



Twin Cities Chapter Quarterly Newsletter

May 2010 Volume 8, Issue 2

Upcoming Events/Monthly Meetings

MONTHLY MEETINGS

(Meetings at the Wood Lake Nature Center: social at 6:30, meeting to start promptly at 7:00. Free and open to the public)

Tuesday, May 18, 2010. Birdscaping: gardening with wildlife in mind. St. Paul Audubon members, Julian Sellers and Val Cunningham discuss how to “put out the welcome mat” for wildlife in our outdoor spaces. Songbirds, bees, and butterflies flock to native plant gardens that offer food and shelter, and plants selected for their appeal to insects are even more inviting. They will help us “think birds” as we tend our native plantings. Arrive at 5:30 and join others for a leisurely walk around Wood Lake Nature Center.

SUMMER TOUR SERIES!! 3rd Wednesday of the Month

Summer tours of gardens and restoration projects, using native plants and watershed friendly techniques, are taking shape. If you have ideas, questions, or want to carpool, contact us: Carmen Simonet or Marilyn Jones at (612-293-3833). Information and new developments, as well as information on other local tours will be posted on our website calendar: <http://for-wild.org/chapters/twincities>.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 16th Kalantari Residence, 6821 Sheridan Ave S. Richfield, MN, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Tour a small residential landscape of a Wild Ones member. Michelle retired her lawn mower 2 years ago and now cares for a landscape rich in plant diversity and attractive to native pollinators and birds. A relatively young landscape the conversion started in 2006 and was completed in 2009. All the turf grass has been removed and replaced with over 100 plant species with more than 70% being native plants and shrubs. (See the before and after results on the next page - what a change!)

WEDNESDAY JULY 21st Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District Office, at 2665 Noel Drive Little Canada, MN 6:30-8:30 pm. Tour the landscape of the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) office. Constructed in 2005 and planted in 2006, the site demonstrates many stormwater best management practices (BMPs). The District goal is to have zero stormwater runoff from the property and is accomplished with 6 rain gardens, a green roof, 2 rain barrels, and a porous asphalt parking lot. Except for a small amount of turf, the landscape around the office is a combination of native gardens and prairie containing over 100 native species. Laurie Goldsmith landscape intern at RWMWD and Wild Ones member will lead our tour, focusing on the gardens and prairie and will highlight the stormwater infiltration strategies.

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WEDNESDAY AUGUST 18th We'll visit 2 sites this evening, come to one or both.

1. Holm Residence, 15327 Lake Shore Ave, Minnetonka, MN, 6 - 7 pm. Directions: Hwy 62 West past 494 interchange. Continue 1/2 mile, turn right onto Boulder Creek Drive, immediate right on Whited Ave. Continue north through 4 way stop, left on Oric Ave, left on Lake Shore Ave. The Holms have been converting their 2/3 acre sized yard to all natives since they moved in 6 years ago and have over 180 different native species of forbs, shrubs and trees. Their yard consists of a southwest facing hillside of prairie species, a shaded dry woodland and a mesic woodland section. They were recipients of an award for the best Native Landscape Restoration through their Watershed District (9 Mile Creek) last year and were featured in their City newsletter.



After

2. Purgatory Park at Stodola Road cul de sac, Minnetonka, MN, 7:15 pm - Dusk. Directions from the Holm Residence to Purgatory Park: Right on Oric Ave. Left on Whited Ave. Left on Excelsior Blvd. After 1/2 mile, left on Scenic Heights Drive. Continue past school down hill, right on Stodola Road. Follow to end (cul de sac). Directions to Purgatory Park from Minneapolis: Hwy 62 West past 494 interchange. Continue 2-3 miles and turn right on Scenic Heights Drive. Left on Stodola Road. Follow to end (cul de sac).

Come on a guided tour of this 155 acre park with Janet Van Sloun Larson, City of Minnetonka Natural Resources Restoration Specialist. The tour will include a 13 acre tall grass prairie restoration, a short grass prairie remnant, an oak woodland ridge restoration including many buckthorn removal strategies - cutting, herbicide applications and fire management and the 'releasing' of native species. There is also a 40 acre wetland currently being restored that Janet will highlight.

