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Aug./Sept./Oct. 2014

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photo: Rick Webb

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JOURNAL

Promiscuous Plants

By James C. Trager, Ph. D.

Restoration biologist, Shaw Nature Reserve of the Missouri Botanical Gardens

The lesson to be learned here is that not all native hybrids and new species are created in a dark lab by Dr Hyde. The Darwinian notion of 'species' involved geographic separation. Our machinations have done away with a lot of that, so that species interbreeding does occur. It is the next step taken by a nursery/business person that creates a Nativecar. The naturally occurring hybrid is taken out of the wild, named and registered as property, reproduced by means that no longer include open pollination. The product is then sold outside of any native range it might have. ED.

Naturalists have long been aware of the greater tendency for plants than for animals to create viable interspecies hybrids. This is attributable **not only** (as some might expect) to a higher likelihood of passive plants whose mating is mediated by pollen-hungry insects, or the wind, to hybridize more often, but rather to a greater ability of plants, with the simpler design of their anatomies, successfully to build a functioning organism with a *Gemisch* of genes from parents of different species. Such hybrids occur naturally, and are often reported in regional floras. Further, the advent of modern techniques for characterizing DNA has revealed that hybridizations of yore have given rise to numerous species, and higher lineages, in plants, in fungi, and to a lesser extent in animals.

Pale or white bottle gentian,
in "pure" form.

PHOTO: Public domain

My recent wanderings in quest of fall flora photos at Shaw Nature Reserve (a branch of Missouri Botanical Garden at Gray Summit, Missouri) really brought this phenomenon to mind as I was examining populations of the three *Gentiana* species that live at the reserve. All three are fairly recent introductions at SNR, added to the flora in several locations in our prairie and wetland habitat reconstruction program. Hybridization among these gentian populations was first brought home in my observation over the last three years of increasing numbers of purplish and bluish and outright blue individuals in a population that was originally pure white gentian –

Gentiana flavida.

This population was sowed in the mid-1990s as part of a mesic prairie reconstruction in the watershed of our wetland complex.

continued on page 4



Gentiana flavida, *G. andrewsii* and their lavender tinted hybrid growing side by side at Shaw Nature Reserve. PHOTO: James C. Trager

Closed Bottle Gentian
(*Gentiana andrewsii*)

PHOTO: D. Gordon
E. Robertson

(Courtesy
Wikimedia Commons)

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT



Tim Lewis
President

Welcome to our Newest Board Members

This year's annual meeting brought some new faces to the national board, but it also lost some long-time members who have been a huge part of the growth we have experienced over the past several years.

I want to thank the four directors who retired from the board for their dedicated service to Wild Ones. During our annual meeting, citations for distinguished service were presented to each.

Joe Powelka served 17 years and held every officer position.

Maryann Whitman served 12 years and continues to serve as editor of WILD ONES JOURNAL.

Marty Rice served eight years and as treasurer for five years.

Trish Hacker Hennig served four years.

Although we have been fortunate over the years to always have had wonderfully dedicated Wild Ones members on the board, I continue to be amazed by the skill-set of the board. Each member brings unique skills that will help us set the direction of this organization. Most are small business owners.

Katrina Hayes, social worker & therapist, was re-elected for a second term. Trina was also elected by the board as secretary.

Jan Hunter, nurseryman, was re-elected for a second term.

Bret Rappaport, attorney, has served since 1995 and serves as our legal counsel.

Dan Segal, nurseryman, is serving his mid four year term.

Bill Snyder, retired executive from the insurance industry, is serving his mid four year term.

Karen Syverson, retired elementary school teacher, is serving her second term.

Janis Solomon, retired professor and Department Director, was re-elected for a second term.

Rick Webb, landscaper, is serving his mid four year term.

Steve Windsor, chauffeur, is serving his second four year term.

Tim Lewis, technical writer, serving my second four year term. I was elected by the board as president.

Pam Dewey, accountant with extensive nonprofit board experience. Pam was elected by the board as treasurer.

John Magee, landscape designer.

Sally Wencel, attorney with extensive experience working with non-profit and profit organizations. Sally was elected by the board as vice president.

Laura Zigmanth, landscape designer.

As you can see, we have a diversity of talented people who are passionate about Wild Ones. Geographically, the board is spread out over the Midwest and East Coast. Next election we'll be seeking representation west of the Mississippi. If at any time you would consider serving on the board, please let me know. If you'd prefer not to take on the responsibility of a director, you might consider volunteering for one of the national board committees. More to come on those needs in the next issue's notes. 📖

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

Our Annual Appeal for donations is just around the corner so I thought I would share these recent letters received by headquarters staff. They both made me smile; perhaps they will you too! — Donna

Dear Donna,

My pleasure to renew my membership in the "Wild Ones."

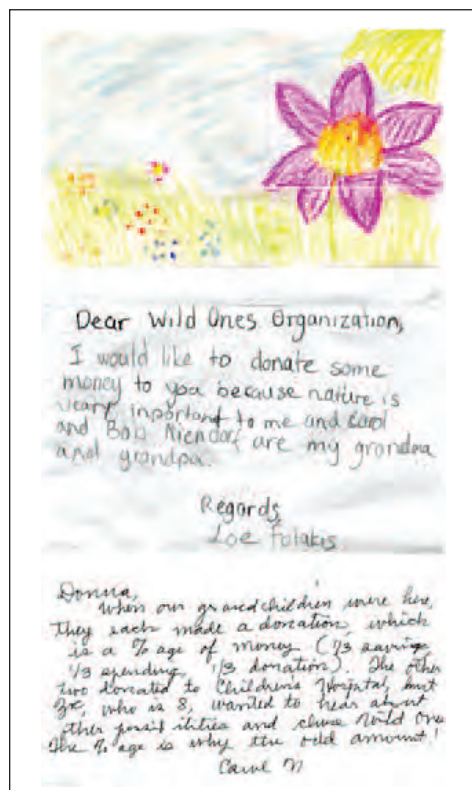
At age 88 I have a new internist in Milwaukee. During our first "get to know you" session he explained he was into areas like the "Wild Ones."

My nurse daughter, Mary, who had come with me to this first session burst into laughter and said my mom was one of those early "Wild Ones" when the Bayside site was saved (Schlitz Audubon).

Enuf – Have a great year.

Annie Davidson McNitt

And here is one from 8-year-old Zoe Fotakis.



During our Celebration, Jamie Fuerst received a Citation for Distinguished Service for Dedicated Support and Extraordinary Commitment to Wild Ones in completion of matters related to the development of our new website. Here she is shown (*at right*) with ballerina Gwynedd Vetter-Drusch and Executive Director Donna VanBuecken.

'Hometown Habitat' Film by Honorary Director, Producer Catherine Zimmerman

As a result of Catherine Zimmerman's showing of some preliminary footage of her new film project "Hometown Habitat" which features Doug Tallamy's philosophy about wildlife corridors at the annual meeting, Green Bay Chapter pledged \$1000 and challenged all Wild Ones chapters to make their own pledge. All donations from Wild Ones chapters and members are being funneled through Wild Ones national so we can meet the requirement of at least a \$5,000 donation to enable Wild Ones to be listed in the film's credits. For more information about the project, go to www.themeadowproject.org Earmark your donations to Wild Ones FBO Hometown Habitat.

Wish List Item Delivered

Marilyn Jones, Twin Cities (MN) Chapter, arrived at the Wild Center during our annual conference, towing a trailer (yes all the way from the Twin Cities!), carrying a donation of one of our wish list items – a golf car! Thank you Marilyn, our heroine! Visitors enjoyed rides around the Center during the annual conference.



John VanBuecken backs the car down the ramp for a jubilant Marilyn as Dave Peck looks on. Both men are from the Fox Valley Area Chapter.

