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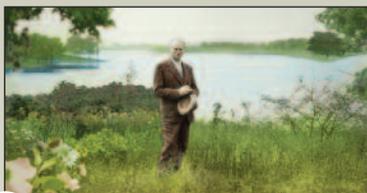
January/February 2016

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Working toward our next four decades restoring native plants and natural landscapes.

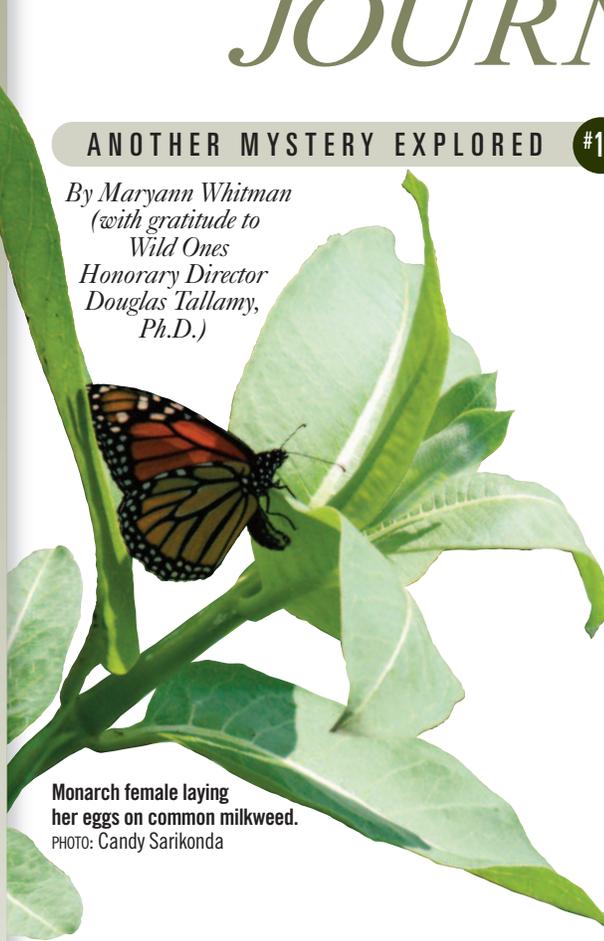
# Wild Ones®

NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

## JOURNAL

### ANOTHER MYSTERY EXPLORED #12

By Maryann Whitman  
(with gratitude to Wild Ones Honorary Director Douglas Tallamy, Ph.D.)



Monarch female laying her eggs on common milkweed.  
PHOTO: Candy Sarikonda



Monarch caterpillar is a specialist feeder on native *Aesclepias*—milkweed plants.  
PHOTO: Jan Dixon

## Maintaining Biodiversity: Native Plants DO Provide Critical Ecosystem Services

One of the most critical roles plants play in nature is supporting food webs—that is, all of the animal life as it exists and interacts in our ecosystems; it is in performing this essential ecosystem service that plants introduced from other parts of the Earth, do not measure up to our native species, in serving local ecosystems into which they have been introduced.

Double toothed prominent caterpillar of a moth specialist feeder on elms (*Ulmus*)  
PHOTO: Doug Tallamy

*In an area that I've been 'letting go' because it looked like it was producing some interesting seedlings—flowering dogwood and some wild cherries that I hadn't differentiated yet, all vying for space from spreading Virginia creeper, trumpet creeper, and bottlebrush grass—I found a stranger. Unlike all the other growth that looked a little worse for wear at the end of the season, this sapling was pristine. As everything else was half eaten, tattered, turning brown, its leaves, still shiny, turned attractive shades of red. Dead giveaway: it had evolved in a climate with a different growing season: I was nose to nose with my first ever Callery pear! Originally from China, Callery pear has become a rampant invasive on the east coast. It has arrived in Michigan. This plant's pristine condition told me that no one was interested in munching on parts of it; its rapid growth told me 'be wary'. Before spring, I'll remove this introduced, non-native plant, whose "evolutionary history happened elsewhere" (Tallamy's words. —mw) continued on page 6*



Promoting environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities.

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Tim Lewis  
President

# THE *Why*

Recently I was introduced to Simon Sinek's concept of how great leaders inspire action. He uses what he calls the "The Golden Circle" to demonstrate what makes great organizations and great leaders. His premise is that great organizations and great leaders focus on the "Why" at the center of the circle and act from the inside-out.

All elements of the circle are important. The Why is our belief, the cause that drives us, the reason Wild Ones exists. The How is the action we take to achieve the "What", our programs, our communication. The What is more naturally landscaped lawns and greenspace.

The fundamental reason people join Wild Ones is because they believe in what we believe – the Why. They believe in our cause and they want to be part of Wild Ones because we all are driven by the goal of native plant landscaping. Wild Ones is the leader in educating others about the many benefits of native plant landscaping. Thus we need to always be clear in our communications and always start with the Why.

Getting to the What is the hard part. That's where the How comes in. Consider that we landscape differently from the status quo. We reduce lawn space and do not use pesticides or fertilizers, unlike mainstream landscapes. Sinek says that

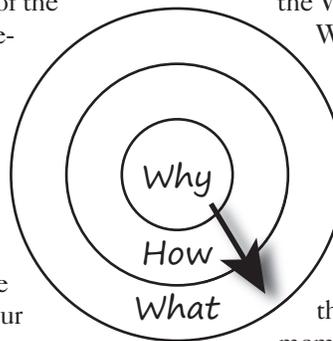
How we pursue achieving our goal gets us to the What. The What is the proof of the accomplishment of the cause – more households with native landscaping. People will switch to native landscaping not for Wild Ones but for themselves because they believe what we believe – the Why. So our promotion of

Wild Ones and our cause, must always include the Why – native landscaping provides habitat for all wildlife some of which we humans cannot live without.

My vision is that we continue to engage people through our chapters, our members and our Internet-based

media, focusing on the Why rather than the What. Then others will be encouraged to join Wild Ones, to make a donation and to volunteer. At the end of 2015, membership was around 4200. In the past few years we experienced a 5% growth, but I envision 10% growth this year with your help, especially if we focus on the Why.

At this time I want to also take a moment to mention that Maryann Whitman, WILD ONES JOURNAL Editor for the past 13 years, has retired. Maryann is an example of someone who fully understands the Why of Wild Ones and it showed in each issue. She brought both passion and integrity to our publication. You'll read more about Maryann and some of her work for Wild Ones in this issue. Thank you Maryann and enjoy your retirement. 🌸



Wild Ones is a national not-for-profit organization with local chapters that teaches about the many benefits of growing native wildflowers in people's yards.



Wild Ones definition of a native plant:  
A native plant is a species that occurs naturally in a particular region, ecosystem and/or habitat and was present prior to European settlement.



Gail Gerhardt  
Executive Director

## Plant a Seed 2016

**H**APPY NEW YEAR! As the holiday season has come and gone, we look forward to 2016 with excitement and a new beginning. The Wild Ones focus this year is “Plant a Seed.” We have a lot of fun activities in mind for members and chapters, which we will be rolling out in the next month or two. I want to personally encourage every member to recruit one new member this year, spread the word about the importance of native plants, and continue to serve and follow our mission.

When you watch the white fluff from a spent milkweed pod float through the air and come to rest in the garden bed, you know that something special has happened. Mother Nature just planted a seed. When you plant a seed you encourage its growth by making sure it has water, sunshine and the right soil. We have all felt fascinated to watch it grow, excited and proud when it finally blossoms.

Sharing the Wild Ones mission is like planting a seed. Imagine your thoughts and ideas are the seeds and their curious minds are the garden. You encourage their growth by sharing your passion, teaching the value of natives and providing them guidance. Anyone who has ever tended a garden knows that what happens to a seed once it is planted and nurtured is purely magic.

