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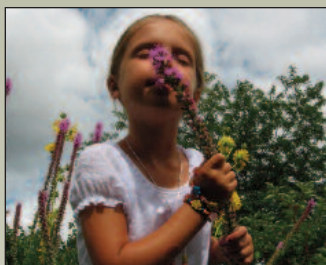


March/April 2014

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JOURNAL

By Ron Martin, Wild Ones Business Member, Midwest Prairies LLC

Spring is a time of change in our natural world. Mild temperatures, warm rains, birds returning to nesting grounds, and fire sweeping across the prairies. All of these events took place in the upper Midwest for thousands of years maintaining the natural balance of plants, animals, and insects, until European settlement changed everything. After settlers built homes, barns and, wooden fences, fire was cursed and even the mention of fire struck terror in the hearts of men.

Settlers brought an end to burning, and the beginning of plowing, which drastically changed the landscape. Any land that was too rugged to plow was grazed, and the cows replaced the fires by grazing on woody stems, which kept the brush under control.

Fire, however, has a way of sorting out plant species into three basic groups; fire tolerant, fire intolerant and fire dependent. This process was interrupted.

The point of growth for most native prairie plants is below ground, while the growing point for most woody species is above ground. Wind-swept fire quickly racing over the dormant prairie grasses consumes the dry thatch exposing the dark soil. The remaining soot and black ash draw the heat from the sun to warm the soil, and quickly jump start the root crowns into green life. Without fire, the thatch builds up and reflects the sunlight, insulating the roots, and keeping them cold for weeks longer.

The burning process also returns many important nutrients back into the soil. In the soil the nutrients are taken down to the roots with the spring rains. This is why, in the years following a burn, you see the amazing green foliage and brilliant flowers, which may have been absent for a long time.

continued on page 6

Fire:

Nature's way
of
weeding
and
feeding



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Celebrate 35 Years and Future

This year marks the 35th anniversary of Wild Ones and we have a lot to celebrate. This is a time to also look to the future. The first meeting of “The Wild Ones Garden Club” was held on July 23, 1979 in Milwaukee. On June 8, 1990, Wild Ones incorporated as *Wild Ones – Natural Landscapers, Ltd.* At our 25th anniversary in 2004, we had grown to 42 chapters and 3012 members.

Like many organizations, the recession has set us back some. By January 2012, our membership had fallen to under 2700. But because of your faith in us and your belief in our mission, we have grown by about five percent per year. As I write this, we have are approaching 3700 members and 50 chapters with three seedling chapters. I am so proud of our accomplishments. Despite the recent great recession, Wild Ones is growing and spreading the word. We are doing okay!

Most of our members are served by the chapters where they learn about the many benefits of native plants through expert speakers, tours and conferences, and where they can participate in community projects and share their knowledge with others. Approximately 10% of our members are PALs (Partners-at Large) and are not affiliated with chapters, so they depend primarily upon the WILD ONES JOURNAL and our e-newsletters for their continued learning. We hope they are able to take that knowledge and interact within their communities as well. Sometimes that community activism generates another new chapter.

We’ve grown closer as One Cooperative Unit—Chapters, PALs and national, all working together as one organization. That is our biggest accomplishment. Members

are taking an active role in supporting Wild Ones, financially, and personally, by providing free professional services, volunteering where they are needed, and donating much needed equipment.

You do this because you have the confidence in what the organization is doing to support our mission and to spread the word.

As a review, we **all** should be proud of what **we** have accomplished during the past 10 years:

- Purchased the Wild Ones headquarters and are mortgage-free because of grants and donations of nearly \$1M.
- Developed a showcase for Wild Ones mission with public gardens at the WILD Center.
- Received an interest-free loan of \$100,000 and now a Legacy donation of over \$100,000 to be used to grow Wild Ones and spread the word.
- Established a sound Grow Wild Ones Marketing Plan.
- Embarked on promoting monarch conservation through our Wild for Monarchs campaign and our partnership with other like-minded national organizations.
- Moved our national board from a task-based board to a governance style board.
- Grown from 3000 to 3700 members and from 42 to 50 chapters.

All this because of your generosity, your support, and your trust in Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes and its mission.

I am enthusiastically looking forward to our 50th anniversary and beyond. 🌱

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.



Donna VanBuecken
Executive Director

Nativar Statement Response

Wild Ones stands behind the fundamental definition of native, and the basic ecological principles presented in our Nativar Statement, and in our Local Ecotype Guidelines. We support locally native biodiversity.

We realize that any given individual plant—a cloned nativar or straight species—may reproduce with other plants. We encourage the propagation of native species by methods that maintain maximum local genetic diversity at every stage; we discourage the propagation of native species by methods that do not. We consider native species grown from local or regional seed sources to be the optimal means of propagation when it comes to preserving maximum genetic diversity.

When no local or regional seed is available, but a locally selected nativar is available, we encourage you to make the best decision you can by asking if the named nativar/cultivar is a clone? Or is it propagated from seed? As some of your responses to our published Nativar Statement noted, there are nuances that can make it hard to know what is 'best'. For the vast majority of native plants, however, we recommend that you choose locally native species grown from seed, rather than the nativars that are genetically identical to each other because of the way they are reproduced.

Thanks for Your Response to Our Annual Appeal

We've had such a wonderful kick-off to our 35th anniversary year. Your generosity in support of our annual appeal letter, continues to amaze me. Thank you everyone for making this an even more special year.