Mark Your Calendars

Oct 19, 2014

6:30 pm
National Board Meeting
via web-conference

Nov 8, 2014

Landscaping with Native Plants,
Kliebhan Conference Center,
Bonaventure Hall,
Cardinal Stritch University,
Milwaukee WI
Keynote speaker: Heather Venhaus

Nov 15, 2014

8 am - 3:30 pm
Lake-To-Prairie Chapter
Creating Harmony with Native Landscaping,
College of Lake County Bldg C,
Grayslake, IL

Dec 14, 2014

6:30 pm
National Board Budget Meeting
via web-conference

WILD ONES JOURNAL

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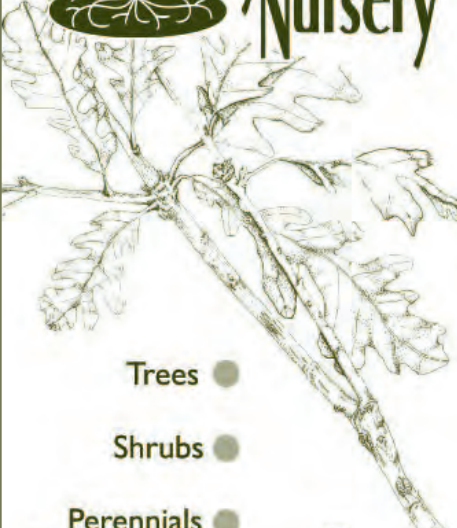
— Design/Layout —

Deb Muraro

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Promiscuous Plants

continued from front page

A few years later, 50 or so meters distant, separated by a dense row of trees and shrubs, and in a much wetter habitat in which water pools after every rain and seeps subterraneously much of the year, blue bottle gentian – *G. andrewsii* — was sowed into a wet prairie / sedge meadow reconstruction.

At first the two populations grew independently and remained separate, but what I surmise was a combination of water borne seed transport (along the shore of a pond whose edge both populations are near), and bumblebee borne pollen transport, conspired to bring gametes of the two species together, creating what population geneticists call a hybrid swarm.

Observe in the sequence of images (*at right*) how a bumblebee gyne (a potential queen of one of next year's annual bumblebee colonies) pries open a bottle gentian flower and dives in for a long drink of nectar at the base of the large vessel. Apparently the nectar is copious, because bumblebees may remain in a single gentian flower for up to a minute.

While there are other populations of both species on the reserve (one hopes, out of bumblebee range from each other) that may retain their genetic integrity, the rampantness of the admixture at this site does give me pause.



G. andrewsii x flavida
PHOTO: James C. Trager

And it gets worse! — On drier ground up the slope, among a dense planting dominated by prairie dropseed and little bluestem grasses, a third gentian known as downy or prairie gentian – *Gentiana puberulenta* – was established from a seed mix sowed 10 years ago to convert the watershed of the reserve's wetlands from non-native hayfield to prairie vegetation.



Downy gentian (G. puberulenta)
PHOTO: James C. Trager

Unlike the two previously mentioned species and their hybrids, the downy gentian's petals open wide at maturity (anthesis), admitting entry to small bees and even to spindly-legged potential pollinators such as syrphid flies.

And now those perverse bumblebees have gone and defied the laws of speciesness and created what appear to be hybrids of this third gentian species with the other two. Honestly, I don't know whether to feel that I have done some sort of wrong by creating the situation that allowed this to happen ... or simply to be intrigued by this unforeseen outcome of my work, and to wonder what will come of it after I'm gone? ☼



Gentiana flavida



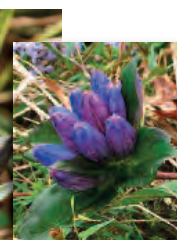
Possible G. flavida x puberulenta
PHOTO: James C. Trager



Gentiana puberulenta



Possible G. puberulenta x andrewsii
PHOTO: James C. Trager



Gentiana andrewsii

Notes from Tom Barnes, Botanist, University of Kentucky, author of *Wildflowers and Ferns of Kentucky*:

The genus name comes from Gentius, King of Illyria around 500 B.C. The species name comes from Latin meaning white. *Gentiana alba* was first published by Muhlenberg in 1818 and Gray in 1846 first called the species *Gentiana flavida*. They are the same plant and some experts consider *G. alba* to be the correct name because it was published first, but other experts consider *G. flavida* to be the correct name because of a belief that the Muhlenberg publication was invalid under the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature.

The native range for this species is from Canada down to Oklahoma, Arkansas, and North Carolina. It is most often thought of as a prairie or grassland species but also occurs in open woodlands and savannas. In Kentucky it is considered a rare species but it is widely sold in the nursery trade. There are some interesting notes about this species in that it will hybridize with *G. andrewsii* giving a different looking flower that is cream colored with light blue tints at the edge of the petals. In Kentucky, the time of flowering precludes hybridization in the wild, but it is something a hobbyist might undertake.

Use of Controversial Pesticides Banned in National Wildlife Refuges

After facing a series of legal challenges from environmental groups around the country, the United States Forestry Service has issued a memorandum to the effect that by January 2016, it will have phased out use of neonicotinoid pesticides and “genetically engineered crop seeds” on National Wildlife Refuges (over 150 Million acres). “This conforms to the Service’s Biological Integrity, Diversity, and Environmental Health Policy” with respect to the refuges, and is “based on the underlying principle of wildlife conservation that favors management that restores or mimics natural ecosystem processes”.

Neonicotinoid pesticides not only act as systemic poisons of pollinators, but widespread contamination by neonicotinoids in soils and in surface waters also poisons creatures like earthworms and crayfish, thereby having effects on up the food chain.

GM crops permit the increasingly widespread use of powerful and indiscriminant pesticides on row crops.

Further, the Forestry Service recognized that “transitioning any refuge land from a primarily agricultural use to restored, native habitat works to achieve the Service goal of minimizing our carbon footprint as set forth in Rising to the Urgent Challenge, Strategic Plan for Responding to Accelerating Climate Change (USFWS 2010).”

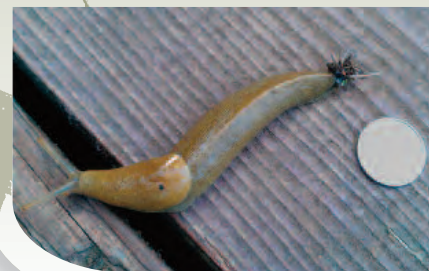
Don’t you feel like patting someone on the back—someone in Washington, DC no less. Read more: <http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/press-releases/3298/victory-fish-and-wildlife-service-to-phase-out-neonicotinoids#>

Slugs—and you think you have problems with them...

Slugs ate all my basil plants (SE Michigan) this summer. Because of the frequent rains, our slugs have prospered.

While we vacationed in Washington State, my daughter photographed a typical indigenous slug of the Pacific North West. It was exploring our wood deck. The American quarter at its tail end is approximately an inch in diameter. So this youngster is about 5 inches long. I suppose the positive aspect of this size is that it would be too heavy to get up into my basil plants—but can you imagine a baby PNW slug??

PHOTO: Katharine Whitman



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Cows, Colleges, and Contentment: Prairie Partners Hosts National Board Meeting

By Arlene Kjar, Past President and Membership Chair of Northfield Prairie Partners Chapter.

Edited by the Northfield Prairie Partner's Newspaper Committee

consisting of Fred Stanley, Corrine Heiberg, Cathi Gutfleisch and Sarah Duke Middleton.

When Wild Ones President, Tim Lewis, asked our Northfield Prairie Partners Chapter if we would consider hosting the meeting of Wild Ones National Board in June of 2014, we were honored and agreed to do this.

It was quite an intimidating task for our three-year-old chapter, since we have only thirty-five members. Our chapter decided that our Board would handle the business of making all the arrangements for the meeting. In the end everyone helped.

A Place to Meet

The board proceeded. We checked to see that we would have a place that could handle the technological requirements for the meeting. The best place we found was the Northfield Senior Center which is relatively new, and could meet our needs.

We checked with the Northfield Chamber of Commerce and they suggested that we send out a packet of information to each national board member. In the packet was information about the businesses, restaurants, motels, and local attractions. Northfield has an interesting history and many know it as

the place where the outlaw Jesse James was defeated. Each September, Northfield celebrates the Defeat of Jesse James Days and thousands visit the city on the Cannon River. Northfield is also the home of two well know colleges, Carleton College and St. Olaf College. Lashbrook City Prairie Park is named after the Lashbrook family that raised world famous cows. The slogan, Cows, Colleges, and Contentment, can be found on the signs entering the city.

Securing Accommodations

The city has many unique accommodations like the restored Archer House Hotel, but when we checked on reservations, we found that no rooms were available. The same was true of the other hotels in Northfield. Eventually we found out that Carleton College was having an all school reunion the same weekend, June 21, of the Wild Ones National Board Meeting. Luckily, we came across the Best Value Motel, which had vacancies and we asked the National Board members to quickly make their reservations.

