff over it
to make it grow.
On other days
he mowed it down.
Along a sidewalk,
where no one was
ever seen walking,
he used a sharp-edged wheel
to cut back the bleeding edges
of the lawn which had
strained out over the concrete,
trying to close the wound.
I never once
thought it strange, nor
that it had once been
a meadow of wildness
and invisible things.
A place to lie back,
head heavy upon
a pillow of hands,
with only the sky
and a casual cloud
as companions,
and the entire world
slung beneath you.

Daniel Thomas Moran

Daniel Moran submitted this poem to the *Journal,* having just read an article in *The New Yorker*, titled "Turf Wars," by Elizabeth Kolbert. He learned of the existence of Wild Ones in this article which talks about Wild Ones as "what might be described as the nation's first grassroots anti-grass movement, which dubbed itself Wild Ones." Moran lives on Long Island, in New York state.

In an accompanying note, Dr. Moran adds: "I admire people who have the audacity to try and change an entire culture, and yours is a worthy effort. My lawn is moss and I think it is gorgeous."

The entire article by Elizabeth Kolbert, an environmental writer, appeared in the July 21 issue of *The New Yorker*. You can read the article at www.newyorker.com/arts/critics/books/2008/07/21/080721crbo_books_kolbert.

To listen to an interview with Elizabeth Kolbert, go to www.wpr.org/kathleendunn/index.cfm?strDirection=Prev&dteShowDate=2008%2D07%2D28%2009%3A00%3A00.

Have You Been Getting Our E-Mails?

FOR-WILD.ORG

From time to time Wild Ones National sends out e-news about interesting things happening at Wild Ones, or about important legislation before the United States Congress.

These e-news communications generally go out about once a month. If you have not been getting this information, it may be because we don't have your current e-mail address, or it may be because you don't have us in your "safe senders" list.

Add us to your list

So let us know your current e-mail address and/or include the following e-mail addresses in your safe senders list:
Domain name: www.for-wild.org
E-mail addresses: execdirector@for-wild.org
WILDCenter@newbc.rr.com
woresource@newbc.rr.com

At The Wild Ones Store

Long-Sleeve Roots T-Shirts The roots of native plants grow deep, and here's a great way to show off that important fact. Show off your "wildness" with "Roots" on front, and the Wild Ones logo on the back. Cool and unique. Several colors available. **$14**

Wild Ones Denim Shirts

Spread the word about Wild Ones with this eye-catching shirt. Professionally embroidered with the Wild Ones logo **$44**
With the famous "Yesterday's Lawn, Tomorrow's Habitat" **$55**

Die, Buckthorn Scum T-Shirts

Back by popular demand! Want everyone to know your true feelings about buckthorn? Don't hold back! This shirt, with artwork designed especially for Wild Ones by cartoonist and Wild Ones member John Klossner – along with the Wild Ones logo, tells it all. Guaranteed to clear up any questions. **$17**

WILD Center Mug
In connection with the opening of our new headquarters, this 14-ounce mug has a drawing of the building on one side, and the Wild Ones logo on the other. Color is white with green screen print. **$10**

Celebration of Nature Tote
Made from 100% recycled fabric, this waterproof tote has Joan Rudolph's graphic, along with "In Celebration of Nature" silkscreened on both sides. Colors are red/black, blue/black, and white/black. **$8**

Order Online
For more information, contact the National Office at 877-394-9453. Checks payable to Wild Ones at: Wild Ones Merchandise, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, Wisconsin 54912. Prices include shipping and handling. *For maximum convenience, order online at www.for-wild.org/store/.*

The Meeting Place

Chapters, please send your
chapter contact information to:
Meeting Place Coordinator Mary Paquette
N2026 Cedar Road • Adell, Wisconsin 53001
920-994-2505 • meeting@for-wild.org
Chapter ID numbers are listed after names.

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

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

CONGRATULATIONS!

The following chapters are celebrating milestone anniversaries:

10 Year
North Park Chapter, Illinos
Louisville Metrowild Chapter, Kentucky
Otter Tail Chapter, Minnesota
St. Cloud Chapter, Minnesota
St. Louis Chapter, Missouri

5 Year
St. Croix Oak Savannah Chapter, Minnesota

COMING EVENTS

WILD ONES NATIONAL QUARTERLY BOARD MEETINGS

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

4th Quarter 2008. Midland, Michigan. Tentatively October 4. Hosted by the Mid-Mitten (MI) Chapter. Following the board meeting, attendees will be able to participate in a Voyageur Canoe Trip or Fungi Walk at the Chippewa Nature Center.

