

a voice  
for the natural  
landscaping  
movement



## JOURNAL

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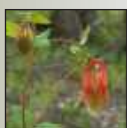
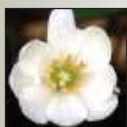
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Working toward our next  
30 years restoring native plants  
and natural landscapes.



Magnolia warbler. Barely visible whiskers help him herd insects into his mouth.

Photo credit Jack Bartholomai

### Bed & Breakfast for Migrant Birds

By Mariette Nowak

Every spring, I wait in anticipation for my oaks to come alive with wood warblers. First to arrive are usually the Yellow-rumped Warblers, followed by the Palms, the Black-and-whites, and others. Most of these colorful "butterflies of the bird world" are headed for breeding grounds as far north as the Arctic and, in fall, as far south as the Amazon in South America. I'm delighted I can offer them a "bed & breakfast" for a few days and get the chance to marvel at their song and beauty.

Many ornithologists believe that migration can be one of the most hazardous of times for migrants. Mortality rates for wood warblers may be 15 times higher in migration than during wintering and breeding periods. For adult Black-throated Blue Warblers, the mortality rates can reach 85% during migration.

Tens of millions of migrants fly 600 miles or more over the Gulf of Mexico during their travels before arriving on the shores of the southeastern states. Birds in the western states must fly many long hours over the Chihuahuan Desert before finding rest and sustenance. And their continuing migration over the rest of the country is becoming ever more difficult, as we pave over more and more of the land with our homes, farms and industrial parks.

Birds need enormous amounts of energy for migration. Some warblers, like the Blackpoll Warbler, need to nearly double their weight to survive the rigors of migration. By providing "stopovers" for birds, we can help them refuel and fatten up for further flying, helping to ensure that they will arrive safely on their breeding grounds and healthy enough to breed.

The oaks in my yard harbor great numbers of small caterpillars for warblers and other migrants. Oaks, in fact, are ranked as the best group of plants for birds and other wildlife across the entire country, hosting 532 species of butterflies and moths, whose caterpillars are a staple food for many migrants. The spring-arriving hummingbirds search for my columbines, the earliest flowering nectar plant in my garden.

In the fall, the dogwoods and viburnums in my yard are filled with fruits devoured by thrushes, grosbeaks, catbirds and other songbirds as they head south, many as far as Central and South America. The seeds on my prairie grasses and wildflowers help fuel the migration of seed-eating finches and sparrows, while in my wetlands, the jewelweed - the last nectar plant of the season - fattens up hummingbirds for their travels to Mexico and Central America.

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## Temporary Stewardship



Last fall, I was contacted by someone who was buying a house on a small city lot, which contained a native plant back yard. The buyers are a young family with small children and they wanted to remove the native plants to create more lawn and play area for the kids so they asked if my chapter would be interested in digging up the native plants. Over the years, I've seen this scenario happen several times with members' native landscapes being dug up or mowed down to put in lawns. It is always sad; but it is more important to focus on the good that the natural habitat did for the environment while it existed.

Like most beginners, I started out with just a few native plants in one small garden. I soon realized that I was seeing more birds coming to our yard. I learned more about native plants and their relationship with insects, birds, other wildlife, and the importance of stewardship through Wild Ones. Every year, my wife and I get to watch the amazing insects and birds that come to our little part of the world. I get excited every time I catch and tag a Monarch butterfly in the fall as it is making its way to its winter grounds in Mexico.

I am sure that someday when I die or move from our house, the next homeowners will most likely remove our native landscaping. I am not distressed about this because I know that I am just a temporary steward of the habitat I created. For the past two decades, our landscape has attracted countless numbers of species of insects, birds, and other

wildlife who found the food and shelter they were looking for right here. None of my immediate neighbors can say that. They do not get to experience seeing butterflies and their caterpillars grow and make cocoons or chrysalises. Their kids do not get to explore the wonders of our natural world in their own back yards.

My hope is that my participation in Wild Ones, and the countless hours I have dedicated, will serve to inspire new home-owners to preserve someone's natural landscape or to start a natural habitat of their own. Where one is removed and turned to lawn, another will be planted and the cycle will go on. 🌱

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

### 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. The pictures may also appear in the Wild Ones Calendar, publications and website.

The categories this year are: Child or Children, Pollinators—including insects, birds or bugs, Non-Residential Landscaping, Residential Landscaping, Photos by kids, and Wild Ones in Action—people at events and activities. **Deadline August 3rd.**

Please check the website for updated procedures and guidelines at [www.wildones.org/wild-ones-photo-contest/](http://www.wildones.org/wild-ones-photo-contest/)

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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# Wild for Monarchs!!



Wild For Monarchs brochure designed by Joy Buslaff

Wow!! Our Wild For Monarchs campaign, launched this spring, has met with incredible success. To date we have shipped out 16000 Wild For Monarchs brochures, 50 PowerPoint presentations, 12000 Wild For Monarchs bookmarks, 5500 Monarch Watch brochures, 2500 Monarch Joint Venture bookmarks, 300 posters, and 500 bumper stickers—all material created by the Monarch Committee or provided by Monarch Joint Venture partners.

To help with the costs associated with the printing, postage and labor, we have received a \$2500 grant from TogetherGreen and a \$12000 grant from Monarch Joint Venture. The Wild Ones HQ staff sends a big thank you to Dave and Karen Edwards of the Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter for helping us get all these materials packaged for shipping.

Find information on our website:

<http://www.wildones.org/category/wild-for-monarchs/>

To stay involved with the campaign, periodically check back at <http://wildones.org/learn/wild-for-monarchs/>.

Share your garden photos, ideas and activities, successes and advice. Help spread the word about the Wild for Monarchs campaign by posting on your Facebook page or simply mention it to a friend. You can email [monarchs@wildones.org](mailto:monarchs@wildones.org) or call 877-394-9453 and request copies of the brochures and other promotional materials especially developed for the Wild for Monarchs campaign. Tell everyone you've "gone Wild for Monarchs!"



Poster by Michael Rues, Mid-Missouri Chapter.  
Sent by Ann Wakeman



Carolyn Finzer of Greater DuPage Chapter



Lunchtime. Credit Claire Kim



Five-foot butterfly: Cheri Hubbard. Photo: Jan Zhan Edwards. Both of Tennessee Valley Chapter



Davin Sarikonda's gentle hand. Photo by his mother, Candace.

## Authors & Artists

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**Anne Bray** is a founding member of the Wild Ones Oakland (MI) Chapter.

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**Mark Charles** a member of the Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter is the Wild Ones Seeds for Education grant coordinator.

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# Common Milkweed - An Uncommonly Good Choice for Monarchs and Meadow Gardens

By Rick Darke

There's no denying the brilliant orange appeal of butterfly milkweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, or that of any of the clump forming milkweeds. All are long-lived perennials that offer essential sustenance for Monarchs in larval stage.

However, my favorite has long been common milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca*. It is often overlooked because it is an enthusiastic runner that spreads by stout rhizomes. While this quality may limit its use in constrained perennial borders, it ideally suits it to meadow gardens where it has room to roam. No other milkweed so easily creates so much Monarch food.

Common milkweed was one of the first local wildflowers I learned about. Later, while serving as a field crops research assistant to help pay my way through a botany degree, I learned that this milkweed species was considered a noxious weed by farmers who spared no effort in eradicating it. Now that many of these farms have become suburban housing developments it's time to put common milkweed back into the landscape.

