

a voice
for the natural
landscaping
movement

Wild Ones®

NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

JOURNAL

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inside

Notes from the President:
The "Growing Wild Ones"
campaign is underway. 2
Janet Steifel's "The Inside
Story" update. 3

Wild Center Update. 3

What's killing all the birch? Undesirable
consequences of bad
decisions. 4

Book Review: How Trees
Die. 5

Next Generation: Falling
into winter – a journal excerpt. 6

Invasives on the Horizon: Ox-eye daisy. 7

Seeds for Education: SFE-funded
teaching garden
enhances ecology
studies. 8

Native Plants: Beyond the
bird feeder – gardening
for birds and other wildlife. 9

WILD Center wish list. 10

New membership
category: Affiliate
Memberships for not-for-
profit organizations. 10

Wild Ones Business
Members. 10

The Grapevine: Fall plantings, garlic
mustard evolution, etc. 11

The Wild Ones Store. 15

The Meeting Place:
Chapter contact
information. 16

Chapter Notes: 17

Need: a teachable moment. 17

Thank you. Back cover.

**Wild Ones
Store
Super Sale
See Page 10**



Changing Roadsides

By Bonnie L. Harper-Lore



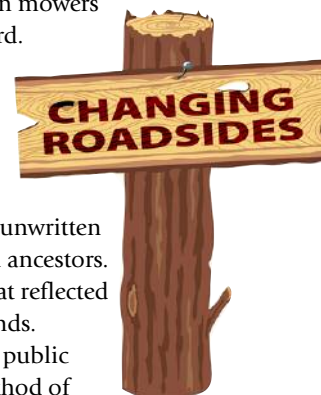
The cutting mechanism on this machine was a six-foot arm that was lowered to ground level at the side of the mower proper. As the horses moved forward, the drive wheels turned, powering a contraption that drove triangular-shaped sickle knives back and forth, cutting the grass or hay as the machine moved forward. Dealing with the exposed blades was not for the faint-hearted. Photo from MN DOT archives, courtesy of the FWHA.

'Let me live in a house by the side of the road, and be a friend to man.'

The line from a 1897 Sam Walter Foss poem (above) found its way into my high school graduation speech in 1960. But my connection to roadsides began even earlier, as a kid growing up on a western Wisconsin farm. I was curious about the horse-drawn mowers that would take lunch breaks in the shade of our farmhouse front yard.

I watched for roadside wild flowers as I walked one mile to a one-room schoolhouse, and when we took Sunday afternoon family drives. Little did I know that roadsides would become my life's work.

Back in the nineteen-thirties and forties, roadsides were as well groomed as our front yards. *Roadsides – Our Nation's Front Yards*, by J. M. Bennett, was published in 1936. The book title has become the unwritten mowing policy across the country, likely influenced by our European ancestors. Although engineer Bennett actually advocated a natural approach that reflected rural America, it was his book title that stuck in decision-makers' minds. Managers believed that manicured roadsides were what the traveling public desired. The need for safety and visibility secured mowing as the method of roadside care coast to coast.



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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

The 'Growing Wild Ones' Campaign Is Underway



It may be winter, but it's still *time to grow*. The "Growing Wild Ones" campaign is underway, spreading information on the benefits of native plants and Wild Ones with the goal of topping three thousand members by January 1. We may try new approaches, but we'll also rely on the "old" methods that require help from our Wild Ones members.

Things like giving a Wild Ones gift membership, talking to neighbors about native plants (do you have a Wild Ones yard sign yet?), promoting the use of native plants in public spaces, helping a local school, or giving talks on native plants. These actions help people see how beautiful native plants can be, that "wild" doesn't have to mean unkempt, and the way that these living landscapes benefit species beyond just humans.

All this makes me think of – knitting.

At my seven-year-old son's encouraging, the kids and I are learning to knit. Billy has plans to knit blankets he could sell "for probably three whole dollars," to earn money to buy the video-game system he finds our house so sorely lacks. Luckily, at the pace he is knitting, the parental preference to remain video-game free looks safe for now.

What does knitting have to do with native plants? As I pondered what to write this month, I tried knitting another row. It took five minutes to do twenty stitches. Then I wondered how many things I might do for some quick Wild Ones promotion in the time it would take me to knit three more rows.

9:16 p.m. Got up the nerve to drop off a note listing local native-plant sellers and a copy of Doug Tallamy's article from the March, 2009, *Journal* (it says it all) to some new neighbors to consider when they re-plant their torn-up front yard.

9:24 p.m. Running behind schedule, time for something really quick – an e-mail to the Duluth Garden Flower Society to see if any of the clubs are interested in having someone from Wild Ones speak at their upcoming meetings.

9:30 p.m. OK that was easy. Last – how about posting this week's Wild Ones program on Facebook?

You too can try this at home. See how many Wild Ones-related things you can do in thirty minutes. If you're new to Wild Ones, take time to plan your new native garden or read your new Wild Ones materials – see what you can do to get the ball rolling. If you're a seasoned Wild Ones volunteer, you likely already have a "to do" list – see how many things you can check off. Maybe try something new. The pay-off for Wild Ones and the Earth could be great. The accomplishment always feels good too.

Happy hibernation season. ■

Carol Andrews, Wild Ones National President
president@for-wild.org

BIG SALE
Wild Ones Stuff
SUPER SALE
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See ad on page 10
Don't Miss It!

Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to encourage biodiversity through the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities. Wild Ones is a not-for-profit, environmental, educational, and advocacy organization.

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Update on Janice Stiefel's "The Inside Story"

From 1990 until 2002, Janice Stiefel was a big part of the Wild Ones educational mission, submitting an article on a plant of interest to each of seventy-two issues of the *Wild Ones Journal*: she titled her column *The Inside Story*. She wrote at a time before the existence of Google and the myriad user friendly botanical reference books. Her own references were heavy botanical tomes which she translated for lay readers, and her own experienced eyes in the field.

Her subjects covered the gamut from skunk cabbage, to poison ivy to northern white cedar; from turtlehead to common dandelion to cupplant. Becoming as enamored by the insect world as she was by native plants, at every opportunity she talked about the insects, butterflies, and moths that had interdependence with the plant she was talking about.

All her articles are being transcribed into digital form, and we plan to publish them as a booklet sometime during 2010. Since her passing this past March, her friends and colleagues have been collecting/donating money to support this publication.

Donations toward this project can be sent to Wild Ones – The Inside Story, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, WI 54912. ■

WILD Center Update



Although Wild Ones members from all around the country have stopped to visit, the Wild Ones WILD Center had its first official visit from a non-Fox Valley area Wild Ones chapter this past September 26th. The **Wolf River (WI) Chapter** toured the facility and the site, with nearly every member participating. Wild Ones member **Rich Winter** (Fox Valley Area Chapter) was there, burning buckthorn branches, so he gave an impromptu presentation on buckthorn identification and methods of removal.

Our thanks continue to go out to the many volunteers who have extended their hands and hearts to our efforts here at the WILD Center. The fall rains have brought a fresh spurt of growth to the many gardens we have already planted. We're now working on a water feature which includes a French drain, a small waterfall, and a gravel "beach" for children to explore. If you're in the area and want to lend a hand, don't hesitate to stop over. We'll put you to work. It'll be a worthwhile effort. And, we usually have food and liquid refreshments on-site.





What's Killing All the Birch?

Not managing native forests, and the unplanned and undesirable consequences of bad decisions.
By Bill Cook. Photo by Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service.

"What's killing all the birch?" As the only forester in a group of Boundary Waters adventurers, the eyes turned to me. The north shore of Minnesota has long stretches of dead and dying birch stands. My short answer was simply, "old age." The whole story is a bit longer.

Paper birch is a short-lived species that requires lots of sunlight to grow and survive. The seeds are small and light. They need bare mineral soil exposed so that the germinating roots can easily reach nutrients in the soil.

In nature, wildfire provides the proper seed bed for birch regeneration. Around seventy-five or eighty years ago, fires blazed up and down the coast. Birch took advantage of this ecological opportunity, and pioneered in these freshly exposed sites. However, birch only live about seventy-five or eighty years. They've hit the end of their natural lifespan and are now dying by the thousands.

Fire, of course, could once again provide the conditions to regenerate the birch. However, fire has been excluded from this landscape. Second homes and cabins have been built up and down the coastline, removing fire as a practical option, even if

the weather and policy conditions prevailed.

