



Twin Cities Chapter Quarterly Newsletter

May 2011 Volume 9, 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 17, 2011: Restoring the Soil Food Web: Considerations on the Use of Compost Tea. Karen Graham (Wild Ones member and citizen scientist studying the use and application of compost tea). The soil food web is made up of incredibly diverse and complex communities of organisms living all or part of their lives in the soil. Harvard naturalist, EQ Wilson wrote, that as you scoop up a handful of dirt, you could be holding 10 billion bacteria, representing 5,000 - 6,000 different species (Harvard Gazette, June 15, 2008). An active microbial population improves soil fertility and enhances plant growth. Recent research indicates that the plant ecosystem and soil communities are mutually dependent on each other. The soil communities are very sensitive to disturbance, which often leads to significant decreases and loss of diversity. Compost tea presents an opportunity to replenish our soil food web. The tea is a concentrate of soluble nutrients and beneficial, aerobic organisms from compost. It is an easy way to deliver beneficial organisms as part of your program for sustainable landscape management.



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Living Green Expo. May 7th and 8th. State Fairgrounds Wild Ones booth is in the Education Building, space number D14. Please invite friends or neighbors attending the expo to stop by and learn more about native plants.

Spring Plant Sale. Order Deadline: Tuesday 10 May. Plant pick-up: Saturday 14 May (will accept May 9 postmark). No on-site sales, pre-order only. The Twin Cities Chapter's 5th 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 at the following web site: <http://www.wildonestwincities.org/p/plant-sale.html>. Pick up is Saturday, May 14th (9:00 am to 2:00 pm) at the Midtown Farmers Market on the southeast corner of Lake Street and 22nd Avenue in Minneapolis. For more information, call 612-293-3833.

Thursday June 2, Chemical Reaction, The Story of a True Green Revolution. This is a special showing of the film at the Riverview Theater, in Minneapolis (corner of 42nd Avenue South and 38th Street). An award-winning documentary film. 'A Chemical

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Reaction' – is a heart-warming, inspirational story, about a doctor and community that come together to ban the use of chemical lawn pesticides and herbicides in their community. Watch the trailer: <http://pfzmedia.com/> There will be information on biodiverse landscaping and natural lawn care in the lobby starting at 5pm. Film begins at 5:30pm (70 minute length) \$5.00 donation at the door. Sponsors: Wild Ones Twin Cities Chapter, Gorge Committee, and Seward Neighborhood Group Environment Committee

Saturday, June 4 -- Landscape Revival: Native Plant Expo and Market. Learn how native plants provide essential habitat for birds and wildlife, then shop for these plants from 11 area growers. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 4. Rainbow Foods Community Pavilion, 1201 Larpenteur Ave. W., Roseville. Free. 651-483-8597.

Summer Tours

Saturday June 18, Birds and Blooms. Tour of Carpenter Nature Center and Outback Nursery. (Rain date Saturday June 25). Join Chase Davies, St. Paul Audubon Society field guide; Diane Hilscher, landscape architect, Carpenter Nature Center staff; and Erik Olsen, landscape designer, Outback Nursery and Landscaping for:

- 8:00 Bird walk
- 10:00 Tour of the water garden and nature center
Brown bag lunch
- 1:30 Tour of Outback Nursery

More tours are being planned. Our summer tours concentrate on visiting gardens and restoration projects that use native plants and watershed friendly techniques. 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: www.WildOnesTwinCities.org.

Monthly Meeting and February Conference Notes

January 2011 Managing the Landscape for Beneficial Insects, What IPM Can Teach Us. (Dr. Vera Krischik, Associate Professor in the Dept. of Entomology at the University of Minnesota). We often hear about “Integrated Pest Management” (IPM), but why is this important to a natural landscaper? Most of us have made a choice not to use chemicals, nurturing instead a habitat where beneficial insects and nature can prevail. Information is powerful, and having a better understanding of pesticides is helpful as we work to educate our neighbors, many of whom still apply pesticides and other chemicals without any understanding of the long term consequences.

In her presentation, Dr Krischik described how we, as a society, have been applying pesticides over several decades. We quickly learned that her passion to save the insect world from extinction is one we should all share. Her warning was loud and clear: If we don't change how we manage our environment there will be a significant decline in the insect population over the next 20 years. This will be catastrophic to the balance of nature, as insects are at the very core of our existence, essential little critters in our food web.

