a voice for the natural landscaping movement



PLANTS, NATIVE NATURAL LANDSCAPES

JOURNAL

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Working toward our next 30 years restoring native plants and natural landscapes.



Photo by Jack Bartholmai

BUCKTHORN, BIRDS, & DIARRHEA

Along with its other sins, does buckthorn cause diarrhea in foraging birds?

A MYSTERY EXPLORED: PART 7 By Maryann Whitman

This has been a topic of discussion and disagreement for some time. There is finally some research that sheds light on the subject. The answer is: yes, no, maybe, sometimes, and it depends.

Buckthorns, plants of the genus *Rhamnus*, produce a metabolite identified as anthroquinone. It is secreted in the fruit, the bark, and the roots. Creatures that ingest any part of the plants are exposed to anthroquinone. If they have the appropriate microflora in their gut, and not all do, the anthroquinone is chemically changed, and emodin is produced. Depending on the concentration of the dose, emodin can have paradoxical effects: it is cathartic (produces diarrhea) at high concentrations, and causes retention of gut content at low concentrations.

The fruit of buckthorns is fleshy. The seed will not germinate while the flesh is present. It must be removed by fruit eaters, either birds while it is on the tree, or insects while the fruit is on the ground. Most of the ground-feeding insects considered, lack the gut-microflora/enzymes to break down anthroquinone to produce emodin. Fruit that germinates under the mother tree does not prosper; it does much better growing at a distance. This may have something to do with the dense shallow root system of a buckthorn, which accounts for the loss of habitat for understory native plants as well.

Genus Rhamnus is indigenous to eastern Europe and Asia. The fleshy fruit, while unripe has been shown to produce high concentrations of emodin. Concentrations reach a peak prior to ripeness of the fruit, and then decrease rapidly. Birds that are indigenous to these same geographic regions, having evolved with the buckthorns, appear to recognize high concentrations of emodin and avoid it. Non-indigenous birds do not, and do not. CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Countdown: Blast Off Into Our Future



January is a good time to pause and evaluate the past year; where we are now, and where we plan to go next. For me, the highlights of 2009 lie in the adoption of a new Wild Ones Vision Statement and the ensuing discussions regarding the obstacles and the opportunities that lie before us in working toward our vision. Altogether this gives

us a better picture of where we want to go and what actions we need to take to get there.

Where are we now? We are at a critical juncture.

If we can expand our audience, and really get the word out about the *need* to plant more native plants (and yes, it's a need, not a want, given the role native plants play in maintaining the biodiversity humans also depend on), Wild Ones can work toward becoming the leading voice of the natural landscaping movement, and achieve the societal changes we envision. In a time when all things green are the hottest idea since sliced bread, if we *can't* do this, perhaps we must honestly ask ourselves, "Are we doing something wrong?"

As we work on the budget for 2010, some lively discussion has occurred. We know that economic recovery is expected to be slow, and as a result, our membership is down to a number that doesn't allow us to effectively manage the organization financially; coming up with an appropriate budget for 2010 has been difficult.

Does this mean we just hunker down and minimize all expenses? Or do we do everything in our power to increase our mem-

bership numbers? Can we afford to invest in a professional consultant who could bring new ideas to the table and advise us on the *most cost-effective ways* to grow our membership and influence the public idea of what makes a beautiful, useful landscape? Given that we need to grow our membership from three thousand to five thousand members in order to have a financially sustainable organization – one that does not rely on volunteers, who are professionals in their own right, essentially donating a large part of the time they spend preparing the Journal and running the organization – can we afford not to try something new?

As I write this, the budget is not yet final, but I expect the consensus will be "some of each." We will focus on frugality while still supporting the Grow Wild Ones 2010 project, using donations received this year (thanks!) and in the past, which have been set aside to support just such outreach efforts, with hopes of expanding our membership, influence and advocacy.

In addition to education, Wild Ones' core mission includes advocating (i.e., promoting, encouraging, supporting, sponsoring) native plants. Education is one of the things we do best, and luckily, most advocating starts with education. We need to provide education for individuals to make changes one yard at a time, while also educating and encouraging larger groups who have the power to change how the general public thinks about landscaping.

We hope you will be with us when we blast off into 2010.

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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2010: The Year to Grow Wild Ones

As an organization, we have accomplished much through:

- The **courage and enthusiasm** of new members willing to consider a different approach to landscaping their own yards.
- The time, hard work, and commitment of our volunteers.
- The skills and enormous dedication of our staff.
- The **financial help** of many who support our vision.

During the past year, contributions to Wild Ones have provided funding for important accomplishments. In addition to continuing to providing members with our top-notch magazine, the **Wild Ones**Journal, in 2009, we:

- Processed over one hundred Seeds for Education grant applications, awarded six thousand dollars in grants, and changed the SFE grant program to the e-format now in use.
- Began design of a new web site.
- Constructed entrance gardens for the Wild Ones Institute for Learning and Development (WILD Center) and a parking area, and received our first renter.
- Developed and adopted a new Vision Statement for Wild Ones that will serve as the starting point of our 2010 Growing Wild Ones campaign.

In **2010** we hope to **Grow Wild Ones** through a **promotional campaign** aimed at convincing the general public to grow native plants, increasing Wild Ones' recognition and membership, and promoting the new WILD Center in the Fox River Valley, Wisconsin.

These things will more readily be accomplished with the generosity of our members in your annual donations.

To be truly successful **we need every member's participation**. Donations to Wild Ones will support our efforts to **Grow Wild Ones**.

As we celebrate thirty years of Wild Ones, thank you again for your continued support. Your membership and your affirmation are greatly appreciated.

P.S. You can read the full text of our Wild Ones Vision and Values Statement at www.for-wild.org/aboutsit.html.

JOIN WILD ONES. RENEW. UPGRADE. GET A FREE DVD AND/OR FREE BOOK.

To kick off the **Grow Wild Ones Campaign for 2010**, we have updated, revamped, and reproduced the popular **Wild About Wild-flowers** video in DVD format.

And now, this amazing video is available

free when you join Wild Ones, or renew your membership at an upgraded level.

