

a voice  
for the natural  
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# Wild Ones®

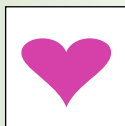
NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

## JOURNAL

JULY/AUGUST 2010  
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### inside

Notes from the President:  
I love Wild Ones. 2



What direction Wild Ones.  
3

Next Generation: Touch Me Not. 4

Invasives on the Horizon: Covering the  
ground with invasives. 5

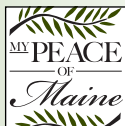
Native Plants: Beyond the  
bird feeder – round and  
round the mulberry tree. 6



Grapevine: 'Gotcha,' DNA  
barcoding of plants,  
superweeds, spring  
creep. 8

Wild Ones photo contest. 9

Seeds for Education: Woodland-themed  
education garden, SUNY  
Orange, Middletown, NY.  
10



My piece of Maine. 12

Rain barrels. An old idea gets new life. 14

Singing to the lake. 15

WILD Center wish list. 16

Chapter notes. 16

WILD Center Update: Rain  
garden. 18



Business and Affiliate  
Organization Members. 19

The Meeting Place: Chapter contact  
information. 20

Mark your calendars: Upcoming board  
meetings, conferences,  
etc. 23



Thank You. Back cover.

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



Photo © 2009, Mark Turner, turnerphotographics.com.

## The Passing of Lorrie Otto

By Jenny Wilson

I was not her friend. It makes me sad that we were not close, as I would love to pay my last respects. I met Lorrie quite serendipitously. I was a mere child, working as a clerk at a local camera store on the east side of Milwaukee in the early '70s. One day, a striking woman with long flowing grey hair, a beautiful blue sun dress, and a floppy brimmed hat came in with film to be processed. When the order returned and she came in to retrieve the prints, she took the time to go through each one, sorting them into piles of "good" and "need to reshoot." I watched her and answered her questions about photography, exposures, composition, and the limitations of her particular camera.

I wondered why this woman was so concerned with taking pictures of weeds. Being particularly talented at putting my foot in my mouth, I asked "Why weeds?" Yeow! She smiled sweetly, and I spent the next hour or so learning just who Lorrie Otto was as she lectured me, in a most elegant and nurturing way, about life, love, nature, community, DDT – and how these are not weeds. She expanded into the stories about her struggles with ignorance in small suburban government, and how this was a movement that was not going to go away. I listened carefully, but my post-adolescent ears only heard a portion of the righteous and universal truths this sage was sharing. She sensed my doubt and youthful inability to integrate what I was hearing, and invited me to her home in Bayside to see for myself.

It was a life-changing visit. I knew the moment I stepped from my car I was in a different world. She had tea already made when I arrived, and we spent another few hours going through her yard, and her teaching me about each plant that she had lovingly either transplanted there or birthed with seed by her own hand. The yard was beautiful under the shade of old trees matrixed with sunny spots allowing a diversity of plants, ferns, and mosses growing among rocks and garden statuary. It was there the real meaning of the new Earth Day, environmentalism, personal dedication, community, and all that other good stuff took hold on my developing psyche, and anchored it in a lifetime of altruistic giving and seeking.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

## I ♥ Wild Ones



Those of you who listen to Garrison Keillor know that we here in Minnesota are not comfortable showing strong emotions. I once changed the words in a poem I was to read at a friend's wedding from "love" to "like" (though at the actual event I did muster the courage to say the real L-word).

So, at risk of being accused of showing over-the-top exuberance, I just want to say before I go: I really, really, really like Wild Ones. Not our federal tax exempt ID # (handy as it is), but the people, what we stand for, and all the important things we do. Think about it: With what other group can you vent your hatred of invasive garlic mustard, with steam coming out of your ears, talk about how much you *love* Juneberry trees, or share the excitement of finding insects nibbling in your yard and rest assured that the response will be understanding nods, not just strange looks?

I mention "before I go" because, come August, it will be time for a new national board president to take over the typewriter. When I accepted the nomination for president three years ago I half-joked that I was running on a platform of term limits, having learned that the two presidents before me served for six years each. When we did adopt term limits for board officers, three years sounded like plenty of time to accomplish many goals. As usual, time flies when you're having fun, and I find three years was more like just enough time to get a good start.

*I want to say before I go: I really, really, really like Wild Ones.*

My highest priority has been to optimize our marketing efforts. Influencing others to try a new way of landscaping is a key part of our mission. Marketing Wild Ones membership is also critical to our mission: No members, no Wild Ones. I started a marketing committee that got great advice from members, and is now getting input through a small contract with a professional marketing firm. As soon as the marketing plan is finished, the web site update contractor and web-site committee will restart their efforts as well. I plan to continue with the marketing committee to ensure that plans move from the pondering stage into effective implementation.

My second goal has been to make better use of committees. I had less success than I had hoped, but feel that I am leaving the board with a good start on a new system for organizing national committees and providing clearer direction for all board members. Several of the ideas I used in preparing the new organizational chart were from Director Tim Lewis of the Rock River (IL) Chapter. Tim, who has accepted nomination to serve as the next president, is the perfect person to keep the ball rolling on this.

Thank you all for your support. I look forward to continuing to grow with you, and hope *you* grow to (L-word) Wild Ones, too. \*  
Carol Andrews, Wild Ones National President (president@for-wild.org)

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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**WILD Center Update** When it rains it pours. Where does all that clean, soft water go after it pitter patters on your rooftop? A rain barrel, such as this one installed near the front door of the WILD Center, can help put some of that runoff to good use. See story on page 14 for more details. \*

## What Direction Wild Ones

By Neil Diboll

*Over the course of the past year, much discussion regarding how to market more effectively Wild Ones, and landscaping with native-plant communities in general, has taken place within the national board.*

*A number of committees are working on implementing the outcomes of the discussions. Some members like to be well-informed of these developments, while others are pleased that someone else is handling the effort. It's fair to say that the fall in membership numbers that occurred in 2009 was one factor that precipitated the discussion, as it has a major effect on our budgets. To give members a broad idea of some thoughts*

*under discussion, here is a synopsis of suggestions for discussion submitted by Honorary Director Neil Diboll. It was originally written last October, and updated this month. If you have thoughts or comments you'd like to add, please feel free to e-mail Carol Andrews (our co-chair of the marketing committee) at carol\_andrews@hotmail.com, or call her at 218/529-8204.*



### Raising Public Awareness Regarding the Benefits of Native Plants

- Expand the Wild Ones vision beyond native plants to "native plant communities." This includes birds, butterflies, invertebrates, small mammals (hawk and owl food), and wildlife in general. This will expand the mission of Wild Ones beyond native plants to entire ecosystems, a natural fit for our ecologically oriented organization.
- Invite television stations, newspapers, and other media to visit members' native plant gardens, prairies, woodlands, etc. at various times of the year. Make sure that the media are contacted and encouraged to come to Wild Ones garden tours, conferences, and other events that provide valuable information to the public on how to garden "In Harmony with Nature."
- Hold special events open to the public to provide information on natural landscaping and the attendant benefits of saving money and time. Consider going beyond the annual conference and creating more mainstream outdoor events, complete with food, music, and a plant sale open to the public. Make sure the media is informed of the event, and encourage television and radio stations to attend and publicize the events.
- Expand the Wild Ones web site to provide more information on topics of interest to mainstream gardeners, including gardening for wildlife, low-maintenance lawns, and case studies of converting lawns to native landscapes with prairie plants, shrubs, etc.

### Convince the General Public of the Benefits of Native Plants

- Provide examples of tidy, "urban-appropriate" native landscapes to show people how they can replace turf with wildlife havens, rain gardens, and native perennial borders. We will garner more success by adapting the product (native plants) to existing culturally acceptable formats, such as border gardens, island plantings, etc.
- Provide solid numbers on the cost- and time-savings that can be reaped by installing native-plant communities as an alternative to turf.
- Provide information on chemical-free landscapes using native plants. The public is strongly motivated by product safety and concerns about their health. Native landscapes are a natural fit for people who want to reduce their exposure to chemicals and toxins. "Throw away your chemicals, and save money while you save the planet!"

### Extend the Use of Native Plants Into Agriculture and Public Spaces

- Provide scientific information on improved pollination of economically important crops such as fruits, nuts, cranberries, etc. when native-plant communities are incorporated as an essential part of the agricultural operation. If the decline of the non-native honeybee continues unabated, alternative pollinators will become increasingly important to the economics of crops that depend upon pollination for good yields.
- Provide scientific data on pest control by beneficial insects that inhabit native-plant communities. Many parasitic wasps that help control various insect pests are supported by native prairies, and can improve crop yields by reducing pest damage.
- Provide information on the reduction in runoff and siltation from agricultural fields, improved water quality, and increased wildlife habitat that results from planting filter strips of native prairies and shrub communities along ditches, streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes.

### Expand Our Internet Presence to Spread the Wild Ones' Mission

- The world is migrating from paper to electronic communication, and Wild Ones has increased its visibility on the web in recent years. However, there is plenty of room to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

# Touch Me Not

By Barb Bray



Closeup view of stinging nettles (*Urticaceae*) leaf. Photo: Kószó József.