35

Wild Ones newest DVD will soon be available

Entitled *The Vital New Role of the Suburban/Urban Garden*, Doug Tallamy's (author of *Bringing Nature Home*) latest presentations are featured:

"The Value of Having Native Plants in Our Yards"

"Creating Healthy, Biodiverse Neighborhood Corridors"



Moving for Monarchs

It's official! Moving for Monarchs will be filming at the WILD Center this summer. Producer Gwynedd Vetter-Drusch and her crew will descend on the WILD Center to film a portion of the second segment of Moving for Monarchs "Dance of Life." We will also be planning a local community event in conjunction with the filming so there can be a variety of people interaction. Here's how you can participate in this awesome opportunity to not only support monarch butterflies and pollinator conservation, but spread the word about Wild Ones and native plants at the same time. We want to see your "moves for monarchs." Send your "Monarch Moves" video to monarchs@wildones.org to be considered for use in the "Dance of Life." Use the submission form found at <http://www.wildones.org/learn/wild-for-monarchs/>



Wild Ones Annual Meeting

This year Wild Ones will be celebrating their 35th anniversary in conjunction with their annual meeting/chapter workshops, so mark your calendars and join us for the exciting events we are planning for August 15, 16 and 17 at the WILD Center. Because we want to make this a bigger splash than usual in celebration of our thirty-five years, we will be including special speakers and a banquet under the circus tent out in the prairie. Mark your calendars and plan to join us. You'll have a great time!

Mark Your Calendars

March 1, 2014

Gardeners of the Prairie:
Rediscovering Sustainability.
The Prairie Enthusiasts, Lisle, IL.
Wild Ones Executive Director
Donna VanBuecken
will be one of the featured speakers.

March 8, 2014

Third Annual
Native Plant Symposium.
Wild Ones Tennessee Valley
Chattanooga, TN.

March 21-22, 2014

Partners for Native Landscaping.
Missouri Botanical Garden,
St Louis, MO.
Doug Tallamy will be
a featured speaker.

August 15, 16, 17, 2014

Wild Ones Annual Meeting/
35th Anniversary Celebration
at the WILD Center, in Neenah, WI.

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By Candy Sarikonda,
Oak Openings Region
(OH) Chapter

I have spent a lot of time thinking about the future of conservation. How do we nurture the next generation of conservationists? A large part of the answer: One child, one yard at a time.

I remember a few years ago, when I started a vegetable and butterfly garden at a local school. The teachers and I decided to have a planting event to culminate the school's Mother's Day program. We invited the students and their parents to help us plant the new veggies and flowers in the freshly prepared garden beds.

I had designed a garden plan, and I arrived early that morning to place each plant in the garden—still in its pot—in the exact location in the garden where it needed to be planted.

After a morning singing program, the teachers and I invited everyone into the garden. Each parent-child pair was given a hand shovel, and instructed to choose a plant on the ground, dig a hole immediately next to it, and install the new plant. Everyone was so excited, the kids and parents were having a wonderful time!

As we finished, and I had a moment to survey the garden, I noticed something... several plants were in the ground, fresh dirt tucked gently around them—and they were still in their pots. They had been planted, pot and all, in the new garden bed.

Many of us have stories like this. We know how important it is to help kids learn about their environment. And it's clear that parents may need some help too! So how can we help them? Here are a few suggestions.

Host garden planting events that target families with young children. This is especially fun to do at community gardens, schools, and nature centers. Prepare the garden beds ahead of time—weed, add compost, mulch if needed. Invite the public, tell them what you are doing and why, and ask them to help you do the planting. Then show them how to plant. You would be surprised how many people really don't know how to put a potted plant in the ground.

Nurturing the Next Generation



Looking for insects PHOTO: Betty Hall

project website. They can use virtual guides to help identify the bees in the photos, and have their identifications verified by experts. In this way, participants can help scientists track bee populations, and learn about the native bees in their own backyards.

The Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (MLMP) is a long-standing project designed to monitor monarch butterfly populations. Participants choose a milkweed patch, and use data sheets to keep track of the number of milkweed plants, monarch eggs, larvae and more that they find in their patch.



Catch your star PHOTO: David Poweleit

The milkweed patch can be as large field of milkweed, or as small as a 10 x 10 sq ft area. (Smaller patches are often easier for smaller children to monitor.) Participants can enter their data on the MLMP website, and quickly see graphs of their findings and compare their observations with other MLMP volunteers.

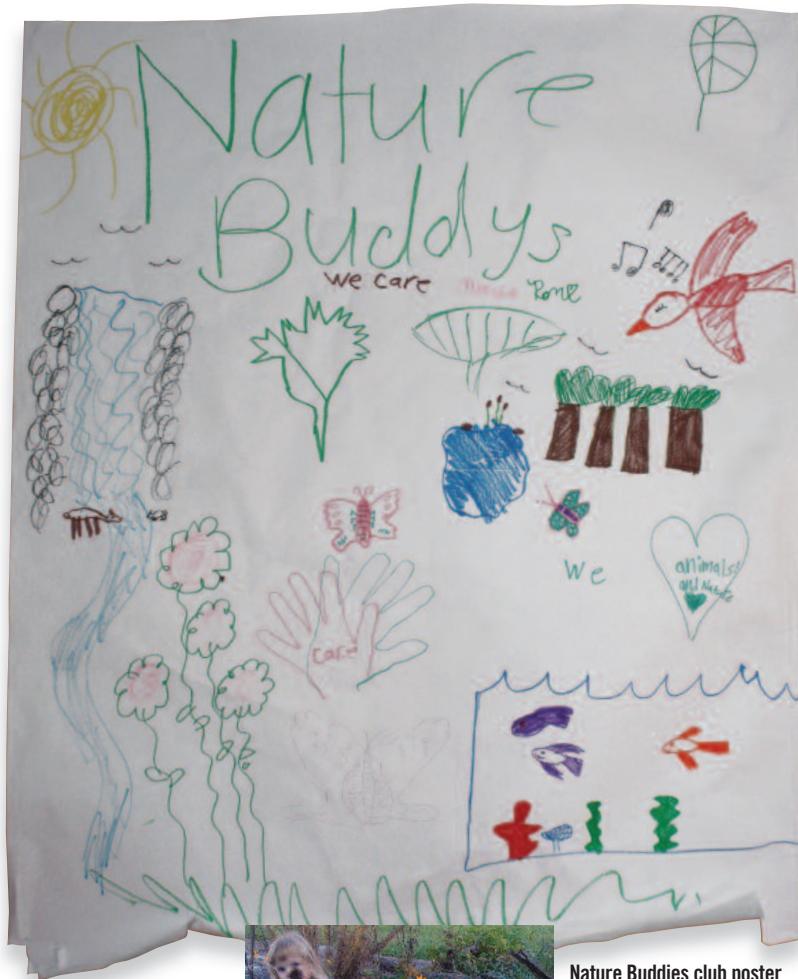
The Lost Ladybug project is another great citizen science project for kids. In 2006, a 10- and 11-year old brother and sister were the first people to find a nine-spotted (C-9) ladybug in the eastern U.S. in 14 years! Their finding proved the C-9 was not extinct!