We first established it on our acre-and-a-half of Pennsylvania by collecting seed from wild roadside plants. We attached the seedpods to upright sticks stuck into the ground in our small grassy meadow and allowed dispersal to happen on its own, over time. A couple of years later we had milkweeds flowering amongst the grasses – mostly switchgrass, *Panicum virgatum*, coastal switchgrass, *Panicum amarum*, and Indian grass, *Sorghastrum nutans*. It didn't take long for Monarch larvae to find our plants. In the decades since common milkweed has proved that it can hold its ground in combination with the powerful grasses, and with cup plant, *Silphium perfoliatum*, which we added later by planting divisions. Many people who have never come really close to common milkweed are unaware of its clear sweet fragrance. The quantity of plants in our meadow puts out so much scent in summer it can be detected from more than fifty yards away in the garden.

We leave the stems standing through winter and enjoy watching the seeds floating on the wind, suspended from silky parachutes. We occasionally pull out a few stems here and there if they head into a nearby shrub or other area we'd rather keep them out of, but this takes minimal effort. There are few plants in our garden that contribute so much and require so little. 🐛



Photo Credit Rick Darke.

## SIGHTINGS

### Early April in SE Michigan

By Anne Bray



Today I was honored to watch a brand new bumble bee emerge from the earth, watch over it whilst it dried its wings and take its first flight. Although not native, we have both snowdrops and crocus blooming in our garden and neighborhood, so there are some flowers.

Because we have mostly native habitat, we always leave all the leaves from the trees on the ground, knowing that several species of bumble bees lay their eggs in/under this mulch, together with a supply of food for the emerging grub. Although I have watched many bees emerge from the leaf litter during the springtime, this is the first year I was allowed to watch as it actually emerged slowly from the earth herself, and could only marvel at the sheer perfection of this miracle. Looking round the neighborhood and seeing the barrenness of it all and hearing the roar of leaf blowers starting up again for "clean up" I shudder for the amount of rich diversity that is lost through this practice, and am deeply grateful to the Mother Earth for to-day's experience.

Nature always has a gift, if only we look for it. The only other witness to this emergence today was a mourning cloak butterfly. 🐛

## WILD Center Update

We've been very busy here at the WILD Center these past few weeks. Not only did we host Dr Doug Tallamy and Charlotte Adelman as guest authors for the Fox Cities Book Festival, but we also held our First Thursday volunteer work day and a Celebration of Life potluck for one of Fox Valley Area Chapter's founding members, Elmer Krushinske. Following that were two rainbarrel workshops and the plant sale sponsored by Wild Ones Fox Valley. Our wildlife guests have been busily returning to the site. We're anxious to see if we'll have another spring hatching of baby turtles in our turtle nesting area. Next we'll be getting ready for the Wild Ones Annual Membership Meeting to be held August 16-19.



Newly hatched painted turtle.



## Good Questions — Unlocking Experiences of Discovery!

By Larry Kascht

Hands-on exploration of nature gives a naturalist (or teacher, or parent, or grandparent) the chance to lead and guide children in exciting discovery experiences of nature. Whether it's looking for wildflowers, netting insects, making a leaf collection, catching frogs, searching for shells, or finding winter tracks, kids have a vivid sense of surprise, wonder, and enthusiasm. It's the adult's job to help kids organize and make sense of their discovery, take them further into it than they could go on their own, and add value to it. The goal is for kids to eventually reach the point where they know how to organize, make sense of, go further into, and add value to discovery experiences on their own.

The key is for the adult to **ASK GOOD QUESTIONS** about whatever the kids are finding. Questions aren't just "what's this?" or "what's that?". There's a whole universe of great questions, which will help any nature exploration come alive! A valuable source for good questions comes from Bloom's Taxonomy, a classification system developed in 1956 by educational psychologist Benjamin Bloom of the University of Chicago (and updated during the 1990s by Lorin Anderson, one of Bloom's students).

The question headings below come from Bloom's Taxonomy, and examples of cool questions are provided...

### QUESTION STRUCTURE ACCORDING TO BLOOM'S TAXONOMY

#### I—KNOWLEDGE (REMEMBERING)

- 1--Describe what happened, what did you observe?
- 2--What is the name of the thing we saw?
- 3--How many \_\_\_\_ did we see?
- 4--What were they doing when?
- 5--Do you recall \_\_\_\_?

#### II—COMPREHENSION (UNDERSTANDING)

- 1--Explain what happened in your own words.
- 2--Who do you think did \_\_\_\_?
- 3--What do you think will happen next?
- 4--Can you tell the difference between \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_?
- 5--Can you give an example of \_\_\_\_?

#### III—APPLICATION (APPLYING)

- 1--Do you know another time when this happened? (Could this have happened in \_\_\_\_ (at another time)?)
- 2--Do you know another place where this happened? (Could this have happened in \_\_\_\_ (in another place)?)
- 3--What things would change if \_\_\_\_?
- 4--What questions would you ask about \_\_\_\_?
- 5--How would you make use of \_\_\_\_?

#### IV—ANALYSIS (ANALYZING)

- 1--Why did \_\_\_\_ happen?
- 2--What was really going on?
- 3--What happened before \_\_\_\_?
- 4--What will happen after \_\_\_\_?
- 5--What could have happened?

- 6--What was \_\_\_\_ before?

- 7--What will \_\_\_\_ turn into after?
- 8--How is \_\_\_\_ similar to \_\_\_\_?
- 9--Can you tell the difference between \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_?
- 10--What are some of the problems of/with \_\_\_\_?
- 11--How is \_\_\_\_ like/different from \_\_\_\_?
- 12--What are the parts that make up \_\_\_\_?
- 13--What is the most important thing about \_\_\_\_?
- 14--What is wrong with \_\_\_\_?
- 15--What conclusions can we draw from \_\_\_\_? What does \_\_\_\_ tell us?
- 16--How could we prove \_\_\_\_?

#### V—SYNTHESIS (SYNTHESIZING OR CREATING)

- 1--What would happen if \_\_\_\_?
- 2--How would you do \_\_\_\_?
- 3--How would you use \_\_\_\_?
- 4--What is the story of \_\_\_\_?
- 5--Can you write a story for \_\_\_\_?

#### VI—EVALUATION (EVALUATING)

- 1--What do you think about \_\_\_\_?
- 2--Is there a better way to \_\_\_\_?
- 3--How does \_\_\_\_ make you feel?
- 4--Which \_\_\_\_ do you feel is better/more valuable? Why?
- 5--Do you think \_\_\_\_ is a good or a bad thing? Why?

**On May 9, 2013, for the first time in human history, concentration of atmospheric greenhouse gas carbon dioxide surpassed 400 parts per million. (ref: <http://keelingcurve.ucsd.edu>)**

## Grapevine

By Maryann Whitman

### Yet another reason to remove buckthorn from wetlands

Researchers at Lincoln Park Zoo and Northern Illinois University have discovered a new culprit contributing to amphibian decline throughout the Midwest region – the invasive plant European buckthorn. This non-native shrub, which has invaded two-thirds of the United States, has long been known to negatively impact plant community composition and forest structure, but these two innovative studies slated to publish in upcoming editions of the *Journal of Herpetology* and *Natural Areas Journal* demonstrate how this shrub negatively impacts native amphibians.

Lincoln Park Zoo Reintroduction Biologist Allison Sacerdote-Velat, Ph.D. and Northern Illinois University Professor of Biological Sciences Richard King have identified European buckthorn as a contributor to amphibian decline in the Chicagoland area. The plant releases the chemical compound emodin, which is produced in the leaves, fruit, bark and roots of the plant, into the amphibian breeding pond environment at various times of year. Sacerdote-Velat and King's research has found that emodin is toxic to amphibian embryos, disrupting their development, preventing hatching.

"Levels of emodin in the environment are greatest at leaf out, which is occurring right now in early spring. This coincides with breeding activity of several early-breeding Midwestern amphibian species including western chorus frogs and blue-spotted salamanders," explained Sacerdote-Velat. "Several amphibian species exhibit low hatching rates in sites that are heavily infested with European buckthorn."

