

a voice  
for the natural  
landscaping  
movement

# JOURNAL

MARCH/APRIL 2009  
VOL. 22, NO. 2

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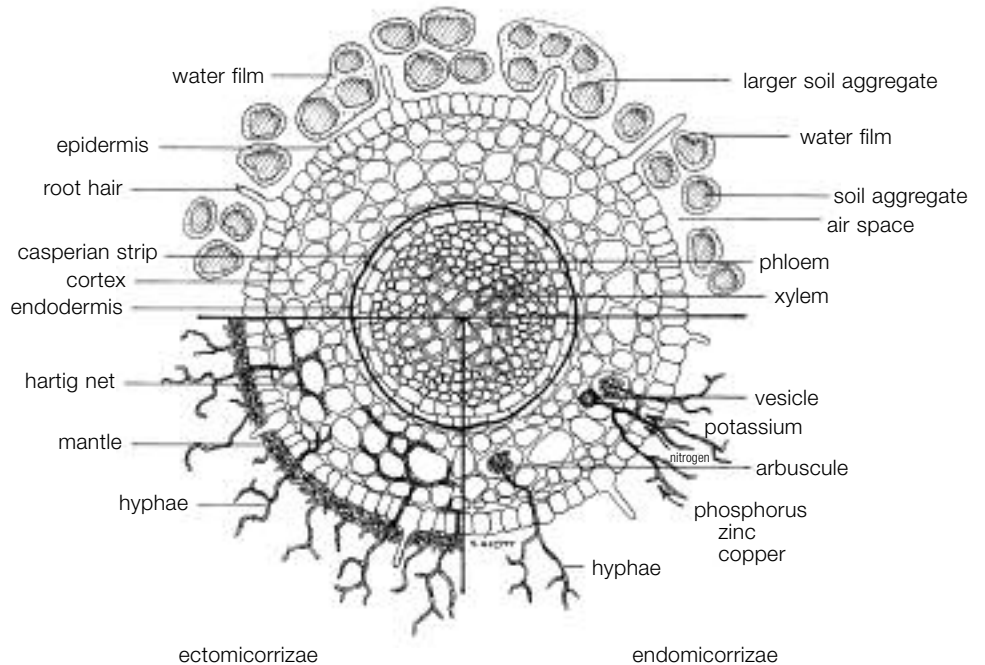
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Thank you. Back cover.

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

cross-section of root without mycorrhizae



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

## A MYSTERY EXPLORED: Part 5 By Maryann Whitman

# MYCORRHIZAE AND PLANTS

It is this relationship that lets our established native plants flourish without being watered or artificially fertilized.

This is a follow-up to "Thinking About Mycorrhizae," which appeared in the January/February issue of the *Wild Ones Journal*. Please consult the illustration as you read the article.

Getting to know about mycorrhizae is one of the most important things that a native plant person can accomplish. It is almost entirely because of this relationship that our native plants don't need to be artificially fertilized or watered after they are established. A plant, on its own, has access to a limited pool of nutrients, and these have to be carried by water. The plant is not capable of the chemistry necessary to break down organic molecules in the soil – fungi are. Plant roots can extend into a limited range of the soil; fungal hyphae can be meters long, branched, growing upward and sideways as necessary. Even the tiniest roots of plants are twenty times thicker than the hyphae of fungi, so they are not as able to absorb some exceptionally thin films of water-bearing nutrients – something the hyphae can do easily. (Think of a fat straw and a thin straw taking up the last bit of soda in the bottom of a glass.)

We frequently refer to the extensive volumes of roots that our native plants grow. This attribution to all native plants can be somewhat misleading. Think about the roots of plants that grow, not in the deep prairie soils of Iowa, but in thin, poor, rocky soils in upstate New York, and the desert soils of the Southwest. These plants, too, are able to survive and prosper because of their relationship with the fungi in the soil.

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## Wild Ones: The benefits of membership



If you love winter like I do, you would love a day like today. We're staying in a comfy cabin near Cable, Wisconsin, enjoying friends and the perfect day: Twenty-two degrees F, no wind, jumbo flakes floating down. I met with Sarah Boles, a Wild Ones "Partner at Large" member who lives in the area, for a cross-country ski outing. As we skied through a great grove of hemlock trees (one of my favorites), I reflected on the great friendships and networks that Wild Ones has brought into my life.

At the annual conference last August in Appleton, Wisconsin, the Marketing Committee conducted a survey that included the question: What do you find to be the three main benefits of Wild Ones membership? I was not surprised to see "Wild Ones is a good source of information" ranking high, but was interested to see that it fell in at number two – second to answers along the lines of "meeting like minded people" and "support group." The third most common benefit listed we grouped as "advocacy" – supporting the native plant movement in general.

When we are able, our family donates to a number of causes for advocacy reasons. With Wild Ones we get both – supporting the mission as well as more personal benefits. These range from education, like the Ecoscaper self-paced learning and certification program and chapter programs, to the support one gets from meeting others directly or through our online discussion group. As the extent of the geographic area covered by Wild Ones members



Natives in Winter. Photo by Tim Lewis.

broadens and we gain more members via our web site, we will have to continue to look for ways to help our "partners at large" (non-chapter members) reap the benefits of member networking as well.

If you are a member, new or old, who has enjoyed benefits of membership, we could use your help. Our National Membership Committee, which has not been active for a while, is re-forming, and will soon begin "meeting" again via occasional conference calls. One of the first topics this committee will tackle is looking for ways to meet the challenge described above. If you have an interest in this topic or suggestions to share, please contact me at [carol\\_andrews@hotmail.com](mailto:carol_andrews@hotmail.com) or better yet by phone at 218/390-8981. ●

Carol Andrews, Wild Ones National President  
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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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## 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](http://www.wildcertification.org) for more information or to enroll.



# Storm Lichens

Article and photos by John Pearson



Gray rosette lichen (*Physcia stellaris*) and orange sunburst lichen (*Xanthoria weberi*) cover a bur oak branch brought to earth by an ice storm.

Crusty snow crunches under my boots as I wander through my backyard after the ice storm. The lawn is littered with broken branches, ranging from twigs to major limbs, all snapped off during the big ice storm that passed through southern Iowa on December 11, 2007. They will become a brush pile when I eventually get around to cleaning up the mess. Today, however, I am not interested in tidiness or in creating rabbit shelters. I am too busy hunting lichens.

The days following an ice storm or wind storm are great for lichen hunting. Many lichens – unique organisms consisting of a symbiotic growth of fungi and algae – grow on trees, often forming colorful and interesting patches on trunks and twigs. Although they will grow on shaded tree trunks, the best habitat on a tree for many lichens is on high branches where they have access to full sunlight. The lichen communities found on high branches are normally out of the reach and sight of human observers except when breakage brings branches to the ground, where they can be easily examined.

“There!” I mutter to myself, kneeling to pick up a coarse branch that has fallen from a large bur oak tree. The upper surface of its black, furrowed bark is nearly covered with patches of gray rosette lichen (*Physcia stellaris*) and orange sunburst lichen (*Xanthoria weberi*). There are three general growth forms of lichens: Foliose (resembling leaves), fruticose (resembling tiny shrubs), and crustose (crust-like). These two species are foliose with a ruffled body (*thallus*), resembling the frilly paper decoration pasted around the rim of a Valentine’s heart.

Inspecting the rosette lichen with a hand lens, I see dozens of black discs raised on short pedestals above the thallus. These are *apothecia*, the fruiting bodies of the fungal partner in the lichen. Shifting my view to the sunburst lichen, I see no apothecia, but instead see hundreds of tiny grains of greenish-white *soredia* (minute balls of tissue containing both fungal and algal cells) lining the lobed edges of the thallus. Reproduction of lichens is complex: Apothecia produce only fungal spores which disperse on the wind, and will (if landing in suitable habitat) give rise to a fungus, not a lichen. A new lichen will form from these germinating fungal spores only if they come in contact with the right species of algae and spontaneously form a new association. (*Lichenologist joke*: a lichen consists of a fungus and an alga that have taken a “likin’” to each other.) Soredia, on the other hand, disperse from the original lichen as a pre-mixed concoction of vegetative fungal and algal cells, needing only to land in the right habitat to start growth. Lichens can also reproduce by fragmentation when pieces breaking off the original organism become established as new individuals.

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Plants in very rich, moist, organic soils can do without mycorrhizae and in fact often do. Plants that are heavily fertilized can also do without mycorrhizae.

The mycorrhizal fungi, on the other hand, need their relationship with plants in order to have access to the carbon-rich products of photosynthesis. They also survive better through a northern winter if they have live roots available – roots of the sort that our native perennial grasses, trees, and forbs provide. The undisturbed soil that carries no fungicides or other chemicals which can surround our native plants is also a definite plus.

### The word is mycorrhiza

A mycorrhiza is the term for the relationship between a fungus and a green plant. This strange relationship borrows from both partners for its name: “myco” comes from the same Greek root as mycology, the study of mushrooms; the “rhiza” comes from the Greek word for root. (The extra “r” is stuck in to make the word easier to pronounce – a massive failure, I think.)

From evidence in fossil records it seems that mycorrhizae played an integral role in the evolution of land plants. While we are currently aware of seven or eight types of mycorrhizae, the arbuscular mycorrhizae (AM) were actually an ancestral “characteristic” of all land plants – and then came roots. Nevertheless, AM are still around today.

Several orders of fungi are capable of forming AM. One order (*Glomales*), are the most common, and can be found everywhere on the planet. These fungi form the most frequent type of mycorrhiza. *Ninety percent of all plant families contain arbuscular mycorrhizae species.*

### Arbuscular mycorrhizal relationship

In this type of mycorrhizal relationship the plant root is a habitat for the fungus. In arbuscular mycorrhizae the fungus penetrates into the roots of a plant, growing between the root cells, into the part of the root where the products of photosynthesis, carbohydrates, are stored – the cortex. To exchange nutrients absorbed from the soil for the carbohydrates, the fungal hyphae penetrate the cell walls and grow into tree-like structures called “arbuscules.” The plant cells cooperatively accommodate this intrusion. Both plant

and fungus maintain their integrity; the cytoplasmic fluids do not comingle – they do not actually “swap spit.” It is through this extensive membrane interface that nutrient transfer between plant and fungus occurs, in molecular form. Phosphorus is thought to be the principle nutrient provided, though other micronutrients and even nitrogen can be involved.