There are so many citizen science programs, there is bound to be one that interests a child near you. See this article for a list

2- and 4-year olds
starting pea seeds

PHOTO: Elizabeth Whitman





Exploring the world PHOTO: Alleyn Unversaw

Nature Buddies club poster by Maya Sarikonda and cousin Roni PHOTO: Candy Sarikonda

of kid-friendly programs to choose from <http://www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/latest/citizen-science-47121401#slide-1>

Lastly, help kids meet other children who share similar interests in nature. Look for opportunities to involve children in your programs. Invite children to help you collect seeds, and later package them at a packaging event—as our Wild Ones chapter did www.facebook.com/wildonesoakopenings

Ask kids to grow seedlings, and plant them on a partnering nature preserve near you—then bring them back to monitor the results. Have kids create artwork for your displays; ask them to help you teach other children and adults what they have learned; encourage them to create their own clubs and plan field trips together. My daughter created the “Nature Buddies” club, inviting her friends and

cousins to join. Meetings consist of putting on plays, cooking and eating freshly harvested food from our garden, visiting local parks; and simply playing outside.

The activity isn’t so important—the kids just want to be together. As adults, we can foster those connections, and show them it really is cool to be green!

However you choose to nurture the next Rachel Carson or John Muir, be sure to have fun! Children’s positive experiences with nature will stay with them for years, creating wonderful memories and fostering a strong connection with their environment. Recently, my kids and I were treated to a spectacularly large flock of blackbirds that visited our wooded backyard. Probably 1000 grackles descended into our yard one morning, filling the trees with their loud calls. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XB2q4pk62k&feature=youtube_gdata

All three of my kids, including my 3-year old, held their cameras and watched in awe. At one point, my daughter exclaimed, “I’m gonna remember this forever!” Yes, indeed. And so will I. 🌱

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Fire *continued from front page*

Prairies that haven't been burned for several years are noticeably shorter, and later to bloom. Cool season grasses, weeds, invasive species, and woody plants gain an advantage when prairies are not burned for long periods. Late spring burns can negatively affect early blooming spring flowers, like the Pasque Flowers, so you want to have a diverse burn cycle, which has a rotation of early spring, late spring and fall burns. You should also skip a few years if invasive brush isn't an issue.

Streams that wind through native prairie grasses generally flow clear, and have less sediment than streams which have become overgrown with trees and brush along their banks. The deep and fibrous root systems of the warm season prairie grasses does a much better job of holding the soil and preventing erosion. Roots of most trees and brush are coarse and shallow resulting in poor soil holding capacity. This can be seen along many streams in the Midwest.

Bur oak trees (*Quercus macrocarpa*) are one exception in the world of trees when it comes to fire. Early in life, Bur oak seedlings develop a huge root system which can store a large amount of energy capable of regeneration if a fire burns off the top. I have seen 18 inch bur oaks completely burned off in a prairie fire resprout again from the roots to a height of 30 inches by the end of summer, surpassing the original height. The roots continue to gain mass, and if the top is burned off again it will rebound to new heights, until the thick corky bark insulates its vital areas to the point where the tree can survive fires unscathed. The value of bur oak trees in the natural community cannot be over-emphasized, as 90% of woodland and savanna wildlife depends on the sweet nutritious acorns for survival.

Consider the fact that warm season grasses have the ability to pull carbon from the air and deposit it in their roots, which can go down as



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much as 10-12 feet. Through natural attrition, about one-third of these roots die, and decompose each winter, leaving an open channel in the soil for rainwater to find its way down, and recharge our groundwater, keeping our wells working and our streams flowing.

The prairie states of the Midwest are known as the bread basket of the world with the deep rich black soil created by thousands of years of prairie communities which had been maintained by fire. This deep black soil was created by the decaying roots of the native prairie plants.

Ok, so fire is fine for the plants which have adapted to fire to their own advantage, but what about the birds and animals. How does fire affect them?

Most prairie fires occur in early spring or fall when birds are not nesting and baby animals are not in the prairie. I have, on occasion, discovered a turkey nest which was burned and the eggs were lost; however, they frequently re-nest to raise a second brood.

Consider the effects of not burning. Invasive species and brush would replace the flowers and native grasses; the grassland birds would lose their habitat entirely and be gone. The insects that are attracted to the flowers would no longer be available for birds to feed their young. By eliminating fire, the entire community may collapse. An occasional prescribed burn could enhance and maintain the community.

