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movement.



May/June/July 2014

Vol. 27 | No. 3

2 Notes from the President

3 Executive Director Notes

4 Monarch Waystation



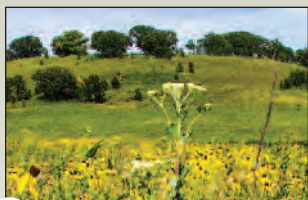
6 A Special Relationship

8 Seeds for Education

10 Transforming a Typical Urban Lot
into a Native Oasis

11 Stewards of the Land

12 35th Anniversary Celebration



14 Prairie Plants Evolved through
Adaptation to Harsh Climate

18 Milkweed in the State Capitals Project

19 Wild Ones and the Photographer

20 Wild Ones News

22 The Meeting Place

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Mark Your Calendars

for Wild Ones' 35th Anniversary Celebration
at this year's annual membership meeting!!!

Speakers

- **Tom Barnes**, Wild Ones Honorary Director
- **Chip Taylor**, Monarch Watch Executive Director
- **Jim Reinartz**, UW-Milwaukee Cedarburg Bog Field Station Director
- **Rob Zimmer**, Celebrity reporter for Gannett Wisconsin Media; Columnist for Yard MD

Schedule of Events

FRI. August 15

- 8:00 Board Meeting
- Noon Pizza
- 1:00 Strategy Planning Meeting
- 5:00 Reception
- 6:00 Buffet by Stone Cellar Brewpub
- 7:00 Jim Reinartz

SAT. August 16

- 8:00 Birding at Guckenbergs-Sturm Marsh or Tour the WILD Center Grounds
- 9:30 Workshops 1 & 2
- 11:00 Workshops 3 & 4
- Noon Lunch — Chicago Style by Kangarooost
- 1:00 Annual Meeting; Citation Presentation
- 2:30 Rob Zimmer
- 4:00 Networking
- 5:00 Social Hour with Folksinger Steve Hazell
- 6:00 Bar-B-Q and Corn Roast
- 7:00 Tom Barnes

SUN. August 17

- 8:00 Take a Walk on the Friendship Trail
- 9:30 Workshops 5 & 6
- 11:00 Chip Taylor
- Noon Moving for Monarchs Community Event

Moving for Monarchs (M4M)—a dance, film and photography project — will be filming a portion of the second segment of Moving for Monarchs "Dance of Life" at the WILD Center. Be a part of it as we emphasize our efforts to preserve the northeast monarch migration.



Come Celebrate

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▶ For more meeting / celebration details, see pages 12-13 and 20 ◀

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Tim Lewis
President

Home Sweet Home

The WILD Center has given us many benefits and improved our credibility since we bought it. In the past few years, I've had many opportunities to visit the Wild Center. Since we have held our chapter leadership conferences there, many national and chapter leaders have seen it too. We all have gone away with a deep pride for the Center and its benefits.

I know there are a few who say that the WILD Center is no benefit to the members. I disagree. In 2006, Joe Powelka, who was president at the time, wrote a compelling argument in favor of purchasing the house which is now our WILD Center and the adjoining 16 acres. His article made four main points of how the facility would benefit Wild Ones.

- Operationally, it will provide office space.
- Economically, it will keep our office costs low.
- Ecologically, it will provide a demonstration landscape.
- Spiritually, it will provide a sense of place.

So I was wondering, have we achieved what we thought would happen? Absolutely, YES on all points and then some. The Center provides credibility, office space, meeting space, extra rooms, beautiful landscaping and a physical presence. Prior to moving to the Center, Wild Ones operated out of our Executive Director's home and we reached the point where we could no longer stay there.

Office space in the Fox Valley goes from \$4.50 to \$18.00 per square foot, full service. There are some older office buildings in downtown which go for less than \$1/square foot, but they are not full service. If you look for office space in larger cities such as Chicago or Cincinnati, the rent is considerably higher.

If we did not have the Center, we could not afford rent elsewhere. Our total floor space at the Center is 2657 sq. ft. We now have adequate office space for our staff and support equipment. Our "rent" at the

WILD Center was \$7992 for 2013 or nearly \$0.25 sq. ft. I'd say that is a bargain.

The prairie, rain gardens, savannas, woodlands, and marsh areas serve as demonstration gardens. And we even have a turtle nesting site. Our native habitats are young but they get more showy each year. These gardens give us credibility because they show that we "put our philosophy into practice for all to see, feel, smell, touch and explore."

During the growing season, people walk the grounds, take photographs or meditate every day. As the natives mature and the word spreads, and with promotion, no doubt the Center will become a tourist attraction. If we did not have this land, we would be missing out on an important way of furthering our mission.

Paraphrasing what Joe wrote, "Like Dorothy said. 'There's no place like home, Toto - no place like home.' We have a headquarters so now we exist. We are not just a mailbox. Headquarters became a destination. Having a home changes us from a loose affiliation of chapters and partners-at-large across the country, held together with a national organization and a journal, to an organization of permanence with many branches. Having a headquarters engenders a special sense of pride, purpose, and permanence that could not otherwise exist." It's all about credibility.

Someone recently commented, "Fancy office space downtown doesn't enhance or amplify the mission like the WILD Center does perfectly. You literally have everything right there that you stand for!" The WILD Center benefits all of us as One organization at all levels. We can be proud of this. 🌿

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

2014 Photo Contest

Morning Mist on the Wet Prairie PHOTO: Marlene Frisbie
Scenery – 2012 1st Place winner; Peoples Choice Award

If you haven't already started, now is the time to start taking photos for the 2014 Photo Contest. Don't wait until the summer months. We are anxious to see

your photos from all year 'round. There are so many interesting things to see about native plants and natural landscapes in all seasons. And by sharing your photos with us through the Wild Ones Photo Contest we are able to build a collection of fantastic photos for use in our WILD ONES JOURNAL and other promotional materials.

So come on! Get snapping! When you see something that piques your interest, think about how it might look on the Wild Ones website or in the WILD ONES JOURNAL, and the effect it might have on the viewer. Snap away and don't delay in entering your photos in the Wild Ones 2014 Photo Contest. For more information and to download the entry form, go to <http://www.wildones.org/wild-ones-photo-contest/photo-contest/>



Rosa setigera
Portrait.
Flora – 2013
1st Place winner

PHOTO:
Becky Erickson

WILD CENTER UPDATE

Things were pretty quiet here at the WILD Center just waiting for the snow to melt. The mallards are back, along with the whooping cranes and the wood ducks. Just before the last big snowstorm, Volunteer of the Year Dave Edwards and I over-seeded toward the south end of the prairie with new seed dropped off by several Wild Ones members.

This spring we hosted Mariette Nowak, author of *Birdscaping in the Midwest* for the Fox Cities Book Festival. Mariette was

well received by the community and we were pleased to meet many new visitors. We held our first firelight book discussion with a number of local Wild Ones members and friends. The subject of the discussion was Doug Tallamy's book *Bringing Nature Home* with a focus on determining how to "garden like life depends on it!" Participants talked about what Doug's message meant to them, and how we might connect with our neighbors to extend this concept to make those wildlife corridors Doug talks about.

Future discussions will include what their yards look like now and how hearing Doug's presentations might change that. We'll be looking at each other's photos and yard sketches and talking about which plants will live in our soil type and how that might be affected by climate change. We'll also be talking about the trees and shrubs that Doug proposed provided the most hospitality for our insect species.

The summer will take us out of doors into the WILD Center grounds to see firsthand what Dr. Tallamy was talking about, and then, in the fall, we'll be back enjoying the glow of the firelight. We are learning a lot from this book discussion. You might want to start such a discussion of your own.

MEET OUR NEW STAFF

Thanks to your response to our annual appeal, we are pleased to introduce you to



Kim Walbrun who is our newest staff member at the Wild Ones home office. Kim will fill the role as our Wild Ones Communications Assistant. She brings to this

position not only a strong communications background, but also good experience with operations functions such as sales, marketing, finance, event planning, and printing and graphics design. We're looking forward to her assistance in many areas but specifically with our accounting needs and with member and chapter needs.

Mark Your Calendars

June 19, 2014

The official premier of Chicago's Millennium Park includes a film screening of "Jens Jensen the Living Green," and a Q/A and presentation by Piet Oudolf, the designer of Lurie Gardens. See promo here: <http://www.jensjensenthelivinggreen.org/#!/millennium-park/coxg>

August 1-3, 2014

The 6th Annual Midwest Native Plant Conference will be held at the Bergamo Conference Center in Dayton, Ohio and features keynote speaker Rick Darke, author of "The American Woodland Garden: Capturing the Spirit of the Deciduous Forest"

August 15-17, 2014

The Wild Ones 35th Anniversary celebration will be held in conjunction with its Annual Membership Meeting/Workshops at the WILD Center in Neenah, Wisconsin. Sunday's activities will conclude with a presentation from Chip Taylor of Monarch Watch as he kicks off the activities to be held in conjunction with filming Moving for Monarchs later in the day.