For more information on buckthorn's secondary metabolite, emodin, please see the January/February 2010 issue of the Wild Ones Journal. <http://www.wildones.org/download/Journold/2010Vol23No1Journal.pdf>

### The Cicadas are coming

This year marks the end of a 17 year long life-cycle for one species of the cicada (genus *Magicalcica*), in the eastern United States. After spending nearly two decades burrowed in the ground as nymphs, they are due to emerge from the ground to mate and lay eggs for the next generation of cicadas. The periodic cicadas have one of the longest life spans of all insects. When the ground temperature reaches 64 degrees, cicadas that have burrowed deep in the ground around trees, surrounded by undisturbed soil, will emerge. Scientists are expecting that billions of cicadas will emerge with the warm weather. Cicadas are harmless and won't bite or sting you, though their loud buzzing noises will let you know that they have arrived.

For the five or six week period after they emerge they are the most abundant herbivore in the broadleaf forests of North America in both number and biomass. They feed exclusively on tree sap and actually do very little damage to their environment. During their life underground the nymphs feed on the sap of tree roots. They grow very slowly and have no visible impact on the host trees. There is, however, evidence that the decaying bodies of the cicadas (an estimated 800 tons per square mile), contribute a massive amount of nitrogen to the soil. It is quite likely that over a five year period after their deaths, the nutrient enrichment their bodies offer, more than compensates for any damage they may have done during their long lives.

## Spring Wildflowers of the Northeast, by Carol Gracie

By Maryann Whitman



The flowers of early spring hold a special place for gardeners and naturalists. Rising out of the detritus of the preceding fall and winter, before the leaves of trees green in, they herald the return of life to the soil. In the *Spring Wildflowers of the Northeast*, Carol Gracie lets us experience spring at any time of the year.

In fifty sections, each of which could be a stand-alone monograph, the author covers forty nine species of native early spring flowers. Lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), a non-native, is included in order that native celandine-poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*) might adequately be differentiated. The book is arranged by the common names of the plants, in alphabetical order. Where she can, the author avoids technical jargon, and defines that which she does use.

Gracie covers naming history, the plant characteristics, reproductive strategies, including photos of pollinators, related species and habitat preferences, range of distribution, special biochemistry, and interactions with local fauna. She has added, where relevant, ethnobotanical uses by indigenous peoples, followed by discussions of the validity of those applications today.

To supplement her own observations, she includes twenty three pages of references. Further, I highly recommend reading the author's preface to the book, which succinctly covers modern taxonomy and renaming of species and genera.

She says of herself that she is a "visual learner". As a result she includes images to impart information; photographs richly supplement what is being discussed in the text. Each plant is illustrated with large, clear, colour photographs; twelve of Dutchman's breeches and twenty-four of trillium, to thirty-nine of violets. The photography makes the book truly special. These photos of twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*) exemplify the author's attention to the details of each plant's seasonal phases. 🐝



Soil removed to expose roots and new shoots.



Flowers resemble bloodroot, but the stigmas and stamens are quite different.



Twinleaf leaves emerge in early spring, red-violet colored.



Even as blossoms open leaves remain tinged with purple.



Mature green leaves of *Jeffersonia diphylla*.



Two capsules of twinleaf. Note the line of opening does not completely encircle the fruit.



When mature the capsule opens and the seeds disperse.



## Sounds of Aldo

By Kim Lowman taken from <http://onwisconsin.uwalumni.com/?s=aldo+leopold>

Aldo Leopold was a compulsive, meticulous note-taker. Among other things, jotting down data on early morning birdsongs. One project he was working on just before he died was a hypothesis that birds sing in response to daylight - that each species begins to sing when the light reaches a certain brightness. To test this he went to his shack, in an era before tape recorders, awoke before dawn and headed out. With his journal and light meter, he wrote down time and brightness when each species began to sing. He also noted the frequency of calls and where they came from. He died before the results of this study could be published, but his journals are archived at the University of Wisconsin's Steenbock Library, and throughout her lifetime, Nina Bradley continued to record what he had begun.

Decades later, these are examined and brought to life. Working with digital recording of birdsongs from Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology, the soundscape at Leopold's shack on the morning of June 1, 1940 was recreated. The notes were so exact that they could use stereo recording to give an approximate location for each bird species -- listen to it in stereo and the birds come from different directions. <http://www.news.wisc.edu/21058>

## Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony 2013

By Donna VanBuecken

Wild Ones Natural Landscapers has the privilege of being a member of the Board of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame which is housed in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Aldo Leopold was the first person inducted in the Hall of Fame in 1985. Our own Lorrie Otto was inducted in 1999. This year, Nina Bradley, Aldo's daughter, was inducted along with two other environmentalists. As I sat and listened to the testimonials by their peers, friends and family, I realized how intertwined these inductees' work was with the mission we as Wild Ones have undertaken. To preserve biodiversity, to restore plant communities, and to educate and advocate for native plants and natural landscapes.

Nina Leopold Bradley was a lifelong naturalist and researcher. She worked with her first husband, William Elder, in wildlife research in Wisconsin, Hawaii and Botswana. Throughout her lifetime, she promoted the conservation philosophy of her father, writing and lecturing about his land ethic, while actively continuing his phenological research. She was the senior author of a 1999 study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that analyzed decades of phenological records demonstrating that climate change was affecting the region and its native ecosystems. Nina loved to say that "you have to teach the children to love the land before you can expect them to take care of it."

John Thomas Curtis is known for his book *The Vegetation of Wisconsin: An Ordination of Plant Communities* (1959). It assembled a remarkably complete picture of the state's plant communities and their relationship to environmental variables. At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Curtis was instrumental in developing the Arboretum begun by Aldo Leopold and includes the Curtis Prairie. He became famous world-wide for this "continuum" concept of ecological gradients, and his work also established the nature of the prairie-forest border which gave recognition to the "tension zone" where climate, soil, and fire have created a dynamic transition.

David C. Engleson is best known for his work as a science teacher/coordinator and for his leadership in the field of environmental education. With his engaging and enthusiastic personality, Engleson had a remarkable ability to bring people together, harness diverse talents, and build coalitions of support for environmental education and conservation. His book *DPI Guide to Curriculum Planning in Environmental Education* has been translated internationally.

I'm so grateful we have had such lovely people go before us clearing a path just a little for the efforts we Wild Ones undertake. It is my hope that one day we will have Wild Ones members on many states Conservation Halls of Fame.

## Great Stuff at the Wild Store

### Wild Ones Logo T-Shirts



Now you can look like a Wild Ones member at work and play. We have a new t-shirt available in ivy and sand with professionally embroidered Wild Ones logo on front.

**\$18 at the Wild Store.**



Look cool. Be cool. Wear a Wild Ones cap or bucket hat wherever you go. Our hats and caps let everyone know you share the Wild Ones mission wherever you go.

Embroidered with the Wild Ones logo, this fine quality headgear is "a head of the crowd." Get yours now.

**Bucket Hats and Eco-Friendly Caps are \$19**

**[www.wildones.org](http://www.wildones.org)**



# Fast-Tracking Plant Rescues: When Opportunity and Parallel Planning Merge

By Sally Wencel and Katrina Hayes



Native Rhododendron on a misty Appalachian morning

## The Opportunity:

Jack Kruesi learned about the Wild Ones from his friend, Nora Bernhardt, the Tennessee Valley Chapter co-founder, Secretary and Membership Chair. As Jack tells it, he wondered aloud had Nora joined a group of belly dancers? From this casual discussion last fall, the chapter fully launched its Plant Rescue Program in November of 2012, just five months after having been chartered by the national Wild Ones organization.