Here are some ideas of how you can help “Plant a Seed” – invite someone new to your chapter meeting; buy an extra plant at your local plant sale or a native plant nursery and give it to a neighbor, your child’s teacher, or a family member and teach them the importance of natives; give a native plant starter garden as a house warming gift; help your child’s school or daycare facility plant a butterfly garden and educate the children about the flight of monarchs from Mexico to Canada; purchase a gift membership for a babysitter, landscaper, friend, co-worker, teacher, family member or another important person in your life and spread the word of how they can make a difference in the world we all live in; donate to Wild Ones as one of your favorite charities; start a neighborhood native plant garden and give your neighbors information on how this helps pollinators and affects our food chain; be active in promoting Wild Ones in your daily activities.

Rachel Carson was quoted as saying “If facts are the seeds that later produce knowledge and wisdom, then the emotions and the impressions of the senses are the fertile soil in which the seeds most grow.”

In this New Year join us on our quest to find a way every day to “Plant a Seed.” 🌱

### Annual Appeal Reminder

*President Tim Lewis’ annual appeal letter asking for your support for some of our ongoing projects and operations has been out for some time. If you haven’t made your donation, please take time to consider a contribution to Wild Ones.*

*Items we are looking for: monetary help with this coming year include the Seeds for Education grant program, a new Wild for Pollinators program, conversion of the backend of our website from the early PERL web format to a new and modern WORDPRESS format, and, as mentioned in my notes in the last WILD ONES JOURNAL, our 2016 Plant a Seed campaign. All of these items are important and worthwhile and will help Wild Ones grow and spread the message about the importance of using native plants in a sustainable landscape.*

*Remember, because Wild Ones Natural Landscapers is a 501(c)(3) organization, your dues and other donations are fully deductible if you take deductions on your income taxes.*

### New JOURNAL Editor Selected

After interviewing several very qualified candidates, a new WILD ONES JOURNAL Editor has been selected. Wild Ones welcomes Barbara Benish as our new newsletter editor. Barbara comes to Wild Ones with excellent qualifications: editor of The Northwestern newspaper; faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in journalism; experienced with editing, advertising copy, layout and production; writer of news articles, features, business profiles, investigative reports and various other stories for a variety of publications; and owner of her own business as a freelance writer, editor and graphic designer. We are looking forward to working with Barbara as we transition to an E-Journal. Welcome, Barbara!

### JOURNAL Going All Electronic

Beginning with the March/April 2016 edition, the WILD ONES JOURNAL will be available only in an electronic format. We will no longer provide a printed version. This will make the JOURNAL easier to view on tablet PCs, iPads, smartphones, iPhones and laptops. It will save printing and postage costs. Although we know there will be some bumps along the way, as we perfect the new e-format, we are looking forward to this transition. Watch for the new E-JOURNAL in March.

#### WILD ONES JOURNAL

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(Please indicate topic in subject line.)

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## GRAPEVINE

By Maryann Whitman

This is my last Grapevine. While I had a grand time serving as your WILD ONES JOURNAL Editor since 2004, I do leave with some regrets.

I know full-well that I have benefitted personally from all the Wild Ones members with whom I've interacted—you're a knowledgeable, generous group.

I've enjoyed the reading I have had to do to write and edit as I did, and talking to a great variety of people outside of Wild Ones, collecting information, learning, soliciting articles for the WOJo—it's been a trip. And I am grateful for it.

Most of all, I regret that I will no longer get to bounce ideas off Donna VanBuecken who has been my very patient and wise advisor and partner during this time. But I know that the next editor will establish the same satisfying working relationship with your new Executive Director Gail Gerhardt.

I leave feeling certain that the WILD ONES JOURNAL will continue on with the same passion and truth that I've tried to bring to it, and Wild Ones members will continue to learn about the essential interaction between native plants and the rest of life on this planet Earth. Studies are demonstrating the importance of our argument, that native plants and biodiversity are essential to healthy, vibrant ecosystems. This statement makes deep sense to us... and the naysayers are grasping at uncertainties and a blind hope that things "will just work out okay".

Remember always: It's all one piece, of many parts.

## Good News for Pollinators

Overwhelmingly approved by both House and Senate, the provision encouraging pollinator habitat along roadsides stayed in the five-year transportation re-authorization bill known as the FAST Act (Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act) and was signed into law Friday, December 4, 2015 by President Obama. That means the federal government will continue to expand its development of more native habitat for pollinators and has provided for funding to do so. This, along with Obama's National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and other Pollinators, also means that all the effort that Wild Ones and our members have made to spread the word about the importance of native plants to our environment will finally get the boost it needs.

As mentioned in Vol 28 No 5 WILD ONES JOURNAL (See "The Wild Ones Movement"), as a result of the historic meeting of the Trilateral Committee that took place in 2014, the federal government has previously taken steps to retain, develop and maintain native habitat for pollinators as it relates to federal facilities. Because of this new initiative, millions of dollars have been set aside by the US government as well as organizations such as National Wildlife Federation and Pollinator Partnership to work at this task.

According to R. Thomas (Tom) Van Arsdall, Director of Public Policy Pollinator Partnership, "Highway right-of-ways managed by State Departments of Transportation (DOT's) represent 17 million acres of opportunity for States to both save money and improve pollinator habitat through Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM), including reduced mowing and strategic plantings of native forbs and grasses. Such win-win opportunities

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are also available for roadsides managed by counties and municipalities.

Section 1415 of the FAST Act directs the Secretary of Transportation to use existing authorities, programs and funding to assist IVM and pollinator habitat efforts by willing State DoT's. Language is also added to a key funding eligibility account, making it clear that actions to provide "habitat, forage, and migratory way stations for Monarch butterflies, other native pollinators, and honey bees" are eligible for funding assistance."

The language contained in both the Senate and the House bills was based on the bi-partisan amendment known as the Highways BEE Act. The Highways Bettering the Economy and Environment (BEE) Pollinator Protection Act (Highways BEE Act) was introduced by Representatives Alcee Hastings (FL) and John Denham (CA) in the House. The Senate's bill included an amendment by Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (NY) and Jeff Merkley (OR) which added language to encourage the IVM practices as well as the BEE Act.

Congratulations to everyone who wrote to their Congressman regarding this very important legislation.

To read a summary of the Highways BEE Act go to [http://pollinator.org/PDFs/HighwaysBeeAct\\_Summary.pdf](http://pollinator.org/PDFs/HighwaysBeeAct_Summary.pdf)

The complete HR 4790 can be found at [http://denham.house.gov/sites/denham.house.gov/files/wysiwyg\\_uploaded/Highways%20BEE%20Act.pdf](http://denham.house.gov/sites/denham.house.gov/files/wysiwyg_uploaded/Highways%20BEE%20Act.pdf)

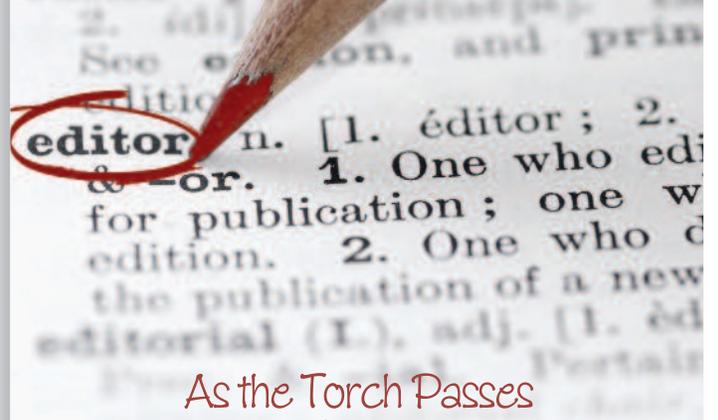
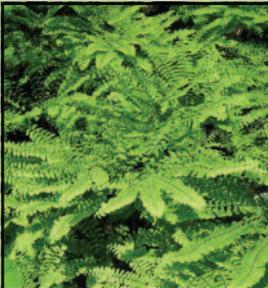
To read the National Strategy To Promote the Health of Honey Bees and other Pollinators go to <https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/Pollinator%20Health%20Strategy%202015.pdf> ❀

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## As the Torch Passes to a New Editor

By JANET ALLEN, CHAPTER PRESIDENT,  
HABITAT GARDENING IN CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER.