Tour of Prairie and Oak Savanna Restoration in Wild River State Park, Saturday, June 12th, 2010, 10am to Noon. Our guide will be Dave Crawford, a naturalist at Wild River State Park. In 1993, Crawford launched the Prairie Care Project at the park with the goal of restoring the native prairie and oak savanna ecosystems. Please RSVP so we know how many to expect for the tour, to Tom Dickhudt, owner of Sunrise Native Plants, at dickens501@frontiernet.net or phone (651) 257-4414. Tom can provide more information on directions, parking, our rendezvous site at the park, and carpooling. A MN State Park vehicle permits is required and can be purchased at the park office. Hiking boots or walking shoes are a good idea. We recommend bringing insect repellent to protect against deer ticks, and rain gear if the weather is threatening. Bring a bag lunch and join us for a picnic in the park following our hike. We'll provide cold beverages.

2010 Native Plant Sale >> Order Deadline is Saturday, May 8th!

<http://for-wild.org/chapters/twincities/docs/2010plantsaleweb.pdf>

The Twin Cities Chapter's 4th Annual Native Plant Sale offers flats of plants for rock gardens and boulevards, flowerbeds, rain gardens, shady gardens, plus a special, limited edition, "All Season Butterflies" collection and a new "Bird Feeder" flat with plants recommended in the Audubon Society's new booklet, "Guide to Insect attracting plants for Central Minnesota". More information is included on the *order form* at the above web site. Pick up date is Saturday, May 22nd at the Midtown Farmers Market on the southeast corner of Lake Street and 22nd Avenue in Minneapolis. For more information, call 612-293-3833.

Meeting/Expo Notes

Editor's Note: For those of you who were unable to attend the Expo, it is hoped that this summary of presentations will give you some indication of the abundance of information from the really great speakers that shared their knowledge and enthusiasm with us.

February Exposition:

Nature Happens Here, Douglas Tallamy, Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. Picture a neotropical migrant flying through on his way north this spring. The bird may travel about 300 miles in a single night, stopping after this nocturnal flight to recharge by resting and eating (caterpillars most likely). If it is unlucky enough to land in a typical suburban yard, the surrounding sterile landscape will offer meager or no sustenance. This common situation is starving migrating birds and, according to Dr. Tallamy, is a huge factor in the rapid reduction in bird populations. Currently we have 1/3 of the bird population we had in the 1960's, with 1/3 of the remaining species in trouble and 127 species in steep decline. In the United States there are an estimated 62,3000 square miles of lawn similar to what our geotropically bird landed in that is not supporting wildlife. I will not delve into the experiments and derived statistics that support the fact that most of present lawns do not provide enough support for the food web, but go on to the big question: What can be done to get past this and increase what Dr. Tallamy called the "carrying capacity around us (i.e., the amount of wildlife that can be supported by our urban and suburban yards).



To do this we need to vastly enhance the "principle" on which the carrying capacity based. If you decrease the lowest rung of the local food web, plants (the principle), you lose those species higher in the food chain that one way or another need the plants to survive - either directly as food and shelter or indirectly to feed on those that do. Dr. Tallamy is not seeking a solution through use of natives based on the strict definition of native plants to solve the problem, but wants to concentrate on planting species that build food webs. For him a plant is considered "alien" when it has not shared an evolutionary history with other organisms in the area. Naturally this does encompass mostly natives but allows use of others with careful examination of their past. It also implies that when one uses natives, it's best that they were found historically in your area.

He started answering this by exploring how this love of the grasses and ornamental plants that are outside of the local food web come about? There seem to be two major reasons: (1) Misconception that the use of natives creates messy, wild looking areas that are vermin attracting and (2) Ignorance of the consequences of not using native species, which includes the fact that they are basis of the food chain and their contribution in managing watersheds. Ideas were then presented on how we can maximize our contribution in rebuilding the food web:

1. Lead by example with regard to landscaping in your yard
 - Retain/enhance your "curb appeal". Use plants to focus/frame the view on the most attractive part of your house as seen from the street
 - Use grass strips to formalize your landscape
2. Flip flop the landscaping paradigm: don't bulldoze everything, then create garden areas; instead carve out a small lawn for your specific needs and leave the rest
3. Build communities blending species together to create a single beautiful habitat. The more plants the more wildlife
4. Don't give up on the small spaces in your yard - use them all
5. Remember that woody plants support more animals than herbaceous plants.
6. The key is diversity which leads to a balanced ecosystem. This helps to control the number of each species present as natural enemies occupy the space

Soil Restoration, Ed Plaster, Horticulturist specializing in soil science and natural history. Urban problems again set the stage for this presentation. Major deficiencies included lack of leaf litter which helps build healthy soil; unprotected areas subjected to erosion; and damage caused by bulldozing and compacting in new housing areas.

