

a voice
for the natural
landscaping
movement

Wild Ones

NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

JOURNAL

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Thank you. Back cover.

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



At the Kresge Foundation Headquarters in Troy, Michigan, all irrigation needs for the landscape, including 3200 square feet of green roofs planted with locally native grasses, are met through direct rainfall collected from grounds and roofs on the 2.76-acre site. This harvested rainwater is directed to the constructed wetland where it is cleansed and cooled. Excess rainwater is stored in the cistern. Photo courtesy of Colin Brice, Brooklyn, New York.

The Role of Native Plants in the Sustainable Sites Initiative

by Jessica Mary Neafsey

Will native plants be to the Sustainable Sites Initiative what solar panels are to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)? It's not quite that simple. Three organizations – The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Institute, The American Society of Landscape Architects, and the U.S. Botanic Garden – have stepped forward in partnership to take on the bold task of designing a certification system for sustainable landscapes – big, beautiful mess of dynamic and interrelated forces that they are. The attempt to assess and quantify the ecological and cultural values embodied in the cultivation of native plants has led to a suite of recommended prerequisites and credits that encourage a broader, more holistic view of site ecology and the "ecosystem services" at stake. From this perspective, the role of native plants in the Sustainable Sites Initiative is embedded in an array of goals that consider the health and integrity of soils, site hydrology, habitat, and biodiversity; as well as economic, cultural, and human health benefits.

Sustainable Sites: The Formative Years

As Steve Windhager, director of the restoration program at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Institute and one of the founders of the Initiative, pointed out at a recent lecture at the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment, a building can have the highest LEED certification and be labeled as "green" without much greenery to show for it. LEED ND, or Neighborhood Design guidelines address some landscape issues, but not at the site scale. In 2005, The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center joined the American Society of Landscape Architects to address the need for a third-party certification system for sustainable landscapes. This would serve to motivate both designers and builders to embrace an approach that "can actually improve environmental quality rather than simply minimizing the damage to natural systems." In 2007, the U.S. Botanic Garden became the third member in this unique partnership. The development of each draft of the Initiative has incorporated input from a broad and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Wild Ones: Committees and Task Forces Hard at Work



Welcome spring! It seems everyone has come out of hibernation, and things are hopping with Wild Ones. We have several new seedling chapters forming and a growing group of "partner at large" (non-chapter) members, many of whom find us via the Internet. There is a lot of action on the National level too as committees tackle a variety of projects, problems, and opportunities. You're invited to pitch in with whatever you have to spare: suggestions, time, and of course money is fine, too.

Web Committee We're updating our web site, and making it more user friendly, but don't worry, we won't lose the excellent content we have now, such as the *Wild Ones Journal*, on the "members only" page. Send comments to Committee Chair Scott Woodbury at scott.woodbury@mobot.org or call Donna at 877-394-9453.

Marketing Committee "Marketing" may bring to mind images of obnoxious corporate ads, but Wild Ones is in the business of persuasion too – persuading people to adopt a different idea of what makes up a beautiful landscape. This goal is one of the two key needs that our Marketing Committee hopes to cover in a written document that lays out a coordinated plan of attack for outreach and other marketing activities. The other goal we will address is growing the number of Wild Ones members. I expect some of our ideas will be new, while many will make use of our many existing marketing tools. To participate in this committee or share ideas, please contact me at candrews@barr.com or call Donna.

Seeds For Education Committee and Special Task Force

Later this year we will be re-forming the national SFE Committee and looking for additional members to participate. To address the embarrassment of riches we found ourselves in due to the massive increase in the number of SFE grant applications received this past year, an SFE Task Force, headed by Mark Charles, mark_h_charles@hotmail.com, was charged by the National Board to propose changes to the process. The aim is to reduce the cost and time it takes to manage the grant program while maximizing its effectiveness.

Membership Committee The tasks that await this group include updating chapter minimum requirements re: meeting frequency, etc., finding new ways to provide "support" to partners-at-large or chapter members that are unable to attend chapter functions, and expanding our networking opportunities to new members and partner organizations. This committee will work closely with the Marketing Committee on the subject of membership growth too. We are still in need of a few more people to add some "new seeds" to this group. Please contact Donna, execdirector@for-wild.org.

Other National Committees Our committees are always open to new members, and others you might be interested in include: Financial Stability, Communications, Photo Contest, Climate Change, Member Certifications, Merchandise, and WILD Center Steering Committee. ♦

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

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

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What's Coming Up?

Wild Ones Annual Meeting, marking our thirtieth anniversary, will be held in conjunction with the Milwaukee Chapters' **Natural Landscaping Seminar**, held at Cardinal Stritch College, on October 17, 2009.

Second Quarterly Board Meeting will be hosted by Western Reserve (OH) Chapter at the Chagrin Falls Nature Center, near Cleveland, on May 23, 2009.

Third Quarterly Board Meeting will be hosted by Red Cedar (MI) Chapter on July 25, 2009.

Fourth Quarterly Board Meeting will be hosted by the Milwaukee-Southwest/Wehr (WI) Chapter on October 16, 2009.

Third National Strategic Planning Meeting will be held during the evening of October 17, 2009, in Milwaukee.

30 Years of Wild Ones

Memories of the Early Years

By Deb Harwell



Editor's Note: Wild Ones began in July, 1979, in the metropolis of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, when nine people decided to start a native-plant garden club based on Lorrie Otto's (shown above) natural landscaping philosophy. This article recounts the early days of our organization.

As I look back at the last thirty years, from where the organization is today, I find myself thinking how dramatically we have changed, but how accurate **Lorrie Otto** was in her forecast, and how she has changed so many of our lives. Here was this lovely (the white fox) white-headed, full-charge-ahead woman who knew who she was and where she was headed, and she brought us all along with her. She not only loved her birds, but she spoke fondly of the wildflowers of the field that provided them natural food and shelter. She would talk eloquently of the amazing design details of the flora, from trout lilies to bottle gentian. When you were lucky enough to come across one in the wild there was a newfound reverence for these lovely blooms. For those of you who never "sat at her feet" in spell-bound awe, you missed a treasure. But Wild Ones today is a direct fallout of her vision.

More of you long-time members will recall "The Inside Story," written by **Janice Stiefel**. She was a brilliant lady who showered us with her charm and self-effacing style. Though she had only a high School education she was able to rattle off the botanical names of every plant she ever showcased. She knew not only how to identify them, but knew their medicinal uses, and which caterpillars used which plants as hosts. She and John came to Louisville, Kentucky, to speak at Wild Ones' Annual Meeting and Conference, in 2001. When I heard her lecture, it brought tears to my eyes – I felt "home again." She captivated the audience, and wowed them with her slides – oh how I miss her.

At a recent Annual Meeting, **Neil Diboll** waxed eloquently like any good evangelical preacher on the "Power of the Prairie." This national treasure knows his plants, communities, and how this whole system works together – and he delivers the message in a way even a novice can understand. He has always re-energized me in my goal of saving my little part of the Earth. When I became President, in 1989, we had sixty-nine members on our mailing list. I had high hopes that we could do more, so I talked Lorrie into writing for the newsletter. I'm proud I was able to convince Janice to write for us as well. And, in my audacity, I thought we could have ads for the newsletter to help with costs. Sure enough, there was Neil to put in an ad. If you don't get his catalog, you are missing out on the most concise information on caring for native plants. Go to www.prairienursery.com to get a copy.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention **Lucy Schumann** as well. She generously did all of the initial illustrations, and her work still graces the *Wild Ones Journal*. She applied her artistry to her yard as well. It was with good reason that Lorrie always had the Schumann's yard on her annual tour of naturally landscaped yards. I know of no other suburban yard that exudes as much charm, color, and beauty. On closer observation, you realized that all of it was done with native plants. Some of us knew the work that had gone into her yard, and that many of those plants were rescued on our digs.

As I look up from my computer I am reminded again of another key player in our early activities. I look at a watercolor done by **David Kopitzke**. When the Indian Hill School project was begun, he let us use his work for a fund-raiser, and then came to the festival and taught the children and parents about what we were trying to accomplish. I know his art now appears all over the country. It is lovely, and should he have any more available we should all petition him to make them available to the Wild Ones. CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

interdisciplinary group of stakeholders, including the public. By 2012, "the Initiative expects to have three stand-alone documents that will also supplement existing green building standards and rating systems," including performance benchmarks, a rating system, and a reference guide.

What is a Sustainable Site?