### Ectomycorrhizal relationship

Another type of mycorrhiza is termed ectomycorrhizal (EM) because of the way it interacts with a plant. A great diversity of fungal species are capable of forming EM, but, oddly, a relatively small group of plant taxa are involved. While arbuscular mycorrhizae are found in about ninety percent of plant families encompassing grasses, forbs, and some woodies, ectomycorrhizae are found in about ten percent of plant families, and the vast majority of them are woody (almost all the members of the oak and pine families).

In EM the fungus covers the outside of the plant root with a layer – a mantle of hyphae, that lie in contact with the ectoderm – the absorptive cells of the root, with intermittent hyphal penetrations into the root, between the storage, cortical cell walls. In the case of EM the cortical cells too, may be surrounded by a “fabric” of hyphae called a “Hartig net.” The fungus and the plant essentially fuse walls, while maintaining their integrity; the hyphae do not penetrate the plant cell walls. A single tree may be host to dozens of fungal partners on different parts of its root system. The fungal species are not dedicated to single plants. Unlike AM, most EM fungi produce “rhizomorphs” in the soil – thick bundles of many hyphae which have the

tensile strength to extend meters into the soil before they branch out into feeder hyphae. Additionally, EM fungi often secrete auxins, growth hormones that can influence direction of root growth and branching.

### Fungi as decomposers

The fungi that form ectomycorrhizal relationships, and others that are not mycorrhizal, are evolutionarily newer than arbuscule-producing fungi – and have enzyme systems unknown in plants. These enzymes are capable of breaking down organic matter, and as a result, these fungi predominate in the litter layer. Fungi are the only organisms that are capable of efficiently breaking down lignin in dead wood, into a fluid that they can ingest. When the fungal hyphae die, all these reconstituted nutrients and minerals are released into the soil, feeding other microbiota and ultimately plants. The nutrients may also be taken directly to plants. The value of fungi as decomposers cannot be overstated. Life on this planet would be quite different without them.

So what does all this mean to our native plants? Let’s go back to the May/June 2008 issue of the *Journal*, wherein appeared this paragraph:

*Have you ever wondered why we can say that our native plants don’t need to be fertilized or, for that matter, have any chemicals thrown at them? Is it something inherent in the plants? Is it something that we, the native planting caretakers, do? Is it something about the medium they grow in? All are good possibilities.*

With our better understanding of the soil food web, which includes the mycor-

### SIDEBAR

#### Not All Plants Have Mycorrhizae

Many plants do not have mycorrhizae, but that is a subject for another discussion. Among plants that don’t have mycorrhizae: floating aquatic plants, with roots that don’t touch the soil; parasitic plants; carnivorous plants; plants that don’t have roots; rooted aquatic plants, with roots in an anaerobic environment. Most annuals are non-mycorrhizal: Their life span is too short for the expenditure of energy, both on the part of the fungus and the plant. Plants that live on highly disturbed soil are frequently non-mycorrhizal as the hyphae are few and far between.

Some plants produce such prolific clusters of root hairs from the endodermis that the plants may collect enough nutrients unassisted. Others, like the *Cyperaceae* (think penn sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)), may secrete organic acids that can make phosphorus available to them. Some grasses and many monocots have exceptionally dense, fibrous root masses that are functionally similar to the proliferation of root hairs.



Ectomycorrhizal fungi on plant roots, with long, thread-like hyphae extending into the soil. Photo courtesy of Paula Flynn, Iowa State University Extension.

rhizal fungi, we are in a better position to answer all those questions.

On the other hand, if you like to collect mushrooms keep this in mind: A lot of ectomycorrhizal fungi also produce mushroom bodies. Ectomycorrhizae occur primarily in oak, pine, and spruce trees. Along with open fields, hickories, maples, and black cherries have primarily arbuscular mycorrhizae: No mushrooms. ●

One of the best sites I have found on the web is:  
<http://americanmushrooms.com/>

Another excellent site: [www.mykoweb.com/articles.html](http://www.mykoweb.com/articles.html)

My sincere thanks to Sandy Scheine of the Oakland (MI) Chapter, who read this article and made valuable suggestions. She is a mushroom person and the Education Committee Chair for the North American Mycological Association.

### Congratulations to Our Newest Lifetime Members

**Carol Delheimer**

Rock River Valley (IL) Chapter

**Charlotte Adelman & Bernard Schwartz**

North Park Village Nature Center (IL) Chapter

*Thank you for your support and your dedication to Wild Ones.*



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**Contact the National Office,**  
 toll-free at 877-3944-9453 for details.



## 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.

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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 877-394-9453

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 or check us out at our web site:

[www.for-wild.org/legacy/](http://www.for-wild.org/legacy/).





# The Magic Beans

By Barbara Bray

They were my magic beans – little brown packages of life’s necessities surrounded by a waterproof coating courtesy of Mother Nature. Gifted to me from a friend’s garden, these special “beans” were tough little babies. Before I could lay them in their bed, I treated them like any good mother would: I scratched their coats with sandpaper and soaked them in water overnight. Tucked into the soft warm dirt, the tiny seeds began to grow. The scratches in their coats allowed moisture to seep inside the seeds and awaken the embryo, or baby plant. Growth was slow the first two years, as the baby stretched its roots into the life-giving soil. Above ground, fleshy green seed leaves followed by a few bluish-green compound leaves announced the successful emergence of a new plant in my garden. Year two, my “baby” greeted me with a brand new look – a light green stalk resembling asparagus.

The special seeds that I had carefully tucked into the soil belong to a plant called *baptisia alba var. macrophylla*, or white wild indigo. My first experience with this plant took my breath away when I saw the spikes of white flowers rising from stout stems. I knew that one day I would want to grow this extraordinary member of the Bean family (*Fabaceae*). White wild indigo is not only a beautiful plant, but in many ways is magical. In spite of starting its life as a tiny seed, it grows almost shrub-sized, reaching anywhere from three to six feet tall. The interesting pea-type flowers reach toward the sky, looking like little white dog faces with yellow noses. But this is the description of a mature white wild indigo. My indigo didn’t bloom until the third year.

Waiting patiently through each winter, I would often gaze out the window at the spot in my garden bed where indigo slept. Like a good mother, I worried whether my “baby” was warm enough and whether it was healthy. In the spring of the third year, I jumped for joy when I saw my indigo emerge like a fat asparagus spear. Filled with energy and vitality, the shoot lengthened upward and outward with trifoliate leaves. Then the buds appeared on two stalks. White flowers opened, bloomed, and then fell to the ground. Fall came. The stalks dried into a charcoal gray color. Eventually the cold winds of winter rolled the old stems away.

Years four and five were years of change and growth. The white wild indigo reached four feet tall, grew two new stems, and widened its reach as well. Flowering expanded over the top of the plant in several locations as if to attract attention far and wide. Bumblebee workers zoomed in to investigate the flowers, as did an excited ruby-throated hummingbird. The hummingbird accidentally found my garden because of several red plastic flags I had stuck in the ground marking new plants. After all the flowers had bloomed, it appeared that a few seed pods might form, but nothing developed. Maybe next year.

As the coolness of fall spread over the garden, and daylight lessened, the stems of the indigo plant once again dried into a charcoal gray sculpture of intertwined branches and leaves. Mid-November the stems broke loose and the winds set it sailing out of my garden – a perfect method for dispersing seeds. When my indigo rolled away, I wanted to keep it somehow. After my attempt at taming the wild indigo, I realized that it was just like the meatball in the song “On Top of Spaghetti.” So now I will leave you with my special version of that song:

On top of Barb’s garden all covered with forbs,  
There grew a baptisia as tall as her door.  
She tried to bring it into her house in a vase,  
But soon learned its branches took up too much space.  
She placed it right out her basement door,  
Unaware that the wind would twist ‘round its core.  
Spinning like a wheel it bumped across the grass,  
But reaching the road, it dared not to pass.  
The wayward baptisia was spotted by Barb,  
Who grabbed it again to keep in her yard.  
She tucked it behind stems of rattlesnake master,  
But baptisia had other plans to roll even faster.  
One December day when arctic winds blew,  
The baptisia rolled away as it was meant to do.

## CHAPTER NOTES

Most chapters are holding plant sales as their major fundraisers. And several chapters hold expos, conferences, and other one-day educational fairs as fundraisers. More and more chapters are partnering with other conservation organizations.

### Otter Tail (MN) Chapter

Outgoing President, **Brad Ehler** wrote that the native plant sale, their major fundraiser, was a great success this year. They held the sale in conjunction with the Garden Club plant sale at the Westridge Mall. They got great exposure and a captive customer base.

In June, the members cut thistles in Godel Park. Godel Park is twelve acres of restored prairie in a Fergus Falls, Minnesota, park that drains into Hoot Lake, on the Ottertail River, a major source of the city’s water supply. This was a joint project with the city of Fergus Falls, the DNR, and FWS. It is in the fourth year of restoration, and they report that they have finally turned a corner with thistle eradication.

### Habitat Gardening

#### in Central New York Chapter

**Janet Allen**, President, wrote that they are planning to work with Don Leopold (author of *Native Plants of the Northeast: A Guide for Gardening and Conservation*) in some project (not yet determined) regarding planting seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*), a central New York native that had not been seen for years. Don discovered it growing along the interstate, and since it is salt-tolerant, there might be good applications for it in some public planting areas.

One of their members is working with The Learning Place, helping with their landscaping and explaining the benefits of native plants.

#### Greater DuPage (IL) Chapter

President **Denise Sandoval** wrote that the chapter worked together with a local graphic designer to purchase a new weatherproof display banner and tablecloth, for their meetings and at festivals.

One of their members has done a great job developing and maintaining the chapter’s web site.

The chapter also sponsored several Seeds for Education applicants, and they have met with a group in nearby Kane County to discuss the possibility of forming a seedling chapter. ●

# 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? Groundcovers – the kinds readily available at garden centers and by donations from other gardeners.

### Discovering groundcovers

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 appear on invasive plant lists as consistently as 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 groundcovering past are **sweet woodruff** (*Galium odoratum*), **bugleweed** (*Ajuga reptans*), and **dead nettle** (*Lamium galeobdolon*). Groundcovers 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? Prioritize.

