



Wild Ones[®]

Natural Landscapers, Ltd.

Rock River Valley Chapter

July, 1999

Monthly Newsletter

Get ready to don the crown of Wild Ones, as we celebrate our 4th annual Native Landscape Tour here in the Rockford area.



This is the grand opportunity to "strut your stuff." You are the emissaries of knowledge to all your friends and neighbors. Why not take full advantage of the chance to share your enthusiasm of the native landscaping movement?

Interest in this, our passion, is steadily increasing, as is evidenced by more nurseries offering native plants. This past spring's Garden show in Chicago featured an exhibit of native plants exclusively. This in contrast to traditional emphasis on "cultivated" species. It was a popular attraction which they plan to expand next year. Even city-folks are getting back to nature!

There are seven jewels in the crown of this summer's bus tour—thanks to generous members of our chapter who have opened their grounds to visitors.

Participants will see the many and varied ways to enhance their yards using native vegetation. They will learn what can and has been done starting with plants, seeds, or plugs. Each of the seven stops on this year's tour has its own unique personality.

If your neighbors are used to a "sterile" yard with nothing but grass and a few pansies, they will be astounded at what they are missing. Treat them to what they could be enjoying.

Whether it be a city lot or large acreage, the living community created with native species includes butterflies, birds, insects, frogs, toads and other delightful critters in addition to the plants. Keep your eyes open to catch these surprises!

Invite a friend to join you. Be sure to reserve seats SOON as the bus is filling fast. Don't miss out.

Minutes of the June 17th Meeting

"Visit Enders Greenhouse - Plant Sale plus - Tips on Propagating Plants"

President Sheila Stenger took the floor (or rather, the table) after eager *Wild Ones* members buzzed around Enders Greenhouse, buying as many native plants as they could carry.

Sheila told us about the upcoming Show Me/Help Me Days June 19 and 26, and July 24. She announced that the next national board meeting will be August 14 in Madison with a surprise party in honor of Lorri Otto's 80th birthday. Effective July 1, 1999, the national *Wild Ones* address will be P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, WI 54912-1274. The new toll-free number is 877-FYI-WILD or 877-294-9453.

If you desire, Sheila will send you a copy of the minutes from the last national board meeting. Just give her a call.

Before introducing Jeff Stack and his Latin Minutes, Sheila read an e-mail from Randy Powers of Prairie Future Seed Company. He had been stopped by WI State Troopers and a Narcotics Agent because someone had mistakenly identified the cut leaf ~~coneflower in his van as marijuana!~~ Get the full story from Sheila.

☆ No regular meeting in July.

Native Landscape Bus Tour: July 31

Don't miss it! ☆

JUNE REPORTS

112 HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIPS AS OF 6/9/99

ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING:

40 MEMBERS FROM 30 HOUSEHOLDS

3 GUESTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

JUNE 1, 1999

BALANCE = \$2363.61

SUBMITTED BY FRAN LOWMAN TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

LATIN MINUTES

Jeff Stack, presenter

The featured plant in this month is the Ohio spiderwort, *Tradescantia ohioensis*. Ohio spiderwort is a late spring - early summer blooming forb with a blue to purple flower. This is the only local representative of this genus and is a member of the spiderwort (Commelinaceae) family. The spiderworts' genus is named after two botanists instead of a physical characteristic of the plant. John Tradescant (d. 1638) was the gardener for King Charles I of England, and his son John, Jr., was responsible for the introduction of the spiderwort from America to England.

Tradescantia (Commelinaceae)

(John Tradescant, Sr. and Jr., botanists)

Botanical (Latin) Name

Common Name

Tradescantia ohioensis

Ohio spiderwort

ohioensis = Ohio

• SHOW ME / HELP ME / SHOW ME / HELP ME / SHOW ME / HELP ME •

SHOW ME / HELP ME / SHOW ME / HELP ME / SHOW ME / HELP ME / SHOW ME / HELP ME / SHOW ME / HELP ME

These outings have been especially beneficial, as promised!

Sincere thanks to our hosts: Rod Myers, Bruce and Mary Anne Mathwich, Marlene and Wayne McCarter, Roger and Pat Schroder, Roberta Lambiotte, Lowell and Betty Edwards, and Fran Lowman for sharing their properties with us.

None of this would have been possible without the labors of Tracy and Sheila Stenger who planned, organized, mapped and publicized the events. We are indebted to you both.

More to Come

*July 24 — 4 stops
more in planning for August*

Try to attend
Come when you can . . .
Leave when you must

*Get to know fellow members
and plants, too*

Come Once . . . you'll be hooked!

