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## Announcements

**Survey Reminder:** if you haven't filled out the survey we sent to each member, it's not too late even though the official deadline has passed. We'd like to hear from each and every member. Your thoughts will greatly assist us in tailoring our efforts. Approximately 20% of our members have responded and we are busy tallying these responses. Stayed tuned for the results in the next newsletter! The survey is online at: [www.lizardrevolution.com/TCWO2006survey.html](http://www.lizardrevolution.com/TCWO2006survey.html) or call Mary Schommer at 612-729-5274.

**Lakewinds Natural Foods Coop** in Mtka has generously offered to make a donation to our chapter for receipts they receive during Jan. and Feb. They have one of the largest selections of organic foods in the area and their deli furnished the delicious lunches at our 2005 National Conference. If you shop there, put your receipt in the "Wild Ones" container. Address: 17515 Minnetonka Blvd., just east of Hwy 101. Thanks to Wild Ones member and Lakewinds employee Jane Moran for bringing us together.

## Upcoming Events

Twin Cities 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Plant Expo:

### "Beautiful Balance: Using Native Plants to Enhance Your Outdoor Living"

- **9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Saturday, February 18, 2006**
- **Hennepin Technical College, 9000 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Park**
- **\$7/person – includes morning coffee and rolls; \$7 lunch offered on site**

EXHIBITS by nurseries, landscape designers, ecologists, booksellers, & more  
BRING A DRAWING of your yard for free design advice from landscape experts  
MEET OTHERS who share an interest in landscaping with native plants  
ALL THE RESOURCES you need to add native plants to your garden!

#### SCHEDULED EVENTS:

9:30	Presentation	Sustainable Landscape Design Principles	Carmen Simonet of Simonet Design
10:30	Demo	Making Hypertufa Planters & Pavers	Karen Graham & Evelyn Hadden
11:30	Presentation	Designing for Water Quality & Drainage	Rusty Schmidt of URS Corporation
12:30	Demo	Planting Seeds	Nancy Schumacher of the Vagary
1:30	Presentation	Designing Dog-friendly Landscapes	Fran Kiesling of Dirty Dog Landscaping
2:30	Demo	Making Rain Barrels	Andre Guirard
3:30	Roundtable	Designing with Native Plants	(panel discussion)

(Approved for C.E. credit for Hennepin and Ramsey County Master Gardeners)

[www.for-wild.org/chapters/twincities](http://www.for-wild.org/chapters/twincities) or email [tcnativeplantexpo@comcast.net](mailto:tcnativeplantexpo@comcast.net)

### Monthly Meeting: Earth Journaling Program

Tuesday, March 21, 6:30/7:00 pm  
Nokomis Community Center

John Caddy, founder of the MN Poets in the Schools Program, will inspire us through readings and a discussion of his experiences to create our own journals.

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.

### Monthly Meeting: 'Bones' of a Native Garden

Tuesday, April 18, 6:30/7:00 pm  
Nokomis Community Center

Erik Olsen, MLA, Native Landscape Designer with Out Back Nursery/Tennant Landscaping, Inc. will discuss the use of native trees and shrubs in garden/yard design. Erik has generously presented several times over the past few years to our members on topics of great interest and usefulness.

## Message from the Presidents Mary Schommer & Kris Martinka

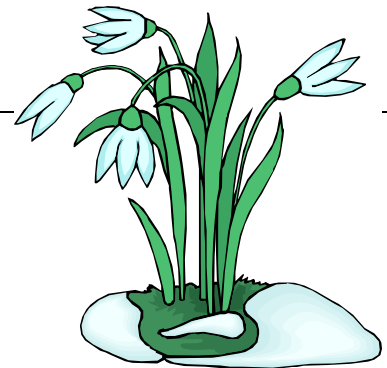
The new year is upon us and with it comes changes and of course resolutions!