Pesticides are designed to work in different ways. Some, systemics, are absorbed by the root system and live in the tissue of the plant, while others attack the insects nervous system or affect muscle control. A broad spectrum insecticide will target both good and bad insects, while other insecticides are receptor targeted, attacking only the specified pest. Systemics can be effective for treatment of trees, as trees are pollinated by the wind. In other applications, such as roses, a systemic will poison the pollen and may remain in the plant for up to three years, killing unsuspecting pollinators who feed on the plant.

She went on to explain the difference between Conventional, Biorational, Bioinsecticides and Organic Production Approved insecticides. Of these, Conventional will do the most harm to non-target species. We also need to be wary of Organics as many of these pesticides have toxins that are harmful to other wildlife. As an example: Pyrethroids, chemistry based versions of the organic, pyrethrum, are the fastest growing class of insecticides yet are extremely toxic to fish and some aquatic organisms. There is a growing concern about infiltration into our water systems. Pyrethroids on the market include bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, deltamethrin, fluvalinate, lambda-cyhalothrin and permethrin.



Soldier Beetle (Photo by Heather Holm)

Biorationals is the preferred class of pesticides for minimal effect on non-target species. Often applied in the form of insecticidal soaps, these may be used with discretion for pests on a targeted plant. If you use a commercial product, look for those that contain “Spinosad”. When mixed at the right ratio, Spinosad will target specific insects. Captain Jacks Dead Bug Brew is a brand that can be found in local garden centers. Research has shown Dawn dish soap to be the preferred homemade brew. Mix with water at a ratio of 2:100. Tip: When using insecticidal soap, first test on a lower leaf and wait a few days to determine if it will harm the plant. Spray at sunrise or just after sunset.

In IPM, natural predators are the preferred option. Vera listed several, including predatory mites, spiders, soldier beetles, ground beetles, tiger beetles, lady beetles, robber flies, predatory midges, syrphid or hover flies, tachinid flies, pirate bugs, plant or leaf bugs, stink bugs, assassin bugs, aphelinid wasps, braconid wasps, chalcidid wasps, encyrtid wasps, ichneumonid wasps, scelionid wasps, trichogrammid wasps, paper and yellow jacket wasps, lacewings, predatory ants, thrips and centipedes. Many of these are available for purchase, a few can be found at garden centers. Tip: If you do import insects, be certain they are healthy before releasing into your garden. Place them in a container with moisture and honey for a few days, then release near a food source in your garden.

Dr. Krischnik uses no pesticides in her yard and would advocate that for all. She believes that native plants should not need insecticides because of different blooming times and also because a landscape rich in native plant diversity discourages the outbreak of disease or insects while attracting birds and butterflies. She ended the evening with an invitation to become involved in her research garden, asking for our recommendations of early to late season native plants as sources of pollen and habitat. Call her at 612-625-7044 for more information and also for more information on purchasing predatory helpers.

Links for additional information on beneficial insects and pesticides:

Xerces Society -- www.xerces.org

Society for Invertebrate Pathology -- www.sipweb.org

Handout on the different types of insecticides -- www.entomology.umn.edu/cues/4015/handouts/pesticides.htm, or search ENT 4015, Dr. Vera Krischik.

Dr. Vera Krischik's lab – www.entomology.umn.edu/cues/kris78chiklab/krischik.htm

February Conference:

Editor's Note: For those of you who were unable to attend the Conference, 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.

The Layered Landscape in the New Wild Garden, Richard Drake. Richard Darke has spent much of his life looking at the layers in nature, taking thousands of photographs along the way. More recently he picked seven places to visit and took as many photographs as possible over the course of a year. It turned out that the majority of the pictures were along his most traveled route (to and from work). It was amazing the variety of images he got from the same view off a nearby bridge with changes in season and changes in the time of day. It quickly brought home the

continued...

lesson that we all need to more carefully observe that which surrounds us to get a better sense of place and seasonality. Layers in nature are the wonder of life - there is so much to see if one looks closely enough!!

Throughout his presentation he extolled the genius of William Robinson (1838 to 1935) an Englishman who revolutionized garden design by trying to convince people to cultivate a less structured garden. Robinson's book "The Wild Garden" originally published 1870 has recently been re-released with additional chapters and photographs by Mr. Darke.