Natural Landscaping With Native Plants. Wild Ones Natural Landscaping Seminar
Cardinal Stritch University / Milwaukee
October 18. 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Contact www.for-wild.or
414-299-9888, x2

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.

More Chapter Notes

Continuing on from past issues of the Journal, *here are some interesting highlights from the year-end "State of the Chapter" reports. All these projects listed are a testament to Wild Ones chapters and their members.*

Milwaukee-North (WI) Chapter co-hosted with **Milwaukee-South/Wehr** and **Root River Wild Ones Chapters,** their 3rd annual seminar on "Sustainable Landscaping for our Yards."

Niagara Frontier Wildlife Habitat Council (NY) Chapter focused on building a core group of active members their first year. Their major goal was to obtain a legacy planning grant for the creation of a native plant botanical garden and a native plant landscape design school at NYS Parks' Deveaux Woods located on the Niagara Gorge.

Oakland (MI) Chapter funded two projects through their small grants program, and members invested their time to help these plantings be successful.

Root River (WI) Chapter's annual plant sale has become so well attended that a much larger venue had to be found and is now held at the Kenosha County Center. They also continue to be very involved in the nature center and its native landscape and are involved in other community service activities such as Weed Out events in Racine County. Member service projects are also a favorite meeting focus.

Toledo (OH) Chapter's highlight was the creation of two interpretive native plant gardens at a local park district. As Todd Crail, Charter President of Toledo Chapter, wrote, "The first was a rainwater garden that captures and drains what was known as "Lake Marvin" (named after a past operations manager) that would form in the parking lot with every precipitation event. The park district is installing a similar garden on their other parking lots. We also created a barrens garden in front of the main offices in an area that had to be repeatedly watered to maintain turf grass in that spot. People were very surprised to see us bring in *more* sand to increase our effect, as most people in the region see the Oak Openings sand ridge as a landscaping problem, not a solution for beautiful landscaping with a historic context."

Wild Ones Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

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

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

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

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

Please check: ☐ new ☐ renewal ☐ new contact info

Amount enclosed $ _____ for _____ years.

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

If this is a Gift Membership:

My Name _____

Occasion for Gift _____

Entire Membership Fee Is Tax-Deductible.

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

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Native Plants, Natural Landscapes
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Money Going Down the Drain! If you are moving, either temporarily or permanently, please let the National Office know as soon as your new address is official. Returned and forwarded mail costs Wild Ones anywhere from $.77 to $3.77 per piece. *Each issue this adds up to a lot of money that could be used to support our mission.*

How You Can Help. When planning a long vacation, or a move, please mail your address information to Wild Ones, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, Wisconsin 54912, call toll-free at 877-394-9453, or go to the Wild Ones members-only pages at www.for-wild.org. Click on item 2 (Update Personal Membership Info) and enter the appropriate changes. *Thanks!*

THANK YOU

A big *Thank You* to **GW Partners, LLC**. GW Partners has signed a lease with Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, Ltd. to use the 4 acres of upland which are part of the WILD Center for the next two years. They will use this area to store the sand they use in conjunction with the capping function related to the PCB cleanup of the Fox River water system. There will be no PCB's stored on our property.

The monetary terms of this lease will allow Wild Ones to own the entire Center site debt free.

Also, per the terms of the lease, they will have constructed a driveway which Wild Ones will be able to continue to use as the WILD Center driveway/parking area upon completion of the project. Additionally, upon completion of the project, they will be working with Wild Ones to restore the site as an oak savanna. To see more information related to our discussion on the use of this site by GW, watch our web site.

It has taken Wild Ones three years to get to this point, but what a marvelous feeling it is to know we are here. **Thank you everyone for your support** of this project.

To find out more about the GW Partners and the PCB removal project, check these web sites:

www.littlelakecleanup.com

www.epa.gov/region5/sites/foxriver/

http://pubs.acs.org/subscribe/journals/esthag-w/2001/oct/tech/rr_foxriver.html

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/foxriver/pcbhistory.html

http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/foxriver/

New Lifetime Memberships
Kathey E. Carter and **Mack T. Ruffin** of the Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter.

Amazon-Associate Bookstore
Commission from **Amazon.Com** for June was $75.40.

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 years old.

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

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

And don't forget to remind your fellow members and chapter boards alike to send their contributions to the Seeds for Education Grant Program, in honor of Lorrie.

Let's make this a really excellent year for Lorrie.