Forest management could also provide the ecological conditions needed by birch. Minnesota foresters led the research efforts in birch-regeneration strategies. However, that involves heavy harvesting and exposing the soil. It's too late for that in most places, now that most of the birches are just rotting stubs piercing the canopy of witch hazel brush. There's little left to harvest or to produce seed. Too late.

Besides, the home owners, along with the droves of Boundary Waters trekkers, would object to harvesting. It would be too unsightly. As if a dead forest isn't? I can hear the cries of the offended in my imagination, soon followed by threats of litigation from an incensed Twin Cities lawyer. It's too much for a simple forester.

So, with the lack of both fire and forest management, most of the forest will be gone for decades. The dense witch hazel cover will prevent reasonable stocking for an indeterminate time into the future. Maybe my grandchildren might, once again, see a forest along this coast. For now, at least you get good views of Lake Superior from the highway.

We have these similar sorts of forest issues in Michigan. Most of our birches have also succumbed to old age. Fortunately for us, other tree species have grown under the birch canopy and taken over these former birch sites. For us, the geriatric forest types are more along the lines of oak, aspen, and jack pine. Many of these stands suffer from benign neglect.

Some of these acres will regenerate naturally into some other forest type. Many of the acres, without the sort of disturbance programmed into the genetics of these forest types, will be lost to brush, savannah, and recreational housing. Perhaps, an insect or disease epidemic will take these old forests.

In forest ecology, there is no such thing as "no choice." Doing "nothing" has predictable ecological outcomes, not all of which are natural. Many of which are undesirable.

I explained all of this to my group of fellow canoeists. I saw their eyes begin to glaze over. One guy noted that the question didn't require a Wikipedia response, and then asked Bob to pass the granola bag. I guess they just weren't that interested. ■



BOOK REVIEW

How Trees Die

By Mandy Ploch

How Trees Die: The Past, Present, and Future of Our Forests

Westholme Publishing LLC, 2009

Jeff Gillman, research scientist and associate professor of horticultural science at the University of Minnesota. Author of *The Truth About Organic Gardening*.

I picked out this book from my local library, thinking it might be one of many such books on the looming, depressive future of the world's ecology. Happily, to me it was a real "page turner" on the life cycle of various trees we all live with.

No matter how a tree's life ends, understanding the reason is essential to understanding the future of our environment.

Although the author is a scientist, his writing is easy reading and enjoyable. His explanations of a plant's cellular structure and interactions with its surrounding elements – soil, water, air, etc. – are clearly understandable and enlightening. The book covers the natural lives, and deaths, of native trees in forests, the impact of invasive plants and insects, commercial growers' practices and marketing, as well as good-intentioned gardeners who love their trees to death.

"No matter how a tree's life ends, understanding the reason is essential to understanding the future of our environment." I highly recommend this book to anyone who loves a tree. ■

Wild Ones Legacy Program



Get Involved, Stay Involved, With Wild Ones

There are many ways to help Wild Ones promote environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities.

Annual Support: Wild Ones Champions 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.

Bur Oak Circle: Donors who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more.

Oak Savanna Circle: Members who have loyally supported Wild Ones for at least 15 years or more.

Employee Matching Gift Program: Many companies and organizations will match employee contributions.

Special Gifts and Heritage: The Wild Ones Legacy Program provides the opportunity to gift appreciated stock, real property, in-kind gifts, IRA-rollover gifts (option through December 2007 per the Pension Protection Act of 2006) and multi-year commitments. Bequests, charitable gift annuities, trusts and other planned giving vehicles provide significant support to Wild Ones while also benefiting the donors and their families.

Volunteer: More than 4,000 people annually volunteer their time and energy for land conservation, and community garden plantings and for the Wild Ones EcoCenter.

Lifetime Members: Long-term commitment to Wild Ones mission and its goals.

For more information on supporting Wild Ones through the *Get Wild Stay Wild Program*, please contact Donna VanBuecken, Executive Director, Wild Ones, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, Wisconsin 54912

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Falling Into Winter: A Journal Excerpt

By Barb Bray

Keeping a nature journal can go a long way toward a new appreciation for nature. And it's a fun way to observe and think about nature. So why not encourage a child you know to start keeping a journal?

There are many ways to learn about nature, such as reading books or asking people, but observing nature yourself and keeping a record of your observations in a journal provides a very special experience.

A nature journal can be as simple as a few pieces of paper stapled together, or you can buy one at a store. You will be amazed at what you can discover on your own. The following is an excerpt from my journal from 2008.

November 10 As I sit here at my kitchen table waiting for the beef and potatoes to cook, I started to think about how the month of November seems so drab and boring. It's a transitional month from the vibrant colors of October to the white palette of winter. Skies become thick with gray clouds carrying rain or snow. Darkness creeps up on us, silently stealing away minutes from both our mornings and afternoons. When I gaze through my living room window outside, dull browns and grays color my once festive-looking prairie garden. Leaves cover the ground in my yard, but the Norway maples and Bradford pear trees in the neighborhood are still green. I hear the honking of geese outside as they fly overhead.

November 15 Rain is falling, and the temperature is dropping, as a cold front works its way toward us. Clouds hang thick in the sky and darken our house inside. The rain doesn't seem to bother the birds in my prairie garden. They fly from the pine trees into the garden, and hop around under the plants picking up seeds. The juncos seem to prefer this garden over the seeds on our back deck. American goldfinches, camouflaged for fall in greenish-yellow, also enjoy this seed fest. They cling to the yellow cone-flower stems, and spend a lot of time picking seeds from the dried-up flower heads. As winds whip through the garden, the goldfinches bob up and down, secure in their footing. Juncos use the stems of the coneflower to reach not only coneflower seeds but also the fluffy seeds on little bluestem. Juncos hopping around on the ground pull the seeds off any drooping stems. Both birds also relish the seeds of the

heath asters. They carefully edge their way along the stems until they can reach the fluffy balls of seeds.

November 18 I think I have a new bird. I thought it was a chipping sparrow, but it's the "winter chippy" or American tree sparrow. It has a reddish-brown cap and a brown eye line. It hangs out with the juncos and goldfinches in my prairie garden. I can't believe I haven't noticed it before.

November 19 As I was walking up to the window, I spotted two downy woodpeckers hammering away on the old stems of my yucca plants. I leave the stems up after the plants bloom because they are full of insect larvae that attract these birds. Last year one woodpecker spent forty-five minutes extracting larvae from one plant.

December 8 It's cold and snowy this year. Last week we had high temperatures below thirty degrees Fahrenheit. Just a couple of days ago we had four inches of snow. That was on top of the two inches already on the ground. Tomorrow, weather forecasters predict rain and forty degrees, but if the cold front comes sooner, it will be snow.

December 9 I saw the chipmunk on our deck today filling his cheeks with birdseed. Temperatures are in the high thirties, and it's raining. Yuck. The chipmunk's hole is located near our camper. I found his footprints in the snow near the hole.

December 13 A bit sunny today. Cold. The low last night was about eighteen degrees, and there is still snow on the ground. No birds in my prairie garden. The old fall webworm homes look very ragged now. The one in our weeping cherry tree is tattered and hanging by a few strands. It flaps like an ugly dirty flag in the wind, threatening to fall on someone's head below. Early last fall, I saw a chickadee happily pecking away at a webworm home to pull out "tasty treats."

December 15 We woke up this morning to a balmy forty-nine

degrees. All the snow on the front lawn has melted away, except for the old snow fort Ben had built with his friend Blake last week. Mist hangs in the air, and the road has melted into a mess of dirty ice. This mild weather lasted until about 9 a.m., when suddenly temperatures plummeted to about thirty degrees. A ferocious wind blew dark clouds across the sky.

December 16 Most of the snow has melted, except for small patches. The little birds returned to my prairie garden. A junco is pulling seeds off a stem of little bluestem grass. Others are eating the seeds off the ground. Every time a car goes by, the juncos fly up from the garden and hide in the pine trees. I spotted a red squirrel and chipmunk near my garden also. The sunshine coaxed the animals from their hiding spots, in spite of the cold fifteen-degree temperature.

December 19 It's snowing again. It snowed two inches, then another two inches, and several more – for a grand total of twelve inches. The kids had a "snow day" from school, and were delighted until I made them shovel it. Mother Nature sure has impeccable timing – we just went from a melted mess of ice to a Winter Wonderland. ■



OX-EYE DAISY (*LEUCANTHEMUM VULGARE*)

By Janet Allen

INVASIVES ON THE HORIZON

He loves me. He loves me not.