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Shaker Village is America's largest restored Shaker community and is located on 3,000 acres in the heart of

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I was privileged to work at Shaker Village as a naturalist last season. The first project that they wanted me to do was to put in a Monarch Waystation! They had heard of the Monarch Waystation program from Linda Porter, an avid Wild Ones member and one of the driving forces with the Kentucky Monarch Waystation Committee, and Joanna Kirby, President of the Garden Club of Kentucky and Friend of Shaker Village. How lucky can one get—to have fun putting in a

Monarch Waystation, Shaker Village



Monarch Waystation at Shaker Village PHOTO: Betty Hall

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Amy Ave - McMahon, Darboy
Springfield Restoration, Darboy
Wolf River Bank, Hortonville
SCA Tissue, Town of Menasha

Prairies Planted in 2010

Roehl Truck Hwy BB, Appleton
30th Street, Manitowac
Commerce Pond, Neenah
Sullivan Pond, Fond du Lac

Prairies Planted in 2012

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US Venture, Appleton
Nut Hatch Overseed, Sherwood
Macco Pond, Green Bay

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Harrodsburg, KY



Above: Clearwing moth and blazing star
Left: Silver spotted Skipper and blazing star PHOTOS: Betty Hall

Waystation and get paid for doing it at the same time?

Off I went to find the proper native plants for this area. Shooting Star Nursery in Georgetown, KY was where I bought most of the plants. It was also a good time to thin out the natives in my own yard and the natives growing on the Nature Preserve at Shaker Village.

With a long, narrow Waystation, I had no real landscape plan in mind except to put tall plants in the middle and work my way down to shorter plants on the perimeter, mixing and matching color and blooming times. Sixteen milkweeds were installed.

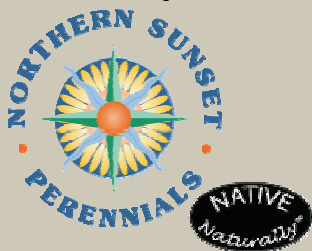
They included swamp, butterfly, and whorled. I was a little leery about the whorled as it is short and delicate, but, much to my surprise, by August they were covered with monarch caterpillars! The Waystation also boasted purple coneflower, downy skullcap, wild bergamot, elm-leaved goldenrod, rosin weed, New England aster, ox-eyed sunflower, foxglove penstemon, sweet Susans, little bluestem, big bluestem, side oats grama, and spiked blazing star. During the season, I added a few more goldenrods and asters for nectar in the fall.

As I watched during the summer, more and more insects and butterflies were using the garden. We all waited patiently and hopefully for monarchs to appear. Finally, in late August and early September, they came, laying eggs on every one of the milkweeds!

The Waystation was a big hit with visitors to Shaker Village as were the caterpillars. I tried to keep caterpillars on display with their host plants all summer long, and we did several butterfly hunts during the season. That was really fun for the kids.

Everyone is looking forward to the coming year. ☀

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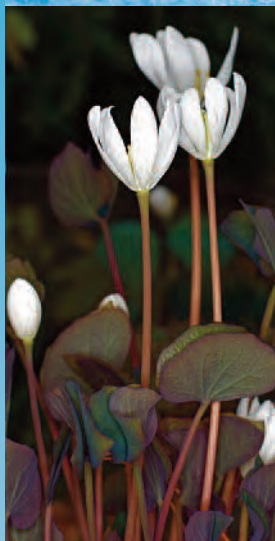
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A Special Relationship

By Chester Wilson,
Wild Ones, Twin Cities, MN

Jeffersonia diphylla elaiosome
PHOTO: Carol Gracie



Jeffersonia diphylla PHOTO: Carol Gracie



Trillium undulatum PHOTO: Carol Gracie

The first time I planted pansy seeds I noticed odd bumps on their sides, but thought nothing of it. A short while later I watched ants carrying seeds into their nest. This was at a picnic ground with lots of grass that had gone to seed, but the ants were not carrying grass seeds. They were carrying seeds with odd bumps on their sides. Being easily distracted from chores such as helping to set up the picnic, I started following the trail of ants as they foraged, and I realized that they were streaming to and from some trees a few feet away. More precisely, they were going to some wildflowers growing beneath the trees. That clump of plants included a bunch of wild violets.

Even in high school I was enough of a botanist to know that cultivated pansies and wild violets are in the same genus, *Viola*. An idea sprouted in my head – we had an ant colony in a terrarium at school. Would those ants like *Viola* seeds more than other kinds? I put a dish of mixed seeds into the terrarium. It contained equal numbers of pansy seeds, grass seeds, and marigold seeds. The pansies were gone in a flash, a few grass seeds

disappeared, but the marigolds were simply scattered about to get them out of the way.

Since then I have learned that the odd bump on the sides of the seeds is called an 'elaiosome'. It contains high-calorie oils that is food to ants. The behavior of the ants at the picnic ground and in the terrarium makes a lot of sense – they were gathering a valuable food and storing it in their nests.

But why does a violet have an elaiosome in the first place. Producing the oil is an expensive proposition for a plant. Since it is outside of the seed coat and the plant's embryo cannot get to the oil, it is not a food reserve for the new plant. The presence or absence of the elaiosome does not seem to affect the germination or early growth of the seedling, either. If someone removes the elaiosome, the seed (and seedling) will behave just like a seed with an intact elaiosome.

Ants that forage for seeds with elaiosomes usually are not interested in the seed itself. They gnaw the elaiosome off of the seed and throw the rest on their colony's waste heap somewhere in the upper parts of their underground nest.

So – the ants get some good food and the seed ends up in an underground pile of rotting organic matter – what we would call a compost pile. Could this interaction be beneficial for both parties involved? Could the plants be using the ants to distribute and even plant their seeds?

Biologists and ecologists have done some very clever experiments trying to figure out the nature of the relationship between ants and plants.

This interaction between ants and plants (called 'myrmecochory') is rather common among woodland wildflowers in the northern temperate zone of North America, Europe, and Asia. Many spring ephemerals, such as Dutchman's breeches, hepatica, twinleaf, bloodroot, trout lilies, trilliums, wild ginger, and, of course, violets produce seeds that offer ants food as an elaiosome.

Claytonia virginica
PHOTO: Carol Gracie



Many of the plants in this list flower in the spring and early summer. In fact biologists have shown that elaiosome-bearing plants bloom and set seed four weeks earlier than plants in the same forests that do not produce elaiosomes. The peak of seed production by these plants occurs at the same time as the peak numbers of ants appearing above-ground, and their most active period of seed collection.

Animals, including mice and other rodents, birds such as sparrows, and insects such as beetles, search for seeds on the ground and among leaf litter on the forest floor. Ants removing the seeds from the vicinity of the plants that produced them decreases their consumption by other animals, increasing the seeds' survival.

Very importantly, the ants' habit of discarding the uneaten seed in their compost pile after removing the elaiosome, essentially burying them about an inch below ground, produces more and earlier germination, and stronger growth than happens to seeds left on the surface.

Dutchman's breeches
PHOTO: Carol Gracie



Plants feeding ants, and ants sowing seeds, or 'evolved mutualism', is a part of a well-functioning woodland ecosystem in much of the Northern Hemisphere. Gardeners working with native plants would benefit from having these insects in their gardens because the ants would increase the rate of successful self-propagation by woodland plants. How can you tell if these kinds of ants are in your garden? A good way is to put a shallow dish full of Johnny-jump-up seeds at ground level in the morning. If the seeds are gone by midday then the ants are likely at home in your garden. ☼

Erythronium americanum
PHOTO: Carol Gracie



Trillium recurvatum
seeds with
elaiosomes
PHOTO: Douglas Jones

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SEEDS FOR EDUCATION

By Mark Charles, Coordinator of Seeds for Education, Wild Ones, Ann Arbor, MI

Wild Ones members and chapters support youth projects centered on local native plant communities, including butterfly gardens, prairies, streambanks and detention basins. We provide small monetary grants for seeds and plants through the Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education program.

Projects must meet these criteria:

- meaningful engagement of children in planning and directing the project
- use native plants appropriate to site and locality
- demonstrate ecosystem concepts

In most cases, teachers and adult leaders understand the value of native plant vision, and convey this effectively to their students. However, native plants are an unfamiliar concept to many parents and school personnel. Our grants give recognition and encouragement that help teachers communicate with their communities.

Here are some of the projects funded in the 2014 grant cycle:

- Students at Sand Creek High School in Colorado Springs, Colorado, are converting a dilapidated courtyard space into a xeriscaped outdoor classroom. Art students will draw and paint from live plant specimens during outdoor classes. The project also supports a school-wide focus on global water issues. Wild Ones members of the Front Range chapter are assisting.
- Students aged six through twelve at Galapagos Charter School in Chicago, Illinois are planting prairie natives in raised beds. This adds diversity and beauty to their urban site. The children release painted lady butterflies each year, and hope some will visit their wildflowers. The West Cook chapter members are helping.