So the next time you see the black ash and soot of a prairie fire you will know that it is not just the result of pyromaniacs playing with fire. Rather, a highly skilled crew of folks are putting the natural forces of nature in motion to keep the prairies blooming, the birds singing, and the water flowing clear into your well and lake. ☼

Because of the potential liability associated with burning, Wild Ones encourages you to engage a certified prescribed burn manager to supervise your prairie burn and to use controlled burn guidelines. (Ed.)



A late fall burn, up close and personal. One man with a drip torch, another with water in a tank on his back. Most importantly a gravel firebreak. The following spring the meadow in front of the house greens in and by June the blossoms are plentiful.





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Climate Change... the Circle Back to Wild Ones

By Arlene Kjar, Northfield Prairie Partners (MN) Chapter

In January, over 800 participants attended the Climate Summit at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Sustainability organizations from St. Olaf College and Carleton College organized the event.

Several members of the Wild Ones Northfield Prairie Partners Chapter attended the all-day event. Our Chapter's display introduced the summit participants to Wild Ones and the Northfield Prairie Partners. Many that visited our exhibit had never heard of Wild Ones or the Northfield Prairie Partners.

The keynote speaker was Paul Douglas, whom many of us know, for he used to be a TV weather meteorologist in Chicago and in Minneapolis. Today, he lives in the Twin Cities area and has many weather related businesses and projects.

His presentation was titled "Climate Change: Natural Cycle or Troubling Trend." He described climate as "what you expect and weather is what you get." According to Paul, most meteorologists believe that the climate is rapidly warming and attribute this to mostly man-made activities. Globally, in the last three hundred forty-five months there have been above average temperatures, and 2010 was the warmest year on record.

Prolonged droughts, record heat waves, frequent fires, record flooding, tornado outbreaks and record numbers of hurricanes are some of the extreme weather events occurring in recent years. Paul said they are more than a series of coincidences and called it "climatic volatility" (sometimes called 'climate change'). We have "fingerprints," or data that show a 40 % increase in greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere in recent times, which is a major cause of global warming. The greenhouse gases have mostly carbon in them that comes from burning fossil fuels.

In response to those who do not believe the Earth is warming, Paul said all truths go through three stages: ridicule, opposition, and finally acceptance. Those with financial interests will confuse, delay, and deceive. He put forth ideas of what can be accomplished at a national level such as conserving resources, taxing high consumers of energy, and promoting safer forms of energy. He ended his presentation by saying that our actions have consequences to our health, that we want to live without being threatened by the weather and with the adage: "we do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children."

Ellen Anderson, the Senior Policy Adviser to Minnesota Governor Dayton for Energy and Environment, led a panel of the representatives from each breakout session. Ellen stated that many states, regions, and local organizations are leading the way, as shown by the many groups participating in the informational fair. We, as individuals, can make a difference by what we put into practice in our daily lives. But we also need to be activists and reach out to others. Citizens of all countries need to become involved and concerned about global warming.

Robert Jacobel's presentation was on "The Science of Climate Change: An Opportunity for Questions about the Science of Climate Change." He said that the amount of carbon on Earth is effectively constant. Thus, processes that use carbon must obtain it somewhere and dispose of it somewhere else. Plants draw carbon dioxide out of their environment and tie it up when they grow biomass. Some transfer of carbon happens when animals eat plants. Some carbon dioxide is dissolved in the oceans. Dead plant or animal matter over millions of years may become

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petroleum or coal, which can be mined and burned, releasing stored carbon.

~ ❖ ~

We heard the word carbon and CO₂ mentioned frequently. I asked my son, (Daniel Kjar, Ph.D. Myrmecology, Ecology & Evolution), to send me an easy to understand description of carbon.

Carbon is an element that makes up both plant and animal life on Earth. Carbon serves as the backbone for most if not all organic molecules. Through a process called 'photosynthesis' that only plants can do, they use the sun's energy to combine carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen to make glucose, a simple sugar. Living plants take in carbon dioxide during the day while the sun shines and through respiration they release some carbon at night when the sun has set.

Every other living thing uses the sugar molecules manufactured by plants to obtain the carbon for whatever is needed. We humans convert the sugar into fats, proteins, nucleic acids, and numerous substances that make up our bodies.

Organic matter, as in fossilized plants and animals, can slowly turn into the long chain carbons (coal and oil) that we use as fossil fuels. The ethanol we use for fuel comes from plant material. The sugar is converted by yeast into ethanol (beer or gas for the car). When our bodies break down sugars to produce energy we release carbon dioxide when we exhale.

This cycle of carbon can be represented as:

Energy from sunlight + Carbon dioxide + Water -> Sugar -> Carbon dioxide + Water + Energy of life.

The burning of fossil products that we mine from the ground, like coal, oil and natural gases, is releasing far too much carbon into our atmosphere, creating the Greenhouse Effect that is heating our atmosphere. All this is leading to the changes in our climate.

The circle back to the Wild Ones was closed for me at this Climate Summit in Northfield. Replacing non-native turf from our lawns with gardens of native trees, shrubs, and forbs can be helpful in slowing down global warming. Plants which use sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide to produce sugar, will help clean the atmosphere as they had in the past, before we removed vast forests and plowed deep-rooted grasslands.

Turf requires fossil fuels through manufacture and transportation of fertilizers and pesticides, and through the gasoline we use to mow it and trim it.

The mission of Wild Ones promotes the establishment of native plant communities, which not only provide habitat for wildlife but can make the Earth a healthier place for humans to live.

It's quite straight-forward, I think. ☒



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SCA Tissue, Town of Menasha

Prairies Planted in 2010

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Commerce Pond, Neenah
Sullivan Pond, Fond du Lac

Prairies Planted in 2012

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**Special Thanks to Stuart at McMahon Engineers
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NATIVE Caterpillars Moths and Butterflies and host NATIVE Woodies



Double-toothed Prominent



Honey locust Moth caterpillar

In a study published in 2009, Dr. Douglas W. Tallamy, Ph.D, chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware specifically addressed the usefulness of native woodies as host plants for our native caterpillars (and obviously therefore moths and butterflies).