So here I find myself – a native plant advocate, invasive plant enemy – 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 they 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.) 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 other than these popular groundcovers 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 groundcovers. 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 "groundcovers," 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. ●

### SIDEBAR

#### Examples of Native Plants to Cover the Ground

Wild ginger  
(*Asarum canadense*)  
Ferns such as New York fern  
(*Thelypteris noveboracensis*)  
Partridgeberry  
(*Mitchella repens*)  
Creeping phlox  
(*Phlox stolonifera*)  
Green and gold  
(*Chrysogonum virginianum*)  
Foam flower  
(*Tiarella cordifolia*)  
Alumroot  
(*Heuchera americana*)  
Penn sedge  
(*Carex pensylvanica*)

# Gardening for Life

By Doug Tallamy

Chances are, you have never thought of your garden – indeed, of all of the space on your land – as a wildlife preserve that represents the last chance we have for sustaining plants and animals that were once common throughout the United States. That is exactly the role our suburban landscapes are now playing, and will play even more critically in the near future. If this is news to you, it's not your fault.

We were taught from childhood that gardens are for beauty; they are a chance to express our artistic talents, to have fun with, and relax in. And, whether we like it or not, the way we landscape our properties is taken by our neighbors as a statement of our wealth and social status.

No one has taught us that we have forced the plants and animals that evolved in North America (our nation's biodiversity) to depend more and more on human-dominated landscapes for their continued existence. We have always thought that biodiversity was happy somewhere out there – "in nature" – in our local woodlot, or perhaps our national parks, or best of all "in the rain forest." We have heard nothing about the rate at which species are disappearing from our neighborhoods, towns, counties, and states.

We have never been taught how vital biodiversity is for our *own* well-being.

## We Have Taken It All

The population of the United States, now nearing three hundred and six million people, has doubled since most of us were kids, and continues to grow by eight thousand forty-six people per day. This, coupled with our love affair with the car, and our quest to own ever-larger homes, has fueled urbanized development that continues to sprawl over two million additional acres *per year* (the size of Yellowstone National Park). We have connected all of our developments with four million miles of roads, and their combined paved surface could occupy roughly the area of Pennsylvania.

Somewhere along the way we decided to convert most of our leisure and decorative places, both at work and at home, into huge expanses of lawn. So far we have planted some forty million acres in lawn. Each weekend we mow to a one-inch height an area the size of Missouri or Oklahoma, and congratulate ourselves on a job well done.

To make things worse, the little woodlots and "open spaces" that we have not paved over or manicured are far from pristine. Nearly all are second-growth that has been thoroughly invaded by alien plants like autumn olive, multiflora rose, Oriental bittersweet, and Japanese honeysuckle. So far, over thirty-four hundred species of alien plants have invaded nearly two hundred million acres of the United States.

To nature lovers these are horrifying statistics. I stress them so that we can clearly understand the challenge before us. We have turned fifty-four percent of the lower forty-eight states into cities and suburbs, and forty-one percent more into various forms of agriculture. That's right: We humans have taken ninety-five percent of nature and made it unnatural. Most of the five percent we have left pristine is either too high or too dry to support much of anything.

So what does it matter? Are there consequences to turning so much land into the park-like settings humans enjoy? Absolutely. Both for biodiversity and for us. Our fellow creatures need food and shelter to survive and reproduce, and in too many places we have eliminated both. State natural heritage folks estimate that as many as thirty-three thousand species of plants and animals in this country are "imperiled." Many of those that haven't suffered local extinction are now too rare to perform their ecosystem role effectively. These can be considered functionally extinct.

The song birds that brighten spring mornings have been in decline since the nineteen sixties, having lost forty percent of their numbers. Birds that breed in meadows are in even more trouble. Once-common species such as the northern bobwhite, eastern meadowlark, field sparrow, and grasshopper sparrow have declined eighty-two, seventy-two, sixty-eight, and sixty-five percent, in total numbers, and are completely absent from many areas that used to support healthy populations. Evening grosbeaks have declined ninety percent in fifteen years because we are leveling their boreal forest breeding grounds to make junk mail. For most of us, hearing such numbers triggers a passing sadness, but few people feel personally threatened by the loss of biodiversity.

## Why We Need Biodiversity

Here is why every one of us should feel threatened. Here is why it matters. Losses to biodiversity are a clear sign that our own life-support systems are failing. The ecosystems that support us – that determine the carrying capacity of our Earth and our local spaces – are run by biodiversity. It is biodiversity that generates oxygen and clean water, creates topsoil out of rock, buffers extreme weather events like droughts and floods, pollinates our crops, and recycles the mountains of garbage we create every day.

Now, with human-induced climate change threatening the planet, it is biodiversity that could suck that carbon out of the air and sequester it in living plants if given half a chance. It is plants that turn sunlight into all of the food that supports life on Earth, yet we continue to reduce complex forests into lawns the world over.

Humans cannot live as the only species on this planet because it is *other species* that create the ecosystem services essential to our survival. Every time we force a species to extinction we promote our own demise. Biodiversity is not optional.

## Parks Are Not Enough

I am often asked why the habitats we *have* preserved within our park system are not enough to save most species from extinction. Research has shown that the area required to sustain biodiversity is pretty much the same as the area required to generate it in the first place. Put another way: Species are lost in the same proportion with which a habitat is reduced in size. The consequence of this simple relationship is profound. Since we have taken ninety-five percent of the United States from nature, we can expect to lose ninety-five percent of the species that once lived here, along with the services they have provided us.

The good news is that extinction takes a while, so if we start sharing our landscapes with other living things, we should be able to save much of the biodiversity that still exists.

## Start Locally: Redesigning Suburbia

Scientific facts, deduced from thousands of studies about how energy moves through food webs, outline for us what it will take to give our local animals what they need to survive and reproduce on our properties: *Native plants*, and lots of them.



Here is the general reasoning:

- Plants are the source of all energy that supports life. In other words, all animals get their energy directly from plants, or by eating something that has already eaten a plant.
- Some animals don't eat plants directly. They must rely on other animals, which do eat plants, to transmit the energy.
- The group of animals most responsible for passing energy from plants to the animals that don't eat plants directly, is insects. This is what makes insects such vital components of healthy ecosystems. So many animals depend on insects for food (e.g., spiders, reptiles, amphibians, rodents, bats, and ninety-six percent of all terrestrial birds), that removing insects from an ecosystem spells its doom.

If you think back on our suburban landscaping history, getting rid of insects is exactly what we have tried to do. For over a century we have favored ornamental landscape plants from China and Europe over those that evolved right here. Among the reasons for favoring the imported plants has been the observation that they "are not subject to insect infestation."

Research now tells us that not all plants are created equal. Every plant species protects its leaves with a species-specific mixture of chemicals. With few exceptions, only insect species that have shared a long evolutionary history with a particular plant lineage have developed the physiological adaptations required to digest the chemicals in their host's leaves. Insects have specialized over time to eat only the plants carrying particular chemicals. When we present insects from Pennsylvania with plants that evolved on another continent, chances are those insects will be unable to digest them.

We used to think this was good. Avoid insect infestation by planting suggested species, and/or spray and kill all insects that do show up on our plants.

Now we know that an insect that cannot, for whatever reason, eat part of a leaf, cannot fulfill its role in the food web.

We have planted Kousa dogwood (*Cornus kousa*), a species from China that supports no insect herbivores, instead of our native flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) that supports one hundred and seventeen species of moths and butterflies alone. On hundreds of thousands of acres we have planted goldenraintree (*Koeleruteria paniculata*) from China, a tree that

supports one caterpillar species, instead of a variety of our beautiful oaks, and we have lost the chance to grow five hundred and thirty-four species of caterpillars, all of them nutritious bird food. My own research has shown that native ornamentals support twenty-nine times more biodiversity than do alien ornamentals. Further, it's unnerving to learn that eighty-two percent of the woody invasives in our country are escapees of the horticultural industry.

#### **Your Garden Has a Function**

In the past we have not designed gardens that play a critical ecological role in the landscape, but we *must* do so in the future. *The importance of our doing this cannot be overstated.* We need to quickly replace unnecessary lawn with densely planted woodlots in the East and West, and natural prairies in the Midwest; whatever can serve as habitat for our local biodiversity.

Homeowners can do this by planting the borders of their properties with plants native to their region: In the East, native trees such as white oaks (*Quercus alba*), black willows (*Salix nigra*), red maples (*Acer rubrum*), green ashes (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), black walnuts (*Juglans nigra*), river birches (*Betula nigra*) and shagbark hickories (*Carya ovata*), under-planted with woodies like serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*), arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*), hazelnut (*Corylus americanus*), and blueberries (*Vaccinium spp.*). Our studies have shown that even modest increases in the native plant cover on suburban properties significantly increases the number and species of breeding birds, including birds of conservation concern.

We have also recently demonstrated that homeowners needn't worry that native insects will defoliate their gardens. A diversity of native plants will support a diversity of native insects that, in turn, support a healthy community of natural enemies that keeps them in check. One bluebird pair brings up to three hundred caterpillars back their nest every day. You will be hard-pressed to find any caterpillars in your yard if you create habitat for breeding birds. In a recent study, homeowners who planted natives exclusively found that only three percent of the leaves on their properties were damaged by insects.

As gardeners and stewards of our land, we have never been so empowered to help save biodiversity from extinction, and the need to do so has never been so great. All we need to do is plant native plants. ●

## Can a corkscrew save the Earth?



### **Of course not. But a Wild Ones Gift Membership might.**

Having a hard time thinking up appropriate gift ideas during this time of economic uncertainty? Expensive corkscrews, fancy clothes, and gift certificates for that trendy coffee place down the street just don't make the grade now. Why not give something fun that also shows how much you care about the future of our planet?

Those crazy corkscrews usually get thrown into the back of a kitchen drawer, the fancy clothes might not fit in these days, and those gift certificates? Just not personal enough. 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.

Can't think of anyone who would enjoy a Wild Ones membership? At least one of your friends would love this gift. And 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 don't forget that 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.

Three levels of membership are available, and every recipient of a gift membership gets all the standard benefits of membership, including a subscription to the *Wild Ones Journal*. We'll even send them a letter 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](http://www.for-wild.org/joining.html).

Go there now.



Prairie rose (*Rosa setigera*) is an enthusiastic climber, colorful, and perfumed. Photo © 2002 Steven J. Baskauf.



As seen out the windows of the lake room, the architecture of the trunks of sumac is interesting. The high-growing leaves shade the window. Photo by Richard J. Ehrenberg.

Three distinctive shrubs are part of the visual landscape in our yard at Green Gables. One was selected primarily for its beauty and history. All were chosen to fulfill a function. When beauty and function are combined it is the essence of good planning and design.