Lessons from and reflections from Robinson's book, have lead to the following words of advice:

- a. Fight against using a set, rote pattern when designing your garden. Instead put something in and let your plants grow and change.
- b. Look at the layers in the more wild areas around you to get a sense of what is local to you.
- c. Most people are looking for plants that are low maintenance - remember this can best be achieved by using plants that are in the niche where they are best adapted - i.e., local natives. Avoid cultivars - those "perfect" plants.
- d. Design for mood. As evidenced by his year-long photographic experiment a scene can vary throughout the day so think about this when deciding what plants to place in your garden areas. The careful use of hardscapes and initial placement of plants, trees and shrubs can help define a multitude of journeys through your yard.
- e. Have patience. It takes time to let a garden naturalize through seed distribution. But with time you will achieve a variety of beautiful sites to pick from.
- f. Try and pick plants and organize your available space so:
 - There is no need to water after the plants have initially become established.
 - You can avoid the use of pesticides. (Native diversity allows this to happen as has been stated by many Wild Ones speakers this past year.)
 - No fertilizer is required (grow so the ground is kept covered).
 - Not much mulch is needed.

A Sense of Pride, Paula Westmorland. This was a history lesson in a way as the presentation started with how things used to be. When settlers first arrived they encountered hot, dry summers and harsh, long winters in a very unfamiliar place. They begin to transform the land by clearing trees and draining areas to create a place for agriculture with which they were familiar. These actions were all fighting against the natural processes that had been in place for centuries. To this day we are still separated from nature and natural processes - a heritage from our ancestors. We need to be thinking in circular organic (natural) patterns instead of in a linear fashion. As a case in point, we have put in place barriers to the natural flow of energy and materials, which is an amazing waste - so we need a new paradigm. How do we start anew? Two examples were given for a possible way ahead.

1. Greater Blue Earth Watershed. This is a 2.3 million acre landscape consisting primarily of a monoculture of corn and soy beans. It is considered to be a "sacrificial" landscape (i.e., the land needs to be as it is for the sake of agriculture). Earlier this was a wildlife rich area with soil of glacial till, clay, silt and sand; a complex of wetland and streams; and broad expanses of prairie. All part of the prairie pot hole region. Now much of the topsoil has been lost, waterways are polluted, and communities are dwindling. An extensive system of drain tiling and drainage ditches has been built to transport water (and topsoil) away. This system has lowered water retention, thus materials are not filtered out. Paula Westmorland's group, through use of the Graphic Information System (GIS), identified areas in this watershed that would be more appropriate for native perennials instead of annual crops and found that 23% of the land fell into this category. This "Opportunity Map" is now being distributed to groups and people in the area to help them think of a different world - one where identified marginal agricultural land could be transformed into natural areas. Through local inspiration/action her dream is for 10% of the land to be converted to wetland development which would attract hunters, birders and bikers. Coupled with increased crop diversity, the smaller towns could attract more businesses and perhaps thrive once again.



2. At Home. We need to also look at our property in the larger context. We should think about a) where we are located in the larger landscape; b) What the special features on our property are; c). whether we are in a migratory path; d) what our soil types are; and e) what the pathways are by which nutrients and energy moves. With these thoughts in mind we should be doing the following to help re-create the natural flow.

- Cycle water. Catch and store water and then move it slowly to infiltrate as much as possible.
- Cycle nutrients. Place a variety of plants with a range of root types - roots are key in capturing nutrients.
- Support wildlife. Provide food, water, nesting and hiding/play places to help build a strong food web. "The more the merrier" philosophy creates a more balanced system.
- Nourish and feed yourself. Design for foraging and wandering about to connect people, plants and animals.

Aldo Leopold: A Phenological Heritage, Stan Temple. According to Mr. Temple, Aldo Leopold had a scientific/research bent from early on. At age 8 his mother required him to keep a daily journal in which he faithfully recorded what he saw in nature and did some interpretation of the information. As a forester (1909-1924) he kept official journals in which he collected data which he would later return to and interpret. Moving back to Wisconsin, from 1935 - 1948 he spent weekends and vacations on a property in the country - these were called the "Shack Years" He was particularly interested in recording information on birds, because of the pleasure derived in doing so. About 1945 he started to realize that maybe there was some ecology that could be gleaned from the data. Gathering his information into spreadsheet format, he then analyzed the data. From this he concluded that phenological records have ecological interpretations. He found:

- Correlations with latitude
- Correlations with climate
- Correlations with species life histories
- Increased insights as more records are gathered over time and from careful interpretation of the data.

Keeping records enhances the pleasure of the search. - it is the chance to find order and meaning in these events.