We present here a partial list, and the number of Lepidopteran species that rely on them. Please note that two genera (Rhamnus and Frangula) are marked **. Both have species commonly named 'buckthorn'. In fact, both genera have more native than non-native buckthorns.

Keep this list in mind as you think about replacing the ash trees that have succumbed to the emerald ash borer.
<http://plants.usda.gov/> is an excellent site to check-out any uncertainties.

Number of species of Caterpillars

Oaks (Quercus)	557	Beeches (Fagus)	127
Cherries (Prunus)	456	Serviceberry (Amelanchier)	124
Willows (Salix)	455	Larches or Tamaracks (Larix)	121
Birches (Betula)	411	Dogwoods (Cornus)	118
Poplars (Populus)	367	Firs (Abies)	117
Crabapples (Malus)	308	Bayberries (Myrica)	108
Maples (Acer)	297	Viburnums (Viburnum)	104
Blueberries (Vaccinium)	294	Currants (Ribes)	99
Alders (Alnus)	255	Hop Hornbeam (Ostrya)	94
Hickories (Carya)	235	Hemlocks (Tsuga)	92
Elms (Ulmus)	215	Spireas (Spiraea)	89
Pines (Pinus)	201	Grapes (Vitis)	79
Hawthorns (Crataegus)	168	Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga)	76
Berries (Rubus)	163	Locusts (Robinia)	72
Spruces (Picea)	150	Hornbeams (Carpinus)	68
Ashes (Fraxinus)	149	Mountain ashes (Sorbus)	68
Linden or Basswood (Tilia)	149	Sweetfern (Comptonia)	64
Pears (Pyrus)	138	Witch-hazels (Hamamelis)	63
Roses (Rosa)	135	Sumacs (Rhus)	58
Filberts (Corylus)	131	Rhododendrons (Rhododendron)	51
Walnut (Juglans)	129	Arborvitae (Thuja)	50
Chestnuts (Castanea)	127	Persimmons (Diospyros)	46

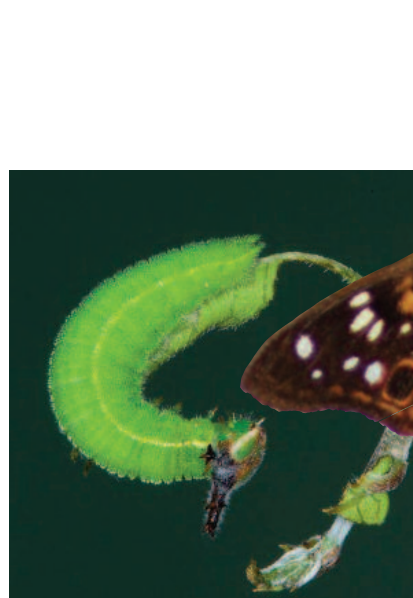


Giant Swallowtail larva defensive red horns extended



Giant Swallowtail PHOTO: Christer Johansson





Hackberry Emperor larva PHOTO: Douglas Tallamy



Hackberry Emperor
PHOTO: Megan McCarty



Big Poplar Sphinx



Honey-locusts (Gleditsia)	46	Magnolias (Magnolia)	21
New Jersey Tea (Ceanothus)	45	Buttonbush (Cephalanthus)	19
Sycamores (Platanus)	45	Redbuds (Cercis)	19
Huckleberry (Gaylussacia)	44	Green-briar (Smilax)	19
Hackberry (Celtis)	43	Wisterias (Wisteria)	19
Junipers (Juniperus)	42	Redbay (native) (Persea)	18
Elders (Sambucus)	42	Bearberry (Arctostaphylos)	17
Ninebark (Physocarpus)	41	Bald cypresses (Taxodium)	16
Lilacs (Syringa)	40	Leatherleaf (Chamaedaphne)	15
Hollies (Ilex)	39	Poison Ivy (Toxicodendron)	15
Sassafras (Sassafras)	38	Sourwood (Oxydendrum)	14
Honeysuckles (Lonicera)	37	Pepper vine (Ampelopsis)	13
Sweet-gums (Liquidambar)	35	Madrone (Arbutus)	12
Mountain-laurel (Kalmia)	33	Pawpaw (Asimina)	12
Buckeyes (Aesculus)	33	Colorado Barberry (Berberis)	12
Virginia Creeper (Parthenocissus)	32	Prairie Acacia (Acacia)	11
Red and Black Chokeberries (Photinia)	29	Euonymus (Euonymus)	11
Black Gums or Tupelo (Nyssa)	26	Buckthorn** (Frangula)	11
Snowberries (Symphoricarpos)	25	Spicebush (Lindera)	11
Buffalo-berries (Shepherdia)	22	Fetterbush (Lyonia)	11
Tulip-trees (Liriodendron)	21	Summersweet (Clethra)	10
		Buckthorns** (Rhamnus)	10

Double-toothed Prominent (*Nerice bidentata*) larvae feed exclusively on elms (Ulmus), and can be found June through October. Their body shape mimics the toothed shape of American elm, making them hard to spot. The adult moth is small with a wingspan of 3-4 cm.

Honey locust caterpillar feeds on honey locust, and Kentucky coffee trees.

Asterocampa celtis, the Hackberry Emperor caterpillar, feeds exclusively on Hackberry (Celtis) species. Cats overwinter in groups, inside rolled, dead leaves.