#### Staghorn sumac

The selection of staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), to replace a concrete patio located just outside and adjacent to our family/living room turned out to be a perfect solution for what I considered a major eyesore for one who likes to look out a window and see nature. When we first moved in, the primary view out the only window in the room, a large glass sliding door, other than a great expanse of lawn, was a twelve-foot by eighteen-foot squarish, grey slab of concrete edged by a two-foot wide linear planter for annuals, and outlined with decaying railroad ties. Not even a hint of anything natural.

The concrete and railroad ties were removed as soon as I could find a person with a jackhammer. After a year of construction repair work around the house, six staghorn sumac were planted along the south wall of the "lake room," so named since it faces Trippe Lake. Later, three large windows replaced the sliding door in order to provide a full view of the prairie garden, the lake, the trees and shrubs by the lake, wildlife roaming the yard, birds at the feeder, and people strolling on the paths.

Sumacs produce additional plants (clones) through sprouting from their expanding root systems. Over the years the original six five-foot tall plants have grown to twelve and fifteen feet in height. Some have died due to expanding shade, while new

## Green Gables An American landscape designed with nature in mind: Sumac & Raspberries

By Richard J. Ehrenberg

Part 6 of a series.

ones sprouted where sun became more available. Presently, there are eighteen mature and maturing plants, with sixteen young ones starting to fill in where needed. Viewed from outside the house, they look like one large shrub. They are not sheared into geometric shapes or prevented from intermingling with each other. Their distinctive, large compound leaves create an exotic impression of tropical forest plants. The artistic, sculptured branching habit, and the beautiful fall colors of oranges and reds are outstanding. The fuzzy, red clusters of seed are also showy, and provide food for early spring birds, especially robins.

As appealing as their beauty is, the main reason for selecting staghorn sumac was to provide filtered shade for the lake room during the hot humid days of summer. This they do admirably well. In fact, when the plants were only eight-feet to ten-feet tall it was necessary to selectively prune out some of the large leaves so that we could see the back yard. Now that the sumac clone has grown tall enough to leaf out above the level of the windows, pruning is only required for the younger plants, and the windows are shaded.

Its love for a sunny location makes it ideal for planting on the south side of a house where heat mitigation is often desirable. Because sumac leafs out late and drops leaves early, sun is allowed into the lake room not only during the extreme cold of winter, but also during the cool days of spring and fall. Its open branching habit allows pruning to permit one to see through from inside the house, yet its south-facing, large, shading leaves can provide visual privacy from the outside.

# Wild Ones Business Members Yellow Pages 2009



The Wild Ones Yellow Pages listings give you a chance to get to know our Wild Ones business members. We want them to know we appreciate their support. When looking for products and services you need, remember that our Wild Ones business members, along with most of our *Journal* advertisers, share the goals and ideals of Wild Ones everywhere.

## CALIFORNIA

### Tree of Life Nursery

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debevans@treeoflifenuresery.com  
www.treeoflifenuresery.com  
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Thirty years ago, we started on a path to promote regionally appropriate horticulture. Inspired by our natural surroundings, we simply provide the finest quality California native plants on the market. Staying true to our original vision, we grow plants for naturally sustainable landscapes, and we believe in creating spaces that look and feel authentically "Californian." Our knowledgeable propagation, production, and sales crews make up a team (more like a family) of long-term experts that have developed and honed reliable, efficient methods for growing and delivering natives. By propagating over 500 species and varieties of native plants for the wholesale and retail trades, we provide a means by which our land can be restored and revived with California's most precious resources.

## ILLINOIS

### Art & Linda's Wildflowers

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(708) 785-2943  
art@artandlindaswildflowers.com  
www.artandlindaswildflowers.com  
North Park Village Nature Center Chapter

In creating our gardens, we take our cues from the beautiful things and places we have seen in the natural world. The location – the earth – tells us what goes where. The conditions, such as the amount of sun or shade, the type of soil, the amount of moisture an area will get and retain, all dictate what types of plants will be happy, will thrive, and will coexist there. The native plants we use will all belong together there, as they have since ancient times to create a sense of harmony.



### EarthWild Gardens

1479 Potawatomi Rd, Grayslake IL 60030-3531  
(847) 287-7477  
info@earthwildgardens.com  
www.earthwildgardens.com  
Lake-To-Prairie Chapter  
EarthWild Gardens grew out of a love for gardening and a commitment to preserving local biodiversity. We sell over



150 species of hard-to-find native flowers, grasses, sedges, vines, shrubs, and trees. We help our clients incorporate native plants into their residential settings – in naturalized prairie landscapes, rain gardens, woodland settings, or formal cottage gardens. We are in north suburban Grayslake, now at Station Square of Prairie Crossing, right off of Ill. Rt. 137, north of where Harris and Casey Roads intersect.

### Kickapoo Mud Creek Nature Conservancy

1919 Limekiln Rd, PO Box 38  
Oregon IL 61061-0038  
(815) 973-0756  
kentkathy@sbcglobal.net  
www.kickapoomudcreek.org  
Rock River Valley Chapter



### Pizzo & Associates Ltd

10729 Pine Rd, Leland IL 60531-9802  
(815) 495-2300  
jack@pizzo.info  
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Rock River Valley Chapter



Pizzo & Associates Ltd of Leland, Illinois, is dedicated to the use of ecologically sound principals in planning and development for both public and private sectors. They bring together the disciplines of planning, consulting, contracting, stewardship, and nursery in one company for their public and private land owners who are committed to the restoration of natural processes on their land to create stable, cost-effective, and beautiful solutions to today's problems.

### Red Buffalo Nursery

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(815) 648-4838  
kaskel@mc.net  
www.redbuffalonursery.com  
Lake-To-Prairie Chapter



Red Buffalo Nursery specializes in plants native to the prairies, wetlands, savannas, and forests of northeastern Illinois and southeastern Wisconsin. We grow plants from locally collected seed whenever possible. Plant sales occur at our nursery in the spring and fall, at farmer's markets, and by appointment. Visit our web site for a plant list, sales dates, and locations. When you are here, be sure to visit our prairie and sedge meadow restoration. We are proud of our natural area, and have protected it with a permanent conservation easement. Our services include design, landscaping, and natural-areas restoration and management.

When we design a garden or create a management plan, we use the original pre-settlement environment as our model. Call us to set up a site visit.

### Taskforce on Waukegan Neighborhoods

128 N West Street, Waukegan IL 60085  
(847) 917-8310  
finnada@waukegan.com  
Lake-To-Prairie Chapter



### The Natural Garden Inc

38W443 Hwy 64, St Charles IL 60175  
(630) 584-0150 ext 231  
swysock@thenaturalgardeninc.com  
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Greater DuPage Chapter



The Natural Garden is the grower of over 1,000 varieties of herbaceous plants. Our selection of northern Illinois natives is unmatched, and is complimented by a discerning collection of ornamental perennials, grasses, and herbs. Come visit our unique 25-acre nursery, complete with garden center and beautiful display beds.

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Greater DuPage Chapter



Trillium works throughout northeast Illinois and southeast Wisconsin, offering elegant design and exacting installation to help you create a landscape you can live in. Your Trillium landscape will mimic the natural beauty around you while resolving challenges such as runoff, invasive plants, and high maintenance. You'll conserve water and attract butterflies, songbirds, and beneficial insects to your yard. And you'll experience all this from a customized design that puts you in the landscape, with walking trails, benches, patios, rain gardens, water features, and formal garden beds tailored to increase your personal enjoyment. We can help you with all phases of your landscape project, including ecological evaluation, written conservation plans, and permits. Call us today for a free site visit.

## INDIANA

### JFNew & Associates, Inc

708 Roosevelt Rd,  
Walkerton IN 46574  
(574) 586-3400  
lcooper@jfnew.com  
www.jfnew.com  
Gibson Woods Chapter



JFNew is an experienced full-service ecological services firm, providing sound solutions to clients for over 19 years. Our team of over 130 professionals provides a broad range of ecological consulting, restoration services and native plant materials. JFNew is headquartered in northern Indiana with regional

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## Wild Ones Business Members Yellow Pages 2009

offices in Chicago, Illinois, central Indiana, eastern and western Michigan, Cincinnati, and Madison, Wisconsin. Our 100+ acre native plant nursery is located in Walkerton, Indiana, and is one of the largest native plant nurseries in the United States. Visit [www.jfnew.com](http://www.jfnew.com) to shop online or to learn how we can assist you with your project.

### MARYLAND

#### WindStar Wildlife Institute

10072 Vista Ct, Myersville MD 21773  
(301) 293-3351  
[wildlife@windstar.org](mailto:wildlife@windstar.org)  
[www.windstar.org](http://www.windstar.org)  
Partner-at-Large



WindStar Wildlife Institute is national 501 (c)(3) non-profit, conservation organization whose mission and solution to the loss of native plants and wildlife habitat focuses on effectively teaching wildlife habitat improvement practices through proven methods such as "neighbor helping neighbor" and "education through demonstration." The Institute issues *WindStar's Wildlife Garden Weekly*, a free e-magazine, and the "American Wildlife Blog." The Institute offers two internet home study courses to certify individuals as "Wildlife Habitat Naturalists" and "National Master Naturalists." Also, the Institute certifies residential, commercial, and rural wildlife habitats in its American Wildlife Habitat Registry™ program. It maintains a 4-acre demonstration wildlife habitat, and headquarters is located in an award-winning earth-sheltered, passive solar building.

### MICHIGAN

#### Kalamazoo Nature Center

7000 N Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo MI 49009-6309  
(269) 381-1574 ext 17  
[sreding@naturecenter.org](mailto:sreding@naturecenter.org)  
[www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)  
Kalamazoo Area Chapter



The Kalamazoo Nature Center is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to inspire people to care for the environment by providing experiences that lead them to understand their connection to the natural world. Our Community Wildlife Program works with businesses, golf courses, schools, and private landowners to enhance wildlife habitat through native landscaping. We can assist with site evaluation, plant selection, design, and installation. Kalamazoo Nature Center holds a native plant sale every spring and fall.

#### MCC Gardening Association - Mott Community College

1401 E Count St, Flint MI 48529-6208  
(810) 762-0455  
[rebecca.gale@mcc.edu](mailto:rebecca.gale@mcc.edu)  
[www.gardening.mcc.edu](http://www.gardening.mcc.edu)  
Flint River Chapter



The purpose of the Mott Community College Gardening Association (MCCGA) is to educate students and the community on basic horticultural practices and their benefits through lectures, volunteer projects, and gardening-related activities in and around the MCC campuses, as well as in our community. We began installation of a native plant garden in spring 2005, which will demonstrate and help us to share the benefits of rebuilding native-plant habitats. We've established the Campus Beautification Endowment fund to support MCC campus gardens, and the educational benefits they afford our students. Tax-deductible donations may be made payable to the Foundation for Mott Community College (501)(c)(3) and mailed to the address above.