Imagine you are walking down a shady trail through cool moist woods. A canopy of maples and cottonwoods spider-web across the blue sky above you, casting light shade from newly opened leaves on to the carpet of woodland wildflowers below. Wild geraniums, with their delicate light purple flowers, beckon to you from the edge of the trail to touch them as they dance in a breeze. You reach down excitedly, but fail to notice the plant growing with it – *poison ivy*. Suddenly you jerk your hand away from the flower, hoping you were quick enough to avoid the itch-causing oil. Your peaceful nature walk has suddenly taken a detour into the “wild animals” of the plant world – plants that claw you, scratch your legs, sting your skin, or in the case of poison ivy, make you scratch yourself. Let’s meet a few of them – carefully.

Wood nettle (*Laportea canadensis*) is a perennial about 3-feet tall, with attractive green leaves. When the leaves first emerge they are hairy and wrinkled, but they eventually become smoother with age. Look, but don’t touch. As the name implies, it’s a member of the nettle family (*Urticaceae*), and is covered with stinging hairs. I read an interesting article that suggested wood nettles don’t work well in a garden because of their stinging hairs and spreading habit, but they could be used “possibly as a privacy barrier.”<sup>1</sup> Wow. Imagine a barrier that punishes people who might “jaywalk” across your lawn. Maybe such a barrier could also include prickly ash (*Zanthoxylum*

*americanum*), which is covered with tiny thorns. Walk through a patch of these shrubs, and you will feel like you just came out of a cat fight – and lost. Are there any takers for a privacy hedge of wood nettles and prickly ash?

Now you are walking out of the woods into a sunlit area. Here you can

*You jerk your hand away, hoping you were quick enough to avoid the itch-causing oil.*

find Br’er Rabbit’s favorite hiding spot – the brambles. My favorite bramble is wild black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*). Even my daughter loves it, and she can spot it a mile away. The purplish arching canes covered with prickles bring thoughts of sweet raspberries to eat in the summertime. It takes patience and care to avoid the thorns while picking berries from the plant. Thank goodness we haven’t toppled into it yet as we strain to reach the best berries. Deer, on the other hand, seem pretty good at eating tender leaves from the tips of raspberry plants. I once watched a fawn carefully strip all the new leaves off a raspberry cane near my garden. It was amazing. Woodchucks also like to hide in the brambles. This year one has taken up residence in the middle of my patch, and I imagine it is good protection from coyotes and other predators.

Finally, you head back home to the safety of your yard, but even there the “wild animals” of the plant world can reach you. Birds spread berries of poison ivy and black raspberries, and new plants sprout up in your garden. Or maybe you have a slightly wild corner in your yard like mine. Here is where the tall neighbor of wood nettles can live. Spreading by thick rhizomes, a patch of stinging nettles (*Urtica dioica*) can tower 7-feet high. If you don’t recognize it, you *will* after your first encounter with the stinging hairs. The leaves and stems are covered with them, and they act like little hypodermic needles injecting several chemicals like acetylcholine, histamine, and formic acid into your skin. Soon your skin starts to tingle and burn. This lasts anywhere from a few minutes to several hours. Interestingly, legends tell of Roman soldiers in Britain purposely flogging themselves with stinging nettles. They did this to stimulate blood circulation in the skin in an attempt to stay warm.<sup>2</sup> Sometimes I run my fingers into stinging nettle seedlings accidentally while pulling weeds. My fingers never feel warm, but I do notice a sensation of pain.

In spite of the “dangers” you might encounter with plants like those mentioned above, they are important in our woods, fields, and other wild spots. Poison ivy provides berries for migrating birds, prickly ash supports giant swallowtail butterflies, nettles are larval food for red admiral butterflies (and others), and black raspberries are yummy for many creatures. We can appreciate these plants even if we can’t touch them. They are truly like wild animals decked out with claws and sharp teeth. Remember to look from a safe distance, and “touch me not.” \*

#### References:

1. [www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/wood\\_nettle.htm](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/wood_nettle.htm).
- 2 “Stinging Nettle: History and Uses” by Bruce Bennett. See the online article at [www.gardenwiseonline.ca/gw/plants/2009/05/08](http://www.gardenwiseonline.ca/gw/plants/2009/05/08).



Foliage of prickly ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum*). Photo © Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org.

# Covering the Ground With Invasives

By Janet Allen

## INVASIVES ON THE HORIZON

Natural-landscaping advocates rejoice when they see homeowners reducing the size of their lawns. This isn't always good news, though. Back in my conventional landscaping days, I got rid of lawn in places where turf grass didn't grow well. And what did I plant instead? Ground covers – the kinds readily available at garden centers, and by donations from other gardeners.

Many years ago when we first moved to our house, I discovered growing here and there a vine with pretty blue flowers. It was periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), a European native, also called myrtle. I gathered every plant I could find around the yard to fill in a scruffy area in the back. I succeeded. Then I learned that this vine invades natural areas, forming a mat that excludes native plants. I became aware of it growing along roadsides, and extending into woodlands.

I recall how pleased I had been to find a whole flat of English ivy (*Hedera helix*) at the garden center for a good price. I soon had planted the beginnings of a green carpet along my side fence. Long after it had established itself, I learned that this plant, native to parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa, is an invasive species in most of the United States. It's especially harmful since it not only can form a dense mat that excludes native plants, but can also climb trees, weakening or killing them by blocking light or adding so much weight that they're susceptible to blowing over in storms. It's also a reservoir for bacterial leaf scorch that can affect trees such as elms, oaks, and maples. And besides spreading vegetatively, it can spread to new areas by seed, courtesy of birds that eat its berries.

I also had planted Japanese pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis*) under bushes and trees, and in areas where nothing else seemed to grow. Is pachysandra invasive? It does not as consistently appear on invasive plant lists as do plants such as periwinkle or English ivy. Some areas, however, such as Virginia and Pennsylvania, do report that pachysandra has appeared in natural areas, crowding out native species.

Completing the sorry history of my ground-covering past are sweet woodruff

(*Galium odoratum*), bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans*), and dead nettle (*Lamium galeobdolon*). Ground covers such as these seem to be in the same category as pachysandra – not currently appearing on official invasive-plant lists, but often on watch lists, since they're suspected of invading nearby natural areas. By dumb luck, I never happened to acquire the invasive goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*), a native of Europe and Asia, also known as bishop's weed or snow-on-the-mountain. I don't envy my fellow gardeners as they report their endless battles to eradicate this plant.

### What to do?

So here I find myself – a native plant advocate – enemy of invasive plants – with a yard free of the obvious invasives like burning bush, but finding the remnants of my past lurking at ground level. What to do? Given the difficulty of removing these plants, and the cost of replacing them, I've established some priorities. My first priority is to eradicate those plants, such as English ivy, officially identified as invading natural areas and capable of reaching new areas by seed. I'm close to conquering my ivy by having repeatedly pulled it out, trying to leave no bits behind. (I've chosen not to use herbicides, though they would be effective.)

My next priority is to remove plants such as periwinkle, identified as invading nearby natural areas by vegetative means. Though in my urban/suburban area these ground covers may pose no immediate danger, they do silently promote their own use every time someone admires their pretty flowers and neat growing habit. (Those fortunate enough to live near natural areas have a greater responsibility to eradicate them.) Instead, in my limited space, I want to offer the opportunity for people to see examples of our beautiful native plants, as well as to provide native wildlife with the benefits of plants with which they have evolved.

Though it's a slow process, I've been acquiring native plants such as the native pachysandra (*Pachysandra procumbens*), also known as Allegheny spurge, with the goal of covering the ground with natives instead.

Convincing people to plant something



English ivy (*Hedera helix*) climbing a pine tree. Photo: Chuck Barger, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org.

other than these popular ground covers won't be easy. Even as native plant societies and state departments of natural resources report their invasion into natural areas, most university horticulture departments and cooperative extensions are promoting most of them as fine ground covers. And all conventional garden centers sell them. In fact, the reasons for their invasive tendencies are the same reasons for their popularity. They're attractive, easy to grow, and form a mat that excludes other plants, providing that green, uniform look characteristic of the turf grass they're replacing.

As Wild Ones, we can provide a different example. Instead of planting "ground covers," we can instead cover the ground with native plants, either used alone for a conventional uniform look, or better yet, mixed together for diversity and to expand the public's idea of what a landscape can be. \*

### NATIVE ALTERNATIVES

Wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*)  
Ferns such as New York fern  
(*Thelypteris noveboracensis*)  
Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*)  
Creeping phlox (*Phlox stolonifera*)  
Barren strawberry (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*)  
Foam flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)  
Alumroot (*Heuchera americana*)

## Round and Round the Mulberry Tree Beyond the bird feeder: Gardening for Birds and Other Wildlife

By Mariette Nowak

Bring both berries and birds to your garden with a native mulberry tree. There are two species native to North America – the red mulberry (*Morus rubra*) and the Texas mulberry (*Morus microphylla*). The red mulberry is a handsome tree found throughout most of the eastern United States, west to South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Texas, and is native to a total of 33 states. Unfortunately, this valuable tree is an endangered species in Connecticut and Massachusetts, a threatened species in Michigan and Vermont, and an imperiled species in Ontario. In addition, it is declining in the Midwest.