"Sustainability is defined as design, construction, operations, and maintenance practices that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." *From the Sustainable Sites Initiative, using a definition of sustainability adapted from the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development.*

Brundtland Report

As Windhager put it, the Sustainable Sites Initiative aims to surpass simply "being less bad." The performance benchmarks outlined in the Initiative take an "ecosystem services" approach toward site goals, whereby "quantitative metrics" link sustainable land practices with "services" such as climate regulation, biodiversity, pollination, air and water cleansing, etc. Some may find it sad that it has become necessary to attach a dollar amount to the elements of our natural systems in order to promote sustainability. Without this approach, however, a viable certification system would be impossible to construct.

An Integrated Approach

The Sustainable Sites Initiative demands an interdisciplinary, integrative approach. The development of the report itself reflects a commitment to this principle. Interestingly, the 2007 draft divided the site goals into five categories: soils, hydrology, vegetation, materials, and human health. For fear that these subject-based divisions would allow or encourage a fragmented work force, the 2008 report introduced process-based divisions, beginning with goals for site selection, followed by those for pre-design assessment and planning, site design considering ecological components, site design considering human health, site design considering material selection, and finally, goals for construction and site maintenance. The idea is that an integrated team would collaborate on a given site through-



All buildings on site, including an historic farmhouse, were refurbished, relocated, and merged into the new campus design. To address grade changes, the site relies on many retaining walls formed with gabion baskets – wire baskets filled with recycled concrete, with only a veneer of crushed granite. *Photo courtesy of Colin Brice, Brooklyn, New York.*

out the entire process, ensuring healthy interdisciplinary decisions and results. It should be noted that this rating system is intended to apply to all landscapes, including commercial and public sites, parks, campuses, residential landscapes, recreation centers, utility corridors, conservation easements, transportation rights of way, etc.

The Case for Natives

The ecosystem services that plants are valued for in the Initiative include their ability to:

- Retain and infiltrate stormwater, thereby contributing to groundwater recharge.
- Maintain soil structure, contribute to soil organic matter, and prevent erosion.
- Moderate climate through carbon sequestration, evaporation, and transpiration.
- Filter both air and water pollutants.
- Contribute food and "renewable non-food products."
- Contribute to human health and well-being.

Native plants enter the picture in the Section Three: Site Design – Ecological Components. This section describes two ways in which practitioners could earn points in the proposed rating system: by meeting certain site "prerequisites" and/or by achieving certain design solutions deemed worthy of "credit." Site Prerequisites indirectly related to native plants that are considered worthy of credit include:

- 3.1 Control and manage invasive species.
- 3.2 Use appropriate non-invasive plants.
- 3.3 Preserve special status trees.

In Prerequisite 3.2, "appropriate, non-invasive plants" are defined as those that

are "adapted to site conditions, climate, and design intent to support biodiversity, reduced pesticide use, and water conservation." It is further stated that one should "Use only non-invasive plants that are nursery grown, legally harvested, or salvaged for reuse from on- or off-site." That the use of non-native plants is not strictly prohibited is likely due partially to the acknowledgement that certain non-invasive cultivars may hold cultural value; as well as to the fact that climate change is altering our USDA Plant Hardiness Zones (Hunter, 2008). Rising winter temperatures and increasing fluctuations in rainfall and regional weather patterns are causing the northern migration of hardiness zones as well as microclimatic shifts that may require gardeners and landscape architects to widen their planting palettes.

The two credits offered that directly address native plants are:

- 3.9 Promote a sense of place with native vegetation.
- Preserve and restore native wildlife habitat.

These credits address both the cultural/aesthetic and the ecological benefits of native plants in the landscape. The achievement of both of these credits is contingent upon the submittal of species lists highlighting native plants as well as species of concern, in the case of 3.10. Those seeking to meet restoration goals are presented with the option of receiving credit for one of two approaches: the restoration of habitat for a chosen species of concern; or the restoration of native habitat in the form of a connective corridor, buffer, or refugia. In both

cases, cooperation with state Wildlife Action Plans and state and federal wildlife agencies is required.

A Successful Approach?

The creators of the Sustainable Sites Initiative chose to address the use of native plants in the landscape within a broader ecological context, acknowledging the fact that our human agendas for improving the health of the soil, water, air, flora, and fauna in any given ecosystem naturally overlap with one another. The authors stress that: "It is important to recognize that no single credit results in a sustainable site. Rather, the shift toward sustainability depends on – and is the product of – the many interactions between and among the credits. For instance, the prerequisite "Reduce potable water consumption for irrigation" limits the types of vegetation that can thrive on a particular site, which may encourage site designers to seek out plants tolerant of the local climate and precipitation patterns."

The subtle, implicit nature of this argument for the role of native plants in a sustainable site may be unconvincing to those unwilling to read between the lines. Those who do, however, will gain a deeper understanding of true ecological design. To have structured a sustainability rating system in order to enforce a collaborative, more holistic ecosystem approach to the landscape is a welcome challenge that should promote rigorous terrestrial biodiversity, authentic cultural beauty, and a healthier human relationship to the land. ♦

For more information on the Sustainable Sites Initiative, visit their web site at www.sustainablesites.org. To read about a local site that has embodied the principles of the initiative, visit the description of the Kresge Foundation Headquarters in Troy, Michigan, at www.sustainablesites.org/cases/show.php?id=14.

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Hunter, Mary Carol R. "Managing Sense of Place in Transition: Coping with Climate Change" *Places: Volume 20 Issue2: Climate Change and Place: Mitigation, Adaptation and Uncertainty*, 2008.

"Sustainable Sites Initiative." Sustainable Sites Initiative. 17 Mar. 2009. www.sustainablesites.org/next/.



This is the time of year when we think about rescuing native plants from the path of destruction. To get an update on the ins and outs of Wild Ones' guidelines on rescuing native plants go to www.for-wild.org/download/plantrescue/plantrescue.html. Or go to www.for-wild.org/download/totherescue.pdf, and read the 2007 article by former *Journal* Editor-in-Chief Mariette Nowak, Milwaukee-Southwest/Wehr (WI) Chapter, titled "To the Rescue: Saving Native Plants from Destruction."



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.

Bur 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/.



Back Yard Safari

By Barbara Bray

Children often plead with their parents to take them somewhere because they are bored. The next time this happens, surprise them with a Backyard Safari. More than just going outside to play, a backyard safari is an opportunity to see your local flora and fauna as you never have before – up close and personal. Plus you can do this without spending a penny, if you want. What could be better than that?

Let's talk equipment. If you search on Google for "back yard safari," you'll get about two hundred and eighteen thousand search results, many of which are specialized toys. Some are quite interesting like the Bug Habitat with a fake tree and grassy area, or the Turbo Bug Vac that sucks up insects. But the cost of acquiring just these two items alone is almost forty-seven dollars.

A back yard safari doesn't need expensive toys to be successful. A clear plastic deli container will work fine as a habitat, if you make ventilation holes in the lid. As for the bug vacuum, you can make one called a "pooter" from a jar and plastic tubing (see National Wildlife Federation's web site at www.nwf.org/kidzone). You might also bring along a magnifying glass, a four-foot long piece of string, and nature guides.

There are many ways to begin your safari, but I like the idea of establishing a "base camp" first. Build your own safari tent by draping blankets over a table or a couple of lawn chairs. You could keep a snack at your camp for when you finish your safari. You might also want something to sit on outside your tent. Once you have finished setting up camp, grab your equipment because it's safari time.

Many back yards have lawns, but how closely have you looked at yours? Take your string, and outline a circle on top of the grass in front of you. What do you see in your circle? Is it only grass, or are there any other plants? Maybe you have dandelions. Although many people hate dandelions in their lawns, this plant is an important nectar source for bees. Birds eat the seeds, and woodchucks savor its leaves. Not bad for a weed.

Gently part the grass blades with your fingers and look down at the dirt. Do you



see any tiny critters moving around? Ants come in many sizes from small brown ants to large black carpenter ants. They communicate with each other by using pheromones. See if you can find ants following a "pheromone trail" from a food source back to their home.

Moist, dark places hide many kinds of animals. Look for a damp pile of leaves or a log to turn over. Many of the critters living here are decomposers which convert dead stuff back into dirt. Pillbugs and sowbugs are land-dwelling crustaceans closely related to crayfish and shrimp. They have seven pairs of legs and two pairs of antennae, and feed mainly on decaying vegetation.