Glitches Were Handled

Our Prairie Partners President informed us

that she had an important family event; a wedding an event she was part of, therefore she could not attend the National Board meeting.

We thought a dinner the evening before the National Board meeting would let our chapter members and president meet the National Board members. First choice was a local downtown restaurant but they did not want to reserve tables since they would be very busy with the guests coming into town for the Carleton College Reunion. We found instead that Perkins Restaurant (a Midwestern chain) would not only reserve tables for us, but would give us an entire room to ourselves. It turned out that Perkins was directly across from the motel where our guests would be staying.

Many members of our chapter were able to attend the dinner. It was nice to be able to talk informally with our guests, as we were all very busy on Saturday during the meeting.

Catastrophes Did Happen

During the week of the National Board meeting, heavy rains caused severe



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Northfield River overflowing banks onto walkways.
PHOTO: Tim Lewis



Brunch for 11 attendees was exceptionally generous.
PHOTO: Arlene Kjar

flooding in Northfield. The Cannon River runs through Northfield from the north to the east and joins the Mississippi River in Red Wing Minnesota. High retaining walls usually keep the river in its channel. This time it became extremely swollen, overflowing its banks.

Not only did we have thousands attending the Carleton Reunion, but roads and streets were closed due to flooding and sandbagging. The guests coming from neighboring cities had to take detour routes because bridges were out and highways were closed.

Fortunately, the Northfield Senior Center, Best Value Motel, and Perkins Restaurant are all on the south side of town where flooding was not occurring.

While the flooding did not affect our plans, it did provide some interesting sightseeing for our guests.

Volunteers Come Through with Food

The host chapter provides a brunch for those attending the National Board meeting. We asked our members if some would like to volunteer an item and then we would purchase the remaining items we would need. Sixteen of our members volunteered to bring food, and we had a huge feast of homemade muffins, cookies, breads, fresh fruits, cheese, cold cuts and veggies. One member ordered a plate of

cold cuts and cheese for twenty-five from a local grocery store. We not only had a brunch but had enough food for lunch.

Entertainment

Although some hardy souls waded through local natural area preserves on Friday, we decided that Saturday's tour should be limited to the senior center. Most impressive was the huge warm water pool, spa, exercise room, and solar panels on the roof. Outdoors is a patio with several raised gardens. One garden is used solely for native flowers and is maintained by a Prairie Partner member.

It All Worked Out

We encourage chapters not to hesitate to host a National Board meeting, for it was really an honor to have our National Board members come to our town. They devote a lot of their time and talents to making Wild Ones the organization it is.

We found our chapter coming together to help solve each problem we came up against as we planned for the Board's visit. Six of the Minnesota Chapters had representatives from their chapters present at the meeting. We found that we have a really fantastic Wild Ones organization. Hosts and guests all helped in some way to make the National Board meeting a success. 🍷



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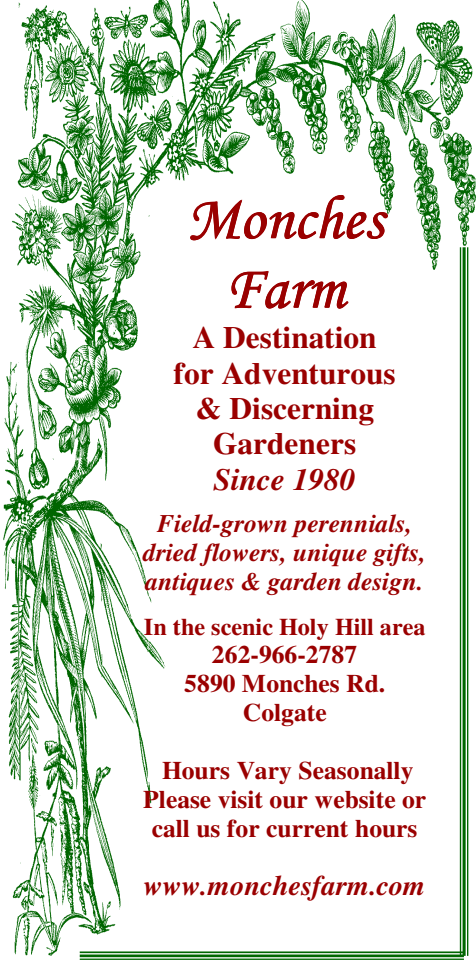
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Ripe, open milkweed pod.
PHOTO: Betty Hall

The Milky Way

By Artemis Eyster

Artemis is a senior at Chelsea High School in southeast Michigan. She is a member of the Washtenaw Audubon Society and Michigan Botanical Club and is currently the artist for the Huron Valley Chapter. Artemis can often be found birding and botanizing around her property and nearby parks as she observes the natural world with the companionship of her notebook and watercolors. She is planning a career in Environmental Policy. ED.

They are taller than my head. They stand swaying in the afternoon breeze; great columns of life. The giant milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) calls the edge of my sidewalk, "home." I am overwhelmed by the fragrance of the blossoms that are at the level of my nose, making it impossible not to breathe in the rich odor.

As I stand, my other senses become keenly aware of the rich biodiversity that this single plant is supporting. Its leaves and pom-pom-like blossoms are erupting with life, in all shapes and sizes. While it is well known that native plants support more life than introduced ones, the plethora and diversity of insects on one pillar of milkweed exceeds the amount on all the remaining introduced plants in our garden.

Long-legged flies dance on the broad leaves, their iridescent emerald abdomens reflecting the afternoon rays, as stygian ants meticulously seek out the nectar of the flowers. Wasps and blue-bottle flies also stop at the tall stalks as they make their way around the overgrown garden, just as a mourning cloak butterfly flops down gracefully to peruse the latest flowers that have just opened in the day's sunlight. In contrast, the nonnative daylilies that managed to stay healthy in a neighboring part of our yard are astonishingly bare of visiting insect life.

My family did "garden" in the traditional way at one point. Foreign perennials and annuals once grew on either side of the path leading toward our house. However, time and Mother Nature have taken their toll; and the seeds of the native milkweed

MilkweedMilk

found their way to the untended garden beds, growing six feet tall. While the ruby-throated hummingbird can whiz through the columns without a change in his course, I am unable to reach my house without brushing against the gargantuan plants on both sides of the walkway. I am humbled as their growth in only three months overshadows my own.

Even while demonstrating the vivacity of life, the milkweed already displays the inevitable cycle toward death. Each stalk exhibits the cycle: with the unborn blossoms at the top, still nestled in their respective sepals, the middle-aged flowers at their prime, all the way down to the oldest flowers, some hanging limply, their bells having fallen to the outstretched leaves below.

This life-giving plant will eventually be replaced by more column-like plants that are competing for sunlight nearby. The many evening primroses (*Oenothera biennis*), await their turn to bask in the glory and come out with their yellow blossoms after the milkweed has lost all of its pink-hued umbels. Nature, coupled with a respectful distance by us humans, has allowed the natural balance of flowers to thrive in our uninhibited garden. ☼



Milkweed towering over author Artemis Eyster.

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and Becky Erickson, Wild Ones member,
Mid-Missouri Chapter.

The decline of Northeast Monarch butterflies is at a critical level. The Mexican overwintering population has declined from using an area of 22 acres to about one acre. There are many reasons for the decline, including loss of habitat, both in Mexico and in their Midwest migration route throughout North America. What can we do to help Monarchs now and in the near future?

1. Scout out areas for milkweed plants. Learn to identify at least common milkweed and swamp milkweed. Here in the Midwest, others you might find are Sullivan's, purple, tall green, butterfly, whorled, or spider [in unglaciated areas]. Common milkweed grows on field edges and roadsides where soil has been disturbed. It is a tall robust plant with wide opposite leaves. Pale pink flowers grow in large clusters from leaf nodes and are oh-so fragrant! Pods are about 4 inches long, 1.5 in. in diameter, and are usually covered with scattered extended knobs. Swamp milkweed grows in ditches and other muddy areas. It is tall, smooth with long pointed opposite leaves. Bright pink flowers usually cluster on the top of the plant. Pods are about 3 inches long, ½ in. in diameter, smooth, and point upward in a cluster.
2. Don't mow areas where you find milkweed growing.
3. Delay fall prescribed burns until milkweed seed has been collected from burn units.
4. Collect seed pods from milkweed when they are ready. Pods are ready when they are dry, gray or brown. If center seam pops with a gentle pressure, they can be picked. If they are starting to fluff out, of course they can be collected. It is best to collect pods into paper bags such as lunch sacks or grocery bags. Label the bag as to location and habitat and the species. Store in an air-conditioned space until processed.
5. Process the seed (remove the seed from pods and silk). All manner of mechanical devices have been tried for cleaning in bulk. Most methods are unsuccessful unless you have the equipment of a wholesale seed nursery. It is time consuming to clean seed by hand, but it is the most efficient way. Hold pod in both hands by the ends.