It doesn't take long to realize that Jack Kruesi is no ordinary land developer. He is a well-known entrepreneur as well as "green" residential developer in the Signal Mountain, Tennessee area. And based on his view of forming partnerships between land developers and conservation groups like the Wild Ones, it is clear that Jack has a novel approach to taking wild land and making it a suitable human habitat. His latest planned development "Wild Ridge", leaves 50% of the project in Green Space (80% of this Green Space could have been built on), with 4 miles of hiking trails, an innovative decentralized wastewater treatment system and extensive use of solar panels to help the community be energy independent. He believes that the community, environmentalists and developers working together rather than fighting each other will come up with the best solution to residential development.

Of all his sustainable approaches to development, nothing was more attention-grabbing than his working with the Wild Ones, which Jack calls his best marketing tool. When Jack presented his 124-acre development to the Signal Mountain Town Council for its approval in late 2012, he prominently featured the Wild Ones Tennessee Valley Chapter's plant rescue program as part of his effort to help reduce native plant loss due to road construction and other disturbances. By his account, as he described the plant inventory process and plant rescues to remove plants in the bulldozers' path to the Council, Council members were in disbelief that such a group

of volunteers existed. As Jack opines, if the Town Council had mandated developers go through this additional inventory and plant removal process, 99% of developers would be calling their lawyers.

By all estimates, the Chapter will have continued opportunities to rescue plants on this land for the next ten years.



The limestone crags are geologically among the oldest on the continent.

## Jump-Starting The Rescue Program

With the opportunity for a large rescue site on the Chapter's plate, we were challenged to put together a program quickly. In June, 2012, the newly organized Program



Committee had put “Plant Rescues” on the 2012 program list and developing a rescue program was put on a parallel development track to identifying potential rescue sites. Parallel track project development is a common tool for shortening the time to market for new products and services and is just as effective for volunteer organizations. Rather than waiting until the previous development phase is completed, parallel development anticipates the completion of the previous phase but incorporates changes from beta testing which leads to faster deployment than a more traditional sequential approach. Despite this expedited project development process, we didn’t expect to land such a large rescue site opportunity so quickly.



Jack Kruesi (blue plaid shirt) did some close work to make his plans fit the land.

Luckily, we didn’t need to build the rescue program from scratch. First, we had several veteran plant rescuers in our new chapter, including chapter President Cathy Albright who had been rescuing plants on her own with developer permission for several years, and Trina Hayes, Wild Ones national Board member who recently completed her training as a Rescue Facilitator through the Georgia Native Plant Society (GNPS). In fact, Program Chair and Vice-President Sally Wencel met Trina at a GNPS plant rescue in February of 2012, months before the Tennessee Valley Chapter was chartered by the Wild Ones. The Tennessee Valley Chapter’s rescue program was modeled after both programs although designed to meet the Wild Ones Plant Rescue requirements.

Realizing the need to delegate Plant Rescues as a program activity, Sally asked Cathy and Trina to serve as Rescue Co-Chairs. Trina and Sally pulled together rescue program elements from both the Wild Ones and GNPS, including participation agreements, waiver forms, participant information sheets, and got feedback and approval from the Chapter Board of Directors in October 2012. On a parallel track, Nora Bernhardt initiated a property walk-through and plant inventory process with Wild Ones Board members Leon Bates, a retired botanist and urban forester, and his wife Pat. This inventory process had been completed before Jack Kruesi presented his development plans to the Signal Mountain Town Council. In November, we held the first pilot plant rescue with the rescue program principals and several chapter Board members and Jack guiding the group through the property and identifying the rescue perimeters.

### Expanding the Program

Since the pilot rescue in November, 2012, we have conducted six rescues through weather conditions ranging from warm and foggy to cold and raining. All rescues have been conducted with at least two rescue leaders. Expansion will also require training additional rescue leaders, which is our next step.

### The Program Specifics

It is important to get a signed letter from the landowner giving Wild Ones permission to rescue, and this letter must be present at every rescue that takes place. All the rescuers must sign a waiver form that removes any liability from Wild Ones and provides emergency contact information, and also sign a participation agreement that governs the basic rules of rescuing. The lead rescuer goes over the rules before every plant rescue—no returning to the property after the rescue—that is trespassing. All rescuers must be Wild One members or one-time-only guests. No persons under the age of 14 are allowed to rescue. No pets and no smoking are allowed on rescues. It is important for the lead rescuer to make sure the rescuers know the honor and privilege of being allowed on someone else’s property to rescue plants, so no one leaves any trash or tells anyone about the site after the rescue. The lead rescuer also goes over common hazards, like poison ivy, snakes, briars, and filling in holes so fellow rescuers do not fall in them. All rescuers are required to haul their own dug up plants out of the woods.



The emergency rescue team: Wild Ones Tennessee Valley members.

The next step is to send an email to all members letting them know the day and time of the plant rescue, what plants are likely to be available for rescuing, and asking which members are first-time rescuers. To prevent trespassing on the landowner’s property outside of a planned rescue, we do not send out the location of the plant rescue to all members. Our chapter sends out special information for first-time rescuers about wearing layers of clothing, bringing shovels and marked bags, potential hazards, the importance of water for themselves and their plants, and wearing an orange safety vest. In our area, hunters trespass quite frequently and hunt on large undeveloped tracts, in and out of hunting season. We have made it a policy for all rescuers to wear orange safety vests for this reason and because it makes it easier for the lead rescuer to keep an eye on all the rescuers.

### Helpful Mistakes

Despite the best of intentions, rescuers can sometimes leave traces behind. Anyone who has participated in a rescue understands the sheer physical effort involved when hiking on uneven terrain as well as digging and transporting plant material which seems to get heavier as time goes by. Add to this the excitement of discovering plant treasures, and rescuers can inadvertently lose track. Jack Kruesi reported that when he went on a walk-through of the development site with town officials, one of them discovered two plastic bags on the property. The bags were opened and two plants with root balls were found inside. This evidence actually helped to prove that the Wild Ones had been on site doing what Kruesi had described, and supported his application for the Town’s approval. 🌱

Scientists are finding that small patches of habitat, like my yard, can mean the difference, literally, between life and death for many migrants. In Illinois, migrant birds used small islands of habitat in both urban and agricultural landscapes. Migrant thrushes chose to stop within 55 yards of houses in developed areas, while another thrush, found sustenance in a small woods, only 16 yards across in the midst of miles of corn fields. Studies in the Plains states found that narrow shelterbelts of trees and shrubs provided important stopover habitat for migrants. In Arizona, birds used fragments of streamside vegetation during their travels. In fact, while many yards may be too small to offer breeding habitat for many birds, almost every little niche of green space can be landscaped with native plants that will offer a "bed and breakfast" for tired, hungry migrants.

### What Migrants Eat

Watch carefully and you're likely to discover what migrant birds are eating. In spring, you may have seen some of the new leaves on your trees or shrubs peppered with small holes. Most likely, caterpillars chewed these holes. It is on these caterpillars that many migrating birds feast on their way north, as they do in my yard. Research in many areas has confirmed that many migrant birds seem to time their spring migration to coincide with the emergence of leaf-eating caterpillars.

In fall, fruiting shrubs provide some of the best food sources for migrants, throughout the country. And again, bird migration is in synchrony with the ripening of berries as the birds head south.

One of the best ways to provide for migrants is to offer them a variety of different food sources, as well as various layers of vegetation – tall canopy trees, understory trees, shrubs, vines and herbaceous species. The variety will create habitat and nourishment to suit the preferences of different species of birds. During migration, birds do not usually require their specific breeding habitat, but still prefer the level of vegetation to which they are accustomed. For example, Blackburnian Warblers nest in northern conifers, but will feed in deciduous trees while migrating. The Mourning Warbler prefers shrubby areas both while breeding and in migration, while Magnolia Warblers favor trees of various heights.