It's native? It's native *not*.

Our Wild Ones chapter has taken many interesting field trips, but last year's trip was a huge disappointment. We had learned of a Habitat Garden tour in a city about an hour away from us, and we looked forward to it for months. Although the tour itself was very well run, the first stop on the tour shocked us. Much of the back yard was a field of ox-eye daisies (*Leucanthemum vulgare*, formerly *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*), sometimes called moon daisy, marguerite, or dog daisy.

More disappointments surprised us throughout the tour. The gardens featured wide swaths of daylilies, Japanese honeysuckles, kousa dogwoods – even Japanese knotweed. When our Wild Ones chapter thinks of providing habitat, we think of *native* plants. But the daisies were especially discouraging because the homeowners most likely planted them with the best of intentions, thinking they were planting the quintessential wildflower.

It's a common misconception, reinforced by the fact that common wildflower mixes almost always feature it or its larger cultivated relative shasta daisy (*Chrysanthemum maximum*) as part of the mix. In fact, one gardening guide called it the "backbone of any wildflower meadow."

The cheerful daisy is part of our culture, an icon of "wildflower-ness." As with other naturalized but non-native plants, such as daylily, we've seen this cheerful-looking flower growing in fields and roadsides our whole lives. As a child, after playing the "He loves me" game, I remember making mud wedding cakes decorated with the flowers we found growing wild. Daisies were the most common decoration for our creations. But like our other cake decorations – plants such as chicory (*Cichorium intybus*), butter and eggs (*Linaria vulgaris*), and hawkweed (*Hieracium caespitosum*) – ox-eye daisies were introduced from Europe, and aren't native to the United States.

It's a problem

Despite being a symbol of innocence, promoted by commercial nurseries as "loved in all fifty states," native plant societies and environmental agencies are increasingly concerned that they are invading prairies and meadows, open woodlands, and riparian areas. They spread vegetatively by underground roots and by abundant seed production – and since their seeds float, they spread easily along rivers. They can form dense colonies, and can replace up to half of the grasses in pastures. They're a host for several viral diseases affecting crops.

Daisies have been reported to be invasive in seven national parks, including the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone, and in the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, Arizona, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Missouri, Wisconsin, Michigan, Kentucky, Tennessee, New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. They're on the noxious weed list of many states and Canadian provinces, and they're the special focus of the Bow Valley Ox-Eye Daisy Project in Alberta, Canada. Yet some highway depart-

ments, such as in North Carolina, still plant ox-eye daisies.

How to get rid of it

If you have ox-eye daisy in your yard, you can get rid of it by pulling or digging it out by hand. Be careful to completely remove it, though, since it can resprout. It's likely you'll have to repeat this process for a few years since the seeds can remain viable for twenty years. If you have a large patch, it might be easier to heavily mulch the plants over winter so they rot.

The ox-eye daisy: Grow it? Grow it *not*. ■

NATIVE ALTERNATIVES

Here are some native alternatives to ox-eye daisies:

Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)

Robin's plantain (*Erigeron puchellus*)

Blanketflower (*Gaillardia aristata*)

Wild quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*)

Mountain mints (*Pycnanthemum spp.*)

Black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

A good substitute for determining whether "he loves me."



Ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*). Photo by Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org.

SFE-Funded Teaching Garden Enhances Ecology Studies

Presented by Mark Charles

Students at the Charles and June Knabusch Mathematics and Science Center in Monroe, Michigan, are using a Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education-funded teaching garden to enhance their studies.

Story by teacher, Russell K. Columbus

The center is adjacent to a fifty-acre tallgrass prairie restoration site that provides our students with a chance to be involved in monitoring the restoration process.

Students learn about the diversity of life by observing local plants and animals in their natural settings. Students use handheld technology, including graphing calculators and sensors to study biological phenomena such as photosynthesis and respiration. Students also complete year-long projects based on data they collect. One project completed in 2008-2009 had as the main topics, a biodiversity survey along with photo-monitoring.

Our school district is made up of urban and agricultural areas. After taking students a few times to the nearby prairie restoration it occurred to me that most of them had never been in a natural area before. Additionally, many of them had no experience in identifying living creatures. I quickly grew frustrated watching my students flip through six hundred and thirty-eight color pictures in a field guide, trying to find the creature in front of them.

Now students learn to recognize the plants in a display garden of native plants, complete with labels and descriptions of interesting aspects of each species. Funding for the first set of plants came from a Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education grant. Fifteen of the original eighteen species planted in the garden were purchased with funding from this grant. Thirty-six individual plants of each species were planted in four different groups of nine plants each in late June of 2007. Since that time, students have filled in some gaps with plants grown from seed.

Starting in fall, 2008, students have begun a project in which they are propagating native prairie plants. The purpose of this project is to assist students in learning about the ecology of our local area, as well as learning about the biology of the actual plants they are growing. This project is taking place at a tallgrass prairie restoration site on the property of DTE Energy's Monroe Power Plant. Students collected seeds from a variety of native species in the fall of 2007. They processed these seeds, and sub-

jected them to cold winter storage in order to break seed dormancy. In the spring of 2008, these seeds were germinated indoors and raised for approximately three months before being planted in the restoration site.

Over six hundred plants of nearly twenty different species were raised, and plans are in place for this study to continue and expand in school year 2009-2010. Students are using these seedlings to learn about cell differentiation, ecology, and other biological topics as part of the curriculum of their ninth-grade biology class.

Learning about conservation, and gaining an awareness of our local environment, are the main goals of the students in the biology classes at the Knabusch Mathematics and Science Center. Sitting in a classroom is not an effective way for students to reach these goals. Taking the classroom outdoors is an essential aspect to our curriculum. Having this prairie restoration project within one hundred yards of our front door compliments the various terrestrial and aquatic habitats on campus. ■



Trees in wintry ice storm. St. Joseph, Missouri. Photo by David Johnson.

ECOSCAPER



Somewhere between a prairie and a formal planting lies the fertile potential of native plants in an ornamental design, the domain of the Ecoscaper – which is a brilliant synthesis in language of the two concepts, landscaper and ecologist. With this in mind, Wild Ones has developed the Ecoscaper Certification Program. Enhance your knowledge and get credit for your accomplishments. Visit www.wildcertification.org for more information or to enroll.



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Donald and Benia Zouras
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Beyond the bird feeder: Gardening for Birds and Other Wildlife Hawthorns

By Mariette Nowak

Hawthorns (*Crataegus* genus) are small, craggy trees with angular branching reminiscent of bur oaks, but on a small scale. The stout often-branched thorns they sport, which range from one to three inches in length, add to their rugged looks.

The *Crataegus* genus is a very complex group taxonomically, and experts differ widely even as to the number of hawthorn species, with estimates ranging from two hundred to a thousand. Much of the confusion is due to frequent hybridization, which makes identification difficult. Nonetheless, there are several fairly distinct and popular species available to home owners.

One of my personal favorites is cockspur hawthorn (*C. crus-galli*), which my husband and I planted in our former suburban yard. The cockspur, a Midwestern favorite, has glossy leaves and branches which swoop to the ground, setting it apart from other hawthorns. Washington hawthorn (*C. phaenopyrum*), is popular in the East for its graceful branching structure and resistance to hawthorn rusts. Both have profuse white blossoms in spring, and abundant red fruits and brilliant color in fall.

The black hawthorn (*Crataegus douglasii*) is a western species found from Alaska and Canada to California and South Dakota, with some isolated populations in the East. As its name suggests, the black hawthorn has black fruits, and it grows in varied woodland and scrub habitats. Although not quite as showy as some hawthorns, it is very hardy, has bright fall color, and is used in landscaping.

Value for Birds

Hawthorns' copious spring blossoms draw pollinating insects, which in turn attract both migrating and resident birds. The trees are also favorite nesting sites because of the protection offered by their thick foliage, dense branching, and large thorns. Shrikes find the thorns useful for another reason – they often impale mice and other prey they have captured on the thorns to store them for later eating. Although hawthorn fruits, or “thorn apples,” aren't eaten immediately in fall, they provide food for birds in winter, and sometimes even into spring. Caterpillars are preferred by most birds for feeding their young, and for this reason, one of the greatest values of hawthorns may be the



Hawthorns have “real” thorns. Photo by Ted Bodner, Southern Weed Science Society.

many caterpillars they host. Interestingly, one caterpillar has evolved a defense against bird predators – the blinded sphinx (*Paonias excaecatus*) makes sure it nibbles every bit of leaf as it feeds, since birds often search for caterpillars by checking leaves for damage.