In 1996 when the Olympic torch passed through our Central New York town on its way to Atlanta, we walked up the street from our conventionally landscaped yard to join hundreds of our fellow citizens to cheer on the torchbearer. She was just one among thousands chosen to carry the flame, but we were inspired to see her striving to honor the job she had been given.

Passing the torch from one WILD ONES JOURNAL Editor to the next may not draw crowds, but those of us familiar with the JOURNAL — contributors and readers — appreciate the dedicated service of its editors past and present.

Many years ago, there was no Wild Ones chapter in New York, and information about native plants was hard to come by. After discovering Wild Ones, I became a Partner-at-Large, and the JOURNAL's articles were my guide to a different kind of home landscaping. The experiences real people told in the JOURNAL inspired me to transform my yard from a conventional suburban yard to a native plant habitat garden.

After a few years as a JOURNAL reader, I noticed its Writer's Guidelines. Maybe I could write an article! I didn't have much writing experience then, so it was with some trepidation that I contacted the editor about a proposed article. I was thrilled that it was accepted, and I've been honored to work with Maryann Whitman for many years since then.

Most readers rightfully take for granted the JOURNAL's consistently high quality, but as a contributor I especially appreciate the work that goes into producing each issue. Maryann has always been positive and encouraging to nonprofessional writers like myself. Relying on voluntary contributions surely must have its trials, but she has successfully balanced the need for clear writing with the value of having fellow Wild Ones share their own experiences.

Our national newsletter began in 1988 as a modest-length newsletter called THE OUTSIDE STORY. Renamed THE WILD ONES JOURNAL in 1996, it has evolved into a full-color publication featuring numerous articles on a variety of topics.

Maryann has had the longest tenure as Editor of the JOURNAL. In January 2004 she accepted the torch from previous editors and under her leadership its flame — communicating our mission to preserve biodiversity — has burned brightly. We thank Maryann for her years of service and wish her all the best in her retirement.

Now at the beginning of 2016, the torch passes to a new editor who will now have the opportunity to inspire and inform countless others as the WILD ONES JOURNAL continues as the heart and mind of our organization.

*Janet has been a Contributing Editor for the WILD ONES JOURNAL since 2008.*



*Polyphemus* caterpillar feeds on red oak  
PHOTO: Doug Tallamy



Above: *Polyphemus* moth starting to cocoon for the winter  
PHOTO: Doug Tallamy

*Polyphemus* moth cocoon winters among leaves on the ground, emerges in the spring  
PHOTO: Hal Mann

# Maintaining Biodiversity

*continued from front page*

As members of the first trophic level of a *food chain* (the organisms that create their own food in an ecosystem, the *autotrophs*), plants perform a miracle of life. Through the process we call *photosynthesis*, plants capture energy from the sun and store it in the molecular bonds of simple sugars (carbohydrates). Plants thereby enable animals to ‘eat’ sunlight! These sugars, along with water and minerals that plants take from the soil, are the basis of almost every food web on the planet. Animals (the second, third and fourth trophic levels) in a food web benefit from the energy captured by plant photosynthesis—only if they can eat the plants available, or eat something that itself has eaten plants. And that’s the rub. In almost all ecosystems, the group of animals that is best at taking energy from plants and passing it to other animals, in the form of their own bodies, is insects. Unfortunately, most insects are very fussy about the plants they eat.

Each plant has a *primary metabolic system*, which has to do with the plant’s own life support. To defend against being eaten, plants can load their tissues with nasty-tasting *secondary metabolic chemical compounds*—feeding deterrents—that are very effective at preventing most insects from eating most plants.

No two plant lineages rely on the same combination of chemicals for protection.

So how do insects circumvent these formidable defenses? They *specialize*.

Over long periods of exposure, a particular locally native insect lineage develops the enzymes and physiological mechanisms necessary to deactivate the secondary metabolic compounds produced by a particular locally native plant lineage. This feat of adaptation enables the insect to eat the plant on which it has specialized, without being poisoned.

That’s the upside of specializing: native insect specialists can eat native plants that are distasteful or toxic to most other insects. **Approximately 90% of the insect herbivore species in any given local ecosystem are specialists that can only eat the few plant lineages that share the particular chemical defense to which they have adapted.**

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### Watch Them Grow

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**Hackberry emperor larvae on host hackberry tree**  
 PHOTO: Doug Tallamy

The downside of specializing is that specialists become locked into eating only members of the plant lineage to which they have adapted. If these native plants become locally rare, the specializing insects do too. And the repercussions travel through the energy transfer to higher trophic levels of the food web (herbivores and the animals that eat them).

While the generalist insect species constitute only 10% of insect herbivores, in absolute numbers they are much more frequent.



**Honey locust moth is reliant on food from leaves of honey locust and Kentucky coffee tree**  
 PHOTO: Doug Tallamy



**Luna moth (*Polyphemus*) larva 5th instar and adult (at right)** PHOTOS: Candy Sarikonda

In the studies that have come out of Tallamy's lab over the past decade, many variables in the plant/animal relationship were investigated.

- **Comparing the insect herbivore's attraction to native plant species vs. non-native plants** that are closely related to the native plants (congeners) and other non-native plants that are *not* closely related to natives (non-congeners) produced telling statistics: **the native plants were hands down favorites of insects.** The non-native congeners attracted 50% **fewer** herbivores (mostly generalist feeders) than did the natives; the non-native, non-congeners attracted 70% **fewer** herbivores than did the natives.
- **Insect feeding guilds (*how they feed*):** Insects that mine into the layers of leaf material and those that produce galls have some of the most specialized host-plant relationships known—they overwhelmingly prefer native plants. The insects that have chewing mouthparts (e.g., caterpillars) are primarily specialists who prefer native plants. Among insects that suck plant fluids, the ones that suck from the *phloem* (which carries fluids *down from the leaves*), prefer native plants. Those that suck from the *xylem* (tissue that carries fluids *up from the roots*),



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# Eating sunlight

Plants are organisms that are capable of incorporating sunlight into their own tissue. They do this through a chemical process called “photosynthesis”. Minuscule portions of the energy carried by sunlight are used to rearrange chemical bonds between atoms in molecules of carbon dioxide and water, to create complex compounds of atoms called sugars or carbohydrates.

Plants on land and in the oceans are able to perform photosynthesis. In a food-web (who eats whom), plants are called “autotrophs” or “primary producers”—they create their own food with found materials: sunlight, carbon dioxide (from the atmosphere), minerals and water from the soil, along with fluids that are the products of tiny organisms living in the soil. They constitute the first trophic (energy transfer; nutritional) level in any ecosystem.

Creatures that make up the second trophic layer of the local food-web are “herbivores” or primary consumers. They eat plants and gain the energy from plants, that plants incorporated from sunlight, hence the phrase “eating sunlight”. A vast proportion of the second trophic layer is insects; the rest of this layer is made up of herbivorous animals like rabbits and buffalos.

In the third layer of the food web are the animals that can eat plants, and other animals that have eaten plants. **Birds, eating insects and feeding them to their nestlings, are prominent members of this trophic layer of a local food web.** The meat-eaters, or carnivores, like hawks and polar bears, make up the fourth layer.

## Definition of Congeners

In scientific studies of the plant world, in order to shorten paragraphs and make communication easier, researchers often use single words to stand for something that might take a mouthful of words to otherwise identify. To reduce the number of words and eliminate the mouthful, we will use a variety of forms of the word ‘congener’. The definitions given here define the words as they were used by the authors of the study, when referring to the plants in their study plots.

**Congener:** a plant that is closely related to a lineage of locally native plants: a plant of the same taxonomic genus, but a different species.

**Non-native congeners:** plants that evolved in other parts of the world (Europe, Asia) that are closely related to some locally native plants.

**Non-native, non-congeners:** plants that evolved in other parts of the world that are not related to the lineage of any locally native plants.

and spaces between plant cells, will feed from natives as well as some non-natives congeners.

- **Native plants supported** significantly *more species of herbivorous insects* than did both non-native congeners and non-native, non-congeners.

Ten times more eggs were laid on native plants, and produced healthy immature life stages. The 1 out of 10 eggs that was laid on a non-native congener produced smaller, weaker, immature life stages—many of which died.