Don't worry if your yard is too small for large trees, it can still provide valuable stopover habitat. In fact, two-thirds of all migrants have been found to prefer shrubs and understory trees – just the kind of vegetation that small yards can offer. "Small 'islands' of habitat can provide food resources to birds, particularly during migration," says ornithologist, Victoria Piaskowski,, a coauthor of the book, *"The Birds Without Borders – Aves Sin Fronteras® Recommendations for Landowners: How to Manage Your Land to Help Birds"*.

Try to provide a diversity of plant species, the more the better. As with the need for different layers of vegetation, different plant species will provide for the varied needs of many species of birds. Some birds like robins, grosbeaks, cardinals, and waxwings favor berries in their fall migrations. Flycatchers, wrens, and warblers depend on insects. Goldfinches, sparrows, and doves prefer to feast on seeds. Jays, turkeys, titmice, and nuthatches eat acorns and other nuts. And be sure to choose native plants, which have co-evolved with birds and will provide just the right mix of foods and nutrition for them during migration. The fall berries of dogwoods, for example, are one of the best foods for migrants because they are high in fat – the fuel birds need for migration.

No matter the size of your yard or where you live, you can welcome weary migrants with plants that will offer them food and shelter during their travels. The importance of creating stopover habitat for migratory birds cannot be overestimated. Donald S. Heintzelman, author of *The Complete Backyard*

*Birdwatcher's Home Companion* wrote: "Enhancing thousands of small yards with native vegetation...can help to compensate for the loss of larger habitats along North American's major coastal and inland songbird migration routes."

Your migratory bird habitat will offer a beautiful progression of flowers and fruits through the seasons. Best of all you'll be doing your part to insure that migratory flocks of birds continue to wing their way across the continent each spring and fall. Many migrants are known to stop over at the same spots each year, so you'll likely build up a clientele of returning feathered guests to your backyard bed and breakfast.



## Best Plants for Welcoming Migrants

Native Plants of Eastern US to Great Plains, and the food they provide:

### Trees

Bur Oak, *Quercus macrocarpa* – nuts and insects  
Red Oak, *Quercus rubra* – nuts and insects  
White Oak, *Quercus alba* – nuts and insects  
Pignut Hickory, *Carya glabra* – nuts and insects  
Shagbark Hickory, *Carya ovata* – nuts and insects  
Northern Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis* – berries and insects  
Southern Hackberry, *Celtis laevigata* – berries and insects

### Understory Trees and Shrubs

Alternate-leaved Dogwoods/Pagoda Dogwood, *Cornus alternifolia* – berries and insects  
Gray Dogwood, *Cornus racemosa* – berries and insects  
Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida* – berries and insects  
Blackhaw Viburnum, *Viburnum prunifolium* – berries and insects  
Downy Arrowwood Viburnum, *Viburnum rafinesquianum* – berries and insects  
Nannyberry Viburnum, *Viburnum lentago* – berries and insects  
Black Cherry, *Prunus serotina* – berries and insects  
Hawthorns, *Crataegus* species – berries and insects  
Mountain Ash, *Sorbus* species – berries and insects  
Pussy Willow, *Salix discolor* – seeds and insects  
Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana* – berries and insects  
Sassafras, *Sassafras albidum* – berries and insects  
Spicebush, *Lindera benzoin* – berries

### Vines

American Bittersweet, *Celastrus scandens* – berries  
Virginia Creeper, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* – berries and insects  
Wild Grape, *Vitis vulpina* – fruit and insects

### Nectar Plants

Cardinal Flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*  
Coral Honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens*  
Red Honeysuckle, *Lonicera dioica*  
Fringed Bleeding Heart, *Dicentra eximia*  
Orange Jewelweed, *Impatiens capensis* (l. biflora)  
Swamp Azalea, *Rhododendron viscosum*  
Trumpet Creeper, *Campsis radicans*  
Virginia Bluebells, *Mertensia virginica*  
Wild Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*

### Seeds

In addition to some woody plants, most native grasses and native wildflowers, especially sunflowers, goldenrods and asters, provide seeds for seed-eating migrants.

Native Plants of the Western States, and the food they provide:

### Trees

Alligator-bark Juniper, *Juniperus deppeana* – berries  
Cottonwoods, *Populus* species – seeds and insects  
Lodgepole Pine, *Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia* – insects and seeds  
Jeffery Pine, *Pinus jeffreyi* – insects and seeds  
Ponderosa Pine, *Pinus ponderosa* – insects and seeds  
Valley Oak, *Quercus lobata* – nuts and insects

### Understory Trees and Shrubs

Box Elder, *Acer negundo* – insects and seeds  
Blue Elderberry, *Sambucus cerulea* – berries  
Mexican Elderberry, *Sambucus mexicana* – berries  
Gooding Willow, *Salix goodingii* – seeds and insects  
Coyote Willow, *Salix exigua* – seeds and insects  
Sandbar Willow, *Salix sessilifolia* – seeds and insects  
Seep Willow, *Baccharis glutinosa* – seeds and insects  
Mesquites, *Prosopis* species – insects and seeds  
Netleaf Hackberry, *Celtis reticulata* – berries and insects  
Saltbush and Quailbush, *Atriplex* species – seeds  
Snowberry – *Symphoricarpos* species – berries  
White Alder, *Alnus rhombifolia* – seeds and insects  
Wolfberry, *Lycium* species – berries

### Vines

Canyon Grape, *Vitis arizonica* – fruit and insects  
California Wild Grape, *Vitis californica* – fruit and insects  
Vitis vulpina

### Nectar Plants

Autumn sage, *Salvia greggii*  
Flowering currant, *Ribes sanguineum*  
Pacific madrone, *Arbutus menziesii*  
Paintbrushes, *Castilleja* species  
Salal, *Gaultheria shallon*  
Salmonberry, *Rubus spectabilis*  
Scarlet bugler, *Penstemon barbatus*  
Scarlet gilia, *Ipomopsis aggregata*  
Twinberry, *Lonicera involucrata*

### Seeds

In addition to some woody plants, most native grasses and native wildflowers, especially sunflowers, goldenrods and asters, provide seeds for seed-eating migrants.



# Can Milkweed Hurt Monarchs?

By Candy Sarikonda

Planting season is upon us, and you may be thinking, “How can I help monarch butterflies?” If you are planning to include milkweed in your garden, you will need to become familiar with the milkweed species that are native to your area. In the Northeastern U.S., we have several native milkweed species to choose from. However, you will find that monarchs prefer three species in particular—common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), and butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). All three are wonderful hosts for monarch caterpillars, and easily grown in the home garden. These native milkweeds have co-evolved with monarchs, supporting their lifecycle and their spectacular fall migration.

But what about tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*)? This is a non-native milkweed available through some nurseries and seed catalogs. The flowers are similar in appearance to those of butterfly weed, and it is sometimes erroneously labeled as such at nurseries and big-box garden outlets. Tropical milkweed is easily grown from seed, and it is very attractive to egg-laying monarchs. In the north it is grown as an annual, but it can survive mild winters in the south. Tropical milkweed is becoming naturalized in the south, and some monarch scientists are concerned it may be having negative impacts on the monarch population. How could this be?

