

a voice
for the natural
landscaping
movement



JOURNAL

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



Large milkweed bugs. *Oncopeltus fasciatus*. Photo Credits Charley Eiseman.

A MYSTERY EXPLORED: PART 11 PLANTS AND INSECTS

It's All One Piece

In this series we have been exploring the intricate ways that native plants interact in their native ecosystems, and the roles they play. They are indeed special entities as a result of having co-evolved, over millennia with other local inhabitants. Nothing can replace them in the food chain—in the web of life.

'Finicky' feeders: Specialized insects all around us

By Charley Eiseman

Gardeners have skirted around the edges of the connection but have not quite considered the facts from this perspective. Horticulturists have touted introduced plants that are 'pest free' and 'disease resistant', without asking the necessary questions—why, and what relevance might these attributes have in the larger scheme of things. Entomologists have been aware of the special relationship between plants and insects. They are the ones who have given us the Galerucella beetle that feeds exclusively on purple loosestrife, thereby helping to bring that rampantly invasive plant under control.

Here entomologist Charley Eiseman introduces another reason why Native Plants are important, another way they participate in ecosystem functions.

Most people know that as caterpillars, Monarchs feed exclusively on milkweed leaves. Pretty finicky you might say, but that's only because a lot less attention is paid to the food choices of other insects.

In fact, if you visit your local milkweed patch, you'll find all sorts of other milkweed-specific insects, many of them similarly brightly colored to warn predators of their toxicity. Other insects munching the leaves include milkweed tussock moth caterpillars, milkweed longhorn beetles, milkweed weevils and swamp milkweed leaf beetles. Each of these has its own particular style of feeding. Perhaps the most distinctive is the milkweed longhorn, which bites the leaf's midrib to stop the flow of sticky latex, then is able to eat the tip of the leaf without getting its mouthparts gummed up. The larva of each type of beetle has its own niche: leaf beetle larvae feed openly on the leaves, the weevil larvae

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Every Day is Earth Day



In retrospect, the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, marks the beginning of the modern environmental movement in the United States. It was the precursor of the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. In 1990, Earth Day went global, making people worldwide realize that we all have to work at protecting our environment.

It is hard to imagine that at one time it was acceptable for a chemical company to dispose of toxic chemicals at Love Canal, chemicals that eventually leached into homes, a school and a park. Or that at one time Lake Erie was dying and that the other Great Lakes were threatened by pollution from the steel plants, oil refineries, paper mills, and city sewage plants, which for the previous hundred years had been dumping into the world's largest fresh water system. Or that it was thought perfectly safe for homeowners to pour toxic chemicals on their lawns and yards and then let their kids and pets play in them.

Earth Day came about at a time when people were becoming more aware of environmental concerns. Individuals came together and made a difference for the environment. At that time Lorrie Otto was instrumental in the banning of DDT, first in Wisconsin in 1969 and in the nation in 1972. Then, in 1977, nine people in Milwaukee, Wisconsin attended a natural landscaping workshop led by Lorrie Otto. Lorrie was intent upon "healing the Earth one yard at a time" from the damage caused by DDT. These nine people created Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, and based on Lorrie's philosophy, went about

teaching others about using native plants and natural landscaping. You know the rest of the story.

Today, we can do our part to not only celebrate Earth Day, but to make every day Earth Day. Some folks start out small by incorporating a few native plants into their existing landscapes. As they learn the benefits of native plants, they feel encouraged to quit using pesticides and other harmful chemicals in their yards. For others, Earth Day may prompt them to abruptly give up the habit of chemically dependent landscapes and instead to create healthy habitats in their own yards.

We are not the only voice for landscaping native plants. Others, including our honorary directors, are speaking out about how native plants can heal the Earth. Wild Ones gives the most direct way to accomplish connectivity over large numbers of yards. We are the quickest way to see the vision of Lorrie and others realized. We have the resources others will need and use to reach that vision. 🌱

Tim Lewis, Wild Ones National President (president@wildones.org)

Wild Ones Journal in Color

This issue and the next four are being printed in color, thanks to funding provided by the Wild Ones Gibson Woods (IN) and the Wild Ones Greater DuPage (IL) Chapters. They wanted you to enjoy the colors of nature through the photos that accompany our educational articles. Thank you to the members of these two chapters.

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

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Ecological Restoration of the Niagara Gorge Rim - American side

The Niagara Gorge Restoration Study sponsored by Wild Ones through a grant from the Greenway Ecological Standing Committee and the City of Niagara, received an American Society of Landscape Architects merit award for planning and analysis for the project "Regional Economic Growth through Ecological Restoration of the Niagara Gorge Rim."

The contract was completed by edr Companies from Syracuse, New York. To see a fly-over of the project go to <http://www.edrcompanies.com/ngr/>

Timothy DePriest, Chair of the Niagara Greenway Ecological Standing Committee of the New York DEC/Natural Heritage Trust, has recently informed us that they have received word that New York State is going to remove at least part, if not all, of the Robert Moses Parkway. The entire article is available at:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20130220/CITYANDREGION/130229939/1002>

The Robert Moses Parkway is a very lightly used stretch of highway that runs immediately along the Niagara Gorge, effectively blocking access to some of the area's most spectacular sights—the gorge of the Niagara Falls and the rim of the escarpment along the Niagara River. What better way to showcase native plants and natural landscaping than this tourist hotspot for newly-weds and hopelessly romantic couples!

Wild Ones national Board member Bonnie Harper-Lore who worked with edr Companies to complete the Niagara Gorge study wrote: "Native plant restoration takes planning, careful site preparation, and long term management. In this case, it will also take partnering with the State Parks and the State Department of Transportation along with the entire community. Ultimately success on the ground will depend on choosing plant species that are appropriate to the site, securing an ethical seed and seedling supplier and constantly removing invasive plants." Bonnie and all Wild Ones members wish great success to all the residents of the Niagara greenways. We want them to experience success while protecting their glorious gorge, historic neighborhoods, and their economic future. 🌿



Robert Moses Parkway as it exists now.