Basic Soil Science 101 was the initial focus of this presentation. The following properties/problems were reviewed:

1. Pore space: Basic soil science Soil is composed of 50% particles (mostly mineral particles, with 5% organic matter present) and 50% voids (which are filled 20 - 30% with either air or water). The mixture of small and large pores in the soil provides for the passage of air, water and roots.

Water moves very slowly through the soil, so plants need to continually grow to occupy more volume (more dense). Pores must be large enough for the root tips to fit in and to push soil aside to make room for themselves.

2. Texture: Coarse (high in sand), medium (mixture of sand and clay or high silt); and fine (high in clay). Texture is a permanent feature of the soil that can't be altered except in small areas or small volumes. Although you can't change the texture you can manage it. The finer the texture of the soil, the greater the pore space. This affects root growth, water movement, water holding capacity, and aeration.

3. Structure: The aggregation of soil particles create a larger structure, in turn forms larger pores. Within the aggregate there are micropores, while macropores are created between aggregates. This is not a permanent feature of soil and can be damaged. The soil food web helps create and maintain the structure of the soil

4. Compaction of soils crushes aggregates, shoves particles closer together (further reducing pore size); increases the soil strength. All of which inhibits root growth and depth of rooting and interferes with drainage and aeration.

RIBBON TEST

(cheap way of roughly determining texture)

Moisten ball of soil until it is like putty

- Coarse: If gritty and the ball is fragile
- Medium: If can form ball into a short to medium ribbon
- Fine: Long (2-3 inch) ribbon

Dry Soil

- Coarse, sandy texture
- Shallow soil over bedrock
- Water table deep in soil
- Soils on a slope

Moist Soil

- Fine clayey texture
- Deep soil
- Shallow water table
- Soils in a depression

Which do you have: Dig a hole 2 feet deep and see if water collects - if so it's moist.

Following this thoughts on how to help keep soil healthy and promote growth of plants were shared:

1. Eschew bare soil - keep covered as much as possible because raindrops destroy structure and a crust forms so water tends to run off, causing soil erosion. So cover these areas with a permanent vegetation such as prairie ground cover which has an added benefit of creating a good soil structure holding the soil together to prevent erosion. Use organic mulches until permanent vegetation is established.

- Steps for establishing a new planting area
- Kill with roundup
 - Lay down several layers of newspaper
 - Cover with mulch
 - Plant through the layers

This minimizes tillage, keeps soil covered, provides food, cushions the soil from compaction and helps develop good structure

2. Constantly add organic matter which improves the soil, feeds organic organisms and improves the soil structure.

3. Avoid compaction by protecting the soil from compression, staying off of wet soil, using extra wide (not deep) holes when planting trees, and using mulch which cushions the soil.

4. Minimize tillage which damages the structure, speeds up the loss of organic matter, and leaves the soil bare.

Trees and Shrubs of Minnesota, Welby Smith, state botanist with the Minnesota DNR. This presentation started with a fascinating historic look at the trees native to Minnesota. Back in the 1700's Congress passed a law the intent of which was to facilitate the sale of land to the public. By this a public land survey was established which laid a 1 square mile grid across much of the undeveloped land. Each corner of the grid was staked with the stake's location tied to four trees. At the halfway point between the

grid corners the point was marked by tying the location to two nearby trees. This records survey still exists and has been used to get a fairly good picture of the tree coverage at that time. All has been digitized so now one can see what existed in our state prior to settlement compared to very recent times. The not so startling statistic is that ½ of the state was covered with trees compared to ¼ now. Our Metro area had a considerable amount of oak east of Lake Minnetonka which is now essentially gone. So what was the most abundant tree in Minnesota way back when? That was the test question asked and with the exception of one lone voice was left unanswered by everyone present. The mystery tree is on page 11 (don't peek before answering!).