### Native Connections

17080 Hoshel Rd, Three Rivers MI 49093-9638  
(269) 580-4765

[jerry@nativeconnections.net](mailto:jerry@nativeconnections.net)  
[www.nativeconnections.net](http://www.nativeconnections.net)

Kalamazoo Area Chapter  
Native Connections offers consultation services on restoration of native ecosystems, specializing in native landscape design and installation of prairie, wetland, and woodland ecosystems. We can help provide seed mixes of local and regional genotype. We can also provide native seedlings, small- or large-scale quantities. Wild Ones goals are very much in line with our own personal and business goals. Large scale producers of Michigan genotype native grasses. "Working to restore our natural world."



### Wildtype Native Plant Nursery

900 N Every Rd, Mason MI 48854-9306

(517) 244-1140  
[wildtype@msu.edu](mailto:wildtype@msu.edu)  
[www.wildtypeplants.com](http://www.wildtypeplants.com)  
Red Cedar Chapter



Wildtype exclusively grows plants native to Michigan, from Michigan genotypes. We grow trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers typical of southern Michigan woodlands, wetlands, and prairies. It is our objective to propagate nursery stock with enough genetic diversity to create self-sustaining populations. Therefore, the vast majority of our plants are grown from wild seed stock. This is what we mean when we say our plants are born to be wild. Wildtype also provides ecological design and consulting services for public, commercial, and residential projects focusing on restoration and preservation of native landscape. Services offered include: species inventory and site assessment, design and planning, and the establishment and management of native landscape. Please contact us for more information.

### MINNESOTA

#### Barr Engineering

4700 W 77th St Suite 200  
Minneapolis MN 55435-4803  
(800) 632-2277

[candrews@barr.com](mailto:candrews@barr.com)  
[www.barr.com](http://www.barr.com)  
Arrowhead Chapter



Barr Engineering's nearly 400 engineers, scientists, and technical support staff located in Duluth, Hibbing, and Minneapolis, Minnesota; Ann Arbor, Michigan; and Jefferson City, Missouri, provide engineering, environmental, and information-technology services to clients in numerous industries and all levels of government. One of Barr's specialties combines the talents of our landscape architects, who specialize in use of native plants, with the skills of our water-resources engineers to design landscapes that manage storm water in an ecologically sound yet aesthetically pleasing manner. The landscape architects and ecologists at Barr know how to maintain ecological integrity while providing the amenities that we've come to expect. In addition to many other services, we also assist clients with storm water planning and permitting. Offices in Ann Arbor, MI; Jefferson City, MO; and Hibbing, MN.

#### EnergyScapes Inc

3754 Pleasant Ave Suite B3  
Minneapolis MN 55409-1227  
(612) 821-9797

[douglas@energyscapes.com](mailto:douglas@energyscapes.com)  
[www.energyscapes.com](http://www.energyscapes.com)  
Twin Cities Chapter



Designing, installing, and maintaining beautiful sustainable landscapes using locally native plant species since 1989. Our goal is to create places of sanctuary and oasis for people that also benefit our environment. Working with the site we capitalize on the natural energy available from the earth, sun, and water to create landscapes that emulate natural habitats, save resources, and solve drainage issues, all while meeting our clients' desire for beauty. EnergyScapes creates serene energy-saving designs featuring elements such as Green Awnings® and rain gardens. Sharing the mission of expanding awareness, saving biodiversity, and healing the planet, we are glad to be working with Wild Ones. Giving its first presentation, Douglas helped kick off the Twin Cities Chapter.

### Out Back Nursery

15280 - 110th St S, Hastings MN 55033-9135  
(800) 651-3626

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[www.outbacknursery.com](http://www.outbacknursery.com)  
Twin Cities Chapter



Out Back Nursery, a grower of Minnesota native plants for 25 years, also provides landscape design and contractor services. Known for their mottoes, "Where ecology and horticulture unite," and "May we be your guides?" their goal is to serve the residents of the region with the largest selection of native plants in the region."

### Prairie Moon Nursery

32115 Prairie Ln, Winona MN 55987  
(866) 417-8156

[gail@prairiemoon.com](mailto:gail@prairiemoon.com)  
[www.prairiemoon.com](http://www.prairiemoon.com)  
Partner-at-Large



Prairie Moon offers a large selection of native prairie and meadow wildflowers and grass seed. Our forb, grass seed, and plants are of the highest quality. With over 500 species listed, we are your source for the more uncommon native forbs (wildflowers), cacti, trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, grasses, sedges, and rushes. We also specialize in custom and predesigned wetland seed mixes, prairie seed mixes, detention seed mixes, savanna seed mixes, and woodland seed mixes. Other products offered include books on restoration landscaping, identification, and medicinal plants. Prairie Moon can also guide you to the best ecological lawn alternatives such as buffalo grass and our no mow "Eco Grass."

### Prairie Restorations Inc

31922 128th Street, PO Box 327  
Princeton MN 55371-0327

(763) 389-4354  
[info@prairieresto.com](mailto:info@prairieresto.com)  
[www.prairieresto.com](http://www.prairieresto.com)



St. Croix Oak Savanna Chapter  
For nearly thirty years Prairie Restorations, Inc. has designed, restored, and managed prairies and other natural landscapes. Contracted installations are at the heart of our business. We complete successful projects by making use of high-quality native seeds and plants that we produce in our own fields and greenhouses, and by relying on time-tested techniques and state-of-the-art equipment. Branches in Cloquet, Hawley, Northfield, Princeton, and Watertown. Want to do the work yourself? Our retail store provides seed and plant materials, and our knowledgeable staff can answer questions and make recommendations to ensure the success of your project.

## Wild Ones Business Members Yellow Pages 2009

### MISSOURI

#### Missouri Wildflowers Nursery

9814 Pleasant Hill Rd, Jefferson City MO 65109  
(573) 496-3492  
mowdfllrs@socket.net  
www.missouriwildflowers.net  
Mid-Missouri Chapter



We sell native Missouri perennials, both seeds and plants. Our plants are nursery propagated. Missouri is the genetic origin of the plants, so they are best adapted to states east of the Rockies. View our plants online or visit the nursery near Jefferson City.

#### Songbird Station

PO Box 157, Mexico MO 65365, (800) 256-2473  
mel@songbirdstation.com  
www.songbirdstation.com  
Mid-Missouri Chapter



Songbird Station is Central Missouri's original, largest and best wild bird and nature store. In addition to offering over 7,000 different wild bird and backyard nature feeders, baths, houses, books, gifts, and more, we are now in our new location offering a selection of the best Missouri natives for attracting hummingbirds, songbirds, and butterflies. We offer suggested planting plans for central Missouri as well as pre-planted baskets containing a combination of annuals and perennials that can be enjoyed for a season, and then planted in the fall.

### NEBRASKA

#### Todd Valley Farms Inc

East Highway 92, PO Box 202,  
Mead NE 68041-0202  
(402) 624-6385  
wayne@toddvalleyfarms.com  
www.toddvalleyfarms.com  
Partner-at-Large



Todd Valley Farms is a leading producer of low-water-use turfgrass. The farm owns exclusive rights to several turfgrass varieties, including three turf-type buffalograss. Buffalograss is the only turfgrass native to the United States and uses up to 75 percent less water than other types of turfgrass. Todd Valley Farms buffalograss was developed as turfgrass, not a modified pasture grass. They are seedless vegetative reproduced all-female plants so they require less mowing, have very low pollen ratings, and form a dense green turf. Establishment is by sod or accelerated growth plugs. Plugs are shipped via UPS to all states, and are quick and easy to install with minimal ground preparation. Buffalograss creates a low maintenance landscape, and is the grass of choice for green buildings and green roofs.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Edge of the Woods Native Plant Nursery LLC

2415 Route 100, Orefield PA 18069  
Contact: Louise Schaefer and Sue Tantsits  
(610) 395-2570 Office  
(610) 395-3546 Fax  
info@edgeofthewoodsnursery.com  
www.edgeofthewoodsnursery.com  
Partner-at-Large



We are located in eastern Pennsylvania, and offer over 300 species of plants native to the mid-Atlantic and Northeast areas of the U.S. Our selection includes trees, shrubs, aquatics, perennials, ferns, and grasses. Services include educational programs, consultation, landscape design, and installation. We stress "right plant right place," and work to help customers select the plants that will thrive in their landscapes. Native plants play an important role

in our ecosystem, and we want to help you discover their beauty as well as their other benefits. Some of those benefits include attracting birds, butterflies, and wildlife, slowing water run-off, and reducing pesticide and fertilizer usage. All our plants are nursery propagated. We do not collect from the wild.

### WISCONSIN

#### Agrecol Corp

2918 Agriculture Dr, Madison WI 53718-6770  
(608) 226-2544  
mary.delarosa@agrecol.com  
www.agrecol.com  
Madison Chapter



Agrecol Corporation combines the best principles of production agriculture with the science of ecology, producing high-quality native seed and plants. Agrecol is the largest grower of native plants and seed in the Midwest; growing more than 200 species of native wildflowers and grasses. New products include specialty erosion control, water management products available to national and international markets. Agrecol offers seed and live plants and installation for prairie, woodlands, wetlands, and savanna plant communities, sales and installation of Envirolok vegetated retaining walls, environmental consulting, and resource management services, restoration design, detention, retention, and rain-water basins, stormwater management, polyacrylamide, native certified weed-free mulch/straw, silt fence equipment, installation, and site monitoring and maintenance.