From 1976 to the present Aldo Leopold's daughter has lived near "The Shack" and has continued the tradition of collecting phenological data. In 1999 she published a paper comparing the average dates at which observations such as nesting, etc. were happening now with what occurred in her father's time and found the changes to be consistent with climate change. This was the first time historical data had been used in this manner. From this information she found that early spring flowers showed the most advances. Birds that stay in the winter and short distance migrating birds started mating interest earlier and/or advanced their spring migration. Long distance birds showed no change, which was not surprising since they migrate based on the amount of daylight present. There has been a scientific review of this publication to see if (1) there were some biases that skewed the results in a certain direction, (2) whether the completeness of the records was sufficient to allow careful interpretation and (3) if it was possible to correct any bias. They found that because Aldo only went on weekends while Nina went every day, it had led to a correctable bias of one day per decade when looking at seasonal advances.

With this information one could not only see how things advanced in time, but could also make a comparison with temperature. This data can then be used to give some indication of future responses to climate change. For instance: if in 2055 the temperature has risen 6 degrees on the average, how will plants and animals react? One now has the phenological data to predict this. SO WHAT? Some interacting species may get out of synch with one another if they respond differently to climate change. A great-crested flycatcher a secondary cavity nester (which is a scarce type of habitat and highly contested for) is now arriving after others who look for the same type of cavity. There has been a 35 percent decline in this bird from 1966 to 2002, which may be partially attributed to climate change.

We were all encouraged to follow in Aldo Leopold's footsteps and:

- Keep a journal documenting our field observations of natural events.
- Discover ourselves from this record keeping, which enhances the pleasure of the search.
- Contribute our observations. This helps find order and reason in events (one place is National Phenology network www.usanpn.org)
- Be careful when interpreting information.

Treading Lightly: Becoming a Responsible Gardener, Lynn Steiner, trained horticulturist, 30 year gardener, and for 8 years a native plant enthusiast. Based on life experiences, Lynn Steiner suggested that the gardener's journey forward should take the following into consideration:

- Use native plants whenever possible.
- Use local native species in gardens and local genotypes in restorations.
- Learn all about a plant before using or recommending it.
- Don't use insecticides or fungicides.
- Do not use peat moss as a soil amendment, compost instead.
- Learn to live with less than perfect looking plants.
- Don't use all male seedless clones. This causes an increase in allergies because there are no pollen receptors.
- Bring plants together because they work together and provide a community. For ideas look at the Minnesota Natural Plant heritage. Also visits to Minnesota's Scientific and Natural Areas will give one an idea of how plants evolved and live together. Within our state there are 4 major communities: Northern Coniferous Forest, Southern Deciduous Forest, Savanna, and Prairie. (Each of these are discussed below.)

Northern Deciduous Forest Garden: Characterized by heavy shade; acidic soil pH; well drained soil (sand and rock); cold winters; and a sparser middle layer with flowering peaking in late spring and later in summer. To create this habitat:

- Remove undesirable plants.
- Prune if needed.
- Acidify soil, if necessary.
- Plant in larger drifts.
- Allow fallen needles to remain to create natural mulch.

Some suggested plants: Flowers and Groundcover: maidenhair fern, yellow ladies' slipper, red baneberry; Shrubs: winterberry, black chokeberry, pagoda dogwood; Trees: paper birch, white cedar, eastern hemlock and white & black spruce.

Southern Deciduous Forest Garden: One with spring sunshine and heavy summer shade from canopy; rich soil (from leaves); slightly acidic pH; and moderate rainfall. Most plants blooming in early to late spring. To create this habitat:

- Remove undesirable plants.
- Prune if needed.
- Use compost instead of peat moss to enrich soil.
- Think in terms of layers (canopy, shrubs, and ground hugging plants).
- Include access (paths) to protect ground plants.

Some suggested plants: Flowers and Groundcover: ephemerals such as bloodroot, Dutchman's britches; mid-late spring bloomers such as phlox, geranium, nodding wild onion, Prairie shooting star; and foliage such as wild ginger, bloodroot, ferns and Virginia bluebells; Shrubs: wild plums, viburnum, wild rose, nannyberry; Trees: red oak, burr oak, river birch, sugar maple

Savanna Garden: Full sun, partial shade and full shade from deciduous tree canopy (10 - 50 %); and well drained neutral to slightly acidic pH soil found here. Two main layers; shrubs are often in thickets. To create this habitat:

- Match plants to sunlight conditions.
- Prune as needed.
- Remove some trees, if needed.
- Remove existing ground cover.
- Cover soil with oak leaf mulch (or shredded bark).
- Cultivate and plant carefully around tree roots.



