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*"There is nothing we cannot
live down, rise above,
and overcome."
—Ella Wheeler Wilcox*

The first wildflower to emerge in the spring, often through snow, native to Central Wisconsin—beautiful. Because a love for natural landscaping courses through our veins...



The newsletter of Central Wisconsin's natural landscapers.

February 2002

MASTER GARDENERS OF CENTRAL WISCONSIN "Garden Dreams"

February 3, 2002, Saturday - 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM
(\$25/includes lunch)

Creske Community Center, Mosinee. Speakers include Scott Craven, UW Extension Wildlife Specialist, ("Attracting and Controlling Backyard Wildlife") and Kathi Kufahl, Instructor, Green Bay Botanical Garden, ("Annuals: More Than Marigolds"). *

WISCONSIN PUBLIC TELEVISION, FRIENDS OF WHA-TV, & UW-EXTENSION "9th Annual Garden Expo"

February 8-10, 2002 Friday -Sunday

Exhibition Hall, Alliant Energy Center, Madison

(One-day pass: \$5 advance/\$6 at the door; Two-day pass: \$9)

You may select from over 80 educational seminars and demonstrations and view over 150 exhibitions. Many of the sessions deal with native landscaping and Wisconsin species. For further information, call DeAnne Massey at (608) 262-5256 *

WISCONSIN PUBLIC TELEVISION

February 24, 2002, Sunday - 5:30 p.m.

The Wisconsin Gardener:

"Landscaping with Wisconsin Wildflowers"

How to plan and plant prairie gardens of Wisconsin wildflowers. You'll learn how to conduct a site analysis, design a garden, and manage a prairie. *

Our Last Meeting...

January 19, 2002

Toward Harmony with Nature Conference Sixth Annual Natural Landscaping Conference Fox Valley Area Chapter

This month, Central Wisconsin Chapter members drove to Oshkosh to attend the Fox Valley Area Chapter's annual natural landscaping conference. It was an excellent conference, with a keynote address and nine one-and-a-half-hour sessions to choose from.

I especially enjoyed the first session on "**Establishing Prairie Plantings:** From Site Prep to Post-Planting Maintenance, Using Plants or Seeds." The presenter was Randy Mauer, a biologist who used to work for Prairie Nursery in Westfield but has now started his own company, Native Solutions. He provided excellent practical advice on establishing prairies and also did a fine job of answering lots of questions from us about specific problems we've encountered in establishing our prairies.

I also especially enjoyed the presentation by Brad Hutnik of Clark Forestry in Baraboo on "**Managing and Restoring Small Woodlands.**" His talk was excellent preparation for our CWWO February meeting on native trees and their diseases. Hutnik's advice on committed woodland stewardship included—

- Controlling exotics.
- Reintroducing fire to appropriate (e.g., oak dominated) sites.
- Practicing crop tree management (culling some trees to enable more valuable trees to thrive).
- Introducing desirable species.
- Preparing a forest stewardship plan.

The conference exhibits were also wonderful, and I drove home with some good books and a kit for an Aldo Leopold bench. Make a mental note to join us next year at the "Toward Harmony with Nature Conference." We're hoping to rent a van so that we can swap natural landscaping ideas on the trip. *

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*"Just living," said the butterfly,
"is not enough.
You must have sunshine, freedom,
and a little flower."*

- Hans Christian Andersen

New Membership Chair Needed!

Dorothy Snyder, Membership Chair since the founding of Central Wisconsin Wild Ones, has assumed additional responsibilities and so cannot continue as our Membership Chair. If you're able to take over as our Membership Chair, please contact Dan Dieterich. This is an excellent way to get to know your fellow Wild Ones members. ❀

CWWO *The State of the Chapter*

Here are some of the highlights of our first full year as the **Central Wisconsin Chapter of Wild Ones Natural Landscapers**:

2001 Activities and Events

January – Travel to Oshkosh to attend the "Towards Harmony with Nature" Conference

February – Doug Moore's presentation on "Photographing Your Natural Landscape"

March – Bob Juracka's presentation on "How to Start a Prairie!"