The Texas mulberry is a small tree or shrub, and is widespread in the southwestern U.S. It is native not only Texas, but also to Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

There are also two non-native invasive mulberry species. White mulberry (*Morus alba*), found throughout the U.S. except for Alaska, Arizona, and Nevada, threatens the survival of our native red mulberry. Paper-mulberry, (*Broussonetia papyrifera*), occurs in 28 states in the Northeast, Southeast, and Midwest, and is invasive in natural areas. For more information on these two species, see “Additional Notes” below.

### Value for Birds

Red mulberry is a sure-fire way to bring every fruit-eating bird in the nearby vicinity to visit your yard. A full 50 species of birds are known to feed on mulberries, and they are a favorite food of over 30 species. These include thrushes, robins, waxwings, vireos, orioles, cardinals, and finches, among others. Although the birds will feed on other mulberries, the berries of the native red mulberry are preferred by them. The fruiting period is from June to August, so the berries provide nourishing summer food for fruit-eating birds.

A number of insects also feed on the red mulberry and, in turn, are likely to provide good bird food.

### Other Wildlife Values

Many small mammals feed on mulberries, including fox, opossums, raccoons, skunks, squirrels, and native wood rats. Deer browse on the twigs and foliage, while beaver consume the bark.

Insects feeding on red mulberry leaves include several scale insects and the Com-

stock mealy bug. Root-knot nematodes sometimes damage the tree’s roots. The larvae of the American plum borer and the mulberry borer attack the twigs and stems. Red mulberry is also the host plant for the caterpillars of the mourning cloak butterfly.

### Landscape Notes

Red mulberry is a handsome shade tree, growing to 50 feet. It branches low from a short main trunk with dense branching, creating a beautiful form that is about as wide as it is tall. It prefers moist areas such as floodplains, mesic savannas, and rich woods, but it will tolerate dry areas. Avoid planting the tree near sidewalks, sitting areas, clotheslines, or driveways, since the fallen fruits and bird droppings will be a nuisance.

Texas mulberry is a shorter tree, reaching 25 feet, and similar to the red mulberry, it is as wide as it is tall. It grows along creeks and in canyons, preferring dry, well-drained locations. Its fruits are edible, but sour.

For both species, sexes may occur on separate plants or the same tree may have some branches with male flowers and some with female flowers.

### Also of Interest

The red mulberry grows throughout my neighborhood in southeastern Wisconsin, and fruits prolifically. Its berries resemble blackberries, and different trees have berries of various quality – some more delicious than others. Not all the berries on a tree ripen at once, which means I can harvest the berries over a month’s time in early summer. My family and I eat some berries immediately, fresh or in pies. The rest I freeze. Although I harvest many for our uses, there are abundant berries higher on the trees for the birds. (I pick the berries, but some people harvest them by laying a sheet below the tree, and shaking off the ripe berries. This does not work well for me since our trees grow on slopes.) Be forewarned – your hands will be dyed purple – but you’ll find the delicious taste of the mulberries worth the temporary stains.

The American Indians used the red mulberry for food and medicinal uses. In addition, Choctaw Indian women spun thread from the fibrous bark of young mulberry shoots and wove cloaks for themselves.



Leaf of the red mulberry (*Morus rubra*). Photo © 2002, Steven J. Baskauf.

### Additional Notes – Related Invasives

White mulberry is an invasive species, which was introduced during colonial times in an unsuccessful attempt to establish a silkworm industry, and it has been spreading ever since. Along with cultivars like the Russian mulberry (*Morus alba* var. *tartarica*), it has also been promoted by the horticultural industry. The white mulberry readily hybridizes with red mulberry, and could eventually replace and eliminate it. In addition, it spreads a harmful root disease to the red mulberry. The paper-mulberry, widely planted as an ornamental tree in the Southeast, is invasive in natural areas.

Asian black mulberry has been sighted in three states. And (*Morus nigra*) has been spotted in three states: Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky. It has not yet been noted as an invasive. Morphologically, it is virtually indistinguishable from the native red mulberry (*M. rubra*).

To eliminate these non-natives, pull or dig out small trees, as I did when I discovered a white mulberry in my yard. Cut and treat the stumps of larger trees with an herbicide. Be sure to make a careful identification before removing the non-natives, since it can be difficult to distinguish between red mulberry and the non-native look-alikes. A careful look at the leaves can be helpful. The red mulberry has evenly hairy undersides on its leaves. The white mulberry’s leaves are hairless below, except for a few hairs on the midvein beneath. The paper-mulberry has densely gray-hairy leaves. The fruits of red mulberry are dark red-to-purple berries, while the fruits of white mulberry may be red or white. The paper-mulberry has reddish purple to orange fruits \*.

expand and diversify our digital outreach. The reach of the web is limited only by the confines of the planet and one's connectivity.

- Send out colorful e-mail blasts with seasonal articles and updates targeted to members' interests. This could be an adaptation of the *Wild Ones Journal*, with additional information that piques members' interest throughout the year. It could also be used for fund-raising drives, publicity for meetings and symposia, plant rescues, garden walks – the list is endless.

#### Join Forces with Others

- Explore potential alliances with larger, like-minded organizations such as Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Whitetails Unlimited, etc. A set of loose alliances, focused around the sharing of information may be best, since some Wild Ones members may not share all the values of these other organizations. Wild Ones can provide valuable information on establishing native plants, and restoring native-plant communities to these groups' members.
- Explore alliances with urban-oriented organizations interested in improving urban ecology and beautifying cityscapes, such as community gardens, parks departments, etc.
- Provide information to traditional sources of gardening information for the public, such as university extensions, master gardeners, garden clubs, etc.
- Contact local parks departments and provide them with information on the ecological and economic benefits associated with native landscapes. Provide hard numbers on how much money they can save with natural landscapes to help convince these increasingly budget-conscious entities of how native plants can help them.

#### General Comments

The above suggestions are submitted for consideration based upon the goals outlined in "Wild Ones Vision and Values – September 2009 Draft." If Wild Ones truly wishes to reach the general public and expand its mission beyond a small core group of native-plant devotees, it will require reaching out to other groups, organizations, and individuals that are not as passionate about native plants as our present members. The result of this outreach could result in a change in the general orientation of the "average" Wild Ones member, and could potentially alter the culture of the organization. This may be an unwelcome change to some, and may alienate certain long-time members who remember "how it used to be."

For instance, most gardeners include non-native plants in their gardens, including many present Wild Ones members. One of the wonderful things about Wild Ones is that it is composed of caring, tolerant individuals who help one another with gardening with native plants. It is not driven by ideology or the "purity" of one's garden. With such a "big tent" orientation, it would seem logical that Wild Ones could attract many more members.

One possible obstacle to attracting more members may simply be the organization's name: Most people seek order and stability in their lives and landscapes, so being a "Wild One" may not be consistent with their primary aspirations. Their view may be that our organization is filled with little old ladies in tennis shoes that encourage mice and rats in their yards, along with crazy people that just want to burn their landscapes. Many people will make a judgment about an organization based on the name alone – without learning what it really does or promotes.

Ultimately, the direction taken by Wild Ones will depend upon the type of organization the members want it to be: A small group of devoted nativeplant enthusiasts, or a larger group with broader appeal that

### Changes Coming to Wild Ones? Make Sure Your Voice Is Heard. Let Us Know What You Think About All This.

As we begin moving forward in gaining new members, and possibly remaking Wild Ones, we're interested to know what you think. New member or old member – organization officer or not – If you have ideas for helping us get out the word about native plants, natural landscaping, and about Wild Ones, please let us know. Also, let us know what you think about some of the ideas put forth in this article. Should Wild Ones consider a name change? Should we consider expanding our mission beyond native plants and natural landscaping – opening up to horticulturists and non-native plantings – in order to grow the organization? What's more important to you? "Purity" or a "big tent"? Any thoughts you have, we'd like to hear it, and possibly publish your thoughts in a future issue of the *Journal*. Write up a note, an article, or a letter, and send to the *Journal* editor at [Journal@for-wild.org](mailto:Journal@for-wild.org).

attracts people with a wide range of gardening interests.

Presently, Wild Ones is a wonderful organization of native-plant aficionados with a fairly narrow appeal to the general public. If the mission of Wild Ones is to be expanded, it will require working with and accepting a more diverse audience that may not consider native plants to be the only options for their landscapes. This could lead to cultural conflicts and power struggles within the organization. Sometimes smaller is better. However, if you want to get the word out to the general public, as a wise man once said, "You gotta go where the sinners are." \*

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# Grapevine

By Maryann Whitman

## 'Gotcha' by Dorothy Boyer

In the last "Grapevine," a squib appeared under the title "Preserving biodiversity: An interesting twist." It was noted that, "Cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*) is the only known host plant of a moth (*Eucosma*), whose larvae feed voraciously on its rapidly growing terminal structures."

Wild Ones member Dorothy Boyer tried to pursue this subject, and found that I had given the wrong species of *Eucosma* – it should have been *giganteana*. Dorothy explained that this was important information to her, as something had been feeding on the "rapidly growing terminal structures" of her cup plants, with serious effects. She sends this reference site, <http://nathist.sdstate.edu/eucosma.html>, to show the damage wrought by the larva of *Eucosma giganteana*. For photos of the open wing of an adult, see #3098 at <http://mothphotographersgroup.msstate.edu/TG/Plate18a.shtml>.