Because many of our long-time members have already received this helpful video, we are offering the DVD version free to new members, as an enticement to join Wild Ones. We want to – no, we *need* to – get Wild Ones membership over the 3,000-member hump.

This great video for all Wild Ones members, new or old, lets you get dirt on your hands without getting dirty. This video will help anyone to:

Identify native wildflowers and grasses.

Design and prepare the planting site. Grow and nurture wildflowers and grasses. Plan for

long-term maintenance. Enhance their landscaping to make it a habitat. Enjoy year-round beauty in their back yard, neighborhood, and schools or businesses.

Renewing members get a free book

Renewing members will receive a free copy of our 25th anniversary commemorative 4-color book of wonderful photos and stories from Wild Ones' first 25 years, 25 Years of Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes.

Upgrading members get both

Renew at the Wilder level, and get the Wild About Wildflowers DVD free.

Renew at the Wildest level, and get the DVD and the 25-year book free.

Don't wait, do it now

Use the application on page 19, or join online at www.for-wild.org/joining.html.

GO ECOSCAPER

By Marty Rice

Something fun and educational to fill the rest of the winter.

Looking for something interesting to do during the remaining few cold and bleak months of winter? Pining away for some sunshine and bright color in your yard, with some birds and butterflies to boot? It couldn't be a better time to sign up for Wild Ones Ecoscaper Program. No weeding, seeding, or digging in the dirt making demands on your time this time of year.

The Ecoscaper Program has three levels of proficiency (Level I, II, and III), and each level has options in three areas: fieldwork, projects, and an online multiple-choice test. Although Wild Ones membership is a requisite for this program, chapter affiliation is not.

The options are varied: some are not dependent on chapter activities, others are – such as participating in an invasive species eradication project and/or writing a brief résumé of an all-day native plant conference. All options can be great ways to share your love for native plants and landscaping with friends, neighbors, and the public at large.

This program was a natural choice for me, as native plants have been of interest since early childhood in rural Wisconsin. But it didn't really take off until my husband and I became homeowners and I realized I wasn't on particularly good terms with our lawnmower. Mowing was monotonous, and the compacted, bumpy soil gave the lawnmower – and me – a severe case of the shakes. As for lawn/garden chemicals, even walking down the aisles of smelly chemicals in the garden centers doesn't feel good.

Being a bit timid, our back yard was our starting point: I'd planted hostas several years earlier, thinking only they would survive in the shade of shallow-rooted trees. Wrong: out they went, and in their place went layers of leaves followed with ferns, Jacks-in-the-pulpit, ladyslippers, bleeding hearts, and other fun, shade-loving natives. Voilà – it became habit-forming. A year or so later, out went the grass along the boulevard on our busy street. With the help of a landscape designer possessing much more talent than I had, the area was filled in with sun-loving natives.

Next step several years later: finish off the rest of the backyard in natives, again with the help of a landscape designer. It was lovely – after several years I found myself spending lots of time in the backyard, not hitting weeds with chemicals, or mowing or watering, but walking around and enjoying it and the other living organisms at home there.

About that time, the Wild Ones Ecoscaper program entered the scene – a chance to put to use what I enjoyed about native landscaping, and to learn lots more.

"Digging in the dirt" has always been a welcome outlet for me, so one of my choices for Level I Ecoscaper was planning and installing a naturally landscaped garden at the entrance to a historic site in the sand barrens of Burnett County, Wisconsin. The plants had to be drought tolerant, as water was too far away, survivable in almost pure red sand and hot sun, and colorful from June through August, which is the height of the visitor season. The decision was easy: only native prairie plants would survive here. With the help of several nativeplant catalogs and sound advice from several local native nurseries, even I couldn't miss. Plugs were planted in 2003, maintained for the next few years, then ignored for several more years due to circumstances

beyond my control. Last year, I moved back in on maintenance, and made a few changes, including bordering the area so grass didn't creep in. Happily, this summer lots of compliments were heard.

It's been a wonderful learning experience: most species survived very well (butterfly weed, wild petunia, black-eyed Susan,



silky aster) – although another did not (prairie smoke). Another learning experience: somewhere along the line, someone convinced me to have dirt hauled in, so the site was mounded. Consequently, when it rained, water just ran down without soaking in. Of interest during the past summer's extreme drought: where there were more plants covering the ground, there was less water runoff, probably due to absorption of the foliage and surface stems and roots.

As for this winter, it's on to Level II of the Ecoscaper program. Now that my husband and I have "condoized," and are without a front or back yard, I've adopted a large rain garden in the public park behind our building. What had been a large patch of rangy and neglected plants has started to come back to life with some trimming, digging, and installation of new plants. Park visitors took notice, as did a smattering of birds and butterflies. However a small part of the rain garden didn't fare so well, due to extremely compacted and rock-filled soil, with very poor drainage. Standing water took more than two or three days to be absorbed. What to do: this spring I'll try digging out as many rocks as possible, adding lots of compost, and then replanting, with hopes that the new roots will help absorb standing water. It's become my working laboratory and maybe next summer we'll have a complete and prospering rain garden.

Thanks to the Ecoscaper program, I've been inspired to work on several native sites for others to enjoy, while simultaneously learning more about natural landscaping. It's been especially enjoyable "going native" in public areas where others can enjoy the beauty.

Want to make your winter months go by faster? Put your dreams and good ideas to work. It's a great time to become a Wild Ones Ecoscaper. For more information, go to www.wildcertification.org/ecoscaper/. *



"I'll keep fighting for alternatives to these spaces," Lorrie Otto wrote some time ago, referring to chemical-intensive lawns. At ninety, she's still fighting for what she believes in. Charismatic, irrepressible, courageous – her involvement in environmental causes from her home in Milwaukee goes back to the sixties, when she was in the forefront of the fight to ban DDT in Wisconsin. Many readers know Lorrie as one of the guiding lights behind the formation of Wild Ones.

EVERGREEN

ON BEING PART OF THE LAND

By Lorrie Otto



Lorrie at home, 2009. Photo courtesy of Mark Turner, turnerphotographics.com.