First the changes: At the final meeting of the old year election of officers brought about an almost complete change. In lieu of a President and Vice President, a co-President arrangement has been set up to share the ongoing Wild Ones activities. Marty Rice hopes to remain on the Board as a resource person, and plans to remain actively involved in some of our Outreach opportunities. The new co-presidents are Mary Schommer and Kris Martinka. Kris has been a member for some time and has been chapter secretary for the last two years. Mary, recently retired, joined Wild Ones in August at the national convention. Our new secretary, Becky Wardell-Gaertner, also recently joined Wild Ones and has dived right into chapter activities. Jim Martinka heads into his second year as treasurer. Along with changes in officers we have created a number of new board positions, which we hope will add to the chapter's effectiveness. A list of all chairs and people holding them can be found on our chapter website ([www.for-wild.org/chapters/twincities](http://www.for-wild.org/chapters/twincities)). There are still a few vacant positions that need filling (Tours, Plant Rescue, Nokomis Maintenance, Merchandise) so if you have not already expressed interest through our survey and are interested, please let us know!!

Then the resolutions: we discussed these at a full board meeting held in December and developed a list of goals for 2006:

- Hold quarterly meetings of the Chapter Board
- Fill all Chair positions
- Initiate/Increase liaison efforts with other organizations having similar interests
- Spread news/upcoming events of WO chapter to city and neighborhood newspapers
- Take advantage of the Science Museum grant.
- Institute one or all of the following at meetings
  - ◊ "Plant of the Month" series - given by members
  - ◊ Short Book Review - given by members
  - ◊ Calendar that lists upcoming events in the area that would be of interest to members
- Survey members on their interests, etc. (*See Announcements on page 1 for more about this.*)

We'd like to use the talents of each member to help us all increase our knowledge and fun. So let us know throughout the year how you can help us and how we can help you!



"Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free."

Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

## Welcome New & Renewing Members

Our chapter now has 109 active members. 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.

Aanestad, Arden  
Antoun, Alison  
Arthur, John & Deerwood,  
    Pamela M  
Austin, Dr. Carol J  
Bailey, Maureen  
Bohrnsen, Will  
Bonk, Vicki & Richard  
Brennan, Deirdre  
Brown, Mary G  
Chase, Marea

Countryman, Jim  
Damon, Paul & Susan  
Drake, Nancy  
Eckhardt, Anne & Steve  
Gallagher, Barbara  
Graham, Karen  
Keegan, Carol R & Jack E  
Keleher, Lou Ann  
Krohnke, Mary Alyce  
Larson, Janet  
Martinka, Kris & Jim

McDonough, Lisa  
McKasy, JoAnna  
Mensing, Douglas  
Modrack, Leslie M  
Moore, Roberta  
Moulton, Mary  
Newman, Lynn M  
Nussbaum, Sandra T  
Olsen, Bob & Marlene  
Oppmann, Hillary  
Ott, Patty & Lester

Perry, Elizabeth  
Robison, Roy  
Schmidt, Rusty  
Smith, Daryl  
Smith, Kathy  
Stevens, Ron  
Strohmeier, Deb  
Tennant, Tom  
Wardell-Gaertner, Becky

## Introducing the New Presidents

### Marty Rice

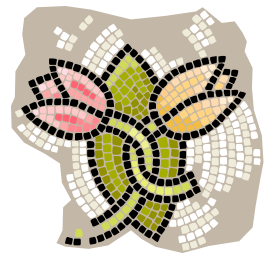
Our Twin Cities WO chapter is ringing in 2006 with some very talented and hard-working officers, two of whom are our new Co-Presidents (in lieu of a President and Vice President): Kris Martinka and Mary Schommer. A few notes on their interests and lives before Wild Ones follow. We welcome them both and are delighted that they have agreed to serve as co-presidents!

**Kris Martinka** has been a WO Twin Cities member for 3½ years and a native plant aficionado for much longer. Kris' first career was teaching German. After she and her husband Jim met at a German language camp, they spent the first year of their married life teaching English in Germany where they met Mary & Bob Schommer. Kris' second career was in the information technology field at Honeywell. She's now in her most favorite career, learning everything she can about native plants and landscaping. After planting natives at their cabin garden and then becoming a Hennepin County Master Gardener she started a business "Native Nitches" that installs and maintains native gardens in and around town. Kris was our Secretary and Nokomis Naturescape Coordinator this past year.