Taking off from the presentation by Douglas Tallamy what trees are best planted here. Welby Smith's number one choice was Burr Oak. In his opinion this was one tree that can't be over planted. The white oak is not quite as adapted to local conditions, but is also a good alternative. After the oak, the willow, although you need to be sure you get a native species. There is a very invasive species (White Crack Willow) that was brought in by the settlers which is now the most abundant species in the state - so go to a reputable nursery when purchasing. Plums were also high on the list because of their winter food value to migrating birds. Birch were also suggested, but he advised against River Birch saying it doesn't belong away from the river. (The Brown Thumb may have to re-think tree choices from a few newsletters back). Others that were mentioned during the presentation included Hawthorne, Viburnum, and Hackberry.

Natural Habitat For Humans and Other Species, Evelyn Hadden. The final speaker of the day tied everything together by illustrating how we can reconnect nature with the species in our own yards. Her primary advice was to look for opportunities to restore a multitude of layers.

1. Foliage 6 to 10 feet is essentially missing from many landscapes because it "blocks the view" Return it.
2. Put in a spring flowering mixed hedge where insects can thrive and provide food for migrating birds
3. Plant contained thickets. A great one is sumac which suckers and spreads on its own.
4. Add more nitrogen fixers such as New Jersey Tea, Leadplant and Indigo.
5. Drape vines over arches adding more plants

Beyond this think of ways to increase biodiversity such as:

1. Planting in masses instead of individual species (a tree island is a great way to do this)
2. Building an even larger island by installing a grove
3. Creating a small savanna garden filled with natives such as low grow grasses, wild geraniums and meadow rue.
4. Growing a living wall with a row of trees
5. Adding a native woodland garden

If you have a shaded area find those plants that tolerate this environment. Think about using

1. Serviceberry, which has early spring flowers and colorful fall leaves.
2. Pagoda Dogwood which is great in rain gardens because of its ability to soak up water.
3. Hawthorn tree which has winter food and shelter for birds
4. Matrix plants which grow in and around other plants, such as grasses, ferns, mosses, sedges and woodland ephemerals.



Swallowtail - photo by Julia Vanatta

Books, Etc: THE RICE-MAYBERG GARDEN

About the name: After looking at over sixty houses we happened upon our new home in Edina in November 2007. We could tell there was a very large garden in the backyard, but being so late in the season, we didn't really get a true sense of it. Our agent told us about the sellers' concern for the garden of native plants they had created. Many of the recent buyers in the neighborhood were young families, and the sellers were worried the new owners might be pre-disposed to plowing under all their hard work, turning it back into a lawn for their children to play in.

I've been an avid gardener since the early seventies, and as part of our purchase offer, I wrote the seller a letter about the gift that came with the purchase of their beautiful home. I wanted them to know it would be an honor to take stewardship of their garden. We closed on the house in late December, and moved in during a snowstorm. The garden was put to bed under a thick white blanket and it would be the following spring before we would see the garden. The next day the former owners, Marty and Jeff Rice came calling with coffee and muffins. It was the start of a delightful new friendship.



The summer of 2008 was an incredible growing season. The garden seemed to change weekly and my wife Amy-Ann and I were literally giddy with each new bloom. I could spend every waking hour gardening - and often did on the weekends. Amy-Ann indulges me and in return she is the recipient of a truly healing environment and some of the best cut flower bouquets you can imagine.

My previous years of gardening were focused on vegetables, annuals, and perennials - mostly non-native cultivars. Marty is the current co-chair of the local chapter of Wild Ones, an organization committed to the restoration and preservation of native prairies and wetlands, and the simple pleasure of gardening and landscaping with native plants - and her love of those plants is infectious. I've learned that Marty and I have very different gardening styles; she refers to my gardening as urban professional - a bit more orderly than her more natural style. Yet despite our differing styles, we share a deep respect for each others' gardening skills - and for this amazing garden. I seriously doubt I could have created it myself, and every hour I spend in it I think about Marty; all the loving effort she put into it, and the incredible gift she left in our care. That's why to us it will always be the Rice-Mayberg Garden.

About the garden and the photos on the web site (www.jpamayberg.shutterfly.com): Over the years Marty converted backyard into an incredible garden retreat. Using only native plants, she planted a shade garden below a majestic River Birch on the east, a collection of shrubs and flowering plants to the south, a Prairie Circle of grasses and flowering plants in the center, a garden of shrubs and ferns in the southwest corner, and another shade garden in the west. There's also a beautiful patio edged with more native plants, and a pond and edged with hand placed flat rocks and boulders. We added the Fire Pit in 2008, our first spring in the garden. Garden photos on the web-site were taken in the summers of 2008 and 2009. Even though the line between what was here, what's been moved, and what's been added since we arrived, will become a bit more blurred with every passing year - there's no question that this is - and always will be - Marty Rice's garden.

