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## Announcements

**BIG THANK YOU'S** to Landscape Alternatives and Outback Nursery / Tennant Landscaping for their generous support of Wild Ones by becoming Business members at the \$200 level.

Landscape Alternatives, just off Larper Ave. in St. Paul has been a mainstay of native forbs, grasses and ferns in the Twin Cities area for over 20 years. Their selection is large, their stock very healthy and their advice and experience is excellent. Check out their website at: [www.landscapalternatives.com](http://www.landscapalternatives.com).

For those of you who haven't been to Outback Nursery outside of Hastings, see their website [www.outbacknursery.com](http://www.outbacknursery.com) and catalogue as they're an excellent source for woody plant materials as well as landscape design. They also have a healthy selection of forbs, ferns and grasses.

Due to the upcoming Expo, we will publish our **Membership Directory** of local members next quarter. If you prefer to have your name, address, and/or phone omitted from the directory, please contact Marty or Rebecca.

## Upcoming Events

**Hands-On Native Plant Care is on break until May.**

*In lieu of our February monthly meeting we're sponsoring the Native Plant Expo. Info follows...*

**Wild Ones 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Plant Expo**

**Saturday, Feb. 26, 9:30-4:30**

**Hennepin Technical College, 9000 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Park**

Bigger and better than ever, this year's Expo will feature programs by top experts in their fields on:

- A New Perspective on Landscaping by Carolyn Dindorf (9:45)
- Gardening with Native Shrubs by Janet Larson (11:00)
- Gardening for Butterflies & Other Beneficial Insects by Dr. Vera Krischik (1:00)
- Native Grasses: Landscape Design Characteristics by Bob Mugaas (3:00)

Meet with leading native plant and landscaping business owners in the greater Twin Cities area. Attend demonstrations and win door prizes! Admission: \$7/person; \$10/couple; free/Henn. Tech. College students

**Rain Gardens: What, Why, Where, How**

**Tuesday, Mar. 15, from 6:30 pm  
Hennepin Technical College, 9000 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Park**

Doug Mensing, restoration ecologist, who worked on the rain garden program in South Minneapolis will talk about the "What, Where, How, & Why" of that project and about rain gardens generally. It's a very timely topic with spring rains &

floods are on their way. Free; friends, family and neighbors welcome! *Note the change in location for this month's meeting (click here for map). Next month we are back at our usual location.*

**What To Do From Front Yards to Roadsides**

**Tuesday, Apr. 19, from 6:30 pm  
Nokomis Community Center**

Bonnie Harper-Lore, a longtime and well-known native plant advocate and author in the Twin Cities and nationally, is now a Vegetation Specialist with the Federal Hwy Dept. working on native roadside landscaping. Ask her all your garden questions including about boulevard gardens and salt-resistant natives. (Rescheduled from January). Free; friends, family and neighbors welcome!

Our monthly meetings are held at the **Nokomis Community Ctr., 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy, Minneapolis.** Doors open at 6:30 pm for socializing and setup, meetings start at 7:00. Check [www.fors-wild.org/chapters/twincities](http://www.fors-wild.org/chapters/twincities) for updates



*Our next newsletter will be published April 25th. Please send submissions to Newsletter Editor Rebecca Chesin, [spiralsen@aol.com](mailto:spiralsen@aol.com) by April 15th.*

## Notes from the Prez

By Guest President, Diane Holmes

*The message that follows is from a Wild Ones President, but not the Twin Cities chapter. Rather, it's from Diane Holmes, President of the Menomonee River Chapter who has stated so well what I could not improve on - Marty Rice, Twin Cities Chapter President*

Aldo Leopold once said that "one of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds." Most of the damage inflicted on the environment, the species threatened or lost forever, the waste of clean water on the greening of lawns, the aftereffects of pesticide usage goes unnoticed by the general public.

I was glancing through Andy Wasowski's book, *The Landscaping Revolution* in which he writes of the growing grassroots movement of natural landscaping. It is still one of my favorite books on the subject. Although now out of print, it's still available used. In it he speaks of the reasons that the conventional landscape is still so much a part of our lives. He believes it comes down to that we're so out of touch with the natural world and how it works. The thing about ignorance is that it breeds misunderstandings, discomfort and even fear. Environmentalists are labeled "eco-freaks" and "tree-huggers". And children, who are so savvy about all things computer, are no more "nature savvy" than their parents. The majority feel

that nature is to be experienced in zoos and television. And the very institutions we depend upon to teach our children, the schools, are typically the worst landscaped. However, as we have personally experienced, this is changing in many schools throughout the country. If you are lucky enough to have or know children in schools that have or are considering natural landscaping, please do your best to support them. As Andy Wasowski says "the biggest lesson they need to know is that we do not live *apart* from nature... we are a part of nature."

So if you feel discouraged after driving around and seeing miles and miles of mowed lawns and conventional landscaping, and you feel that the "landscape revolution" is not moving as fast as we all thought it might, remember the words of the former president of the Wilderness Society, Sigurd Olson when he said, "You are not alone. There are many who feel as you do and the hope of the world is in the frustration you feel, the wanting to do something about it."

I invite all of you to come to our meetings, whether you have natural landscapes or conventional ones; whether you currently use 90%, 50% or 0% native plants; whether you are interested in a truly "wild" lawn or more controlled perennial beds. Come, and explore the natural world with us. And remember to bring a friend!



## To-Do List for Gardeners: February - March - April

Spring is just around the corner; have you made your garden plans for 2005 yet? Now is the best time to consider spring/summer projects, before the gardening season is in full swing.