April – Scott Craven's presentation on "Planting for Wildlife"

(co-sponsored by CWWO and five other environmental groups)

May – Field trip to Powers Bluff and Unity County Park with Bob Freckmann and the Botanical Club of Wisconsin as well as a presentation by Amy Groshek on "Reed Canary Grass"

June – Rebecca Christoffel's presentation on "Wildlife in Our Wild Landscapes" and the CWWO Booth at the Midwest Renewable Energy Association Fair in Amherst

July – Special CWWO Tour of Prairie Nursery in Westfield

August – Field trip to the Buena Vista Grassland with Joe Riederer

September – Plant rescues at the Marathon County Landfill and at a site near Fremont

October – Seed collecting trip with Joe Riederer to the Buena Vista Grasslands, plant rescue along the Highway 10 East expansion, and a seed exchange and open meeting of CWWO members about our landscaping triumphs and tribulations

November – Bob Freckmann's presentation on "Native and Invasive Plants of Central Wisconsin Wetlands"

Newsletter

We've published bimonthly issues of **BLOODROOT** this past year—primarily to keep you informed about past

and future CWWO events and activities, as well as about other natural landscaping events and about information and resources of value to you as a native landscaper. If you'd like to contribute an article or review to **BLOOD-ROOT** in 2002, contact Dan Dieterich.

Membership

Our membership rose to a high of 65 members this past July and currently standing at 44 members. Please note the date printed on your address label. If your membership has expired, send your check for \$30 or more to CWWO Treasurer Carol Kropidlowski today.

Finances

CWWO Treasurer Carol Kropidlowski reports that we took in \$676 in 2001 and spent \$295.18 on the newsletter and other expenses. We then added the remaining \$380.82 to our \$504.20 carryover from 2000, so that we had \$885.02 in our treasury at the end of 2001.

Summary

CWWO has accomplished a great deal in its first year. We're in sound financial shape, have a solid core of dedicated members, and provided worthwhile programs and activities responsive to the expressed needs of our members.

Plans for 2002

In the coming year we will seek to maintain the high quality of the programs and services we provide. We will also seek ways not only to expand CWWO membership, but also to encourage more members to participate in our meetings, plant rescues, field trips, and other activities. We will extend leadership opportunities to all of our members because we want more people to benefit from active involvement in our dynamic organization and from the friendships that involvement fosters. ❀



Plan it! Plant it! Upcoming Programs of Interest

"15th Annual Michigan Wildflower Conference"

Sunday/Monday, March 3/4, 2002
Michigan State Kellogg Center in
East Lansing

For more information call:
Maryann Whitman
maryannwhitman@hotmail.com
(248) 652-4004.

"Prairie Folklore" with Wayne Pauly

Thursday, March 7, 2002
6:30 p.m.

Ethel Everhard Memorial Library
117 East 3rd Street
Westfield, Wisconsin

Learn about hundreds of prairie plants: food and medicinal uses, cultivation tips, natural history, and folklore at this event sponsored by Thyme Shares Master Gardeners & Friends and UW Extension-Marquette County.

Register by March 1 (\$3 per person payable to Thyme Shares & Friends). To register or for more information contact:

Jane Oravetz
oravetz@palacenet.net
W4416 Gem Avenue,
Montello, WI 53949.

"Annual Conference of The Prairie Enthusiasts, Coulee Region Chapter"

Saturday, March 9, 2002
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

University of Wisconsin-La
Crosse Cartwright Center
Includes an archaeological hike to Perrot State Park and sessions on moths, butterflies, fungi, prairies in the State Natural Area program, control methods for invasives, fire effects in prairies, and grassland birds. For information contact:

Barb Christie
EdBarbC@webtv.net
(414) 421-5928.

"Gardening to Attract (or Discourage!) Wildlife" with Tom Strop

Saturday, March 16, 2002
10:00 a.m. to Noon

Boerner Botanical Gardens,
Milwaukee

Registration: \$18

For more information contact:

Friends of Boerner
Botanical Gardens
fbbgofc@execpc.com
(414) 529-1870.

"Landscaping With Native Wisconsin Plants"

Thursday, March 21, 2002
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Rotary Gardens, Janesville
Registration: \$8. For more information or to register contact:

Rotary Gardens
1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville
(608) 752-3885.

"Restoring the Native Landscape"—with Wendy Walcott Land Manager of the Schlitz Audubon

Wednesday, March 27, 2002
7:00 p.m.