.....*Jeremy Mayberg*

The Brown Thumb

Of all the insects that wander into my yard, butterflies are the ones that interest me the most. Many of the species that enter my tiny territory, I also encounter nearby in the middle of the Twin Cities along the banks of the Mississippi River. Like many of you I have put in plants taken from butterfly garden suggestions in order to lure more into the yard. As I faithfully planted common milkweed for the benefit of Monarchs, I began to wonder what were the personnel favorites of other species that I often see. Were the other natives I was planting in my “butterfly garden” (blazing star, butterfly weed, aster, swamp milkweed, nodding onion, showy goldenrod, pale purple coneflower, Joe pye weed, golden Alexander) really attracting and nourishing the species that were nearest to me?

Here’s what I discovered about some of the winged (and crawling caterpillar stage) butterflies that range in my neighborhood (shown in the order of most seen combined with ones I most would like to have around):

1. **Eastern Tiger Swallowtail:** (My second most frequent visitor) The caterpillar stage of this butterfly feeds on the leaves of a number of native trees such as the birch, ash, and tulip, which are already in my yard. No wonder they are around! They also like wild cherry and cottonwood. As for the adults they seek out the nectar of a variety plants. In addition to wild cherry they also feed on bee balm, honey suckle, clover and thistles.
2. **Mourning Cloak:** (One of my true favorites as it over winters here and is the first butterfly to appear in the spring. A sign that winter may truly have departed!) The caterpillar of this butterfly can be found on absolutely no trees that I have in my yard thanks to me recent loss of four elm trees; however, one tree that I am definitely considering to replace this loss is the hackberry, which is another favorite of the mourning cloak - so that further seals this as a tree I want to acquire. Beyond that, trees commonly found along the river - willows, cottonwoods, and aspen explain why I see so many during my daily walks. As for adults I am afraid I can’t do a lot to satisfy them plant-wise as they prefer tree sap with the nectar of an occasional flower (blue star was one that was noted as a favorite), Perhaps my compost heap will be suitable for them as rotting fruit is also something they will sample.
3. **Fritillaries.** I am first going to glump the wide range of fritillaries together because many of the caterpillars seem to like one native that I have and am thinking of acquiring more of - violets, with many adults visiting milkweeds. Beyond that the caterpillar of the Variegated Fritillary seeks out May apple, while the adult feasts on dogbane, red clover, and tickseed sunflower. The adult Great Spangled Fritillary takes nectar from thistles, ironweed, dogbane, bergamot, red clover, Joe Pye weed, and purple coneflower. Blackeyed Susan is a nectar source for the Meadow Fritillary and the Silver-bordered Fritillary. Lots to choose from here for native plants.
4. **Red Admiral.** This is a butterfly which I have seldom seen around, but perhaps that is because of the adult’s food choices - sap on trees, fermenting fruit and bird droppings. As a backup it will take nectar from common milkweed, red clover, and aster (also a nectar source for the Painted Lady), so there is a chance some of my natives might be attractive to them.



Morning Cloak by Laurie Goldsmith

Based on the above it looks as if I am doing fairly well with the trees I have, but will probably add some May apple and clover, while increasing my amount of violets, bergamot and bee balm. If this doesn’t succeed I can always continue my walks along the river where butterflies abound.

Featured Native Plant: Wild Columbine

Common Names: Meetinghouses, Rock Bells, Rock Lily, Honeysuckle, American Columbine, Canada Columbine, Eastern Columbine, Granny's Bonnets, Dancing Fairies, Cluckies, Jack-in-Trousers)

Scientific Name: *Aquilegia canadensis*

Family: Buttercup (Ranunculaceae)

IDENTIFICATION

Habitat: Found in open sites that are somewhat moist such as stream banks, ravines, bluffs, open woods

Height: 12 - 30 inches

Leaves: The alternate 1-3 times compound leaves are each divided into threes. The small leaflets are somewhat oval with rounded lobes. Leaves are first produced at the base, then later along stem. Leaves at base and lower stem are larger (up to 1" long) and have long stalks. The upper surface is smooth.

Flowers: The nodding flowers, up to 2" across, have 5 tubular petals which extend backward into long hollow spurs ending in nectar-filled knobs. These alternate with 5 flat sepals. The scarlet flowers appear on the upper stems either singly or in groups of threes from mid spring to early summer (April - July) and last about a month.

