



Wildflowers

Growing through Education

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Inside this issue. . .

- Education Outreach: Q & A 2
- Association News & Views 3
- President's Note
Calendar 4
- Regional Reports
Region I: U. P. 5
- Book Reviews
Weeds in Winter by Lauren Brown
A Guide to Wildflowers in Winter
by Carol Levine
*Pods: Wildflowers and Weeds in Their
Final Beauty* by Jane Embertson 6
- Business & Organization
Member Directory

Prairie Management: Cutting or Mowing as a Management Tool

by Esther Durnwald

A lot of you have made the decision to end the slave relationship with your lawn mower. The desire to decrease the need for mowing motivates many to consider planting a prairie where once there was water-hungry, drug-dependent lawn.

But wait—don't put that mower out on the curb just yet! It just may be the most effective tool in managing your prairie. The importance of management in the first year of prairie establishment cannot be overemphasized—think about the time invested in the site preparation and the money invested in seed. Unfortunately, non-native weed seeds will find an opportunity to establish themselves on the site that you have so carefully prepared for native plant species. It's up to you, the manager of the site, to keep the undesirables at bay. One of

the simplest ways to do this is to commit to a mowing regime for the first season post-seeding. In Michigan, this mowing regime would take place April through October.

This means that each time vegetation growth reaches 10–12 inches it should be mowed to 4–6 inches. For larger areas, cutting can be with a brush hog or flail mower; for medium-sized areas, a lawn mower set high; for small or steep sloped areas, a weed whip will do the work nicely. Depending upon the growing conditions of the season, 3–5 mowings can be anticipated. *It is critical that this form of*

Please see "Prairie Management" on Page 7.

To control weeds the small prairie planting, such as this one in a structured garden setting, can be cut down to 4–6 inches with a weed whip 3–5 times during the first year of establishment.

Our mission is to promote, coordinate, and participate in education, enjoyment, science, and stewardship of native wildflowers and their habitats—including promoting public education of proper principles, ethics, and methods of landscaping with native wildflowers and associated habitats.

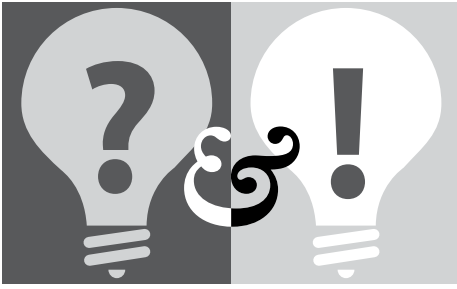
W A M



©Photo by Marjri Ann Fuller

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!

With this issue of *Wildflowers*, we're introducing a new "question and answer" column that we'll be including in all future issues. For this to be a success, we need YOU. Please e-mail your questions about native plants or related topics to Marji Fuller (marjif@iserv.net) or Kathy Johnson (kathyj@voyager.net)—we'll contact experts to address your questions or concerns.



I love the bright yellows and the diversity of shapes of our native goldenrods, but the plants drive my hay fever crazy! Is there a goldenrod I can plant in my yard that won't aggravate my allergies?

Clarissa in Clarendon, MI



Thank you, Clarissa, for giving us the opportunity to set the record straight concerning one of our favorite native plant groups, the goldenrods (*Solidago* spp.). What's bedeviling your sinuses in late summer is most likely ragweed pollen. Ragweeds (*Ambrosia* spp.) produce dry, light pollen that's easily wind-borne, and the flowers are WIND-POLLINATED. (It's interesting to note that the flowers need not be conspicuous, as they do not have to attract insects for pollination.) Ragweeds produce a quarter of a billion tons of pollen nationwide each year, states Jack Sanders in his book, Hedgemaids and Fairy Candles. Goldenrods, on the other hand, contribute about one to two percent of the pollen blowing in the fall air (Donald and Lillian Stokes, Enjoying Wildflowers). And goldenrods are entirely INSECT-POLLINATED, producing a heavy, sticky pollen that clings to the nectar-feeding insects. Goldenrods are one of the most popular of the fall nectar-producers.