Authors & Artists

Charley Eiseman is a naturalist and author (with Noah Charney), of *Track and Sign of Insects and Other Invertebrates*.

Candy Sarikonda is a member of the Wild Ones Oak Openings Region (OH) Chapter, a member of the Wild for Monarchs Committee, and a Monarch Watch Conservation Specialist.

Bonnie Harper-Lore is a Wild Ones PAL member from Minnetonka Minnesota and National Board Member.

Denise Gehring is president of the Wild Ones Oak Openings Region (OH) Chapter and co-chair of the Wild for Monarchs Committee.

Nada Finn has been instrumental in creating a sustainable landscape on a small piece of land in Waukegan (IL) Chapter. She is a member of the Wild Ones Lake-to-Prairie.

Janet Allen, a contributing editor for the *Journal*, she is a member of the Wild Ones Habitat Gardening in Central New York Chapter.

Rick Darke, one of the landscape consultants for the High Line, supplied photos from a coming book *On The High Line: Exploring America's Most Original Urban Park*.

Wendy Walcott has been a member of Wild Ones Milwaukee North (WI) Chapter since 1979.



**Monarch memories last a lifetime.
Plant a native butterfly garden or
Monarch Waystation, and create your
own moments to remember.**

Wild For Monarchs

By Denise Gehring, co-chair Wild Ones Monarchs Committee

They are on their way! The monarchs have taken flight for the spring migration.

For more information go to <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/season/>.

This season, please welcome the butterflies back by planting more milkweed and native nectar plants. Help monarch conservation take flight. If all 3400+ Wild Ones members grow additional milkweed and native nectar plants, we would truly provide considerable support for monarchs and other Lepidoptera, as well as an array of native pollinators.

Wild Ones chapters should try going Wild for Monarchs at spring plant sales and workshops to encourage butterfly gardens or Monarch Watch Waystations. To spark interest, add a photo or two of monarchs and a butterfly garden to your chapter's display board. Or, use a monarch poster for instant conversation. To aid your efforts, use the new brochure Wild Ones Native Butterfly Gardens and Habitats with "how-to" information and plant lists covering most Wild Ones regions. One copy can be printed including your chapter contact information with an email sign-up sheet. You may want to add two more items: Wild Ones Milkweed Basics for cleaning, growing and collecting milkweed, and the Monarch Educational Link list. Have a few Monarch Life Cycle coloring sheets crayons or crossword for children so the adults can take more time to ask questions about landscaping with native plants and Wild Ones. Grouping native plants and seeds into butterfly garden kits or "pollinator pots" is another way to teach and sell more plants. Many chapters take part in Earth Day events; consider outreach at a Cinco de Mayo celebration or host a Pollinator Party using a monarch theme.

With our new slide program, speakers for Wild Ones can easily spread the Wild Ones message and monarch campaign to groups, Biology and Horticulture college classes, farm bureaus, public officials, artists and those interested in gardening, wildlife and habitat restoration like Pheasants Forever or Master Gardeners. They generally know about monarchs, but may not be aware of the population declines and that the monarch migration is now endangered. Community groups and non-profits look for timely programs for their monthly meetings. Elementary school science standards require teaching about life cycles—why not monarchs? You can even suggest they apply for Wild Ones Seeds for Education funding for a school butterfly habitat.

Resources, research and monarch updates are now available through the Wild Ones website, and our partners, Monarch Joint Venture and Monarch Watch's Bring Back the Monarchs program. Even locally sourced milkweed seeds and plants are still available if needed. Later in the season, if you are interested in monarch monitoring, Monarch Joint Venture can help you decide where to volunteer depending on how involved you wish to be.

Periodically check back at wildones.org/land/monarch/ to see what's been added. And most importantly, please share your garden photos, ideas and activities, successes and advice. It's amazing how a simple comment about monarchs at your place of worship, work place, social gathering, or in a post on Facebook can have a real impact for conservation. When your friends ask "What have you been up to lately?" I hope you'll answer something like this, "I've gone Wild for Monarchs! Want to help out?" 🦋

WILD Center Update

Wild Ones is looking forward to participating in the Fox Cities Book Festival will be held April 17-24 at venues from Kaukauna to Neenah, Wisconsin and all points in between including the WILD Center. We are excited to be welcoming several authors to the WILD Center, while at the same time hosting Dr. Doug Tallamy, *Bringing Nature Home*, through a generous grant provided by Wisconsin Energy Corporation Foundation, and Charlotte Adelman, *The Midwestern Native Garden*. Charlotte also wrote *North American Prairie Directory* which Wild Ones gave away as a thank you to our wildest members several years ago. The festival's featured author will be Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods*, and *The Nature Principle*, who will be making six appearances throughout the week.

Then on April 27th, 2013, we will be hosting our third annual (make-your-own) rain barrel workshop. We are grateful that the members of Fox Valley Area Chapter continue to provide volunteer support for these activities sponsored by Wild Ones national at the WILD Center.

Annual Appeal Challenge /Match Donations

Thank you to everyone who has already accepted the matching challenge issued with the 2012-2013 Wild Ones Annual Appeal. You have set a milestone for us. We are so deeply proud and so deeply appreciative of you all.

Here is an update on where we are with regard to the appeal. There isn't space to name everyone in this issue. We will properly recognize your generosity in a future issue of the Journal.