Fruit: The fruit is contained in a 5-chambered capsule that becomes erect as it matures, turning black. It then opens and throws out many small, glossy, black seeds.

Overall characteristics: Slender, hardy perennial with slightly hairy stems. The rootstocks tend to be deep seated with rhizomes occasionally produced. The plant does not self-pollinate due to the fact that the stamen matures and sheds all pollen before styles emerge at mouth of flower. It further protects itself from this event by the fact stamens are longer than the styles. It's name "Aquilegia" either comes from the Latin "aquilinum" which means "eagle-like" because the spurs on the flowers suggested talons of an eagle to Linnaeus; or from Latin word which means "water collector" alluding to the nectar in petal spurs.



Wild Columbine
(photo by Heather Holm)

GARDEN TIPS

Good choice for moist prairies as well as rocky slopes.

Plant Hardiness: Zone: 3-8

Sun/Shade Needs: Full sun to full shade

Soil Needs: Well-drained, sandy, moist. Fertility: Average to rich. pH. 5.0-8.0

Planting: Plant 12 - 18 inches apart. Spreads 1 - 1.5 feet

Propagation: Propagate from seed directly in the spring or fall (bag to catch the seeds). Can clear a small area in the spring, gently scratch seeds into the soil with rake, and cover with light compost mulch. In the fall can sow seeds ¼" deep in flats, cover with a thin layer of light soil/mulch; and leave outdoors for the winter transplanting in the spring. Also can moist cold stratify for 3 to 4 weeks. It is hard to transplant by division given the root depth.

Care: Requires little care. Good drainage is a must. Seedlings need moisture, but deep rootstock of the mature plant enables it to endure dry spells. Can spread aggressively.

continued...

Companion Plants: Nodding wild onion, Canadian Anemone, Wild Geranium, Goats Beard, Canadian Wild Ginger, Woodland Phlox, Trillium, Jack-in-the Pulpit, Bloodroot, Prairie Smoke, Yellow Coneflower.

Friends & Foes: Attracts butterflies, moths, bumblebees and hummingbirds. Flower adapted to long-tongued nectar feeders (hawk moths/hummingbirds). Funnel-shaped spur below secreting bulbous tip prevents small bees from getting nectar. Nectar inside spurs extracted by bumblebees hanging upside down pollinating the flowers. Host to Columbine Dusky wing larvae. Columbine sawfly can also attack the leaves, quickly stripping the plant. Resistant to leaf miner infestation mildew. Rabbit resistant

NOTES

Current Use/Interest: Flower is edible - good in salads. Root tea for diarrhea & stomach aches.

Historic Use/Interest: Native Americans used seeds, roots and leaves (all containing alkaloid compounds) to treat stomach disorders and as a diuretic. Used infusions for ailments from heart trouble to fever.

Friend or Foe?? The little green caterpillar you might see on your Columbine in the spring probably is either a Columbine dusky wing larva or a Columbine sawfly. Does one attack this intruder or let it munch away on your Columbine leaves? If it is the former, the prospect of a forthcoming butterfly may stay your hand. To tell the difference: the dusky wing larva is green with a dark head, 2-5 pairs of "legs" and a somewhat fuzzy body, while the sawfly is totally green and has 6 - 10 "legs". Both can be hand-picked for the really non-intrusive extermination route. They may be hard to find though as they hide under the leaves. Note that other methods of eliminating these two vary depending upon which creature you have, so read labels of any chemicals very carefully before applying. Also if bees or hummingbirds are present you may want to just let nature take its course!

Presidents' Message - Marty Rice/Marilyn Jones, CoChairs

Doug Tallamy was such an inspirational speaker at our recent conference that I snapped up a copy of his book, *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants.* He graciously signed my copy and wrote "Garden as if life depended on it." His speech described why garden design is an essential element in sustaining life above and below ground. Each insect, microorganism, bird, animal and creature in nature is part of the food web. Many insects have evolved such that they can develop their larvae on only a single plant species. Loss or underavailability of necessary plant diversity will eventually lead to extinction of insects. This delicate balance is repeated throughout nature with plants being the source of all energy that supports life. The bad news is that the human impact on our land has been to devastate natural diversity by removing forests, plowing up prairies, and infesting urban and suburban properties with lawns and exotic plants which have no value to the food web. But Tallamy's good news is that all is not lost, extinction takes a while, and purposeful planting of native gardens is critical to turning back toward the healthy land of our heritage.