Value for Other Wildlife

An amazing one hundred and fifty-nine species of eastern caterpillars feed on hawthorn leaves. Among them are some of our showiest species, including white admiral and red-spotted purple butterflies and the cecropia moth. Hawthorn fruits are eaten by a variety of mammals.

The black hawthorn has been used as a source of food for honey bees.

Landscaping Notes

With gorgeous spring flowers, dense summer foliage, bright fall fruits, and picturesque branching structure in winter, hawthorns are outstanding trees in all seasons. They are tough trees, too, which generally do well in coarse gravelly soils, sand or heavy clays, as well as more loamy soils.

Hawthorns prefer open sunny locations, where they develop wide spreading crowns and make excellent specimen trees. Their small size suits them well for small yards, as well as larger properties.

The main downside is cedar-hawthorn rust, which can cause hawthorns to drop their leaves prematurely. Cedars and hawthorns are alternate hosts for the rust, and should not be planted near one another. However, more resistant hawthorn varieties are available. Although I usually advise against cultivars because they limit genetic diversity, cultivars may be a wise choice in this case. For those concerned about the possibility of young children hurting themselves on the thorns, there are also some thornless cultivars. ■

Could your gift be
the one that saves
the Earth?



A Wild Ones Gift Membership

If you're tired of handing out loud neckties, plaid socks, and wooly underwear, why not give something fun that also shows how much you care about the future of our planet?

Can't think of anyone who would enjoy a Wild Ones membership? How about those new neighbors down the street who aren't sure what to do with their yard? Or maybe those relatives who keep borrowing your lawnmower. And what about the local “weed inspector” who keeps eyeing your prairie? Better yet, just think what a Wild Ones membership will do for the kids at your neighborhood school.

Those neckties and socks will just end up in the back of a drawer, and those underwear – well, we don't even want to know. But your gift of a Wild Ones membership might be the start of a journey that leads someone to saving the Earth, or at least a small part of it.

Three levels of membership are available, and each new gift membership gets one or more Wild Ones promotional items along with the standard benefits and a subscription to the *Journal*. We'll even send them a holiday gift card so they'll know it's from you.

Helping to save the Earth, and your favorite Wild organization, has never been so easy. The journey starts at www.for-wild.org/joining.html. Go there now.

What's On Sale at the Wild Ones Store?

Wild Ones
Famous Yard Signs
Just \$20

Seeds and
Seedlings Book
Just \$10

Wild About
Wildflowers Video
Just \$10

ALMOST

EVERYTHING

ON SALE NOW

Die Buckthorn
Short-Sleeve T-Shirts
Children's **Just \$9**

Polo Shirts
Mens & Womens
Pima **Just \$28**
Pique **Just \$27**

In Celebration
of Nature Totes
**1 for \$5, 2 for \$8
or 3 for \$10**

**Just in time for the holidays and your gift shopping,
we've put all Wild Ones merchandise on sale. Clothing, books,
and lots of other items – all on sale. Discounts from 10% to 30%
and more – effective through December 15th.**

**All prices include standard shipping. Express shipping is extra.
Don't forget Wild Ones Gift Memberships for your friends –
not on sale, but always a great idea.**

FOR-WILD.ORG/STORE

New Wild Ones Membership Category Exclusively for Not-For-Profit Organizations

The **Taskforce on Waukegan Neighborhoods** is the first organization to take advantage of our new **Affiliate Membership** category, specially created for not-for-profit organizations. A member of the Lake-to-Prairie (IL) Chapter, the organization is located in Waukegan, Illinois.

Yearly dues for Affiliate Members include \$75 for a Wild membership, \$100 for a Wilder membership, and \$125 for the Wildest membership. Some benefits of membership are:

1. Acknowledgment of new or renewing Affiliate Membership in the *Wild Ones Journal*.
2. Annual listing of membership along with all Affiliate Memberships in *Wild Ones Journal*.
3. Participation in local chapter events by all organization staff.
4. Supply of Wild Ones brochures and other promotional materials.
5. Up to 3 extra copies of the *Journal* to share with members and partners.
6. Listing on the Wild Ones web site, under the Affiliate Member Resource Listing, if they so desire.
7. Any premiums being offered to Household Members for higher levels of giving.
8. Certificate of membership.

Wild Ones BUSINESS MEMBERS

RENEWING BUSINESS MEMBERS

EnergyScapes Inc
3754 Pleasant Ave Ste B3
Minneapolis MN 55409-1227
(612) 821-9797
douglas@energyscapes.com
www.energyscapes.com
Twin Cities Chapter

Kalamazoo Nature Center
700 N Westnedge Ave
Kalamazoo MI 49009-6309
(269) 381-1574x17
sreding@naturecenter.org
www.naturecenter.org
Kalamazoo Area Chapter

Lacewing Gardening & Consulting Services
6087 N Denmark St
Milwaukee WI 53225-1673
(414) 793-3652 cell
lacewing@nase.org
Menomonee River Area Chapter

Marshland Transplant Aquatic Nursery
PO Box 1
Berlin WI 54923-0001
(800) 208-2842
marshland@centurytel.net
Fox Valley Area Chapter

Outagamie County Housing Authority
3020 E Winslow Ave
Appleton WI 54911-8994
(920) 731-9781x201
jlincoln@outagamiehousing.us
www.outagamiehousing.us
Fox Valley Area Chapter



WILD Center Wish List

Wooden rocking chair suitable for porch sitting • Vacuum cleaner • First-aid kit
Rain gauge • Gardening tools: (Pitchfork, bow rake, McLeod rake, etc.)
Garden tractor and small trailer • Gator or Mule type 4-wheel vehicle
Trailer for hauling debris with car • Lightweight conference table(s)
Stepladder • Rain barrels • Conference-type stackable chairs • Dressers
Double bed or twin bed (or better yet) one set of bunk beds
Small maple and oak (bur, white and swamp white oak) trees
*Contact the National Office if you have other items that may be
suitable for use at the WILD Center. 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.*

Members Support Wild Ones Mission with Generous Gifts & Contributions



HQ & WILD Center Donations

\$165,000 - \$140,000

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund
Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council

\$500

Twin Cities Chapter
Dave & Sue Peck

\$235 to \$100

Gibson Woods Chapter
Bill & Carol Klug
Christian Nelson

\$75 to \$60

Steve & Diana Maassen
Ray Darling
Rich & Liz Whitney
Joyce Torresani

\$50 to \$30

James Lincoln
Joanne & Bob Wanasek
Carol Weir
Jill & Doug Hiroskey
Rich & Liz Whitney
Jim & Karen Timble
Dan J. & Diane C. Dieterich
Rosemary & Peter Eiden

\$25 - \$3

Beatrice Carrigg
David & Karen Edwards
Janet Hinkfuss
Edmund & Elizabeth Jung
Carolynn La Barbera
Liz Mitchell
Ms Pamela Petajan
Lucy Schumann
Peter Sigmann
Donald L. & Lynn Vorpahl
Maria G. Cattell
Michelle Serreyn
Julia Hart
Michael & Cynthia Sevilla
Chris & Dave Abresch
Suzanne D. & Raymond F. Goodrich
Barbara Hayes
Barb Hunt
Mary L. Johnston
Judy Kay
Stacy Krueger
Jean Mano
John & Ruth Todt
David Vido
Melinda Dietrich
Michael & Jean Maloney
Susan Hallett
Patricia Scott

Continued next page.

Wild Ones is celebrating its thirtieth anniversary this year, and because of that we wanted you to know how deeply grateful we are to the hundreds of individuals, corporations, foundations, and other organizations that made contributions in 2009 – and we are committed to being a good steward of all financial resources entrusted to the organization.

In connection with our thirtieth anniversary, we would like to honor Rae Sweet and Lorrie Otto, who are founding members of Wild Ones, and are still active in their support of Wild Ones. Thank you very much for all you've given to Wild Ones during the past thirty years.