Sitting on a folding chair in a bracken fern meadow, I've just watched my daughter plan and plant our section of a "green and natural cemetery." It is green because:

- No embalming fluids will be used. Such powerful poisons will never be here to leach into the water table.
- No casket. The corpse will be wrapped like a mummy in white fabric
- No cremation. It takes two to three hours of fourteen hundred degree heat to convert a human body to ashes.
- All landscaping must be done with native plants. The funeral director gave us a list that matched our climate and soil type.
 I chose a white oak, a wild rose, and nodding onions. The names sounded Midwestern, and would provide winter food for wildlife, and add seasonal design in snowless winters.

It is such a wonderful feeling to know that my death will result in more nutrition and protection of the soil and its dependent life. Today the little oak is only two feet tall. Some day a part of me will surely be a part of it.

I smile when I think of Lorrie Otto pushing for native-plant cemeteries. It is a little like Joe DiMaggio recommending Wheaties.

I'm now living with my daughter, in a one-bathroom house on one hundred acres of her land-trust forest, on the side of a mountain, with a stream and a working beaver dam. No mowing. No blowing.

And on this 2009 December day I want to wish all of you darlings the happiest of holidays.

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 annual contributions. Payments are made by check, or by 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, community garden plantings, and for the WILD Center.

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

Contact Us

For more information about 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 see our web site: www.for-wild.org/legacy/.



A Hand-Made Nature Journal

By Barb Bray

If you've decided to start keeping a nature journal, it's pretty easy to just go out and buy one. But why not have some fun creating your very own nature journal? Here's how to do it.

In my last article, I suggested that a fun way to learn about nature was to keep a journal. Buying a journal is an easy way to start, but *making* a journal might be even better. Imagine writing your observations on pages you created yourself. Would your pages be made out of printer paper, construction paper, homemade paper, grocery bags, or something else? Would they be decorated with lines, stickers, dried flowers, or just plain? The decision, of course, is yours.

Getting started

Once you have decided to make your own nature journal, how exactly will you assemble it? At your local library, you will find good ideas in craft books, especially ones focusing on nature crafts. In the book by Bobbe Needham, Ecology Crafts for Kids (pages 62-64), the author gives detailed instructions on how to make a "sketch and press nature journal." It's a double-duty nature journal, and it looks really great. On one side you can write about what you see, while on the other side you can temporarily press flowers and leaves. The journal is held together by machine screws, washers, and wing nuts, so parental help would be needed for this project.

What kind of journal would you make if you wanted to document the life cycle of a flower or even a frog? Maybe you could make an "accordion-fold nature journal." Starting with 8-1/2 by 11-inch sheets of paper, you cut them in half the short way, and then glue them end to end to make a long, skinny strip. After it dries, fold this

entire strip into 4-inch wide sections, back and forth like an accordion. Cut off any left-over paper. To make a cover for the journal, decorate two 4 x 5-inch pieces of cardboard. Glue the first page to one piece of the cardboard carefully, and glue the last page to the other cardboard piece. Once it is dry, it is ready to use.

How green do you want it to be? How about some recycled paper?

There are also options for recycled paper journals. In the book, Nature Smart (page 324), brown paper grocery bags are utilized. Cut the bags into whatever size pages you want, and then fold them in half down the center. Punch holes with an awl, and then sew the pages together with embroidery thread and a needle.

Another way to make a nature journal is to use scrap paper, a stick, and a rubber band, as described in "Make Your Own Nature Journal," an article by Pam Gaulin. Punch two holes on the left side of the paper (1/4-inch from the folded edge, and 1-1/2 inches from the top and bottom). Next, thread the rubber band up through the top hole, and insert the stick through the loop. Stretch the rubber along the back of the book, and pull the loop up through the bottom hole. Insert the other end of the stick into the loop. Your journal is finished.

These are just a few ideas for creating your own nature journal. Whether you buy one or make one, have fun outside. **
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IN MEMORIAM Nancy Cutbirth Small

The leadership of the Kalamazoo Area (MI) Chapter suffered a loss on Friday, November 27, 2009, with the passing of Nancy Cutbirth Small, after a long illness.

She is grieved, loved, and celebrated by her husband, Tom, and by the many friends whose lives she has enriched and who have helped her to live generously.

Together, Tom and Nancy founded the Kalamazoo Chapter in 1999, and have remained exceptionally active with the chapter. Both Nancy and Tom have been active participants in National committee work since joining Wild Ones in 1997.

Tom has asked that memorial donations for Nancy be sent to Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones, P.O. Box 20324, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49019. *



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SWEET CLOVER

By Janet Allen

INVASIVES ON THE HORIZON

If you have a lawn, you probably have at least some clover (*Trifolium repens*), also known as Dutch clover or white clover. In fact, some people advocate all-clover lawns as a cheap, low-maintenance alternative to traditional turf grass. Whether all-clover or growing in random patches, most people either appreciate or at least tolerate clover in their lawn for its nitrogen fixing capabilities. Beyond your lawn, though, this nonnative Eurasian plant can be problematic, invading natural areas, and outcompeting native plants.

Even more problematic is another "clover" - sweet clover (Melilotus alba), also known as honey clover, white-flowered sweet clover, tree clover, or Bokhara clover. Despite its name, however, this legume is not a true clover. Also from Eurasia, it was brought to North America in the late sixteen-hundreds as an agricultural crop for forage, for honey production, and as a soil enhancer. Yellow sweet clover (M. officinalis) followed in the early seventeenhundreds, and except for its color, it is similar to M. alba, and poses similar problems.) White sweet clover is now found in all fifty states, but most frequently in the Upper Midwest and Great Plains.

The plant. A biennial, white sweet clover blooms in its second year. It has an erect form, and can become a bush-like five- to six-foot plant. It has many racemes, each of which can have more than a hundred flowers. Though the flowers are fragrant, some describe the smell of the plant when cut as unpleasant, or worse. As is true for many invasive plants, they produce seeds prolifically – hundreds of thousands of them – and they remain viable in the soil for decades.

It likes loamy, alkaline soil, and will grow in full sun or partial shade. It is most frequently found in open, disturbed, upland habitats such as prairies, savannas, and dunes.