## DNA bar coding of plants

In much the same way that a supermarket scanner uses the black lines in a bar code to identify its wares, small snippets of plant DNA may be coded and used to identify plants. A team of North Carolina researchers suspected that a fern sold in commercial nurseries might not be what the labels said it was, so they took a specimen to the lab to analyze its DNA. This led to the discovery that plants marketed as American natives may actually be exotics from other parts of the world.

As partial absolution, Kathleen Pryer, associate professor of biology at Duke University offered this explanation: "Ferns don't have flowers or fruits to help with identification, like many other plants. Fern species are particularly hard to contain in the close quarters of a greenhouse, where their spores can drift into neighboring pots. After a while, who's to know whether a plant is what the label says it is?" said Pryer. Eric Schuettpelz, another member of the team added: "Probably 50 percent of the plants I've collected from botanical gardens and greenhouses were incorrectly identified."

Since DNA bar coding was first proposed in 2003, the technique has caught on more quickly in animals than plants. A standardized botanical bar code remains elusive, partly because of the greater com-

plexity of plant genetics, but also due to ongoing debate over which combination of genes will work reliably for the more than 400,000 species of land plants. For those in the business of buying and selling exotic plants, DNA bar coding could help identify harmful or invasive species, or prevent the sale of species which are rare or endangered. "This might eventually be able to help prevent people from taking things out of [or into *ed.*] countries illegally," said Pryer.

Some scientists foresee a future in which biologists, customs officials, and port inspectors can feed a piece of leaf or root into a handheld DNA scanner, which will then sequence a handful of genetic markers, and spit out the species name. Meanwhile, let's concentrate on buying plants of local genotype from local producers, whose ID skills we trust.

## Superweeds

The fears of many have been validated. The goose that might have laid golden eggs for a long time has been gutted. Monsanto's discovery of the herbicide glyphosate had the potential, given wise use, to be a boon to both farmers, who deal with weeds, and restorationists, who deal with invasives, for decades to come.

With the advent of Monsanto's genetically modified crops that could withstand the application of Roundup, farmers sprayed so much Roundup that the weeds it was meant to control, quickly evolved to survive it. "What we're talking about here is Darwinian evolution in fast-forward," Mike Owen, a weed scientist at Iowa State University said.

Farmers are now battling Roundup-resistant weeds in their fields, and wondering why they bought into Monsanto's technology in the first place. For a recap on Roundup go to [www.for-wild.org/download/roundupmyth.pdf](http://www.for-wild.org/download/roundupmyth.pdf).

## Spring creep

As verbs these words are innocent enough, but as nouns together they represent a serious problem. People who pay attention to such things tell us that in the spring of 2010 natural events ran approximately 10 days ahead of schedule.

Jake Weltzin, the executive director of the U.S.A. National Phenology Network, and an ecologist at the U.S. Geological Survey, found that an earlier spring creates

"mismatches" when some plants bud earlier, and the animals that depend on them have not adjusted their internal clocks. For example, bees might fly to an area that provides habitat for plants they historically pollinate, only to find those plants already have bloomed. Weltzin says many insects, including caterpillars, are emerging earlier, too, but some birds have maintained their traditional migratory schedule. As a result, birds are arriving after the insects have metamorphosed into butterflies or other inedible forms.

Other scientists are finding that spring creep is affecting vegetation in New England. Charles Davis, an assistant professor of evolutionary biology at Harvard University, together with researchers at Boston University, discovered that in Concord, Massachusetts, climate change is especially harmful to certain groups of native plants linked by common ancestry.

Using data taken by Henry David Thoreau, Davis and his colleagues published a study in 2008 that found native plants that have maintained their historic flowering schedule tend to be the "losers." These groups include many of the area's most "charismatic" wildflowers: Orchids, roses, lilies, and dogwoods. Dr. Davis said that about 30 percent of the native species Thoreau documented in the 1850s are extinct in the area. Another 30 percent are so scarce that they likely will disappear.

Davis and his co-authors published a follow-up study in January that found invasive plants in Concord that flower earlier with the early arrival of spring are, by and large, the "winners." Davis believes the fact that they can adjust their flowering time to changing temperatures may give them an edge, allowing them to flourish and spread at the expense of native plants.

These findings, which Davis says likely hold true across New England and possibly the Mid-Atlantic, are significant.

Dr. Davis speaks as a classic, responsible scientist, couching his terms carefully, referring only to the ecoregion his study considered. It is very likely that his observations also hold true, to some degree, in all ecoregions of the country.

For more information on global climate change visit the Union of Concerned Scientists' site at [www.ucsusa.org](http://www.ucsusa.org). \*





## PHOTO CONTEST

# HOW DO YOU MAKE A CONEFLOWER SAY CHEESE?

The annual Wild Ones Photo Contest is coming up again, and time is running out to take your best shots and send them in for all to see. The contest gives Wild Ones members a chance to show off their best native-plant and landscape photos – with an emphasis on showing native plants and natural landscapes, and things related to those environments.

As always, you can view the Photo Contest Rules on our web site ([www.for-wild.org/conference/2010/photo/](http://www.for-wild.org/conference/2010/photo/)), but here are a few important changes you should be aware of:

### No More Prints: All Electronic

All photos must be submitted electronically. This means you should send your entries by e-mail to ([photocontestHQ@for-wild.org](mailto:photocontestHQ@for-wild.org)), put your entries on a CD-ROM and drop off at the WILD Center, or put your entries on a CD-ROM and mail to the address below.

### Tightened Definition of “Native”

Unfortunately, every year, some very nice photos are disqualified because the plants in the photos are not native to the location. So, be sure that the plants in your photos are not only true natives, but

are also native to the location where the photos were taken. A photo of a hybrid or cultivar of a native plant is not acceptable. And if you take a photo of a plant in your yard (or elsewhere) be sure the plant species is native to your state.

### Photo Contest Deadline

• Submissions sent by mail must be received no later than August 3. If delivered to the WILD Center, the deadline is 4 p.m. August 3. No exceptions.

• Entries will be judged on technical merit (composition, focus, exposure, color, etc.) by a highly qualified photographer – and will also be judged for appropriateness to category.

• Categories: Flora. Scenery. Pollinators, Insects or Bugs. Child or Children. Residential Landscaping. Non-Residential Landscaping. Wild Ones Activities. Kid's Photos.

**Full Details:** [www.for-wild.org/conference/2010/photo/](http://www.for-wild.org/conference/2010/photo/).

**Mail CD to:** 2010 Wild Ones Photo Contest, Chan Mahanta, 16770 Old Jamestown Road, Florissant, Missouri 63034.

**E-Mail to:** [photocontestHQ@for-wild.org](mailto:photocontestHQ@for-wild.org).



### The Birthday of Lorrie Otto: Still a Time of Giving

In 1996, we established a Seeds for Education fundraising initiative in honor of Lorrie Otto's birthday. Even though she is no longer with us, Lorrie's birthday is still a traditional time of giving to the **Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program**. Please send your gifts by September 5th – in Lorrie's honor – and please remind other members and your chapter boards to send their contributions. \*

## GROW WILD ONES CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We are pleased to let you know that the campaign is off to a great start, and we are adding lots of new members. Thanks to all of you for your hard work. And thank you for the continuing donations in support of our marketing plan. We will recognize everyone at a later date.

Is Wild Ones Really on Facebook? Yes. It's true.

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### Become a Fan of our Wild Ones page, and a Friend of Donna VanBuecken's page.

Stop in at our Wild Ones Facebook page to see what we're saying about natural landscaping. It's easy to become a "fan" of Wild Ones, and then whenever we add something new, you will be among the first to know about it. Our temporary address is:

[www.facebook.com/pages/Wild-Ones/220999458625](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wild-Ones/220999458625)

Our National Director, Donna VanBuecken wants you to become her Facebook friend. This is important, because in the near future she'll be using her Facebook page to make special announcements, and to let you know about other important Wild Ones news.

Don't be left out. Please go to her page, and "friend" her today:

[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000561611806](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000561611806)

## Woodland-Themed Education Garden SUNY Orange: Middletown, New York

By Pat Clancy. Photos by Kirsten Gabrielsen.



After many existing undesirable shrubs and trees were removed and thinned out, native undergrowth was installed.

"It hit me like a thunderbolt," said Michele Paradies, Assistant Professor of Biology at Orange County Community College, Middletown, New York, as she walked toward her office in Hudson Hall. As she passed the beautiful historic buildings on campus, Michelle was inspired with the thought, "Why not have landscapes that complement the nature of this site, using plants indigenous to the area?" There are several period buildings on the campus, although Hudson Hall is one of the newer education buildings added after the former estate was donated and developed as a community college. (OCCC is part of the State University of New York (SUNY) system with campuses in Middletown and Newburgh.)

Thus began a grand plan to surround Hudson Hall with a series of gardens, including a woodland garden, a bird- and butterfly garden, a wetland/pond habitat, and a xeriscape. The use of native-plant materials throughout will be the central theme that links the varied gardens into an educational unit.