Golden Alexander (Photo from Vicki Bonk - Monarch from Nokomis Naturescape area.)

Plants: Late Spring - nodding wild onion, golden Alexander, spotted beebalm, prairie alumroot; Summer - spiderwort, tickweed, prairie phlox; Late summer - aster, goldenrod, prairie dropseed; shrubs: leadplant, New Jersey tea, American hazelnut; trees: white oak, bur oak, pine oak; Ground covers for high traffic areas

Prairie Garden: Typically full sun, well drained soil, moderate to low rainfall, neutral to slightly acid soil. Shrubs are rare, 80% grass to forbs ratio. To create this habitat:

- Remove trees.
- Remove existing groundcover.
- Improve soil drainage, if needed.
- Plant for spring interest.
- Control tall plants - can support plants with upside down tomato cage. Cut back later blooming forbs in half.
- Remove dead plants each year. Remove grasses tips before green but after warmer weather here (mid-April).

Some suggested plants: pasque flower, bird's foot violet, prairie smoke, rattlesnake master, butterfly weed, wild petunia.

THANK YOU ALL AROUND!!

Thanks to all those who worked so hard on this year's conference. Your efforts made it the success it was. A special thanks to those who had leading roles: Marilyn Jones, Karen Graham and Julia Vanatta.

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.

Planning Underway for Future of Design With Nature Conference

A group of leaders from St. Croix Oak Savanna and Twin Cities Chapter met Thursday, April 21, to discuss how we can improve upon the planning process for our annual conference. There are two proposals on the table. One idea is to form a steering committee which would act in an advisory capacity for next year's chairs while also planning for the future. The second idea is to begin laying a foundation for Wild Ones Minnesota where leaders from other chapters would be invited to participate. In ideas, the newly formed group would help to identify and maintain strong relations with other organizations, such as Audubon and Izaak Walton League. If you have an interest in participating in this exciting, forward thinking group of Wild Ones members, please contact Marty Rice or Marilyn Jones (612-293-3833)

Planning has also begun for Design With Nature 2012. Chairs for the event will be Julia Vanatta, TC Chapter, and Ginger Kopp, SCOS Chapter. Diane Hilscher, SCOS has agreed to help plan the program. Our goal for 2012 is to build a leadership team rather than committees and we are looking for WO members to add to our team. If you would like to be a part of this team, please call me at 612-382-2800 or email juliakay@scc.net.

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. Tuesday, May 24 7:00-8:30 pm. **More dates are to be added, check our website.** Free and open to the public, please call 612-293-3833 for more information.

NOKOMIS NATURESCAPE VOLUNTEER GARDENERS. *Encouraging People to Connect with Nature by Growing Native Plant Gardens.* 2011 marks thirteen years of volunteer gardening at our 4-acre native planting, the Nokomis Naturescape - the site and inspiration for the Minneapolis Monarch Festival (www.monarchfestival.org). The success of the festival (5000 attendees last fall!) has helped the Naturescape receive more attention and gardening assistance from a number of sources. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board send more volunteer opportunities our way, as well as increased maintenance attention. Twin City Landscape and Design has offered to help us make a new pathway in the Lakeside garden and will supply us with free stepping stones! The **Twin Cities Chapter of the Wild Ones** members play an essential role in maintaining the Naturescape. Gardeners meet Tuesday from May – September 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to join us –anytime and for any commitment level - from occasional to adopting a section of a garden. **For more information or to volunteer, call the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association at 612/724-5256 or visit www.nokomiseast.org**

A Naturescape Project to Promote Native Plantings

GROW MONARCH HABITAT Workshop featuring *Monarch Gardens-to-Go*.

Date: Saturday, May 14, 2010

Choose a Session Time: Same workshop held at 9:30-10:30 and 11:00-12:00

Location: Nokomis Community Center, 2401 East Minnehaha Parkway

To register/questions call the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association at 612-727-5652 or visit

www.noomiseast.org Please note: Pre-registration and a \$20.00 fee is required. The fee includes the workshop, resource materials, and a Monarch Garden-to-Go

Help create monarch habitat to connect with nature and offset the current loss of natural environment. The Milkweed family is the only monarch caterpillar host plant (their specific diet). Without milkweeds along the entire spring journey north from Mexico to Canada, monarchs would be unable to produce the successive generations that culminate in the fall migration south to Mexico. Due to habitat loss, the monarch migration is an endangered phenomenon. EVERYONE can make a difference by planting monarch habitat – even in a small urban yard. The workshop is a beginning how-to approach to gardening for monarchs. With an image-rich discussion we will cover:

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

The Monarch Gardens-to-Go

- Includes 12 plant gardens (in 3.5" pots) to get your monarch garden started.
- All selections are locally native plants.
- You may purchase more than one Garden-to-Go kit.
- Each kit has an informational brochure with plant specifics, planting template, & native plant resources list.