Member & Chapter Donations

| | |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| SFE Donations | \$ 1,843 |
| HQ & WILD Center Development Donations | \$ 1,665 |
| General Operations Donations | \$ 611 |
| Matching Challenge | \$ 8,673 |
| Total Donations | \$12,792 |

Chapter Matching Donations Pledged/Received

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Gibson Woods Chapter--Journal | \$ 1,500 |
| Greater DuPage Chapter--Journal | \$ 3,000 |
| Rock River Valley Chapter | \$ 1,000 |
| - Website & Wild for Monarchs | |
| Twin Cities chapter--General Operations | \$ 1,000 |
| St Louis Chapter - Website | \$ 1,200 |
| Red Cedar Chapter - SFE | \$ 1,000 |
| Fox Valley Area Chapter | \$ 1,200 |
| - General Operations | |
| Habitat Gardening of Central NY | \$ 360 |
| - General Operations | |
| Total Matching | \$10,260 |
| Grand Total | \$23,052 |

Create a bit of Forest floor: It's a good time to think about adding new natural areas to your yard. Are there places where you can create a "no pick-up" place for leaves as you do your usual Spring clean-up? You may see some grass growing through for a while, but it soon will be smothered out as a "forest floor" is created. Make a distinction between the "no pick-up" zone and the lawn. Do this by digging a three inch edging around the new area to make it look more purposeful. In just one year you will notice trees sprouting in the new mulch and numerous insects will be scurrying about attracting a wider variety of songbirds to your yard. - Ideas from the Environmental Conservation Newsletter of the Molzon Landscape Nursery in Lincroft, New Jersey 1995

Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over, it turned into a butterfly – Unknown

"Without Milkweeds there can be no monarchs" - Douglas W. Tallamy

Host Plants for Monarchs:

Monarch larvae feed exclusively on milkweeds. Plant at least ten individual milkweed plants in your butterfly garden. Choose at least two different species. Wild Ones recommends you include common milkweed since it is the Monarch's preferred species of milkweed. It may grow into large clumps, but if there is room in your garden, please include it.

These are the native milkweed species that are recommended by Monarch Watch, Wild Ones and the North American Butterfly Association for the northeast monarch migration region:

Common Milkweed (*A. syriaca*)
Swamp Milkweed (*A. incarnata*)
Butterfly Milkweed (*A. tuberosa*)
Purple Milkweed (*A. purpurascens*)
Prairie Milkweed (*A. sullivantii*)
Whorled Milkweed (*A. verticillata*)
Poke Milkweed (*A. exaltata*)

Nectar and Pollen plants: Be sure to plant a variety native plants besides milkweed to ensure three season availability of nectar and pollen for all butterflies and pollinating insects.

For information and plant lists specific to your region, please contact your nearest Wild Ones chapter or visit our national website: wildones.org

To order your own Monarch Waystation sign, go to monarchwatch.org

To order your own Wild Ones Butterfly Garden Sign or upload photos to the Wild Ones DropBox, go to wildones.org/land/monarch/ or contact monarch@wildones.org

Local Wild Ones Chapter Contact Information: wildones.org/chapters/

Announcing the 2013 Wild Ones Photo Contest.

Photos will be judged by a professional photographer and Wild Ones Members will vote for the People's Choice Award. Please check the website for updated procedures and guidelines at www.wildones.org/members/photos.

Deadline is August 31, 2013



The Saga of 128 N West Street

by Nada Finn



Before: 2007-2008

My husband and I purchased the property at 128 N. West Street, Waukegan IL in 1998. This house was built as a private residence in 1893 (recently officially designated an historic building by the Waukegan Historical Society), but is now zoned commercial and residential. It needed new windows and roof; it needed paint; the front porch was rickety; the siding needed to be replaced; but it was conveniently located on the west side of Waukegan's downtown, one block from city hall and the Lake County government buildings. The house was to be my husband's law office.

Restoration of the house began in 2002, its external appearance in keeping with the Historical Society's requirements. In 2009, the law practice was reorganized with three attorneys, one of them our daughter—hence the Finn and Finn on the final sign. The building is also home to two non-profits that our family founded: WAGS (Waukegan Animals Getting Saved) created by our daughter to work with local Animal Control to aid animals in need of medical attention; and GreenTOWN Waukegan, created in 1995 by my husband as a community improvement organization.

During that time, I had become interested in community gardening and urban agriculture. With encouragement from GreenTOWN, the decision was reached to make our office building a model for better stewardship of our earth, with a greener approach to landscaping using native plants. Additional motivation for restructuring the yard came up every time it rained. The parking lot, convenient to the front entrance, became Lake Finn. I began dreaming of a rain garden in the front yard, replacing the traditional yews, of which I was not inordinately fond.

I met David Hussemoeller of EarthWild Gardens and Dan Krill of DK Environmental in 2005 and by 2007 we were discussing taking out existing plants in the front yard and replacing them with natives. They discussed with me the pros and cons of this project, and what I would gain by eliminating lawn care and maintenance costs. We discussed the drainage problem, and talked about a rain garden. By fall David and Dan had presented plans, dividing the landscaping project into three parts: front yard in 2008; south side of the house,



After: 2012

adjacent to the parking lot, in 2009; and the backyard later. While working around the back entrance of the building, I wanted to think about incorporating into the design several raised beds for growing vegetables and herbs.

At the end of 2007, I submitted an application for the 2008 Illinois Rainwater Grant. I presented our plans, drawings and plant lists.

In the spring of 2008, I was gratified to receive \$500 for construction of our rain garden, and we were ready to break ground. Literally.



Fall 2008, after a summer's growth.

Men and machines came and removed the turf and the mature yews. Phase one planting followed, with a native plant rain garden installed in front of the house, and more natives planted between the sidewalk and the parking lot. The rest of the summer I watered and weeded. David and Dan stopped by periodically to check the plantings.

The following spring we removed the large yews and the sod on the south side, between the house and the parking lot. More watering and weeding ensued, but the summer was a hot one and some of the plants did not make it. David was diligent and replaced them.

The plants in front of the house did well in this, their second, year. Since they had been planted as second-year plugs, they were mature enough to bloom and set seed.

In the fall, I had the pleasure of *not* removing them, but intentionally letting them stand for the birds, the insects and other wildlife. It was a glorious feeling to be able to do that.