A Wild Ones SFE grant was applied for and awarded for the Woodland-Themed Garden project, a 91 x 40 square-foot area of level ground facing north. This shady site will provide habitat for wildlife, and create a peaceful retreat for students, faculty, and staff when not being used for teaching. Other granting sources have been explored, and a campus-wide "Adopt-a-Plant" fund-raiser which raised over \$1,000 over the past year.

Michele Paradies and technical assistant Kirsten Gabrielsen, along with a dedicated group of faculty, developed the design and scope of the project. Kirsten led a team of volunteers consisting of students, faculty, staff, and community members in site preparation. A group of three to five master gardeners from the Cornell Cooperative Extension program assisted Kirsten in these efforts.

The chosen site had great potential as a woodland garden because of its existing native trees and shrubs (*see Appendix A*). In spring of 2008, all non-native plants were removed, revealing the bare-bones structure to be fleshed out with new shrubs and flowering plants. One notable exception was a large Norway maple that was retained because of the shade it provides. The long-range plan calls for its removal as younger trees mature. A finish layer of cardboard and natural mulch was added to the already-suitable soil, and stumps were left in place to provide visual interest and wildlife habitat.

Master gardener Kate Honders, a former faculty member, took a special interest in the project, and donated a large pile of rocks from her own property. These were used to line a winding path through the woodland garden. Ed Doty of Shawangunk Horticulture, one of the project's nursery partners, transported the stones to campus, and later offered valuable advice on the installation of an underground irrigation system. SUNY Orange is in complete accord

with the concept of native landscaping, which is compatible with their sustainability plan. The college purchased two 75-gallon rain barrels to capture runoff from the adjacent building, and feed the watering system.

By fall of that first year, the path was completed, and three plants installed. A teaching circle was created in anticipation of the varied groups that would use the space for learning. Biology students will have easy access to the garden for research associated with specific course work, as well as independent ecological experiments. For example, the master gardeners have expressed interest in using the gardens for teaching. Encore, the college enrichment program for seniors, Kindercollege, the campus day-care facility, Mearns Club, a local birding group, the Orange County Horticultural Society, and nearby schools will all share the benefits of this resource. Signage and laminated information sheets are being developed for use by visitors of all ages.

Planting really got under way in spring, 2009, with about 45 plants being installed in the sunny edge area of the garden. In the fall of that year, more than 50 plants were installed in the shady areas adjacent to Hudson Hall, the irrigation system was finalized, and crushed stone was added in the path to make it handicap accessible. Nursery partner Catskill Native Nursery was the source for most of the plants used in this garden. Proprietor Francis Groeter shared his vast knowledge of native species during the selection process (see Appendix B).



Project coordinators Michele and Kirsten are committed to the success of the Educational Garden Project, and have formed strong relationships with other members of the faculty who share their enthusiasm. Now that the woodland garden is growing and blooming, which will be the next one to be planted? If you would like to follow the progress of the SUNY Orange gardens and see beautiful photos of the plants and people involved, visit their Facebook page, OCCC Educational Gardens. \*

## APPENDIX A

### Existing Trees

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)  
 Devil's walking stick (*Aralia spinosa*)  
 Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)  
 American holly (*Ilex opaca*)  
 Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)  
 Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*)  
 Blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)  
 Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*)  
 Pin oak (*Quercus palustris*)  
 Basswood (*Tilia americana*)

### Existing Shrubs

Gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)  
 Strawberry bush (*Euonymus americanus*)  
 Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)  
 Rhododendron (*Rhododendron sp.*)  
 Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*)  
 Viburnum (*Viburnum sp.*)

## APPENDIX B

One of each shrub, three of each fern/grass, and five of each flowering plant.

### Tree List

Striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*) – donated

### Shrub List

Highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) – minimum of 2  
 Silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*)  
 Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)  
 American elder (*Sambucus nigra ssp. Canadensis* "Adams")

## Flowering Plants List

### Woodland Plants

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)  
 Blue cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*)  
 Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*)  
 Common blue violet (*Viola sororia*)  
 Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)  
 Foam flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)  
 Hairy Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum pubescens*)  
 Heart-leaved aster (*Aster cordifolius*)  
 Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)  
 Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)  
 Perfoliate bellwort (*Uvularia perfoliata*)  
 Pink corydalis (*Corydalis sempervirens*)  
 Plaintain-leaved pussytoes (*Antennaria plantaginifolia*)  
 Purple trillium (*Trillium erectum*)  
 Round-lobed hepatica (*Hepatica nobilis var. obtuse*)  
 Rue anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*)  
 Sessile bellwort (*Uvularia sessilifolia*)  
 Smooth Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum biflorum* – polyploidy form)  
 Spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)  
 Trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*)  
 Wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)  
 Wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*)  
 Wild indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*)  
 Wild leek (*Allium tricoccum*)  
 Wild red columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)  
 Yellow forest violet (*Viola pubescens*)

## Ferns

Hay-scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*)  
 New York fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*)  
 Sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)

## Graminoids – Grasses and Sedges

Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)  
 Sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)

## Vines

Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*)  
 Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

## Marginal (Sun) Plants

Birdfoot violet (*Viola pedata*)  
 Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)  
 Early saxifrage (*Saxifraga virginicensis*)  
 Field pussytoes (*Antennaria neglecta*)  
 Prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia humifusa*)  
 Smooth blue aster (*Aster laevis*)  
 Wild blue lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)

## Grasses

Purple love grass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)

## Ferns

Cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)  
 Maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*)  
 Royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*)

## Damp Woods

Yellow lady's slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*)

Near midnight, the police disperse a loud party. At 2 a.m., a different set of young neighbors fires up the grill. The meaty scent of burgers pours into the bedroom windows along with chatter. "Hi! I'm Ann! I live across the street. I came over to say 'hi!'" At 4:10 a.m., after another visit from the police, the street is quiet. Noise and garbage – shiny red beer cups in drifts along the curbs make my heart ache. For the last few years, absentee landlords have bought up property on and near our street in Boston, where we have lived for 27 years.

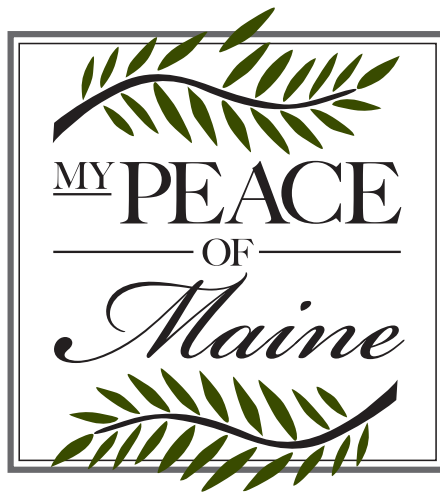
**Saturday, May 9** Boston: I am packing to stay a couple of weeks at our cabin – four hours north.

**Sunday, May 10** Maine: The cabin. Oboe obbligatos of loons vibrate. On glass-still water, mist swirls, draining upwards, drawn into a pearl gray sky. The orange canoe smiles in the grass. Frogs thrum. Through the dew-drenched dawn, comes the duck-quacking day. ☘ From the main road, the cabin in western Maine is a bumpy three-quarters of a mile over gravel, shaded by conifers, poplar, and birch. Beyond the house, a path to the rickety dock is lined with fern, bunchberry, and tall grasses.

Wavelets of sunlight cross the lake to the far shore rimmed with dark trees and slate-gray mountains. Hemlock and arborvitae needles flicker in the sun. Gossamer-winged dragonflies and electric blue darning needles dart close to the water. A thrush flutes. ☘ In the one-room cabin, shafts of afternoon sunlight stream down from second-floor windows.

Fifteen years old, our cabin is tighter and better wired than our house in Boston, which was built in 1927. What the cabin lacks in the patina of age – in moldings, small wavy glass panes, and oak flooring – it makes up in bright open space and a palpable feeling of peace.

I am at the cabin without a car. My husband Sandy will return Memorial Day weekend. ☘ My goal on this visit is to find and identify spring wild flowers that grow around the lake, and to note their habitats. ☘ A neighboring driveway is densely edged with bluets (*Houstonia caerulea*). The sparse gravel of my own driveway is white from wild strawberry blossoms (*Fragaria virginiana*), the lawn is more straw-



MY PEACE  
OF  
Maine

By Fran Gustman

berry than grass. White wood violet (*Viola sororia albiflora*) covers the floor of meadow, marsh, and woods, its tiny, purple-streaked flowers about a half-inch across. Mixed among the white flowers are slightly larger purple violets.

**Monday, May 11** In the marsh and along the shoreline, native wild flag iris (*Iris setosa*) is budding. ☘ Exotic plants came into New England with the first Europeans, but they are not common around this lake – a few dandelions, Queen Anne's lace, plantain, red and white clover. ☘ In garden beds, I have added tried-and-true Maine garden plants – natives, hybrids, and aliens that tolerate temperatures of minus 30 degrees. Phlox and larkspur are native to Maine, but I haven't come across them on my land, and would like to add them.

I do not bring in invasive plants, such as purple loosestrife or false bamboo,



which push out natives and create monocultures. ☘ But I also would not transplant to our section of shore, native horsetail, a prodigious spreader, which grows naturally a hundred feet down the shoreline.