How fortunate for us Minnesotans to have a virtual water highway for migrating species moving through from North and South. We have an opportunity to complement this highway with a diversity of native plants and thus be a factor in forestalling the deterioration. As our "Wild Ones" membership continues to grow we will build a critical mass of enlightened, learning people committed to natives plants. What to do? Buy some native plants, talk up our plant sale to neighbors and friends, bring visitors to our meetings, put a "Wild Ones" sign in your garden, be a voice for our cause, and remember to enjoy "gardening as if our lives depended on it."

....Marilyn Jones

Gardener's To-Do List (May, June, July)

Spring has sprung and we hope you are enjoying signs of your garden coming to life. What insects and birds have you been noticing return? Here are a few reminders as the gardening season gets into gear.



- * The garden centers and native plant nurseries will be opening their doors soon - do you have a list of your plant wants yet?
- * Start turning your compost pile, if you have the energy Or a helper!
- * A little time spent weeding early in the spring while weeds are tender will save you extra work later, when the weather is hotter.
- * After the ground has warmed, spread 2-3 inches of mulch on beds to help conserve water and reduce weeds.
- * Keep an eye out for the return of wildlife: dragonflies, caterpillars and hummingbirds, to name a few.
- * Water any newly planted seedlings during drier periods to help them get well established.
- * Cut off dried seed heads of spring blooming flowers. Save seeds for propagating next spring or direct sow now.
- * Do you remember thinking any of your plants were a bit leggy or just too tall last year? Pinch them back to encourage denser, shorter growth - and with more blooms, too!
- * In May start moving out seedlings that you germinated indoors over the winter. Gradually accustom them to their new surroundings.
- * Divide crowded clumps of late summer and fall bloomers as shoots emerge from the ground.
- * If you have a small prairie garden, burn, cut or mow (with mower at a very high setting from the ground) as needed.
- * Don't get so busy with your gardening work that you forget to enjoy the beauty of your native plants, while sitting in the shade sipping an iced tea. Your back needs a break.

NOKOMIS NATURESCAPE HISTORIC WALKING TOURS. Tour the gardens while learning more about the history of changes to the area's landscape, including pre-settlement, early farming and growth of Minneapolis. Tour host and Wild Ones member, Julia Vanatta. Tuesdays, June 1, June 29, July 27 and August 17, 7:00-8:30 pm. Free and open to > the public, please call 612-293-3833.

NOKOMIS NATURESCAPE VOLUNTEER GARDENERS

Encouraging People to Connect with Nature by Growing Native Plant Gardens

The *Nokomis Naturescape*, a 4-acre native planting, provides urban residents with a model of sustainable landscaping. The *Naturescape* is an official *Monarch Waystation* and *National Wildlife Federation Backyard Habitat* site located on **Lake Nokomis in Minneapolis at 50th St. and Nokomis Parkway** and is part of the *Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board* system. Gardeners meet Tuesday from May – September 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Choose your level of commitment - from occasional to adopting a section of a garden. The **Twin Cities Chapter of the Wild Ones** - a native plant landscaping group and the **Twin Cities Audubon Stewardship Committee** and area residents are among the volunteers. Gardening by the lakeside is an enjoyable time spent with people sharing your interest. We welcome all help to keep our garden a native plant showcase, inspiring park patrons to go native in their own yards and to see the beautiful liveliness of natural habitats. **For more information or to volunteer, call the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association at 612/724-5256 or visit www.nokomiseast.org**

GROWING MONARCH HABITAT Workshop In 2005 the **Nokomis Naturescape** gardeners created the *Growing Monarch Habitat* project to connect monarch conservation to the importance of native plant habitat. See monarch habitat grow rather than diminish - every yard makes a difference!