In the fall, when Eastern monarchs are migrating south to Mexico, most of the native milkweeds in the Gulf States are senescing (dying back for the winter). As a result, these native milkweeds are not available to monarchs for egg-laying during winter months. While most monarchs are in diapause (dormancy) during the fall migration, some monarchs can become reproductive if outside temperatures are warm enough. Small populations of monarchs overwintering in the Gulf States can produce offspring throughout mild winters if milkweed is available, and tropical milkweed is often all that is available. (See [www.mlmp.org/Newsletters/monthly/2013/mlmp\\_update\\_201212-201301.pdf](http://www.mlmp.org/Newsletters/monthly/2013/mlmp_update_201212-201301.pdf)) Some researchers, such as Dr. Lincoln Brower, feel tropical milkweed is so powerfully attractive to monarchs that it can “lure” migrating monarchs into breaking diapause and becoming reproductive, thus discouraging their migration. Others, like Dr. Chip Taylor, disagree. Dr. Taylor feels that temperature is the primary factor that regulates diapause, and monarchs will break diapause when exposed to warm temperatures regardless of whether or not milkweed is available. Little research has been done to examine the impact of tropical milkweed on the behavior of migrating monarchs, thus researchers are currently conducting studies aimed at exploring this issue.

In addition to concerns over the impact of tropical milkweed on diapause and the migratory behavior of monarchs, scientists also have concerns over how tropical milkweed may affect the spread of a monarch parasite. The year-round presence of tropical milkweed may encourage constant breeding in the same location, leading to a build-up of the protozoan parasite *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha*, or Oe. This parasite affects the health of monarchs, leading to weakened monarchs with shortened lifespans. Infected monarchs carry Oe spores, which are most highly concentrated on the scales of their abdomens. As a female lays her eggs, she may deposit spores on her eggs. When a caterpillar hatches, it consumes the spore as it eats its eggshell and becomes infected. Monarch adults also shed scales as they fly about, and infected adults can “dust” milkweed plants with Oe spores. A study by the Altizer lab showed that a single spore consumed by a second instar caterpillar can develop into



Tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*). Credit Dodudhah Wikimedia



Eastern North American native butterfly weed (*A. tuberosa*). Note difference in coloration. Credit Candace Sarikonda

100,000 spores by the time the monarch butterfly emerges from its chrysalis. (See [www.monarchparasites.org](http://www.monarchparasites.org)) Since tropical milkweed is capable of growing year-round in the south, monarch scientists are concerned that Oe spores can build up in a milkweed patch, leading to a higher incidence of infection in resident/overwintering monarch populations. This is perhaps the most compelling reason to plant only native milkweed, and not to plant ANY milkweed near an overwintering site. With access to milkweed that never dies back, monarchs will be more likely to get infected with Oe. For this reason, monarch scientists agree that tropical milkweed should be mowed down periodically. If you garden in the South, and choose to grow this species, Dr. Chip Taylor recommends mowing it to the ground at least twice per year—once in the fall, and again in the spring after the first generation monarchs have moved through the area.

Tropical milkweed is attractive to many monarch enthusiasts. Caterpillars love it; monarch females love to lay their eggs on it; it grows quickly and can provide ample food for larvae; and it is readily available and easily established in the home garden. But the debate concerning its impact on migrating monarchs, and the spread of Oe, leads many to be cautious with its use. As Dr. Karen Oberhauser states, “It is usually better to err on the side of safety, and whenever possible, native species growing in their normal places at the normal times are likely to be safest.” 🌱



## The 2013 Wild Ones Annual Membership Meeting

August 18th at the WILD Center, Neenah, Wisconsin  
with other workshops and meetings throughout the weekend.

### 5 Reasons to attend this year:

**1** The Wild Ones 2013 Annual Membership Meeting—At this meeting, you will learn about the state of the organization, what's happening with the Wild Ones Journal and websites, what your national committees are up to, the finance and membership status and most of all find out the preliminary results of the Wild for Monarchs program.



Attend the Meeting



Meet your National Board

**2** Wild Ones Third Quarter National Board Meeting and Board Development Workshop—Meet your national directors, attend their meeting, learn about the issues and concerns that the board deals with each year, and see how the organization works at the national level.



Come for an hour! Come for a day!  
Come for the whole weekend!

# Plan to attend Aug



**3** Workshops to help chapters grow locally—in the past two years we have had workshops on issues facing our chapters. They have ranged from how to use technology to attract new members to best practices for plant sales. This year's topics have not been finalized yet so give us your input today.



Learn from each other



Socialize

**4** Good food and a good movie—Again this year, we will be eating Saturday night alfresco and as soon as it is dark, we will be showing the new film from DisneyNature, “Wings of Life” which is narrated by Meryl Streep.



**5** Best of all—you will meet members just like you and find out how they are promoting natives plants and natural landscaping.



Spot local flora and fauna



and even pull some weeds!

Please watch for more details and to register at [wildones.org](http://wildones.org), in the Wild Ones monthly e-newsletters, or call 877-394-9453 after June 1st.

**ust 16, 17, and 18**



# SFE Grant Program Report

By Mark Charles

As a Wild Ones member, you can be proud that our Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program (SFE) makes a lasting impact on children and teens. As Tim wrote in the October 2012 *Journal*, some go on to become biologists, ornithologists, ecologists, environmental education teachers and the like. Others, when they later become home owners, put native plants into their own landscapes. These are signs of tangible and lasting success.

Of course, even with your generous donations of time and money, we receive more applications each year than we can support. I want to share a resource which articulates our best knowledge of which projects will truly make a difference for kids. Dr. Roger Hart's "Ladder of Participation" (available on a web page from Cornell University\*) helps us remember that the intensity of children's involvement with a project is directly linked to how much they learn. And it provides a simple scale we can use in selecting which projects to fund.

The most effective projects are those where the young people are most engaged in the ideation, visioning, planning and decision-making. Depending on age, more or less assistance is needed from teachers and consultants. They need help with technical factors related to site preparation, selecting species appropriate to the site, and that sort of thing. Assistance from Project Buddies (usually Wild Ones volunteers) and Nursery Partners are immensely valuable. On the other hand, proposals from professional grant writers, and designs from professional landscapers and designers are irrelevant.

Dr. Roger Hart (co-director of the Children's Environments Research Group) created a "ladder" of participation to help us think about where we really are and where we'd like to be, in terms of children's participation in our programs. See Hart's Ladder of Participation here: <http://blogs.cornell.edu/garden/grow-your-program/how-to-plan-and-organize-your-youth-gardening-program/hart%E2%80%99s-ladder-of-participation/>

As you browse the list of this year's awards, note that we have focused on projects that show young people's ideas and motivation. Thanks for your help enriching their learning experience. 🌱



## 2013 SFE Grant Recipients

### Community United Elementary School, Oakland, CA

"Native Plant Sanctuary Development Project."

Our project is to renovate an abandoned outdoor courtyard to create a place where teachers can hold regular outdoor classes including science, social studies and writing. We also want to bring student awareness to the beautiful local environment by using only native seeds and plants. Partner-at-Large

### Worthington Hooker PTA, New Haven, CT

"Butterfly Garden."

To support the curriculum units on butterflies in the K and 2nd grade at Worthington Hooker School, students, teachers and parents will collaborate to create a small Butterfly Garden at the school in the Spring of 2013. This is part of a larger curriculum plan to create vegetable gardens, plant trees and a broader mission to develop a sustainable landscape strategy for the schoolyard. Mountain Laurel Chapter

### Otsego Conservation District Native Plant Demonstration, Gaylord, MI

"A Native Plant Demonstration Garden."