The plant is interesting chemically. In the nineteen-twenties, cattle that were

heavily fed with moldy sweet clover had a tendency to bleed to death. It was eventually determined that sweet clovers produce coumarins, which can interfere with blood coagulation. A simulated form of coumarins is the active ingredient in Warfarin, used first as a rat poison, and later as a therapeutic anticoagulant in humans. Some products of coumarin have been found to inhibit root growth in seedlings, and are therefore considered allelopathic.

The problem. Sweet clover invades and degrades native grasslands by overtopping and shading native sun-loving plants, thus reducing diversity, and sometimes altering normal plant succession. And due to its nitrogen-fixing capability, it can change soil characteristics – characteristics that are beneficial for growing vegetables, perhaps, but not for most categories of native plants that we are interested in.

How to get rid of it. Because of its economic value, sweet clover will continue to be purposely planted, so the challenge is to eradicate it when it spreads to natural areas.

"Early detection and rapid response" most effi-

cient defense.

Manually removing it:
As with other invasive plants the lots of seeds (for example, garlice stard), the key is to keep it from going to seed while the existing seed bank depletes itself. Simple but not easy. It requires many years of diligent effort. If there aren't too many plants, hand-pulling is effective. If there are large, dense colonies, try a hand-held scythe.

Other methods: Fire may either control or stimulate sweet clovers, so research this method carefully before attempting it. There has been little research into biological controls because of sweet clover's agricultural importance, though some insects and diseases do affect it. And since it is palatable to wildlife and domestic livestock, these grazers offer some control. Herbicides shouldn't be necessary, although they're sometimes used in degraded areas. \$\%\$



The clover flower. Photo courtesy of Amitmogha.

Shifting Perspectives

By Dave Borneman

An experienced botanist points out the difference in energy: Positive vs. negative. Destruction vs. restoration.

It was August 1994, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and I had been here at the newly created NAP (National Area Preservation) for less than a year. I was trying to get us organized to do battle with all the nasty invasives that were taking over our city parks, and scrambling to learn as much as I could about the best way to kill each of these horrible plants.

That's how I found myself in Lansing, Michigan, at the annual conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration. I had scoured the conference schedule for all the talks about controlling buckthorn, honeysuckle, garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, or

You're missing the point, Dave. The point is not to kill the bad plants. The point is to restore the native ecosystems.

other evil weeds. I was jotting down lots of notes about how to best apply the management tools of prescribed fire, mowing, herbicides, and hand-pulling to get rid of these pests.

Dashing between concurrent sessions, I had the good fortune to bump into Dr. Gerould (Jerry) Wilhelm, a pre-eminent botanist, then with the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois. Jerry had just finished coauthoring the monumental work, Plants of the Chicago Region, 3rd edition, which was the origin of the Floristic Quality Assessment System that NAP was employing to characterize the quality of our city's natural areas. So I certainly knew who Jerry was, although I'm not sure if I had met him before then. Perhaps I had, because Jerry and I had a brief but

meaningful talk on this encounter, although Jerry is the kind of guy who will stop and have meaningful talks with anyone.

I was telling Jerry what I had just learned in a concurrent session about the best way to eradicate garlic mustard. After a few minutes, Jerry calmly put his hand on my shoulder, and gently said, "You're missing the point, Dave. The point is not to kill the bad plants. The point is to restore the native ecosystems." He went on to explain more about why I needed a fundamental shift in my perspective.

He wasn't talking as a scientist then, but as a spiritual leader. He patiently explained how focusing positive energy on restoring life to the native ecosystems of Ann Arbor is vitally different than focusing negative energy on killing "bad plants." Some of the steps along the way might be similar, but the entire process originates from a humble attitude of nurturing rather than an arrogant one of destroying.

I'm sure I stood there with my mouth open. Still reeling from the impact of Jerry's words, I think I tried to ask a few questions, pretending I had some grasp of what he was talking about. But my brain quickly filled up, and I think I shuffled off to a corner somewhere to ponder this revelation I had been given.

Of course, Jerry was dead-on in

his message, and in his assessment of this greenhorn's misunderstanding of an important truth. I've since relayed this story to him, and thanked him for his wisdom. It was a fundamental shift for me personally, and for NAP's approach to ecological restoration. \$\frac{1}{2}\$

See our May/June, 2009 issue for more information on Gerould Wilhelm.

Is Wild Ones Really on Facebook? Yes. It's true.



Stop in at our Wild Ones Facebook page to see what we're saying about natural land-scaping. It's easy to become a "fan" of Wild Ones, and then whenever we add something new, you will be among the first to know about it. Our temporary address is: www.facebook.com/pages/Wild-Ones/220999458625

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Somewhere between a prairie and a formal planting lies the fertile potential of native plants in an ornamental design, the domain of the Ecoscaper – which is a brilliant synthesis in language of the two concepts, landscaper and ecologist. With this in mind, Wild Ones has developed the Ecoscaper Certification Program. Enhance your knowledge and get credit for your accomplishments. Visit www.wildcertification.org for more information or to enroll.



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NATIVE PLANTS

Beyond the bird feeder: Gardening for Birds and Other Wildlife **Pines**

By Mariette Nowak

Pines rank above every other conifer in their value as a food plant for birds and other wildlife. Winter, when their green limbs are often frosted with snow, is the one of best times of year to admire both their value and their beauty.

Pines are one of the most diverse and successful groups of conifers, with over forty species in North American (one hundred-plus worldwide). They are found in almost every ecological habitat, from mountains to deserts, and show an equally wide range of form, from tall majestic trees, to squat shrubby shapes. The oldest living tree in the world is bristlecone pine (*Pinus longaeva*), with some individuals reaching five thousand years of age.

Here I will discuss three wide-ranging pines, one of which is likely to offer an excellent landscaping choice for Wild Ones members wherever they live.

Longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) is found throughout the Atlantic and Gulf coastal plains, from Virginia to Florida, and west to Texas. This pine once dominated vast areas of the southern coastal plain, and there are many efforts by The Nature Conservancy and others to restore longleaf pine forests, several of which I had the privilege of visiting in Florida a few years ago.

Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) is one of the most widespread pine species in the West, extending from Canada to Mexico, and east to Nebraska and Oklahoma. My first acquaintance with this pine was in our western national parks, where I first enjoyed the wonderful vanilla (some say butterscotch) fragrance of its bark.

Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) grows from Canada south to the Appalachians, and west to Iowa and Tennessee. This is the pine I know and love best, a native species throughout the Midwest where I live.

Value for birds

Pine seeds are eaten by at least forty-eight species of birds, and are especially favored by grouse, crossbills, jays, nuthatches, siskins, and woodpeckers. The seeds make up more than fifty percent of the diet of three species of birds – red crossbill, Clark's nutcracker, and white-headed woodpecker. Pine needles provide food for grouse, while some songbirds use them for nesting material.

Pine siskins, as their name suggests, are birds of pine forests, both nesting in pines and favoring pine seeds for food. The pine warbler is also aptly named, since it strongly prefers nesting in pine forests, and when insects aren't available, will feed on pine seeds. Pine grosbeaks, on the other hand, are somewhat misnamed, since they are seldom found in pines in summer, preferring spruce/fir forests for nesting, and feed mainly in fruiting deciduous trees in winter – although they do sometimes eat pine seeds, and may shelter in pine groves.

Pines not only offer food for birds, but also provide shelter and nests sites. Birds such as the Backman's sparrow and brownheaded nuthatch depend on southeastern pine forests for breeding and foraging habitat. The endangered red-cockaded woodpecker nests only in the longleaf and loblolly (P. taeda) pines. In the West, the white-headed woodpecker and four corvids (see below) are specialists of pine forests. Some Midwestern birds occurring in pine woodlands are the hermit thrush, eastern bluebird, ruffed grouse, bald eagle, red crossbill and both pine and black-throated green warblers. Mature white pines are often chosen as nest sites by ospreys and eagles. Of special note is the endangered Kirkland warbler, which nests only in large stands of young Jack pines (Pinus banksiana) in Michigan and in Wisconsin.

Value for other wildlife

Many mammals, from mice to bears, feed on pine seeds, bark, foliage, and sometimes twigs. Prime users are chickarees, varying hares, and porcupines, which feed on pine seeds, bark, and foliage; chipmunks, which eat the seeds; and deer, which browse on pine foliage and twigs. Pines provide cover and nesting sites for many animals. In addition, pines support two hundred and one species of butterflies and moths.

Landscaping Notes

All three of the highlighted species are tall, beautiful trees with outstanding ornamental value. They commonly reach seventy to ninety feet in height, and thus are best suited to larger suburban and rural gardens, and other sites of adequate size.

The longleaf pine grows best in full or partial sun, on well-drained, sandy, acidic soils. For the first few years, while developing its deep taproot, the tree looks like a fountain of grass with foot-long needles. Later it grows rapidly, from two to four feet each year. The mature tree has beautiful plated bark and a shapely, wide-spreading crown, sporting sprays of nine-inch long needles. It is more resistant than other southern pines to insect damage, and fusiform rust is not a significant problem. Once established it is very drought tolerant, and requires no irrigation.

The ponderosa pine, like the longleaf, grows best in full or partial sun, on deep sandy, acidic soils. Its trunk is straight, with little taper, and has an attractive and aromatic yellow-orange bark. At maturity, it develops a rounded or flat-topped crown. Often growing in groves on dry sites, the trees space themselves widely to ensure an adequate water supply. Similarly, when used in landscaping, it's best to give them sufficient space. Being sensitive to air pollution, ponderosas do not do well in urban or high-traffic areas.

The White Pine is a majestic tree, with great horizontal branches and a wind-swept appearance. It prefers loamy well-drained soils, but can tolerate sandy soils. Although it grows best in sun, it can tolerate light shade. Its dark brown to black bark is deeply furrowed at maturity. Although it grows widely throughout the East, it is most common in southern Canada and the northern tier of states – the "north woods" as we say in southern Wisconsin. Like the ponderosa pine, the white pine is susceptible to air pollution and also to rusts, when growing conditions are not the best.

Also of Interest

the West *

One of the most remarkable examples of coevolved mutualism is that between four corvids - scrub jay, Stellar's jay, pinyon jay, and Clark's nutcracker - and several species of pinyon pines in the west. The pinyon pines' seeds are the familiar pine nuts that we, too, enjoy eating. They are significantly larger than those of most pines and don't have the wings that most other pine seeds have to help disperse them in the wind Instead, the birds do the job, burying the pinyon seeds in the soil, like acorns. Some are not recovered and will germinate, helping to spread the Pinyon Pines throughout

WILD Center Update

Things are moving along at the WILD Center, slowly but surely. Coordination of efforts with other like-minded organizations continues.

Steve Petznick of the Northeast Wisconsin Bird Club stopped by this past month to

check out our site in anticipation of doing some bird monitoring in the spring. **Jon Motquin of Motquin Associates** has offered to do a marsh bird count in the spring.

GW Partners (our renters of the upland, whose lease allowed us to pay off our mortgage on the Center) have completed the restoration of the topography and planting of the winter wheat in



anticipation of a future planting of prairie savanna. Unfortunately, no top soil was left on the berm, so our observation point over the lake has disappeared. We are now mulling over other options. And, because of the rainy weather, they weren't able to get sand delivered to complete the turtle-nesting area.

Fox Cities Greenways members (our facility renters) helped us install temporary solar lighting in the parking area so it isn't so pitch dark when members leave from late-night meetings. **Rick Buser of Fox Valley Technical College's Wildlife and Fish Management Department** was over with two classes of students to view our woodland for forest management and the open canary reed areas for prescribed burning. Students of the **Fox River Charter School** conducted a woodland identification course at the Center followed by a picnic.

Thanks to **Dave Edwards** we had many Leopold Benches, and even a picnic table available for their use. **Lisa Picconi** painted the entrance ramp with Herculiner, a liquid, which when applied provides a rough surface on which to walk, in hopes of reducing the slipping and sliding during icy, snowy weather.