Sometimes you have to stop and smell the spiderwort.
Children – 2011 1st Place winner PHOTO: David Poweleit

- Not far from Lake Superior, students at Northern Waters Environmental School in Hayward, Wisconsin are seeding a full acre of prairie as a school project. Sixth through eighth graders believe that tall and short native grasses, wild lupine, asters, milkweed and meadow blazingstar will support grassland birds and butterflies. The Arrowhead chapter is providing advice.
- Children at Lincoln Elementary School in Madison, Wisconsin, are planting native shrubs and forbs for beauty and wildlife habitat. Columbine, liatris and milkweeds are part of a plan to attract birds and insects for up-close observation. Wild Ones from the Madison chapter are helping.
- Near Knoxville, Tennessee, young people at S Double A Ranch are establishing an upland meadow in conjunction with sustainability efforts. Their wildflowers will provide habitat for pollinators, and will attract native wasps. Members of the Tennessee Valley Chapter are supporting this effort.

Across the country, parents, teachers, and youth leaders are helping children and teens learn about native plants and ecosystems. Thanks for supporting these efforts. Additional volunteers are welcome.

A list of Nursery Partners for the projects referenced in this article

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SEEDS FOR EDUCATION

By Donna VanBuecken, Wild Ones Executive Director

Remember Lorrie on her birthday

The Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education (SFE) Grant Program is one of our more important programs, which we use to help educate others, especially young people, about the importance of using native plants in our green spaces. Named for Lorrie Otto, who, in 1977, provided the inspiration for what was to become the Wild Ones organization, SFE funds are awarded to schools, libraries and other not-for-profits toward the development of outdoor learning centers using native plants.

The grant program funds come from donations from members and friends as we note in our thank you column. And special thanks go to Monarch Watch who last year awarded a grant to SFE so Wild Ones could increase funding for any 2013 and 2014 grant recipients who register their native plantings as Monarch Waystations.

In 2005, Wild Ones began an effort to increase funding available through this program. Jan Koel of the Menomonee River Area (WI) Chapter suggested that we ask our members to send a contribution to Wild Ones along with a birthday card for Lorrie Otto who celebrated her 86th

birthday on September 9th of that year. Since SFE was established to honor Lorrie for her unrelenting educational efforts to heal the Earth, to continue to remember Lorrie with a contribution to SFE for her birthday is an excellent way to generate funds for the SFE Grant Program.

Lorrie passed away in 2010, so sending a birthday card is no longer necessary. But honoring Lorrie's memory by making a contribution to SFE in her name will help this important program continue to provide grants for the development of native landscaped outdoor learning areas. To make a donation send your check made out to Wild Ones SFE to PO Box 1274, Appleton, WI 54912 or go to <http://www.wildones.org/product/donation/donation-to-sfe-grant-program/> and designate SFE as your donation goal.

And don't forget to remind your fellow members and chapter boards alike to send their contributions to the SFE Grant Program, in honor of Lorrie. Let's make this, our 35th year, a really outstanding year for remembering Wild Ones and what Lorrie has meant to us.

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Kalamazoo Area Chapter



If you are going to search the Internet, use www.goodsearch.com. Select Wild Ones – Natural Landscapers, Ltd as your cause to support and start your search. GoodSearch gives money to Wild Ones every time you search the web or if you shop online through their site.

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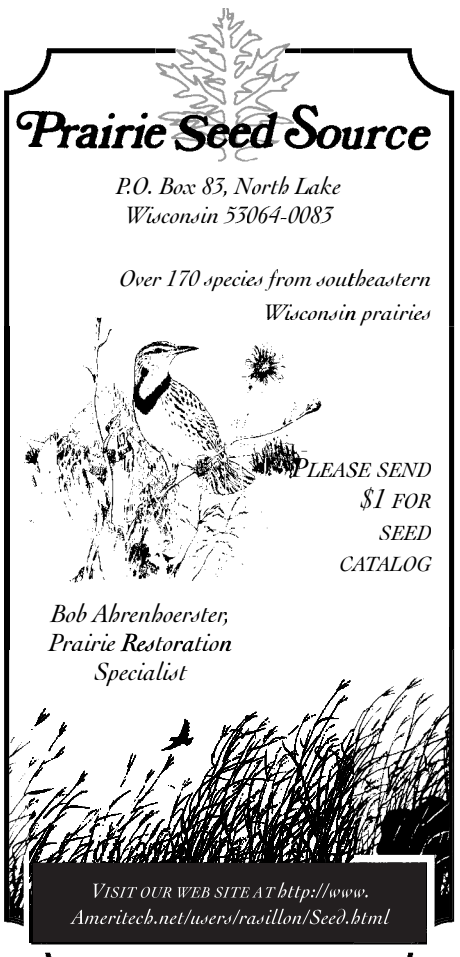
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MY GARDEN STORY: Transforming a Typical Urban Lot into a Native Oasis

By Cheryl English, *Wild Ones*,
Oakland, MI

In her home
studio Cheryl
creates
whimsical
accents for
her garden.

Sunflowers



Catherine's Mask



Cat tails

I come from a family of gardeners: My paternal grandfather was a gardener by profession, boasting (although Grandpa would never be so gauche as to boast) among his clients a family who could cite a Vermont governor amongst its members, and my mother's maternal grandparents were farmers, also from the unforgiving northwest of Vermont. My Dad was the guy who started vegetable seeds in his basement with grow lights and heating pads, all in a drive to have the first ripe tomato on the block. My Mother coaxed native and exotic ornamentals into a beautiful garden tapestry on the rest of their modest suburban Detroit property. My sister and her husband are avid gardeners as well, much in the mold of our parents – Tony focusing on the vegetable garden, Lynda on the roses and other ornamental plantings.

I bought my east-side Detroit home in 1995, shortly after my Father passed. The house consisted of a typical urban lot – 40' by 120' – and a cozy story-and-a-half bungalow. There was a lot of lawn, the (apparently) requisite six yews across the front foundation and a huge Hicksii yew, small blue spruce, aged lilac, floating yew and cotoneaster bent on world domination dotted the subsiding back yard. I pulled out the yews and started killing the grass and laying out a garden. The first plants I purchased were 'Sweet Autumn' and a 'Niobe' Clematis.

In the first couple of years, I put over 30 yards of topsoil and sand into the (mostly) back and front yards. I dug out the yews – all of them – and the blue spruce and, after struggling to control it for too many years, the cotoneaster. I removed all of the lawn in the front yard and most of it in the back. I experimented with "dwarf" burning bush and daylilies and even a few hostas, among other traditional garden favorites. The one thing that remained was that Hicksii yew, pruned up (in a drizzle with my Mom's electric chainsaw) into a tree form to show off its gorgeous reddish bark and permit a "woodland" garden – of Lily of the Valley.

What a difference 19 years can make. My property now hosts over 200 species of native plants, ranging from ferns, grasses and forbs, to trees, shrubs and vines. I open my garden twice a year to the public, free of charge, for the opportunity to see sustainable practices on the ground, do a hands-on workshop or two and participate in a butterfly release.

How did I go from daylilies and hostas to Desmodium and Hepatica in less than two decades?

I had a lot of help. And a point of view that valued the indigenous over the exotic. Due to a number of factors, including family issues and education as an art historian, I had come to value the authentic above all – context and provenience were of great importance to me. I dabbled in native plants – I could get a few little corms or rhizomes at our local "nursery" chain – but was, quite frankly, all but utterly ignorant of our native flora.

Through my local Master Gardener group, I met a few folks who were passionate supporters of native plants. Our group organized yearly wildflower walks on Belle Isle – an island in the Detroit River – where I learned to recognize golden alexanders (*Zizia aurea*) and spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) and was reminded that my mother's garden included jack-in-the-pulpits (*Arisaema trifolia*) and michigan lily (*Lilium michiganense*). I found out about a native plant nursery near where I went to college and started going there about once a year, trying stuff out and slowly becoming more and more knowledgeable. Everyone I encountered encouraged my interest and selflessly shared their experiences and knowledge. I started digging out daylilies and hostas, which had always seemed rather pedestrian to me – minor variations on a not-very-interesting theme, replacing them with plants that seemed to work with my conditions, eschewing man-made chemicals and power tools.

In 2007, I ran into another native plant nurserywoman – Trish Hacker-Hennig – at a Master Gardener event. We both arrived late and ended up seated next to one another near the back of the room. We started chatting about gardening in general and natives specifically. I ran into her twice more that summer, one event a garden tour to which she had brought a selection of plants for sale – and where I spent most of my budget. I had found my mentor.

With Trish's assistance, I started experimenting beyond trilliums (*Trillium* spp.) and Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*). Every year, every time I would talk to her or visit, I'd ask her, "What do you have that I don't have yet?" Some things simply weren't appropriate for my property – too aggressive or just not the right conditions. Those that had a chance for success, I would always purchase at least three individuals, to have a reasonable chance of assessing their performance. I moved things around that weren't working. I yanked out exotics that, with their new companions, had simply become... boring – or I had learned had been reclassified as

invasive exotics. The garden was my refrigerator door, the plants my spaghetti – and I threw as much at it as I could.