#### Crystal River Inn B&B

E1369 Rural Rd, Waupaca WI 54981  
(800) 236-5789  
crystalriverinn@charterinternet.com  
www.crystalriver-inn.com  
Central Wisconsin Chapter



Our 1853 farmstead on the Crystal River in the historic village of Rural exudes country charm on "Rustic Road 23," four miles south of Waupaca, in central Wisconsin. As Wild Ones members, we are committed to making as gentle impact on the Earth as possible and to restore native plant communities and wildlife habitat on our eleven acres. We are "Travel Green Wisconsin" certified, and have just begun our work of prairie restoration and invasives removal on this former farm. The Inn features seven guest rooms with antique furnishings, a view of the river or woods, and a nook for reading or visiting, and two cabins for families. Guest rooms have private baths and fireplaces. Two rooms also have a double whirlpool. All include a full breakfast with a "Southern touch," featuring our homemade local wild grape and wild plum jelly. Our non-smoking environment has free high-speed wireless Internet, meeting space for small groups, and we're open year 'round. Our land has paths through fields and woods, and an outdoor, seven-circuit classical labyrinth, and seven monitored bluebird houses. The wide variety of habitat on our land and the area from tamarack swamps to hardwood uplands invites local wildlife like river otter, bald eagle, and Karner blue butterfly. The area offers many restaurants and recreation opportunities: biking, birding, boating, canoeing, walking, fishing, nearby state parks and charming small towns. A rural Wisconsin treasure.

**Wild Ones recommends that you patronize businesses that support our policies regarding species provenance and habitat preservation. The appearance of advertisers in this listing does not constitute an endorsement by Wild Ones of any organization or product.**

### Door Landscape

6329 State Highway 42, Egg Harbor WI 54209-9138  
(920) 495-3138  
Cliff@doorlandscape.com  
www.doorlandscape.com  
Door County Chapter



Door Landscape is a full-service native landscape company located in the heart of one of most diverse eco-regions in the world. Our core values include the education of our employees and our clients on the value of sustainable design and maintenance. Door Landscape focuses on the creation of sustainable, well-planned gardens that reflect the plant communities in our region and our peninsula. Our nursery division currently propagates over 70 native Door County species for use in our clients' gardens. From pre-construction plant surveys and site analysis through the design, installation, and continued care processes, we strive to exceed our client's expectations.

### Fields Neighbourhood

PO Box 555, East Troy WI 53120-0555  
(262) 642-2651  
skylark@manshire.com  
www.fieldsneighborhood.org  
Milwaukee-Southwest/WVehr Chapter



Welcome to Fields Neighborhood, an innovative holistic community nestled in the rolling hills of southern Wisconsin that combines sustainable living with a strong community atmosphere and respect for the natural environment. Fields Neighborhood offers a range of clustered homes that integrate the latest green building technologies with designs that minimize the impact on the natural surroundings. Discover homes built with concern for your comfort and for the environment. Fields Neighborhood offers certified Green Built Homes with quality craftsmanship and state-of-the-art environmental elements such as sun-tempered design, low-toxin, and recycled building materials, low-voc paints, real linoleum floors, and solid wood kitchen and bath cabinets. Enjoy the many recreation and community activities. Watch the sun rise over the nearby hills, canoe in the neighboring Honey Creek, swim in the nearby lake, listen to music on the town square or enjoy the annual 4th of July parade, hike on the many natural trails, ski at Alpine Valley, take part in gardening classes at Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, enjoy freshly baked organic bread and foods from Fields Best and the local organic farming community, and much more. Grow your spirit in Fields Neighborhood. Meet new friends at potlucks or seasonal festivals at next door's Michael Fields. The Climbing Tree Waldorf-inspired Community and Daycare center in East Troy or Prairie Crossing Waldorf School just 30 minutes from the Fields Community offer quality, heart-centered education. Learn more about Fields Neighborhood by taking our online tour at [www.fieldsneighborhood.org](http://www.fieldsneighborhood.org). Come live the life you've imagined at Fields Neighborhood.

### Formecology LLC

210 Cemetery Rd, Evansville WI 53536  
(608) 882-6656  
info@formecology.com  
www.formecology.com/  
Madison Chapter



Formecology, LLC is a full-service landscape architectural design, installation, and care firm focusing on environmentally beneficial and regionally inspired landscapes for residential and commercial settings. "Formecology" is born from the idea of combining art with nature; bringing natural elements together with cultural art forms. Our artful combinations of native vegetation, local stone, recycled materials, drought tolerant or no-mow turfgrass, and rainwater-conscious features create unique land-

## Wild Ones Business Members Yellow Pages 2009

scapes. Formecology's timeless creations have a distinct visual identity that is very Middle-West. Outdoor living spaces designed, installed, and maintained by Formecology, LLC are beautiful, economical, and environmentally beneficial. We'd love to visit with you and offer an approach on how to create your sustainable outdoor living environment.

### Hickory Road Gardens

2041 Hickory Rd,  
Mosinee WI 54455  
(715) 693-6446  
brayherbs@mtc.net



Central Wisconsin Chapter  
Shade-loving woodland wildflowers are our specialty. We have over 25 years experience growing them under artificial shade. Starting with ginseng in the early '70s, we branched out into goldenseal, and ultimately into woodland wildflowers native to the forests of the upper Midwest. Our flowers are grown almost entirely from our own stock or from seeds gathered in the woods around our farm. We have been able to amass a nice collection of plants without dislodging the parent sources from their native habitat. We think you will find these nursery-grown plants to be vigorous and well-suited as potted plants for nursery sales, for private landscaping, or for commercial restoration projects. We ship bare-root, for overnight or next-day delivery, primarily in spring or fall, but at other times by request.

### Johnson's Nursery Inc

W160 N6275 Marcy Road  
Menomonee Falls WI 53051  
Contact: Jackie Weisenberger  
(262) 252- 4988  
jackie@johnsonsnursery.com  
www.johnsonsnursery.com



Menomonee River Valley Area Chapter  
Johnson's Nursery, Inc. is one of the largest growers of landscape plants in southeast Wisconsin. Our locally grown inventory includes an extensive list of native trees, shrubs, and evergreens, along with herbaceous forbs, ferns, and grasses. We strive to provide our customers with the widest possible selection of balled and burlapped and container-grown plant material in the area. Our goal is to provide our customers with a wide variety of native plants, and we are continually propagating additional natives, many from local wild seed sources. Johnson's also offers residential and commercial landscape design, installation and maintenance services, including buckthorn and honeysuckle eradication. Our landscape architects and designers offer site-specific, creative ideas for your landscape. We also offer brick and stone patios, retaining walls, and other hardscape elements.

### Lacewing Gardening Consulting Services

6087 N Denmark St, Milwaukee WI 53225-1673  
(414) 793-3652 cell  
lacewing@nase.org



Menomonee River Area Chapter  
Lacewing Gardening Services provides gardening consultation, instruction, design, and restoration services, as well as maintenance. We work at creating habitats that enhance local/regional ecosystems, including woodland and shade gardens, prairies, meadows, raingardens, lakeside and stream restorations. We also do organic pest and disease control when needed. We are a conservation-minded business, and believe in natural landscaping using native plant species (also non-invasive non-natives), and in a lifestyle that supports sustainable living.

### Lake Shore Cleaners Inc

4623 N Richmond St, Appleton WI 54913-9627  
(920) 716-1373  
lakeshorecleaners@newbc.rr.com

Fox Valley Area Chapter  
At Lake Shore Cleaners, we work closely with our clients to

### Lake Shore Cleaners

restore and create native and self-sustaining plant and animal habitats. A full-service company with the latest technology and equipment, we work with residential, commercial, and private land applications, handling all aspects to ensure the productivity and success of the site. At Native Solutions we take the guesswork out of ecological projects for prairies, savannas, wetlands and ponds, trees and shrubs. Helping to restore Wisconsin's native habitats.

### Landmark Landscapes Inc

471 E Rhine St, Elkhart Lake WI 53020-1947  
(920) 467-6442

joe@landmarklandscapesinc.com  
www.landmarklandscapesinc.com  
Sheboygan Area Tension Zone Chapter



Landmark Landscape is an ecological landscape firm that promotes sustainable landscape applications and native plant communities. We host an expert staff of designers, horticulturists, arborists, and artisans who specialize in native landscape design, ecologically sensitive installation and low-impact maintenance practices. Our innovative approach toward landscaping ensures that each project meets our clients' needs, and benefits the environment. We have enthusiastically accepted a position of land stewardship, and will continue to help protect and restore the delicate ecosystems and biodiversity of the Upper Midwest. Call us for a consultation.

### Landscape Restoration

8221 W Front St, PO Box 418, Hanover WI, 53542  
608-302-5744  
daleink@jvlnet.com

Partner at Large

Landscape restoration is a small, experienced, value-based, natural area planting and management company. We're professionally certified (S-390 burn boss, WI herbicide applicator) and fully insured. And we're doing what we believe in: promoting native plants, and battling invasive species to help you manage your property for natural diversity with common-sense economics. Our work includes building native stone walls, establishing native plantings in flood-prone residential sites, burning prairie patches and 80-acre CRP fields, rescuing native plants, planting roadsides and steep berms, controlling garlic mustard and buckthorn in woodlands, and attacking Canada thistle, crown vetch, multiflora rose, and gypsy moth infestations. Every year we donate a rain garden through the Wisconsin Rivers fall online auction (it's a tax-deductible landscape addition for a good cause), and in 2009 we are offering discounts for Wild Ones members in southern Wisconsin. If you would like a little help bringing nature back into balance on your property, give us a call for a free evaluation and proposal.

### Landscape Restoration

### Marshland Transplant Aquatic Nursery

PO Box 1, Berlin WI 54923-0001  
(800) 208-2842

marshland@centurytel.net

Fox Valley Area Chapter

The largest wholesale aquatic nursery in the Midwest, Marshland Transplant Aquatic Nursery produces quality native plant materials for large scale wetland mitigation and native restorations. We also provide installation services for a variety of projects including habitat restoration,



waste water treatment, erosion control, bioengineering, and mine reclamation. Specialty services include mowing/maintenance, prescribed burning, no till drilling and delineation, mitigation, and monitoring. Join us in rebuilding our environment. We sell only to wholesale firms, contractors, ecologists, professional organization and nurseries.

### National Railroad Museum

2285 S Broadway Ave, Green Bay WI 54304  
(920) 437-7623 ext 17

metelzrow@nationalrrmuseum.org  
www.nationalrrmuseum.org

Green Bay Chapter



The origin of the National Railroad Museum dates to 1956, when local individuals advanced the concept of a national museum dedicated to the American railroad experience. Since then, the museum has operated as a privately funded 501(c) (3) educational organization with a mission to foster an understanding of railroading and its significance to American life. What began as an effort to acquire a single steam locomotive for a city park has grown into one of the largest rail museums in the nation. It now serves over 75,000 visitors annually. Today, a professional staff of 12, and over 100 volunteers welcome visitors from all over the world.