In 2010, we installed three raised beds in the office back yard, planting them with a variety of vegetables and herbs. In the fall, for the first time, I collected seeds in the front yard, to use elsewhere in the yard or to give away! What a feeling! And we've continued this practice each fall, then leaving the plants standing—for the wildlife.

In the spring of 2011, I planted potatoes in the three raised beds, looking forward to 'hilling' them and harvesting young potatoes for summer meals. A storm brought down five large trees in the back yard. We replaced them with five small fruit trees.



Fall 2012: along a flag-stone path from front steps to parking lot.

In Lake County, we have a non-profit group called Conserve Lake County that helps people apply more eco-friendly landscaping practices on their own private lawns and gardens, working toward cleaner water, richer soils, and more resilient ecosystems. They provide how-to information and offer free consultation visits to assist home owners in incorporating eco-features in their yards. They say: "Lake County is our home. Like you, we believe that keeping nature healthy is essential to keeping this a great place to live, work, play, and raise a family. A place for people and wildlife. Working together, we can make a difference."

Conserve Lake County also has a program called Conservation@Home. Home owners may apply for an assessment of the state of their yard, with a view toward having their yard certified as eco-friendly. The program uses a points system to establish certification, revolving around a property owner's use of native plants, lawn care practices, dedication to soil health and clean water, support of wildlife, and removal of invasive species.

I applied for this assessment and later in 2012 the yard received certification and a plaque, the first business to be so certified in Lake County.

I did not embark upon a path of creating a more natural environment in this space with the idea of winning an award or being certified for my efforts. If anything, I wanted to leave footprints for others to follow, to inspire others to help play a bigger role in improving our collective ecological well-being. If everyone came to realize that conservation truly starts in one's own backyard, it wouldn't take long to make a tremendous difference in our shared quality of life.

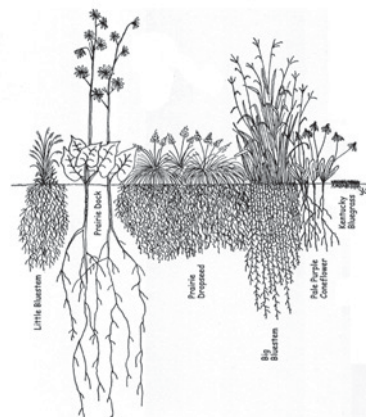
The certification is good for five years, but I can't see ever going back to a lawn with yew shrubs. I feel like I've accomplished something sustainable, and I intend to keep it that way. 🐾

Great Stuff at the Wild Store



Wild Ones Sweatshirts

When the weather is cook, you can't beat a Wild Ones sweatshirt. Available in several colors and styles, with the Wild Ones logo. Some have the "Roots" drawing, and some have "Yesterday's Lawn, Tomorrow's Habitat." Pricing varies.



Long-Sleeve Roots T-Shirts

The roots of native plants grow deep, and here's a great way to show off that important fact. Display your "wildness" with "Roots" on front, and the Wild Ones logo on the back. Cool and unique. \$22



Order Online

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

Native plants elevated to new heights

By Janet Allen



Photos by Rick Darke from *On The High Line: Exploring America's Most Original Urban Park*

This park setting is growing in 18 inches of soil, 30 feet above the streets of Manhattan. The grass is Prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*). Sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*) and umbrella magnolia (*M. tripetala*) remain green in this fall scene, while the blazing reds and oranges are provided by Sassafras trees (*Sassafras albidum*) and several species of serviceberry (*Amelanchier*).

Imagine railroad tracks running through the streets of Manhattan, as they indeed did in the mid-1800s. Soon 10th Avenue became known as Death Avenue for its many accidents, and cowboys rode in front of the trains waving red flags. So in the 1930s, they built the 13-mile-long High Line, elevating trains 30 feet above Manhattan's streets. It was built to last. But in the 1950s, as interstate trucking increased, rail traffic decreased, and in 1980 the last freight train traveled the High Line.

What do you do with an abandoned 30-foot-high elevated railway running through your city?

Although owners of the land under the High Line lobbied for its demolition, activists who wanted the land returned to public use formed Friends of the High Line, and in 2002 the City of New York agreed to reuse part of the High Line as an elevated public park. The City of New York owns this 1.5 mile section of the original High Line, and Friends of the High Line operates and maintains it.

People proposed a variety of ideas for the park, such as creating a very long swimming pool or a roller coaster, but (fortunately) the winning submission featured extensive landscaping, public art, and magnificent views of the New York skyline. In 2006, they lifted the first rail track and began construction. Section 1 of the High Line opened in 2009, Section 2 in 2011, and the Friends are currently

advocating for a third and final section.

THE PARK

The park blends plantings with long, narrow walkways. Special features include many of the original rails, a water feature, viewing platforms, a sundeck, and gathering areas used for performances, art exhibitions and educational programs. The park is open until 10 pm, and an elevator makes the entire High Line wheelchair-accessible.

The planting beds themselves are off-limits to visitors, but people can walk, play, and picnic in Section 2's lawn, although throwing Frisbees or other objects is prohibited. Unlike some public parks, dogs are not allowed, in part because dog urine would run off into the soil and harm the plants, and in part because dogs would overcrowd the narrow path.

The High Line nevertheless benefits other creatures. As its "Ask a Gardener" column says, "What we have found is: if you build it, they will come." A wealth of birds have visited including juncos, song sparrows, catbirds, house sparrows, robins, barn swallows and a few warblers, as well as a variety of pollinators.

SUSTAINABILITY

Since the High Line re-purposes industrial infrastructure as public green space, it's inherently "green," but it also incorporates many other sustainable practices. Its green

roof technology provides the same benefits as actual green roofs, its timbers came from a managed forest certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, and its lighting system uses energy-efficient LEDs. They minimize water use by using drip irrigation and hand watering, and they'll use even less water once the plants are established. They're creating on-site composting of garden waste and may eventually also include food waste from nearby businesses. They use no pesticides or chemical fertilizers and are developing an Integrated Pest Management program to address any future problems. And in winter, hand shoveling and power brooms reduce its dependence on rock salt or chemicals.