While every contribution is very important, we want to take special note of a couple of donations which are new for us this year. These donations came to us with the proviso that they be used at the discretion of the Executive Director. Because of these contributions and a couple of additional small grants, we will be able to offer the "Wild About Wildflowers" video in DVD format in 2010. Without this impetus, it's unlikely that we would have been able to offer this prize.

Although we are proud to say that our membership comes from forty-five states within the United States, and one province of Canada, we want you to know that our lifetime members are also coming to us from around the U.S.: Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Washington, as are our Oak Savanna Circle members: Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Washington, and Wisconsin. It's nice to know that we've spread outside the Midwest with very dedicated members.

While continuing to develop our educational and advocacy promotional programs, we are also developing the Wild Ones Institute of Learning and Development (the WILD Center). The visitors who have stopped by to see what we're up to have had nothing but praise for our goals and what we've accomplished so far. Wild Ones members, as well as non-members from as far away as Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, and Maryland – and as close as Stroebe Island (across the marsh from the WILD Center) have delighted us with their visits. Many thanks go to the great volunteers who have helped us get the Center organized.

We are so pleased to send our thanks to all the members and friends who have supported us financially and otherwise this year in which we are experiencing some economic hardship. Your generosity has made this a successful year for us, and we thank you all so much for your support.

Every effort has been made to assure the donor lists are accurate and reflect gifts made from October 11, 2008 to October 10, 2009. However, should there be an error or omission, please contact: Donna VanBuecken, Executive Director, Phone (toll free) 877-3904-9453, E-mail execdirector@for-wild.org.

Thank you to all whose gifts are planting the seeds for native landscaping!





On the Trail. Photo by Robert Lauer.

HQ & WILD Center In-Kind Contributions

Asplundh Tree Expert Co.
 First Choice Sanitation
 Fox Valley Area Chapter
 Gibson Woods Chapter
 Richard Baehnman
 Don & Katie Borsos
 Dan Bouchette
 Gordon J. Braun
 Steven M. Brondino
 Kathleen Comqxwsi
 Carlos Contreras
 Nan & Jeff Calvert
 Atty Richard J. Carlson
 & Lissa Field, Legal Asst.
 Neil Diboll, Prairie Nursery
 Dan Mitchel &
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 Gary Feest
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 Nancy Norgord
 Diane M. Olson-Schmidt,
 Lacewing Gardening
 & Consulting Services
 Dave & Sue Peck
 Lisa Picconi
 Mandy & Ken Ploch

Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to encourage biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities.

Joe & Diane Powelka,
 ONE Plus Inc.
 Laura & Ralph Ramseier
 Joan Rudolph
 Lucy & Roy Valitchka
 Donna & John VanBuecken
 Stephen Windsor
 Jeff Walters
 Rich Winter
 Ron Wolff, Lake Shore
 Cleaners Inc.
 Tom & Nancy Small

General Operating Fund

\$150-100
 Savannah Furman
 David & Arlene LaMack
 Christopher
 & Martina Mann

\$70-\$50
 Susan E. Bryan
 Kimberly A. Barnes
 Portia & Jerry Brown,
 Simply Natural
 Chandan Mahanta
 Fawn & John Shillinglaw in
 memory of Dorothy Eslien

\$45-\$25
 Arrowhead Chapter
 Ellyn A. Schmitz
 Scott Meeker
 & Kathleen Ernst
 Vicki Flier
 Christine Stier

\$20-\$5
 Will Wagner
 Kit Woessner
 Phyllis A. Thayer
 Janice Cook

Melinda Dietrich
 Linda S. Ellis
 Gretchen Neering
 Connie Palmer Smalley
 Kathleen Renowden
 Lois B. Robbins
 Fredericka Veikley
 Mike & Nancy Boyce
 Anthony & Anne Kraus
 Rose Meinholz
 Kate & Frank Nicoletti
 Walter L. Peterson

Matching Gifts

\$1200
 Martha F. & Jeffrey Rice
 from Prudential
 Foundation Match
 Grant Program

\$300
 Toni Kovach
 & David Fukuzawa from
 The Kresge Foundation

\$150-\$90
 Walter & Bev Wieckert
 from ITW Foundation
 Walt Oberheu
 & Laura Strehlow from
 Pfizer Foundation

\$50-\$2
 David & Kathy Wege
 from KC Foundation
 David Hapman from
 Pfizer Foundation
 Joann C. Sustachek
 from Abbott Lab
 Employee Giving
 Campaign
 Robert & Carol Niendorf
 from Morton Drug
 Member program

Janice Stiefel Memorial

\$500
 Citizen's Natural Resources
 Association

\$300
 Door County Chapter

\$100-\$75
 Wolf River Chapter
 Donna & John VanBuecken
 James M. Wellman
 Mary Ann Crayton

\$25-\$20
 Judy & Gary Jolin
 Jan & Dick Koel
 Rose Meinholz

Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Endowment Fund

\$1500
 Greater DuPage Chapter

\$40
 Katrina R. Hayes

Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Program

\$1000-\$600
 Rock River Valley Chapter
 Fox Valley Area Chapter

\$500-\$350
 Greater DuPage Chapter
 James M. Wellman
 Menomonee River Area
 Chapter

Rock River Valley Chapter
 St Louis Chapter

\$300-\$100
 Toni Kovach
 & David Fukuzawa
 Addison & Deborah
 Igleheart
 Carolyn K. Johnson
 Gibson Woods Chapter
 Otter Tail Chapter
 Mandy & Ken Ploch
 Citizens Natural Resources
 Association
 Herbert H. Kohl Charities
 Inc.

Martha & John Lunz
 Maryann Whitman
 Michael J. Head
 & Mary L. James
 Wendy Rappaport
 Oakland Chapter
 Woman's National Farm
 & Garden Assoc.,
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 Katrina R. Hayes
 Clifford Orsted,
 Door Landscape
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 Mark Charles
 James M. Wellman

\$90-\$50
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 Jean M. Hancock
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 Oney Sattell
 Mariette & Dave Nowak
 River City - Grand Rapids
 Area Chapter
 Calhoun Chapter
 Master Gardeners
 of Greater Detroit
 Martha Nitz
 Michelle Serreyn
 Calhoun Chapter
 Robert & Deb Benada,
 Crystal River Inn B&B
 Mark & Terri Chelmowski
 Eileen & Paul Le Fort
 Darlene Tymn
 Joanne & Bob Wanasek

\$40-\$25
 Janice Brill
 Jill C. or Robert Lintelman
 Judy & Wooly Dimmick
 Betty & Lowell Edwards
 Cindy French
 Julia Hart
 Margaret M. Knight
 Donna M. Gager
 Deborah O. Javurek
 Bill & Ginny Nelson
 Anne M. Bray
 Lucy Chargot
 Paul & Susan Damon
 David & Karen Edwards
 Scott Meeker
 & Kathleen Ernst
 Janet Hinkfuss
 Bob Kehres,
 Ohio Prairie Nursery
 Carolynn La Barbera
 Sharon & William Roy
 Diane Senk
 Christine M. Walters

\$20-\$2
 Marilyn Ann Logue
 Kathy Rogers
 Todd & Susan Close
 Hildy Feen
 Barb Huss
 Peg Lawton
 Tom Schneider
 Michael & Cynthia Sevilla





Blue Splendor in Mountains. Photo by Harold Vastage.

Peter Sigmann
 Lucy & Roy Valitchka
 Suzanne D. & Raymond F. Goodrich
 Melinda Dietrich
 Ingeborg Humphrey
 Neil & Marilyn Ringquist
 Chris & Dave Abresch
 Carol Biesemeyer
 Cy & Daphne Carney
 Meryl Domina
 Kirby & Dan Doyle
 Lee & Dolly Foster
 Linda Gaylor
 Marlowe & Nancy Holstrum
 Barb Hunt
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 Judy Kay
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 Diane S. O'Connell
 Cathy Wood
 Catherine Skocir-Stehr
 Sue Barrie
 Kay & Phil Blair
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 Bill & Barbara Graue
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 Mary Junttonen
 Michael & Jean Maloney
 Sandra Miller
 Dianne J. & Dennis L. Stenerson
 Mark Uscian
 Jude Wrzesinski
 Patricia Scott
 Susan Hallett

Discretionary Fund

This is a new fund set up by Wild Ones members to honor the work the Executive Director has done to nurture Wild Ones. Use of the donations is by the Executive Director's decision with the approval of the National Board.

