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## Announcements

### Spring Expo 2006!

Our 6th annual Spring Expo is going to be held Saturday, February 18th – mark your calendars now for a full day of speakers, vendors, informational displays, and a rain barrel demonstration and raffle. We'll be at the Hennepin Technical College in Brooklyn Park again this year. Stay tuned for more details in our next newsletter.



## Upcoming Events

### Monthly Meeting: Year-End Wrap-Up

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 6:30 pm  
Nokomis Community Center\*

Join us for election of officers (7 p.m.) and our end-of-the-year seed exchange and social (7:30 p.m.). We'll provide cookies and beverages.

Pick up native plant seeds for next year's garden and share any seed you may have. You don't need to bring seed to take some home although members bringing seed will get first choice. Please bring your seed in containers labeled with common name, Latin name and habitat preference (moisture/sun/soil). Leftover seed will be donated to schools, nature reserves, etc.

Information on storage of seed until planting time will be provided. Enjoy refreshments and time to visit with fellow gardeners.

As always, free and open to the public. Friends, family, and neighbors are welcome.

### Monthly Meeting: TBA

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7:00 pm  
Nokomis Community Center\*

To be decided by the 2006 officers. Check our website for updates.

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.for-wild.org/chapters/twincities](http://www.for-wild.org/chapters/twincities) for updates.

*Another year draws to a close. Get in touch with any officer to share your ideas for next year!*

## Book Review

### By Marty Rice

Native Plants and Landscaping are of course, environmentally friendly and conducive to visits by birds, butterflies and other lovely creatures looking for good food and a nesting site. If you're interested in learning more about the avian visitors, you'll likely enjoy *For the Birds: An Uncommon Guide* by **Laura Erickson**, a Duluth-based ornithologist. (you'll occasionally see her articles in Wednesday's Star Trib). It's a delightful day-by day diary of the birds, covering many intriguing facets of birds' lives and with a droll sense of humor. It's practical, it's humorous, it's delightful!! Know someone who's newly retired? It makes a wonderful retirement or Holiday gift.



*Read an enjoyable book lately? Dash off a brief review to share with your fellow members. Send to the Newsletter Editor, Rebecca Chesin, [spiralenso@yahoo.com](mailto:spiralenso@yahoo.com).*

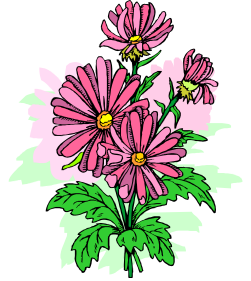
## Treasurer's Report

### By Jim Martinka

Our balance has expanded nicely due to the recouping of about \$1400.00 in upfront costs from the conference, last year's Spring Expo, book sales from the conference, and dues reimbursements from National. Financially the conference was a break even proposition. I think participants would agree that it was a huge plus educationally, socially, and environmentally, and in expanding our horizons. The current balance is \$4081.86.

## Notes from the President

### By Marty Rice



When the world around us seems a bit out of kilter and hard to understand, I've found comfort in "hitting the dust"---or going out in the backyard and digging in the dirt. For me, that means working in our backyard native gardens in the company of birds, butterflies and other natural wildlife. It feels good, looks lovely and best of all, is good for the environment. But as cold and freezing weather moves in, it's no longer a viable course of action. Fortunately though, there's the "Wild Ones" organization to offer a positive and fulfilling note. The sharing of information, camaraderie, the accomplishments and people who have made them possible have all been most enjoyable and very rewarding.

As for accomplishments, this has been a year of significant accomplishments for our chapter, thanks to all of you. We are now 5 years old, membership has grown to over 100, we sponsored (and co-sponsored) several summer garden tours, have been represented at 4 metro conferences, held several native plant sales and seed giveaways, have helped with the restructure and revitalization of the Hillside garden at the Nokomis Naturescape and have had some exceptional speakers at our meetings. And very recently, an article by one of our members (coincidentally our newsletter editor Rebecca Chesin) graced the front page of the latest issue of the Wild Ones Journal.

While all this was occurring, over 20 of our members were helping plan the national Wild Ones conference held at Bunker Hills Regional Park the weekend of 9/10 – 9/11/05. It was a wonderful event: attendees from over 5 states heard some

outstanding speakers several of whom are also authors, speaking on a wide variety of subjects ranging from nature photography to native ferns and grasses to urban native landscaping to native roadside vegetation and more. Professor Joan Nassauer's keynote talk on her work studying the effects of native urban landscaping brought lots of interest and questions. Choosing a tour on Sunday was a difficult decision: rain gardens in Maplewood, a bus tour to Prairie Restoration, Inc., Cedar Creek/Helen Addison Natural area and urban native gardens.