THE LANDSCAPING

During the 25 years after the end of freight traffic, the High Line became known for the wild beauty of its self-seeded landscape of tough, drought-tolerant wild grasses, shrubs, and trees growing in the gravel along the railway—a swath of green enlivening the gray city. Its diversity reflected the variety of its microclimates. Areas sheltered by buildings developed thick vegetation – even groves of trees and shrubs – in deep, water-retaining soils; drought-resistant grasses and wildflowers dominated windy areas near the Hudson River.

Although during construction they removed the plants and everything else down to the steel and concrete, that self-seeded landscape and its many diverse microclimates inspired the final design of the park's landscape, and many of those wild species that had previously grown up on the High Line's rail bed, have been replanted.

Unlike some ornamental gardens, they leave plants in place throughout the winter to show off their seedpods and fruits, winter forms, and fall and winter colors, cutting them down in the spring to prepare for new growth. The Friends publish a monthly bloom list with names and full-color photos to help visitors identify and appreciate the plants.

Plant species were chosen for their hardiness, sustainability, texture, and color. Invasive species were excluded, and native species were favored. How many natives? In Section 1, 161 of the 210 plants species were reported to be native to New York, and overall, about 50% of the plants are native to New York and about 30% native to the Northeast. However, many of the natives are cultivars.

A PERSPECTIVE

Inspecting the plant list and seeing quite a few non-natives and quite a few cultivars of natives, I at first questioned whether this was a landscape Wild Ones would appreciate. A conversation with Dave Mitchell, one of our HGCNY WO members, though, made me reconsider.

Here are some of the points Dave made:

This park provides an opportunity for people to spend time outdoors in an environment that is pleasing largely because of the presence of a diversity of plants, many of them native. People can stroll alone or together on a walkway that provides a good walking surface, and yet close to plants.

The design of the High Line appears to have taken into account other natural human desires, including places to sit, grassy areas where it is permitted to sit or lie on the grass (but, like in some park areas in Paris, where there is a rotation of access to allow recovery times for the turf), and places where the walkway is either well below or well above the plantings, to provide varied views, and to prevent people walking on the plantings.

This kind of arrangement, where the plants are close enough to see and touch, but at the same time are protected from potential damage by large numbers of people walking on them, seems to work well in this urban setting.

In contrast, a nearby central New York effort to include native plants has plantings that are all nearly at street level (only raised by a curb), and consist often of patches of monocultures of short plants. These include natives, like blueberries and three-toothed cinquefoil, which are already suffering from people taking shortcuts across the planting beds.

Most important, many native plants are used in an urban environment, displaying both their beauty and their utility and toughness, and the plantings include both woody plants and perennial forbs and grasses. In contrast, most municipal parks have only woody trees/bushes, grass, and annual flowers, which are less natural habitats and of course use fewer native plants.

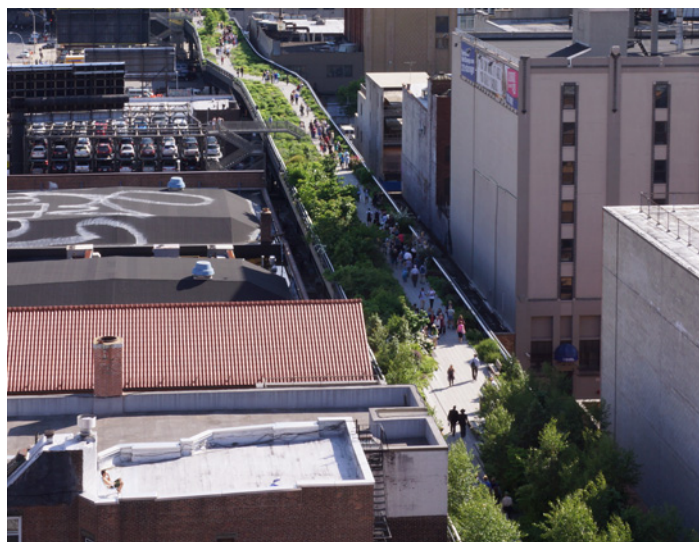
The plantings on the High Line stimulate interest in both the specific plants used and in the basic design characteristics. More gardening with native perennials and greater diversity in urban environments will be encouraged, be they private roof gardens, public parks, or commercial building landscaping. Ultimately there may need to be more commercial enterprises hired to plant and care for the High Line properties. In the process information about sources of plants and methods to maintain them, will spread.

These are compelling arguments!

BEYOND THE HIGH LINE

Although successful urban projects are place-specific, this project is a hopeful general model of industrial reuse and sustainable practices for other cities around the world. As Joshua David, one of the founders of the Friends of the High Line, said, "...It became a great example of how a community can work together to define what's important to them for their neighborhood." Added Edward Norton, also of the Friends, "One of the most beautiful things about this whole story is that it shows you that things that ought to be, can be if you just have the will to pursue them."

The author has not visited the High Line. Information is from the High Line website at www.thehighline.org and a National Geographic article at <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/04/ny-high-line/goldberger-text>.



develop inside the stem, and those of the longhorn feed on the roots.

In addition to these insects with chewing mouthparts, various beaked insects suck milkweed juices, including large and small milkweed bugs (two distinct species) and at least three species of aphids. There are also two midge species (mosquito-like flies) that develop in galls (insect-induced deformities) on milkweed; one causes stem swellings, and another distorts the leaves. And then there are leaf-mining fly larvae that create large, discolored blotches as they feed inside the leaves.

This type of host specificity is by no means unique to milkweed-feeding insects. In fact, the majority of herbivorous insects are very particular about what plants they feed on, and it seems that just about every kind of plant has a whole array of interesting creatures that are particular to it.