**Mary Schommer** became a recent Wild Ones member thanks to her friends Kris and Jim Martinka. No newcomer to environmental concerns, her University of Minnesota degrees in biology, and later in Civil Engineering found her working to upgrade and preserve the backwaters of the Mississippi River in southern MN/WI. Her next move was to Germany with her husband Bob where she headed the program to clean up contamination on US Army bases. Are the Schommer's finding retirement boring after such an interesting and varied career path? Not quite – last summer found them biking from Minnesota to Maine. And now, we're delighted to have Mary working for our chapter. Along with becoming actively involved in Wild Ones leadership, she's been busy putting together a database of native plants and landscaping.

### Other Local Events

Several groups and organizations in the Twin Cities area have aims similar to Wild Ones. For example, the Friends of the Mississippi River are sponsoring two events: "Seven Years of Restoration in the Longfellow River Gorge" and the "Mississippi River Gorge Stewards Open House." See their website for details and an ongoing calendar of events: [www.fmr.org](http://www.fmr.org). Two other websites you may want to visit and bookmark: Great River Greening at [www.greatrivergreening.org](http://www.greatrivergreening.org) and the Minnesota Native Plant Society at [www.mnnps.org](http://www.mnnps.org). Both also have events calendars.

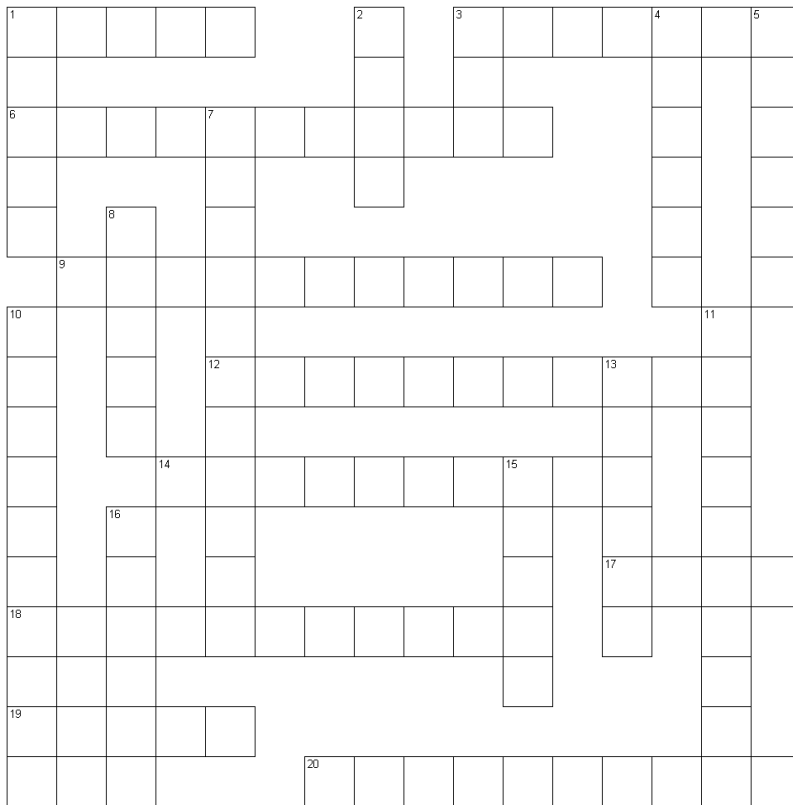


## To-Do List for Gardeners: February – March – April

Spring is just around the corner; have you made your garden plans for 2006 yet? Now is the best time to consider spring/summer projects, before the gardening season is in full swing.

- **Prune trees and shrubs** of dead or damaged limbs, shoots or waterspouts while they are still dormant; 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.
- 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.
- **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.