Big poplar sphinx larvae (*Pachysphinx occidentalis*) feed on poplars (Populus), and willows (Salix). The adult moth's wingspan is an impressive 13-15 cm. (5-6 inches).

Giant swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*) larvae feed on trees and herbs of the citrus family (Rutaceae), prickly ash, hop tree, and common rue. The adult is the largest butterfly in Canada and United States, with a wingspan of 10-16 cm. (3.9-6-3 inches).

Cecropia silkmoth (*Hyalophora cecropia*) caterpillars feed in groups on various trees and shrubs including maples (Acer), wild cherries and plums (Prunus), apples (Malus), alder and birch (Betulaceae), dogwoods (Cornus), and willows (Salix). Adult moths do not feed. They have a wingspan of 11-15 cm.



Cecropia caterpillar



Cecropia newly emerged male PHOTO: Charles Benjamin Schwamb

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CHAPTER ACTIVITY

Considering Chapter Awards?

By Denise Gehring, Oak Openings Region (OH) Chapter

We hope you'll consider implementing chapter awards such as these. And if you do you will share your ideas with other chapters and with the Wild Ones Wild Ones Journal. (Ed.)

If your chapter has considered kicking off a local Wild Ones award program, but haven't yet begun, we'd like to share descriptions of two programs that our members and community have embraced.

In 2012, the Wild Ones Oak Openings Region Chapter established new award programs: **Student Scholarships** and the **Native Landscape Awards**. The awards have been presented annually at our yearend meeting, and provide many benefits for our chapter.

Wild Ones Student Scholarship Program

Our scholarship awards recognize outstanding students whose work actively supports the Wild Ones mission through restoration, education, and native plant conservation in gardens, landscapes, and plant rescues. Scholarship winners receive a student membership to Wild Ones, recognition certificate for their exemplary work, and the Wild Ones calendar. The scholarship fund for student memberships is supported by designated donations by members and non-members alike. The nominal cost for certificates, basic frames, and calendars is in the annual chapter budget.

The scholarship selection process is straightforward. Wild Ones partner agencies, such as a university, park district, preserve, or botanical garden are invited to nominate a student. They provide our chapter board with written highlights of the student's work. The board reviews the nominations and approves the recipients of the scholarship awards. Once notified, nominators are requested to provide biographical information about the students, 1 to 3 action photos, and to help introduce the winners at the award presentation.

An important positive result of the scholarship is that the winners become connected locally and nationally to the Wild Ones network. This network provides them greater access to professional development, field trips, workshops, writing opportunities, and stewardship experiences. Direct benefits to the chapter include dedicated participation by a younger demographic, chapter growth, partner collaboration and greater media visibility.

This year, we awarded five scholarships. Alan Lueth is an Urban Agriculture student at Owens Community College. He was nominated by his teacher, Matt Ross who said "his interest for native plants was sparked last year during propagation and seed cleaning activities in class. Then on Earth Day, he volunteered to remove invasives in a natural area. Alan worked so hard that he earned himself an internship at the Wood County Parks Greenhouse and Native Plant Nursery." Corinne Whewell, a junior at University of Toledo in Environmental Science, works as a seasonal Toledo Metropark naturalist. She enthusiastically shares the vital role of native plants in natural areas and in gardens. Plus, she leads hands-on monarch conservation activities with children at Metropark Nature Camp and presents *Wild for Monarchs* concepts on the trail. Amy Szabo, a senior in Environmental Science and Restoration at Bowling Green State University (BGSU), has been described as "passionate about native plants" by Penny Wagner, Native Seed Nursery Coordinator. She not only energetically works at the Metroparks Blue Creek Native Seed Nursery, but also planted her own native garden at home. Another BGSU senior in Environmental Science is Kim Isaac, who served as an intern at the Toledo Botanical Garden, where she worked on the local genotype Oak Openings Natives program. In June, she volunteered to aid Wild Ones respond to an urgent request from USF&W. Help was needed the next day for a seed rescue of the federally endangered Lakeside Daisy (*Hymenoxys herbacea*) ahead of an



Kim Isaac collecting lakeside daisy seed

PHOTO: Matt Ross

CHAPTER ACTIVITY

active mining operation in a commercial quarry. Our youngest scholarship recipient is Sarah Parker, who is a senior at Evergreen High School. Because of her interest and drive to become knowledgeable about native plants, insects and birds, she was hired as the Conservation Intern for the Olander Park System. She skillfully planted natives, controlled invasives, and did community monitoring for habitat restoration. Sarah then expanded her efforts by maintaining native plant landscaping in a new traffic roundabout project for the city.

To celebrate these students' accomplishments, nominators and scholarship winners were guests at the yearend Wild Ones dinner. It was an exciting presentation for all attending. Partners beamed with pride for their students, Wild Ones members shared in the glow of good spirit, and the recipients were quite energized by the recognition. Press releases promoted the awards.

Wild Ones Oak Openings Native Landscape Awards

The Wild Ones Oak Openings Native Landscape Awards recognizes excellence in local native gardens in residential, non-profit/public agency (includes schools), and commercial categories. Our landscape award program was developed by benchmarking native landscape awards of the Florida Native Plant Society, Chicago Wilderness/USEPA, and the Wild Ones *Seeds for Education* grant application.

Each year, award nominations are submitted by chapter members exclusively, while nominated native gardens may be member or non-member sites in our chapter membership area. The applications are submitted electronically or in paper form to the award committee. For the 2014 Landscape Award application and scoring forms, go to <http://oakopenings.wildones.org>.

continued on next page



Simpson Garden Park

PHOTOS:
Hal Mann

Here's an overview of the criteria for the 2014 Landscape Award application:

- Nominated gardens must be established for at least two years.
- Goal of the garden must be stated.
- Judges will consider garden design, creativity and signage.
- Must be at least 50 % native species (local genotype preferred) that appropriately represent the local bio-region.
- List of native species and their sources must be provided.
- Statement of how invasives are managed.
- A garden sketch or plan, and 3-5 garden photos must be included.