*This is a particularly important finding as it refers to the sustainability of these life forms ‘with and without’ native plants in the ecosystems they inhabit.*

*No eggs or surviving immature life forms: No next generation. That species of insect is moribund.*

- **Conservation implications:** “Plant origin is a good surrogate [indicator] for measuring immature herbivore abundance and species diversity; native plants support the most biodiversity, followed by non-natives with a close native relative, while non-natives that are unrelated to local flora produce a species-poor, uneven herbivore community.” (Tallamy)

**There is no question that native plants attract and sustain larger numbers of individual herbivorous insects.**

**There is no question that native species of plants attract a much greater number of species of insects.**

In order to consider the *nature of the species diversity* that is attracted to native and non-native plants, a statistical analysis (*Beta analysis*) was also done on the data collected from each of the individual experimental plots. This was done because it is important to know whether the herbivores that are able to use non-native plants represent a unique set of insects or merely repeated subsets of those insects that are attracted across all sites. Results of the analysis showed that, checking from *garden plot to garden plot*, the same few species of herbivorous insects were attracted to the non-native plants, in all separate plots.

In contrast, a much greater number of species was consistently found in each native plot. *The herbivores attracted to the non-natives represented a small, redundant subset of the ones attracted to the native plants.*

**It is extremely important to understand that the DIFFERENCE lay in both the number of species, and in the overall number of individuals attracted to native plants; far more of both were supported by the natives.**



Example of an internal feeder: Round gall on a Canada goldenrod  
PHOTO: Doug Tallamy



White oak leaves with evidence of internal feeders PHOTO: Doug Tallamy

Trying to manage invaded native ecosystems, our efforts to control invasive plants in this country, cost billions of dollars each year. Tallamy's research over the past decade consistently indicates that there are indeed good reasons to keep introduced plants off our properties; our efforts need to *focus on restoring ecosystem function*.

From an article written by Tallamy and published in WILD ONES JOURNAL (May/June 2011): ***“There is strong evidence that, in terms of the most important contribution plants make to the diversity of life on Earth, non-native plants are not the ecological equivalent of native species. I am speaking of the role plants play as the first trophic level....The suggestion that we should embrace, rather than fight, the wide-scale replacement of locally native plant communities by plant species from other lands ignores the impact of non-native plants on local food webs. In view of the role that insects play in running the ecosystems that support humans and other biodiversity, we allow food web collapse at our peril.”*** ❀

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**editor** n. [1. éditor; 2.  
1. One who edit  
for publication; one wh  
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From a... Partain

## Maryann's last JOURNAL

By CAROL ANDREWS, ARROWHEAD CHAPTER PRESIDENT.

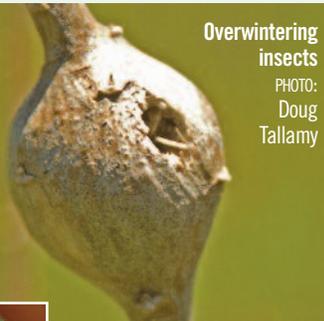
“Tell me more about that” she would say, brow furrowed in thought. “Yes, yes ... that could make a very interesting JOURNAL article.” When I picture some of my early opportunities to interact with Maryann Whitman, who recently stepped down after serving as the WILD ONES JOURNAL Editor since 2004 and Features Editor prior to that, this type of interaction is what comes to mind. Her radar was always on, scanning the horizon for new article ideas and prospective authors. When we served together on the national board her journalistic talent for asking probing questions was a great asset in that arena as well.

Maryann has always held a vision of the JOURNAL as not just a newsletter, but a professional publication with current news on landscaping with native plants. The JOURNAL provides an avenue for sharing information to benefit current Wild Ones members as well as a tool for attracting new members. In the 15 years since I helped start the Arrowhead Chapter I have spent many hours explaining what Wild Ones is to the general public – at “fairs” where we set up our display, during my own presentations and before monthly programs. My explanation varies a bit each time but it always includes the following facts, stated with pride: we are a local chapter that is also part of a national non-profit organization that, among other things, publishes the WILD ONES JOURNAL. We always have copies of the JOURNAL on display and like to point out “if you become a member you get to receive the JOURNAL.” As people flip through the publication you can see their eyebrows go up as they think “wow – this IS good. This is a professional group.”

Maryann's editorship has brought credibility to the Wild Ones mission. The JOURNAL makes it clear that we are so much more than a garden club. We are the voice of the native plant gardening movement that is critical to saving the environment, and the JOURNAL is the face of that movement.

Thank you, Maryann, for all your work and extreme dedication. I hope you enjoyed writing and editing the JOURNAL as much as we have enjoyed reading it. Your legacy will live on in many ways.

*Carol was National Board Director from 2002 to 2010 serving as President, Co-Chair national Marketing Committee and various other national committees.*



Overwintering  
insects  
PHOTO:  
Doug  
Tallamy

Top/left: Internal feeder on a native sunflower stem  
PHOTO: Charley Eiseman

Left: Internal feeder moth larva  
PHOTO: Charley Eiseman

**Links to the complete Tallamy papers listed in the references above can be found on the Wild Ones website at <http://www.wildones.org/mysteries-explored/Part2>**

# NATIVE GROUND COVERS for SHADY AREAS



*Clintonia borealis*  
(blue-bead lily,  
yellow clintonia)  
PHOTO: K. Chayka

**BLUE BEAD LILY (*Clintonia borealis*):** This is one of my favorites (along with bunchberry) for cool, damp, acid woods, swamps and bogs. It can grow under deciduous and evergreen trees. It can't take hot summer sun on its leaves. It needs humus-rich soil and plentiful mulch. The leaves are shiny and lily-like and the flowers are yellow and at the top of a 9-10 inch stalk. The fruits are blue berries in fall. It spreads by slender, creeping rhizomes, and may take 12 years or more to bloom from seed. Plants must produce three leaves before they can flower. <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/bluebead>



*Asarum canadense* (wild ginger,  
heartleaf ) foliage (above)  
and flower (left)  
PHOTOS: James Hilty



**WILD GINGER (*Asarum canadense*):** One of the absolute best ground covers for dense shade, wild ginger has large rounded, heart-shaped leaves about 6 inches high. The flowers are three-petaled, deep red, and right on the ground. They are pollinated by slugs, ants and small flies. The seeds are carried away by ants and chipmunks and may produce plants far away from the mother colony. A creeping rootstock with roots at the nodes is the way it spreads, and it prefers dense rich woods, rich humusy soil and moist floodplains. [http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/wild\\_ginger.htm](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/wild_ginger.htm)

**PENN SEDGE (*Carex pensylvanica*):** Penn sedge can grow in sunny to partly shady oak woods. It is a 6 inch tall grass-like plant that spreads by stolons. Like buffalo grass, it can produce a lawn look, but it is somewhat fragile and cannot take heavy foot traffic. There are hundreds of species of sedges that can be used in sun, shade, or wet areas as ground covers. Like grasses, they have narrow leaves and non-showy flowers, but some of their fruiting bodies are quite attractive. <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/grass-sedge-rush/pennsylvania-sedge>

PHOTO: James Hilty

*Carex pensylvanica*  
(Penn sedge,  
Pennsylvania sedge)  
in bloom (right) and  
in woodland (below)



PHOTO: Peter M. Dziuk



*Cornus canadensis*  
(bunchberry,  
Canada bunchberry,  
creeping dogwood)  
flowers (above)  
and fruit (right)  
PHOTOS: Peter M. Dziuk



**BUNCHBERRY (*Cornus canadensis*):** Another of my favorites and a great companion plant for blue bead lily. The leaves are in a whorl at the top of the 4-6 inch plant with one large dogwood flower above them. In the fall there is a cluster of red berries in the center. Bunchberry prefers deep, cool woods and damp, slightly acid soil. It needs moisture but good drainage and grows well under deciduous and evergreen trees. It spreads by rhizomes. <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/bunchberry>



***Euonymus obovatus***  
(running strawberry bush)

PHOTO: James Hilty

**RUNNING STRAWBERRY BUSH** (*Euonymus obovatus*): This is a trailing shrub of rich, moist woods and hillsides. Although books say it may reach 18-36 inches tall, it rarely gets much over a foot because it is procumbent and trailing, rooting and layering as it grows. The twigs are often bright green, the leaves opposite on the stem and deciduous. The flowers are small, brownish and inconspicuous lying against the leaves, but the fruit is large and rose-pink and warty (looking somewhat like a strawberry), and they break open like bittersweet to reveal the orange-red berry inside. Running strawberry bush grows wild around the lower Great Lakes in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and especially Michigan, with a few outliers in the mountains of Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina.