## Crossword Puzzle



1. Many people feed these critters and look for them to announce spring is near.
2. We in the Twin Cities are in number 4; popular shorthand for what plants grow as perennials in a region.
3. This fern doesn't really stick its head in the sand.
4. A perennial warm-season bunchgrass, it has a nut-brown seed head and can reach a height of 7-8 feet.
5. With #19, this plant is a bird, bee, and butterfly magnet.
6. This "master"-ful native plant looks like it should be growing further south.
7. This wetland plant originally from Europe and Asia has become a serious invasive in MN.
8. Retains moisture, helps exclude weeds, and improves soil quality.
9. This shrub blooms in the spring on catkins and is a fuzzy favorite for moist soils.
10. We try not to call insects "good" or "bad," but we do prefer to see these kinds in the garden.
11. This native shrub carries its seeds in an attractive papery inflated-looking capsule.
12. This butterfly has distinctive black and yellow striped markings on its body.
13. A common pest insect with a soft body it feeds on plants by sucking out plant juices and comes in many colors.
14. This member of the pea family was imported in the 1950s for use as a groundcover and bank stabilizer, and is now considered an alien invader.
15. This term refers to the physical condition of soil relative to the ease of plant growth. Native plants with extensive root systems can improve it.
16. This Jack "preaches" from his \_\_\_\_\_ in woodland settings.
17. These guys seem to prefer cultivars to natives, another reason to grow them.
18. This native provides attractive vertical interest to the garden with its white spike-like flowers and whorls of deep green leaves.
19. With #5, this plant of the mint family reseeds easily and has been used medicinally for coughs.
20. This insect, with its rapidly beating wings, is sometimes mistaken for a hummingbird. It feeds on plant nectar with a long proboscis at dawn and dusk.

*Answers on page 5*

## Book Review: *Planting Noah's Garden* by Sara Stein

Reviewed by Lisa McDonough

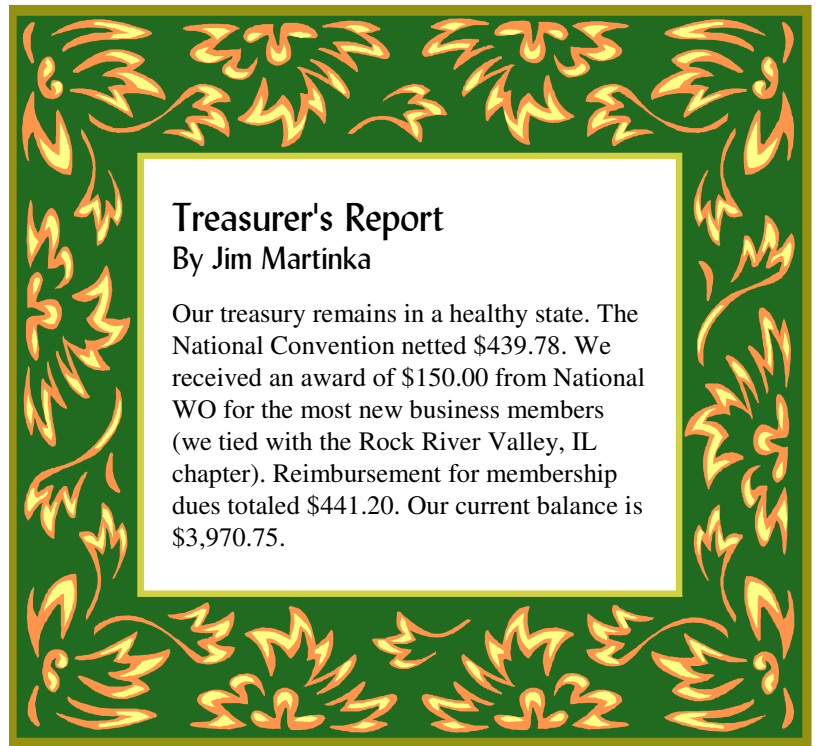
I have been reading a book that is so helpful to me I wish I had known about it years ago. Many native landscaping books (or landscaping information of any kind) have left me inspired, but too overwhelmed to do anything because of a lack of enough "how to" information. I am starting to use ideas from Stein's book to plan for this coming spring and that will be the true test of how sufficient her instructions are. Right now I know that this is the first time I feel enough practical information is there after reading a native landscaping book.

Here is an excerpt from the flyleaf: "If the first half of *Planting Noah's Garden* is an inspiration, the second half is practical. Here readers will find very specific descriptions of the ways in which they can take the necessary steps to transform their own gardens into rich and lively landscapes."

## Rain Barrels

Have you been wanting to add a few rain barrels in your yard, but think they are unattractive? Take a gander at what these folks have come up with: [http://www.kentuckypride.com/campaigns/stormwater/artistic\\_barrels.htm](http://www.kentuckypride.com/campaigns/stormwater/artistic_barrels.htm). Maybe you will find the inspiration to take on this creative and environmentally-friendly project.