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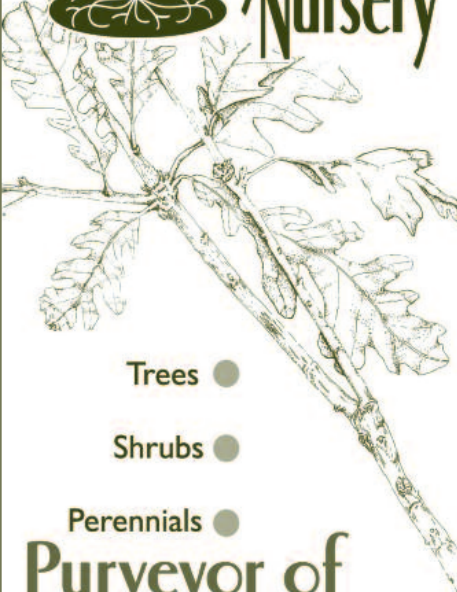


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continued from previous page

Nominations are evaluated by a three person team, who are usually Wild Ones members and have considerable professional knowledge and experience. This group includes a board member as facilitator to ensure the judging process stays on a timeline, provides updates to the board, and may act as the award presenter. Nominated gardens are evaluated using a scoring form, and if needed, judges may tour the gardens. Judges initially score all the submissions on their own, then come together to reach consensus for the winning entries. They keep a record of their notes so they are available for the award presentation, and for the gardeners. During the award presentation, a brief PowerPoint is shown about the gardens noting key details or innovations. Winners receive a framed certificate and the Wild Ones calendar. Honorable mention winners receive a certificate and encouragement to re-apply in the following year.

In December 2013, Eric Peterson won the Residential Award for his Oak Openings Prairie Garden and the Simpson Garden Park of the City of Bowling Green won in

the public agency category for their Native Plant Corridor Garden. Cinda Stutzman of Bowling Green Parks said: "Recognition of our native landscaping efforts by our local Wild Ones chapter has given us an additional opportunity to educate the public and city officials about the benefits of native plants." Honorable Mentions were two Toledo GROWS community gardens: the Oneida Rain Garden and the Manos Terrace and Rain Gardens.

To promote these awards, an accompanying article is printed in the chapter newsletter and press releases with photos are sent to various media in the region. However, we have learned that securing media attention for native landscapes in December is out of sync for the news cycle. So, in 2014, our chapter will be presenting the awards earlier in the year. We hope to capture much greater media coverage in late summer/early fall when native plants are at their peak. An additional benefit to this shift is that the winning gardens can be readily toured by media and our membership.

We hope you'll consider implementing chapter awards such as these. 

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BOOK REVIEW

By Maryann Whitman, Oakland (MI) Chapter

This softcover book contains 454 color photos of 150 seed heads of plants. There may be two versions of the book. I am only familiar with the first one, printed in 1979, by Charles Scribner's Sons. A hardcover version does exist.

One hundred of the plants pictured are native to somewhere in mainland United States; 50 of the seed heads are those of plants native to the other parts of the world. All of the plants represented are commonly found in our road-side ditches, old fields, and woodlands. As a result this booklet (186 pages), is a useful ID guide. I'm not aware of another small book that has the seed heads so readily laid out.

At the outset of the book the author gives a set of provisions about plant collecting, starting with "educate yourself so you know what you are picking. Don't pick a pod you cannot identify. Don't take the entire lot, leave some for the animals that feed on the seed." She specifically states her concern for rare and protected plants. This is as it should be.

The author then writes a brief statement "Dispelling myths about 'Weeds'." Here she touts the beauty, and the soil stabilizing, and improving attributes of many 'weeds' that were brought to North America from Europe. She says, "Most 'weeds'...are valuable and useful to the environment and add to the great beauty of the landscape." She proceeds to lump together "the Goldenrod, Milkweed, and Sunflower families, and particularly Sweet Clover" as "important soil builders." The first three families are valuable and native to this continent; last plant, *Melilotus officinalis*, is an introduced plant that is on the Invasive Plants lists of all 50 states and Puerto Rico, and all the Canadian provinces.

I understand that this was printed more than 30 years ago, however even then something was known about invasive qualities of introduced plants.

The author states in her introduction, that "the focus of this book is the decorative seed containers."

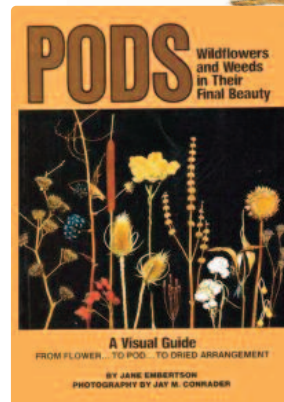
But... apart from the attractive architectural structures of the seed pods and seed heads, is the reality that they are in fact **seed-bearing structures**. When they are moved from the spot where they are originally found, they are likely to strew their seeds hither and yon until their contents are spent.

What she does not point out is that many of the non-native plants she lists are easily spread. Today many of these species are considered invasive and appear on state lists declaring them as such—including garlic mustard and purple loosestrife. This is important to know before you bring these seeds home and share bouquets around your neighborhood.

Invasive plants are undesirable because they take space and resources away from natives plants. And native plants are the ones that our pollinators and other insects, our birds that feed on the bugs, and a variety of other native fauna recognize and feed on, maintaining the circle of life—even in our road-side ditches.