Michigan is host to about two dozen species of goldenrods. Some, such as late goldenrod (*S. gigantea*) and tall goldenrod (*S. altissima*), are quite aggressive and more appropriate for naturalization than for a cultivated garden. Many species prefer dry soils, but some, such as *S. patula*, are at most home in wetlands, and others, like *S. canadensis* thrive best in a meadow environment. Once established, most species are drought-tolerant. More detailed cultivation information on 12 goldenrod species can be found in an informative article by Virginia

Chatfield on the Michigan "Wild Ones" Web site (see www.for-wild.org/michigan/stiff-goldenrod.html). We encourage each of you to become a member of your local "Wild Ones" chapter. (For more information on membership, go to www.for-wild.org/michigan.)

Enjoy your beautiful goldenrods, Clarissa, and breathe freely, knowing that they are not the cause of your seasonal sneezings! ✨

Sources:

WILDTYPE Design, Native Plants and Seed, 900 N. Every Road, Mason, MI 48854, ph. 517.244.1140, wildtype@msu.edu. Plants: Plugs and quarts of *Solidago caesia*, *S. flexicaulis*, *S. juncea*, *S. nemoralis*, *S. ohioensis*, *S. patula*, *S. ridellii*, *S. rigida*, *S. speciosa*.

Michigan Wildflower Farm, 11770 Cutler Road, Portland, MI 48875, ph. 517.647.6010 Wildflowers@voyager.net.

Seeds: *S. caesia*, *S. nemoralis*, *S. juncea*, *S. patula*, *S. rigida*, *S. speciosa*.

Nesta Prairie Perennials, 1019 Miller Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49001, phone 269.343.1669, toll free 800.233.5025, Plants: *S. caesia*, *S. canadensis*, *S. flexicaulis*, *S. juncea*, *S. nemoralis*, *S. ohioensis*, *S. patula*, *S. ridellii*, *S. rigida*, *S. speciosa*.

Native Plant Nursery, P.O. Box 7841, Ann Arbor, MI 48101, ph. 734.994.9592, e-mail: plants@nativeplant.com. Seeds: *S. caesia*, *S. flexicaulis*, *S. juncea*, *S. nemoralis*, *S. patula*, *S. ridellii*, *S. rigida*, *S. speciosa*; Plants: *S. caesia*, *S. flexicaulis*, *S. juncea*, *S. nemoralis*, *S. ohioensis*, *S. patula*, *S. ridellii*, *S. rigida*, *S.*

speciosa.

Nativescape LLC, P.O. Box 122, Manchester, MI 48158, ph. 517.456.9696, e-mail chris@nativescapes.net. Call for species.

References:

Burrell, C. Colston, "Going for the GOLD-enrod: Praise for the Stalwart Solidagos." *Wild Ones Journal*, September/October 2002. *(Excerpted from an article written for *Fine Gardening* magazine.)

Sanders, Jack. Hedgemaids and Fairy Candles: The Lives and Lore of North American Wildflowers. Camden, Maine: Ragged Mountain Press, 1993.

Stokes, Donald and Lillian. Stokes Nature Guides: A Guide to Enjoying Wildflowers.

Blue-stemmed goldenrod (*S. caesia*) is one of the easiest goldenrods to identify. It thrives beautifully in the shade and honeybees love it!



©Photo by Kathryn Lund Johnson

Association News & Views

President's Note

Exciting proposals involving native plants continue to develop throughout Michigan and the United States. Each of these presents opportunities and challenges for those of us involved in the steadily expanding native plant community.

Sand dune and gravel mine reclamation projects undertaken by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources near Grand Mere and Seven Lakes State Park have encouraged cooperation among commercial growers, industry, and field ecologists to repair damaged landscapes. The goal of the Ford Motor Company phytoremediation planting near Detroit is to clean and improve urban brown-fields using the power of native plants. The requirements of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for on-site water detention basins have sparked interest in native wetland plants as filters for safer ground and surface water.

Still other projects take advantage of the interesting and often provocative aesthetics of native plants. The planned Holocaust Memorial in Farmington Hills incorporates large numbers of native plants for a unique style and visual impact. The Meijer Botanical Garden and Sculpture Park has installed the Elin and Harry Doehne Wildflower Garden to enhance the landscape, complementing impressive outdoor sculpture. Chicago-land Green Rooftop Project is using native plants. Lakeside Children's Residence in Kalamazoo has begun to turn a weedy field into a landscape attractive to children and wildlife alike. The Kalamazoo Nature Center has embarked on an ambitious roadside planting with the support of a federal grant.