Also common are millipedes, which have long brown bodies with two legs per segment. Although their name suggests that they have a thousand legs, they actually have only about one hundred to four hundred legs, depending upon species. Slugs and snails also hang out happily under logs as do centipedes. But watch out for the centipedes – flat bodied with long antennae – they have one pair of legs per segment for a total of about thirty to fifty legs. Don't pick up centipedes with your fingers, because they can bite.

Now let's hunt for "nature's plow" – the common earthworm. If you didn't find any earlier, maybe you can do as wood turtles do, and coax them out of the ground. Wood turtles stomp their feet or the front of the plastron (bottom of turtle shell) on a moist section of ground at a rate of about one stomp per second. Worms, disturbed by the

vibrations, travel to the surface where the turtle gobbles them up. It is thought that the worms mistake the turtle's stomping for mole activity or possibly raindrops above. Try emulating wood turtle stomping by using your fingers, and tapping every second. Tap harder and harder each time.

We've explored at ground level, now let's look higher. Find a spot with flowers. These are places to find spider webs, birds, and many insects. If you find a spider web, watch to see if any insects fly into it. Do all of them get stuck? Do any escape? Look inside flowers for crab spiders waiting for an unwary insect to land. (Be careful not to bother bees or wasps, however.) Notice how some flower petals have lines. These lines are like runway lights that guide planes safely into an airport. Who do you think uses the lines on the flower petals? A moist spot in a sunny garden might attract butterflies that need water and nutrients from the ground.

Finally, examine some unlikely places – such as a crack in your sidewalk or driveway. Plants growing in cracks need special adaptations like deep roots to seek moisture, or waxy leaves to reflect back some of the sunlight. Do any animals live in these cracks? How do you think they survive in such a difficult environment?

When your safari is over, remember to release any insects you captured where you found them. Next time, try a "leaf safari" or a "tree safari." Explore your local park "safari-style." With a bit of equipment and a "bug's-eye view," the possibilities are endless. ♦

DAME'S ROCKET (*HESPERIS MATRONALIS*)

By Janet Allen

INVASIVES ON THE HORIZON

By Janet Allen

"I know that Dame's rocket is technically an invasive exotic, but I love this plant. Despite being labeled an exotic, they have also long been a staple of American gardens – an heirloom species from the nineteenth century. So, while not native, they're traditional." – Found on an Internet garden-ing site.

This comment illustrates a problem: the invasive plants that are the most difficult to convince people not to plant are those that are attractive and easy to grow, especially if they have fond memories of them growing in Grandma's garden. Dame's rocket is in that category.

If you don't recognize the name dame's rocket, you may be familiar with some of its other monikers: dame rocket, sweet rocket, dame's violet, mother-of-the-evening, damask violet, dames-wort, dame's gilliflower, night scented gilliflower, queen's gilliflower, rouge's gilliflower, winter gilliflower, summer lilac, or wild phlox. These common names all refer to the same plant, *Hesperis matronalis*. "Hesperis" comes from the Greek word for evening, and the name was probably given because its flowers are most fragrant in the evening.

A tradition for hundreds of years

Although it indeed has been a "traditional" plant since the sixteen hundreds, when it was introduced to this continent, dame's rocket is native to Europe, and east to Siberia. The only states free of this plant are Hawaii, Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Florida, though it has not reached invasive status in all the remaining states. It's also found in all but a few Canadian provinces.

Dame's rocket acts like garlic mustard, but looks like phlox. Both traits are unfortunate. Botanically, dame's rocket, like garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), is in the mustard family. They both are biennials, producing a rosette of leaves the first year,

flowering the next, and producing huge numbers of seeds. Like garlic mustard, it prefers moist, well-drained soil in partial shade, but will also grow in full sun.

That dame's rocket looks like the beautiful native phlox (*Phlox spp.*), accounts for its popularity. Like phlox, its colors range from white to shades of pink and purple. It's easily distinguished from phlox, though, because, like garlic mustard, the flowers have four petals, not five as does phlox. Their leaves are different, too. The leaves of dame's rocket are sharply toothed and alternate – the leaves of phlox are smooth and opposite.

Perceptions and misperceptions abound

Another misleading comment found on an Internet garden site: "This plant is a common wildflower here in the Catskills. It grows by roadsides, ponds, in meadows, etc., and self seeds into stunning colonies. I have some in semi shade in my wild garden where it self seeds nicely in wet clay soil, and competes with grasses, asters, and goldenrod quite successfully."

Unfortunately, this comment is true. But that it successfully competes with native plants such as grasses, asters, and goldenrod isn't good news for wildlife or for native plant communities. And it's increasingly moving into forests where it can shade out native wildflowers.

Sold by seed companies and nurseries

One reason for the dame's rocket's success is that it's recommended and sold by seed companies and nurseries, and is frequently found in wildflower mixes sold for "naturalizing."

For example, here are some recommendations found on the Internet: "Excellent plant for meadows, naturalized areas, or cottage gardens." And, "They are best used for naturalizing on slopes and in woodland areas."

And even while noting its invasive tendencies, some universities and botanical

gardens nevertheless provide information on growing it.

Controlling dame's rocket

Control is similar to the procedures used for garlic mustard. Pull the plants out, taking care to get the roots to prevent resprouting. Be sure to remove the plant before it sets seed. As with garlic mustard, seeds remain in the soil for many years, so pulling new seedlings is a multi-year task until the seed bank is exhausted. As with garlic mustard, a general herbicide like glyphosate is effective, but use the usual precautions.

If the plants are in bloom, don't compost them, as the seeds may still ripen and spread. Flower heads should be bagged for landfill, or dried and burned where permitted.

Still attached to your dame's rocket? Keep them in your yard by removing the flower stalk when the flowers begin fading, so no seed pods form. But better yet, consider planting some of the beautiful native alternatives instead. ♦

SIDEBAR

Native Alternatives

Native phlox, such as summer phlox (*Phlox paniculata*), are the most comparable plants, but other natives are useful alternatives, too.

Bee balm

(*Monarda fistulosa*)

Harebells

(*Campanula rotundifolia*)

Blazing star

(*Liatris spp.*)

Monkshood

(*Aconitum spp.*)

Delphinium

(*Delphinium spp.*)

Lobelia

(*Lobelia spp.*)

Salvia

(*Salvia spp.*)

Fireweed

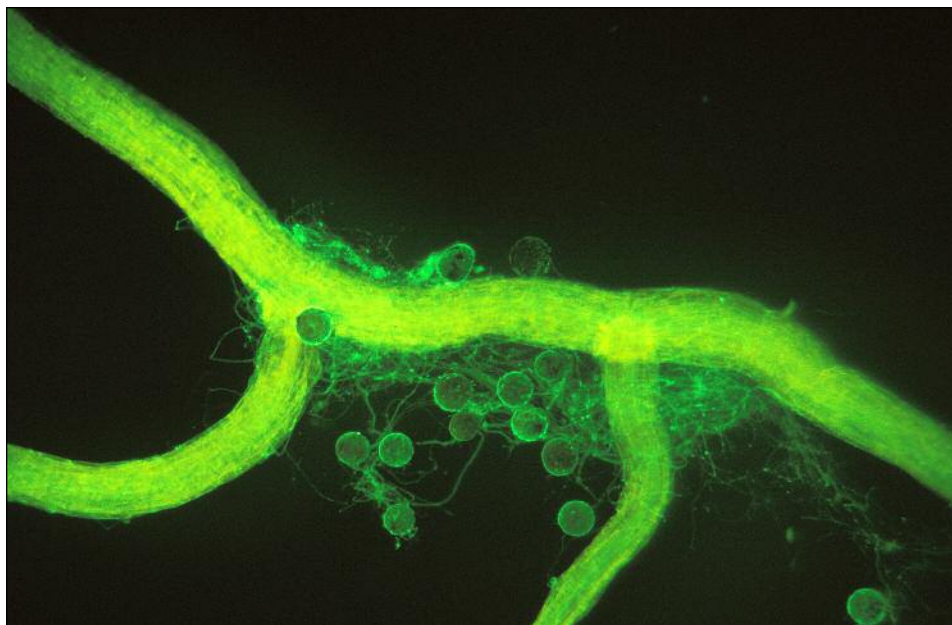
(*Epilobium angustifolium*)

Giant hyssop

(*Agastache foeniculum*)

GLOMALIN: HIDING PLACE FOR A THIRD OF THE WORLD'S STORED SOIL CARBON

Discovered in 1996 by Sara F. Wright, which she named after the Glomales order of fungi, Glomalin is causing a complete reexamination of what makes up soil organic matter. It is increasingly being included in studies of carbon storage and soil quality.