This garden will be created at the newly acquired Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve in Johannesburg, Michigan. Mid-Mitten Chapter

### DeVries Nature Conservancy, Owosso, MI

"Native Demonstration Garden & Septic Planting"

We will be installing a native demonstration garden above a septic field in the center of our parking area. The garden will serve as a learning resource for our visitors and classes, and as a resource for those that wish to learn about planting over a septic area. Flint River Chapter

### Coles Elementary, Manassas, VA

"Over in the Meadow"

Coles Elementary students will plant a meadow with the help from staff at the school. The site for the meadow complements a number of other environmental initiatives that have taken place in the area. Partner-at-Large

### Gabriel Richard Catholic High School, Riverview, MI

"Gabriel Richard Native Plants Garden"

It is our desire to landscape the area around the bell and the sign of Gabriel Richard High School with indigenous native flowering plants and grasses, especially to encourage birds and bees, which are essential for our crops to grow. Through this project we hope our students will learn, appreciate and enjoy the beauties of natural habitats. Ann Arbor Chapter

### Ottoville High School, Ottoville, OH

"Ottoville High School Land Lab"

To establish a natural wildlife area for students in grades K-12 to learn more about nature. To develop and maintain a nature trail with informational posts about the native plant and wildlife populations. Partner-at-Large

### Fisher High School Invertebrate Zoology Class, Fisher, IL

"Promoting Prairie Pollinators."

Our Invertebrate Zoology class is attempting to enhance our schools' prairie in order to attract more of both vertebrate and invertebrate pollinators, increase the diversity of plant and animal species, and help raise awareness of the importance of ecology. Our research suggests that nearly 1/3 of our food supply comes from pollinator involvement, which is what inspired us to pursue these goals, because we have noticed a significant decrease in pollinator population. Illinois Prairie Chapter

### Montessori Children's House of North Barrington, North Barrington, IL

"Woodland Classroom"

We want to transform existing wooded area near school entrance and parking lot area into a Woodland Classroom for preschool students (ages 2 - 6 years). Project would eliminate existing invasive species (e.g., buckthorn; honeysuckle) and reintroduce native species that once dominated the Barrington area. Lake-To-Prairie Chapter

### Boiling Springs Elementary School, Shelby, NC

"Bird and Butterfly Garden"

I am a kindergarten teacher who has worked with my family and a community botany expert to create a bird and butterfly garden at my school as a project towards a NC Environmental Educator certificate. I am seeking funding to add native plants into the existing area, which has been certified as a National Wildlife Federation Habitat. Partner-at-Large

### Patricia Bendorf Elementary School, Las Vegas, NV

"Bendorf Discovery Courtyard"

The administrators, teachers, students, and parents of Bendorf Elementary School are interested in developing a schoolyard habitat to encourage student connection to the natural world of the Mojave Desert. As students select and plant native species to attract wildlife specific to the Mojave Desert, this schoolyard habitat will provide food, water, shelter, and a place for wildlife to raise their young, thereby establishing an urban habitat for these species. Partner-at-Large

### Nature Trail Committee, Mukwonago, WI

"Eagle Nature Trail"

Local residents are developing a nature trail to connect the Eagle Elementary School with our local library through village and school-owned property with the intent to clear invasives, plant natives, and provide educational opportunities for the children and community. Kettle Moraine Chapter

### Northwood School District/NorthStar Community Charter School, Minong, WI

"Prairie Restoration"

On our school property we have an area of about two acres that is our septic drain field. Our students decided that we should do something to make this area more useful. We're making two areas that will have labeled native plants with walkways and benches and will be used for education. The rest of the area (about an acre and a half) will be seeded with native prairie plants and will be more of a long term project. Partner-at-Large



## Seeds for Education Nursery Partners

### California

Bay Area Nursery  
375 Alabama St Ste 440, San Francisco  
(415) 287-6755  
info@baynatives.com  
www.baynatives.com

### The Watershed Nursery

601 A Canal Blvd, Richmond  
(510) 234-2222  
thewatershednursery@gmail.com  
www.thewatershednursery.com

### Connecticut

#### Broken Arrow Nursery LLC

13 Broken Arrow Rd, Hamden  
(203) 288-1026  
Brokenarrow@snet.net  
www.brokenarrownursery.com

### Earth Tones LLC

212 Grassy Hill Road, Woodbury  
(203) 263-6626  
www.earthtonesnatives.com

### District of Columbia Ginkgo Gardens

911 11th Street Washington  
(202) 543-5172  
mark@ginkgogardens.com  
http://ginkgogardens.com/

### Illinois

#### Prairie Earth Nursery

15588 Township Road 1400 E Bradford  
(309) 897-9911  
jim\_alwill@yahoo.com

#### Possibility Place Nursery

7548 W Manhattan-Monee Rd, Monee  
(708) 534-3988  
Kelsay@possibilityplace.com  
www.possibilityplace.com

### Massachusetts

#### Project Native

342 North Plain Rd, Housatonic  
(413) 274-3433  
bbest@projectnative.org  
www.projectnative.org

### Maryland

#### American Native Plants

4812 E Joppa Rd Perry Hall  
(410) 529-0552  
sales@americannativeplants.net

### Michigan

#### Otsego Conservation Native Plant Nursery

800 Livingston Blvd, Ste 4A, Gaylord  
(989) 732-4021  
posburn@otsegocountymi.gov  
www.otsego.org/conservationdistrict

#### Wildtype Native Plant Nursery

900 N Every Rd Mason  
(517) 244-1140  
wildtype@msu.edu  
www.wildtypeplants.com

#### Michigan Wildflower Farm

11770 Cutler Rd, Portland  
(517) 647-6010  
wildflowers@voyager.net  
www.michiganwildflowerfarm.com

#### Nativescape LLC

10380 Clinton Rd, Manchester  
(517) 456-9696  
chris@nativescape.net  
www.nativescape.net

#### Native Plant Nursery LLC

PO Box 7841 Ann Arbor  
(734) 677-3260  
plants@nativeplant.com  
www.nativeplant.com

### Minnesota

#### Prairie Moon Nursery

32115 Prairie Ln, Winona  
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## Remembering Lorrie on Her Birthday

Not many of our newest Wild Ones members will recognize the name Lorrie Otto, but she is a very important woman in the history of Wild Ones. It is her philosophy on which Wild Ones mission was created.

Excerpted below is a quote from a letter Lorrie wrote to the New Yorker Magazine in 2010:

"Butterflies are symbols of sunshine, flowers and happiness. The New Yorker cover implies that window boxes, potted plants and formal gardens could bring them back. No way! Those pollinators need more than nectar. Where are roof gardens to provide habitat for larval butterflies, those tiny caterpillars which eat holes in leaves? Where do we grow patches of Milkweeds for Monarchs? Stinging Nettles for Red Admirals? Thistles for the Vanessas? And many other native plants which do not appear decorative to humans, but which are vital to America's insects? Could we not give up lawns for the health and happiness of the earth? Why not incorporate habitats for birds and butterflies into buildings?"

Show your appreciation of Lorrie's feisty attitude about sunshine, flowers and pollinators by donating to the Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program today. Let's make sure we spread that happiness with outdoor learning centers throughout the USA.

## Show Me Help Me Day

Summer Wild Ones programs often include a Show Me Help Me day. If you've participated in a Show Me Help Me day recently, let us know what you found most interesting/helpful/exciting about the program. We'd like to get your ideas about improving the day for maximum educational effect. For more information about Show Me Help Me day see Wild Ones Journal Vol 21, No. 4 page 5 <http://www.wildones.org/download/Journold/2008Vol21No4Journal.pdf>

## Pulling Privet

By Avid Weeder



Trillium competing with privet seedlings.

I first became interested in native plants one summer when I spent time working in the native plant greenhouse at the Chattanooga Nature Center years ago, but my interest in native plants really took off more recently after I read an article on the Internet that told all about monarch butterflies and how they are dependent on native milkweed plants for their very survival. Somehow I never realized that before and that clear distinction between native and non-native plants sparked my interest in all things native.