Workshop featuring Monarch Garden-to-Go (register at www.nokomiseast.org). Saturday, May 22, 2010, Same workshop held at 9:30-10:30 and 11:00-12:00, at the Nokomis Community Center, 2401 East Minnehaha Parkway. *Please note: Pre-registration and a \$20.00 fee is required. The fee includes the gardening workshop, resource materials, and a Monarch Garden-to-Go (a \$30. plant value).*

The workshop is a how-to approach to gardening for monarchs and will cover:

- Monarch butterfly life cycle, migration and required habitat needs
- Introduction to the native plants in the Monarch Gardens-to-Go
- Resources for learning more about native plants and monarchs

MINNEAPOLIS MONARCH FESTIVAL (visit www.monarchfestival.org)

Saturday, September 11, 2010, 9am – 2pm at the **Nokomis Naturescape**

The **Minneapolis Monarch Festival** celebrates the monarch butterflies amazing 2500 migration from Minnesota to Mexico. The Minnesota Mexico connection is highlighted with music and dance. Food, art, environmental education, native plant sales and releases of tagged monarchs are part of the festival. Activities begin with a **Run for the Monarchs 5k** - proceeds benefit monarch habitat here and Mexico

ODDS AND ENDS

Quiz Answer: Tamarac

Marty Rice Comment on the Rice-Mayberg Garden: Marty couldn't be more delighted with Mayberg's stewardship of the "wild" back yard. She also credits Erik Olsen of Outback Nursery for his assistance in the garden's design

Welcome New & Renewing Members

As of 1 April 2010 according to the national website, our chapter had 139 active members. Thank you to these new and returning members for their support of Wild Ones. Whether you've just joined or have been a member for several years we look forward to your participation. Besides this newsletter, visit us at www.for-wild.org/chapters/twincities <<http://www.for-wild.org/chapters/twincities>>.

Aussendorf, Jamie; Barnett, Marta; Bergeron, Sandy; Blood, Simba; Bobbit, Cathy; Bonk, Vicki and Richard; Bonnett, Kathy; Botsford, Sally; Brazzale, Jenny; Brown, Bullock, Hilary; Mary G.; Christen, Nancy; Crants, James; Damon, Paul & Susan; Doering, Dean/Scribner Lisa; Dunnette, Joel & Sandra; Erickson, Sheryl; Graham, Karen; Halden, Peter; Hamilton, Holly; Hansen, Debbie; Harrison, Catherine; Hayes, Rhonda; Heelan, Tim; Hope, Esther, Kessler, Joerg; Kooyman, Shirley; Long Eileen; Maciejny, John; Meyer, Rose; Morrison, Steve; Morrow, Jenn; Musumeci, JoAnn; Nelson, James; Neuhart Sue; Nussbaum, Sandra; Opp, Lee; Oss, Kathleen; Pates, Gregory; Perry, Elizabeth; Poquette, Molly; Poquette, Trudy; Porwit, Jennifer/Baltrukonis, Joe; Rankin, Diana; Rosenberg, Molly; Schumaker, Nancy/Sipe Jim; Seger, Patricia; Sidles, Kathy; Stark, Craig; Stone Goldsmith, Laurie; Vaillancourt, Michele; Van Norman, Karen; Walters, Dianne; Wilm, Mary Lou

2010 Officers

Co-Chairs: Marty Rice/Marilyn Jones

Secretary: Kris Martinka

Treasurer: Brent Holm

Board Members

Hospitality: Rose Meyer

Membership: Marty Rice

Merchandise: Trudy Poquette

Newsletter: Mary Schommer

Nokomis Naturescape: Vicki Bonk

Outreach: **OPEN**

Photographer/Historian: John Arthur

Programs: Laurie Stone Goldsmith/John Arthur

Public Relations: Julia Vanatta/Hilary Bullock

Spring Expo: **OPEN**

Tours: Carmen Simonet

Website: Jim Sipe

MEMBERSHIP

Benefits To You

- Monthly meetings featuring excellent presentation on a wide array of native landscaping topics.
- Receive the new member packet, including our handbook full of information and activities on natural landscaping.
- Receive the bi-monthly Wild Ones Journal, with articles and information to inspire and educate you about natural landscaping.
- Free admission to most Wild Ones' events, such as our garden tours, and native plant walks and sales/swaps.
- Reciprocity with other chapters' meetings.
- Share experiences and expertise with other like-minded native gardeners.
- Access to the Wild Ones library of native landscaping books.
- Support for the Wild One's Mission.
- Membership dues and donations are tax deductible

Join or Renew

1. Sign up at meetings, or
2. Call Marty Rice at 952-927-6531, or
3. Access the national website at www.for-wild.org



Twin Cities Chapter

c/o Marty Rice

4730 Park Commons Dr. #321

St. Louis Park, MN 55416

www.for-wild.org/chapters/twincities

OUR MISSION

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