\$2400
Martha & Jeff Rice
WAW DVD Reproduction

\$2000
Mandy & Ken Ploch
WAW DVD Reproduction

The Executive Director subsequently received the following grants to apply toward this project.



\$1000
 Citizen's Natural Resources
 Association WAW DVD
 Reproduction Grant

\$480
 Community Foundation for
 the Fox Valley Region
 AW DVD Reproduction

Get Involved Stay Involved



There are many ways to help Wild Ones promote environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities.

Annual Support: Wild Ones Champions 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.

Bur Oak Circle: Donors who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more

Oak Savanna Circle: Members who have loyally supported Wild Ones for at least 15 years or more.

Employee Matching Gift Program: Many companies and organizations will match employee contributions

Special Gifts and Heritage: The Wild Ones Legacy Program provides the opportunity to gift appreciated stock, real property, in-kind gifts, IRA-rollover gifts (option through December, 2007 per the Pension Protection Act of 2006) and multi-year commitments. Bequests, charitable gift annuities, trusts and other planned giving vehicles provide significant support to Wild Ones while also benefiting the donors and their families.

Volunteer: More than 4,000 people annually volunteer their time and energy for land conservation, and community garden plantings and for the Wild Ones EcoCenter.

Lifetime Members: Long term commitment to Wild Ones mission and its goals.

For more information on supporting Wild Ones through the *Get Wild Stay Wild Program*, please contact Donna VanBuecken, Executive Director, Wild Ones, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, Wisconsin 54912-1274, 877-394-9453 (toll free), execdirector@for-wild.org, or visit our web site at www.for-wild.org/legacy/.

In addition to financial support for the various Wild Ones project funds, we also received the benefit of many volunteer hours toward the development of The WILD Center, and many of our other projects.

Wilder and Wildest Members Give Extra Support Through Higher Levels of Membership

Bur Oak Circle

The Wild Ones Bur Oak Circle honors donors who contribute \$1,000 or more annually to Wild Ones efforts.

Mandy & Ken Ploch
Martha F. & Jeffrey Rice
Citizen's Natural Resources Association
Greater DuPage Chapter
Rock River Valley Chapter

Oak Savanna Circle

The Wild Ones Oak Savanna Circle honors members who have loyally supported Wild Ones for 15 years or more.

Unfortunately we don't have everyone's join date from the very early years, so if your name has been missed, please let the National Office know as soon as possible.

Rachel Carson Council Inc.
Nancy M. Aten
Nancy Y. & Todd Behnke
Janet & Edward Beimbom
Dorothy & Paul Boyer
Valerie Brumder
Cy & Daphne Carney
Nancy Carpenter
Mark & Terri Chelmowski
Carol & Dan Chew
Colleen Conway
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Rochelle & Paul Whiteman
Donna & John VanBuecken
Mandy & Ken Ploch
Ken Lukow
Neil Diboll, Prairie Nursery
John Stiefel
Jan & Dick Koel
Mary Ann Crayton
Sue Barrie
Maureen Birk
Pete Bradshaw
Christine R. Daubner
Carolyn & Bob Haglund
Barbara J. Holschbach
Jim & Jane Jerzak Family

What Does It Mean to Be More than Wild?

This year we've again received wonderful financial support of the Wild Ones mission through members joining and renewing at the higher membership levels. Thank you all for being so generous – for being more than wild!

Thank you all for being more than wild!

Karen Kersten
Randy Kohlhase
Marylou & Robert Kramer
Margaret O'Harrow
Bill & Sally Ann Peck
Susan H Pomprowitz
Jack & Marjorie Ann Swelstad
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Annette E. Weissbach
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Sandy Adams
Bette B. Arey
Nada S. Bevic
Melissa Bruder
Pat & Carl Brust
Anna J. Campbell
Judy & Wooly Dimmick
Donna M. Gager
Patty Gerner
Kathleen Graff
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Joanne Jarocki
Mary Ann Kniep
Ray & Kathy Knoeppel
Gail & Tom Koss
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Rose Mason
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Jacqueline E. Rice
& Peter J. Stamm

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Joanne & Bob Wanasek
Cathy Wegner
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Martha & Ray Bright
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Jean Dunkerley
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William & Nellie Lannin
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Mandy & Ken Ploch
Bret & Jina Rappaport
Martha F. & Jeffrey Rice
Bernard Schwartz
& Charlotte Adelman
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& Karen Matz
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Peter & Colleen Vachuska
Donald & Benia Zouras

Wilder Business Memberships

Kent & Kathy Lawrence,
Kickapoo Mud Creek
Nature Conservancy



1 Corinthians 13:13. Photo by Robert Lauer.

**Wilder Affiliate
Membership**

Taskforce on Waukegan
Neighborhoods

**Wildest Household
Memberships**

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Suzanne Armour
Susan Atchison
Timothy & Elizabeth Baker
Barbara Velez Barbosa
Holly & Jack Bartholmai
Ruth & Glenn Beach
Janet & Edward Beimborn
Sharon Bloomgarden
Raechel Bricker
Pat & Carl Brust
Tom & Sally Buckman
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Gene Wells
Christine Wiles
Ruth Ann Will
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Karin & Klaus Wisiol
Deborah Wolterman
Cindy Worth
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Gary Zamzow

**Wilder Household
Memberships**

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Gary & Elaine Anderson
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Kenneth Balk
Curtis C. Baltz
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Grapevine

By Maryann Whitman

Natural Areas Maintenance from the JFNew Nursery Newsletter, 2009

As the year winds down, fall is a great time to prepare new areas for a dormant or “frost” seeding. Many people associate fall plantings with just cool-season grasses, but many wildflower species do well if planted in the fall. The ideal planting time is from November through March, when soil temperatures are at fifty degrees or below. Cool soil temps will keep the seed dormant in the seed bed, while natural freezing and thawing processes will help work the seed into the proper depth for germination (usually less than a quarter of an inch).

Cold, saturated ground will also stratify the seeds, allowing them to break their hard seed coats, and increase germination in the spring.

If planting on a newly graded site, the seed bed should be smooth and relatively free of debris, such as rocks and stumps. If bringing in additional soils, make sure that the soil is weed-free. Seed can be broadcast or installed using a no-till seed drill. After broadcasting the seed, the area should be rolled with a light turf roller to increase seed-to-soil contact. Cover the area with an erosion-control blanket suitable to the slope for protection against erosion and herbivory during the winter months.

Seeding into an existing native planting or moved stubble can be a little trickier. The best application method is to use a no-till seed drill that can cut through the existing thatch and deposit the seed at the correct depth. If a drill application is not possible, seed can be broadcast into existing growth, but the area should have been mown in preparation, and the thatch removed to increase seed contact with the soil. Covering with a blanket is not necessary, as the existing vegetation will help prevent erosion and hold the seed in place until the spring.

Garlic mustard evolves

We’ve known for a while that garlic mustard exudes a toxin from its roots that kills mycorrhizal fungi in the soil. While garlic mustard does well on its own, finding nutrients and water without the assistance of the symbiotic relationship with soil fungi, that is not true of the native plants that might grow in the areas that garlic mustard has infested. Even tree seedlings have trouble surviving in the midst of a plague of

garlic mustard. Now research has shown that lower levels of fungicidal compounds are produced by a thirty-year-old stand of garlic mustard than by a twenty-year-old stand. It was found that older populations of garlic mustard – though still problematic – posed less of a threat to native plants than the newer stands.

While this study focused on only one alien plant, the results indicate that some invasive plants evolve in ways that may make them more manageable over time. This suggests that conservation efforts might be more effective if they are focused on the most recently invaded areas, which – in the case of garlic mustard, at least – is probably where the most damage occurs.



Kudzu-covered landscape near Port Gibson, Mississippi. Photo courtesy of Galen Parks Smith.

Kudzu

Then there is the invasive plant that earns names like “the plant that ate the south,” and shows no sign of modifying its march across the countryside. Latest reports indicate that it has reached Summit County, Ohio, and Leamington, Ontario, Canada, pretty much directly across Lake Erie from Summit County, Ohio.

It is likely that we’ll be seeing more kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*) in areas that were previously kept safe by long cold spells during winter. For more information on identification go to www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=2425.

Sally Rutzky's informative postings.