The list goes on. Schools, golf courses, and planned communities have begun to use native plants for education, practicality, and environmental benefits. But with all this positive news there is a concern. Too often individuals or businesses that undertake these important plantings are poorly informed or unprepared to do the project correctly. Contractors are given mandates and species lists with little assistance with timing or with seeding and planting techniques. While many horticultural techniques can be applied to natives, there are unique aspects of these communities that must be considered and respected. The first step is to get good quality information into the hands of those who require it.

We are doing a disservice to our customers and the native plant movement if we do not include the appropriate education to get the job done right the first time. When customers experience failure and frustration with native gardens, the blame goes to the seeds, plants, or species selected. While we cannot expect 100% success with every seed, site, or season, we all can do a much better job in sharing our experience with others.

Growers, landscape architects, contractors, and DNR and DEQ representatives are responsible for first educating themselves concerning native plants and then passing on this information to those responsible for the plantings.

As the use of native plants becomes more common, and state and federal regulations require their use, it is essential that individuals with experience and insight be involved in the planning, installation and long-term management techniques that will ensure success. To that end...

- I call on each and every one of us to do his or her part to spread the word. Pass on articles, invite others to join WAM, Wild Ones, nature conservancies and nature



President Stephan Keto

Please see "President's Note" on Page 7.

Calendar

October 8–24, 2002: *Art Exhibit of Michigan Wildflowers.* Ferris State University, Rankin Art Gallery. Photos by John Battle. Contact: http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/colleges/artsands/Art_Gallery/newpages/SCHEDULE.HTM

October 27–30, 2002: *Invasive Plants—Global Issues, Local Challenges.* A major conference on invasive plants hosted by the Chicago Botanic Garden. Contact: <http://www.chicagobotanic.org/symposia/jmpsymp.html>.

November 2–3, 2002: Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society's annual conference at Canyon Inn, McCormick's Creek State Park, Spencer, IN. Contact Roger Hedge at 317.232.4052 or rhedge@dnr.state.in.us

March 2–3, 2003: 16th Annual Michigan Wildflower Conference & Teachers Workshop—*Native Know-How: Following Nature's Lead.* WAM will host Wild Ones' National Board of Directors first quarterly board meeting. Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, Michigan State University, E. Lansing. Flo Oxley, Director of Plant Conservation, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin, TX, will highlight conference with keynote address. Complete information available by October 30. Contact: Marji Fuller at marjif@iserv.net or 269.948.3496.



Happy
Thanksgiving

REGIONAL REPORTS

In this issue of *Wildflowers* we're introducing a section entitled *Regional Reports*, and we'd like to get all of you involved! Let us know what's going on in your area, and we'll include it in subsequent newsletters. We'd love to hear from conservation districts, Wild Ones chapters, state and national forest representatives, the DNR and MDOT, etc.—as well as private individuals. In this issue, we have a report from the U. P. Things have been busy there, as you'll see. We know exciting things are happening everywhere—we just need someone to tell us about it! Please e-mail Marji Fuller (marji@iserv.net) or Kathy Johnson (kathyj@voyager.net) with your report. We look forward to hearing from you before the winter newsletter!

REGION 1 UPPER PENINSULA

Lauri LaBumbard—Marquette County Conservation District: lauri-labumbard@mi.nacdnet.org

The MCCD and Hiawatha National Forest have an on-going cooperative effort to raise locally native wildflower and grass seed. Most of the seed collected goes toward restoration efforts in the national forest, but "leftovers" of some of the seeds are made available for sale to the public. In addition, the MCCD sells locally native seed that's provided by an area grower/collector.

The MCCD has an active native plants program, in addition to its annual tree sale. For the past two seasons, we've had two "plug" sales, offering about six different species, including black-eyed Susan, monarda, Canada bunchberry, Canada wild-rye, coreopsis, columbine, and more. This project has been tremendously successful!

Over the past few years, the MCCD and HNF have cooperated on a number of workshops. In spring of 2002, the MCCD worked with the local library to establish a native garden on the library grounds. We're planning to tie this in with educational programs at the library.

The local Wild Ones chapter has been busy putting some "roots in the ground." We currently have a rather small membership, but we're growing steadily. We held workshops last winter and many field trips during the summer.