Planning the conference was somewhat akin to a garden: first come the early bloomers---bulbs, bloodroot, etc. in the case of a garden; good plans and ideas for the groundwork in the case of conference planners. Then comes the next wave of flowers like columbines and bleeding hearts; likewise came Wild Ones members who helped decide on speakers and topics. Along comes the mid-summer blooms like the black-eyed Susans and Blazing stars. And other Wild Ones members with some spare time stepped forward to help out. Eventually the goldenrods and asters break out in one grand splash of color; and out came more Wild Ones members to help with the final very important details and fine tuning of the conference. Through it all, there were some steady stalwarts---members who helped out in a number of ways, not unlike the wonderful native grasses present throughout the growing season to help support those colorful flowers! It was a good year for both the Wild Ones conference, and for gardening!!



## To-Do List for Gardeners: November – December – January

Fall is a busy time of year. Just a few chores done now will pay off in a tidy garden come next spring, and that means less work before you can get in there and start digging in the dirt again.

- **Last call for weeding;** remove tough perennial weeds now and you'll thank yourself in the spring. Throw away or **bring to our 11/15 Seed Exchange** any with seed heads, also any quack grass or bindweed (they may continue to grow in your compost pile); the rest can be composted.
- **Cut back perennials** if you find their yellowed or frost-damaged foliage too unattractive, though if they're not diseased you can leave them upright to help trap insulating snow and provide shelter and forage for wildlife.
- **Clean and organize your garden tools**, including draining garden hoses and sprinklers.
- **Sketch your garden** for winter-time planning for expanding your gardens. Try to find room for a rain garden!
- **Leave grasses standing** for their winter interest.
- **Prairies may be cut or burned** either now or in the Spring.
- **Apply winter mulch as needed once the soil begins to freeze**, or by late November. Most natives should do fine without it.

## Welcome New & Renewing Members

Our chapter now has 108 active members! (Membership is per household.) We are one of the ten largest Wild Ones chapters. 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 sharing our mutual interest in native plants and natural landscapes. (This is a new feature in our newsletter. Please forgive us if we missed you – and let us know!)

John Arthur & Pamela  
Deerwood  
Maureen Bailey  
Joanne Bednarski  
Vicki, Richard, & Liam Bonk  
Carolyn Carr & Jonathon  
Sellman  
Tom & Julie Bittinger  
Ron Bowen  
Mary Grace Brown  
Marea Chase

Susan & Paul Damon  
Anne & Steve Eckhardt  
Jennifer Feeken  
Mary & Darrell Foss  
Phil Friedlund  
Glenn Fuchs  
Barbara Gallagher  
Virginia Gaynor  
Karen Graham  
John Haarstad  
Jim Hagstrom

Carol & Jack Keegan  
Lou Ann Keleher  
Mary Alyce Krohnke  
Janet Larson  
Dodie Logue  
Kris & Jim Martinka  
JoAnna McKasy  
Leslie Modrack  
Jerry Moran  
Mary Moulton  
Lynn Newman

Bob & Marlene Olsen  
Hillary Oppmann  
Roy Robison  
Mary Schommer  
Daryl Smith  
Laurie Stone  
Tom Tennant  
Susan & Todd Troha  
Becky Wardell-Gaertner  
James Wellman  
Dave Yarborough



## Yard Learnings By John Arthur

Yard learnings, as opposed to "lard yearnings" (having something to do with a desire for food at the State Fair), would be what Pamela and I have experienced and learned from our backyard.

About 5 years ago, we started replacing the sod in the yard with native plants. The virtues of doing this are many and might be the subject of future articles. Many of us have bird feeders and enjoy the birds coming to them. By planting natives, we are restoring some of the lost habitat (however small) that was here long ago.

We purchased a digital camera after a Harris' Sparrow was observed in the yard for a few days. Of course, the sparrows never returned after we bought the camera. Much of the activity in the yard has been documented since.

We have observed bird behavior that we would not see at a feeder, such as American goldfinches feeding directly on the Tall Coneflowers and Cup Plants. They are still coming to the yard even though the thistle feeder ran out long ago (we may never refill it). When we walk out into the garden, we regularly

flush a few birds that are hiding in the tall grasses, such as Big and Little Bluestem.

Other birds have graced our yard, such as Chipping and White-crowned Sparrows. To our delight a couple of years ago, a young Cooper's Hawk caught and ate a House Sparrow in the back yard. Pamela and I pulled up chairs and watched for a couple of hours until the hawk left.