### NES Ecological Services

4664 Golden Pond Park Ct, Oneida WI 54155-9292  
(920) 499-5789

jhavel@releecinc.com

www.releecinc.com/NES

Green Bay Chapter



NES Ecological Services is a committed group of scientists whose diverse backgrounds include restoration ecology, wildlife management, and wetland ecology. Located in Green Bay, Wisconsin, NES is fully equipped to serve clients throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest. Since 1996, we have provided native habitat restoration services to municipalities, lake management districts and associations, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and individual landowners. These services include planning and design, material installation, monitoring, and maintenance. NES ecologists use their knowledge and experience with Wisconsin's native community types to design and implement aesthetically pleasing, natural landscapes utilizing only plant species native to the site's region. The use of locally native species is a very important factor that is often overlooked, but is important in not only assuring a project's success, but also in meeting all the objectives of a restoration. Each restoration project is catered to the individual or group based upon their need, experience, and willingness to be involved with the "hands-on" portion of the project. Visit our web site to review a few of our most recent projects along with a complete list of all the services we offer.

### Northern Native Plantscapes

25350 S Garden Ave, Cable WI 54821  
(715) 794-2548

florabee@hotmail.com

Partner-at-Large



Northern Native Plantscapes specializes in shoreland and woodland restoration, stormwater management or raingardens, new home construction landscaping and perennial beds using native plants. Northern Native Plantscapes offers consultation, design, installation, and maintenance services. Turning a lake owner's shoreland from pure green lawn to a buffer of native plants not only helps wildlife, but also benefits the owner by providing a privacy and noise buffer. Our goal is to create an ecologically healthy landscape while meeting the needs of the home owners.



## Wild Ones Business Members Yellow Pages 2009



Photo by John Arthur, Twin Cities (MN).



Photo by Harold Vastag, Green Bay (WI).



Photo by Michael Nordin, Arrowhead (MN)

### Northern Sunset Perennials

262-253-1412

[www.northernsunset.com](http://www.northernsunset.com)

Menomonee River Area Chapter

The Northern Sunset brand consists of over 1,300 varieties of perennials, including over 140 Wisconsin and Midwest native species of perennial forbs, ferns, and grasses. Look for the "NATIVE, Naturally!" logo on the tag. Northern Sunset Perennials are available at many fine retailers in southeast Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Find a retailer near you, learn more about our products or our Colors of Success labeling system, by visiting our web site. At Northern Sunset Perennials, we believe in the power of native species for diversity, reliability, and beauty.



lands, and wetlands. We have a large selection of plant gardens and seed mixes for virtually any soil, moisture, or light conditions. Prairie Nursery also offers professional consulting and installation services. Get your free prairie nursery catalog and growing guide. Visit our retail store for select plants, seeds, and books. Explore our extensive new demonstration gardens. Guided tours are the 3rd Saturday of June and August. Self-guided tours any time.

### West Bend Mutual Insurance Company

1900 S 18th Ave, West Bend WI 53095-9791

(262) 334-5571

Menomonee River Area Chapter



### ONE Plus Inc

113 West Main Street, Sun Prairie WI 53590-2905

(608) 837-8022

[oneplus@chorus.net](mailto:oneplus@chorus.net)

[www.oneplusarchitecture.com](http://www.oneplusarchitecture.com)

Madison Chapter

ONE Plus Architecture provides sustainable architectural design services for commercial, residential, and institutional clients. As our logo suggests, there is No Excuse for not taking care of the Earth – together we can and will make a difference in that effort. Our commitment to the Wild Ones, both personally and professionally, is only part of our devotion to that endeavor. ONE Plus design services include renovation, rehabilitation, and adaptation of existing buildings, daylighting, passive solar, and energy-efficient new building design.



### Stone Silo Prairie Gardens LLP

4500 Oak Ridge Cir, De Pere WI 54115-9267

(920) 336-1662

[info@stonesiloprairiegardens.com](mailto:info@stonesiloprairiegardens.com)

[www.stonesiloprairiegardens.com](http://www.stonesiloprairiegardens.com)

Green Bay Chapter

**STONE SILO PRAIRIE GARDENS**

*Specializing in Native Prairie Plants*

Our business is committed to the preservation of native species and their use in a homeowner's landscape design. We specialize in growing native Wisconsin grasses and wildflowers that can be used in gardens and landscape designs for your home. We have a large selection of plants for rain gardens as well. See our plant list and order online, or visit us at our greenhouse in the Green Bay, Wisconsin area. Stop by and see our new prairie, gardens, and rain garden.



Photo by Heather Holm, Twin Cities (MN).

### Taylor Creek Nurseries - Applied Ecological Services

17921 Smith Rd, PO Box 256

Brodhead WI 53520-0256

(608) 897-8641

[corrine@appliedeco.com](mailto:corrine@appliedeco.com)

[www.appliedeco.com](http://www.appliedeco.com)

Rock River Valley Chapter



Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries (TCRN) has over 25 years of experience growing local genotype native plants and seed for use on many high-profile restoration projects throughout the Midwest. We now offer native trees and shrubs in addition to over 400 species of native plants and grasses for native landscape and restoration projects. Our new RPM trees and shrubs are available in 3-gallon containers, and have excellent root mass for high survival rates and rapid growth. We also offer a new, speedy drop-ship service for small plant orders during spring and fall. TCRN is a division of Applied Ecological Services, Inc., an ecological-restoration firm offering consulting and construction services: native landscape design and construction, ecological review, restoration design, and bioengineering for stream-bank, shoreline, and slope restoration.



Photo by Karen Schulz, St. Croix Oak Savanna (MN).

### Outagamie County Housing Authority

3020 E Winslow Ave, Appleton WI 54911-8994

(920) 731-9781 ext 201

[jlincoln@outagamiehousing.us](mailto:jlincoln@outagamiehousing.us)

[www.outagamiehousing.us](http://www.outagamiehousing.us)

Fox Valley Area Chapter



### Prairie Nursery

PO Box 306, Dept WO, Westfield WI 53964-0306

(800) 476-9453

[ndiboll@prairienursery.com](mailto:ndiboll@prairienursery.com)

[www.prairienursery.com](http://www.prairienursery.com)

Central Wisconsin Chapter

Since 1972, Prairie Nursery has been dedicated to improving and rebuilding the environment by encouraging ecological gardening using native plants for soil, water, and habitat conservation. Our mission is to preserve native plants and animals by helping people create attractive, non-polluting natural landscapes that can support a diversity of wildlife. Prairie Nursery specializes in hardy native flowers and grasses for prairies, wood-



# Are You Ready for a Wild Idea? Join Wild Ones as a Business Member Grow Your Business Along With Wild Ones.



## Find Out What Other Wild Ones Business Members Already Know.

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

Join this growing movement today! As a Business Member of Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes, your company is entitled to these great benefits:

- Acknowledgement in the *Wild Ones Journal*.
- Annual listing in the *Wild Ones Journal*.
- Listing on Wild Ones web site ([www.for-wild.org](http://www.for-wild.org)).

And to share with your employees and clients:

- Extra copies of the *Wild Ones New Member Handbook*.
- Extra copies of the bi-monthly *Wild Ones Journal*.
- Copies of Wild Ones educational brochures to share with clients and the community.
- Wild Ones Recognition Decal for your office or shop window.

Wild Ones, a voice for the natural landscaping movement, was established in 1979, and now has more than 40 chapters in North America.

Your Business Membership entitles you and your company to participate in all Wild Ones national and chapter activities, either locally or across the United States – a great networking opportunity!

Wild Ones events include seed gathering, seed exchanges, plant rescues, plant sales, speaker presentations, garden tours, conferences, and bus tours.

New chapters are forming all the time. For a current listing of chapter locations, visit our web site or contact us directly.

Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes is a not-for-profit educational organization. Your Business Membership donation is entirely tax-deductible.

**Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes**  
P.O. Box 1274 • Appleton, Wisconsin 54912-1274  
Toll-Free 877-394-9453 • [www.for-wild.org](http://www.for-wild.org)

## Planting a natural, native landscape doesn't necessarily include every plant that can be found growing somewhere in the good old USA. Grow locally native plants.

As for the fear of staghorn sumac getting out of control and taking over one's yard, put that notion aside. Yes, in a natural setting these shrubs will keep spreading and will grow into large masses. In so doing they shade out grasses and prairie plants to provide a protective habitat for forest trees to sprout and evolve. That is part of their function in the natural world. However, if one plans to do even a minimal amount of yard maintenance, sumac is very easy to control. Tender green shoots appear annually in my crushed stone path and are pinched off with fingers, on my way to the garage. Shoots sprout in the small lawn area east of the house and are cut off weekly by the lawnmower. Shoots sprout in the prairie garden and are allowed to grow the first season. Their three-foot to four-foot growth during their first season provides bright fall color to the prairie garden. The single stems are also allowed to remain through winter for added interest, and are cut off at the ground in spring. New shoots will provide color for the coming year.

### Prairie rose

One prairie rose (*Rosa setigera*) was planted in a corner where the path from the lake intersects with the path to the garage. As a specimen shrub it acts as an obstacle both visually, lending mystery to the destination of the path, and functionally, against would-be shortcuts. The size of this rose is grand – eight feet tall by eighteen feet wide. Its hundreds of blooms with single pink petals and yellow centers are at their peak on July 4th to help celebrate American Independence Day; quite appropriate for a Midwestern native.

Unfortunately, the first old-fashioned hard winter of 2007-2008, since planting the prairie rose in 1996, caused severe die-back – we'll see how much it recovers. This illustrates what is meant by "locally native plants." The prairie rose is native in the Midwest, as far north as Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. During

the ten previous years of mild winters here in southeastern Wisconsin, the rose suffered no winter kill. Planting a natural, native landscape doesn't necessarily include every plant that can be found growing somewhere in the good old USA.



Staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*). Photo © 2003 Steven J. Baskauf.

### Black raspberry

A black raspberry patch (*Rubus occidentalis*), at Green Gables not only represents one of the prolific native plants still found in the countryside, it also is an edible delight that represents the rhythms of nature's cycles. Late June and early July has us going for a walk to the lake in order to enjoy a handful of fresh black raspberries, which we planted along the path for easy access. A special Wisconsin author, Barbara Fitz Vroman, who writes about human experiences, made me aware that eating raspberries from one's back yard is more than just the enjoyment of food, "you are tasting summer, childhood, family continuity," and I would like to add, in our own native landscape we are also tasting "history." Kim and I actually experience what Native Americans tasted and how they would have gathered this ephemeral fruit as they walked through a savanna.



Black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*). Photo © 2004 Steven J. Baskauf.