For example, consider oaks, the dominant trees in many local forests. There are hundreds of different insects that are found on them and on nothing else. Some of the most intriguing are the gall wasps, each species of which lays its eggs in a particular part of a particular type of oak, producing a characteristic gall in which its larvae develop. One species forms big white pom-poms with red polka dots on white oak twigs, another distorts red oak leaves to produce hollow galls resembling ping-pong balls, while a third produces hard, apple-like galls on the sides of acorns. Many of these galls are deciduous: they drop to the ground before the adult wasps emerge. The larvae in some galls have other interesting tricks like secreting honeydew, a sweet, sticky substance that attracts ants, which in turn defend them against parasites.



Wool sower gall, specific to white oaks, is induced by secretions of the grubs of a small gall wasp (*Callirhytis seminator*).

Opportunities to observe these plant-insect interactions are all around us. Last spring, while waiting for a friend in a parking lot, I peeked under some sycamore leaves and found a tiny caterpillar that clears the fuzz off the leaf underside and makes a big pile of it to hide in. Walking down a sidewalk nearby, I found a colony of ragweed-specific beetles (isn't it nice to know that something eats ragweed?) in various stages of development; many were pupating in lacy cocoons, which is very unusual for a beetle. Later that day, at the edge of a nearby forest, I

discovered a beautiful, rectangular mesh cocoon belonging to a moth whose caterpillar feeds only on aspen.

There is a larger significance to all this specificity. Each kind of plant has a set of organisms that have evolved with it and depend on it for survival. Plants that have been in North America for a long time tend to have far more associated organisms than those that were introduced recently. In fact, a big part of why some plants become "invasive" is the relative scarcity of host-specific herbivores and pathogens in their new habitat.



This is an elaborate cocoon of a tiny moth (*Wockia asperipunctella*) whose caterpillar feeds only on aspen leaves.

If you look mainly at birds and mammals, it might not be clear why the widespread replacement of native plants by exotic ones would be an issue: the dense thickets formed by such non-native species as multiflora rose and Eurasian honeysuckles in New England can be great habitat for cottontails, bobcats and veeries (a type of thrush), because these animals are responding mainly to habitat structure rather than to species composition. And many exotic plants spread precisely because vertebrate animals eat the fruits and then excrete the seeds elsewhere.

But the spread of exotic species with few specific feeders has consequences for vertebrates as well. The whole reason migratory birds come north every spring is to take advantage of all the insect food that is suddenly abundant during the growing season. Not all insects eat plants, of course, but it seems likely that having a larger proportion of the landscape occupied by recently introduced (exotic) plants leads to a smaller insect population, reducing the food supply not just for birds but for the insectivorous mammals, reptiles and amphibians that are themselves food for larger animals.

Some sound advice: **Plant locally native plants to feed a diversity of creatures.**

Editor's Note: Charley Eiseman is a naturalist and author. His first book, *Tracks and Sign of Insects and Other Invertebrates*, which he co-authored with Noah Charney, won the 2010 National Outdoor Book Award and was named an Outstanding Academic Title by Choice Magazine. For more information about Eiseman and his work, or to check out his natural history blog, visit www.charleyeiseman.com. 🐛

Monarch Matters

By Candy Sarikonda

A major anniversary in the history of monarch research is upon us this month. January 2 marks the 38th anniversary of the day the monarch's overwintering grounds in Mexico first became known to western science. This discovery was announced in the August 1976 issue of National Geographic magazine. The cover features a photo of Catalina Trail (known as Cathy Aguado back then) covered in monarch butterflies. So what is the history behind this photo?



Monarch's with wing tags. Photo Credit: Candace Sarikonda

The story begins with Dr. Fred Urquhart of the University of Toronto and his wife Norah. Using a tagging system the Urquharts themselves developed, Dr. Urquhart had spent almost 40 years affixing small labels to the wings of monarch butterflies in order to track their southward migration. By placing ads in newspapers in Mexico and the U.S., the Urquharts were able to enlist the help of thousands of citizen volunteers to help tag monarch butterflies in an effort to discover where the monarchs were spending the winter months. As a result of these tagging efforts, Dr. Urquhart was able to determine that the monarchs were most likely spending the winter somewhere in Mexico, in the state of Michoacan. Norah Urquhart placed an ad in a Mexico City newspaper, asking for volunteers to be "research associates" and help them discover where the monarchs were spending the winter. Kenneth Brugger, an engineer working in Mexico City, and his partner Catalina Aguado, a native of Mexico, answered the ad. They began searching for the monarch colonies in 1973, travelling on weekends and asking locals if they had noticed any monarch butterflies nearby. Catalina had grown up a mere 120 miles from where the monarch overwintering sites would eventually be discovered, and her familiarity with the local culture and language was of great value in finding the monarchs. The Urquharts realized that Catalina and Kenneth Brugger were getting closer and closer to finding the monarchs, and they began reimbursing the newly-married Bruggers for their traveling expenses in 1974. The Bruggers hired a local guide to help them as

they hiked, searching mountain sides looking for the monarchs. Finally, on January 2, 1975, Catalina, Ken and their guide came upon millions of monarchs roosting at Cerro Pelon. A few days later, they discovered Chincua and El Rosario. Ken called Dr. Urquhart on January 9 to relay the news that they had found the colonies. A full year later the Urquharts and photographer Bianca Lavies joined Kenneth and Catalina in Mexico to visit the roosting sites. It was then that Bianca snapped the photo of Catalina, which graced the cover of the August 1976 edition of National Geographic magazine.