The garden has gradually “organized” itself – sun/shade, mesic/xeric, short/tall, early/mid/late. I’ve created small habitats and managed my landscape to grow things that might not otherwise have been happy. At some indeterminate point, I made the conscious decision to not eliminate all of my exotics garden plants, in order to continue to connect successfully to those folks who still thought native plants were not suitable for American gardens, to carry on my friends’ work in helping me on the journey to gardening with a sense of where I live, not where I (ultimately) came from.

The conundrum of American gardening is that we don’t do that – we don’t garden according to where we live. We

have traditionally gardened in a manner that reflected where our ancestors originated, trying to recreate a landscape we’ve never even seen. We use all kinds of man-made chemicals to try to make this work – from lawn maintenance to insect control – to fulfill this ideal utterly disconnected from our place or time. By embracing my spatial and temporal context, I have discovered a new world.

I now write on native plants (and clematis) for *Michigan Gardener* magazine. My first article on indigenous flora appeared in that publication in May 2012. I have learned that, regardless of what I plan to get done, I always have to set aside at least three to four hours when I go up to Trish’s nursery because we just have so much to talk about – just discussing native plants.

Visit her blog at <http://blackcatpottery.blogspot.com> 

STEWARDS OF THE LAND

Rock River Wild Ones Chapter Receives Seth B. Atwood Award

Wild Ones Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter was recently awarded the Seth B. Atwood Award for Parks and Conservation for 2014 by the Rockford Park District and the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District. Wild Ones Rock River Chapter was selected to be recognized in the ‘Organization’ category. The Atwood Award is considered to be the highest recognition in the environmental community in the area and is named in honor of Seth B. Atwood, the late industrialist who preserved and donated more than 1,000 acres of valuable land for the citizens of Winnebago County in Illinois. The award is given to a deserving citizen or organization of Winnebago County, Illinois, in recognition and appreciation of exceptional volunteer contributions in providing facilities, programs or services in areas of preservation of natural areas and park spaces, recreation and education.



Wild Ones Rock River Valley Co-Presidents Ginnie Watson and Bob Arevalo with their chapter’s Seth B. Atwood Park and Conservation Service Award.

This year Wild Ones Rock River Chapter is also celebrating its 20th anniversary as a Wild Ones chapter. Past chapter president Tim Lewis and past recipient of the Atwood Award in the ‘Individual’ category, noted that they are the second largest chapter in our Wild Ones organization, probably because they bring in great presenters and hold great programs. They consistently have 50 to 80 people attending their meetings. Additionally, the chapter conducts three plant sales per year, has an annual yard tour, a Show Me Help Me program, an outstanding monthly newsletter and has been fortunate to have great leadership and member participation. The chapter is centrally located in an area populated by many wonderful area conservation organizations.

North Oakland Wild Ones Members Receive Clinton River Watershed Counsel Award

Congratulations and kudos to a couple of Wild One members who have really gone above and beyond in taking on a huge issue. Emily Duthinh and Linda Lapinski who established OPIS (Oakland Phragmites & Invasive Species) were recognized recently at the CRWC annual meeting and awards dinner. They received the Johanna Roskopp Award for the

outstanding progress they have made in taking on the eradication of Phragmites in Oakland County Michigan. President Jim Brueck remarked that “it is fitting that Emily and Linda are recognized for their efforts to share their knowledge about phragmites control and eradication throughout Independence Township and Oakland County.”





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2014 Conference 35th Anniversary Celebration August 15-17, 2014

Come celebrate with us. Join us in moving for native plants and natural landscapes while we host part of the next production of Moving for Monarchs' (M4M). Filming will begin on Sunday with Chip Taylor's presentation and then move on to the activities of the community event which will be a featured part of the "Dance of Life." If you have a move, this will be your opportunity to be there in person for the filming.

Join us for the community event associated with the filming or send us your "Monarch Move submission" to be considered for use in the "Dance of Life."

Here is the link to pertinent information and a submittal form.
<http://www.wildones.org/M4M-Submission-Instructions.pdf>



See
related
story on
page 19.

Tom Young, Central Wisconsin Chapter, was one of the grand prize winners of a contest related to activities for "The Awakening: First Flight" of Moving for Monarchs.

So much to do and see

Take part in network sessions. Get together with people from your region to brainstorm and collaborate. This will be a good opportunity for members to not only learn, but share camaraderie with fellow members.

Enjoy the best food Wisconsin can offer – including a special Chicago-style luncheon inspired by our Illinois Chapter sponsors.

Experience the Wild Ones' mission by joining us for birding, walks and tours.

Visit our Wild Store for lots of apparel, books, a new mug, and more.

In conjunction with our celebration, we are having a **Silent Auction**. Visit our webpage for a current list of items. www.wildones.org/2014-wild-ones-annual-meeting/

Speakers / Topics

Jim Reinartz

UW-Milwaukee Cedarburg Bog Field Station Director

<http://www4.uwm.edu/fieldstation/research/reinhart.cfm>

Development of the Pre-settlement Plant Communities of Wisconsin and the Great Lakes Region

Jim will examine the major forces that structure our natural plant communities. We live in an ecologically exciting place where three of the earth's eight major biomes meet. The grasslands of the Great Plains, the Eastern Deciduous Forest of North America, and the Coniferous Boreal Forest of the north all meet in our State.

Rob Zimmer

Celebrity Reporter for Gannett Wisconsin Media and Yard MD Columnist

<http://www.postcrescent.com/section/WIS0450>

WILD Beauty – A pictorial tour of the WILD Center

See the living beauty and spectacular display of the native landscaping – and many of its non-human visitors – through the seasons.

Tom Barnes

Wild Ones Honorary Director

<http://www.wildones.org/contact-us/honorary-national-directors/thomas-barnes/>

A Native Habitat Garden

Wildlife are adapted to using native plants as a source of food and cover and this program will feature plant selections that provide food for hummingbirds, song birds and other wildlife in the Eastern United States. Some discussion of plants that wildlife do not like will also be presented. The program will feature the photography of award winning photographer Tom Barnes and will showcase the beauty and diversity of plants useful in landscaping for wildlife.

Chip Taylor

Founder and Director of Monarch Watch

<http://www.monarchwatch.org/about/direc.htm>

A Monarch Butterfly Recovery Plan

Chip will give us a brief summary of the status of the monarch butterfly population. The reasons for the rapid decline in monarch numbers along with a proposed recovery plan. Recovery will be possible if 1) plans can be implemented to offset the annual losses of milkweed due to development and the expansion of croplands and 2) significant efforts are made to maintain the milkweed corridor that sustains the vast majority of monarchs that reach the overwintering sites in Mexico.
<http://monarchwatch.org/blog/2014/03/monarch-butterfly-recovery-plan/>

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Workshops

1. **Becoming a good officer**
(Working with committees, coordinating, delegating, establishing guidelines, branding, etc)
2. **Developing a regional presence**
(Chapters and PALs working together in an area or a state or several states)
3. **Planning a conference**
(What it takes in money and manpower, how to get organized, what kind of facilities, registration formats)
4. **How to be an advocate for native plants and natural landscaping**
(What to say; how, when, where; what sort of media, etc)
5. **How to start a chapter**
(How to launch and promote a chapter – the highs and lows of just starting out. What worked well, what could have been done better, how to generate awareness, how to encourage new members, how to partner with other organizations, first projects and obstacles one might encounter, fund raising, finding speakers, first plant sale, etc.)
6. **Using the tools of the Internet**
(Using website, Constant Contact, Twitter, Pinterest, Facebook, YouTube, etc)

Location / Misc. Events

All activity will take place at the WILD Center,
2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd. in Neenah, WI.
Directions can be found at
<http://www.wildones.org/eco/center/detailsmaps.html>

Janet Wissink & Zaiga Freivalds
Saturday morning birding

Dave Edwards & Donna VanBuecken
Saturday morning tours of WILD Center

Jamie Fuerst & Greenways Rep
Sunday morning take a walk on the Trestle.

Steve Hazell
Folksongs plus Wild Ones songs

Hotels / Registration Info

A block of rooms with one king bed has been reserved at the **GrandStay Hotel & Suites**,
300 North Mall Drive, Appleton, WI 54913.

Reservations / Group Rate

Call the hotel's direct number at (920) 993-1200 to make reservations.

Group rate is under *Wild Ones* and is \$80.00/night

A block of rooms with two queens beds has been reserved at the **Ramada Inn & Suites**,
1565 North Federated Drive, Appleton, WI 54913.

Reservations / Group Rate

Call the hotel's direct number at (920) 560-3000 to make reservations.

Group rate is under *Wild Ones* and is \$89.00/night.