The patch, which is approximately fifteen feet by forty feet, started with three volunteers (probably bird-planted) which over time spread quickly. Their six-foot canes arch over, and when the tips touch soil, roots and a new plant sprouts. Their ability to thrive on dry or moist soil and in full sun or partial shade makes them easy to place almost anywhere.

Here are three versatile, (one edible), native plants which could be included in most any landscape, yet they are not usually available in or promoted by garden centers.

We can do our part to promote these beauties by planting them, and sharing our extra ones with friends and neighbors when our patches grow too large. ●



Moving on, I continue the circuit of my yard, encountering a myriad of elm branches brought down by the ice. I notice that the bark of the fallen twigs has been nibbled by hungry cottontail rabbits. The windfall of tender branches is a winter boon for them, all the more reason for me to defer “clean up” of the yard until next spring. Looking closely at a smooth twig, I find more rosette lichen. It has snowed and thawed since the ice storm, and melting snow has moistened this specimen, turning it green. The colors in lichens are due to pigments in the fungal partner that likely protect the organism against intense sunlight. These colors, varying characteristically among species from dull grays to bright reds and yellows, are normally expressed when the lichen is dry. When wet, all lichens turn green. This is because water makes the fungal pigments translucent, allowing sunlight to reach the algal partner, and allowing the green color of the alga (chlorophyll) to emit outward. The lichen becomes photosynthetically active only when moisture is ample, an adaptation to the dry habitats in which they are often found.

Next to the foliose rosette lichen I find a crustose comma lichen (*Arthonia dispersa*). Instead of clinging to the surface of the bark like a foliose lichen, its thallus has invaded the bark just below its surface, creating a whitish stain on the twig. Peering closer with my lens, I perceive tiny black squiggles protruding slightly above the bark surface within the white stain – these are the apothecia of the comma lichen, giving rise to its name. Farther down the branch, I spot a second crustose lichen whose apothecia are stretched into wavy lines resembling hieroglyphics – script lichen (*Graphis scripta*), a common but easily overlooked inhabitant of tree bark. Continuing my walk around the yard, I find a third and fourth crustose species on exposed, sunny substrates. Bright orange splotches of orange-dust firedot lichen (*Caloplaca microphyllina*) adorn the wooden fenceposts separating my yard from the neighboring alfalfa field and the sparse yellowish crust of sidewalk firedot lichen (*Caloplaca feracissima*) gleams faintly on a pile of broken concrete. This pile was placed here on the edge of my prairie planting during the installation of a modern foundation in my one hundred-

year-old farmhouse. Although my original intent for the concrete pile was to store it here temporarily (prior to eventual disposal as “junk”), the discovery of lichens here prompts me to wonder about its positive, permanent role as a habitat for rock-dwelling species (a “lichenarium,” if you will).

I have not yet found a fruticose lichen in my yard, but I have seen them in many other places. One of my favorites is gray reindeer lichen (*Cladina rangiferina*), whose blue-gray mounds of intricately branched fruiting bodies (*podetia*) are an eye-catching treat when I encounter them on the ground of small openings in dry oak forests, often inhabiting thin soil rimming a rocky ravine. A colleague recently found a robust population growing on the acidic, barren substrate of an old strip mine within the city limits of Des Moines, Iowa. Its natural range extends southward from tundra-and-taiga habitats in northern Canada (where it is eaten by caribou, our North American “reindeer”) all the way to the Midwest. Other favorites of mine include gold-eye lichen (*Teloschistes chrysophthalmus*), whose stubby orange podetia I have found growing stoutly upright on tree branches in dry woodlands in the Loess Hills of western Iowa, and old man’s beard (*Usnea*), whose stringy, yellowish-green thallus clings pendantly to rocky cliffs above Lake Superior in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

Lichens are a beautiful and diverse part of our natural world. They are all around us, but are often overlooked because of their small size. Many species survive quite well in human-affected habitats. In fact, many common species such as hooded sunburst lichen (*Xanthoria fallax*), candle-flame lichen (*Candelaria concolor*), and star rosette lichen (*Physcia stellaris*) thrive in the savanna-like structure of rural farmsteads. I’ll bet that the doorsteps of most readers of this article are within fifty paces of these species. Lichens show up in surprising places in rural, suburban, and even urban environments: Trees, rock piles, old wood, brick walls, and fenceposts – even on the metal surfaces of long-abandoned cars, trucks, and tractors.

We heat our country home with wood, and I often get distracted by lichens I spot on the bark of logs I am about to load into the stove. Unlike wildflowers, you don’t

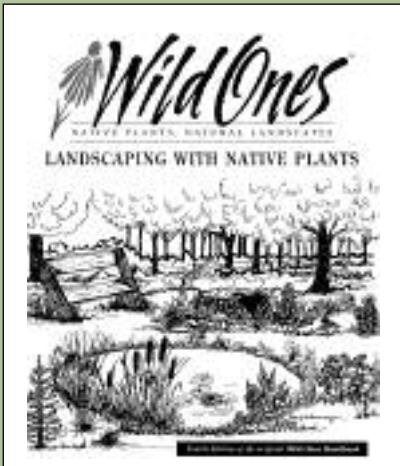
need to wait until spring for them to show up – they are always present and ready to be found by an interested observer, even in winter.

Naturalist landowners can play a role in lichen conservation. First, by becoming familiar with the beauty and diversity of lichens, you will almost certainly be as motivated to preserve them as you likely already are for native wildflowers, grasses, sedges, and trees. (A beautiful, if expensive, \$110 guide to help you become familiar with lichens is *The Lichens of North America*, by Irwin Brodo, Stephen Sharnoff, and Sylvia Sharnoff – Yale University Press, 2001). Second, recognize and protect the lichen habitats on your property. (“Does that rock pile have any *Caloplaca* on it? Is *Cladonia* living on those rotting planks?” If so, you may want to reconsider “cleaning them up.”) You could even enhance habitat for lichens by ensuring that your land provides a variety of substrates – piles of bricks or even individual stones set out in places in your yard where they will not be disturbed could serve as “rocks” for substrate-starved lithophilic lichens.

As I finish walking around my house, I marvel that I lived here for twenty years before becoming aware of the biodiversity living literally in my own backyard. I know I will be spending more time peering through my hand lens at bark, rocks, and soil – because I have discovered a “likin” for a previously overlooked part of the natural world.



Orange patterns of orange-dust firedot lichen (*Caloplaca microphyllina*) nearly cover this wooden fencepost.



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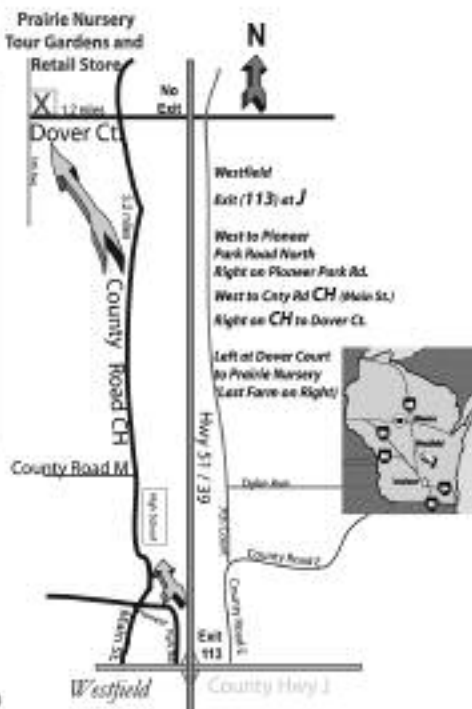
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## Thinking of Forming a New Chapter?

We have several new seedling chapters starting up. If you have been thinking of starting a Wild Ones chapter in your community, you can find the links to the details at the top of the page here: [www.for-wild.org/chapters.html](http://www.for-wild.org/chapters.html).

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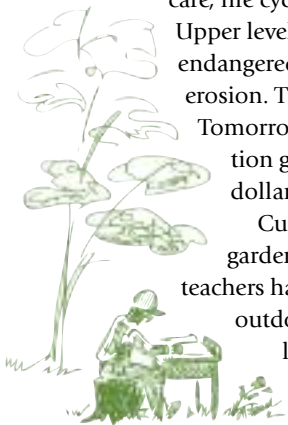
# Washington School Prairie Is Growing New Generations

By Joan Rudolph

Washington School in Marshfield, Wisconsin, began their outdoor classroom garden project in the fall of 2005, with the intention of using native plants for soil, water, and habitat conservation. With a rain garden project in mind, third grade students visited a local prairie and gathered seeds. The seeds were sown in flats in the spring and planted in fall when Washington School opened its doors at a new location. Wild Ones members served as advisors to the school team. Plots were established for each grade level at the school to study plant care, life cycles, plant needs, and reproduction.

Upper level students look at hydrologic cycle, endangered plant species, weathering, and erosion. The school's project "Seeds for Tomorrow" was awarded a Seeds for Education grant for three hundred and fifty dollars by Wild Ones in 2006.

Currently their three-year-old prairie garden is thriving. The students and teachers have found many uses for this outdoor classroom. Students have used language arts to write about their gardens. Math students are using the skills of esti-



imating, measuring, charting, and graphing. Art students are designing and creating a mural in the school lobby, using their drawings and paintings of native plants. All students are seeing firsthand what Wisconsin looked like in its pre-European-settlement past. ●

Art students practiced their skills drawing and painting the native plants.



Using a cardboard template, Washington School students appropriately spaced their plantings within the garden.



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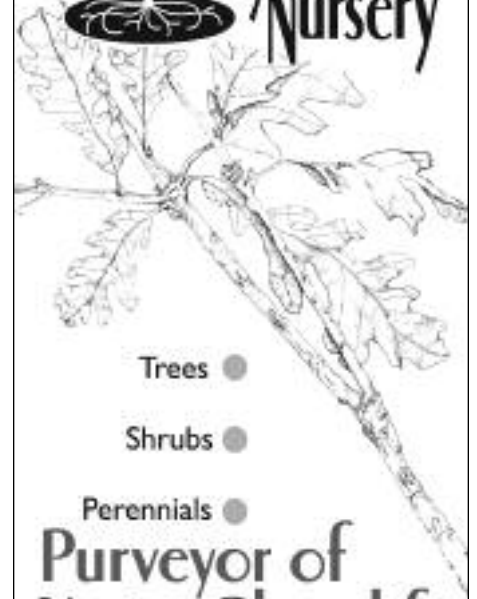
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