

February 2010 Volume 8, Issue 1

Upcoming Events/Monthly Meetings

2010 Spring Conference

Design with Nature

Creating healthy communities above and below ground

WHEN: Saturday, 27 February, 8:00 am - 4:45 pm

WHERE: Radison Hotel, Roseville, 2540 Cleveland Avenue North, Roseville, Minnesota

Sign up early as space is limited.

Brochure and registration form:

1. Go to our website:
<http://for-wild.org/chapters/twincities/conference.html>
2. If not web connected, contact Mary Schommer at 612-729-5274

Questions: Contact Karen Graham: gramkl@comcast.net or call 763-551-9572.

Admission: \$40 including lunch (WO member price)



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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, March 16, 2010, Joerg Kessler: Pollinators. The main focus of this presentation will be beekeeping, native pollinators and the interdependence of native plants and their pollinators.

Tuesday, April 20, 2010. This program is yet to be determined, but keep this date in your calendar! Should you want presentation information prior to the meeting, contact Marty Rice (952-927--6531)

Tuesday, May 18, 2010. Valerie Cunningham and Julian Sellers, of the St. Paul Chapter of the Audubon Society. Native trees, shrubs, vines and forbs that benefit birds will be discussed at this meeting.

Conference: Behind the Scenes - Interview with Karen Graham

Editor's note: Karen Graham is a co-chair of this year's conference. She has been the life blood of a many of these annual events. Her inspiration backed by a great group of volunteers has led to a much looked forward to experience.



How did you get started on the conference? The first year in 2000, just two of us worked on an Expo at the Hennepin County library. As Vice President, I took on organizing the event and pretty much have done so to now. We started with 18 exhibitors and about 30 people attending from 5 - 9 during the weekday. The exhibitors were great, agreeing to come to a fledgling event. Reservations for the room could be made only two months in advance.

It sounds like the exhibitors have been a key part of the conference since the beginning? It was a large investment from the exhibitors, but they agree with what we are trying to accomplish, and it is a great opportunity for them to directly

connect with people passionate about native plants. It is also a chance for them to connect with the other exhibitors. That's the thing about this event, there has been a lot of support in what our chapter is trying to accomplish. We have had tremendous support and understanding from so many people. This includes the speakers donating their time; landscape designers, nurseries, and other exhibitors showing up at our events, and the countless volunteers helping out.

From there we just kept figuring out how to better organize an event and how to structure it so more people can contribute. In the 10 years that I've been coordinating the Expo, I've learned so much. A key learning has been the importance of defining the activities required and the network created through collaboration. I strongly believe that how we have progressed in developing the event is reflected in the day's success.

We have had great speakers over the years, and this year should be better than ever with Doug Tallamy, Ed Plaster, Welby Smith and Evelyn Hadden. In fact, our local speakers, Ed, Welby and Evelyn are collaborating on their talks to better address our topic of building healthy communities above and below ground.

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When did you change the format? The purpose from the beginning was to focus on bringing native plant nurseries, natural landscape designers and other environmental organizations to the community. For me Wild Ones is the spring board for environmental awareness. It starts in our backyards ... our front yards too. Ten years ago there wasn't as much awareness of the advantages of native plants in terms of drought tolerance, native wildlife, and soil health. As awareness has grown the conferences have tried to keep pace with what the attendees are interested in. The common theme at all the conferences is something that everyone can get involved in, and it is possible to start small and grow at your own pace as your interest and abilities allow. We also look for ways to incorporate cross-cultural topics such as birding with native plants.

After 7 years of Expos, it was time for a change of venue. The Expo brings a broad range of information and exposure to the world of native plants. People were asking for more depth. This takes more than a 20 minute presentation. In 2007, Evelyn Hadden and I organized the first seminar. As part of the new venture, I invited St. Croix Oak Savanna chapter to partner with us in organizing the seminar. The partnership has brought in fresh perspectives and resources.

What is your vision? To aid in keeping the event fresh, I think switching between Expo and Conference provides a change. A change not only for people attending the event, but also for the organizers. The focus of an Expo and Conference are quite different. Expos draw people with immediate projects and provides shorter presentations to aid project design opportunities. Conferences draw people seeking a deeper understanding of the topic. Our message is restoration and celebration of introducing even one native plant in the yard. It is a chance to learn something new and a refreshing opportunity to encourage discussion. I find the day to be a joyful coming together of ideas and inspiration.