If you do intend to collect pods and are not already thoroughly familiar with them,

Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*). 3300 non-native invasive seeds per seed head if not disposed of properly. PHOTO: Wikimedia Commons



PODS: WILDFLOWERS AND WEEDS IN THEIR FINAL BEAUTY

By Jane Emberton

collect them cautiously. Transport the seed heads in plastic bags until you can identify them. Then discard the non-natives, especially the potentially invasive ones, into landfills when you're finished using your dried plant arrangement(s). 🌱

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WILD ONES NEWS

Wild for Monarchs



Native Plant Butterfly Garden

www.wildones.org



We're ready to continue our Wild for Monarchs Campaign again this year. Chapters are already ordering their brochures and bookmarks. We will also have a couple of changes to the WFM PowerPoint. If you know of an event or a location where you can hand out WFM brochures and make a point of talking to people about the plight of the northeast monarch migration, don't hesitate to contact the home office to get a supply of materials.

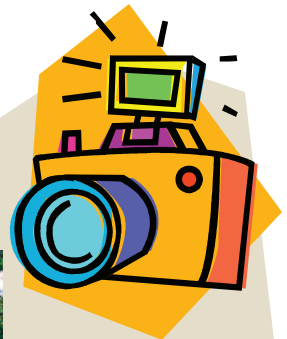
The Wild Ones Native Plant Butterfly Garden and Habitat Program is off to a good start. Thank you to everyone who has registered their garden or habitat already. Our webpage isn't quite ready to be introduced yet, but it is on the drawing board, so look for it soon. To find out more about the registration program or to register your garden or habitat go to <http://www.wildones.org/learn/wild-for-monarchs/butterfly-garden-recognition/>

Wild Ones 2014 Photo Contest

Last year's Wild Ones Photo Contest has come and gone, but this year's is just getting started. So grab your camera and get snapping. Don't wait until the summer months. We are anxious to see your photos from all year around. There are so many interesting things to see about native plants and natural landscapes throughout the seasons.



On the farm; Photo Contest 2012 PHOTO: John Magee



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Wild Ones recommends that you patronize businesses that support our policies regarding species provenance and habitat preservation. The appearance of advertising in the JOURNAL does not constitute an endorsement by Wild Ones of any organization or product.



Promise of spring—skunk cabbage rising

PHOTO: Jessica Salesman

What Makes Up the JOURNAL

The WILD ONES JOURNAL is made up of articles written predominantly by our Wild Ones members. Did you know that we have members in 45 states, 2 Canadian provinces, and in Washington D.C.?

Wouldn't it be interesting to read about what members are doing in their states with their different ecoregions and differing ecotypes of native plant species?

This is a call to all our members to pick up paper and pencil, or tablet. You can write about your part of the country, or send a photo story, or draw some sketches. You can tell us about any number of things—from design to maintenance of your gardens, landscaping ideas, or special things you do just for the birds. How about your latest encounter with an unusual native pollinator. Do you have a special tool you like to use—take a picture. Anything you feel comfortable talking about, you can write about.

If you have a story to share, let us know. We may even be able to round up a journalist to help write down your thoughts. All it takes is 500 words or so and some illustrations or photos.

We want to hear from you about where you live. Tell us about your native habitat, no matter how big or small. Contact us at 877-394-9453 or mail editor@wildones.org



Retaining Wall at WILD Center

PHOTO: Donna VanBuecken

GET WILD STAY WILD

How You Can Help Support Our Mission

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?

Annual Support

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.

Acorn Circle 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.

Burr Oak Circle

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 retreats at the Wild Ones headquarters and a 10 percent discount on items at the Wild Store.

Oak Savanna Circle

Members of this circle have loyally supported Wild Ones for at least 15 years or more.

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 2013 per the Pension Protection Act of 2006 amended), 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 6,000 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), execdirector@wildones.org, or visit our web site at www.wildones.org/.

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Headquarters Wish List

Volunteers to help with all sorts of things:

- Access programmer • Social media coordinator • Weeding demonstration gardens • Recording bird and critter sightings
- Removing buckthorn • Restoring woodland understory & overstory

Things to help with all sorts of activities:

- Gardening Tools • Household Tools (cordless circular saw, cordless jig saw, or other small tools) • Canoe or kayak • 1/4 HP motor • Electric golf cart • Guest chairs • Game or trail cameras • Native trees (6 to 8 ft.) basswood, maple, and oak (bur, white and swamp white oak) • Native shrubs: Witchhazel • Woodland plants: grasses, ephemerals, ferns, etc.

Contact the Headquarters office if you have others items that may be suitable for use by Wild Ones. We now have someone in the office from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday - Friday. Or just call for an appointment: 877-394-9453

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

Lifetime Members

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Mequon, WI 53092
mike.ecoharmony@gmail.com
Milwaukee-North Chapter

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Milton, WI 53563-8966
(608) 863-3169
ronald@midwestprairies.com
Kettle Moraine Chapter

RENEWING BUSINESS MEMBERS

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www.bluestemfarm.com
Madison Chapter

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(610) 395-2570
stantsits@edgeofthewoodsnursery.com
www.edgeofthewoodsnursery.com
Partner-at-Large (PA)

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brayherb@mtc.net
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info@jfnew.com
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Gibson Woods Chapter

Johnson's Nursery Inc
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Menomonee River Area Chapter

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www.lakeshorecleanersinc.com
Fox Valley Area Chapter

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www.neswi.com
Green Bay Chapter

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Kelsay@possibilityplace.com
www.possibilityplace.com
Will County Chapter

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31646 128th Street NW
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(763) 389-4342
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www.prairieresto.com
St. Croix Oak Savanna Chapter

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(815) 648-4838
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www.shootingstarnativeseed.com
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Front Range Chapter

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Oak Openings Region Chapter

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