To register

Make checks payable to Wild Ones and send to:
Moving for Wild Ones, PO Box 1274,
Appleton, WI 54912-1274



2014 Conference 35th Anniversary Celebration

Registration Form

Name(s): _____

Chapter or PAL: _____

Yes, I will attend the selected events:

Friday

- ☐ Lunch – Pizza
☐ Vegetarian Option
☐ Welcome Reception
☐ Buffet Dinner – Stone Cellar Brewpub
☐ Vegetarian Option

Saturday

- ☐ Lunch – Chicago Style
☐ Vegetarian Option
☐ Dinner – Bar-B-Q and Corn Roast
☐ Vegetarian Option

Workshops

I would like to attend the following workshops
(Please select 3 from the list at left)

- ☐ Workshop 1 ☐ Workshop 4
☐ Workshop 2 ☐ Workshop 5
☐ Workshop 3 ☐ Workshop 6

Hotel Information

(See *Hotels/Registration Info* at left)

- ☐ GrandStay Hotel & Suites—king bed
OR
☐ Ramada Appleton—two queen beds

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- ☐ Fri. Night (8/15) ☐ Sat. Night (8/16)

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Fees and Expenses

Fee covers all costs related to the conference; includes meals and materials, but not travel.

Workshop fee: \$35 x _____ \$ _____

GrandStay Hotel

Cost: \$80 x _____ nights \$ _____

Ramada Appleton Hotel

Cost: \$89 x _____ nights \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

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Prairie Plants Evolved through Adaptation to Harsh Climate

By Pat Armstrong; Wild Ones, Greater Dupage, IL

To appreciate prairie, one must experience and understand the environment that created it. Drive across 1-80 in August. Stop somewhere just west of Lincoln, Nebraska, and get out of your car. Climb to the top of the roadway embankment and walk a short distance into the fields. Sun will beat down upon you in fiery fury as one hundred and four degree heat waves writhe and wriggle dizzily across the land. Desiccating blasts of oven wind will parch your lips and ping your skin with sharp dust arrows. Grass rising, falling, tossing in ocean-like waves will churn your stomach and sway your balance like sea sickness. Yet in this unbearably hot and dry environment several hundred beautiful plants thrived and multiplied in the ecosystem we call prairie.

Repeat your visit at the end of January. Now howling gales and biting winds sting and numb you with wind chill factors of seventy degrees below zero. There's no place to hide and nothing to block wind or even hold snow as an insulating blanket over soil. Where are the plants? Roots, rhizomes, bulbs, and growing tips (which make up over 60% of the plant) are all safely protected in soil away from temperature extremes. Stems and leaves which are above ground make up the smaller, more expendable portion of the plant. This is the most important adaptation of plants to a harsh, prairie environment.

Four factors shaped the great American prairie which stretched in a rough mangle from Northern Mexico to southern Canada along the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains, narrowing eastward into the

prairie peninsula of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio.

The first was a drier climate which occurred over millions of years as continental plates collided causing the formation of mountain ranges and the breaking away of land masses. Ocean currents and rain patterns changed, the earth cooled, and inland oceans retreated. By 25 million years ago, the climate in central North America had become dry enough for the first grasses to appear. Twenty million years ago, prairies were well-established.

Prairie plants developed an alternative form of photosynthesis, C₄, which allows them to be active at higher temperatures and require much less water. Plants using the system use carbon dioxide more efficiently and have smaller stomatal (pore) openings which cut down water loss.

Other ways prairie plants adapt to climate is with small or finely cut leaves that reduce evaporation. Hairy surfaces help too by reducing the airflow, shading the leaf, catching and holding dew or condensing water evaporated through the stomates. Having leaves close to the ground where air flow is reduced and they are shaded by other plants is another way. Having no leaves at all growing all together in a clump, having wide-spreading fibrous roots or deep tap roots are other ways.

The second factor was the thick covering of rock and soil debris left by glaciers. Clay particles in this young soil affects its fertility, texture, and ability to hold and release water. Many, like loess (extremely

fine wind-blown particles of silt from glacial deposits) are very droughty. Prairies are located almost exactly where there were once glaciers or where glacial debris washed or blew eastward from mountains down into the Great Plains.

Thirdly, fire is an important factor in prairie development. Being deep-rooted perennials, prairie plants aren't hurt by having their upper parts burned. In fact, if fire is suppressed, they lose vigor and fail to flower. Fire returns nutrients to the soil in the form of ash and reduces the dense overburden of plant debris so shoots can reach sunlight.



Prairie soil is enriched and fertilized not by the decay and decomposition of leaf litter as on the forest floor, but by the death and decomposition of underground parts where the greater percentage of plant material resides.

Other beneficial effects of burning prairie are to control and eradicate invading woody plants and alien weeds, and to allow sunlight to reach the soil and warm it up in the spring so that plants can resume growing sooner.

The fourth factor influencing the development of prairie was the billions of large herbivores which roamed all over and ate the prairie plants, causing them to develop strategies designed to discourage grazing. These included having their growing points extremely close to the ground so they may be clipped off on top and keep growing like grass. Having coarse, rough, bristly, thorny, or hairy surfaces is another way. It is all of these different shapes and textures of prairie plants that gives them their charm and delight in the garden landscape. Bright flower colors attract the myriads of insect pollinators available throughout the growing season.



Having thick aromatic, bitter, or sticky sap also works to retard evaporation and discourage tasters. Many prairie plants are of economic or medicinal importance because of this factor. Wild quinine (American feverfew) was used as a

Asclepias tuberosa
PHOTO: Zaiga Freivalds

malaria treatment, bonesets and coneflowers were also important drugs, and most milkweeds contain drugs that can kill cancer cells.

Developing a prairie garden is a way to learn about these interesting plants and their adaptations. When I think about the Illinois tall grass prairie and what plants I would put in my garden to represent it, two dominant grasses stand out. These are big bluestem, (*Andropogon gerardii*), and Indian grass, (*Sorghastrum nutans*). They must be part of anyone's prairie restoration or garden if one wants to establish the essence of what a tall grass prairie is really like.


Big bluestem grows from four to ten feet high in Illinois depending on the fertility of the soil and the amount of rainfall during the growing season. Since it is warm season (C4) grass like most prairie grasses, it does not begin to grow until the soil temperature is 60 degrees in late spring. Throughout late June, July, and early August it is about knee to thigh high. In order to bloom (late August through September) it shoots up to six to ten feet and spreads its short three to five branched dusty-purple spikes called 'turkey feet' to the wind. As it lengthens its stem, dark blue nodes and purple internodes begin to show, and big bluestem goes into its fall season in blushing shades of purplish-red which it retains, although more subdued, throughout winter.

Indian grass has a similar growth pattern, but is usually shorter (three to five feet). Its inflorescence is a long, feathery plume of brassy brown, and its late summer and fall colors are shades of copper and bronze which fade a little in winter. Even in small gardens I would recommend these grasses for their lovely colors and textures, because they help to fill the in-between spaces and support tall floppy forbs. And finally they are pyrogenic fuels for the fires which are so necessary for the life and health of prairies.

A third tall prairie grass is switchgrass, *Panicum virgatum*, which is usually about three to six feet tall. Its inflorescence is a wide-open airy panicle which gives a fine, lacy look to the garden. Its fall and winter color is a subdued pale straw color making a nice contrast to the more intense grasses and darker forbs of the prairie.

Three medium-sized grasses are my favorites for the prairie garden too. Remember, part of the charm of a prairie is its diversity and many contrasting shapes, colors, and textures.

Little bluestem, (*Andropogon scoparius*), has to be my all-time favorite. In Illinois, it usually grows in bunches or clumps about two to four feet high. In September and October it turns a beautiful red and tosses



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its silvery-plumed seeds on the wind. It holds this deep color all winter, unlike other grasses.

Equally lovely is the two to three feet tall prairie dropseed, (*Sporobolus heterolepis*), which should be used more often in landscaping. It grows in a swirling fountain of fine, hair-like leaves. When it begins greening up after a spring burn, it looks like little green porcupines. In mid-summer it is a lush, radiating, light green mound. In August and September arching, blooming panicles waft their intoxicating fragrance of hot-buttered popcorn across the yard. Most autumns it takes on a subdued brassy color, but during drought years, burnished reddish-gold. In the months before burning, it looks like a wind-swept wig, or seaweed-covered rock.

A third grass I like is vanilla grass, (*Hierochloa odorata*), called holy-grass by Native Americans. Unlike all the other prairie grasses, it is a cool-season grass, as is also Kentucky blue grass, which begins its growth early in spring and continues late, even into winter. It goes dormant in the heat and drought of summer. It is only about one to two feet tall and blooms in May with short, brassy, oat-like florets. It spreads by rhizomes and thus can compete with Kentucky blue, quack, and brome grass, three banes of prairie growers. But the main reason why I like it is for its link to the culture of Native Americans. To them, plants which produced odors and smoke had religious meaning and were a way to communicate with the spirit world. Every year I cut bunches of this holy- grass and consecrate my home with its vanilla incense.