CATC Auditorium, Wauwatosa
Challenges and current knowledge in restoring the natural landscape. Sponsored by Southeast Wisconsin Master Gardeners, Inc. In the Child and Adolescent Treatment Center Auditorium, Building B, 9501 Watertown Plank Road, Wauwatosa. Free and no registration required. For more information contact:

Chris Eirschele
ely_wolfs@yahoo.com
(414) 425-8240. *

Atlas of Wisconsin Prairie and Savanna Flora

You can now use this valuable resource online to help you answer the question, "Is this plant really native to my area?" The web address is: <http://wiscinfo.doit.wisc.edu/herbarium/PSAtlas.html>.

The Department of Natural Resources plans to reprint the book but, with budget cuts, may not be able to do so. For more information, call Dreux Watermolen of the DNR's Bureau of Integrated Science Services (608/ 266-8931). *



Hydro Seeders: Making Short Work of Seeding

by Kyan Yauchler

If you have ever decided to create or restore a prairie, you probably dreaded the seeding. You may have spent hours spreading seed by hand, covering it with straw, and then watering the whole thing before you were finished. Well, in recent years, a new and efficient substitute to the old hands-on method has become available: the hydro seeder. For full information about the advantages of using this timesaving product, explore the website: (www.hydroterra.com) of Hydro Terra, a producer of hydro seeders.

You can operate a portable hydro seeder unit from either a trailer or truck bed. The unit itself consists of "a motor coupled with a high volume centrifugal pump and poly tank that is easy to clean." The operation is similar to watering your lawn but on a larger scale. Hydro Terra's seeders come mounted on a skid frame, with a hundred foot hose for easy maneuverability, a remote gun valve, and various nozzles.

Simply mix seed, fertilizer (if desired), water, and recycled paper to form a mulch. You can then spread this mulch up to sixty feet with the hydro seeder without having to move a step. You will not only save steps with the hydro seeder, but the mixture forms a shell that can deter erosion and even seed-hungry birds. When you operate the unit, the pressure from the nozzle actually forces the seed into the ground's surface, giving the seed a head start on growth. You can use the system for new seeding or patching.

Hydro Terra claims that, "In one step, you can seed, mulch, fertilize, and tackify up to six acres a day." This machine can take the job of a day's work for a crew and reduce it to a few hours of work for a single person. In addition, you can use the hydro seeder for a portable watering device and even deicing in the winter by using a simple brine mixture. You can also use the unit for fire fighting in controlled burns, to apply liquids such as herbicides, and even as a pressure washer.

Because the seasons limit the time you can spend on seeding, investing in the hydro seeder could be a wise move. You gain the ability to cover larger surface areas more quickly, including a variety of landscapes such as steep inclines. Your investment will also make the workload manageable for you alone. If you would otherwise hire someone to help you, that savings may help offset the purchase price. You also save money by using clean, recycled-paper mulch instead of bale after bale of straw.

The Hydro Terra Company offers several different models, from a 65-gallon model (HT65) to a 1,000-gallon model (HT1000), so you can select the hydro seeder that best meets your individual needs. You will find it a timesaving device and environmentally friendly product. If you spend much time working with seeding, re-seeding, or repairing your prairie, take time to investigate the efficiency of hydro seeders. *



February Meeting...

**Thursday,
February 28, 2002
7:15-8:30 p.m.**

"Common Tree Diseases in Central Wisconsin" with Hans Schabel (Professor of Forestry at UWSP) and *"Native Trees of Central Wisconsin"* with Tim Gutsch (Owner, Great Lakes Nursery Company, Wausau).

Join us at the Tutoring-Learning Center in the basement of UWSP's Learning Resources Center & Library for this "two-for" program. Those of us attending CWWO's October open meeting agreed we wanted to learn more about native trees and the diseases that attack them. At this meeting we will hear both from a CWWO member who specializes in growing and selling trees native to Central Wisconsin and from an authority on the diseases native trees contract. You may park for free after 7:00 p.m. in UWSP's Lot X at the intersection of Fremont Street and Stanley Street (Highway 66). Because of construction at the east end of the library, please enter the west door of the building, and go to the Tutoring-Learning Center in the northwest corner of the basement. *