SHOW ME / HELP ME / SHOW ME / HELP ME / SHOW ME / HELP ME / SHOW ME / HELP ME / SHOW ME / HELP ME

• HELP ME / SHOW ME / HELP ME / SHOW ME / HELP ME / SHOW ME •

Calendar of Events



Programs and Outings for 1999

Regular Meetings begin at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month at Jarrett Prairie Center — Byron Forest Preserve 7993 N. River Road, Byron, IL (815) 234-8535
Are you planning to join us?

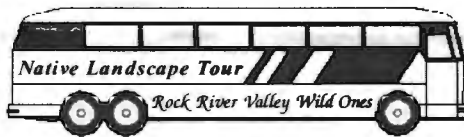
Show Me/Help Me Days
July 24, and more in August, too

Native Landscape Bus Tour
July 31

Please save these dates

JULY 24 — *Show Me/Help Me Day* — for itinerary see insert in this newsletter

JULY 31 — *No regular meeting this month.*



Advance Reservations required.

Call Fran (815) 874-4895.

Cost: \$8⁰⁰ per seat *Seats are Limited.*

4th Annual Bus Tour of Native Landscapes

August 19

Dennis Lubbs from *Genesis Nursery* in Tampico, IL

Topic: "Native Grasses, Sedges, and Grass-Like Plants." — Talk & Slide Presentation.

September 16 — "TBA" — Still in planning stage.

October - *Various Saturdays - No regular Thursday meeting.*

Seed collecting — specific times, dates and locations will be announced.

November 18

Annual Seed exchange — Pot luck dinner and socializing to boot!

December — *No meeting.*

regularly
scheduled

Next Meeting

Thursday, August 19

Jarrett Prairie Center

Byron Forest Preserve
7993 N. River Road, Byron, IL

Meeting starts at 7:00 pm

"Native Grasses, Sedges, & Grass-Like Plants"
Slide presentation by Dennis Lubbs, Genesis Nursery

In the meantime . . .

please don't forget to attend our special events:

Native Landscape Bus Tour ♡ Show me/Help me days

Opportunities:

If any of these pique your interest, call Ray and Diane Edwards for More Details, such as Pre-Registration Forms, Addresses, Speakers List, etc.

Seminars - Workshops - Conferences -

- | | | | |
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| July 9 7 am - 3:30 pm \$55.00 | Chicagoland Native Landscaping Conference College of DuPage Keynote: Stephen Packard 5 sessions, each with 5 concurrent areas of interest. Tours of native plantings from late 70's and 80's. | Glen Ellyn IL | (630) 942-2706 942-2347 |
| <i>Fee includes workshops, handouts, Continental breakfast, coffee, lunch</i> <i>You can register by phone: (630) 942-3948 MENTION CODE #43591</i> <i>Sponsored in part by Enders Greenhouse — Anne has registration forms</i> | | | |
| July 10 2:00 pm FREE to members \$3.00 non-members | "A Butterfly Celebration" by Susan Dees Severson Dells Education Foundation Slide show — insect conservation, monitoring, butterfly/moth gardening, rearing, ethics. Followed by a butterfly garden walk, ice cream. | 8786 Montague Rd Rockford IL | (815) 335-2915 Don Miller |
| Sept. 18 10 am - 5 pm FREE | 10th Annual "Autumn-on-the-Prairie" Nachusa Grasslands-Nature Conservancy Guided walks — prairie, wetlands, savannas, fens. Horse drawn wagon tours, pioneer-age re-enactment, demonstrations, exhibits, entertainment, raffle, children's tent, live reptiles, grinding indian corn. For sale — nature books, art works, lunch. | 2055 Lowden Rd Franklin Grove IL | (815) 456-2340 Bill Kleiman |

LIST OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Tracy & Sheila Stenger
624-6076

VP/PROGRAMS

Jeff Stack
624-4225

SECRETARY/NEWSLETTER

Ray & Diane Edwards
732-6988

TREAS/MEMBERSHIP

Fran Lowman
874-4895

Wild Ones® - Rock River Valley Chapter

Regular meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm
Jarrett Prairie Center, Byron Forest Preserve - 7993 N. River Road, Byron, IL

*Special meetings, outings and events are scheduled periodically and sometimes take precedence
over regular meeting time/place. Call (815) 234-8535 to confirm information about our next meeting.*

Wild Ones® NEWSLETTER

% Ray & Diane Edwards
5287 Canfield Road
Chana, IL 61015