Carol Madacey—Baraga County Conservation District: carol-madacey@mi.nacdnet.org

The U.P. fall color was spectacular this year—the entire drive from the Mackinac Bridge to the Copper Country was gorgeous, especially the Munising and Houghton areas. And Brockway Mountain Drive was exceptional. In general the color was a bit late this year, peaking around the first week of October.

Sue Trull, Forest Botanist—Ottawa National Forest: strull@fs.fed.us, phone 906.932.1330 ext. 312

Several new rare plant populations were found by Ottawa National

Forest botanists and contractors in 2002, including *Phegopteris hexagonoptera*, broad beech fern; *Danthonia compressa*, flattened oatgrass; and several tentative sites for *Botrychium oneidense*, blunt-lobed grapefern, and *B. rugulosum*, ternate grapefern, occurring in subgenus clusters with *B. dissectum* var. *obliquum*, *B. dissectum* var. *dissectum*, and *B. multifidum*. These ferns are difficult to distinguish and we are waiting for confirmation from *Botrychium* experts. *Disporum hookeri*, fairy bells, was found by a Champion International forester at two places on Champion lands, extending the known range of this western disjunct. An Army Corps of Engineers field crew found *Littorella uniflora*, American shore-grass and *Scirpus subterminalis*, water bulrush, in lakes within the Ottawa National Forest.

On the invasive front, new to the Ottawa National Forest this year is *Alliaria petiolata*, garlic mustard, found and pulled in three locations. This plant was also reported from the Porcupine Mountains State Park this year. An Army Corps of Engineers crew surveyed lakes in Watersmeet Township for *Myriophyllum spicatum*, Eurasian watermilfoil, under a grant from Senator Carl Levin's office. They found milfoil in Crooked and Langford Lakes and possibly in Big African Lake.

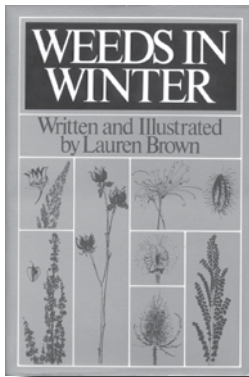
Last year the Clearwater Lake Association applied herbicide to a milfoil infestation in Clearwater Lake, and the Corps crew found that the herbicide treatment was successful. The Ottawa continued eradication projects for infestations of Japanese knotweed, purple loosestrife, glossy buckthorn, Japanese barberry, and spotted knapweed across the forest.

The native plant demonstration garden at the Ottawa National Forest Visitor Center in Watersmeet is well established now, with wild bergamot, blue vervain, bottlebrush grass, Canada wild rye, and false sunflowers blooming especially well. We are starting a second native garden at the Kenton Ranger District office.

A small group of local (western UP and adjacent WI) botanists have been meeting as the North Woods Native Plant Society. This is our second summer of monthly field trips. Sherry Zoars of Watersmeet is the organizer and contact person for the group. She can be reached at 906.358.1110 or e-mail: thezoars@excite.com. ✨



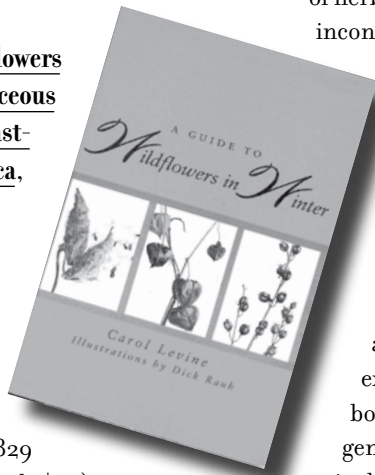
Book Reviews by Kathryn Lund Johnson



Weeds in Winter, written and illustrated by Lauren Brown, published by W. W. Norton & Company, New York, NY, 1986 (soft cover, 252 pages, approximately \$11).

A Guide to Wildflowers in Winter: Herbaceous Plants of Northeastern North America

written by Carol Levine and illustrated by Dick Rauh, published by Yale University, New Haven, CN, 1995 (soft cover, 329 pages, approximately \$20).



Pods: Wildflowers and Weeds in Their Final Beauty

written by Jane Embertson with photographs by Jay M. Conrader, published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, NY, 1979 (soft cover, 186 pages, approximately \$18).

When the annual riot of color has finished for the season, most people tuck away their wildflower field guides for the winter. Let me introduce you to three excellent references that will lengthen your explorations and increase your awareness and apprecia-

tion of the cycles of herbaceous plants...