There are many benefits to installing a rain barrel, including: ☂ Save water for dry spells ☂ Provide clean, unchlorinated water ☂ Reduce water and sewer bills ☂ Catch water so it may be absorbed in soil and used by plants ☂ Reduce runoff and helps prevent storm water pollution ☂ Help eliminate the need for sewer upgrades to handle excess flow.



## Treasurer's Report

By Jim Martinka

Our treasury remains in a healthy state. The National Convention netted \$439.78. We received an award of \$150.00 from National WO for the most new business members (we tied with the Rock River Valley, IL chapter). Reimbursement for membership dues totaled \$441.20. Our current balance is \$3,970.75.

## Book Review: *Apprentice to a Garden* by Evelyn Hadden

Reviewed by Kris Martinka

Evelyn Hadden, a Wild Ones member who is an active volunteer in our chapter, has just published a book on her experiences in taking a city lot from the usual lawn monoculture (or maybe not quite monoculture, considering creeping charley and other pesky weeds) to areas that use a wide variety of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants to provide privacy, create beauty, and invite wildlife.

This book was an enjoyable winter read for me, because Evelyn has gone through what I, along with many beginning gardeners, encountered in testing their ideas and skills. The book is written in an amusing style that draws one in to feel the frustrations and joys along with the author. In relating her experiences, Evelyn drops hints of what we maybe should or shouldn't do in our gardens, but this is not a "how-to" book. It is rather the delightful communication to us of what one gardener's experience has been, along with an expression of what she has learned about nature from her interactions with her garden.

While Evelyn fills her garden with a combination of natives mixed with many cultivars and plants that are not native to this area, she adopts many of the same principles that gardeners more heavily into use of native landscaping would follow. Find

plants that are right for the location in order to eliminate use of fertilizers and pesticides and reduce water use, seek out plants that will attract wildlife, find design solutions that are acceptable to neighbors, create spaces that nourish your being. There are, however, some plants mentioned where I think it would be a good idea to place a warning note. Evelyn does this in the case of amur maple, which can escape into natural areas and become invasive. The warning note is missing in the case of Japanese barberry and forget-me-nots, plants which are still popular in the nursery trade despite their potential to invade our natural spaces.

An important part of the author's retold experience includes much reading and dreaming. She comments about the usefulness of various catalogs and design books along with books on attracting wildlife and using native plants. But when it comes right down to it, the printed material is no match for the voices of the plants and animals as they respond to the actions or non-actions of the gardener. The cycle of acting, observing the garden's reaction, then acting in response to the observation communicates information far beyond what any book could provide. Nature is ready to teach those lucky gardeners who sign up to be her apprentices.

Crossword Puzzle Answers: 1. birds, 2. zone, 3. ostrich, 4. indian, 5. hyssop, 6. rattlesnake, 7. loosestrife, 8. mulch, 9. pussy willow, 10. beneficial, 11. bladdernut, 12. swallowtail, 13. aphids, 14. crown vetch, 15. tilth, 16. pulpit, 17. deer, 18. culver's root, 19. anise, 20. sphinx moth

## Membership Benefits To You

- New member packet, including the New Member Handbook full of information and activities related to growing native plants.
- The Wild Ones Journal, which has articles and information that will inspire and educate you about natural landscaping.
- Monthly meetings featuring presentations on a wide array of native landscaping topics.
- Free admission to Wild Ones' events, such as our monthly meetings, native plant walks, and native plant swaps.
- Reciprocity with other chapters' meetings.
- Exchange of information and expertise with like-minded persons.
- Chance to participate in projects such as plant rescues and Lake Nokomis garden maintenance.
- Support for the Wild One's Mission.

### Upcoming:

More book reviews, and lots of exciting spring events!  
Stay tuned... *(And if you hear or see something you'd like to pass along, send it in).*

## Join or Renew

- Sign up at a meetings, or
- Call Mary Schommer at 612-729-5274, 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

Edina, MN 55424

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

## 2006 Board Members

Presidents: Mary Schommer &  
Kris Martinka

Past President: Marty Rice

*For a complete list of officers  
and chairs and their contact  
information visit our  
webpages:*

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