Birds are only a small part of our experience with the back yard. By planting natives, we not only learn about the plants seasonal growth, but what to look for to identify them in the field. Many times after learning a about a new (to us) plant on a field trip, we will plant the same in the yard. We currently have about 100 different species of native plants in the yard. When in doubt about what a plant is or looks like, we have a reference library just outside of the kitchen door.

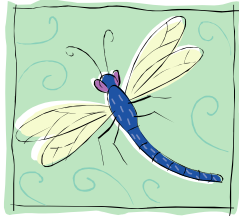
Bugs are always of great interest in our small island of native habitat in the great ocean of suburbia. We have watched cicadas emerge from their pupal case a few times in the past few years. One of those events we recorded with a digital camera on a

*continued on next page*

## Yard Learnings, continued

tripod that we set up to take a photo every 2 minutes. The resulting pictures were then assembled in a short video where we can watch the bug emerge, the wings unfold and then watch it crawl a short distance to harden up enough to make its first flight.

Young dragonflies have been seen in the yard before returning to a wetland. So far, we have observed at least eight different species of dragonfly in the yard and several species of damselflies. Damselflies have been seen to eat treehoppers and small grasshoppers. Last May, we were treated to a Hudsonian Whiteface dragonfly in the yard. This is normally a bog species and not usually found in a suburban setting.



The latest adventure in learning happened when Pamela noticed a moth visiting the Liatris about 9:00pm. I brought out the camera with a flash and was able to capture images of these insects in action. During the day these flowers are covered with Monarch butterflies. People walking by are delighted to see

these butterflies first on the flower, and then erupt into a swirling fountain of black and orange and then land again only to start over.

Speaking of butterflies, we were watching a Tiger Swallowtail in the yard a few weeks ago and took some photographs. One of the tails was broken off, which we made note of and didn't think much of it. Later, we saw what we thought was the same butterfly, as one of its tails was broken off also, visiting the same flower and took a few more photos. It wasn't until we were viewing the photos that we noticed that we had 2 different individuals. Up until that time, we did not know that a female Tiger Swallowtail has blue spots on the lower edge of its hind wings.

There are so many things that we have learned from the yard that they would not fit into this article. Maybe this is only part one of many.

*John Arthur is a Wild Ones member and Vice President of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis. Reprinted with permission.*

## Serving

By Tim Lewis

As you know, our Chapter is led by a group of dedicated people who are passionate about native plants and have strong desires to ensure that the Chapter is successful. Why? Because if the Chapter is successful, more people will learn about native landscaping, thus helping the environment. As interested as our leaders are in the success of the Chapter and the environment, the same people cannot always serve as leaders year in and year out. They served the Chapter well and we thank them. Now we're looking to involve a greater number of people. Chapter.

This is why we hold elections every year. Some Chapter leaders step down, and such as is the case this year, so that others can take a turn. New leaders bring fresh ideas to the Chapter. Positions that are vacant for next year include President, Publicity, Program Planning (for monthly meetings), Plant Rescue, Mentoring, and Outreach.

It has been our experience that no matter how many times nominations are announced at meetings and published in the newsletter, very few volunteers come forward to serve in these leadership roles. Most of the people on the Board were invited to be an officer or a chair. Every one of them was delighted to

be asked. But wouldn't it be great if some of you volunteer to help the organization for just one year so that we do not have to start calling you?

The qualifications are simple. You merely have to want to help the organization and you do not have to be a native plant expert. The time it takes to serve each month is not all that demanding. If you would like more information about what is involved in our Twin Cities chapter, call Marty Rice at 952-927-6531.