Oh, and we've had some new non-human visitors. Besides the ever-present deer, we now also have turkeys visiting us on a regular basis. *



WILD Center Wish List

Wooden rocking chair suitable for porch sitting • Vacuum cleaner • First-aid kit
Rain gauge • Gardening tools: (Pitchfork, bow rake, McLeod rake, etc.)
Garden tractor and small trailer • Gator or Mule type 4-wheel vehicle
Trailer for hauling debris with car • Lightweight conference table(s)
Stepladder • Conference-type stackable chairs • Dressers
Double bed or twin bed (or better yet) one set of bunk beds
Small maple and oak (bur, white and swamp white oak) trees
Contact the National Office if you have other items that may be
suitable for use at the WILD Center. We now have someone in
the office from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday.
Or, just call for an appointment: 877-394-9453.

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Grapevine

By Maryann Whitman

Quotable statistic: One inch of rain falling on an average-sized yard results in four thousand gallons of storm-water runoff, which because storm water is not treated, goes straight to the nearest stream or lake. With it goes fertilizer, herbicide, bacteria from pet feces, driveway grease, soap from car-washing, grass clippings, and dirt and trash.

A recommendation from Cornelia Mutel (co-author with Stephen Packard of Tallgrass Restoration Handbook). "I love Woodlands & Prairies Magazine, which since 2004 has been bringing together gardeners, landscapers, and others concerned with perpetuating native plants and environmental health. The journal broadens the reader's viewpoint through well-written, interesting stories about the activities of laypeople and professionals who are tending and using native-plant communities - through restoring retired agricultural lands, gardening with planting prairies, 'adopting' native landscapes, forestry and woodworking, producing nuts, administering public lands, fighting invasive plants, and the like. The journal focuses on passionate Midwesterners involved with these activities. But with its high-quality photographs and broadly interesting, highly accessible articles, I think that it would be welcomed by native-plant lovers and outdoors people throughout the country." More details on their web site at woodlandsandprairies.com.

Another reason why biodiversity is important. Birds such as robins, Townsend's solitaires, and wax wings pluck chunky berries from the branches of dogwoods, junipers, and red cedars, then fly away to places where they can safely eat their prize - the berry's fleshy fruit that surrounds its small, hard seed. This feeding helps survival of the seed by moving it away from the competition of the parent trees. Seeds that birds swallow may pass through their digestive systems, land on the ground, and be carried away and buried by small mammals like deer mice or kangaroo rats. Burying hides the seeds from other seed eaters, and helps the seeds ger-

The big picture. Seeds of many plants are dispersed in two or more "phases," with a different type of dispersal agent involved in each. This method of dispersal is called diplochory. For such plants, phase one of

dispersal moves seeds away from the influence of the parent plant (reducing potential competition between seedling and parent), and reduces losses to seed predators by distributing seeds widely. Phase two often moves seeds to safe sites (e.g., below ground), where they are relatively protected from seed predators, and the chance of successful germination and seedling establishment are enhanced. The combination of two dispersal mechanisms often provides greater benefits to seeds than do most single means of dispersal. Diplochory is probably far more common in nature than is suggested by current literature, but with recent species declines, many such dispersal systems might be lost before they can be identified.

Nemesis of Canada thistle. Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense) is an invasive that is familiar to us all. The weed may grow as a biennial, but grows primarily as a perennial, propagating by both seed and roots. Its vigorous spreading by roots largely accounts for its ability to crowd out other vegetation and achieve high stem densities in local areas. It seems that there are now three insects that will help us control this pest. None of them alone is enough to kill a thistle plant, but working in concert, having been introduced purposely, by western pasture-range farmers, they have a significant effect.

- Tortoise beetle: (Cassida rubiginosa), native to Europe; feed on stem and foliage of thistle, defoliating it; reduce plant hardiness.
- Stem mining weevil: (*Ceutorhynchus litura*), originally from Germany, larvae bore into the stem, crown, and root; permit entry of fatal rust fungus disease; reduce plant's root reserves.
- Canada thistle gall fly: (*Urophora cardui*), indigenous to all of Europe; eggs laid into stem tissue; larvae hatch and cause a large gall to form, distorting and stunting the stem above the gall.

Small-time gardeners should remember what these bugs look like, because they also will eat our desirable native *Cirsiums (discolor, muticum, altissimum)*. (See July/August 2007, issue of the *Wild Ones Journal*.)

Recognizing the enemy lets you squish it before it does damage, or perhaps move it to a stand of Canada thistle where it may "go to town." *



Adult Canada thistle stem gall fly (Urophora cardui). Photo: Alec McClay, McClay Ecoscience, Canada.



Damage caused by Canada thistle stem gall fly (*Urophora cardui*). Photo: Alec McClay, McClay Ecoscience, Canada.



Canada thistle stem mining weevil larvae (Ceutorhynchus litura). Photo: Norman A. Rees, USDA Agricultural Research Service.



Thistle tortoise beetle pupa (Cassida rubignosa). Photo: David Cappaert, Michigan State University.



Thistle tortoise beetle adult (Cassida rubignosa)
Photo: David Cappaerat, Michigan State University.

BUCKTHORN, BIRDS, AND DIARRHEA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The yellow-vented bulbul is indigenous to the same geographic regions as the buckthorns – these organisms have co-evolved over millenia. This bird, it is reported, avoids unripe fruit of the buckthorn, but favors the ripe fruit. The riper the fruit that is eaten, and the longer it is retained in the gut of the bulbul (time interval between defecations is increased), the more fleshy pulp is removed, the more food value of the fruit (food assimilation mass coefficient) is retained by the bird, and the farther from the mother tree the seed is deposited and germinates. Everyone wins.

The buckthorn has been dispersed far and wide around the northern hemisphere – into areas where it is not a native and is not in the presence of frugivores (fruit eaters) with which it has co-evolved. As an example, let us consider the effect of buckthorn in areas in the Northeast and Midwest, where it is an overly abundant, nonnative. To the native birds of these areas, the buckthorns are novel introductions, and the birds are unable to discriminate among the concentrations of emodin. Therefore, they eat the fruit of buckthorn whether it is ripe or not. While the fruit is unripe, carrying

When the fruit is unripe, it produces diarrhea in our native birds.

high levels of emodin, it produces diarrhea in our native birds. If there is little else for the birds to feed on, as might be the case where the buckthorn has taken over an area, the water loss associated with the diarrhea, and unretained food value, may lead to death. Later in the season our native birds may eat the fruit bearing lower concentrations of emodin, and benefit from its food value while the pulpy fruit remains in the gut, to be deposited at a distance from the mother tree.