- **Prune trees and shrubs** while they are still dormant or dead or damaged limbs, shoots or waterspouts; also shrubs that need shaping or rejuvenation
- **Prevent salt damage** by using coarse sand to provide traction and make sidewalks and driveways less slick. If that doesn't do the trick, try de-icing products made from calcium chloride or calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) - they are salt-free melting agents.
- **Finalize your garden plans** for this year. **Order seeds or make a list of plants** to pick up at garden nurseries.
- February/March is a great time to start **winter sowing** hardy plant seed.
- **Sort your seeds** by the date they need to be planted if starting indoors; we're fast coming up on the time to start them, especially the ones that need cold, moist stratification.
- As the weather warms up, **put away suet bird feeders**; the suet doesn't keep and birds are switching over to their warmer weather diets. Also **clean up birdseed shells** underneath feeders; build-up can hinder growth of plants and become moldy.
- **Apply corn gluten meal** to hinder weed seed germination (Note: will affect any seed it contacts) in late April/early May. Spread it at a rate of 20 pounds per 1,000 SF. Water it lightly to activate it. It will remain effective for 5-6 wks.

*Compiled by Rebecca Chesin (Have a great tip to share? Email it to [spiralsen@aol.com](mailto:spiralsen@aol.com).)*

## WILD ONES: 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT EXPO

Saturday, February 26, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Open at 9:00 for set up

Hennepin Technical College, 9000 Brooklyn Boulevard, Brooklyn Park, MN 55441

### Get Wild!! We Need You!!

This year our chapter has expanded the venue for the 5th annual Native Plant Expo. We are very pleased to announce a new location at the Hennepin Technical College in Brooklyn Park, a Saturday date and expanded hours. The Hennepin Technical College allows us to hold presentations in the auditorium and a spacious well-lit exhibitor area in the cafeteria. These rooms are connected by a lobby with two entrances. The auditorium is well-equipped, and the cafeteria provides an excellent setting for exhibitors with two walls of floor to ceiling windows overlooking a natural pond area. As usual, the Expo is open to the public. The general admission is \$7/individual and \$10/couple.

The Expo is gaining more interest in the community with higher attendance every year. Susan Damon and Fran Kiesling are working on publicity avenues for newspapers and TV respectively. In addition, the Expo information is listed in our newly designed chapter website on <http://www.for-wild.org/chapters/twincities>.

We have also expanded the presentation format and have 4 excellent speakers scheduled and will compile 2005 Expo Program and Resource Guide:

9:45	Carolyn Dindorf, Fortin Consulting	A New Perspective: Your Yard Can Make a Difference
11:00	Janet Larson, Urban Forester	Native Ornamental Shrubs & Trees for Gardens & Wooded Edges
1:00	Vera Krischik, Univ. of MN Entomology	Attracting Butterflies and Beneficial Insects in Your Garden
3:00	Bob Mugaas, Dakota Co. Extension	Native Grasses: Landscape Design Characteristics

Exhibitors are from businesses and volunteer organizations specializing in native plants and landscaping. Items for sale may be offered such as books, CDs, plants, tools, etc.

The Wild Ones table is also expanded!! We will again offer the autographed books by Evelyn Moyle, *Northland Wildflowers* and Carolyn Harstad, *Go Native!* and *Got Shade?* In addition, we will obtain information and answer questions about natural landscaping ordinances in different parts of the Metro area and how these may impact the use of native plants. Come watch a demonstration on how to make a rain barrel, which will later be offered as a door prize. Let's hear from you on ideas for other demonstrations or suggestions of any kind!!

We need your help to make the 2005 Native Plant Spring Expo more successful than ever. Please call Karen Graham at 763-551-9572 or write gramkl@yahoo.com to volunteer for admissions, membership info, book purchase and organization. Together we can build a stronger voice for the natural landscape movement.



### Mini-Book Reviews by Marty Rice

#### *The Natural Habitat Garden* by Ken Druse

Marvelous photography of largely native plants and gardens throughout the country including about 10 from the Midwest. Each garden includes excellent descriptions of what, why and how the gardens have been planted; gardens are grouped by soil and site conditions.

#### *Go Native* by Carolyn Harstad

A smooth reading and very well-organized "how to" book covering a wide range of topics including site planning, design, preparation, plant selection and propagation. You'll find lots of ideas, inspirations and easy to follow explanations and descriptions. Not only is Carolyn a Twin Cities Wild Ones member, but she's also written "Got Shade? A Take it Easy Approach for Today's Gardener" which was very highly recommended in the Jan/Feb issue of "Fine Gardening" magazine!! Happily, we have autographed copies of both books for sale at our meetings.

### Membership Benefits To You

- Monthly meetings featuring excellent presentation on a wide array of native landscaping topics.
- Receive the new member packet, including the New Member Handbook full of information and activities on natural landscaping.
- Receive the Wild Ones journal from the National Office. It contains articles and information that will inspire and educate you about natural landscaping.
- Free admission to many Wild Ones' events, including garden tours, and native plant walks and swaps. Reciprocity with other chapters' meetings.
- Gather and exchange information and expertise with like-minded persons.
- Your very valuable support for the Wild One's Mission.

### Join or Renew

- Sign up at a meetings, or
- Call Marty Rice at 952-927-6531, or
- Access the national website at [www.for-wild.org](http://www.for-wild.org)

### 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 organization.



Twin Cities Chapter

c/o Marty Rice

4501 Lakeview Dr

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<http://www.for-wild.org/chapters/twincities>

### Upcoming:

More Garden To-Do's,  
Hands-On Native Plant Care  
starts up for the summer, plus  
lots more opportunities to  
participate. See you at the  
Expo!