Many of you are familiar with Lauren Brown. In addition to *Weeds in Winter*, she's the author and illustrator of *Grasses: An Identification Guide* (Houghton Mifflin, 1979), and spoke on the subject of grass identification at the 2002 WAM conference. Like *Grasses*, *Weeds in Winter* shows Brown's scrupulous attention to detail—a factor that's crucial to the identification of herbaceous plants in their relatively inconspicuous stage. Carol Levine's *Guide*

to *Wildflowers in Winter* demonstrates this same focus on detail—Dick Rauh's illustrations are equally as helpful as Brown's.

In both books, the plants are artistically rendered with exquisite ink drawings; Levine's book also includes nineteen pages of black-and-white photographs showing examples of leaf structures. And both books cover approximately the same general geographic range, with Michigan included. Levine's book describes 391 species; Brown's describes 135.

The distinctive difference in the books is the style with which information is presented. Brown uses a pleasantly casual narrative that allows her to be free with the information she presents. She elaborates on topics the reader will find interesting, such as plant lore and name derivations. Levine, on the other hand, sticks to a formula of listing key impressions; fruit; leaves; stem; annual, biennial, or perennial; habitat; range; and similar species for each plant. This "bare bones" presentation allows for information at a glance, which can be especially helpful in the field.

I recommend that you study each of these fine books before making a decision, as one style may appeal to you more than the other. Or, do as I did, and buy them both! I find that one fills in the occasional information gap in the other—they complement each other very nicely (Levine cites Brown's book in her introduction). Both will be great additions to your library.

And... if these books pique your curiosity about wildflowers in winter, you may want to add another book to your library, Jane Embertson's *Pods: Wildflowers and Weeds in Their Final Beauty*. More than 150 plants are shown in the documentary-style photographs by Jay M. Conrader. There is a brief written description of each of the featured plants. The book presents a small photograph of each plant in its flowering stage, a larger one of the plant in its fruiting stage, and a third photo of the plant used in a dried-flower/pod arrangement (another great reason to incorporate native plants into your landscape!). Importantly, Embertson emphasizes respect for the environment. Included at the beginning of the book is a section on pod-picking "dos and don'ts," such as "Trilliums, orchids... Jack-in-the-pulpits and gentians... are destroyed by picking... resist the temptation to take seed or pod; "Do not pick a pod if you cannot identify it. It might be a protected plant;" "Do not dig up plants for transplanting to your home garden;" and "Do what you can in your community to express the need to save our wild plants." The plants selected for Embertson's book can be found throughout the Great Lakes region, the northeastern U.S., and adjacent Canada, roughly the same geographical area covered in the books reviewed above.

Once you begin studying our native plants in winter, you'll quickly discover that those "brown sticks" poking out of the snow are actually the same plants whose flowers you so admired in the warmer seasons! ✨

National Wildlife Online Newsletter

- ❖ learn more about backyard wildlife habitats
- ❖ view photography and read articles from National Wildlife Magazine
- ❖ stay informed with news and special features on how NWF is protecting wildlife and their habitats
- ❖ access eNature.com, featuring field guides for over 5,000 plant and animal species, as well as an extensive ParkFinder

To subscribe, go to www.nwf.org, where you'll find fields in which to enter your contact information. There's even a complimentary welcome gift—a NWF screensaver!

Business & Organization Member Directory

Ann Arbor Parks Department, Natural Areas Preservation Div.—Dave Borneman, 1831 Traver Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Phone: 734.996.3266, e-mail: dborneman@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us. Publications: *Native Plants and Your Landscape & Natural Areas* brochures for southeast Michigan.

Creekside Herbs & Art—Wendy Wagoner, 752 N. Blindline Road, Cedarville, MI 49719. 906.484.2415. e-mail: creekside@northernway.net. Family-owned business in U.P. Renovated barn, display gardens, and nature trails along creek in ancient white pines. Creekside strives to provide education, market hand crafted items by local artisans, supply earth-friendly products and herbal plants. Features Michigan plants and artisans when available. More info at www.TheEnchantedForest.com/creekside@northernway.net.

Edison Environmental Science Academy—924 Russel Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. 269.337.0550. K-6 public magnet school in partnership with the Kalamazoo Nature Center providing an integrated environmental science curriculum in three science labs, a year-round greenhouse, and many different outdoor learning areas.