A microscopic view of an arbuscular mycorrhizal fungus growing on a corn root. The round bodies are fungal spores, and the threadlike filaments are hyphae. With appropriate preparation, glomalin may be seen to be coating everything. USDA photo.

What is it?

Discovered in 1996 by American Research Service soil scientist Sara F. Wright, glomalin molecules contain thirty to forty percent carbon, stored in both its protein and sugar subunits, along with nine percent tightly bound iron. It permeates organic matter, binding it to silt, sand, and clay particles, forming clumps, stabilizing the soil, adding to soil structure, or tilling, keeping other stored soil carbon from escaping.

This type of soil structure is stable enough to resist wind and water erosion, but porous enough to let air, water, and roots move through it. It also harbors more beneficial microbes, holds more water, and helps the soil surface resist crusting.

Glomalin accounts for twenty-seven percent of the carbon in soil, and is a major component of soil organic matter. It weighs twenty-five percent more than humic acid, a product of decaying plants that up to now was thought to be the main contributor to soil carbon. And glomalin lasts seven to

forty-two years in the soil, depending on conditions.

How does Glomalin Work?

Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi, found living on plant roots around the world, appear to be the only producers of glomalin. Wright named glomalin after Glomales, the taxonomic order that arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi belong to. The fungi use carbon from the plant to grow and to make glomalin. In return, the fungi's hair-like filaments, called hyphae, extend the reach of plant roots. Hyphae function as pipes to funnel more water and nutrients – particularly phosphorus – to the plants.

"We've seen glomalin on the outside of the hyphae, and we believe this is how the hyphae seal themselves so they can carry water and nutrients. It may also be what gives them the rigidity they need to span the air spaces between soil particles," says Wright. When hyphae stop transporting water, their protective glomalin sloughs off

into the soil, where it helps soil build defenses against degradation and erosion, and boosts its productivity.

Wright says that all these benefits can come from good tillage and soil management techniques. She is studying glomalin levels under different farming and ranching practices. Levels were maintained or raised by no-till, cover crops, reduced phosphorus inputs, and the sparing use of crops that don't have arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi on their roots. Those include members of the Brassicaceae family, like cabbage and cauliflower, and the mustard family, like canola and crambe.

"When you grow those crops, it's like a fallow period, because glomalin production stops," says Wright. "You need to rotate them with crops that have glomalin-producing fungi."

In a four-year study, Wright found that glomalin levels rose each year after no-till was started. No-till refers to a modern conservation practice that uses equipment to plant seeds with no prior plowing. This practice was developed to protect soil from erosion by keeping fields covered with crop residue.

"Researchers have studied organic matter for a long time, and know its benefits to soil. But we're just starting to learn which components of organic matter are responsible for these benefits. That's the exciting part of glomalin research. We've found a major component that we think definitely has a strong role in the benefits attributed to organic matter – things like soil stability, nutrient accessibility, and nutrient cycling."

As carbon gets assigned a dollar value in a carbon commodity market, it may give literal meaning to the expression that good soil is black gold. ♦

Modified from the USDA-produced *Agricultural Research* magazine, September 2002. This research is part of Soil Resource Management, an ARS National Program (#202) described on the World Wide Web at www.nps.ars.usda.gov/.

Serviceberry: Beyond the bird feeder. Gardening for Birds and Other Wildlife.

By Mariette Nowak

The serviceberry (*Amelanchier* genus) is a favorite of both native landscapers and bird lovers. It's a four-season winner with a froth of delicate white blossoms in early spring, luscious blue berries by June, apricot to reddish bronze fall color, and silver-gray bark for winter interest. The genus has about twenty species (botanists differ as to the exact number), consisting of small trees and shrubs, and thrives in every state except Hawaii. They hybridize freely in the wild, making identification to species difficult.

Of the three tree species, the Allegheny serviceberry (*A. laevis*), native throughout the Upper Midwest and Northeast, is considered a top choice for gardens. Shadblow serviceberry (*A. canadensis*), another favorite tree recommendation, is native to the Northeast. The third tree species, also popular for landscaping, is the downy serviceberry (*A. arborea*), native throughout the Midwest and Northeast. An excellent choice among the shrub species is Bartram's serviceberry (*A. bartramiana*), a species whose range extends farther north and east than any other *Amelanchier*. Some other shrub species include dwarf serviceberry (*A. spicata* or *A. stolonifera*) and round-leaved serviceberry (*A. sanguinea*), both of which extend their range south to Iowa, Michigan, and Ohio. Saskatoon serviceberry (*A. alnifolia*) is grown both as an ornamental and, within the last few decades, as a commercial fruit crop. A western shrub, its range extends into southern Alaska and south to Colorado.

Value for Birds

Birds descend in droves to feed on ripening serviceberries, one of the first fruits of early summer. In my yard, flocks of cedar waxwings are the first to come to gorge on the berries, but they are also a choice food for catbirds, rose-breasted grosbeaks, Baltimore orioles, and brown thrashers. All told, thirty-five species of birds have been documented feeding on these delicious fruits. Without question, serviceberries are one of the top plants for birds.

Other Wildlife Values

Because they blossom as early as mid-April, serviceberries supply nectar for emerging

insects when little else is available. Serviceberries also provide food for twenty-three other species of animals in addition to birds. Their berries are relished by chipmunks, squirrels, even beaver and bear. Browsers, particularly mule deer, but also white-tailed deer, moose, elk, and mountain sheep and bison, feed on the twigs and foliage.

Landscape Notes

Serviceberry trees are perfect for small yards, since they usually grow only to about thirty to forty feet in height. In their native habitats, *Amelanchiers* are understory species and can tolerate some shade, but they flower and fruit better when grown in sunnier sites. The white blossoms of *Amelanchier* species are especially showy when planted with an evergreen background. The shrub species offer a beautiful accent beneath taller trees.

Also of Interest

Many common names have been used for this varied group of woody plants, a testimony to their popularity and adaptability throughout the country. The name, serviceberry, is said to have several origins. It blooms early in spring as the ground thaws, signaling when burials and services for those who died during the winter could be carried out in pioneer times. Easter and its associated church services also usually occur when it blossoms. The names shadblow and shadbush come from the fact that the plants blossom when the shad, an Atlantic fish, come to spawn in coastal New England rivers. Another name often used is juneberry, which is quite appropriate since the berries ripen by mid June in most areas.

The sweet, distinctive berries make wonderful pies and jellies, if the fruits can be harvested before being devoured by birds. "To my mind and stomach," says noted horticulturist Michael Dirr, "a serviceberry pie is the rival of the best blueberry pie." The Indians used the fruit as a key component of pemmican, a dried food used when traveling, consisting of dried meat and grease, along with the berries. The fruits were also a major food source for early settlers. ♦

Can a corkscrew save the Earth?



Of course not. But a Wild Ones Gift Membership might.

Having a hard time thinking up appropriate gift ideas during this time of economic uncertainty? Expensive corkscrews, fancy clothes, and gift certificates for that trendy coffee place down the street just don't make the grade now. Why not give something fun that also shows how much you care about the future of our planet?

Those crazy corkscrews usually get thrown into the back of a kitchen drawer, the fancy clothes might not fit in these days, and those gift certificates? Just not personal enough. But your gift of a Wild Ones membership might be the start of a journey that leads someone to saving the Earth, or at least a small part of it.

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

Three levels of membership are available, and every recipient of a gift membership gets all the standard benefits of membership, including the 25th Anniversary Book, and a subscription to the *Wild Ones Journal*. We'll even send them a letter so they'll know it's from you.

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

Go there now.



Summer in bloom: Prairie Garden. Phlox, branched coneflowers, cup-plant. Photo by Richard J. Ehrenberg.



Summer: View of the house from the back yard. American ox-eye daisy. *Heliopsis helianthoides*. Photo by Richard J. Ehrenberg.

Six articles about my fourteen-year-old natural landscape were planned and had been written. Green Gables was a wonderful experience for me to share in writing. At that point I was hoping to retire on the royalties and promotional tours when *Journal* Editor, Maryann Whitman, asked a very significant question, "What have you learned while implementing your landscape plan?" A good question deserves a thoughtful response.