[http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/run\\_strawberry.htm](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/run_strawberry.htm)

**CANADA MAY FLOWER**

(*Maianthemum canadense*): This is another wonderful plant for the acid-soil boreal forest woodland. It grows well in sand, humus rich, slightly acidic deciduous or evergreen woods. Plenty of pine needle mulch will help it spread by rhizomes. Canada May flower is about 6 inches tall with a small plume of white, lily flowers in May. The leaf resembles lily-of-the-valley and it is often called WILD LILY-OF-THE-VALLEY because of that.

[http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/cn\\_mayflower.htm](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/cn_mayflower.htm)



***Maianthemum canadense***  
(Canada Mayflower, false lily-of-the-valley) PHOTO: James Hilty

**THREE-LEAVED STONECROP** (*Sedum ternatum*):

This wonderful native sedum is a beautiful three-small-within-three-larger-leaves pattern that is every bit as entrancing as the small white flowers that appear in spring. It grows in rich, moist, shady woods and over rocks and on cliffs. I have seen it on both sandstone and limestone and making a dense ground cover under the deep shade of maples. When it blooms, it is about



***Sedum ternatum***  
(three-leaved stonecrop, wild stonecrop)

PHOTO: James Hilty

5-6 inches tall. The leaves sometimes persist through winter under mulch.

[http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/wild\\_stonecrop.htm](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/wild_stonecrop.htm)

**FOAM FLOWER** (*Tiarella cordifolia*):

This is another delightful ground cover of rich, cool woods with humus rich soil. It is not good under evergreens but does very well under deciduous trees. The wintergreen leaves are heart-shaped and toothy and the flowers are a spike of frilly white stars. The crown sends out runners to help it spread. It grows naturally from eastern Canada to Michigan and then south to Georgia and Alabama, preferring cool mountains in the south.

<http://michiganflora.net/species.aspx?id=2672>



***Tiarella cordifolia***  
(foamflower, false miterwort)

PHOTO: michiganflora.net

**COMMON BLUE VIOLET** (*Viola papilionacea* syn. *V. sororia* syn.), **CONFEDERATE VIOLET** (*V. priceana*), **SWEET WHITE VIOLET** (*V. blanda*), and **CANADA VIOLET** (*V. canadensis*): There are many, many species of violets; these listed are perhaps the most spreading. Some authors consider the Common Blue Violet and the Confederate Violet to be the same species, with Common Blue being the weediest one, common in your lawn, and



***V. canadensis*** (Canada violet)

PHOTO: Peter M. Dziuk



***V. sororia***  
(common blue violet)

PHOTO: K. Chayka

By Pat Armstrong, Wild Ones Greater DuPage Chapter. Pat is co-founder of the Greater DuPage Chapter and Charter Co-President. She served as a Director on the national Board from 1997 to 2012.

Part I of this series focusing on ground-cover plants for sun-lit areas was featured in WILD ONES JOURNAL Vol 28 No. 5

This Part II features ground-cover plants for shade. (See also the list of definitions listed under Part 1. -maw)

Confederate being the white with purple veins variety of the common blue. (This statement doesn't make sense. How can they be the same species but be so different?) The Sweet White is very small, only about 4 inches tall with small white flowers. The Canada violet is by far the best for a ground cover. It grows about 10-12 inches tall with flat-faced white flowers often with purple backs or some purple tinges. It makes a thick stand in deep shade. Violets grow best in rich soil with humus. It can be slightly acidic or neutral. Leaf mold mulch helps them to spread. Violets use rhizomes, stolons and seeds to spread.

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/common-blue-violet>

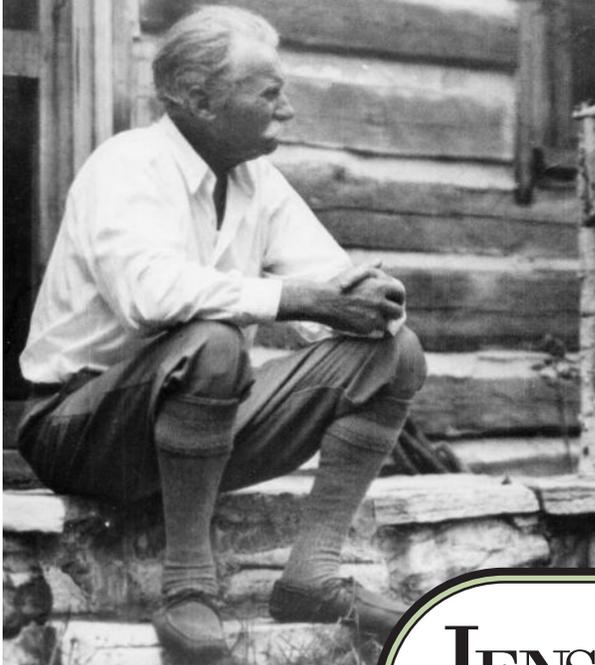


***Waldsteinia fragarioides***  
(barren strawberry, Appalachian barren strawberry) or var. *parviflora* (small barren strawberry)

PHOTO: K. Chayka

**BARREN STRAWBERRY** (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*) and **SMALL FLOWERED BARREN STRAWBERRY** (*Waldsteinia parviflora*). The barren strawberries are similar to wild strawberries except they have yellow flowers, are smaller and closer to the ground, and do not have edible berries. They grow in moist to dry woods in usually slightly acid, humus-rich aspen and oak woods. They need some moisture and also good drainage. They can grow in the sun if they have constant moisture. They spread by stolons just like regular strawberries.

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/barren-strawberry>



Left: A meadow view at The Clearing created by Jensen to view the morning sunrise. Jensen felt that viewing sunrises and sunsets is important for helping people maintain a connection to the natural world.

Right: The Council Ring at The Clearing with views across Ellison Bay. The ring was sited to take advantage of views of the summer sunset across the Bay and was built by Jensen's son-in-law Marshall Johnson. Jensen saw council rings as the social centers of his gardens, places to gather around the campfire to share stories, have discussions and to simply socialize in the outdoors. This ring has become a sacred spot for many students at The Clearing.

The landscape design work of Jens Jensen has often inspired many native plant enthusiasts because of his artistry in creating gardens in the late 1800s and early 1900s that celebrated the Midwestern landscape. Jensen's knowledge of native plants and how to use them effectively in parks and gardens grew throughout his career from his early work for the Chicago parks in the 1880s up until his death in 1951.

# JENS JENSEN AND *Native Gardens*

Jens Jensen sitting on the steps of the family's cabin at The Clearing.

PHOTO COURTESY OF: Jensen's grandson Bruce Johnson.

By Bob Grese, Ann Arbor Chapter.  
Bob is an Honorary Director of the Wild Ones and serves as Director of Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum and Professor of Landscape Architecture at the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan. Bob will be teaching a course on native landscape design June 9-25 at The Clearing. He is the author of Jens Jensen: Maker of Natural Parks and Gardens (Creating the North American Landscape).