Ripe milkweed seed with floss.
PHOTO: Betty Hall

Pop it open enough to hold thumb over silk. Open pod a bit more so you can tease seed into a container. Drop silk into another container; when it becomes unruly, spray it with a little water. There could be seed still with the silk and pods ["trash"], so discard the pods where the remaining seed might grow.

6. Store seed properly. Seed needs to be completely dry. Seed is a living plant. When air temperature and humidity added together are < 100, there is a very good chance seed will retain viability for a few years. If the combined number reaches 150, the seed has lost viability. SO: do not leave seed in a locked vehicle in the sun with the windows closed nor in a closed container in an outdoor shed. DO NOT FREEZE seed; they have moisture in them and will explode and won't germinate if frozen. After processing, store in a clean plastic container in refrigerator. Label: "species, year, for planting location"
7. Identify appropriate areas to sow the seed. While you were collecting you noted habitat. Find another area where habitat is similar and there are few/no milkweeds growing. Do not sow in areas likely to be sprayed with Glyphosate or other herbicides.
8. Prepare the planting site if needed (this can be done with common garden tools). If the planting site such as a strip next to a field or road is thick with fescue or brome or some other alien vegetation, it would be beneficial to spray glyphosate over the area to be planted several weeks before planting. Then mow short and scruff up the surface with a rake. Do not till.
9. Sow the seed on bare soil prior to the first snow; sometime between Halloween and Christmas is best. If soil is workable, germination success would be higher if seed is raked a bit into the surface. But this is not necessary. Simply walk on the seed for good contact. A very light cover of weed-free dead vegetation or leaves [mulch] can be helpful to keep seedlings from drying out in early summer.
10. GPS the seed collection site and planting location or mark it correctly on a map or aerial photo. A photo of the location would also help future monitoring efforts. 📍

Useful Resources

Websites:

- Service Pollinator webpage and HQ/Regional Pollinator Coordinators contact information:
<https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/EC-Pollinators>
- Monarch Joint Venture:
<http://monarchjointventure.org/>
- The Xerces Society:
<http://www.xerces.org/>
- <http://www.wildones.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Milkweed-Basics.pdf>
- <http://www.wildones.org/learn/native-plants-and-landscaping/gathering-rescuing-and-propagating/plant-rescues/>

Habitat Assessment Tool:

- Monarch Breeding Habitat Assessment Tool. University of Minnesota Monarch Lab and Monarch Joint Venture. Online at:
http://monarchjointventure.org/images/uploads/documents/Habitat_Assessment_Tool_Final_test.pdf

Milkweeds Information and Seed Sources:

- Border, B. and E. Lee-Mader. 2014. *Milkweeds: A Conservation Practitioner's Guide*. 143 pp. Portland, OR: The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. Online at:
<http://www.xerces.org/milkweeds-a-conservation-practitioners-guide/>
- *Pollinator Plants of the Central United States: Native Milkweeds (Asclepias spp.) (2013)*. The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, Portland OR, in collaboration with USDA-NRCS. Online at:
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FS_E_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/mopmcpu11905.pdf
- *Great Basin Pollinator Plants: Native Milkweeds (Asclepias spp.) (2012)*. The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, Portland OR, in collaboration with USDA-NRCS Great Basin Plant Materials Center, Fallon NV. NVPMT Technical Note No. 56. Online at:
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FS_E_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/nvpmtcn11525.pdf
- WILD ONES JOURNAL. Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes, Neenah, WI. 2013 Vol 26. No. 1 Online at:
<http://www.wildones.org/download/Journal2013Vol26No1%20Journal.pdf>

GRAPEVINE

By Maryann Whitman

A Word to the Wise...

We don't usually report on the ramifications of invasive plants growing across the ocean but this item deserves serious thought, as it is a scourge that we share.

In the United Kingdom and in parts of Europe the presence of Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), on a property is causing mortgages to be denied.

It grows to 7 and 8 feet in the U.K.'s mild climate, spreads rampantly by roots that are known to crack patios and even foundations, and getting rid of it is a long, expensive process. While a property may be declared free of knotweed after 3 to 5 year's treatment with glyphosate, recontamination can happen all too easily. "Even the tiniest bit of leftover root can cause regrowth, which means that digging up knotweed is not so much a matter of making a hole, as it is of carrying out a large-scale excavation. The "crown" or "head" of a knotweed infestation can be the size of a bull's head, with scores of roots radiating out from it like strands of hair," says one remediation expert.

Disposal of removed live knotweed from ones property can be a costly and complicated process in another sense. Under the Environmental Act (1990), in the U.K., the same rules that govern disposal of toxic waste apply to knotweed. Anyone removing this waste must be appropriately licensed. Simply dumping it in trash or landfill is strictly forbidden, and can be punished by fines or imprisonment (Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981).

Knotweed, according to the USDA (<http://plants.usda.gov>) grows in all but nine of the United States, and three provinces in Canada. Wild Ones members may go to 2010Vol23No3 Journal.pdf, in the Members Only section of our site, under Archived Wild Ones Journals, to find an article by Janet Allen titled "Invasives on the Horizon: Japanese Knotweed: Godzilla of the Plant World".

Midwest Groundcovers Receives

2014
ISAM
Award

Wild Ones Business Member, Midwest Groundcovers, LLC, is the recipient of the 2014 Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM) Business of the Year award for its leadership in developing the relationship between the green industry and conservation.

"Midwest Groundcover's willingness to work hard to keep the dialogue on invasive species and the green industry open and productive is invaluable to Illinois," said Chris Evans, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan Invasive Species Campaign Coordinator.

Since 2002, Midwest Groundcovers has partnered with leading Chicagoland research organizations and dialogued with conservation partners in order to assess invasive species and determine the appropriate courses of action. In 2005, Midwest Groundcovers became a founding member of the Illinois Invasive Species Council (IISPC). The IISPC not only serves as an advisory board to the IDNR, but also works to minimize the adverse economic and ecological effects that invasive plants pose to the state of Illinois.

"We are concerned about the health of our natural areas and the adverse environmental and financial consequences caused by invasive species," said Trish Beckjord, Midwest Groundcovers Native Plant Specialist. "But even plants labeled as 'potentially invasive' may still have appropriate garden applications. The key is to help our customers select the right plant for the right place, which ensures long-term planting success," Beckjord added.

Midwest Groundcovers continually invests in tools, resources, and solutions to help its customers consider appropriate plant choices and to educate consumers about the threat of invasive species. The company developed Midwest Solutions® and Garden Artistry™ to provide information on tried and true, attractive, vigorous, yet well-behaved plant combinations. With Midwest's web-based Advanced Plant Search tool, customers can search the

company's robust online plant database for site-suitable plants.

"It is our aim to educate the public through our conservation partners and website, and to make positive, proactive, responsible, and practical decisions regarding actions towards invasive species," said Christa Orum-Keller, Midwest Groundcovers Vice President and owner. "We want to be part of the conversation. We want to have an influence on what's best for the industry," Orum-Keller added.

For more information on Midwest Groundcovers, LLC, visit www.midwestgroundcovers.com.

For more information on Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month, visit www.invasive.org/illinois/.

About Midwest Groundcovers, LLC

Midwest Groundcovers, LLC, is an industry leader in the propagation, growth, and wholesale distribution of quality container nursery stock. Midwest operates five production facilities in three cities: St. Charles, IL; Virgil, IL; and Glenn, MI. Each year these facilities produce over twenty million containerized plants, including more than 100 different ground cover varieties; over 240 species of local ecotype native plants identified as Natural Garden Natives™; 140 regional Midwest native species of which some are naturally occurring selections; more than 500 varieties of perennials and ornamental grasses; and over 170 varieties of deciduous shrubs, native shrubs, broadleaf evergreens, hardy shrub roses, conifers, and vines.