Each year, we gather the suggestions from people working on and attending the event. Every year, the process is refined which allows the opportunity for more to join in including organizations such as MASLA (the Minn. chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects) and Blue Thumb a program of the Rice Creek Watershed District. I hope to see you on Saturday, Feb. 27th to join the discussion to build healthy communities above and below ground. Registration is easy at www.eventbrite.com Design with Nature or mail in at www.for-wild.org under What's New!

Presidents' Message - Marty Rice/Marilyn Jones, CoChairs

State of the ~~Union~~, err--- Twin Cities 'Wild Ones' chapter

Goodbye 2009 and Hello to 2010. And a very BIG and very appreciative 'Thank You' to over 40 Twin Cities 'Wild Ones' members who volunteered their time and resources to make 2009 such a busy and eventful year. This includes a big 'Thank You' to Marilyn Jones who has offered to be our 2010 chapter co-president. Marilyn is relatively new and highly committed to native landscaping bringing a nice balance to some of our more seasoned members.

A quick overview of the past year: our move to a larger meeting facility at Wood Lake Nature Center, monthly programs such as native ferns, Weeds 101 and what's ahead for climates and forests of Minnesota, summer tours featuring intriguing native-landscaped gardens and yards, and public parks showing lovely native trees and shrubs. Our 9th annual 'Wild Ones' native plant Expo which was co-sponsored with 'Blue Thumb- Clean Water' featured the only native plant professional in the Federal Hwy Dept., along with other noted speakers who specialize in native plants and landscaping.

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We're growing greener with each passing year. So what's ahead for 2010? This year's Native Plant Conference/Expo is bringing in entomologist Douglas Tallamy, author of best-selling book "Bringing Nature Home" along with other noted authors and speakers. Monthly meeting notices will be on our website shortly followed by summer tour information as available (see www.for-wild.org).

And now, a goal for the months and year ahead: how best to spread the word of the beauty and benefits of 'the natives'? Aha, bet you never would've guessed: continue supporting 'Wild Ones' with your membership, the 'go-to' organization for native plants and landscaping! Your support is truly appreciated since we've finally taken a long-awaited and very big financial step with the purchase of a national headquarters building and adjacent 13+ acres in Appleton, WI. This move opens up new vistas for 'Wild Ones' and our role in the green environmental arena but also involves some tough budget decisions like how to finance all 6 monthly issues of the 'Wild Ones Journal'. Your membership, including at the higher 'Wilder' and 'Wildest' level helps us address this issue.

So we also ask you to share your 'wildness' - bring friends, family and neighbors to our monthly meetings and events. Most are free and the public is welcomed. Become wilder---add another native plant or plants—a tree, shrub, forb and/or grass to your yard. Bring on those wild beauties---the birds, bees and butterflies will thank you. Neighbors too---if you spend some time weeding and monitoring rather than poisoning, watering and mowing your entire yard. To quote Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Marty Rice, Co-President

Meeting Notes

November 2009 Meeting

Global Warming (Dr. Lee Freulich)

As chair of the Board of Directors of Great River Greening, Vice President of the Eastern Native Tree Society and Director of the

University of Minnesota Center for Hardwood Ecology, Dr. Froelich brought with him a wealth of knowledge. His presentation began with one scenario of what might happen in our area if there was a 5 to 10 degree Fahrenheit rise in the temperature by the end of the century: The current prairie-forest border could move 500 kilometers to the north and east, deforesting an area 2 times the size of California.

Given the anticipated rate of climate change many species will not be able to migrate fast enough. Our current situation makes this adaptation and migration more difficult because of the fragmented environment which exists leaving only scattered islands of habitat. In addition to this, the overall reduction of habitat of course means that the amount available is able to support fewer and fewer numbers within a species. The presence of invasives increases the pressure on native species. Warmer climates usually allows the faster spread of exotic species. Beyond the above difficulties, there are increased problems due to wind, fire, hail and drought.

> Wind: With global warming, tropical air will move further north, which feeds higher velocity wind events. The storm which went through northern Minnesota in July of 1999 is an example of what the future

Election of officers for 2010 - announcing the Twin Cities Chapter officers for 2010

Co-chairs: Marty Rice and Marilyn Jones
Secretary: Kris Martinka
Treasurer: Brent Holm

might hold from increased winds The straight line wind (a dereche) that ploughed through the area came with 6,000 lightening strikes per hour from Minnesota to Montreal, 7 inches of rain fell in 45 minutes, and a tsunami like effect occurring on Lake Superior. It resulted in the loss of millions of acres of forest..