Sally is a member of the Ann Arbor Chapter. On their chapter list she has, for a number of months, been posting well-researched, informative notes. She creates them for her own education. Since she always gives URLs, it makes sense to forward her postings to the Wild Ones list, where you may tap in without having to type in. That’s where you’ll find them from now on. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wildonesnativeplants>. Here’s an example:

Plant some swamp milkweed

Asclepias incarnata L., swamp milkweed, is not blooming now, but it will soon be time to plant some. Look for photos at <http://images.google.com>. This was my very first native plant, but I didn’t know it. I bought something called “butterfly weed” from a garden store. It was not butterfly milkweed, (*Asclepias tuberosa* L.), but I was not misled, as I got lots of monarchs, including eggs and caterpillars – (I had never seen a pupa) – and great spangled fritillaries in my city garden. I also first saw how many different sizes of bees there were in my garden.

Swamp milkweed grows three- to six-foot tall, and my plug grew bigger around each year, but did not spread aggressively. It looks good in the early winter, too. When I moved to my woodland garden I couldn’t live without it, and even with partial sun, smaller plants still bring in the butterflies. This is a plant for many gardens.

Common name comes from its preference for a wetland habitat. Strictly speaking, a misnomer, as swamps are by definition wooded wetlands, and this plant thrives in the sun. Pods dry beautifully and are often used in arrangements. Flowers used fresh in arrangements, but ends must be seared to prevent wilting. One of the few ornamentals that thrives in mucky clay soils. Soil neutral to slightly acid – will tolerate heavy clay. Will thrive in average garden soil, so long as it doesn’t dry out completely, especially in spring. Quite drought tolerant. ■

As decades passed, other influences changed the mowing model. During the energy crisis of the nineteen-seventies, when availability and cost of fuel curtailed roadside mowing, an ecological approach was discussed. By the nineteen-eighties, both the state legislatures of Minnesota and Michigan instituted Reduced Rural Mowing. States like Wisconsin adopted a similar approach without legislation. Although urban roadways were still mowed to reflect the well-kept look of the city, rural roadsides were only mowed along the edge of the pavement. This one swath gave the look of care at a reduced cost.

Less mowing was consistent with the rural aesthetic, and was accepted by highway users. Maintenance savings and increased game-bird protection were two immediate rewards. Since then the increased diversity, native plant remnants, native seed harvests, natural beauty, songbird and pollinator use have occurred.

In 1986, I took my first job working with roadsides at the Minnesota Department of Transportation (DOT). Hired as a landscape architect to create landscape planting plans, I specified only native plants. After all, I knew they would be hardy and have a chance to survive on rights-of-way without watering, weeding, or any care after the first year.

No DOT can afford the level of landscape care you accomplish in your own yard. Soon I was asked to join the Erosion Control and Turf Management Unit to design and specify native-seed mixes as roadside solutions. Because I thought the use of prairie plantings on roadsides was a match for safety requirements, maintenance savings, and natural beauty in the rural context, I obliged.

I learned quickly that maintenance crews thought this was all a bunch of weeds, and were likely to mow off the plantings unless they understood the value of natives or heard from their public. I signed on to the statewide annual applicators' training tour to present crew training related to the merits of native grasses and forbs. Then I found myself and volunteers sitting in a high-end shopping center, explaining the environmental value of native plants and giving away native seeds for shoppers' gardens.

The theme of Minnesota's Wildflower Routes attracted some two hundred thousand shoppers. In other words, there was

not much I did not try to increase public awareness and DOT training. Minnesota increased its prairie plantings and reduced rural mowings.

During my work at MnDOT, I was invited by former First Lady, Ladybird Johnson, to visit her ranch and discuss what states like ours needed to increase wildflower plantings. Our discussion with five states resulted in the 1987 Native Wildflower requirement, thanks to Senator Lloyd Bentsen from Texas (no coincidence).

An immediate problem was that no standard definition for native wildflower existed. Unknowingly, many states purchased "wildflowers" from their usual sources, and began planting a lot of European garden flowers: oxeye daisy, cosmos, larkspurs, dame's rocket, bachelor buttons, and more. Ironically, many DOTs planted and replanted annually, just a bunch of weeds instead of native wildflowers. Unfortunately, these colorful plantings were so popular that many states did not want to stop planting them when a definition was finally written in 1994. Both pleased and displeased publics have great power.

In 1993 I began my work with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in Washington D.C. as the Wildflower Program Manager. Without a formal job description, I quickly suggested a more holistic or ecological approach to the vegetation management of our nation's rights-of-way. Accepted by my supervisors, the approach was mine to educate our fifty state DOTs. Armed only with the one-fourth of one percent native wildflower requirement, I dis-

covered a lot of states would continue to do business the way they had always done it – mowing everything or planting potentially invasive nonnative "wildflowers." We provided guidance to the field with a native-wildflower definition that included both grasses and forbs.

Native grasses would be an improvement over the smooth bromes, perennial ryes, and reed canary grasses found in too many highway specifications. I thought decision makers at the state or district level would embrace native grasses at a minimum. Half the state DOTs responded positively. Reaching the other half would consume my career.

Ironically, a meeting during my first week at FHWA led to all states giving native grasses and forbs a second look. It was that week (timing is everything) that I attended a meeting of other agencies to discuss the issue of invasive plants. The other agencies made it clear that highways were huge contributors to the problem of weeds spreading across the country including over vast public lands. After all, our highways cross and connect all public and private lands.

I suggested that vegetation managers would be part of the solution. Within a year, this interagency task force made our cooperation and coordination an MOUed permanent partnership, the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW).

This group was later the major contributor to writing Executive Order 13112, which required State DOTs and all agencies to prevent and control invasive plants and restore



A guard rail in the Sandia Mountain wilderness (New Mexico) is lined with black-eyed susan wildflowers and native grasses in the summer months.

managed areas to native plants. Furthermore the EO required that federal-aid dollars not be spent on planting species known to be invasive, and that whenever the NEPA process is engaged, invasive species analysis must be included.

A broader interpretation suggests the use of an integrated vegetation approach. (See www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/020399em.htm.)

Vegetation management (preventing invasive plants and protecting native plants) in linear corridors appears simple enough. But not so fast.

Caring for twelve million acres of medians and roadsides of federally-funded county, state, federal lands, and interstate highways is not as easy as it looks. Your federal gas-tax dollars support new and upgrade projects, not maintenance activities. Without federal and diminished state funding, but with the desire to control invasive plants, some DOTs have sought out partnerships to share existing resources. Here are a few success stories that prevent and control invasives while restoring native vegetation:

- In 1998, Malheur County, Bureau of Land Management, and Oregon DOT began the first multi-level agency partnership I know of. They manage three million acres.
- The Washington State DOT, Okanogan County, and British Columbia partner to increase public awareness on both sides of the international border.
- In 2009, the Minnesota DOT signed an MOU with the Fond du Lac tribe to reduce chemicals, inventory vegetation, and cooperatively control invasives.

And so the times have changed, but some states have not decreased mowing because they think mowing is what their public wants. Of course they have put the horses out to pasture.

Some states still plant costly, yet showy, garden "wildflowers," because they do not want to risk planting something that the public might not embrace. More change will occur when the public speaks up.

As for me, I know the past has a future on highway corridors. I yearn for a time when weekend drives are once again a source of family recreation and a reconnection with nature. Oh, and yes, I now live in a house by the side of the road with a native wildflower (forbs and grasses) planting in my front yard, with a one-swath, mowed edge, showing that not all suburban front yards are neatly mowed – and symbolizing that not all rights-of-way should be. ■