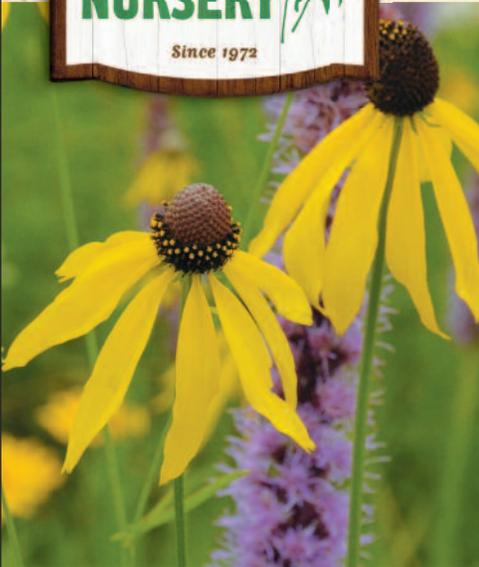
Jensen came to the United States from Denmark in 1884 and gradually came to appreciate the landforms and flora of the region around Chicago where he settled. With training in agriculture and

horticulture from the Tune Agricultural School near Copenhagen, Jensen went to work for Chicago's West Parks and moonlighted with Swain Nelson's nursery in Chicago. He was both a knowledgeable plantsman and skilled mover of large trees, particularly American elms. He had a broad horticultural understanding and wrote articles about planting Mollis and Ghent varieties of azaleas and the virtues of *Magnolia soulangeana* and Russian olive (*Eleagnus*



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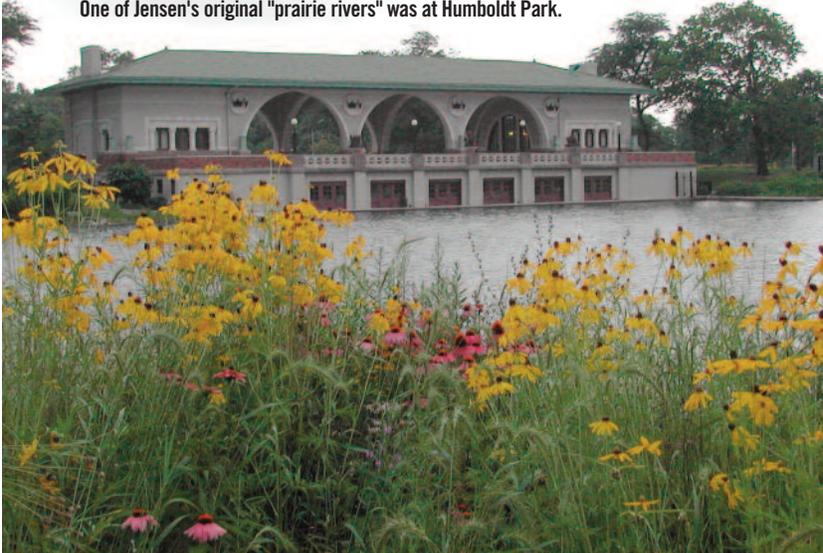


*angustifolia*). It was also during this time, when he created his first native plant garden—the American Garden in Union Park—featuring many of the common native plants of the region around Chicago. Gradually, Jensen began using more and more native plants as his design career grew, and his writing also shifted to advocate for preserving the native flora. As he noted in the article “Natural Plants and Gardens” written in 1930 with Ragna B. Eskil and published in the *Saturday Evening Post*: “the foreign plants didn’t take kindly to our Chicago soil. They would die out no matter how carefully we tended them, and our propagating beds were kept busy growing replacements. And after a while I began to think, “There’s something wrong here. We are trying to force plants to grow where they don’t want to grow.”

Sometime during this same period, Jensen became friends with botany professor Dr. Henry Cowles, who had joined the faculty at the University of Chicago in 1898. With Cowles and others, Jensen explored the wilds around Chicago learning about ecological and aesthetic features of the regional flora and its relationship to soils, geology, and microclimatic conditions. He translated this knowledge into the landscape designs where he sought to capture the spirit of that regional beauty.

Jensen repeatedly noted that his approach was not so much to copy native landscapes as it was to idealize them in his designs. He developed an artful style of shaping outdoor rooms using the common plants of the Midwest—plants like smooth rose, prairie rose, gray dogwood, American plum, staghorn sumac, nannyberry viburnum, prairie crabapple, and cockspur

Prairie plantings around the lagoon at Humboldt Park in Chicago with the boathouse designed by his friend Hugh Garden in the background. Hugh MG Garden of the firm Schmidt, Garden and Martin designed a handsome Prairie style building that provided boat storage and launches in the summer and a warming house for skaters in the winter. One of Jensen’s original “prairie rivers” was at Humboldt Park.



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Wild Ones partner Viva Lundin Productions has informed us that Jens Jensen will begin inspiring citizens of the United States this coming spring. Producer Carey Lundin wrote *Jens Jensen The Living Green*, a new documentary about his life, poetic philosophy and extraordinary contributions to conserving native lands, which will air this coming spring/summer on PBS stations nationwide. This award-winning film will also screen across the nation in New York, Chicago, Madison, Racine, Washington DC and many other cities. For more information about screenings and airings, please visit [JensJensenTheLivingGreen.org](http://JensJensenTheLivingGreen.org) or like them on Facebook: [JensJensenMovie](https://www.facebook.com/JensJensenMovie).



Poster for award-winning film

hawthorn. Whereas many designers of the late 19th and early 20th century were attracted to evergreen shrubs and trees, Jensen focused primarily on deciduous plants and their changing character in each season. Like a painter, he carefully orchestrated his landscapes to take advantage of early morning and late afternoon light and the vibrant colors or subtle moods that light produced. Some gardens such as his work at the two Ford estates in Michigan or his own home The Clearing in Wisconsin included meadow spaces in line with sunrise or sunset at key times of the year. [www.theclearing.org](http://www.theclearing.org)

Many native plant enthusiasts today are often disappointed to see the amount of lawn included in Jensen landscapes. His idealization of the prairie was more symbolic, attempting to capture the expanse of the prairie in smaller scale private gardens rather than literal planting of the tall prairie grasses and forbs. His lawns, however, weren't the sterile lawns we're used to today but instead included clover, wild violets, wild strawberry, and similar plants mixed in with the grasses. Jensen frequently planted native prairie wildflowers along the borders of the lawn and against masses of native trees and shrubs. He also was a pioneer in using many wet prairie and wetland plants in the water gardens he likened to prairie rivers—the slow moving streams and braided channels found in the less-disturbed watersheds of the Midwest. He also felt that certain plants—notably the hawthorn and native crabapple—were particularly fitting in emphasizing the horizontal lines of the prairie landscape.

In Jensen's mind, enjoyment of native gardens or nature in general was almost reverential. He fully recognized the restorative value of nature in people's lives. In many gardens he used stepping stones and narrow pathways to force people to walk single file, and his paths were full of gentle curves made to make people slow down and enjoy the changing scenery as they moved through the landscape. He would likely be stymied by our plugged in society and would plead for people to leave their electronics behind when going out for a walk. He carefully placed council rings—circular stone seats built around outdoor fire pits—as places for people to gather and carry on conversations. He felt such places were strongly supportive of a truly democratic society.

**Restoring the native landscape**

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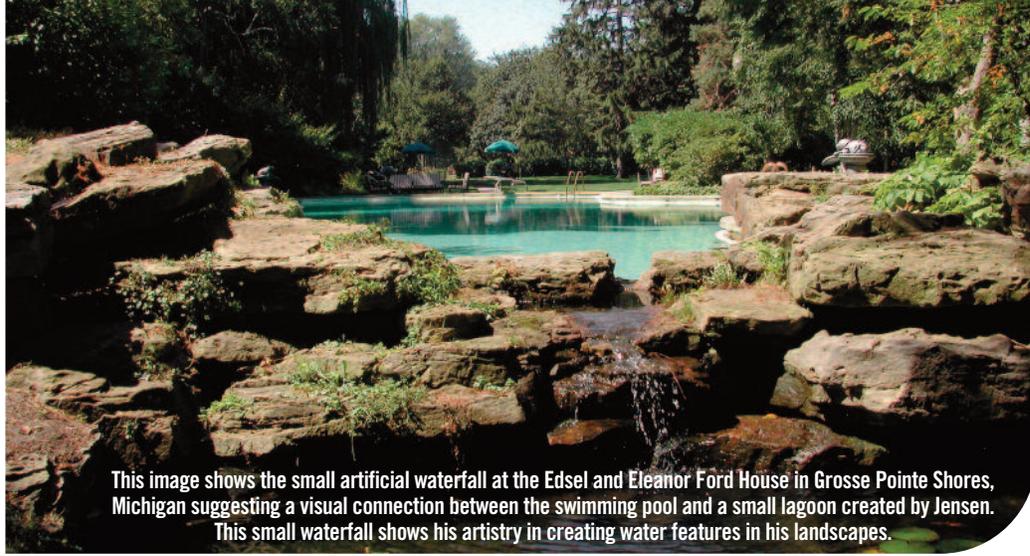
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This image shows the small artificial waterfall at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan suggesting a visual connection between the swimming pool and a small lagoon created by Jensen. This small waterfall shows his artistry in creating water features in his landscapes.