Contact Jill Bondi, Marketing Manager of Midwest Groundcovers, LLC, for more information. 🌱

There have been hundreds of stories and a great deal of research done about the death of honey bee colonies. It should be no surprise that honey bees are just the tip of a huge problem. Native bees, other insects, songbirds and the whole food chain are being affected by habitat loss, insecticides and a host of other pests. The consequences are very serious and troubling. One example is the monarch butterfly. In Mexico the winter of 2012-13 the base population of these amazing travelers was estimated to be 60 million, an all-time low. Just one year later, last winter, the estimated populations had fallen to only 3 million, a new, much smaller, all time low. There is even some concern that the species is at a low critical mass and may not be able to recover a viable population. It seems clear that something must be done to turn this trend around.

To help with this effort, Prairie Restorations Inc. has implemented a new initiative that we hope will add critical habitat to urban and suburban neighborhoods. We believe this must be done. The program is called “Sowing it Back Together” and the goal is to convert 25% of all the existing traditional horticultural landscapes, usually turf-based, to some kind of native landscape over the next ten years. It is a misconception is that only large areas of prairie, wetlands or forests are what is needed for pollinators and wildlife. In reality all areas can matter – even small urban gardens, rain gardens, green roofs, naturalized shorelines and roadsides, if they incorporate native plants. Even an area as small as 500 square feet that has been restored to



By Erin O'Leary,
Prairie Restorations, Inc.

*Prairie Restorations
is a long-time Wild
Ones business member.*
ED.

some mix of native plants can be helpful. It is estimated that if we were to convert 25% of the mowed turf areas in the United States back to some mix of native plants, we would gain 10 million acres of natural habitat. The impact would be huge, and it would be something that millions of property owners could be a part of. Maybe all of these people would even become Wild Ones members!

To aid homeowners in making this change, Prairie Restorations has designed 7 kits; 5 for central and southern Minnesota and 2 designed specifically for the northern regions. Anyone with a yard can chose to start “Sowing it Back Together”. The kits include custom wildflower and grass seed blends, a minimum of 120 plants along with a yard sign and all the information they will need to be successful. This is really designed for the do-it-yourselfer, but Prairie Restorations will also provide our services if clients do not feel comfortable handling the steps in the planting process themselves. Information regarding this initiative and other helpful information on native plants of Minnesota can be found on our website at www.prairieresto.com.

Prairie Restorations, Inc. and its clients have been “Sowing it Back Together” for over 37 years. We have always been compelled to empower and educate others about the benefits of native plant communities and that every small amount can make a difference. We know this program will help make a change for good! 🌱

Lakeshore Cleaners Inc

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Pendelton Pond, Neenah
Coppes, Neenah
West Town, Neenah
Sunset Park Overseed, Kimberly
Amy Ave - McMahon, Darboy
Springfield Restoration, Darboy
Wolf River Bank, Hortonville
SCA Tissue, Town of Menasha

Prairies Planted in 2010

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30th Street, Manitowac
Commerce Pond, Neenah
Sullivan Pond, Fond du Lac

Prairies Planted in 2012

South Park, Neenah
US Venture, Appleton
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Wild Ones 35th Anniversary Celebration

Generosity of Local Small Grant Foundations

We were able to keep the registration fee low because of the generosity of several key organizations. Our thanks goes out to WE Energies Foundations, the Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region and the Wild Ones Illinois Chapters (Greater duPage, Illinois Prairie, Lake to Prairie, North Park Nature Center and Rock River Valley). West Cook Chapter donated the license fee to allow us to show the *Jens Jensen: The Living Green* video and Will County donated highly sought after silent auction gifts.

Silent Auction

Chapters and Wild Ones members donated wonderful silent auction gifts. Gifts included everything from a recycled desk to some accessories which included native seed in their production. Other items such as needlework, books, prints and garden tools were also popular, with the highlight being a food basket made up of Wisconsin food products. Total proceeds amounted to \$1209.50 and were donated to Catherine Zimmerman's new video *Hometown Habitat*.



Virginia Watson of the Rock River Valley Chapter brought her Monarch Habitat with her to the Conference as she would not be home to tend her charges. We watched, enthralled, as one of her monarch's emerged from its chrysalis. The next day she released it into the WILD Center meadow. tommytroutphoto.com



Gwynedd with young Moving For Monarchs dancers.
PHOTO: Tim Lewis

Gwynedd's Recital

Following Chip Taylor's presentation on how to restore the monarch population, Wild Ones members who stayed to participate in *Moving for Monarchs* were treated to a 9-minute ballet recital by Gwynedd Vetter-Drusch followed by our own production of the Wild Ones Monarch Move.

Publicity in our Community

We had wonderful publicity for this conference. From the local Wisconsin Gannett Media newspapers, to 91.1 The Avenue radio station, to the many other local media sources and organizations who publicized our celebration, we couldn't have been more pleased with the distribution of the announcement of this happening. Start planning now to join us next year, August 14-15 for another excellent celebration!

For those of you who missed the beauty of the Wild Ones prairie during the 35th Anniversary Celebration/ Annual Conference, you'll find an inspiring video taken by Rob Zimmer, one of our conference speakers, on the annual conference weblink <http://www.wildones.org/2014-wild-ones-annual-conference/>



Our meadow was in its
glory for our Celebration.

tommytroutphoto.com

Annual Conference • AUG. 15-17, 2014



The conference attendees listened to lectures, inside the spacious tent, while cool breezes wafted in from the adjacent woods.

Food and Water for All

Although the Wild Ones staff played a huge part in making the conference a success, it ran especially smoothly because of the members of the Fox Valley Area Chapter who made sure the site was set-up, cleaned up and everyone was well-nourished and hydrated. Thanks Kristen Kauth, and the crew.

Thanks to all

From the speakers who traveled from afar, to the fine Wisconsin food and drink enjoyed by all, to the volunteers who helped everything run smoothly, to Penny Bernard Schaber who presented the Wisconsin Citation of Commendation, to ballerina Gwynedd Vetter-Drusch who helped us develop our Monarch Moves for the "Dance of Life," to the Wild Ones members who traveled from all over the USA, and to the Fox Valley residents, thank you all for celebrating with us. We believe everyone had a wonderful time.

Right: One of our Celebration speakers, Chip Taylor of Monarch Watch, (center) with our own Donna VanBeucken and Tim Lewis.



Citation of Commendation to Wild Ones from the State of Wisconsin

KNOW YOU BY THESE PRESENTS:

WHEREAS, Wild Ones was founded 35 years ago in Wisconsin on the philosophy of natural landscaping; and

WHEREAS, Wild Ones is a national not-for-profit organization with a mission to educate and share information with members and community at the "plants-roots" level; and

WHEREAS, Wild Ones is made up of a dedicated body of volunteers, including all members of the Executive

Committee, Board of Directors and chair people; and

WHEREAS, the Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Program, established in 1996, motivates and rewards places of learning and other organized groups to share the Wild Ones vision of using native plants in natural landscapes to preserve biodiversity by educating the users of facilities and the community; and

WHEREAS, Wild Ones has established the Wild Ones Institute of Learning and Development to showcase and further their mission of native plants in natural landscapes, as well as to preserve the Guckenberg-Sturm marsh which is the last remaining working marsh on Little Lake Butte Des Morts, which is part of the Fox River water and the Great Lakes watershed; and

WHEREAS, Wild Ones launched the Wild for Monarchs campaign to support the monarch population and their migration through education about native plants; and

WHEREAS, Wild Ones has successfully published an educational newsletter since 1988, now known as the WILD ONES JOURNAL, a publication which has become known throughout the country with university and public libraries requesting copies for their shelves.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Representative Penny Bernard Schaber, on behalf of the Wisconsin State Assembly and the residents of the City of Appleton, do hereby congratulate Wild Ones on the occasion of their 35th Anniversary and do hope for many successful years to come.

Dated this 25th day of April, 2014

*Representative Penny Bernard Schaber
State Representative
57th Assembly District*



Representative Penny Bernard Schaber presented Wild Ones President Tim Lewis with a Citation of Commendation from the State of Wisconsin.