Amazingly that same day, as Dr. Urquhart viewed the overwintering home of his beloved monarchs for the very first time, a tree branch above him snapped and fell to the ground. Dr. Urquhart bent over to see the monarchs that spilled from it, and there on the ground was a butterfly with a white tag! He had stumbled on a butterfly tagged by two schoolboys, Dean Boen and Jim Street, and their teacher Jim Gilbert. The butterfly had been tagged in a field of goldenrod in Chaska, MN. After 40 long years, the Urquharts tagging efforts had finally paid off—here was proof that the eastern monarchs were migrating to Mexico! See ngm.nationalgeographic.com/1976/08/monarch-butterflies/Urquhart-text/5



Monarch butterflies in wintering habitat. Photo Credit: Don Davis, Monarch Butterfly Fund

Today, the tagging efforts of monarch researchers continue. Through Monarch Watch's tagging program, we continue to learn more about the migratory behavior of the monarch butterfly. Tagging helps identify main migration pathways, the regions of best monarch production, and survivability based on latitude/longitude and date. Analyzing tag recovery records has enabled researchers to determine the peak migration dates for a given latitude. Tagging also helps document changes in migratory behavior as a result of climate change.

This coming fall, you can join thousands of other citizen scientists by participating in the Monarch Watch tagging program. For more on this program, visit monarchwatch.org/tagmig/index.htm

Happy monarching! Candy Sarikonda. 🦋

All the pretty grasses

By Bonnie Harper-Lore

Not all grasses are pleasing, some need caution tags!

Since early settlement, many non-native grasses have been introduced to the United States purposefully or accidentally. Some were shipped here for new pastures or erosion control, others hitch-hiked within bags of crop

seed or packing materials. No matter how they arrived, the worrisome thing is that grasses tend to look alike to most people. Without a magnifying lens in hand, they are difficult to distinguish even by trained field botanists. As gardeners we must rely on trustworthy sources and plant identification tags, if you can find them. Some escapees are already on noxious weed lists because they invade wetlands and woodlands, yet they are still being sold.

Here are four grasses some gardeners intentionally planted in recent years, as garden perennials, ornamentals, and erosion control before each grass went rogue. As pretty and popular as these grasses are, gardeners be cautious! Each performs easily but produces a lot of wind-blown seed and spreads vegetatively beyond city limits.

Pampas grass - (*Cortaderia selloana*) is a plumed grass, native to the Pampas—lowland plains in South America, introduced via the horticultural trade as an ornamental and erosion control in the 1940s. Its close relative, *C. jubata* offers taller plumes, and is even more aggressive in California and the Southeast.

Chinese Silvergrass - (*Miscanthus sinensis*) is native to eastern Asia. It appears to escape gardens quite easily. I have watched its spread from gardens along roadsides into parks and then wetlands. It spreads by rhizomes but also is easily moved by grass mowers. Grows to 15 feet.

Cogongrass - (*Imperata cylindrica*) is native to east and southeast Asia, including India and Australia. It is already on the Federal Noxious Weed List for its growth habits in the southeastern states, and considered one of the world's worst weeds. Cultivars, used as ornamentals, like Red Baron or Japanese Bloodgrass, are more familiar in the northern states. At this time, they have not spread beyond gardens, but are of concern and cultivation is not recommended.

Fountain grass - (*Pennisetum setaceum*) is an introduced perennial bunch grass that is native to open, scrubby habitats in East Africa, tropical Africa, Middle East and SW Asia. First used in Tucson landscaping in 1940, this grass continues to escape from ornamental cultivation. Its flowers appear purple at first, then change to white as they mature, producing abundant seed. Cultivars cannot guarantee sterility. Since 2009 this grass has been widely described as invasive in the Southwest and Southeast. 🌿



Pampas grass: This pretty South American perennial outcompetes natives. It is a fire hazard and difficult to control. Many cultivars are still sold. It grows to 12' - 15' tall.



Chinese Silvergrass: An Asian ornamental clump grass with hundreds of cultivars. Spreads via rhizomes, tillering and wind-blown seed. Introduced in the 1800's, more recently becoming a pest.



Cogongrass: An Asian perennial grass that tolerates shade, salinity and drought. It reproduces vegetatively and from wind-blown seed and contaminated soils. This grass forms thick stands that fuel fires, while displacing native wildlife habitat.



Fountaingrass: An African perennial grass that tolerates a wide range of soils and moisture. Seed is easily dispersed by wind, water and humans. This grass also fuels fires and quickly recolonizes after fire

For More Information:

CISM.org - The Center for Invasive Species Management contains a wealth of information including: detailed species information, latest news, policy, education resources for all ages, national links, publications and partnerships, job postings, and funding options.

Invasive.org - The Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health species by species information is deep and easy to find. This site links to EDDMapS.org showing national distribution maps with an APP for your own mapping. It includes the renowned Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE).

MIPN.org - clearinghouse of invasive species information you can use. nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/ - fact sheets: origin, habitat, identification characteristics, method of spread, and control compiled by the Plant Conservation Alliance (interagency and private sector partners). Grants available.

plants.gov - USDA with descriptions, U.S./Canada distribution maps, images and weed listings and links to more information.



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Annual Meeting / Chapter Workshops Announcement

The Wild Ones national Board has recommended that the Annual Membership Meeting and Chapter Workshops again be held at the WILD Center in Neenah, Wisconsin. Mark your calendars for August 16, 17 and 18 and plan to join us for some good spirited discussion, some great Wisconsin food and lots of fun. If you have any ideas of topics or discussion items, please e-mail marketing@wildones.org.

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Donna & John VanBuecken, Battery-operated drill, Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter

Zachary Weber, Completed work in the Wild Ones Library, Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter

Kathleen Renowden, Variety of butterfly garden seeds, Madison (WI) Chapter

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There are many ways you can help Wild Ones promote environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities – including financial support or volunteering your time. You can choose to provide additional support in various ways. Which of these might work for you?

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Annual gifts, in addition to membership fees, provide critical ongoing resources to support daily operations and enable Wild Ones to carry out its mission throughout the year.

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Members 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. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

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Donors who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more are honored through this leadership circle program, and are provided with special benefits such as special viewing days at the soon-to-be Wild Ones headquarters and a 10 percent discount on items at the Wild Store.

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Employee Matching Gift Program

Many companies and organizations match employee contributions, greatly increasing the impact of a charitable gift to Wild Ones. Please contact your human resources office for further information.