☘ Before bringing a potted plant from Boston, I hose the container, and take off the top layer of potting soil to leave behind insects and eggs. I also remove earthworms, which were eliminated from northern New England by the glaciers. ☘

Why plant, given the profusion that already exists? Habit, I guess. And it's a scientific fact that working in a garden is good for the psyche.

**Tuesday, May 12** Our lake is long but only 12-feet deep – technically a pond. ☘ A dead fish about 18-inches long is bumping against the boulders at the shore.

☘ The Maine poet Mariana Tupper described shad "struggling upstream," their "surging strength," and in death, after procreating, how they "[float] on the surface of the stream, like leaves." The belly-up fish in my lake is transformed by her words from a carcass into part of a beautiful natural process.

**Wednesday, May 13** In dark hemlock woods, I climb over logs, and stumble into hollows half-filled with leaves, where the roots of downed trees once held tightly. ☘ Ten-foot hemlock saplings strive toward the sun. Moss glows emerald on the crests of boulders. A small maroon flower is centered between three big leaves: *Trillium erectum*.

**Thursday, May 14** I walk every day, in the woods or on the narrow gravel roads. In the shade under poplars and arborvitae along my driveway, three white petals glisten, a maroon triangle in their center: Painted trillium (*Trillium undulatum*).

**Friday, May 15** Common names are memorable, but I have learned to appreciate the reliability of botanic Latin. For example, the common name "loosestrife" refers to many members of *Lythrum* and *Lysimachia*. *Lythrum salicaria*, a beautiful purple-flowering Asian, must be avoided, as it is overwhelming New England wetlands. ☘ *L. alatum*, similar in appearance, was once common in east coast meadows but has suffered from the presence of *L. salicaria*. ☘ Identify-

ing plants is time-consuming. I search six reference books regularly, plus the Internet. All have their strengths and failings. 🐻 Google Images is invaluable.

The New England Wild Flower Society's headquarters is in Framingham, Massachusetts. Its photo gallery on the web ([www.newenglandwild.org/visit/Garden-in-the-Woods/bloom-gallery](http://www.newenglandwild.org/visit/Garden-in-the-Woods/bloom-gallery)) is organized by bloom time, providing an additional clue when I'm searching for a name. 🐻 Plants at the cabin bloom three weeks later.

**Sunday, May 17** I drag a wooden pallet into the lake and lay it over rocks, tipping it up against the shore to serve as a boat ramp. Deep pink azaleas (*Rhododendron canadense*) mix with blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*). Later in the season, I hope to wade, carrying a basket for ripe berries. 🐻 At the edge of the marsh, where the land is always moist, a large patch of foamflower, (*Tiarella cordifolia*), is blooming, white and airy. Blackberry vines (*Rubus spp.*), grass, and ferns threaten to overwhelm the *Tiarella*, so I weed, then drag over a fallen white birch as an edging for protection from the lawnmower, which crops the path to the water. 🐻 Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*) is another natural grouping incorporated into the garden. In the fall, native asters will color the marsh lavender, and also my garden bed.

**Monday, May 18** Without a car, nothing exists outside walking distance. Even a shopping list is superfluous. My focus is on the world around me. The future is interesting only in connection to the seasons. 🐻 In the hemlock woods, small sunlit patches in the loamy soil nurture twisted stalk (*Streptopus roseus*), coming up through brilliantly green club moss. 🐻 Wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*) is related to ginseng, a native that has been almost poached out of existence.

The shiny red first shoots suggest poison ivy, another native – which, happily, I have not found. 🐻 The diaphanous balloons of pink lady's slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) seem to be connected to fairies. I am elated to find several along our road through the woods.

**Wednesday, May 20** Today the sky is overcast. White birch trunks light up the woods, their pale green crowns tossing above the dark hemlocks. A wild wind rises in pitch, from the rumble like that

of a far-off truck into a whistle. 🐻 In a small opening among the hemlocks, the yellow bells of *Clintonia*, or blue bead (*Clintonia borealis*), nod over deep-green leaves. The common name describes the fruits. 🐻 The mosquitoes are swarming, already brutal on their first day out. 🐻 Animals, birds, and insects use brush and dead trees, both standing and fallen, to make their homes and to find food. A red-headed pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) clings to a dead birch in its search for insects, flinging chunks of wood over its shoulders as it chops deep holes.

**Friday, May 22** I have recognized several distinct habitats around the lake: Shore-

line, marsh, wet woods, gravelly roadside, and loamy forest edge, full sun and dappled shade, wet and dry. I've discovered native spring ephemerals and perennials, identified a few woody plants, and have barely started on grasses and sedges. 🐻 Sandy is coming tomorrow, and on Monday we return to Boston.

**Tuesday, May 26** Boston: We are in Brighton, home to the maroon-and-gold sweat-shirted urban college student. The species is easily identified by its tendency to gather in large flocks, and by its raucous shriek at midnight. 🐻 I tend my city garden – and look forward to returning to my "peace of Maine." \*



# Rain Barrels

**An old-time idea gets new life at the WILD Center and all around the country.**

*The old stone farmhouse I lived in as a child had been built in the 1800s. Among its other amenities was a zinc-lined "dry sink" in the kitchen. It was served by a hand pump that spouted what we fondly called "soft water." Outflow from the sink was gravity fed into more zinc pipe to a spot away from and downhill from the house, where it was absorbed into the earth. This water wasn't for drinking (we had well water for that) – it was for washing. It didn't leave a crusty calcium deposit on pots when heated, like well water did. It was, in fact, rainwater that had been collected on the tin roof of the house, and delivered to a large, stone cistern in the cellar, whence the hand pump delivered it to the dry sink. This was standard equipment in the kitchens of most old tin-roofed, farmhouses. (Ed.)*

By Eric Schmitz

Rain clouds are on the horizon, a sign that our precious life-giving spring showers and summer rainstorms are on their way. To many people it is just another dreary, spoiled rainy day or weekend. However, to a growing number of people it brings joy and excitement for the opportunity to harvest free and clean rainwater, while protecting our environment.

With urbanization, industrialization, and modern technology, society has shifted from depending on personal catchment systems to depending on mass-plumbing systems to sustain daily life. The age-old practice of rain harvesting was forgotten. Today, too much energy and resources go into the infrastructure of providing an ever-growing population with fresh-water supplies. Wells are drilled, water towers are built, and mazes of pipes are designed and installed to draw massive amounts of water from lakes and rivers and constructed reservoirs. A negative blow is dealt to our environment and most precious natural resource, fresh water.

As urbanization advances, our natural sponges and filters, like bogs and marshes – nature's filtration and infiltration areas – continue to disappear. This loss interrupts the natural infiltration process of recharging our accessible fresh-water supplies, and instead, the hard surfaces and pipes divert polluted runoff directly to our lakes, rivers, and streams. Today, communities are faced with diminishing quality and quantity of fresh-water supplies. Some predict that fresh water will become the next oil, in terms of being a necessary but limited resource. Despite living in the Midwest, which is like "the Saudi Arabia of fresh water," we are faced with regional droughts, aquifer depletion, contamination, and low lake levels.

But not all is lost. Many individuals, communities, and environmental organizations have been actively promoting water conservation. By installing a rain barrel, homeowners can start with the easiest and most cost efficient piece of the water-conservation puzzle. A basic rain barrel system consists of four parts – catchment, conveyance, storage tank, and distribution. A catchment area is the surface (roof) onto which the rain falls. Conveyance is the channel (downspout) that directs water to a storage tank (55-gallon drum). The last part of the system involves the means of water distribution (spigot with hose attached).

Incorporating a rain barrel into your lawn and gardening activities offers a ton of benefits for homeowners and the environment. With just 1 inch of rain, a 1,000-square-foot roof can capture up to 600 gallons of water. At the WILD Center in Neenah, Wisconsin, the average rainfall is around 23" from April to November. This could equate to around 14,000 gallons of rainwater that could be harvested by one homeowner.

Rainwater is relatively clean and chemical free. Because rainwater does not contain chlorine or fluoride, it is ideal for watering your lawn, garden, and house plants. The rainwater can also be used for washing your car, cleaning windows, or even as drinking water for animals.

Rain barrels help protect the environment by reducing storm water runoff that would otherwise cause erosion and carry pollutants into our lakes and streams. By capturing and creating a slow release, you mimic the natural infiltration process of recharging the ground water. Rain barrels can also help reduce flooding in streets and basements. Harvesting rain water could decrease the volume of water flowing into the municipal storm-water systems. This could reduce the tax money earmarked for handling of storm water.

Every time you turn on your faucet a pump somewhere uses electricity to move the water. Further, paying for the water used can be very costly if you are living within a municipality that charges for sewer and water usage. Harvesting your own rainwater is friendly to your wallet because it is *free*.