I learned that I would do it again, in spite of all the effort and work involved. The visual richness of the great variety of flowers, leaves, seed pods, and fruit, as they appear through the growing season, that is in addition to the overall meshing together of herbaceous perennials, various shrub forms, and different sculptured tree configurations, is worth all the effort. It is experienced each and every day whether opening the blinds in the morning to greet the new day, or when taking the last stroll of the day in the yard. The unique smell on a spring day of moist leaves on the ground gives one a sense of living in a real forest environment. Even in winter, when all is frozen and dormant, the structural features are enhanced by a backdrop of white snow and gray sky.

My landscape has become an integral part of my life – who can say that of an acre of lawn?

I learned that creating a natural landscape is more difficult than following the traditional approach. Purchasing an expensive riding mower would have been a simple and easy maintenance solution for the extensive lawn area which existed when I purchased the property in 1993. Mowing gives a manicured look to even a weed-infested lawn. No plant knowledge is

Green Gables An American landscape designed with nature in mind: What I Have Learned

By Richard J. Ehrenberg

Part 7 (final) of a series.

required. In fact, the first year of living at Green Gables, when I left the back yard unmowed prior to plowing under the sod in the fall, someone, in the dark of night, left a broad hint in the form of a power mower in my back yard. I never was able to find out who was so generous, but I did use it for five years to mow paths and the small areas preserved in grass.

A yard full of native plantings requires work – pulling and cutting vines, dead branches, dead flower and grass stems, excessive

shrub and tree growth, perennial growth of exotics, and even pruning for aesthetic and functional considerations. However, unlike a manicured lawn, this work need not be done on a weekly basis. Some things are more important to be done than others and nothing is seriously damaged. I found that these maintenance demands can fit into one's busy lifestyle. I recognize that while this was an ethic that grew on me, this might not be true for everyone.

As is the case in most architectural efforts I recognized that the more complex the design, the more knowledge and effort will be required. Because Green Gables includes two separate forest environments, a prairie garden, a planting of sumac for shade, a traditional flower/vegetable garden, and a pre-existing property line planting of non-native spruces, a lot of insight was needed into how to blend the various habitat characteristics. Maintenance of the ecotones was learned as the plant communities matured.

If homeowners do not have knowledge of native plants it is best to start small or hire a professional to create a long-term plan. Begin by learning about the native plants in your area,

Begin by learning about the native plants in your area, attending workshops, reading books and catalogs from nurseries specializing in natives, and searching the Internet.

attending workshops, reading books and catalogs from nurseries specializing in natives, and searching the Internet. Expand your knowledge each year, and adjust your plans as more insight is acquired.

I don't know if this next realization belongs in the "difficulty" section or in the "surprise" section. During the first seven years at Green Gables I was single and was able to put off till tomorrow what I did not want to bother with today – a "real man's code of behavior." After meeting a wonderful lady, and getting married in 2001, things changed. Kim and her friends set a higher standard for appearance, and a lot of dead tree branches were removed from the front yard forest. I had accepted them as part of a natural look. The change was for the better, and our neighbors probably breathed a sigh of relief.

I learned maintenance shortcuts, which not only saved time and energy, but recycled plant materials as nature intended. Pruned twigs and branches do not have to be collected and hauled away to a city composting site. When cutting down two- to four-foot-tall Russian mulberry trees, which perennially appear, a hand pruner is used to cut the plants into six- to 12-inch pieces, which are then scattered onto the ground for natural processes to recycle them. By cutting branches, twigs, and herbaceous stems into smaller sections they visually disappear in the existing leaf litter. The plant materials actually add to the valuable ground layer of mulch.

Larger dead tree limbs can be cut into four- to six-foot lengths, or even longer and artistically placed in the woodland, helping to enhance the forest ambience. Fallen trees can be trimmed and left in place to add interest. Snags (standing dead trees) can be trimmed for appearance, but left to stand for woodpeckers to create nesting sites, or used for attaching bird houses. And of course firewood can be harvested from one's own yard.

In a small residential yard, prairie plants require burning or cutting once a year, for the sake of appearance. Large prairie plantings require a different and more involved burn regimen.

If cutting is the only option, one can avoid hauling the cuttings to a city compost site by building a compost pile, or reducing the high grasses and forbs into three- to six-inch cuts, as I suggested with tree and shrub cuttings. A "weedwhacker" or a hedge trimmer can be used to do this, and the pieces can be allowed to lie on the ground and decompose. My attempt to use a brush hog and a lawnmower did not work. The forbs

bent over, and the mower deck held them down below the rotating blade, leaving a path of folded-down, uncut stems.

I learned that nature continually provides surprises, which are awesome. Some are sudden, others evolve over time. The twenty-five or so woodland violets existing on the property at

the outset, have spread. Now, from March into June, thousands of plants produce masses of blue and white blooms. A large cluster of elderberry shrubs has evolved over a period of five years. They provide a visual screen along with white flowers and dark blue berries for the birds. Volunteer native wildflowers continue to appear in scattered pattern. A white walnut tree (*Juglans cinerea*) volunteered from who-knows-where, and shares its space with a volunteer black walnut (*Juglans nigra*). Hackberry trees (*Celtis occidentalis*) have volunteered from bird droppings. Wildlife abounds, with new creatures

appearing over the years. A female groundhog established residence for many years, and raised her young in our back yard. The large hole and soil mound were totally hidden by prairie plants. Mostly they ate violets. Rabbits and chipmunks appear each day. Shrews race across paths occasionally. We see squirrels jumping from tree to tree as they move around the yard. Up to fourteen were feeding at cobs of corn put out for them this past winter. Varieties of birds crisscross the air corridors between trees. Fireflies were an exciting surprise a few years after the prairie garden was established. Turkeys occasionally inspect the leaf litter in the forest areas.

I learned that lots of plants can grow in small areas. Prairie enthusiasts know that many species can grow together in small prairie gardens. This is also true in forest settings. No shaping of plants is required. Their natural search for sunlight forces plants to intermingle and fill space available. Some species do well in shady space, others prefer bright sun – while still others accept partial shade to full sun. Plants adjust to their environment. A black walnut tree which can have a spread of more than forty-five feet in an open space, can grow two to three feet from another tree, and will adjust accordingly.

I learned to be more confident that natural landscaping is justified. There are so many positive aspects, which were largely theoretical before I actually did it and participated and lived in it. It is environmentally sound. It's sustainable without lots of fuel, fertilizer and pesticides. It affords use of plants in a practical manner for both shade and sunny areas. And not the least important is the aesthetic value of natural beauty that is revealed as seasons change. ❖



Summer: View from the Lake Room window. Photo by Richard J. Ehrenberg.

Seeds for Education Awards Record Number of Grants in 2009

By Mark Charles, Seeds for Education Director

One of the exciting ways that Wild Ones members and chapters help restore the web of life is by inviting our children and youth to join in these efforts.

Through the Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Fund (SFE), we support schools, nature centers, and other places of learning for projects involving young people and native plants. The generous donations of Wild Ones members, and income from the SFE Fund have supported cash awards since 1995.

Resources for Health, Paradise, Valley, Arizona \$350 Native Seeds

Garden This project will help protect agrobiodiversity by growing foods that are native to the desert southwest in the garden plots, while showcasing and demonstrating xeriscape with native plants and trees in the communal area of the Scottsdale Community College. (*Partner-at-Large*)

Canyon Crest Academy EcoClub, San Diego, CA \$350 Replacing lawn with native plant garden at Canyon Crest Academy. EcoClub members will replace the grass in the lawn area adjacent to the main parking lot with a native plant garden for the students and community to learn from and enjoy. (*Partner-at-Large*)

Mancos Public Library, Mancos, Colorado \$350 Butterfly Garden

Classroom. The new library will be completed in June, 2009, and sits on the banks of the Mancos River. Students from the Mancos Public Schools will be able to access this outdoor classroom by the Riverwalk that connects the schools (K-12) to the new library site. This garden classroom will be a butterfly garden. (*Partner-at-Large*)

Green Urban Living Center, Miami, Florida \$350 Wetland Project.

The Center will create a garden area to educate about, represent, and promote native South Florida ecology and ecosystems. This project will develop a microcosm of a South Florida wetlands area to preserve examples of wetland and marshland plants. (*Partner-at-Large*)

Winneshiek County Conservation Board, Fort Atkinson, Iowa \$350

Outdoor Classroom. Installation of a 1.9-acre rain garden to help students and community members learn about the environment, natural areas, watersheds, and water quality. The rain garden will slow and filter water running off school. (*Partner-at-Large*)

Girl Scout Troop 319, South Beloit, Illinois \$350 Butterfly Paradise Garden.