> Fire: The downed trees left hundred of tons of slash per acre; creating a huge pile of fuel and the potential for an increased number of fires.

> Hail: More and larger sized hail is anticipated

> Drought: with higher temperatures there is more evaporation causing the soil to become drier, which in turn creates a condition that is only able to support fewer trees.



Non-native species some of whom are better able to survive in our area with the warmer temperatures are also threatening to significantly change our current habitat. These include the Emerald ash borer which could destroy a significant number of the 900,000 million ash trees present in Minnesota. Not only killing the ash tree but also changing the understory that depend on the presence of the ash for its habitat conditions. Earth worms are migrating further and further north. There are two species of particular importance in Minnesota: *Lumbricus rubellus* which eats the existing duff on the forest floor and *Lumbricus terrestralis* which only eats fresh leaves, thereby keeping duff from forming. The lack of duff affect summer soil temperatures and also results in a substantial reduction in nutrients. In areas where worms have invaded, there has been 30% less growth as evidenced by the decrease in tree ring width and the loss of seedling density and herbal species on the forest floor. Along with the reduction in natives, the change in conditions facilitates the germination and establishment of buckthorn and garlic mustard. All in all the interaction of all of the above forces will significantly change our surroundings in the coming years

January 2010 Meeting: Isle Royal Botany Workshop, Julia Vanatta Julia Vanatta was the main speaker of the evening with a presentation about a botany workshop she attended on Michigan's Isle Royale in the summer of 2008. Fellow WO member Greg Lecher also attended the workshop and added his impressions to Julia's presentation. The workshop was sponsored by the Isle Royal Historical Association and centered around plant identification. The title of the workshop was "An introduction to using the key found in Gleason's *Plants of Michigan, A Field Guide*" and was led by botanist Janet Marr.

Protected on all sides by Lake Superior, the island is home to many rare and endangered plants and has been designated an International Biosphere Reserve. To preserve its natural state, a number of measures are taken to avoid introduction of non-natives. To maintain a natural setting use of cell phones and the internet has been denied and no dogs or motorized vehicles are permitted. Isle Royale is located near the north shore of Lake Superior and is part of the boreal forest that stretches across the northern half of the hemisphere. While the field guide describes plants of Michigan, many of the plants can also be found in Minnesota as well.

The group arrived to find the island saturated from rains, but it would have taken more than that to dampen their spirits. Workshop participants learned plant terminology pertaining to flowers, inflorescences, fruits, leaves, surfaces, plant form, and reading a family description and were able to apply this terminology in plant identification. One such example is that on lilies the leaf venation is parallel to the midrib. Some members of the group were great at spotting various plants along the hikes and sharing their locations with fellow hikers. Raspberry Island, in zone 5, felt like a tropical rain forest after the recent rains. The hikers

found a number of bog plants such as labrador tea, bog laurel, pitcher plant, cranberry, and orchids. The presence of sugar maple on the south side of the island and its absence on the north side was a fine illustration of microclimate.

Julia's photos whetted the appetite for seeing more, but unfortunately a computer glitch interrupted the presentation. People desiring to see more of her plant photography should be able to access it on Face book (Google search: "Plants of Isle Royale June 2008 on Facebook". Julia and Greg both highly recommended this workshop. The boat to the island, The Ranger, leaves from Houghton, Michigan, and there are options of camping, which Greg chose, or staying indoors. The workshop will be held again this coming summer. Julia estimates the cost to be between \$600-\$1000 depending on such things as mode of travel to Michigan and sleeping arrangements.

Member's Corner

1. Native plants for sale or trade by appointment only, April, May and June. Contact Julia via email at juliakay@scc.net, subject: Native Plants, or leave a voice message at 612-382-2800.