Rain harvesting systems come in many forms. They can be as simple as a 5-gallon bucket placed under a down spout, to a home-made 55-gallon open-barrel system, to a more sophisticated RainReserve™ diverter closed system ([www.rainreserve.com](http://www.rainreserve.com)), to a complex underground cistern that filters and pumps rainwater for daily activities. Depending on the type of system, a rain barrel can cost anywhere between \$30 to \$200, and the most common storage capacity is 55 gallons. The Rain Reserve™ system that was installed at the WILD Center maintains the integrity of the downspout while separating debris and diverting rainwater to the storage tank. When the barrel is full, water reaches a diverter, and trickles down the downspout where it would have gone in the first place. This sealed system is also mosquito free, and virtually eliminates any algae buildup. It includes a 10-gallon per-minute, high-flow spigot with a garden-hose attachment for watering your plants. Owning and actively using a rain barrel can be a most rewarding environmental investment.

Ancient water-conservation techniques, tell us a story, and lay a foundation for modern society to follow. We can become a part of a solution by leading by example, and telling the story to our friends, families, coworkers, and communities. Rain barrels can be your first step in an important piece of the water-conservation puzzle, with many benefits for you and your environment. You may have already noticed rain barrels popping up in your communities, as progressive homeowners have already taken action. Increasingly, rain barrels are becoming a highly recognized symbol of our awareness of the environmental impacts of our actions.

Stop in at The Wild Ones National Headquarters in Appleton to view a functioning RainReserve™ rain barrel diverter system donated by 4EverGreen Ecoscapes, LLC. Ask anyone at the WILD Center for more information. \*

If you'd like to 'Do-it-yourself', instructions are available on the web.  
[http://images.taunton.com/finegardening/media/rain\\_barrel\\_parts.pdf](http://images.taunton.com/finegardening/media/rain_barrel_parts.pdf)  
<http://www.finegardening.com/how-to/videos/build-a-rain-barrel.aspx>  
<http://home.comcast.net/~leavesdance/rainbarrels/myproject.html>

# Singing to the Lake



By Dave Borneman

Several years ago I had the opportunity to attend a Natural Areas Conference on Mackinac Island, (Straits of Mackinac, where Lake Michigan joins Lake Huron), a place sacred to many indigenous people. I can't recall most details of the conference, but there are a few indelible memories.

One of them was the keynote address by Henry Lickers, a citizen of the Seneca Nation, and a member of the Turtle Clan. He spoke about the oral traditions of his people, and about the deep connection they have to the land. I happened to cross paths with Henry later that evening and he was good enough to sit and chat with me – no, to deeply converse with me – far into the night.

We talked more about the connection between people and nature, and about telling our stories of these connections.

At one point, a friend of his joined the conversation. When Henry asked what he'd been up to the past few hours, this man replied that he'd been out along the shore in the moonlight "singing to the lake." That sent my head spinning. Here I was at a conference with hundreds of hard-nosed land managers and other scientists presenting papers and posters with the findings from their research into some narrow aspect of restoration ecology – and this man was out "singing to the lake."

I've pondered this image over the years. It has helped me to understand that long-term restoration of nature can't happen without an accompanying long-term restoration of the connection between people and nature. In fact, the two processes must go hand in hand if either is to have real meaning. \*

## Tell Us a Story

This article is extracted from the Ann Arbor, Michigan, NAP (Natural Areas Preservation) newsletter, of Winter, 2000. Dave is referring to an experience that happened at a conference in 1992, on Mackinac Island, Michigan.

It occurs to me that many of us have similar experiences tucked away in our memory banks. Not all necessarily lightning-bolt epiphanies, but perhaps little personal lightbulb ah-has, or moments when one's understanding or perception of the natural world shifts slightly as some newly acquired scientific facts or observations register.

Others of us may have good stories to tell about how we got into natural landscaping, or perhaps stories of how we live in an apartment but subscribe to the Wild Ones Journal. Please consider this an invitation to tell your story. Before you put a great deal of effort into it, get in touch with me, and we'll decide on some submission guidelines. – Maryann Whitman, Journal Editor, [Journal@for-wild.org](mailto:Journal@for-wild.org).

**THE PASSING OF LORRIE OTTO**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Lorrie Otto knitted together the facets of a "me" not yet concretized, and allowed me to turn on the "eureka-light" within my soul.

I only saw her at the camera store a few more times after that – me leaving for another job and finally college – but the memory of this woman has stayed with me these near 40 years. I have always felt proud that I had known her whenever her name came up in the local news or random community discussions. I always told myself I would track her down, refresh our meeting, and tell her how profoundly she had affected my life.

Sadly, as these things go so often in busy and distracted lives – but shouldn't, I never took the time to meet her again. I never shared how she had made a difference for me.

Lorrie Otto planted and nurtured not just prairie plants, but people and a national psyche as well. I am blessed to have been touched by her soul. \*



## Can Books Help Fight Global Warming and Climate Change?

Yes. But only if you find the right books, crack them open, and actually read them. And there's no better place to start looking for those books than the **Wild Ones Amazon-Associate Bookstore**.

All the important books on climate change and global warming are available through Amazon at significant discounts – and shopping through our online bookstore means you won't burn up gasoline driving to every bookstore in town, while pumping more CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere.

Just one more reason we think shopping for books, computers, software, cameras, (and a whole lot more) through our Amazon-affiliate store makes a lot of sense. The store is open 24 hours a day, the prices are competitive, and the selection is amazing – plus Amazon pays Wild Ones a nice commission for almost every purchase. [www.for-wild.org/store/bookstore](http://www.for-wild.org/store/bookstore).

## JOIN WILD ONES. RENEW. UPGRADE. GET A FREE DVD AND/OR FREE BOOK.

To kick off the **Grow Wild Ones Campaign for 2010**, we have updated, revamped, and reproduced the popular **Wild About Wildflowers** video in DVD format. And now, this amazing video is available **free** when you join Wild Ones, or renew your membership at an upgraded level.

Because many of our long-time members have already received this helpful video, we are offering the DVD version free to new members, as an enticement to join Wild Ones. We want to – no, we *need* to – get Wild Ones membership over the 3,000-member hump.

**This great video for all Wild Ones members, new or old**, lets you get dirt on your hands without getting dirty. This video will help anyone to:  
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*Grow* and nurture wildflowers and grasses. *Plan* for long-term maintenance.  
*Enhance* their landscaping to make it a habitat. *Enjoy* year-round beauty in their back yard, neighborhood, and schools or businesses.

### Renewing members get a free book

Members renewing at the Wild level will receive a free copy of our 25th anniversary commemorative 4-color book of wonderful photos and stories, *25 Years of Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes*.

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Renew at the Wildest level, and get the DVD and the 25-year

### Don't wait, do it now

Use the application on page 23, or join online at [www.for-wild-ones.com/joining.html](http://www.for-wild-ones.com/joining.html).

### Make a difference – join Wild Ones



## WILD Center Wish List

Volunteers to help with all sorts of things: Cataloging and arranging library materials • Weeding demonstration gardens • Recording bird and critter sightings  
Removing buckthorn • Restoring woodland understory and overstory  
Installing birdhouses.

Stuff: Birdhouses • Duckhouses • Caulk guns • Fiberglass screen • Binoculars  
Left-over plumbing and electrical parts for making rain barrels • Rain gauge  
3-foot shepherd hooks • 24-Cup (plus or minus) Coffeemaker • Step ladder  
First-aid kit • Bulletin board (small) • Trailer for hauling debris with car  
Gardening tools (trowels, shovels, pruners, pruning saw(s), etc.) • Dressers (2 each)  
Wooden box for storage • Retractable attic stairs • Conference-type table(s)  
Bunk beds (1 set) • Conference-type stackable chairs  
Trees (6 to 8 ft.): Basswood, maple, and oak (bur, white, and swamp white oak)  
Woodland plants: Grasses, ephemerals, ferns, etc.

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.

## Chapter Notes

**Chris McCullough**, president of the **Greater Cincinnati (OH) Chapter**, says her chapter is making plans to participate in the Midwest Native Plant Conference on August 6, 7, & 8 – specifically, on August 7th to man their Wild Ones display table. They also recently participated in a “seeding” of a newly constructed bio-retention area (like a rain garden) in Montgomery.

**Eleanor Burkett**, president of the **Brainerd (MN) Chapter**, says they participated in a native planting at the Brainerd High School. They used some of the plants that grew from the seeds collected last fall.

The **Ann Arbor Chapter (MI)** participated in the first Nichols Arboretum Oak Openings Garden spruce-up day of the year, according to **Rick Meader**. They cleaned out the beds, moved around plants that needed to be moved around, and added mulch to the beds so they look all nice and spiffy. “This was a great chance to put our native plants’ best feet forward to many who may have never been exposed to them before,” he said.

Midwest Renewable Energy Association’s Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Fair found the **Central Wisconsin (WI) Chapter** again manning a booth. Members educated others about Wild Ones and wild plants, and also learned from fascinating people who attend the fair from places all over the world. Chapter President **Dan Dieterich** wrote “I always love working at our booth. As volunteers, we receive a free pass to the fair.”

And who could miss the opportunity to visit a horse park? **Ann Bowe**, president of the **Lexington (KY) Chapter**, wrote: “Here is an opportunity to make a difference. Join with other volunteers for a few hours planting native plants at a stream-side location at the Kentucky Horse Park. We’ll be dressing up this naked creek with native stream-side vegetation, and enhancing water quality and wildlife habitat in Cane Run.”