Unfortunately I have found very little space to grow milkweed or any other natives because of the overwhelming quantities of non-native invasive plants that are growing in all the places where I would wish to grow the natives; mostly kudzu and privet. As a result, I spent last summer looking forward to winter so that I could really go after the invaders. In winter I can see where to start and am not worried about encountering snakes (I'm in southern Tennessee). I find the roots are easier to pull out of the ground during their short dormant season, and the soil is usually moist. Here in Tennessee, kudzu is the most notable invasive plant of which I have an abundant supply. Another, not so noticeable one is privet, of which I also have more than plenty. Most of my life I was keenly aware of kudzu's invasive qualities but to me privet was just a name for the line of shrubs growing along the fence line between me and the neighbors. I thought it was some kind of English hedge plant, but I didn't really think there was much of it growing here. It was recently brought to my attention as being a prevalent invasive plant in my part of the state. When I checked the forest behind the kudzu in my backyard, I found stands of privet growing everywhere, and in all sizes. Tall, somewhat sparse looking bushes, approximately fifteen feet tall, with solid grey trunks, and tiny plantlets just 4 inches tall-**EVERYWHERE**. Even growing into the base of a large tulip poplar tree.

Seeing that privet was the primary invasive-plant problem here made me curious to know more about it. I looked all over



Opposite leaves of privet.



Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), with a new lease on life.

the Internet and learned that there are several kinds of privet: Japanese, Chinese, Glossy, Amur, Common, and variations. Chinese privet is the most invasive of all. I'm not sure what kind I have but for my purposes it really doesn't matter.

So, how to tackle it? I refuse to use herbicide and I don't want to leave the plants growing; so my only option seems to be pulling them up, one by one. One thing I discovered is that privet is the funnest and easiest invasive to pluck up out of the ground. It comes up roots and all with just a gentle tug—most of the time. If it's growing near water it seems to have a stronger root system, but in the forested area it comes out with ease, even plants that are seven feet tall.

Privet is easy to identify, especially in winter in my warm climate, since it's one of the only understory plants that stays green all winter. (Just look for the most numerous green plant in the forest and you've probably found it.) Another feature that stands out is that it tends to grow in stands. Dense, impenetrable stands. The larger parent plants are usually in the middle, and have somewhat smooth gray trunks that split in two at some point above the ground, and then branch out. Small oval leaves (approximately 2 inches long and 1 inch wide) that grow opposite each other, cover the branches. The smaller plants are just straight branches covered with opposite leaves. They look almost like someone clipped branches from a mature one, and stuck them into the ground. The shallow roots extend laterally at least two feet on either side of a seven foot bush. With some convincing it does release its grip on the soil.

Driving along the road you're likely to note the large cascading clusters of dark purple berries that hang from the branches. Berries that drop in a circle around the parent plants forming stands of little plants. Berries so numerous there might not be any forests left to enjoy if no one takes action now. They are slowly and almost imperceptibly taking over forests all across Tennessee and beyond, crowding out valuable natives in their path. As time consuming and tedious as it is, plucking the smaller ones out, one at a time, is a necessary task that's only going to get harder if I (or we) wait. Larger plants need to be cut close to the ground and the cut stumps covered for years with dirt and large rocks that block the sun and prevent regrowth.

One good thing about invasive privet and kudzu is that



they provide huge amounts of organic matter which, when handled properly, can actually be used to help the environment. Seeds need to be burned or disposed of in a place where they will NEVER germinate, but the rest of the plant parts, when dry, can be used to provide cover for wildlife. Privet branches make huge brush piles providing cover for various creatures in the woods. (I think it's very important to leave brush piles in the woods.) The organic matter also will return nutrients to the soil as it breaks down. After all, kudzu was originally planted by some as a cover crop (and cover crop it did). I haven't been making brush piles for long, so it remains to be seen who uses them for refuge.

I hope to make woven birdhouse baskets out of kudzu and privet. There is a man in Chattanooga (Bill Haley) who makes them and one of his customers said the birds (finches I think) went to it before they went to his other birdhouses.

One word of caution. If you do go out to pull privet, look out for poison ivy growing among the privet. It looks like a stick with a small reddish bud at the tip and is frequently growing extremely close to young privet plants. It can cause skin problems even in winter. I wear gloves and long sleeves and usually manage to avoid tangling with it.

Since I started counting I've pulled out over 6,849 privet plants (counting only the one's that come up by the roots; not cut or broken stumps) out of this bit of forest. Fortunately that seems to be the bulk of them, and when I looked around the forest this spring I found ferns, toadshade, columbine, and other natives flourishing in areas where they had been crowded out by privet last year. And, so far, none of the privet has come back. 🐸



Toadshade competing with Japanese honeysuckle.

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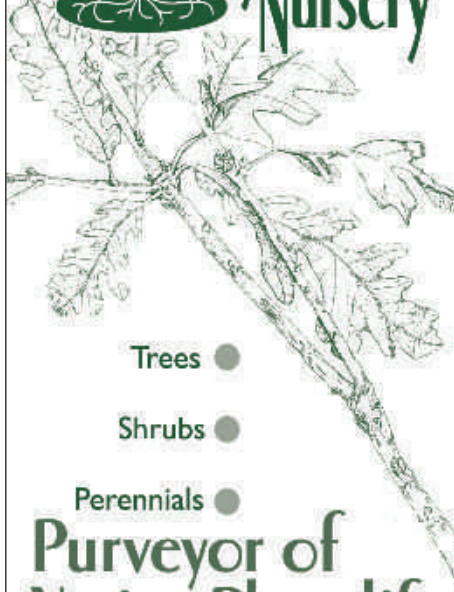
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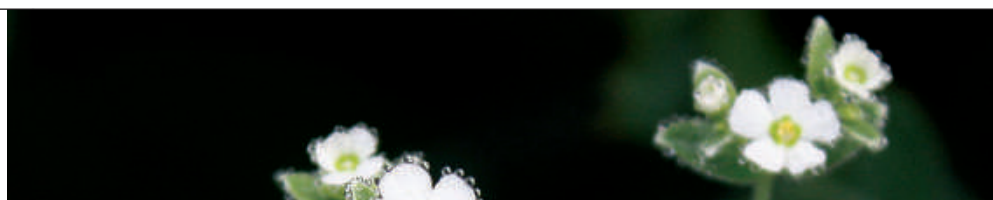
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Earth Perfect? Nature, Utopia and the Garden Symposium and Exhibitions, Newark, Delaware  
<http://www.udel.edu/ihrcc/conference/earthperfect/> Wild Ones Honorary Director Douglas Tallamy "Bringing Nature Home" and Rick Darke "The American Woodland Garden" will be two of the featured speakers

July 26-28, 2013

Midwest Native Plant Conference, Dayton, Ohio  
<http://midwestnativeplants.org/> Wild Ones Honorary Director Douglas Tallamy "Bringing Nature Home" will be giving the keynote.

August 3, 2013

Wild Ones Photo Contest entries due.

August 16, 2013

Wild Ones third quarter Board Meeting; Wild Ones Board Development Workshop; Annual Membership Meeting/Workshops Evening reception

August 17, 2013

Wild Ones Annual Membership Meeting; Evening Bar-B-Q; "Wings of Life" showing

August 17-18, 2013

Wild Ones Chapter Development Workshops

August 24-25, 2013

Aquatic Plant Workshop in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Calumet, Michigan <http://gratiotlakeconservancy.org/AquaticPlantWrkshp2013.htm>



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For information about starting a chapter in your area: [www.wildones.org/chapters.html](http://www.wildones.org/chapters.html)

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Tennessee Valley 1 year  
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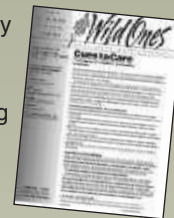
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