By Tom Small

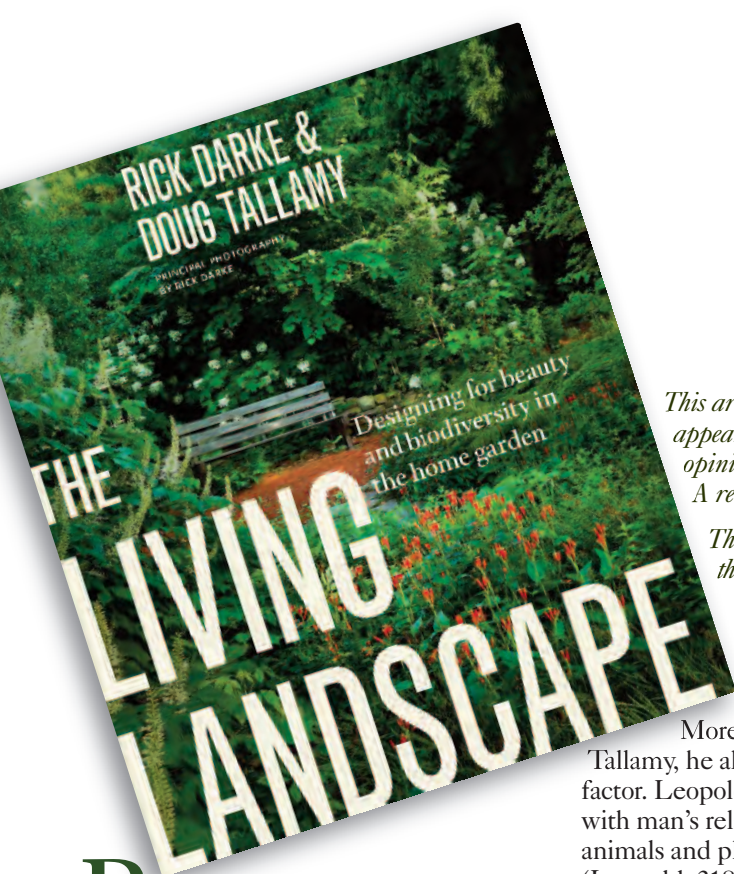
THE LIVING LANDSCAPE:

Designing for beauty and biodiversity in the home garden

By Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy

*This article is much more than a review of the book **Living Landscape**, it might also have appeared as an essay by Tom, titled **A Garden Ethic for a Living Landscape**. Tom's opinions shine through in every turn of a carefully chosen word or crafted phrase. A retired professor of English he is not shy about educating his reader.*

The numbers that follow quotes from books are the page numbers in the books wherein the words appear. Books referred to are listed at the end of the article. ED.



Beauty is function; function is beautiful. Is that all you need to know on earth? Well, not quite. But it's close.

It's certainly the lesson that came across most powerfully in Rick Darke's keynote addresses at this year's Wildflower Association of Michigan conference. And it's reinforced in the newly published book that he and Doug Tallamy co-authored, *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden* (Timber Press, 2014). However, woven through Darke's talks, Tallamy's keynote addresses at the 2013 WAM conference, and their new book is a theme even more compelling than their call to expand our aesthetic sense of beautiful landscape to include its *function* as habitat, its ability to sustain a rich, complex web of living relationships.

For me, the importance of their book lies not in its emphasis on functional design but in its argument that what we most need is a new garden *ethic*—a sense of what is fundamentally right or wrong for the whole community of life. Although Darke and Tallamy don't mention him, the ethic which underlies their entire argument strikes me as a re-focusing, for home gardeners, of the "land ethic" developed by Aldo Leopold.

Beauty and the Human Factor

Beauty was an important consideration for Leopold, as in the classic formulation of his land ethic: "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability,

and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

Moreover, like Darke and Tallamy, he always included the human factor. Leopold's was an "ethic dealing with man's relation to the land and to the animals and plants which grow upon it" (Leopold, 218).

Darke and Tallamy, aside from being friends and neighbors, are both specialists. Tallamy's writing is informed by his scientific research in entomology and wildlife ecology, as well as by his experience in restoring the natural ecosystem of his own land. Darke's background includes his major role in designing the plantings at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania, his studies of plant communities throughout the world, and his fascination with "garden narratives," the stories that a landscape tells about the many interactions between human culture and ecological process—traces, tools, and structures left behind by settlement, farming, paths, roadways, and industry. To Darke, a landscape is like a *palimpsest*, a parchment document scratched out and written over many times, leaving traces that can reveal, to the practiced eye, what was almost erased (83). Whatever their differences, scientifically and culturally, both are ecologists. Together, they call for a "new ethics" based on a "modern recipe for inclusive habitat" (131).

Their book, however, is not a recipe-book. In part, it's an art-book, filled with beautiful photography by both authors and including Darke's emphasis on the art of observation and the "art of ethical, functional design" (9). Basically, it's an ecological explication of natural design and process, both in the wild and as it pertains to our gardens and our lives—as active participants in a living landscape.

An Ethical Obligation to Life

What is our obligation to this living landscape, aside from "making a garden and living in it" (9)? Our ultimate ethical obligation is, simply, to *live*. More scientifically, if you will, to "biological function." Or, perhaps, to "ecosystem services."

For me, the crux of the book's argument consists in its central chapter, by Tallamy, "The Ecological Functions of Gardens: What Landscapes Do." It's here that Tallamy questions the "anthropocentric focus" of the term "ecosystem services":

All living things [he emphasizes] require ecosystem services to make it in this world, not just humans, and there will be no ecosystem function without the myriad of life forms that create it... The relationship between landscaping practices and the production of vital ecosystem services has created *ethical issues never before faced by gardeners* [emphasis added] (119).

The Necessity of Complexity

Even if we persist in our blinkered focus on human benefits, Tallamy argues, our true need is nonetheless "ecosystem complexity itself": complexity of design, food webs, and "ecosystem interactions" (118-119). This biological complex of interactions is precisely what is lacking in the unsustainable, *unsustaining* fragments to which we have reduced natural ecosystems. Only through linking these fragments by means of our very own managed landscapes can we "preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community" (Leopold). Only thus can we serve ourselves *ethically*.

In its exposition of design principles, *The Living Landscape* always implies an ethical basis:

■ The purpose of linking is not simply to provide "biological corridors" through

which animals and plants can move but to create habitat in which they can “successfully reproduce”—spaces which will “support entire life cycles of local biodiversity” (116).

- The “best strategy” for achieving full “biological function” in our gardens is through “reintroducing layers to residential landscapes” (13). The major part of the book is devoted to analyzing and illustrating the vertical, horizontal, temporal, cultural, and “edge” layers essential to this restorative process.
- Only complex layering provides the myriad *niches* necessary to support full diversity of specialized species.
- We should aim for the “highest supportable diversity.” An important (and underdeveloped) corollary to this principle is that we must “avoid unsustainable variety” (151). Experiment is good. Experiment without careful attention to context, both local conditions and the larger landscape beyond, is a waste of resources (127).
- Every garden must have a “core group” of productive—i.e. fully functional—native plants (108). This again requires careful choices because the key concept is not native but functional. Some natives provide little function; some are superbly

multi-functional. Beyond the essential “core group,” both Tallamy and Darke allow latitude for choosing according to our own tastes—e.g., a low-functioning native or a “colorful” non-native. On the other hand, as Tallamy insists, every species makes a difference—in its local ecosystem (100-101).

- In this time of climate change, with all its stresses and uncertainties for the future of virtually every ecosystem, our criteria for choosing plant species must include their potential for carbon sequestration, as Tallamy advocates in the planting of oaks (112).
- We must enlarge our sense of what is beautiful to include the “irregularities and imperfections” in a community of plants that result from “years or decades of adaptation to ever-changing conditions.” To replicate such a community in a “managed” landscape requires, says Darke, two essentials: “seeds—and time” (89). Beauty consists in temporal interaction and adaptation, not just composition. “The first and final order of the creation,” as Wendell Berry observes, is like that of a drama, “an order in which things find their places and their values... according to their energies, their



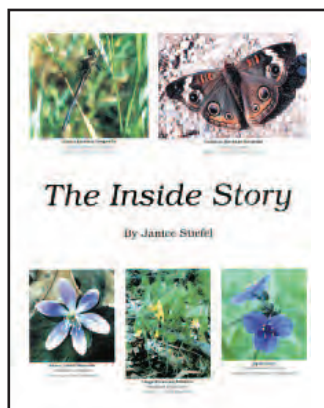
DVDs For Sale

Just the DVD you've been waiting for – “The Vital New Role of the Suburban/Urban Garden.” We now have Doug Tallamy's (award winning 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!

The Inside Story by Janice Stiefel

This book includes indepth information on plants and related insects. These stories originally appeared in the *The Outside Story* and the *Wild Ones Journal* and have been compiled by her husband, John, into a wonderful go to book. Just \$25.