The kits are available for 2 different soil conditions

For Dry-Medium Soil

3 Butterfly Weed, 3 Button Blazing Star, 1 Showy Goldenrod, 1 Aromatic Aster, 1 Purple Coneflower and 3 Little Bluestem

For Medium-Moist Soil

3 Red Milkweed, 3 Meadow Blazing Star, 1 Brown Eyed Susan, 1 Wild Bergamot, 1 Nodding Onion and 3 Prairie Dropseed

Presidents' Message - Marilyn Jones, President

The longer, sunnier days are stirring thoughts and plans for continuing development of the perennial gardens in my community. My goal is for beautiful, sustainable, low-maintenance gardens that are part of the flow of hospitable habitat throughout the Twin Cities. I am thinking about my yard, and a commercial boulevard that I volunteered to convert to native plants, and am especially excited about the two schools awarded SFE (Seeds for Education) grants from WO National. The winners are the New City School and Dowling Urban Elementary both in Minneapolis who will be building native plant gardens this spring.

Some thoughts are 1. assess sunlight and match plants to light, 2. choose spring, summer, fall bloomers, 3. Test the soil pH and add organic matter, 4. To reduce watering and control erosion, plan to mulch, and 4. Think of the butterflies, birds and bees and order plants and flats from the Wild Ones Twin Cities annual Spring Plant Sale, order by May 10th. Download the order sheet from website: www.WildOnesTwinCities.org. Enjoy being a part of the "natural enthusiasm" that is spreading in recognition of the contribution of native plants and natural landscaping to a healthier world.

Welcome New & Renewing Members

As of 1 April 2011 according to the national website, our chapter had 145 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>>.

Anderson, Elizabeth; Andreen, Lori; Barnett, Marta; Bonk, Vicki & Richard; Bonnett, Kathy; Brazzale, Jenny; Bue, Priscilla; Burke, Angela; Busch, Donna; Carlson, Helen & Gordon; Christen, Nancy; Coleman, Jim & Jan; Coleman, Pamela; Colson, Cynthia; Dregger-Holmes, Donna; Dunnette, Joel & Sandra; Eckmann, Karen; Erickson, Sheryl; Genovese, Liz; Gibson, Barbara; Graham, Karen; Hamilton, Holly; Hansen, Debbie; Harrison, Catherine; Harrison, Rich; Kalantari, Michelle; Kessler, Joeerg; Kooyman, Shirley Mah; Langer, Rob; Larsen, Linda; Lecker, Greg; Light, Susan; Lindoo, Susan; Lizette Berlin, Nancy; Maciejny, John; Madlon-Kay, Richard & Diane; Medin, Kim & Thomas; Mesch, Mike; Musumeci, JoAnn; Nelson, Christian; Nelson, Connie; Nelson, James; Nussbaum, Sandra; Opp, Lee; Pepin, Constance; Perry, Elizabeth; Pfeiffer, Joann; Poquette, Trudi; Rankin, Diana; Rasmus, Dan; Sellers, Julian; Shearman, Christine; Sidles, Kathy; Stark, Barbara; Torkelson, Tom; Vaillancourt, Michele; Vogels, Vicky

2011 Officers

President: Marilyn Jones
Vice President: Shirley Kooyman
Secretary: Becky Wardell-Gaertner
Treasurer: Elaine Larson

Board Members

Audio Visual: John Arthur
Hospitality: Rose Meyer
Membership: Marty Rice
Merchandise: Trudy Poquette
Newsletter: Mary Schommer
Nokomis Naturescape: Vicki Bonk
Outreach: Marty Rice
Programs: Carmen Simonet
Public Relations: Julia Vanatta
Spring Expo: Marilyn Jones
Tours: Molly Rosenberger (**looking for 2nd**)
Volunteer Coordinator: Bill Blood
Website Development: Heather Holm
Webmaster: Heather Holm
WO Phone: Tammy Argus

Chapter Message Center: 612-293-3833

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

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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
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