Special Gifts and Heritage

Contact the Wild Ones Executive Director for further information about the **Wild Ones Legacy Program** which includes making gifts of 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. The Legacy Program (see opposite page) also can include bequests, charitable gift annuities, trusts, and other planned giving vehicles which provide significant support to Wild Ones while also benefiting the donors and their families.

Volunteer

More than 4,500 people annually volunteer their time and energy for land conservation, community garden plantings, and other chapter and national Wild Ones activities. Please consider becoming a "plants-roots" partner with Wild Ones.

Lifetime Members

Lifetime members have shown a long-term commitment to the Wild Ones mission and its goals.

Gift Memberships

One of the easiest ways to advocate and help others who are not already Wild Ones members learn about the benefits of using native plants in their landscaping is to give them a gift membership.

For more information on supporting Wild Ones, contact Donna VanBuecken, Executive Director, Wild Ones, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, Wisconsin 54912-1274, 877-394-9453 (toll free), excdirector@wildones.org, or visit our web site at www.wildones.org/.



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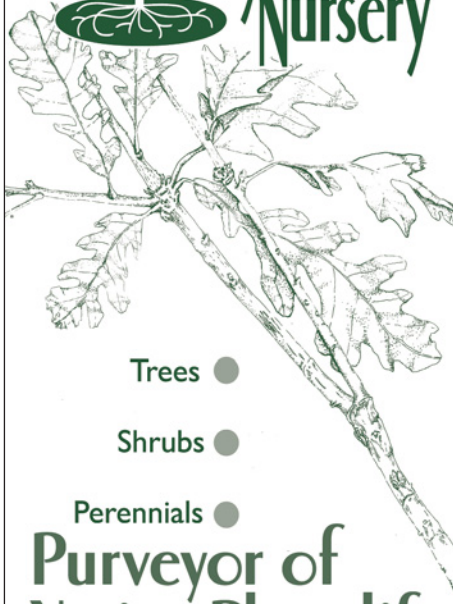
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Mark Your Calendars

Mar 02, 2013 (Sat)

The Design with Nature conference "Reading Our Landscape" will be presented by the Wild Ones Twin Cities and St. Croix Oak Savannah Chapters at the Plymouth Creek Center. Former national Honorary Director Bonnie Harper-Lore will be one of the speakers. www.DesignWithNatureConference.org

Mar 09, 2013 (Sat)

Botanist and author Tim Spira will be a featured speaker at Wild Ones Tennessee Valley's second annual Native Plant and Natural Landscaping symposium in the Chattanooga State Humanities Auditorium.
<http://www.chattanooganatives.blogspot.com/>

Apr 6, 2013 (Sat)

Green Thumb Living conference, will be hosted by Wild Ones Affiliate member Green Lake Conference Center and held at the Center in Green Lake, Wisconsin.
Email ValariePowell@glcc.org for more information.

Apr 17, 2013 (Wed)

Fox Cities Book Festival will be held April 17-24 at venues from Kaukauna to Neenah, Wisconsin and all points in between including the WILD Center. See page 4 for details.



Remember to use the Wild Ones portal when making purchases from Amazon.com Wild Ones earned \$1,022.07 in rebate fees from member purchases during 2012.
Go to www.wildones.org/store/bookstore

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

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Northfield Prairie Partners (MN) 2 years
Oak Openings Region (OH) 6 years
Mid-Mitten (MI) 7 years
Wolf River (WI) 9 years
Red Cedar (MI) 11 years
Twin Cities (MN) 12 years
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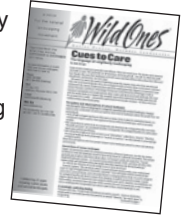
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Pretty Packages no substitute for patience, local seeds

By Wendy Walcott

Advertisers know that the toughest temptation to resist is the promise of instant satisfaction. Inexpensive seed packets with colorful photos of western annuals are accompanied by "easy" directions. Cheap and labeled "Midwestern" or "part-sun" or "damp area mix" — how much can you lose? They appear in catalogues of both seed and outdoorsy clothing. There are conventional landscapers who try to satisfy customer demand by buying common, western seeds and installing them at inflated prices.

Because of bright annuals, some of these plantings can be attractive, at least at first. They may even produce a second-year carpet of black-eyed Susans, if the preparation has been careful. But the long-term perennials, suited to the environment, are mostly missing. One problem for preservationists is the introduction of non-local genotypes: if our stiff coreopsis is already scarce, it may disappear when a more vigorous western strain appears nearby. Native landscapers worry about the berms of bull thistle and curly dock; the patches of Old World pasture grass sparsely dotted with non-hardy annuals; and three years later, the monocultures of alien daisies, yarrow, or Queen Anne's lace that are left. The promise of maintenance-free and ecologically sound beauty has not become reality, and the disappointed sower may cut it down and go back to grass, this time for good!

The truth is, creating a little piece of self-sustaining ecosystem is not easy. After all, it has taken many years and millions of dollars in mowing machines, earth-movers, herbicides, and public works salaries, to eliminate almost all the native habitat from road and trackside, field and suburb. Why should all that diversity come back overnight, at low cost? Restoration takes time and knowledge. Local native seed is expensive because it's difficult to collect. Diversity is essential to success, but unpredictable. When a planting is done right from the start, however, the payoff comes after three or four years, when enough different flowers and grasses have succeeded to provide interest at all seasons, and no one species has been able to dominate all others.

To successfully change lawn to "prairie meadow" there are three essential requirements: realistic expectations (wet clay grows tall plants, dry sand grows short ones); good preparation of a truly weed-free planting area; and a seed mix of at least two - three dozen species which are exactly suited to the area and balanced between nurse species and pioneer, early succession and climax species. Coming up with such a mix demands knowledge of the local environment and experience with native plant needs that cannot be approached by any "magic in burlap" or "meadow-in-a-can" type mix. -

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