Gaia Grass—Jean and Craig Weirich, 3947 E. St. Joe, Grand Ledge, MI 48837. 517.627.7927, e-mail: weirichj@aol.com. Early stages of native grass seed production.

Grass Roots Turf & Ornamental—Tom Smith, P.O. Box 4001, East Lansing, MI 48826. 517.337.2405, e-mail: grassroots@voyager.net.

J.F. New & Associates and J.F. New Native Plant Nursery—Dustin New, Contracts & Marketing Manager, 708 Roosevelt Road, Walkerton, IN 46574. 219.586.3400 (corp. office), e-mail: dnew@jfnew.com or 219.586.2412 (nursery). Ecological Restoration Specialists: wetland scientists and environmental engineers for creation, restoration and enhancement of natural areas, wetlands, prairies, and woodlands. www.jfnew.com

Kalamazoo Nature Center—Randy Grey, 7000 N. Westledge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49004. 269.381.4682, e-mail: rgrey@naturecenter.org. The mission of this not-for-profit organization is to inspire people to care for the environment by providing experiences that

lead them to understand their connection to the natural world. Each year the Nature Center reaches nearly 200,000 individuals through its many programs in education, research, and conservation both on and off-site. www.naturecenter.org.

Kent County Conservation District—1328 Bradford NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. phone 616.336.8868, e-mail: conservationkent@aol.com.

Kinross Correctional Facility—Neil Moran, 16770 Watertower Dr., Kincheloe MI 49788, 906.495.2282

Michigan Meadow Perennials—Natalie Hockamier, 2074 Brook Trails Court SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508-2654. 616.245.1104, e-mail: nhockamier@aol.com. Native Michigan wildflowers and grasses. Plants available at Fulton Street Farmer's Market in Grand Rapids.

Michigan Wildflower Farm—Esther Durnwald, 11770 Cutler Road, Portland, MI 48875. 517.647.6010, fax: 517.647.6072, e-mail: wildflowers@voyager.net. Producers of premium native Michigan wildflower and grass seed. Consulting and installing services available. Call for free seed catalog. Member MNPPA.

www.michiganwildflowerfarm.com

Native Connections—Jerry Stewart, 62791 Shaffer Road, Constantine, MI 49042. 269.435.2208, e-mail: jerry@nativeconnections.net. Professional Native Plant Establishment & "Seeding Specialists" - 15+ years experience: seeding services—Truax no-till and bare soil seeding. Planning and site management—analysis and prep, species selection, management plans, prescribed burning. Wetland enhancement—seeding and plugging, mitigation, pond edge vegetation, detention/retention basins. Shoreline stabilization—pond, stream & shoreline, vegetation, biologists, vegetated seawalls, and on-site consultations and coaching.

Nativescape LLC—Chris Lehr, P.O. Box 122, Manchester, MI 48158, 517.456.9696, e-mail: chris@nativescapes.net. Michigan genotype native seed—catalog available. Natural landscape design, ecological consultation, restoration, habitat creation and land management; presentations and slide shows. www.nativescapes.net.

Nesta Prairie Perennials—Stephan Keto, Van Bochove's Florist & Greenhouse, 1019 Miller Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49001, 800.233.5025 or 269.343.1659. Fax: 269.343.0768. Native perennial plants. Unselected native genotypes from the Great Lakes Region. Specializing in prairie, savanna, wetland grasses and forbs. Plug flats, quarts, and larger sizes available. Member MNPPA.

Overby Farm—Nursery at 3373 E. Overby Rd., Lake Leelanau, MI 49653. Contact: Robert Adams, 248.594.9187, Box 101, Bloomfield Twp., MI 48303. E-mail: adamgarden@comcast.net.

R. Vix Kennedy, Inc.—Vix Kennedy, 7362 High Hill Drive, Brighton, MI 48116. 810.231.3419, e-mail: mdrvki@ismi.net. Landscape design and consultation in all areas of horticulture and arboriculture. www.horthelp.com.

Raven Hill Discovery Center—Cheri and Tim Leach, 04737 Fuller Road, East Jordan, MI 49727. 231.536.3369, fax: 231.536.0132, e-mail: rhdc@voyager.net. Hands-on museum with emphasis on science, history and the arts. Ravin Hill offers school field trips, special events for all ages, professional development for teachers, summer classes, scout activities, and is open to the general public.