The fifth graders of Girl Scout Troop 319 will be planting a butterfly garden at newly constructed Willowbrook Middle School. Located near a walking path, their goal is to inspire the community and its residents to plant their own butterfly gardens, as well as to come and enjoy their garden. (*Rock River Valley Chapter*)

Monteleone Junior High School, Mandeville, Louisiana \$350 Wildlife

Garden. Seventh and eighth graders will be expanding an existing native garden composed of plants that attract local pollinators to this outdoor classroom. The garden will represent an in-situ microhabitat composed of savannah and upland flowering perennials once common to the region. Many of the flowering perennials are part of a vanishing pine savannah habitat native to southern Louisiana. (*Partner-at-Large*)

Missaukee Conservation District, Lake City, Michigan \$350 Fitness

and Nature Trail. Native landscaping was started in 2003 by replacing lawns with native gardens. It now also includes the Fitness Trail and Native Gardens. A large open-space landscaped area around the office building and a rain garden to help with parking lot runoff will complete the planned landscaping. (*Mid-Mitten Chapter*)

STEPS for Kids Nature Club (Pine Lake Village Co-op), Ann Arbor,

Michigan \$350 Montrie Pond Rehabilitation Project. The grassy slope will be restored to an oak opening, replacing turf grass with native sedges and

This was an outstanding year for the Wild Ones SFE Program. We received a hundred and one applications – **the most ever** – from across the United States. Each was deserving of praise and support, but we were able to fund only seventeen projects. Here are your 2009 Seeds for Education grant recipients:

For a listing of previous SFE grant recipients go to www.for-wild.org/seedmony.htm.

grasses, and adding native shrubs, pockets of native wildflowers and tufts of higher native grass. This will provide color and beautification, water filtration to improve pond life, and outdoor education opportunities for youth and adults. (*Ann Arbor Chapter*)

Lonedell R-14 School District, Lonedell, Missouri \$350 Outdoor

Classroom. The Clean Stream Project will establish a prairie and a rain garden in an outdoor classroom along a wooded nature trail. The classroom will be a place to study the effects of native vegetation on soil conservation, water quality, and wildlife. (*St. Louis Chapter*)

Orange County Community College, SUNY Orange - Biology Dept, Middletown, New York \$350 Woodland-Themed Education Garden.

This project will include a bird and butterfly habitat garden, a grassland site, a wetland/pond habitat, and a streambed, surrounded by biofiltering native species, and a medicinal garden. (*Habitat Gardening in Central New York Chapter*)

Out & About Preschool, Tiffin, Ohio \$350 Wildflower Garden. This project will create an area in their nature preserve (outdoor classroom) where pre-schoolers and their parents, park visitors, school classroom field trips, and the community can become engaged and inspired by the nature of native plants. (*Toledo Chapter*)

The Friends of the Ohio Governors Residence & Heritage Garden, Columbus, Ohio \$350 Building the Allegheny Plateau Region of the Garden. The Allegheny Plateau region of the garden is one of five physiographic regions represented on this property. This living museum educates the public, including K-12 school students, presenting Ohio's history through plants and geology. The Glaciated Allegheny Plateau region is the last major region to be completed. (*Columbus Chapter*)

Kyle Elementary School - Environmental Study Center, Kyle, Texas \$350 Environmental Study Center.

This second phase is renovation of a fenced area with native Texas plants, pond, work tables, wind mill, and solar pond pump for teaching energy concepts, and a compost area. (*Partner-at-Large*)

Friends of the Mead/McMillan Association Inc, Milladore, Wisconsin \$350

Educational Prairie and Rain Garden. This project at the Stanton W. Mead Education and Visitor Center will support the hands-on activity part of their grassland and wetland environmental education programs. The goal is to make each visitor a better environmental steward, through education about wildlife and natural-resource values and issues. (*Central Wisconsin Chapter*)

Hudson Middle School, Hudson, Wisconsin \$350 Hudson Middle

School Prairie. Planting of a prairie and native-species specimen garden at entrance to Hudson School Forest will help control the invasive plant population, demonstrate a healthy prairie ecosystem to students and community members, and provide an excellent educational opportunity. (*St. Croix Oak Savanna Chapter*)

Bolling Inc, Lewisburg, West Virginia \$350 Reverend Carl Renick

Memorial Butterfly Garden. Native perennial butterfly garden will have multiple learning goals, including gardening with native plants to create bird and butterfly habitat, watershed studies, civil rights history, community service, collaborative creative engagement, and landscape design. (*Partner-at-Large*)





You Can Help These Projects Succeed

The success of these projects will depend in part upon the organizations that developed them. The rest of the success will come from the community at large. Wild Ones members who are located in areas near the SFE grant recipient projects can offer their help. Knowledgeable and dedicated Wild Ones members will make a difference in the success of these outdoor learning centers.

Judges

Our thanks to the volunteer judges for doing a great job of reviewing the applications. This year sixty-nine volunteers made detailed comments for every application. These comments help every project – whether or not they received an award – with information that will help their projects succeed.

SFE Nursery Partners

Each year, nursery partners supply seeds, plants, discounts, and of course, advice to grant recipients in their areas. We thank them for their support.

Arizona

Avocado Nursery Casa Grande
(520) 723-4480 Nursery: Rare Plants

Baker International Nursery Inc. Phoenix
(602) 955-4500 Nursery: All Plants, Perennial Plants, Trees & Shrubs

Wild Seed Inc. Tempe (602) 276-3536
Nursery: Prairie Seeds

California

Las Pilitas Nursery Escondido (760) 749-5930
Mail Order: Perennial Plants, Nursery: Beach/dune, Chaparral Plants, Coastal Plants, Prairie Forbs Plants, Prairie Grasses Plants, Riparian Woodland Plants, Scrub Plants, Shade Plants, Trees & Shrubs

Tree of Life Nursery San Juan Capistrano
(949) 728-0685 www.treeoflifenuresery.com
Nursery: Beach/dune, Chaparral Plants, Coastal Plants, Prairie Forbs Plants, Prairie Grasses Plants, Riparian Woodland Plants, Scrub Plants, Shade Plants, Trees & Shrubs, Wet Mesic Plants, Wetlands Plants

Colorado

Arkansas Valley Seed Solutions Denver
(303) 320-7500, Nursery: Prairie Seeds

Cliff Rose Gardens Cortez
(970) 565-8994 www.cliffrosegardens.com
Nursery: Drought-tolerant Plants, Prairie, Prairie Seeds, Shade, Trees & Shrubs

Harlequin's Gardens Boulder (303) 939-9403
Nursery: Perennial Plants, Trees & Shrubs

Pleasant Avenue Nursery Inc. Buena Vista
(719) 395-6955 www.pleasantavenuenursery.com
Nursery: Drought-tolerant Plants, Mountain Plants,

Perennial Plants, Prairie Forbs Plants, Prairie Grass Plants, Shade Plants, Trees & Shrubs, Vines

Western Native Seed Coaldale
(719) 942-3935 www.westernnativeseed.com
Nursery: Prairie Seeds

Florida

Action Theory Landscaping & Nursery
Miami (305) 257-2244
Nursery: Cactus & Succulents Seed, Coastal/dune, Shade Plants, Trees & Shrubs, Wet Mesic Plants, Wetland Plants

Richard Lyons' Nursery Miami
(305) 251-6293 www.rarefloweringtrees.com
Nursery: Coastal/dune, Trees & Shrubs, Vines, Wet Mesic Plants, Wetland Plants

Veber's Jungle Garden Inc.
Homestead (305) 212-9500
Nursery: Prairie Plants, Prairie Seeds, Trees & Shrubs, Wet Mesic Plants, Wetland Plants

Iowa

Ion Exchange Harpers Ferry
(319) 535-7231 www.ionexchange.com
Nursery: Grass Seeds, Prairie Plants, Wet Mesic Plants

Illinois

Pizzo & Associates Ltd. Leland
(815) 495-2300 www.pizzo.info
Design, Installation, Maintenance, Nursery: Prairie Forbs Plants, Prairie Grass Plants, Wet Mesic Plants, Restoration

Prairie Earth Nursery Bradford (309) 897-9911
Nursery: Prairie Plants, Prairie Seeds, Trees & Shrubs, Wetland Plants, Wetland Seeds