There are many colorful forbs to enhance the prairie garden. Almost all are deep-rooted, long-lived, warm-season perennials. Here are my favorites: The compass plant, (*Silphium laciniatum*), and prairie dock, (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*), are so uniquely part of Illinois tall-grass prairie that they come to mind right away. Prairie dock, without a doubt, is the largest plant on the prairie with some towering 15 feet high, with leaves like a baby elephants. How is it able to afford such extravagance in a low-water, high-evaporation environment? The answer is an immense tap root. Seedling docks I transplanted had one leaf four inches by three quarters inch, but five to six feet of root. Is it any wonder these plants can survive several years of bulldozing? What megalithic roots those hundreds of year-old plants must have!

All of the Silphiums have rough, sand-papery leaves. This roughness helps conserve water by reducing wind speed over the leaf, shading the leaf, and helping to trap water vapor. It may also help discourage herbivores from eating the plant as does the thick, turpentine-like sap.

All of the leaves are basal and they are turned edge-wise to the sun to keep from getting too hot.

This phenomenon of leaf edges pointing southward to the sun is responsible for the name "compass" plant. In addition, the compass plant leaf has deeply cut leaves, thus removing extra surface area and reducing evaporation loss.

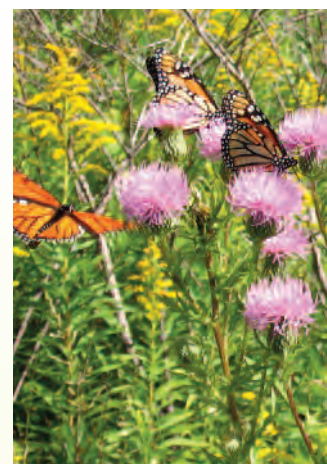
It never ceases to amaze me when I walk in the prairie on a hot summer day, when the temperature may be 100 degrees and the prairie dock leaves are 52 degrees. Touch one and see. The pioneers knew. They often cut a dock leaf and tucked it in their hats to keep their heads cool.

Flowers of the compass plant and prairie dock are yellow-rayed and sun flower-like. They are born in July, August, and early September. Compass plants have bigger flowers with bristly-looking bracts on an unbranched stem. During the winter the dark blackish- brown leaves of the dock and compass plant rattle and rasp against the delicate grasses, and birds enjoy eating the seeds.

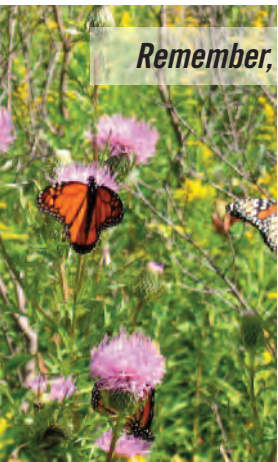
One of the most beautiful plants is the pale purple coneflower, (*Echinacea pallida*). It stands about three feet high and blooms in June and July. It is in the sunflower family and has white, pale pink, or rose-colored rays that droop below the dark, wine-colored, bristly center cone. The pollen of the disk flowers can be orange, pink, or white. The whole plant is covered with stiff hairs and the leaves are linear and mostly basal. The seeds are slow to ripen and should not be collected until the first of November. In winter, the dark, bristly cones hold a puff of snow.

In early spring, almost before anything else is even up, the pasque flower, (*Anemone patens* v. *wolfgangiana*), pushes out of the ground. The large pale lavender sepals masquerade as petals around a circle of yellow-pollened anthers. It is cool, pastel flower, making a tentative but tenacious start of the growing season. Silver hairs insulate the plant against April's cool winds or late snow flurries. The parabolic flower face focuses the sun's rays to heat the center of the flower. Pasque refers to Easter when it is often in bloom. Deeply dissected leaves unfurl after flowers.

By May when all the other plants begin to grow and bloom, the pasque flower stands



Circium discolor PHOTO: Bob Williams



Remember, part of the charm of a prairie is its diversity and many contrasting shapes, colors, and textures.

about a foot tall, old and gray-headed, casting its long, silver-bearded seeds on the wind. Native Americans revered it as the first spring flower—testing the weather, and finding it okay to bloom, then encouraging all other flowers to follow. They are easy to grow from

seeds which should be planted immediately when collected at the end of May and do best in well-drained, gravelly soil. Germinating quickly, they grow large enough to produce one bloom in the second or third year and may produce more than 20 blossoms by the fifth year.

On the other end of the growing season in late fall, asters cover the prairie with shades of white, lavender, purple, and blue. Of all the many species found in prairies, the aromatic aster, (*Aster oblongifolius*), is one of my favorites. It is very similar to New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*), with large, many-rayed heads of deep blue violet, surrounding orange disks. Small leaves are covered with coarse hairs which

give them a rough feeling and grayish cast. They clasp the stem without petioles. There are many branches on the stem so that it is covered with an abundant display of flowers. Aromatic aster is adapted to a soil that is high in lime so on my flagstone terraces it makes dense, rounded mounds about one and a half to two feet high that are from being covered with flowers in September and October. New England aster is taller and prefers wetter soil.

In mid-summer the showiest prairie flower is probably the butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). Unlike other milkweeds, it does not have a milky sap and its flowers are brilliant orange. It truly does attract a lot of butterflies and other insects. It stands about three feet tall and its cluster of stems produce an abundance of flowers, often continuing to expand and bloom for several weeks. It usually sets a lot of seed which can be gathered and planted as soon as the pods open. It is easy to grow from seed and prefers a well-drained, sandy soil but can do well in heavier clay soil.

Another name for butterfly weed is pleurisy root because of its medicinal properties. Several Native American tribes used them in elaborate ceremonies in which they dug,

prepared, consecrated and distributed the root which was used to cure lung ailments, open wounds, and as a purgative. Recent tests have found anti-leukemia properties in many milkweeds.

Although prairie plants begin to bloom in April and continue through November, the best time to see them is in mid-summer. It is estimated that about 15 new species come into bloom every week, and about 50 or 60 will be in bloom on any given day during the height of the growing season. June and July have the brightest colors and greatest variety of forbs in bloom. August and September brings warm season grasses into their glory.

Yes, come walk in the prairie in summer to see plants well adapted to heat and drought. Listen to wind swish through big bluestem and Indian grass, six to ten feet above parched, sun-cracked soil. Feel cool elephant-ear prairie dock leaves, or compass plant pointing always toward the sun. Smell the pungency of mint and coneflower, the intoxicating sweetness of rose and dropseed. Experience the American landscape as it was when Indians and first settlers saw it. Probe deep into prairie soil and learn to thrive in adversity as prairie plants do. ☀



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Milkweed in the State Capitals Project

Introduction

After reading the Wild Ones email article about the effort to get milkweed planted at the White House, Pam Todd, of the West Cook Chapter Illinois, thought why not plant it at our Governors' mansions and the State Capitals, too. She started this idea and the monarch committee and marketing committee think it is a great one. Sample letters and emails have been drafted to help everyone start this project in their own states. Please feel free to change any of the language to fit your circumstances.

Preliminary Work

Search the Internet to find the mailing address and email address for the following people:

- Your State Governor's Office
- First Lady/Spouse
- Governor's Chief of Staff
- Head of your State's DNR/State Parks/DOT

We recommend sending an email to each of these people and follow up with a hard copy letter and the Wild for Monarch's brochure.

Sample email or letter to send to key contacts

[Date]

[Address]

Dear [Governor]

People across America are encouraged by Mrs. Obama's milkweed garden at the White House. Monarch butterflies only lay eggs on milkweed plants because it is the only plant which their caterpillars eat. Sadly, monarchs are disappearing at an alarming rate, primarily due to loss of milkweed habitat across their breeding range due to development. In agricultural areas, milkweed has nearly disappeared from the landscape due to the increase in use of herbicides on tolerant crops. Wild Ones chapters and members, in collaboration with many other conservation programs across America are doing their best to encourage people to restore milkweed habitat for monarchs. It would be an inspiration for more citizens to get involved in these efforts if you, Governor, would also create a habitat for monarchs at the State Capital, as a symbolic gesture.

[Monarch butterflies are (Illinois') state insect, thanks to a successful lobbying effort by schoolchildren to have it designated as such in the mid-seventies.] Or, [Monarch butterflies cross through (name of state) on their way to their summer and winter grounds.] It is important that we increase our efforts to provide habitat for these amazing insects, so future generations may enjoy them as we have!

So we're writing to you, Governor _____, to ask you to plant milkweed around the State Capital and the Governor's Residence. It might only be a symbolic gesture, but it likely would get people to plant milkweed in their yards, encourage farmers to protect milkweed in their fields and developers to leave corridors for wildlife. And it would certainly be beautiful to transform the Capital into a "butterfly garden" (in the summer), when so many people are visiting the Capital to see the sites.

Thank you for considering this.