The **2nd quarter national board meeting** was hosted by the **St. Croix (MN) Chapter**. Following the meeting, all enjoyed a picnic lunch at one of the chapter board member’s home, and toured a re-landscaped yard designed primarily with natives. In the afternoon we drove to Belwin Conservancy to see their wonderful remnant prairie savanna, where ecological director, Tara Kelly, led us on a field trip. \*





## 2010 The Year to Grow Wild Ones

### Wild Ones Has to Grow

In 2010 we hope to Grow Wild Ones through a promotional campaign aimed at convincing the general public to grow native plants, increasing Wild Ones' recognition and membership, and promoting the new WILD Center in the Fox River Valley, Wisconsin.

### Your Generosity

These things will more readily be accomplished because of the generosity of our members in their annual donations.

### The Participation of Every Member

To be truly successful, however, we need every member's participation through not only donations to Wild Ones to support our efforts to Grow Wild Ones but also through personal contact and promotion of the Wild Ones mission.

### Thank You

As we celebrate thirty years of Wild Ones, thank you for your continued support. Your membership and your affirmation are greatly appreciated and we'll thank you all properly in a later issue of the *Journal*.



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**WILD Center Update** The gardens are blooming at the WILD Center, and things are starting to look good. Although unanticipated, we will be adding to our east rain gardens because of a huge contribution of prairie plants from a spur-of-the-moment plant rescue. Local members, as well as members from far away chapters, have been stopping by to lend their hand at helping with garden maintenance. We may well be turning into a "destination." We held our first retreat this past May, with the national marketing committee members. Everyone had a good night's rest, and waking up to the sound of the birds and the geese and the pelicans flying overhead was an unexpected surprise. Watch for updates on the WILD Center web site. \*



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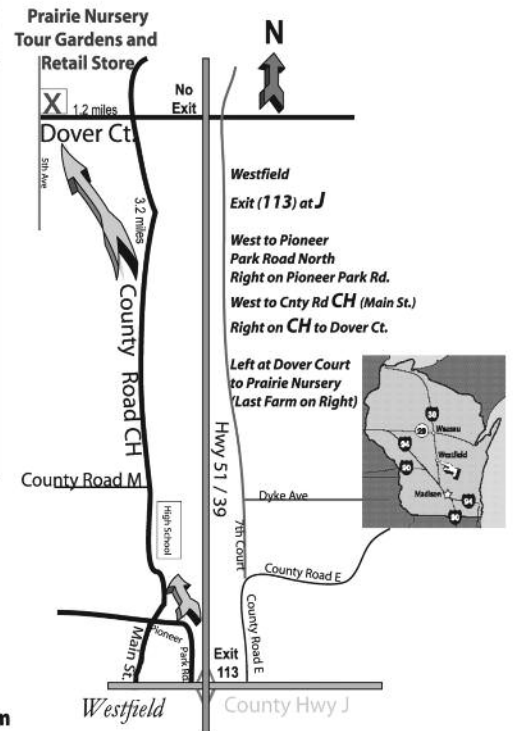
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When is it?

**November 5th & 6th**

Where is it?

**Connecticut College,  
New London, Connecticut**

Who's the host?

**Mountain Laurel Chapter (CT)  
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What will we do?

**Have fun. Meet friends, new and old. Learn about native plants and natural landscaping.**

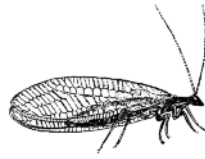
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Chapter ID numbers are listed after names.



Meet us online at [www.for-wild.org/calendar.html](http://www.for-wild.org/calendar.html)

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**Milwaukee North Chapter #18**  
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**Milwaukee Southwest-Wehr Chapter #23**  
Message Center: 414-299-9888x2

**Root River Area Chapter #43**  
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**Sheboygan Area Tension Zone Chapter #81**  
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**Wolf River Chapter #74**  
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For information about starting a chapter in your area: [www.for-wild.org/chapters.html](http://www.for-wild.org/chapters.html).

Celebrating anniversaries during July and August are Gibson Woods (IN) and Arrowhead (MN), with 10 years. Congratulations to these chapters. Thank you and all your members for supporting Wild Ones.

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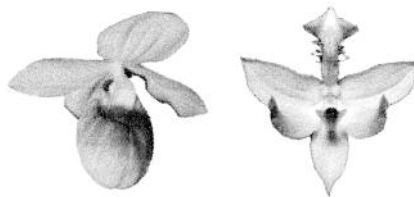


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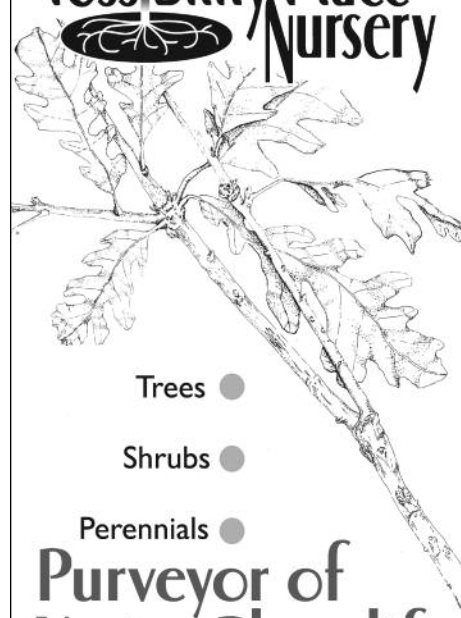
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## Mark Your Calendars

**August 6, 7, and 8, 2010: The 2nd Annual Midwest Native Plant Conference "Connect People and Nature"** co-hosted by the Greater Cincinnati (OH) Wild Ones, at the Bergamo Center. A great lineup of educational programs and field trips, with a keynote speaker each day of the conference. We are offering scholarships to young birders/naturalists under the age of 18. For more information, go to [www.cincinnatiwildones.com/mwnp/](http://www.cincinnatiwildones.com/mwnp/), or contact Kathy McDonald, [kmc@one.net](mailto:kmc@one.net), or 513-941-6497 any evening.

**August 22, 2010: Habitat Here! Festival** Hosted by the Arrowhead (MN) Chapter festival at Hartley Nature Center, Duluth, Minnesota – this is an open-house style event, including garden tours, professional advice, kids' activities, and native plants for sale. Learn to create your own haven for native plants and animals in your yard. Enjoy talks by bird expert and author Laura Erickson – and Ron Bowen, a long-time leader in the natural-landscaping movement. Free admission.

**August 28, 2010: The 3rd quarter national board meeting** will be by web-conference, and will begin at 9 a.m. CST. Call-in instructions will be included in the agenda.

**November 5 & 6, 2010: The 4th quarter national meeting and the 2010 Annual Membership Meeting and Conference** at Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut, hosted by the Mountain Laurel Chapter of Wild Ones, in conjunction with the Arboretum's annual SALT Conference. The board meeting will be held November 5th from 4 to 6 p.m. EST. Further information about SALT appeared on page 8 of the November/December 2008 issue of the *Journal*.

## Join Wild Ones

As part of our **Grow Wild Ones** campaign, we have recently updated, revamped, and reproduced the popular **Wild About Wildflowers** video in DVD format. And now you can get your own copy at no extra charge when you join Wild Ones or upgrade your existing membership level. See page 16 for full information about this great video.

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

## THANK YOU

### LIFETIME MEMBERS

No new Lifetime members. Thanks to all 36 members who have already pledged their lifetime support to Wild Ones.

### GENERAL OPERATING FUND

**Esther Meyer & Tom Glawe** Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter  
**Carolyn & Foster Woodward** Kalamazoo Area (MI) Chapter  
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### SEEDS FOR EDUCATION

**Joyce Torresani** Green Bay (WI) Chapter  
**Mary Ann Menck** Kalamazoo Area (MI) Chapter  
**Kay & Phil Blair** and **Colleen McDonald** Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter

### WILD CENTER

#### Development

**Kristin Kauth** Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter  
**Joyce Torresani** Green Bay (WI) Chapter  
**Ginnie Watson** Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter

#### In-Kind

From **Fox Valley Area (WI) Chapter** members:

**Amy Kuehl** Five barrels to be used as rain barrels.

**Robert & Carol Niendorf** Library materials

**Drs. Robert & Denise Phreen** Various native flowers and grasses salvaged from their backyard, and a martin house

**Christine Rademacher** Tree wraps

**City of Appleton** Grey dogwood and red osier dogwood shrubs from a recent plant rescue

**Faith Technologies** Trip charge for recent electrical-repair visit to the WILD Center

**Addie Bauss** Wire fencing for use around trees and shrubs

**Zaiga Freivalds** Tree tubes

**Twin Cities (MN) Chapter** Library materials

### MISCELLANEOUS

**Maryann Whitman** Oakland (MI) Chapter. For benefit of No Child Left Inside (NCLI) Oakland Chapter

### MEMORIALS

**Ruth Oldenburg** in memory of **Erik Alexander**, River City - Grand Rapids Area (MI) Chapter

### AMAZON

Recent two-month rebates from Amazon.com have amounted to \$97.82. Just as a reminder. Most purchases from Amazon.com, by going through the Wild Ones Bookstore [www.for-wild.org/store/bookstore/](http://www.for-wild.org/store/bookstore/) result in a commission paid to Wild Ones (at no extra cost to you).



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