To order this book go to www.wildones.org or call 1-877-394-9453.

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powers, by which they co-operate or affect and influence each other.”

- Every gardener must develop the art of observation. Our role in the “drama of creation” is not that of director. Perhaps we are merely stage managers, observers from slightly offstage, waiting patiently, watchful for cues.

The Ethical Problem of Cultivars

The Living Landscape, as a book, provides admirable precepts, but it does not resolve some of our most vexing ethical dilemmas. It offers only sketchy treatment of cultivars and non-natives. “It’s time to stop worrying about where plants come from,” Darke insists, “and instead focus on how they function in today’s ecology. After all, it’s the only one we have” (7). Such a view directs us away from some ideal pre-settlement past and places us firmly in the culturally eclectic and ecologically disrupted here and now. But we are nonetheless faced with the ethical problem of determining, as carefully as possible, how much function persists in a cultivar or non-native. Because function is the key concept, isn’t it?

For Darke, as for Leopold, “stability” is a necessary element of a land ethic and of function. Therein consists another dilemma. Increasingly, writers indebted to Leopold’s land ethic emphasize that “stability” may not be possible in this time of climate change with its attendant uncertainties and disruptions. Instead, the criterion must be ecological “resilience,” a measure of how much stress a system can absorb and, although transformed and simplified, still persist as a self-regulating and viable system. The book barely recognizes the problem.

The Artistry of Time

I wish Darke had developed more fully his delight in cultural layering. He gives only passing attention to the land as a *palimpsest* on which a close observer can read the many-layered stories of local cultural history (81). Likewise, he barely suggests the aesthetic traditions that he draws upon: the 18th-century “picturesque” aesthetic and its later developments in the English cottage garden and the Arts and Crafts garden to which Darke devoted an earlier book, *In Harmony with Nature* (2000). If we are to enjoy what Darke calls the “artistry of time,” including its incorporation of our disruptions, we must master the art of observing the interactions of natural and cultural processes.

In both the present book and the earlier one, Darke quotes David Abram: “In contrast to the . . . global character of the

technologically mediated world, the sensuous world . . . is always local” (*In Harmony with Nature*, 12). In his relish for the sensuous world of plants and patterns, Darke stops well short of what Abram evokes in his recent book, *Becoming Animal*, a visionary experience of a living landscape that enters into direct sensory communion with us, prompting us to renounce our stores of “mammalian intelligence” and simply revel in the experience of “the living land that sustains us”. Therein, perhaps, lies Darke’s limitation. He sees us as delighted observers and designers in nature. We are no longer Leopold’s “conquerors,” but neither are we full and empathetic *participants* in the “land-community.”

Birds in Every Layer

Tallamy, for all of his scientific approach, sometimes comes closer than Darke to direct participation in living landscape. He’s more specific about plant-insect-bird interactions. In his section on “Birds in Every Layer,” Tallamy is beautifully specific about how “layered landscapes” are functional because they “provide a complex of interacting organisms that are both beautiful and fascinating to those who learn to see” (79). On the whole, Tallamy provides more detail about landscape function and tells more stories than Darke, who emphasizes the importance of stories embodied in the landscape but doesn’t tell us very many.

In his concluding section, “Celebrating Life in a Managed Landscape,” virtually the book’s final word, Tallamy delights in disorder, in the element of surprise provided by his home landscape, particularly its spontaneous, serendipitous, *unmanaged* shaping and “design” through seed dispersal by birds, squirrels, and deer, and by the wind (which “bloweth where it listeth”). For Tallamy and his wife Cindy, nature’s own order, beyond or even contrary to their own best-laid plans, is both beautiful and fascinating. To their delight, “the design, diversity, and abundance of the plants in our landscape are very much the result of a collaboration between the Tallamys and natural processes” (285). That collaboration is worth celebrating.

Something of a Patchwork

I harbor a suspicion that the collaboration between Darke and Tallamy was not always entirely easy. Their approaches, although complementary, remain distinct. Their book, although beautiful and impressive, seems to me something of a patchwork. It advances a coherent ethic,

but it lacks the interplay of two voices in conversation.

What I admire in both men and what I felt so wonderfully when listening to them speak at Wildflower Association conferences is their delight in the vivid details, ever-changing beauty, and undivided wholeness of living landscape. What impresses me about them is the inclusiveness of their generosity. They need to share their joy and delight with us. They want us to see the beauty, understand what we are losing, and collaborate with each other and with nature in our own vital function as gardeners.

Wildly Functional Is the Standard

If their collaboration seems to fall somewhat short of what Leopold means by “integrity” and physicist David Bohm calls “undivided wholeness in flowing movement,” keep in mind that neither “wild” nor “natural” is their standard for judgment. Darke’s phrase perhaps best expresses their objective: “wildly functional” (56). The ideal, for both Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy, is the “second nature” espoused by Michael Pollan.

Their book provides myriad hints and patterns for us to follow. More than that, however, it requires of us a difficult collaboration: to learn the art of observation, appreciate *all* the beauty, make the ethical choices, and, like the book, *personify*, as best we can, “the new balance between humans and nature that will happen right in our gardens” (9). That’s what a truly living landscape calls us to do. 🌿

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INCREASE YIELDS in your vegetable and berry garden BY GOING NATIVE

By Candy Sarikonda

Did you know that you can increase yields of your favorite fruits and vegetables by attracting native pollinators? If you grow tomatoes, peppers, raspberries, squash, watermelons, blueberries, pumpkins, eggplant and so on, then it is time for you to consider adding milkweed and other native nectar plants to your vegetable and fruit gardens.

Years ago, I decided to plant berry bushes in my home garden, to encourage better eating habits in my children. I could buy a package of raspberries at the grocery store, but nothing tastes better than a fresh-picked raspberry! My children delighted in hunting and picking our berries, and very quickly they suggested we have a vegetable garden too. But alas, I only had full sun in my front yard, and I didn't think the neighbors would be too thrilled to see a vegetable garden on my front lawn. Truthfully, I wasn't crazy about the idea either. It sounded boring without flowers. Then a light bulb went on—why not plant the vegetables in my flower beds?

We mixed in bell peppers, cherry tomatoes, jalapeno peppers, watermelon, pumpkins, blueberries and three varieties of raspberries amongst the flowers in our front yard garden. I enjoyed looking at pretty flowers next to the veggies, as the kids harvested our crop. We had a good crop of tomatoes and raspberries, even when friends did not.

I wasn't sure why, but I was thankful for our bounty—the kids were eating healthy food and having fun at the same time.

I planted black raspberries in another flower bed. I noticed a common milkweed plant had sprouted up in this bed. I had not planted it there—it “volunteered” itself, probably as a seed from my butterfly garden on the other side of my yard.

The next year I had a few more popping up and blooming in that bed. Gorgeous in bloom, the aroma was intense. Loads of bees were visiting. My raspberry crop was the best ever. The kids and I shared berries with the neighbors, plenty for all. When New England asters and hoary vervain popped up in the same bed, I allowed them to stay too.

A fellow berry grower remarked on my yields. How was it that I had such huge fruit and loads of berries, and he didn't? He insisted I **MUST** be using some fancy fertilizer, or doing something I wasn't telling him about. No, I insisted. Just compost and mulch, and no pesticides. My usual treatment.

He left, and I looked over the crop. Bees were visiting the adjacent native wildflowers, furiously gathering nectar and pollen. Then it hit me—my wildflowers were attracting the bees! And the bees were responsible for my wonderful crop!

Since then, I have learned a great deal about my native bees. They are more efficient pollinators of our native crops than honeybees. And while both are valuable pollinators, I have come to really enjoy the many species of native bees that call my garden home. No longer fearful of them, I truly enjoy watching them at work. They have become my constant companions in the garden. I am thankful for the bounty they provide.

If you would like to learn more about our native bees, see the booklet by Beatriz Moisset and Stephen Buchmann entitled, “Bee Basics: An Introduction to Our Native Bees” at <http://www.pollinator.org/PDFs/BeeBasicsBook.pdf>. The pdf is free. Also, view Marla Spivak's TED talk at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dY7iATJVCso> to learn more about colony collapse disorder and the plight of our non-native honeybees and our native bees. And finally, to see an example of how growing native plants can help farmers get higher crop yields, see <http://mosesorganic.org/farming/farming-topics/field-crops/farm-couple-takes-pollinator-conservation-to-higher-level/>



Monarch on common milkweed next to strawberry planter hanging basket.