The information in this article has been pieced together from botanical, ornithological, evolutionary biology, and phytochemistry journals. The spectrum of information gleaned has broad implications with regard to invasive plants, native plants, and the relevance of local genotypes, of coevolution, and plant communities.

We will continue to explore these avenues of information and conclusions in future issues of the *Journal*.

2009 Photo Contest Results

By Tim Lewis

Why do we hold our annual photo contest? The main reason is because it encourages members to go outside and appreciate the beauty of our native plants. When you see a wildflower though the lens of your camera, or capture, in photos, children exploring prairie plants, you see these things from a different perspective – a sure way to recapture your attention. Another reason for the contest is that Wild Ones uses many of the excellent photos in its literature, publications, web site, and presentations.

Our judge this year was **David C. Olson**, of Rockford, Illinois. Mr. Olson's photos appear in leading publications including *Birders World, Sierra, Wyoming Wildlife, Bugle,* and *Alaska* magazines. David now divides his time between running his portrait studio and nature gallery, and photographing in some of the most remote locations in the world. You can view examples of his work at www.davidolsonphoto.com.



Clockwise, from top:

Do You See Me By Joe Powelka Pollinators, Insects, or Bugs: First place

Lupine in the Landscape By Mark Winstead Residential Landscaping: First place.

Blue Splendor in the Mountains By Harold Vastag Scenery: First Place and People's Choice Award





See all the photo contest winners in color at www.wildcertification.org/photocontest2009/.



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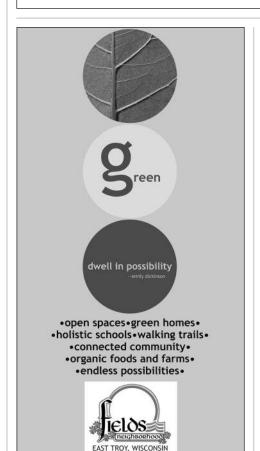
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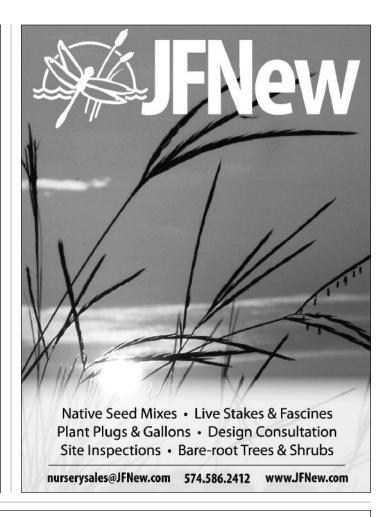
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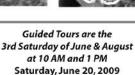
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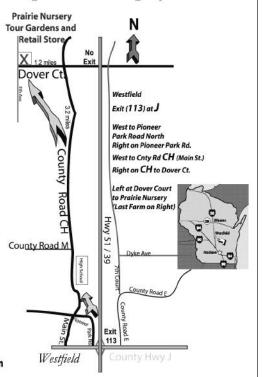
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Meet us online at www.for-wild.org/calendar.html

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Milwaukee Southwest-Wehr Chapter #23

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For information about starting a chapter in your area: www.for-wild.org/chapters.html.

Welcome to our newest Illinois chapter.

Northern Kane County Chapter chartered with twenty-eight members. Pat Hill, June Keibler, and Trish beckjord are copresidents.

Chapter Notes

Annual meetings, refreshments and networking seems to have been the main event for chapter program planning recently.

Marilyn Heneghan, Membership Chair of the Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter wrote: "Our chapter has their potluck and seed exchange in November. It is always fun to have time to visit with others in the group, and we are expecting some new members to attend."

From the Lexington (KY) Chapter, we heard from Vice President **Beate Popkin** and President **Ann Bowe**: "At our November meeting we discussed our favorite native plants. The goal was to generate a list of 'Twenty Tried and True Plants' for central Kentucky based on the preferences of our members and friends. We broke open the wine, and dug into the refreshments at the start of our session, made ourselves comfortable on the assorted couches in our church meeting room, and enjoyed sharing information and stories about our plant experiences - divided into four categories: perennial flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees - the lists were arranged alphabetically by common name, with the scientific name following in parenthesis in order to vote. In the end we decided not to put our choices to a vote in order to generate a list of 'the twenty best plants.' So many good words had been spoken about the plants in the four categories that it seemed unfair to exclude any of them. Moreover, there are many wonderful native plants besides those we discussed. We all came away from our meeting with a renewed appreciation for the horticultural potential of central Kentucky. Once our lively discussion had ended, we enjoyed a slideshow of excellent native plant photographs taken by **Betty Hall** and Beate Popkin - a beautiful sendoff after a most enjoyable meeting. December's meeting will be a holiday potluck."

President **Chris McCullough** of the Greater Cincinnati (OH) Chapter wrote that November's meeting was on "The ABC's of Native Plants," and included a discussion on what is a native plant, what is an invasive plant, how to prepare a site (soil basics), where to get information about natives, and where to buy them – followed by a question-and-answer period. Wild Ones members shared their experiences. Refreshments were organized by **Kathy Kitts**.

Habitat Resource Network of Southeast Pennsylvania (PA) Chapter President **Maureen Carbery** wrote that they held their 2009 Holiday Party Potluck and Annual Meeting with their special guest, Dale Hendricks of North Creek Nurseries. "Gardening for a Hopeful Future: Can we grow beauty and food, preserve clean air, water, and life-giving open space, and sequester carbon?"