Natural Landscaping Essentials

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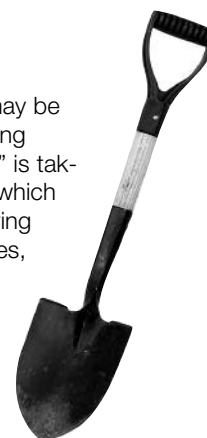
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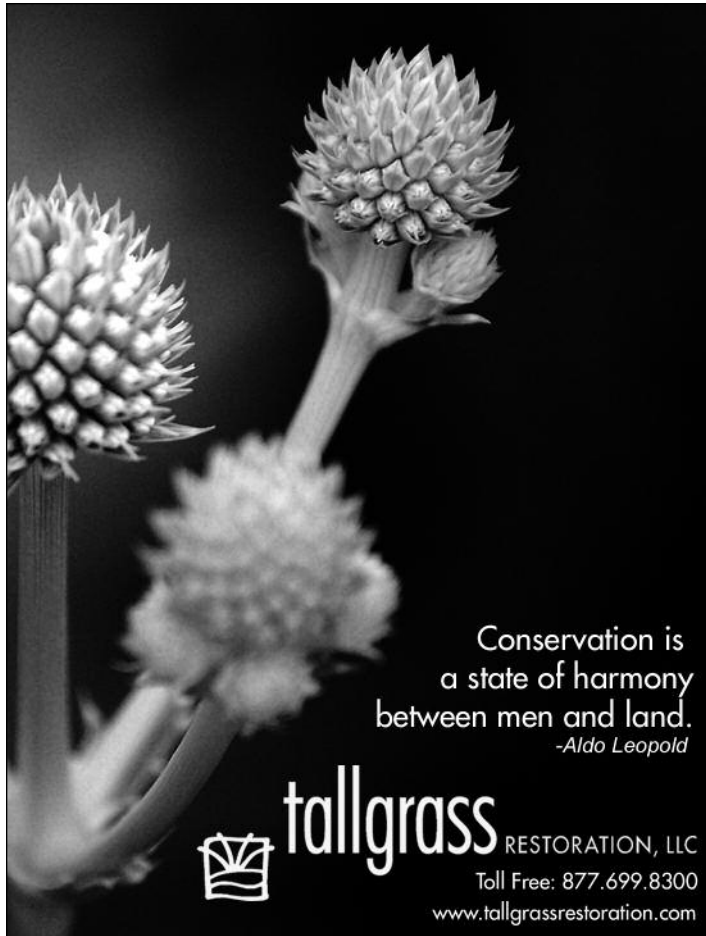
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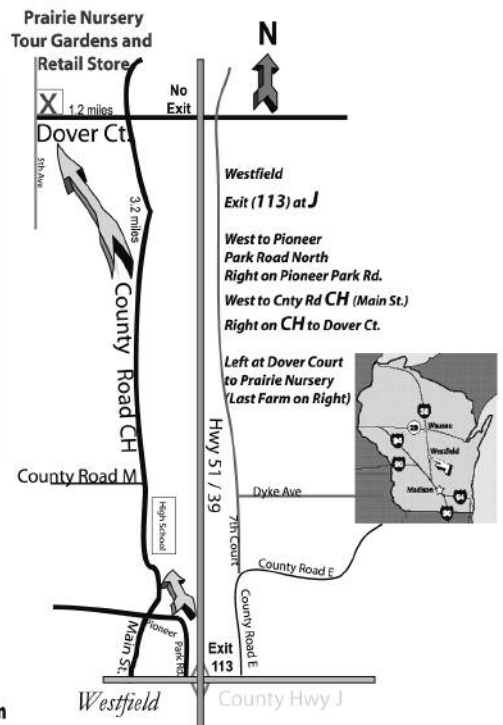
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For information about starting a chapter in your area, go to www.for-wild.org/chapters.html.

Welcome to our newest Wild Ones chapter. Brainerd Chapter, in Minnesota, chartered with seventeen members. **Eleanor Burkett** is Charter President.



Yellow-shafted flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). Photo by Scott Somershoe, USGS.

Need: a teachable moment

By Janice Cook

"Grandma," she asks indignantly, "Why do you keep this stuff on your kitchen counter? The bugs in these jars are from last summer."

"Then I guess that we will need to collect some new ones."

"But why do you have bugs, and egg shells, and jars with feathers on the counter? You don't need them to cook with."

"You're right. I don't need them for cooking. I need them because they're interesting, and because they make you ask questions."

"Why do you want me to ask questions?"

"Because they lead you to look and see. Take a look at this feather. It's a small one, but it tells me a story. See the yellow shaft. To me that's the giveaway. I know it's from a yellow-shafted flicker. It's like initials or a clue to its name." We go into the other room to find a picture.

"See, it's in the woodpecker family, but it doesn't spend much time drumming on trees or making holes in the bark like some woodpeckers. It finds insects on the ground, like ground beetles and grasshoppers. And it eats fruits, nuts, and berries, even poison ivy berries."

Why do you want me to ask questions? Because they lead you to look and see.

"Oh, Grandma, they wouldn't eat poison ivy!" and she's gone.

Another day we find a wood thrush. It had flown into a window, and now lies dead on the sidewalk. She pets the speckled breast with one finger. "Grandma, it is oh so soft. I want to keep it."

"Well, that'll be a problem. It's dead. It'll get insects and germs."

"But, Grandma," she counters, "I need it."

I believe her.

So we wrap the bird in plastic, and put it in the freezer. It is in and out of the freezer for days before she takes it home. Mom and Dad have reservations, but see the need for this delicate soft body. It is several days before the bird gets buried. She shows me the place in the flower bed. We talk about its beauty.

These teachable moments are like planting seeds – the kind that must be scarified by living through several winters; the kind that put out roots slowly, and don't show above ground for two or three years. It takes time and patience. ■

Chapter Notes

Louisville Metro (KY) Chapter President **Rick Harned** tells us that they recently celebrated "ten years of work to turn Wildflower Woods from a vine-covered hell to a woodland park showplace. The trails are clear, and there are Dutchman's breeches, squirrel corn, and mayapples everywhere. The trilliums are coming up well. We did find some pretty serious infestations of garlic mustard while removing vines, bush honeysuckle seedlings, and garlic mustard." Ever diligent and dedicated to the project, members celebrated with gloves, clippers, and trash bags.

Seed sharing is also going on. Rick reported that member **Janet Gebler** offered green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*) seeds, as well as Jack-in-the-pulpit (*A. triphyllum*) seeds to members. The seeds will be available at the chapter's Annual Meeting on November 10, at the Louisville Nature Center. For more information about propagating the green dragon plants from seed, go to www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=ARDR3. What a distinctive shade plant to add to one's native plant garden.

Seed Collection, Division and Propagation – **Ann Bowe**, President of the Lexington (KY) Chapter wrote: "Buying native plants can be an expensive, though very worthwhile, endeavor. One way to save money is to have friends give you plants – our Wild Ones Plant Swap was a wonderful opportunity, for those who were able to attend. Another way is to gather your own seeds to grow plants from seed. Members joined Mary Carol Cooper and Connie May, native-plant professionals, to learn about seed collection, plant division, and propagation in a hands-on workshop this past October. We all got our hands dirty together." ■

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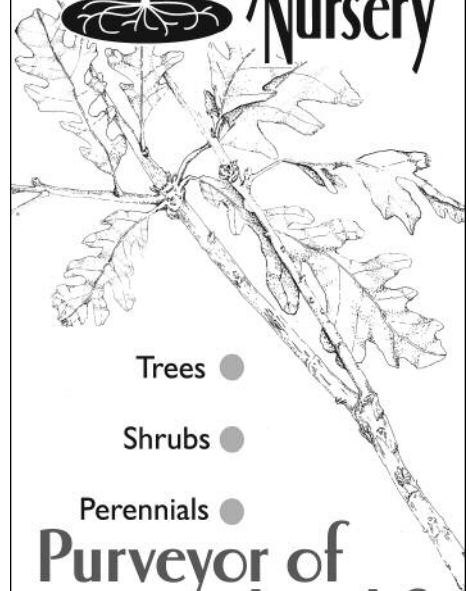
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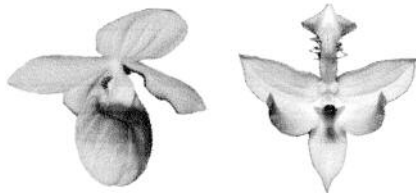
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Linda Grishaber donated her artistic talents for the Wild Ones traveling display. **Laura Ramseier** donated wild petunia plants. **Donna VanBuecken** donated the book *Vanishing Wilderness*. **Jeff Walters** donated two hundred and ninety prairie plants removed from his home landscaping. **Ron Wolff** of Lake Shore Cleaners, Inc., donated services and materials toward the construction of the water pavers at the front entrance. **Rich Winter** donated labor removing buckthorn. **Don Borsos, Gordon Brown, Dave Edwards, Donna VanBuecken, and Sharon Ziebert** donated labor developing gardens and water features.

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Citizens Natural Resources Association donated toward the reproduction of the "Wild About Wildflowers" video in DVD format.

Citizens Natural Resources Association donated toward the publication of Janice Stiefel's "The Inside Story" articles.

Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley donated toward the reproduction of the "Wild About Wildflowers" video in DVD format.