Very truly yours,

(Signature)



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On a hot summer's day my wife and I finally came to visit Wild Ones in Neenah, Wisconsin.

We had driven by this place many times and had noticed the flowers, but didn't really know what it was all about. There was a sign that welcomed the public. I liked that the place was inviting!

Even as we pulled into the parking lot, my wife, Toni, and I we could see monarch butterflies flitting about in the air and on the wild flowers. This was a beautiful and unexpected sight, as the year, 2013, had been very poor for sighting monarch butterflies. Yet here were many. It was like an oasis for monarchs! My first thought was, "how come?" A small discreet sign with the title "Monarch Waystation" was alongside the trail of wild flowers and monarchs. It explained why these butterflies were here, and why these particular flowers had been planted here.

The seed of the idea was planted that day—I could plant wildflowers like these and attract butterflies as well. Over the next month I made many visits to Wild Ones, and was lucky to meet and speak with Wild Ones members. One of these happened to be Donna VanBuecken, Executive Director of Wild Ones, who was able to answer my many questions. She gave me a tour of the building and property, explaining all the while what Wild Ones was all about. I told her how much I appreciated what they were doing. The positive impact on the wildlife, and the beauty of the setting were inspirational to me, and I am sure to many others who stopped by.

I later found that I liked their Facebook page and I posted some of the images I had taken of the butterflies. This is how I found out about "Moving For Monarchs", or M4M, as Wild Ones posted a link with the video. I was blown away!

Yes, I love nature and am a nature photographer. It is my passion and I have a sense of belonging when out in nature. It touches my soul and my heart. So it was no surprise when I entered the M4M contest. Two winners would receive prints of the dancer on the hillside – so beautiful! The contestants needed to share M4M, and encourage others to get involved with planting milkweed, just as I had gotten involved! I posted some images on my website: <http://www.tommytroutphoto.com> and in the description I put a link to both Wild Ones and Moving for Monarchs.

I was stunned when I found out I was one of the two winners. I was honored!

It all started with a visit to the WILD Center! I started a "Monarch Waystation", and immediately sent in my form for certification. I bought many of the native plants from Wild Ones.

I hope you will somehow become inspired by my story or my images. I have hope that we can do the right thing for these beautiful creatures, that somehow make us feel good when we see them. Monarchs are like rainbows, disappearing even as we point to them and say how beautiful they are, and so special.

Thank you Wild Ones and M4M for inspiring me. In return I will inspire others and together we can bring back the large numbers of monarch butterflies!

Wild Ones and the Photographer

by Thomas Young

"Moving For Monarchs"

Editor note – I asked: Did one of your photos with the "I love moving for monarchs" make you a winner of M4M? Or, was it your "move" to promote M4M on your website? Or was it your "move to" photos of monarchs that did it? Or maybe all three?
Thomas responded: So happy you like my story... I would say it was a combination of the things you mentioned.

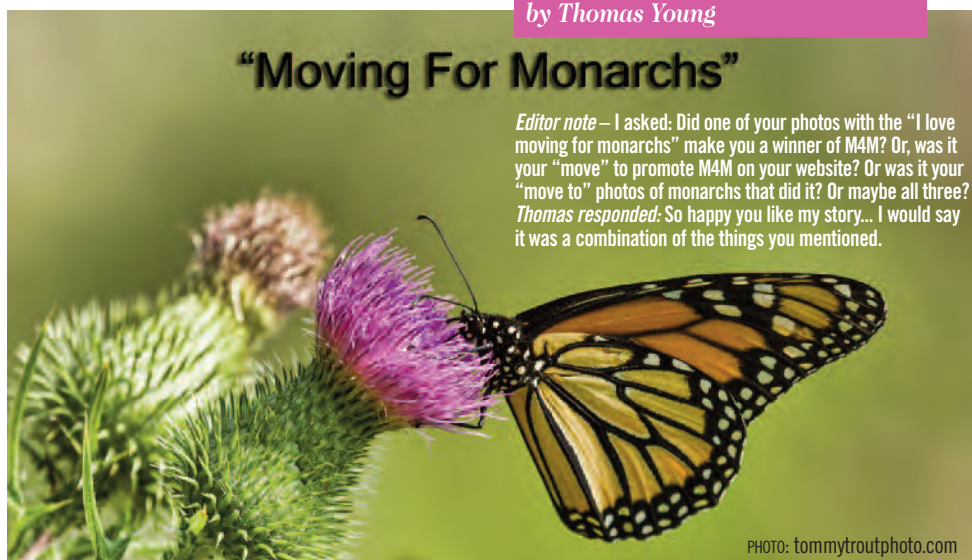
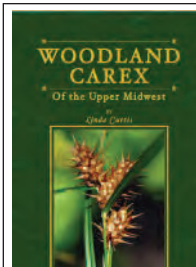


PHOTO: tommytroutphoto.com



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Dennis Woodland
Michigan Botanist Vol 47, no 4.

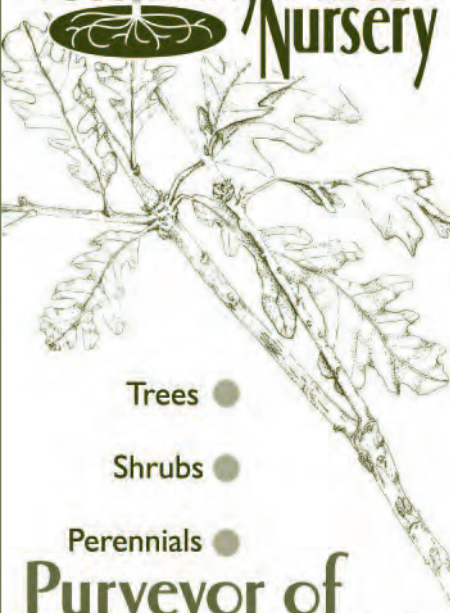
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MOVING FOR MONARCHS

The official date has been set. Moving for Monarchs will be filming at the WILD Center on August 17. 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." Wild Ones Fox Valley Area is planning a community event in conjunction with the filming so there can be a variety of people interaction. More details will follow in the Wild Ones e-Newsletter and the WFM blogs. In the meantime, we would like to see your "moves for monarchs." Send us your "Monarch Moves" to be considered for use in the "Dance of Life." Just use the submission form found at <http://www.wildones.org/M4M-Submission-Instructions.pdf> and send to monarchs@wildones.org.



"In Flight" PHOTO: Jaime Schirmer
Gwynedd Vetter-Drusch (Director of Moving for Monarchs) hangs in the air, briefly suspended over a patch of orange butterfly milkweed and other prairie flowers on the Konza Prairie, Manhattan, KS.



Below: The Moving for Monarchs team, with Monarch Watch Director Chip Taylor at center, poses on the windswept hill the team nicknamed "Mona the Monarch Hill." The team hiked the steep hill many times while filming in Kansas and later discovered that "Mona" means "little noble one"—very appropriate for "monarch" butterflies.



Monarch Move/Dance n' Plant Events

Moving for Monarchs seeks to promote *monarch butterfly and pollinator conservation* through the *use of dance*. Drawing inspiration from highly successful examples of *social and environmental dance activism*, such as the V-Day One Billion Rising campaign (a world-wide dance event in 2013 to end violence against women), we offer an *accessible, engaging vehicle* to reach new audiences with this conservation message. Moving for Monarchs has the *potential to mobilize millions*, inspiring people to "move for monarchs" by dancing and *planting/preserving pollinator habitat*. Move With Us.

A group of "Monarch Movers" demonstrates a phrase of choreography in Central Park, NYC. © Moving for Monarchs

Guiding Principal

When people have the visceral *experience of dancing* while *focusing on the importance of preserving pollinators*, when they create movements from their own memories and personal stories surrounding monarchs and other butterflies, *they can no longer dismiss pollinator conservation issues* as somebody else's problem. They discover this issue is intimately linked with their own lives – and they ultimately feel empowered. They discover that all people and pollinators are participants in *the dance of life*. When this happens, *they are motivated to take positive action*.



Two of our very first Monarch Movers enjoy "moving for monarchs" in Central Park, NYC. © Moving for Monarchs

DVDs For Sale

They've finally arrived. Just the DVD you've been waiting for – "The Vital New Role of the Suburban/Urban Garden." We now have Doug Tallamy's (awarding author of *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*) most recent presentations available for you on DVD. Filmed during the January Wild Ones Fox Valley Area "Toward Harmony with Nature Conference," the DVD is in two parts. Part 1: "The Value of Having



Native Plants in our Yards" and Part 2: "Creating Healthy, Biodiverse Neighborhood Corridors" along with the added bonus of the Wild Ones song written and sung by folksinger Steve Hazell. Just \$10, shipping and handling included. Go to <http://www.wildones.org/wild-ones-store/product-category/miscellaneous/> to order on-line or stop by the WILD Center to pick one up in person and save the s&h. And don't forget to plan to share with friends and family. At this price, they're sure to go fast, so order today. Don't delay!