For Jensen, there was a continuum between his designed gardens and the conservation battles that he fought with the Prairie Club and the Friends of Our Native Landscape—two organizations he created to acquaint city folk with their regional native landscapes and build support for protecting wild nature. Many parks and forest preserves throughout the Midwestern states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin owe their protection to Jensen and his followers.

For native gardeners today, Jensen's work and writings continue to provide a true sense of delight as well as inspiration. His book *Siftings* was re-published in 1990 and selections of his writings can be accessed in William Tishler's recent book *Jens Jensen: Writings Inspired by Nature* (2012) and my own book *The Native Landscape Reader* (2011). Some of the best places to experience Jensen's landscapes today include: Columbus and Humboldt Parks in Chicago; Mahoney Park in Kenilworth, IL; Lincoln Memorial Garden in Springfield, IL; Fair Lane (Henry Ford Estate) in Dearborn, MI and the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores, MI; and The Clearing in Ellison Bay, WI. 🌿



## The Passing of the Pen: Transitions in the WO's Journal

BY JOE POWELKA, MADISON CHAPTER.

Maryann Whitman has stepped down as Editor for the WILD ONES JOURNAL. As Features Editor for two years and then Editor number eight for 11 of the 27 years that the Wild Ones newsletter has been published, Maryann has worked tirelessly to improve the professional and technical relevance of the JOURNAL by providing factual information in an authoritative manner. During those years, she has protected the existence of and advocated the importance of the JOURNAL at national Board meetings when Directors were looking to balance budgets on the back of the JOURNAL. The JOURNAL is what it is today thanks to the unflinching efforts and faith of Maryann Whitman.

So why is this factoid important to our membership? The WILD ONES JOURNAL is an easy target at budget time because publishing it is a very large line item in the national budget. Reducing the number of annual editions by one has a large impact on the ability of the Board to balance the budget. However, as Maryann consistently pointed out, the JOURNAL is the single most important tool we have to communicate with a national membership and to reach out to non-members. It is likely still true today (I have been off the Board almost two years now) that a majority of our membership seldom or never attends a local chapter meeting; they are "JOURNAL members" as I liked to call them. The JOURNAL provides the glue that holds the organization together and focuses us on the task of advocating native plants in our landscapes. Individually we can advocate our beliefs to those local to us, but the JOURNAL expands that voice to the world around us. Maryann has advocated for and protected this essential resource over her term as Editor and has improved our voice of advocacy as a result. Thank you Maryann!

*Editor's Note: Publishing one issue of the WILD ONES JOURNAL is very costly. Just the printing and mailing costs alone amount to \$30,000 which is a fairly big chunk of the annual Wild Ones budget. In the future, we foresee the JOURNAL being produced only digitally in order to reduce organizational expenses.*

*Joe is Past President of the Madison Chapter. He was National Board Director from 1998 to 2014. He served as Board President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer as well as a member of a variety of other national committees.*

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## MY "PLANT A SEED" STORY

Kim Walbrun, Wild Ones  
Communications Specialist

### A Mini Monarch Butterfly Garden

Two summers ago I started a monarch butterfly garden in my brother's back yard in Grafton, Wisconsin. He had an empty garden bed next to his patio that he wanted to fill with flowers. I gave him only five different natives—three plants each—to start his garden; Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) and Black Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) from my garden, along with Orange Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), Meadow Blazingstar (*Liatris ligulistylis*) and New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*) that I purchased at the chapter plant sale. I labeled each plant and explained how each one benefits the monarchs through all stages of their migration. He planted them in nutrient rich soil and nurtured them all summer, anxiously waiting to attract butterflies to his yard. Not much activity the first year.



But on June 21st of year two he sent me a text "A Monarch just visited our garden, Yippee". And then on August 26th he sent this photo with the caption "Look who stopped by today". He was amazed that they managed to find his tiny

garden and fascinated by the way they devoured the Meadow Blazingstar. He said the stress from a long day at work would just disappear as he sat on his patio and watched them. He enjoyed it so much that for year three he will be adding more natives like Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) and Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*). He also saved some seeds to start plants that he plans to give to his neighbors!

[We would like to hear your "Plant a Seed" story. Try to keep it short and send it to [journal@wildones.org](mailto:journal@wildones.org)]

## Wild Ones Facebook Group



Wild Ones has phased out our Yahoo discussion group and has set up a Facebook group to take its place. As in the past, our Facebook discussion group will be a place to share information on a national basis among dues-paying members. We moved from the Yahoo group forum to the Facebook group because Facebook offers a better platform for sharing information such as articles, photographs, videos, and so forth.

Wild Ones Native Plants group is a forum where members of Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes can discuss native plant landscaping and exchange ideas and information about interrelated subjects. As in the past, all discussions will be in keeping with the Wild Ones mission. President Tim Lewis said, "This is a great opportunity to bring our community of members together to share ideas and relevant information."

You need to have a Facebook account to join the group, and since it is a closed group for Wild Ones members only, an administrator will need to verify your Wild Ones membership prior to allowing you to join the discussion. If you are uncomfortable with having a presence on Facebook, you can set up a basic account with minimal information.

How do you join the group? Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wildonesnativeplants/> Once there, click "Join Group" in the upper-right corner. We are expecting a large number of requests initially, so please be patient while we verify your Wild Ones membership. Within two weeks of announcing the group, over 328 members have joined and many have posted questions, shared photos, shared postings from like-minded organizations, and listed events of interest to the members.

This new group is in addition to the Wild Ones Facebook page, which is open to anyone to view and comment but only administrators can post. The Wild Ones Native Plant discussion group, however, gives members the option to post and share information. We hope this will be a great forum that will help Wild Ones accomplish its mission of promoting natural landscaping and "healing the Earth one landscape at a time."

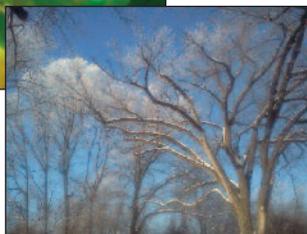
## A Thank You...

I don't know who plans the calendar. But I just want you to know how grateful I am that you included Maya's photo of Fuzz Bum. My jaw dropped when I opened the calendar. Maya had just gone to bed, and I rushed upstairs—she was still awake, and I showed her the calendar. She sat on the edge of her bed and just kept slowly saying "Oh! Oh!



**Fuzz Bum**  
PHOTO: Maya Sarikonda

Oh!" And just when I became concerned over whether or not she was breathing, she finally uttered, "Oh-my-God." Her face just beamed. She then turned the page and we both gasped at the sight of my photo. What an incredible gift, mother and daughter side-by-side. Thank you so much, I am trying not to cry as I write this. You guys are so good to me and my family.



**Frosty Morning**  
PHOTO: Candy Sarikonda

—Candy Sarikonda, Oak Openings Chapter

# GET WILD STAY WILD

## How You Can Help Support Our Mission

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

### Annual Support

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

### Acorn Circle

Members provide dependable income for Wild Ones programs by making their annual gifts through convenient monthly deductions via credit card or direct debit from a designated financial account. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

### Burr Oak Circle

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

### Oak Savanna Circle

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

### Employee Matching Gift Program

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

### Special Gifts and Heritage

Contact the Wild Ones Executive Director for further information about the Wild Ones Legacy Program which includes making gifts of appreciated stock, real property, in-kind gifts, IRA-rollover gifts (option through December 2013 per the Pension Protection Act of 2006 amended), and multi-year commitments. The Legacy Program (see opposite page) also can include bequests, charitable gift annuities, trusts, and other planned giving vehicles which provide significant support to Wild Ones while also benefiting the donors and their families.