Red Buffalo Nursery Hebron
(815) 648-4838 www.redbuffalonursery.com
Nursery: Prairie Plants, Prairie Seeds, Shade Plants, Wet Mesic Plants, Wetland Plants



JFNew Native Plant Nursery Walkerton
(574) 586-2412 www.jfnew.com
Consulting: Prairie, Installation: Prairie, Nursery: Prairie, Prairie Forbs Seeds, Prairie Grass Seeds, Wet Mesic Plants

Louisiana

Mizell Farms Inc. Folsom
(985) 796-9309 www.mizellfarms.com
Nursery: Native Plants

Michigan

American Roots Ortonville
(248) 627-8525
Nursery: Prairie Grasses and Forbs Plants, Shade Plants

Michigan Wildflower Farm Portland
(517) 647-6010 www.michiganwildflowerfarm.com
Consulting, Installation, Maintenance, Management, Nursery: Prairie Forbs Seeds, Prairie Grass Seeds

Misty Ridge Greenhouse Mesick
(231) 885-2290 www.herbplantsonline.com
Nursery

Native Connections Three Rivers
(269) 580-4765 Susie www.nativeconnections.net
Consulting, Design: Grass Seeds, Ecosystem Restoration, Installation, Management, Prairie Seeds, Nursery: Prairie Plants, Shade Plants, Wet Mesic Plants and Seeds, Wetland Plants and Seeds

Native Plant Nursery LLC Ann Arbor
(734) 677-3260 www.nativeplant.com
Consulting: Trees & Shrubs, Design, Prairie Seeds, Ecosystem Restoration, Installation: Prairie Grass Seeds, Maintenance, Nursery: Prairie Plants

Oakland Wildflower Farm Ortonville
(248) 969-6904 www.oaklandwildflowerfarm.com
Nursery: Prairie Grass Plants, Prairie Plants, Sedges

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Wetlands Nursery Saginaw

(989) 752-3492 www.wetlands-nursery.com
 Consulting: Wetlands, Installation: Wetlands,
 Nursery: Wetland Plants, Wetland Seeds

Wildtype Native Plant Nursery Mason

(517) 244-1140 www.wildtypeplants.com
 Design, Management: Wildflowers, Nursery:
 Grasses, Prairie Plants, Trees & Shrubs

Minnesota**Carlson Prairie Seed Farm Inc.**

Lake Bronson (218) 754-2693
 Primarily Wholesale, Nursery: Prairie Seeds

Out Back Nursery Hastings

(800) 651-3626 www.outbacknursery.com
 Consulting, Design, Installation, Maintenance,
 Nursery: Prairie Plants, Shrubs, Trees

Prairie Moon Nursery Winona

(866) 417-8156 www.prairiemoon.com
 Nursery: Prairie Plants and Seeds, Shade Ferns,
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For a complete listing of all nurseries who have
 volunteered to partner with the SFE program in
 the past go to our web site: www.for-wild.org/seedmony.htm.

*In June as many as a dozen species may
 burst their buds on a single day. No man
 can heed all of these anniversaries; no man
 can ignore all of them. Aldo Leopold*

30 YEARS OF WILD ONES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

So many others, too

So many other names should be mentioned here and given credit for their dedication, but the list would go on for pages and pages. You know who you are. Please give yourselves a pat on the back for me. We wouldn't be here without you.

30 years and still going strong

Here we are, thirty years into the movement. While President, I knew I was the demographic of one. As I went, so went others – thus confirming that I have never had an original thought. I recall those distant Saturday mornings, when I would don my Wild Ones sweatshirt, and my kids would complain because they knew I would be preoccupied for the rest of the day. I would go over to the Schlitz Audubon Center, and find myself among some of the finest people I had ever met. So generous in spirit all. If anyone had had success, there would be bags of seeds to share all around, with hints of how best to sow with success. Or perhaps there would be divided treasures in a car trunk to be shared. That spirit of generosity and camaraderie and the unity of purpose, I am convinced today, was why the movement has grown and flourished.

What is it about Wild Ones people?

I now am living in Texas – I could spit across my yard – but there are native plants beginning to thrive everywhere. It makes no difference where I live, or where Lorrie lives for that matter, she and Wild Ones will always be a part of who I am and how I live. I remember one time in an interview when asked about our members, I said, "No, we don't all wear earth shoes and tie-dyed shirts." You can't tell who we are by looking at us. But years later, I think maybe you can.

There is a way that we all live – just a bit differently from others, smiles on our faces when we look at our natural "golden arches" for the birds and butterflies in our own yards. It's contagious. The movement is growing, and slowly things change. But oh, how I long for those magical Saturday mornings, and the excitement that another spring brings.

Best wishes to all

To you all, I wish you the best, and continued good work in everyone's best interest. Forever a Wild One. ❖

Lorrie Otto Is 2009 National Women's History Month Nominee

Lorrie Otto, a 1999 Inductee in the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame, was recently included in the **2009 National Women's History Month nominations**.

This year's theme, *Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet*, encouraged the recognition of the important work of women in the ongoing "green movement."

The 2009 Honorees included scientists, engineers, business leaders, writers, filmmakers, conservationists, teachers, community organizers, religious or workplace leaders, and others whose lives show exceptional vision and leadership to save our planet. *Lorrie Otto, born 1919: Through her passion as a founder and leader of the natural landscaping movement for the last fifty years, Lorrie Otto has educated, inspired, and mentored us to see the transformation*



of our lifeless lawns into natural landscapes as not mere gardening, but as a conservation effort to help restore habitat for a diverse community of species. Her legacy "grows" with each passing season.

For more information on Lorrie go to www.for-wild.org/people/otto.html, and on National Women's History Month, go to www.nwhp.org/whm/history.php.



Chapter Notes

From **Constance McCarthy**, President of the **Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter**: Our chapter made a significant donation to the Natural Land Institute (NLI), an area organization that acquires and restores sensitive land in northern Illinois. The donation was used by NLI to acquire equipment used in their restoration work at the Nygren Wetlands.

From **Chris McCullough**, President of the **Greater Cincinnati (OH) Chapter**: We have donated five hundred dollars for the start up of the Midwest Native Plant Conference, to be held July 24, 25, and 26, 2009, at the Hope Hotel in Dayton, Ohio.

From **Kris Kauth**, Co-President of the **Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter**: Two Natural Landscaping for Tomorrow Grants of five hundred dollars each were given to the Berlin High School Native Roots Garden, which plans to add a mass planting of blue lupine to attract the Karner blue butterfly, as well as starting an organic vegetable garden to encourage the students to eat healthy snacks; and to Fox River Academy Environmental Charter School in Appleton, who with the cooperation of the Park & Recreation Department, will be teaching "green concepts" with the use of a rain garden and outdoor classroom. ❖

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What's Wild on the Wild Ones Web Site

E-NETs

Along with their own web pages, Wild Ones National has provided each chapter with their own group e-mail address to use in communicating with members.

These are private e-mail addresses which means they can be used only by chapter members who have shared their e-mail address with Wild Ones National. This also means they are not accessible to spammers and non-Wild Ones members.



FAQs

The Wild Ones National office also routinely gets questions via e-mail or phone about some pretty routine pieces of information. Much of this information is available on the web site, so we thought we'd provide you with a brief synopsis of where to find what:

Contact info for Wild Ones HQ and National Board members
www.for-wild.org/contacts.html

History of Wild Ones
www.for-wild.org/aboutsit.html

Your personal membership info including past history
www.for-wild.org/members/

Joining and Renewing Wild Ones membership
www.for-wild.org/joining.html

Articles that can be downloaded to be used to convince friends and family
www.for-wild.org/download/

Articles about ordinances and dealing with weed laws
www.for-wild.org/weedlaws/weedlaw.html

Informative articles from the *Journal* about native landscaping
www.for-wild.org/native.html

Wild Ones online discussion group
www.for-wild.org/members/discussion/

Directions to the WILD Center
www.for-wild.org/eco/center/detailsmaps.html

Nursery resources throughout the USA
www.for-wild.org/download/businessdirectory/sa.html
www.for-wild.org/seedmony.html

Past year's issues of the *Journal*
www.for-wild.org/download/Journold/

Current year's issues of the *Journal*
www.for-wild.org/download/Journal/

New Web Site Coming Soon

The Wild Ones National Web Committee has been working very diligently to develop a plan to update our web site, and we're hoping to present our proposal to the National Board in May.