Editor's Note: Got something you want to tell, sell or give away. This space is provided for members who wish to "advertise" anything related to native plants. Some examples of acceptable types of information are plant rescue opportunities, sale of a house that features native plants, plant sales, seminars, and seed/plant give-away. This is offered with the following restrictions

Gardener's To-Do List (February, March, April)

- * Prune trees and shrubs of dead or damaged limbs, shoots or waterspouts while they are still dormant; also shrubs that need shaping and rejuvenation. Best to trim up to 1/3 of the branches all the way back than to shorten all the branches.
- * February/March is a great time to start winter sowing hardy plant seed.
- * Start a compost pile in March/April.
- * Prevent soil 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 from calcium chloride or calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) - salt-free mel
- * Finalize your garden plans for this year. Order seeds or make a list of plants to pic
- * As the weather warms up, put away suet bird feeders; the suet doesn't keep and birds are switching to their warmer weather diets. Also clean up birdseed shells, since build-up can hinder growth of plants and become moldy.
- * Pull off mulch as it thaws (but be ready to put it back on if there's another deep freeze)!
- * Apply corn gluten meal to hinder weed seed germination 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 weeks. (Note: will affect any seed it contacts)
- * Sort your seeds by the date each needs to be planted, if starting indoors. We're fast coming up on the time to start them, especially ones that need cold, moist stratification.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE (Editor's note:

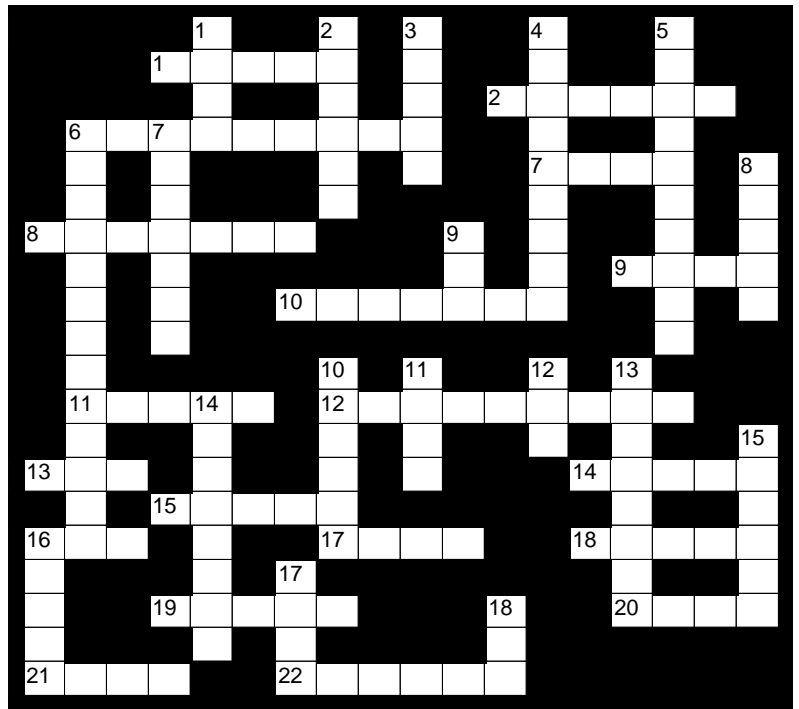
This puzzle challenges you to see how closely you read the newsletters of the previous year, since almost all words can be found in newsletter issues from 2009.)

Across

1. Most poisonous part of the White Cohosh.
2. Costa Rican tree involved in symbiotic relationship.
6. Name for seed eating ant.
7. Monthly composting activity.
8. Most talked about environmental change.
9. Thumb organization seeking reduced runoff.
10. Blood Root by another name.
11. Author of *Trees and Shrubs of Minnesota*.
12. Oil rich part of some seeds.
13. Used to capture seeds.
14. Landscape action for clean water.
15. Plant used as flu or cold remedy
16. To supplement
17. Anise is Greek for _____ .
18. Color that disappears in the fall.
19. Sedge genus.
20. What you might be if you ate the White Baneberry
21. Start of common name for 20 across
22. Spring propagation action

Down

1. Spore reproducing vascular plant
2. Yield from union of egg & sperm in plant world.
3. One of Minnesota's zones.
4. Black Cherry look alike..
5. Stem characteristic of sedge.
6. Invasive with edible leaves
7. Brown Thumb plant with love-hate relationship.
8. Lumberjack toilet paper.
9. Ant guild designation.



Down, contintued

10. The family name of this plant is Cyperaceae.
11. Garden hardscape.
12. Tree in trouble
13. Water body listing if fail water quality standard
14. Common name for *Jeffersonia dahlia*.
15. What should have been done in the fall according to gardener's To Do List.
16. Pest removed by spraying with jet of water.
17. Plant out of place
18. Nectar sucker

Book Review, Internet Info, You Name It!!