WILD FOR MONARCHS UPDATE

We've had good response to our new campaign for a Butterfly Garden at the Governors' Mansions (BGGM). Chapters and PALs have been asked to contact the governors of their various states to plant milkweed at the state capital. We're doing this by starting a letter writing campaign. If we're going to have an impact, however, it is important that we all work together on this effort. We've developed the special letter and provided some marketing strategy (See page 18.), and of course, there is all the material that has already been developed for the Wild For Monarchs campaign. Please don't hesitate to share any letters or new campaign materials with us at the home office, however, so we can share with the rest of Wild Ones. Thanks for your help in making this campaign work.

Wild for Monarchs (WFM) is again off to a great start with Chapter Monarch Coordinators, members and friends ordering many campaign materials. We have a good supply of all the brochures and bookmarks we developed last year for WFM, along with the bumper sticker for your use. We have a few of some of the posters left as well, so if you are in need of any of these materials for use in your own personal campaign to preserve the northeastern monarch migration, let us know what we can send you. If there is enough demand, we can order more. We are fortunate to again receive funding from Monarch Joint Venture toward this year's WFM campaign.

The WFM PowerPoint (PPT) presentation has been updated with a couple of new slides so if you are giving speaker presentations on the monarch migration, let us know and we'll get the new slides sent out to you. If you haven't already ordered your PPT, please do so. It is available for your use for WFM. We also continue to add information and activities to the WFM webpage, so plan to monitor that often.

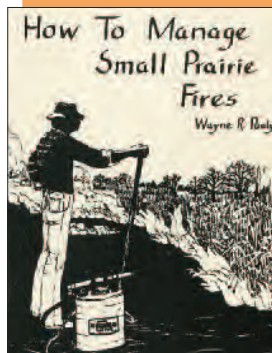
The Wild Ones Native Plant Butterfly Garden and Habitat Program (NPBGH), too, is continuing to grow. Please continue to register your garden or habitat as soon as possible. To find out more about the registration program or to register your garden or habitat go to <http://www.wildones.org/learn/wild-for-monarchs/butterfly-garden-recognition/>.

FIRE

Fire is a natural process. Natural landscapers recreate its effects with controlled burns (also known as 'prescribed burns'), in order to reduce thatch or leaf litter build-up, to fight invading species, return select chemicals to the soil, and to encourage propagation of some species. To become familiar with the experience, you would do well to volunteer to assist a burn at a nature center or Wild Ones members' land, where you'll learn about wind conditions, firebreaks, and extinguishing tools. Wear natural fiber clothing; nylon has a low melting point. Before conducting a burn, you should check with local fire officials about permits or other regulations. Sometimes a fire department will monitor a prescribed burn, either as a training exercise or just to evaluate whether future burns will require monitoring.

Once you invite your neighbors over for a burn party on your property, they'll get a feel for the heat intensity of a grass fire, which is relatively low and brief as compared to fires from other fuel sources. To make the fire look tamer, cut down the vegetation prior to the burn. This will keep the flames lower to the ground.

Fires do cause some air pollution, but much of the visible smoke is actually steam released by the heated vegetation. Controlled burns should be done when the air is neither stagnant nor too gusty. A burn emits fewer volatile organic compounds than a gas-powered mower making weekly cuts on the same-size property. Where possible, burn only one-quarter of your planting each year to maintain habitat for over-wintering pollinators.



If you're looking for a good primer on how to conduct a small prairie fire, I recommend the booklet by Wayne Pauly entitled "How to Manage Small Prairie Fires."

<http://www.wildones.org/product/books/how-to-manage-small-prairie-fires/>

The above text is reprinted from page 13 of the New Member Handbook 2010 Edition <http://www.wildones.org/download/Journal/NewMemberHandbook2010Ed.pdf>

Thank you

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Matt Weber, Agrecol Corp, Madison (WI) Chapter, Cleaning milkweed seed for the WILD Center
Kyle Banas, Pizzo Native Plant Nursery, LLC, Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter, Autographed book "Green and Natural Spaces in your Community"
B. L. Stanek, Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter, 1937 Biology Book
Fox Valley Area Chapter, 436 hours maintaining WILD Center & hosting 2013 national annual meeting

DONATION – IN KIND, WILD ONES

Dan Savin & Joy Buslaff, Quarry School Publishing Services, Milwaukee-Southwest/Wehr (WI) Chapter, Donation of time and skills toward publication of Wild Ones promotional materials
Dave & Sue Peck, Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter, Book entitled "The Walker's Companion."
Brent & Heather Holm, Heather Holm Photography, Prairie Edge (MN) Chapter, Book entitled "Pollinators of Native Plants."
Maryann Whitman, Oakland (MI) Chapter, Books – "Those of the Forest", "Prairie of the Illinois Country" and "Plants of the Chicago Region"
David Kopitzke, Madison (WI) Chapter, Wildflowers of Wisconsin limited edition print
Deb Muraro, Kettle Moraine (WI) Chapter, Donation of time and skills to the publication of the WILD ONES JOURNAL
Steven Olderr, West Cook (IL) Chapter, Donation of time and skills to help with the Wild Ones Library



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20 years
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Wild Ones is pleased to offer a new thank you gift to our Wildest household members. Yes, now you'll have a choice for your thank you gift. Wild Ones will be delighted to send you either the 2015 calendar or the Tallamy DVD (see pg. 20). Your choice. Just let us know when you join or renew at the Wildest household level.

The Meeting Place

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Menomonee River Area Chapter #16
Lisa Oddis (414) 303-3028
loddiss03@yahoo.com

Milwaukee North Chapter #18
Message Center: 414-299-9888 x1

Milwaukee Southwest-Wehr Chapter #23
Message Center: 414-299-9888 x2

Root River Area Chapter #43
Chris Russin 262-857-3191
c-russin@northwestern.edu

Wolf River Chapter #74
Sue Templeman
boosue@frontiernet.net
Bob Dumke 715-924-3117

For information about starting a chapter in your area:
wildones.org/connect/chapter-start-up-information/

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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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PHOTO: Laura Hedien



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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!*

"THIS LAND'S IN HARMONY WITH NATURE"

*Composed by Carol Niendorf
and Folksinger Steve Hazell,
Wild Ones Fox Valley Area*

We don't need no pesticides,
We're attracting butterflies,
This land's in harmony with nature.

Let that mower turn to rust,
Chemical lawn man eat our dust,
This land's in harmony with nature.

Stormy weather come our way,
Wild Ones go out anyway,
This land's in harmony with nature.

Chorus:

This land's in harmony,
It's a special piece of ground.
This land's in harmony,
It's nice to be around.

No more sprinklers, only showers
Real men stop and smell the flowers,
This land's in harmony with nature.

Songbirds singing out my door
I don't use poison any more,
This land's in harmony with nature.

Grow that bluestem big and tall
Wild Ones do it best of all,
This land's in harmony with nature.

Chorus:

This land's in harmony,
It's a special piece of ground.
This land's in harmony,
It's nice to be around.

Winter night or summer day,
The prairie will not fade away,
This land's in harmony with nature.

Business and Affiliate Members

NEW BUSINESS MEMBERS

Conservation Seeding & Restoration Inc.

PO Box 800
Kimberly, ID 83341
(208) 423-4835
steven@csr-inc.com
Partner-at-large (ID)

Duluth Grill

118 S 27th Ave W
Duluth, MN
duluthgrill@gmail.com
www.duluthgrill.com
Arrowhead (MN) Chapter

Native Landscapes

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Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 929-3455
Randy.counterman@gmail.com
www.native-landscapes.com
Kalamazoo Area (MI) Chapter

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matt.weber@agrecol.com
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53783-0001
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rgarczyn@amfam.com
www.amfam.com
Madison (WI) Chapter

Ernst Conservation Seeds

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Meadville, PA 16335-9275
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sales@ernstseed.com
www.ernstseed.com
Partner-at-Large (PA)

Mott Community College

Green Initiatives Team GRIT
1401 E Court St
Flint, MI 48503
(810) 762-0455
rebecca.gale@mcc.edu
www.green.mcc.edu
Flint River (MI) Chapter

Native Connections

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Kalamazoo Area (MI) Chapter

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www.outbacknursery.com
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Woodstock, IL 60098
cstuck2@comcast.net
www.theWPPC.org
Lake-To-Prairie (IL) Chapter

NEW AFFILIATE MEMBERS

City of Bowling Green Parks & Recreation

1291 Conneaut Ave
Bowling Green, OH 43402
cinda.stutzman@bgohio.org
www.bgohio.org
Oak Openings Region (OH) Chapter

Design Green Landscapes

2125 Sherman Ave
Evanston, IL 60201
designgreenlandscapes@gmail.com
North Park Village Nature Center (IL) Chapter

Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill

6501 Lexington Rd
Harrodsburg, KY 40330
jill@shakervillage.org
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112 Pleasant Acres Rd,
York, PA 17402
(717) 840-7408
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