If you have any suggestions on how to make the Wild Ones web site more user-friendly, or more information, or more anything else, please let the Headquarters Office know:
Execdirector@for-wild.org. ❖

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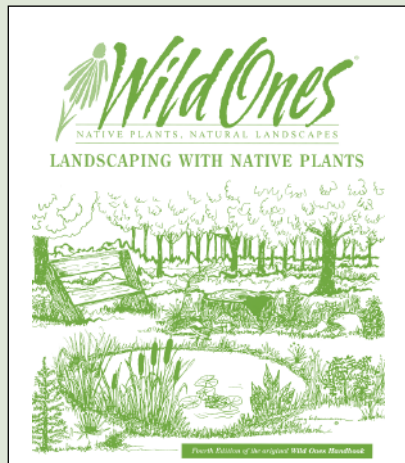
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Got Questions About Natural Landscaping?

- What is it?
- Why is it beneficial?
- What kinds of plants?
- How do I do it?
- Where do I find seeds and plants?

Produced by Wild Ones, this book has the answers to these questions and a lot more. Just **\$10** at the Wild Ones Store (includes shipping and handling). www.for-wild.org/store.

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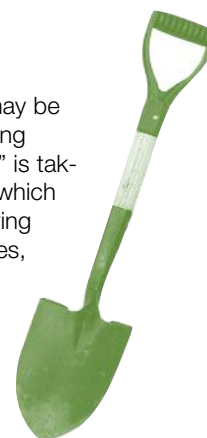
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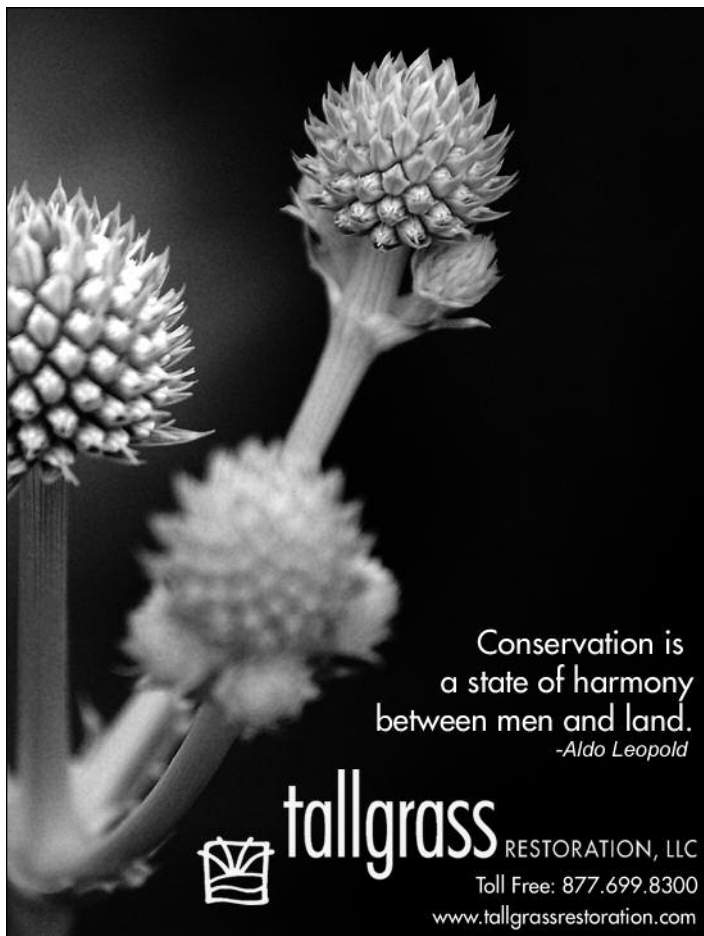
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-Aldo Leopold

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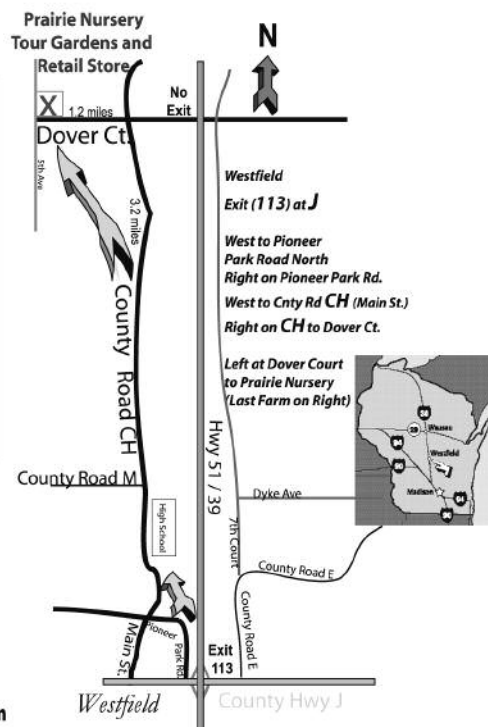
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For information about starting a chapter in
your area, go to [www.for-wild.org/
chapters.html](http://www.for-wild.org/chapters.html).

Grapevine

By Maryann Whitman

The times of our lives

Honeybees and wild pollinators too, no longer have the same number or variety of flowers available to them because we humans have tried to "neaten" our environments. We have, for example, planted huge expanses of crops without weedy, flower-filled borders or fencerows. We maintain large green lawns free of any "weeds" such as clover or dandelions. Even our roadsides and parks reflect our desire to keep things neat and weed-free. But to bees and other pollinators, green lawns look like deserts. The diets of honeybees that pollinate large acreages of one crop may lack important nutrients, compared with those of pollinators that feed from multiple sources, as would be typical of the natural environment.

From "Solving the Mystery of the Vanishing Bees," by Diane Cox-Foster and Dennis vanEngelsdorp, in *Scientific American Magazine*, March 30, 2009.

Ecoregional Guides of Plants for Pollinators

The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign has put online the first of their series of ecoregional guides (using Bailey's Ecoregions) on plants for pollinators.

www.pollinator.org/guides.htm.

City of Chicago on the 'banned wagon' – invasives that is

The City of Chicago, April 2009, banned fourteen plants as "invasive species" that are a threat to the sustainability of natural areas.

This is in addition to the thirteen plants that were banned by similar legislation, in 2007, that concentrated on aquatic invasive plant species.

The City Department of Environment will now prosecute sellers and gardeners alike who import, sell, or grow listed non-native plants. Businesses caught selling these invasive species in Chicago face a fine of between one thousand and five thousand dollars. A private grower can be charged between one hundred and five hundred dollars.

Mistaken identity?

Invasive Plants and their Native Look-alikes: An Identification Guide for the Mid-Atlantic. Put together by the New York Botanical Gardens this publication is a full-color, sixty-two-page booklet. The purpose of the work is to facilitate correct identification of confusingly similar invasive and native plant species. Targeted at land managers, gardeners, conservationists, and all others interested in plants, this booklet covers over twenty invasive species and their native look-alikes.

Higher quality 8 mg file:

www.nybg.org/files/scientists/rmaczi/Mistaken_Identity_Final.pdf.

Lower quality 2 mg file for dial-up connections:

www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/documents/Mistaken_Identity.pdf. ❖



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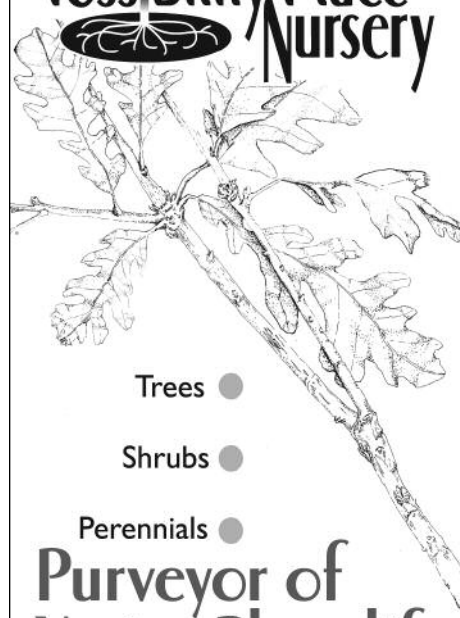
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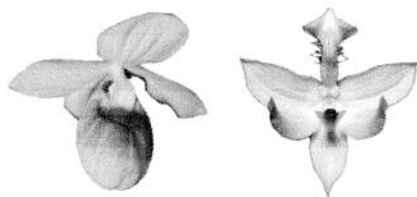
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