Rick Harned, President of the Louisville Metro Chapter wrote: "It's time again for our Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner at the Louisville Nature Center. We'll have the usual excellent fare from our many talented chefs, a brief business meeting (including the election of new officers), and an exciting presentation on green roofs. Bring any questions you've ever had about their value, their benefits, their costs, and their requirements. Cash Moter, of Joseph & Joseph, Architects, will get us all thinking.

Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter will also be holding an end of the year potluck according to President **Susan Bryan**. They like to take the time to look back over the observations of the last growing season, and look forward to a new year, by having members bring slides of their latest observation, project, or trip centered around native plants. Gardening or restoration – it all fits in here, along with their Annual Deep Roots Award, and a quick board election. *

Chapter Milestones

Five years. Ten years. Fifteen years.

By any measure, these milestones mark major achievements on the part of the members and the leadership of some long-time chapters.

We're sure that the people of these chapters are proud of their long association with Wild Ones, and know that they must also be proud of their accomplishments related to native plants and natural landscaping. Keeping any organization going year after year, especially a chapter of a national organization, can only be the result of uncommon amounts of mostly unheralded hard work.

So, here at Wild Ones National, as we move past our own thirtyyear anniversary, we're proud of the dedication shown by all our chapters, and are pleased to extend special congratulations and thanks to everyone associated with these chapters as they move forward to even greater accomplishments.

15 Years

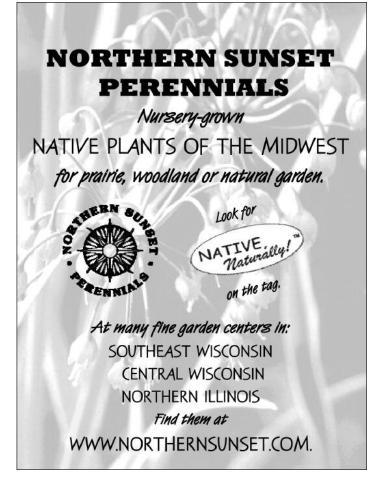
Columbus (OH) Chapter Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter

10 Years

Flint (MI) Chapter Kalamazoo Area (MI) Chapter Oakland (MI) Chapter

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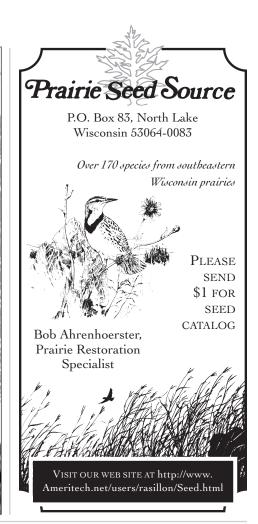
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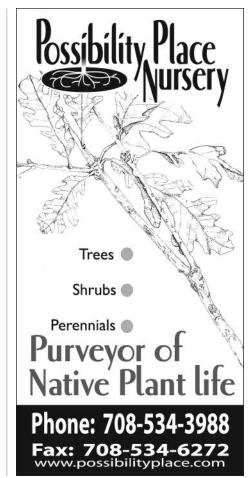
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Upcoming Activities

Saturday, January 30, 2010 Toward Harmony With Nature

14th Annual Natural Landscaping Conference, sponsored by **Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter** of Wild Ones, will be held at the Oshkosh Convention Center in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. In addition to ten featured speakers, there will be exhibitors and vendors of native landscaping organizations, products and services, and a silent auction. Online registration http://harmony14.eventbrite.com. Questions? Call Karen Syverson at 920-987-5587.

Saturday, February 27, 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Design with Nature: Creating healthy communities above and below ground. Spring Conference 2010 will be held at the Radisson Hotel Roseville, 2540 North Cleveland Avenue, Roseville, Minnesota. The St. Croix Oak Savanna (MN) and Twin Cities (MN) chapters of Wild Ones are partnering with the Minnesota Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (MASLA), and "Blue Thumb-Planting for Clean Water" to present this event. Each of the speakers is an author and advocate for renewing the ecosystems that are our yards, gardens and landscapes. Together they will discuss the latest research on symbiotic relationships between native plants and soils, microorganisms, insects, and wildlife. With thoughtful design, these elements work together to create robust landscapes and healthy communities. For additional information call 612-293-3833. \$\frac{\pi}{2}\$

Got some friends who are interested in natural landscaping, but haven't joined Wild Ones yet? Why not invite them to come along to one of these interesting meetings? It just might be the push they need to join our organization.

Join Wild Ones

As part of our **Grow Wild Ones** campaign, we have recently updated, revamped, and reproduced the popular **Wild About Wildflowers** video in DVD format. And now

you can get your own copy at no extra charge when you join Wild Ones or upgrade your existing membership level. See page 3 for full information about this great video.

New Members: Join at any membership level, and get the DVD at no extra cost.

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Joann C. Sustachek, Abbot Lab Employee Giving Campaign 1:1 Root River (WI) Chapter

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Western Reserve (OH) Chapter

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Eileen Metress Toledo (OH) Chapter

 $\boldsymbol{Marilyn}$ D. Jones and $\boldsymbol{Christian}$ Nelson Twin Cities (MN) Chapter $\boldsymbol{In\text{-}Kind}$

From Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter members:

Richard Baehnman Yellow ladyslipper orchids

Rich Winter Books: Native Trees of the SE, Mulch It!, Keeping a Nature Journal

Rich Winter, Kris Kauth, Dave Edwards, Bill Golubeff and grandson, Rich & Pat Fischer, and Lisa Picconi Buckthorn Round-Up work day

Dave Edwards retrenching and laying of sump pump line for winter

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Flint River Chapter toward publication of the *Wild Ones Journal*

Marilyn C. Hansotia toward publication of Janice Stiefel's "Inside Story" Articles Door County (WI) Chapter

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Recent two-month rebates from **Amazon** have amounted to \$159.64, and our annual rebate from **GoodSearch** amounted to \$31 for the year. Remember: anything you purchase from Amazon by going through the Wild Ones Bookstore http://www.for-wild.org/store/bookstore/ gives Wild Ones a small rebate. The same applies for the use of GoodSearch as your search engine. Instead of using Google, use www.goodsearch.com and enter Wild Ones Natural Landscapers Ltd in the "Who do you GoodSearch for" window.