### Volunteer

More than 6,000 people annually volunteer their time and energy for land conservation, community garden plantings, and other chapter and national Wild Ones activities. Please consider becoming a “plants-roots” partner with Wild Ones.

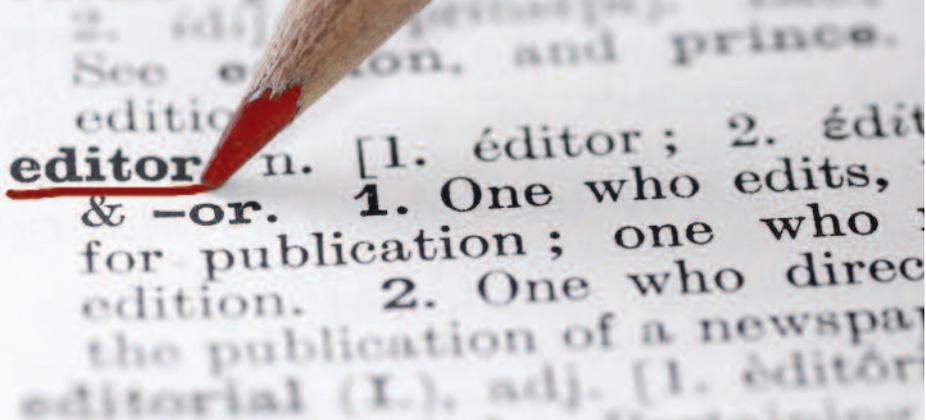
### Lifetime Members

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

### Gift Memberships

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

For more information on supporting Wild Ones, contact Gail Gerhardt, Executive Director, Wild Ones, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, Wisconsin 54912-1274, 877-394-9453 (toll free), [execdirector@wildones.org](mailto:execdirector@wildones.org), or visit our web site at [www.wildones.org/](http://www.wildones.org/).



## Thank You Maryann Whitman, WILD ONES JOURNAL Editor

By DONNA VANBUECKEN, CHARTER PRESIDENT FOX VALLEY AREA CHAPTER.

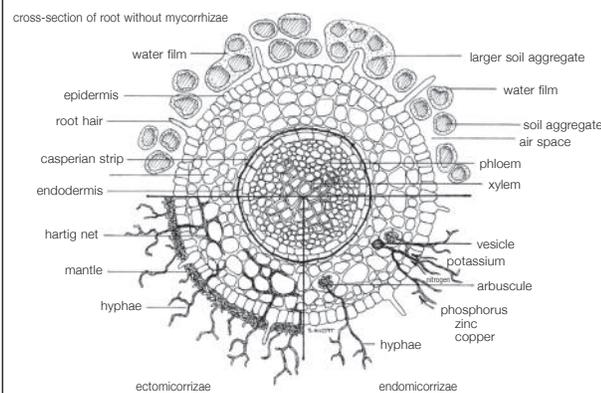
As the first paid staff person, I have had the privilege of working with all six Wild Ones newsletter editors. It has been a wonderful opportunity to meet some very passionate women and I know I'm a better person for it. I suspect all Wild Ones members can say the same thing although they may not have been touched by as many Wild Ones editors. Even though Carol Chew, Joy Buslaff, Babette Kis, Merry Whipple and Fran Gustman went before, Maryann has been the longest tenured editor and the one whose passion for the science behind the natural landscaping movement has helped drive Wild Ones to its current status.

Maryann has been a member of Wild Ones since 1995. In 1999 she began the Wild Ones Oakland Chapter. She became a member of the national board in 2002 and served for 12 years, participating as Vice President, Communications Committee Chair and on various other national committees. Under Merry Whipple and then Fran Gustman, she served as Features Editor for the WILD ONES JOURNAL, even then bringing us the scientific element that has been so important to the success of our cause today.

Taking over the reins of Wild Ones Journal Editor in 2004 she continued to bring the science to Wild Ones members not only through her own written word, but that of her many friends and colleagues. Of all the articles which have appeared in the JOURNAL over the ensuing years, I think you will agree with me that the “mysteries” series have been the most awe-inspiring. The twelve articles she presented about the intricate system of connections between native plants and the soil, and with insects and the food web, with mycorrhizae, with secondary metabolites, and plant sex life have not only been enlightening, but awesome. You'll find these articles on the Wild Ones website at <http://www.wildones.org/mysteries-explored/> and under the 18 top articles on the Members Only webpages.

I know I will miss my collaboration with Maryann. She was able to bring a higher sense of importance to my work as Wild Ones Executive Director because of her all-encompassing knowledge about native plants. But I know that the next editor will establish the same collaborative rapport with your new Executive Director Gail Gerhardt.

Thank you, Maryann, for helping move us into the 21st Century and for your never-ending search for the science behind our passion.



Three views of a cross section of plant root, illustrating two predominant types of soil mycorrhizae. Drawing © 2009, by Sally Hiott.

The above images were used in the “mysteries” series. Top: photo: mycorrhiza interacting with a plant root; middle: glomalin—carbon sequestration by mycorrhizal fungi in soil; bottom: schematic cross-section of plant root showing two different fungal interactions with roots.

Donna is the Past Wild Ones Executive Director.



## Chapter Anniversaries

2 years – Prairie Edge, MN

2 years – Will County, IL

6 years – North Oakland, MI

15 years – Root River, WI

18 years – North Park Village Nature Center, IL

## Mark Your Calendars

### January 30

Fox Valley Area Chapters 20th Annual "Toward Harmony with Nature" Conference, Oshkosh, WI

### February 20

Minnesota Area Chapter's Annual "Design With Nature" Conference, St. Paul, MN

### March 5

Tennessee Valley Chapter's "Plant Natives Annual Symposium", University of Tennessee, Chattanooga

### August 19 – 21

Wild Ones 37th Annual Conference, WILD Center, Neenah, WI

<https://www.facebook.com/wildones.nativeplants.naturallandscapes>

<https://twitter.com/WildOnesNatives>

<http://pinterest.com/wonational/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/wild-ones-native-plants-natural-landscapes?trk=biz-companies-cym>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/WildOnesNPNL>

For information about starting a chapter in your area: [wildones.org/connect/chapter-start-up-information/](http://wildones.org/connect/chapter-start-up-information/)

# The Meeting Place

The mailing label on the WILD ONES JOURNAL and other mailed communications to Wild Ones members tell you which chapter you belong to and the date your membership expires.

### COLORADO

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[t](https://twitter.com/TN_WildOnes) https://twitter.com/TN\_WildOnes

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**Madison Chapter #13**  
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Sue Reindollar 608-233-9383

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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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c-russin@northwestern.edu

**Wolf River Chapter #74**  
Bob Dumke 715-924-3117

Jacki Kossik PHOTO

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Go to: <http://www.wildones.org/product/membership/gift-membership/>

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## Headquarters Wish List

Volunteers to help with all sorts of things:  
Weeding demonstration gardens • Recording bird and critter sightings • Removing buckthorn • Restoring woodland understory & overstory

Things to help with all sorts of activities:  
• Outdoor use security or game cameras • Crock pots • Sealer for wood deck • Vacuum cleaner • Gardening Tools • Native trees (6 to 8 ft.) basswood and maple • Native shrubs: Witchhazel • Woodland plants: grasses, ephemerals, ferns, etc.

Contact the Headquarters office if you have other 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 call for an appointment: 877-394-9453

# Join Wild Ones...

PHOTO: Laura Hedien



Wild Ones celebrates its 36th anniversary with a premium — access to the Top 18 JOURNAL articles, a how-to-do-it sampling for all new / renewing members.

Membership upgrades:

- **"Wildier"** level also get note cards
- **"Wildest"** level also get the 2016 Wild Ones calendar or a copy of the Tallamy DVD

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Send premium       Other

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**Chapter preference** (See chapter listings on page 18.)  
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