Review of Wild Berries and Fruits, By Teresa Marrone (New Addition to our Chapter Library)

Dreaming of green plants and luscious-tasting berries? Next best thing to seeing and tasting is to read about them and view great photos. Teresa Marrone, author of *Wild Berries and Fruits*, made that possible when she attended the November meeting of TC Wild Ones, introducing her new field guide and donating a copy to the chapter library.

Here's your chance to learn how to identify what's edible and what's not. This handy field guide covering MN, MI, and WI is packed with information. Arrangement is by ripe fruit color, and each species gets a high-quality full-page photo showing berries and leaves. The top of the opposing page contains symbols showing form, leaf arrangement, fruiting season, and a range map. Descriptive information includes habitat, growth characteristics, leaf and fruit descriptions, and season of fruiting. A paragraph called

continued...

COMPARE tells how to distinguish this plant from similar species. An example is how to tell our native buckthorn (*Rhamnus alnifolia*) from the non-native invasive species, common and glossy buckthorn (*R. cathartica* and *R. frangula*). The page ends with a NOTES section, which provides additional interesting information about the species.

Most people would probably expect to find shrubs, vines, and trees described in this book. In addition Marrone includes a number of herbaceous plants. Most of the 165 species are native. If I were to offer a suggestion for improvement, it would be to provide a consistent, easy-to-find designation of non-natives/invasives. This could be added as a symbol at the top of the page with the other symbols. With all the information this guide provides, identification of fruits and berries should be fairly easy. I'm looking forward to summer to find out!

Kris Martinka, Outreach Chair

Member's Spotlight - Marilyn Jones - Our new Co-chair

Editor's Note: No better way to introduce our newly elected co-chair than an interview!

Occupation: I retired a few years ago from my job as Financial Officer of a school district in New York State. As all of my 3 children had moved back to Minnesota, taking my 7 grandchildren with them, I also moved back here.

Length of Time in Wild Ones: I believe I heard of Wild Ones from Minneapolis Blooms a couple of years ago and have been a member since.

1. **Question:** What first drew you to native plants and to gardening with them?

Answer: In NY I had lived along the headwaters of a stream, in a rural area, and became sensitive to the effect of my landscape on the welfare of that water. I am fortunate as well to have an enlightened daughter who lives in Minneapolis and has a passion for native plants, who also taught me to recognize and eradicate buckthorn.

2. **Question:** When did you return to the state and when you moved to your current place what kind of gardens were there and what did you create or change?

Answer: I moved permanently to Minnesota in 2006. Initially I did riverbank cleanup and buckthorn busting and built my rain barrels. When I wanted to establish a rain garden in the front yard at my house, my children did the turf removal, and necessary site preparation, as a Mother's Day present. I ordered many flats of native plants from the Wild Ones spring plant sale and established a robust native garden. I rerouted the roof drains so that half of the drainage went directly into the rain garden, and the other half into either of my two rain barrels.

3. **Question:** You are one of the people in south Minneapolis that is having your yard removed because of arsenic. What was the process used for the soil removal (were all your trees taken, how deep did they dig, etc.) Were you able to salvage any of the plants?

Answer: Unfortunately this Spring the EPA determined that I had dangerous arsenic levels in the dirt in the front and side of my house (in the infamous Arsenic Triangle in south Minneapolis). A few native species could be salvaged but I was advised not to move arsenic-laden dirt to other areas so most plants were sacrificed along with two small trees. The EPA hired a landscaper who was thrilled to receive a copy of my Wild Ones native plant order as evidence of the species in my raingarden. The EPA required them to replace the exact plant types that were removed. The landscaper was able to go to a Minnesota native plants

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2010 Officers

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Photographer/Historian: John Arthur

Programs: Laurie Stone Goldsmith/John Arthur

Public Relations: Julia Vanatta

Spring Expo: Karen Graham/Roger Miller

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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 Wild Ones journal, with articles and information to inspire and educate you about natural landscaping.
- Free admission to Wild Ones' events, such as our garden tours, and native plant walks and sales/swaps.
- Reciprocity with other chapters' meetings.
- Gather and exchange information and expertise with other gardeners of all experience levels.
- Support for the Wild One's Mission.

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 organization.