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Wild Ones members and chapters continue to support youth projects centered on local native plant communities, including butterfly and small wildlife gardens, forest restoration and experimental learning. Through the Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education program, we are able to provide small monetary grants for seeds and plants used in these projects. The grant cycle for 2015 will begin shortly with applications due October 15. Projects must meet these criteria:

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

Native plants are an unfamiliar concept to many parents, school and community leaders and residents. Wild Ones SFE grants give recognition and encouragement that help teachers and leaders communicate with their communities.

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

- Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall School "Greatness over the Hill" will serve as an outdoor learning space and help beautify the Chapel-Hill-Chauncy Hall community of Waltham, Massachusetts. All students travel the path daily. Twelfth grade students competed to produce the winning design. Each group consisted of a botanist, a zoologist, a designer, and a project manager. The judges decided to merge their three designs, taking the best from each.
- Supported by the local citizenry of Burton, Michigan, development of a butterfly habitat at For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum will create a habitat that sustains Michigan native butterflies using Michigan native perennials, shrubs and trees. It will also serve to help create educational programming for school groups that supplements state mandated grade level expectations.
- Students at Hankinson Elementary School from Wahpeton, North Dakota are planting a natural sustainable native grass area and a wildflower/butterfly garden plot along an already established walking/bike path area. The 17.7 acre property along the east side of Lake Elsie owned by Hankinson American Legion Post 88 is being developed into a Natural Resource Learning Site and Veteran's Memorial.
- The project called Seeds for Schools being developed by the staff of Urban Roots in Reno, Nevada will establish native plants and propagate native seedlings for school gardens in the Garden Classrooms Program. Urban Roots is an educational farm and community center where schools, children and families can learn about gardening, alternative building techniques and the natural areas of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Range.
- Supported by the Parent Teacher Organization of PS 84 from New York, New York, the Urban Roots Butterfly Habitat Project will expand the PS 84 elementary school outdoor science classroom by creating a butterfly habitat to attract endangered Monarch, Pipevine Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail and other native butterflies. The PTO feels that building a habitat for the preservation of their native species is critical to their science curriculum and that it will provide important hands-on opportunities for over 500 K-5th grade urban students to learn about science and ecology.
- Students at Kalapuya High School in Eugene, Oregon, with the assistance of University of Oregon Landscape Architecture students, are planting native plants for pollinators on their

school campus with the goal of enhancing the ecosystem and benefitting their food garden as well. The 'Native Plant Pollinator Habitat' will provide an opportunity to educate students and others about the role of native habitat in providing pollination services and homes/foraging areas for other beneficial insects, while at the same time providing nourishing food for use in Bethel School District school lunches.

- San Antonio School for Inquiry and Creativity in San Antonio, Texas through their Outdoor Experiential Learning Center are developing an outdoor learning area to enhance students opportunities for experiential learning. The native plant area will provide habitat for small animals and attract butterflies and bees to pollinate their new student vegetable garden.

Across the country, parents, teachers, adult and youth leaders are helping members of their community learn about native plants and ecosystems. Thank you for supporting these efforts not only through your donations, but also through your volunteer hours.

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

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Juanita Parsons, assorted native plants

Ron'z Tree Service, one load of chipped bark

Walter & Bev Wieckert, pagoda dogwood saplings

Kathleen Hallett, prairie roses

William Rather, use of truck to transport stones and 1/3 hp motor for use
with our seed sorter, Fox Valley Area Chapter

Marilyn D Jones, a 1993 EZGO golf car, Twin Cities Chapter

Jim & Carol Bray, Hickory Road Gardens, an assortment of *Dicentra
canadensis*, (Squirrel Corn) and *Claytonia* (Spring Beauty) of around 70 plants,
and 25 *Gentian andrewsii* (Blue Bottle Gentian), Central Wisconsin Chapter

Rae & Steve Sweet, Lorrie Otto memorabilia, Milwaukee-North Chapter

Mary & John Paquette, maintaining "The Meeting Place" for the Wild Ones

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Richard Webb, moderation of Wild Ones Facebook account, PAL – PA,

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Oshkosh Corp – Global Environmental Affairs and Sustainability,
2 pairs of safety glasses, Fox Valley Area Chapter

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Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, the book
"Milkweeds: A Conservation Practitioner's Guide"

Seeds of Education



PHOTOS:
Elizabeth Whitman



My granddaughters live on a large, fenced residential lot in Washington State just north of Portland Oregon, and the Columbia River.

I should say that, at ages 2 ½ and 5, they occupy the yard. They have explored every square foot of it. Their scattered toys, 8-foot wading pool, play house and gardens attest to this. Yes, they have assumed ownership of their mother's raised gardens, pick the beans and beets, and wander around the yard munching on a freshly pulled carrot—greens still dangling.



Iridescent green sweat bee.

PHOTO: Public domain

So when a novelty appeared in an overgrown ever-bearing strawberry patch, their mother soon heard about it. A little green bee had dug a hole, like an ant hole, but bigger, and was sitting in the hole. They knew it was a bee because they had followed it around the yard to some of the plants where there were lots of other bees.

They knew enough to stay away from bees, who don't like to be bothered while they're working.

Their mother, also known as Beck, came out to see and take pictures of their find, congratulating them for staying out of *touch* with the bees. She explained that the treasure they had found was a nest built in the ground by the mother bee, who was guarding the opening to the nest. They needed to understand that she was very shy and not to be bothered. She was a single mom; she had laid eggs in the nest that would soon hatch and new green bees would come out.

And the girls did keep their distance. Apart from Emma, the younger, carefully pouring some fresh water on the close-by strawberry leaf. In case the mom needed a drink.

WILD Center Update

We've had a busy summer at the WILD Center not only preparing for Annual Conference, but also welcoming visitors and telling them about Wild Ones.

It started with the monarchs arriving. Last year we didn't see any until August, so you can imagine our surprise when we saw



Painted turtle in meadow.
PHOTO: Donna VanBuecken

them this year already in June. Then it was the turtles in July. We had an awesome parade of turtles this year. They kept us busy carrying them to the turtle nesting area. (We hope by next year, they'll have learned the way!)

But we've had plenty of human visitors as well from Maryland to California. Producer Catherine Zimmerman stopped by to film the Center on her way to interview Ned Dorff from the Green Bay Chapter. Ned will be a featured habitat hero in her new video "Hometown Habitat." She and Rick Patterson were pleased to learn that we were planning to donate 35th Anniversary Celebration Silent Auction proceeds toward the development of her film.



Catherine and Rick

Next came the students and chaperones from the Pathfinders (young 7th Day Adventists) summit held at the EAA (Environmental Airplane Association) grounds in Oshkosh. Eighty plus descended on the WILD Center over a period of two days, helping us get ready for our anticipated guests for the Wild Ones 35th Anniversary Celebration/Annual Conference. They hauled chips, pulled weeds, planted plugs, helped set up the tent and clean the garage, and hauled a ton of chairs and tables. What fortunate timing for Wild Ones members! We know the 100+ Wild Ones members and guests who attended the activities during the Annual Conference were more than pleased.



Donna and Pathfinder volunteers.
tommytroutphoto.com

Not to be forgotten are all the Wild Ones members and friends who worked to keep the plantings growing successfully. The gardens were gorgeous this entire summer – it was just as if they were planning to look their prettiest for our special 35th Anniversary Celebration/Annual Conference visitors. But along with the native plants came the third season weeds in the prairie also. Volunteers worked hard all summer to keep the sweet clover, Queen Anne's lace and bull thistle under control.

All in all, it has been an awesome summer! If you didn't drop by, as many Wild Ones

members and other visitors did, plan to do so next year. I can only imagine that the WILD Center site will continue to thrive and to meet our goal to be the showcase/showplace for Wild Ones mission and its goals.

It's lonely work, but our member volunteers stayed till the job was done, preparing for our Celebration.



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Menomonee River Area Chapter #16
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Milwaukee North Chapter #18
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Milwaukee Southwest-Wehr Chapter #23
Message Center: 414-299-9888 x2

Root River Area Chapter #43
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Wolf River Chapter #74
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Bob Dumke 715-924-3117

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

Headquarters Wish List

Volunteers to help with all sorts of things:

- Access programmer • 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 • Chairs for meeting rooms • 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!*

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