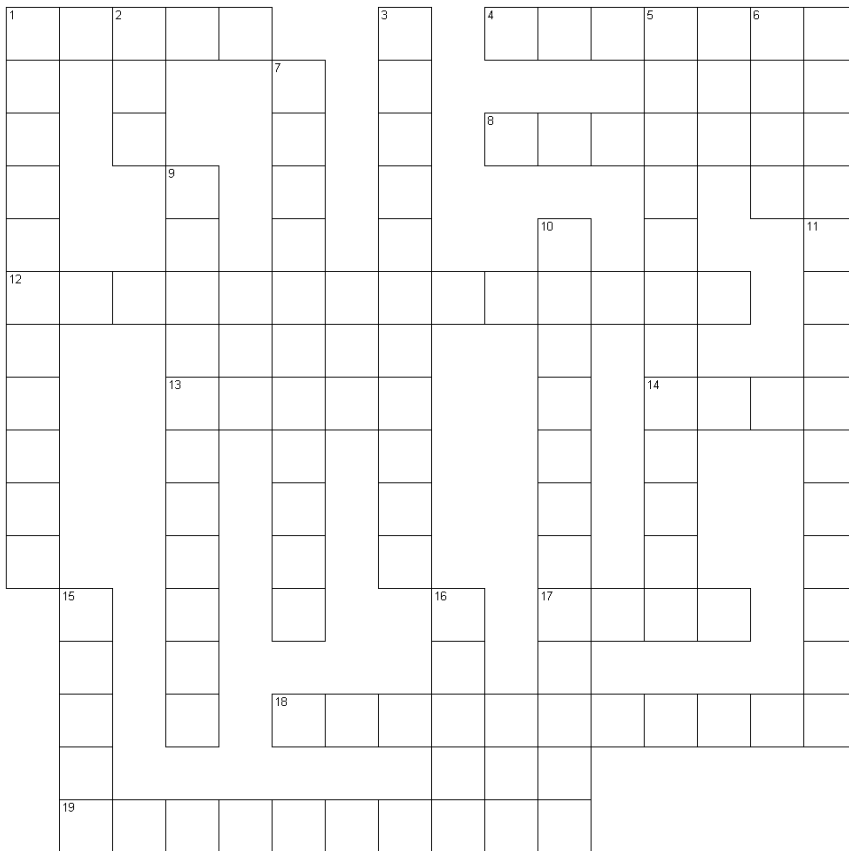


**Pitch In!**

The current leaders cannot effectively serve the Chapter without the help of a few more members. We have over 100 members so there must be some of you who want to get involved. Nominations are being taken up to our November monthly meeting. Contact any officer for further information or to throw your hat in the ring.

*Tim Lewis is President of the Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter. Reprinted (and slightly adapted) with permission.*

## Crossword Puzzle # 1



1. Many sedges are of this genus.
2. You won't \_\_\_\_ the day you plant some \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Tall purple blooms are a butterfly magnet.
4. A natural fertilizer.
5. Nodding pink flowers in the spring.
6. Three main flavors: clay, loam, sand.
7. European invader looks like woodland phlox.
8. In the Land of 10,000 Lakes, many property owners can try \_\_\_\_\_ gardening.
9. This fern never gets to finish a sentence.
10. An *Amelanchier*.
11. The lion's teeth, in Paris.
12. The use of sunlight to create food.
13. Mycorrhizae like these plant parts the best.
14. Mother Nature's most common method of propagation.
15. You can make tea from the berries of this plant, which is related to poison ivy.
16. These fall bloomers can re-seed prolifically.
17. Busy pollinators, all summer long.
18. These insects taste with their feet.
19. The fruit of this shrub is too bitter for birds, but with enough sugar, people love it on toast.



## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: Rake to Save a Lake (or River)!

Tree leaves contain phosphorus, the nutrient that turn lakes and rivers green with algae. Excessive algae growth looks bad, smells bad, and is no fun to swim or boat in. This fall, protect our water by:

- Rake or sweep leaves from your street and storm drains.
- Compost leaves and grass clippings on location or at a community yard waste collection site.
- Never dispose of leaves in wetlands or water.
- Keep the street clean of other materials that contain phosphorus, such as grass clippings and eroded soil.

Visit [www.clearwatermn.org](http://www.clearwatermn.org) for more information about this important topic.

Crossword Puzzle Answers: 1. carex, 2. rue, 3. blazingstar, 4. compost, 5. prairie smoke, 6. soil, 7. dame's rocket, 8. aquatic, 9. interrupted, 10. serviceberry, 11. dandelions, 12. photosynthesis, 13. roots, 14. seed, 15. sumac, 16. aster, 17. bees, 18. butterflies, 19. chokeberry

## 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 Wild Ones' events, such as our Native Plant Expo, 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)

### Upcoming:

- Come join in at our annual year-end social – relax and chat with old friends or make new ones! See the calendar inside for details.
- Spring Expo 2006 is coming soon – check the Announcement on page 1.

## 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

Edina, MN 55424

[www.for-wild.org/chapters/twincities](http://www.for-wild.org/chapters/twincities)

## 2005 Officers

President: Marty Rice  
 Vice President: Karen Graham  
 Secretary: Kris Martinka  
 Treasurer: Jim Martinka  
 Newsletter & Website:  
 Rebecca Chesin  
 Publicity: Susan Damon  
 Hospitality: Rose Meyer

Program Planning (for monthly meetings), Plant Rescue, and Membership chairs are open.

See our web pages for contact information.