Sandhill Farm—Cheryl Smith Tolley, 11250 10 Mile Road, Rockford, MI 49341. 616.691.8214, fax: 616.691.7872, e-mail: cherylt@iservnet.com. Call for free mail order catalog. Open by appointment. Licensed Michigan Native Plant Dealer. Michigan native forbs—woodland & wetland, and grasses. Member MNPPA.

Truax Company, Inc.—Jim Truax, 4821 Xerxes Avenue, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430. 763.537.6639, fax: 763.537.8353, e-mail: Truax@pclink.com. Manufacturers of native grass and wildflower seeding equipment. Customized grass and grain drills to meet your needs and site conditions. www.truaxcomp.com

Wayne County MSU Extension—Kristine Hahn, 640 Temple, 6th Floor, Detroit, MI 48201. 313.833.3275, e-mail: hahnk@msue.msu.edu

Wetlands Nursery—Jewel Richardson, P.O. Box 14553, Saginaw, MI 48601,



989.752.3492, e-mail: JewelR@aol.com. Michigan native wetland plants and seed. Quality nursery grown native wetland plant species from Michigan genotypes. Member MNPPA. <www.wetlands-nursery.com>.

WILDTYPE Design, Native Plants & Seed—Bill Schneider, 900 N. Every Road, Mason, MI 48854. Phone 517.244.1140. fax: 517.244.1142, e-mail: wildtype@msu.edu. Michigan genotypes sold exclusively. Native trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs commonly found in Michigan's woodlands, wetlands and prairies available in small containers. Bare root trees and shrubs available in spring. Ecological design and consulting services also available. Member MNPPA. <www.msu.edu/~wildtype/>.

Zone 5 Gardens and Nursery—Patti Travioli, 5470 Irish Rd, Grand Blanc, MI 48439. Phone 810-694-0500, e-mail: patti@zone5gardens.com. Retail farm/nursery selling native perennials, herbs and garden-related hard goods. Open Fri/Sat 10-5, Sun 11-3. <www.zone5gardens.com>

Wildflowers Newsletter

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<http://www.wildflowersmich.org>

Prairie Management

Continued from Page 1, Column 3
management be followed throughout the entire season, so that spring, summer, late summer and fall weeds will be controlled. Mowing a prairie as instructed can benefit the establishment of native forbs and grasses in several ways:

With timely cuttings, weeds such as barnyard grass, foxtail, pigweed, lambsquarters, ragweed, and mare's-tail are prevented from reseeding. Annual weeds can infest a planting with amazing speed. If these annual weeds are cut prior to seeding, they should not exist in the planting next season. (Note: Although cutting perennial weeds will prevent them from reseeding in most cases, the mother plant will still exist. Some especially problematic perennial weeds are spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, purple loosestrife, field bindweed, plantain, and quack grass. Other methods must be used to control these plants. It is much easier to deal with problems early in the game, and this applies to plants, too. Fire, herbicide and physical removal can be used for controlling perennial weeds. (Watch for an article elaborating on these methods in a future issue of *Wildflowers*.) In many cases, once perennial native wildflowers have been mowed, their energy will focus on root development, making for a stronger plant

next season. You may sacrifice some blooms of black-eyed Susan and bergamot the first season, but the weed control is worth it. Cutting taller competing growth allows sunlight and moisture to reach the soil and germinate desirable seedlings. Implementing a mowing regime in the first year also helps curb our desire to achieve instant results (something we seem to expect, even while knowing, intellectually, that establishing a planting requires three to five years). Disappointment is less likely in *year one* if we know that the site will be mowed all year. Committing to a mowing regime in the first year of establishment is a simple and effective way to manage your planting—I encourage you to give it a try! ✨

Note: In a discussion about prairie management, grower Steve Keto says he has used both fire and mowing to manage his mature prairie plots. Steve suggests the best time to mow or burn in the spring is when the cool season grasses are just ending their big growth spurt the end of March or the beginning of April, and the warm season forbs and grasses are just starting to grow. Mowing or burning then sets the cool season grasses back dramatically and exposes the warm season plants to sun and moisture. Steve sets his mower to the lowest point, which scalps the plot—almost like burning.
—Marji Fuller

President's Note

Continued from Page 3, Column 1

- centers. We must all make the effort to share our tips, techniques, successes, and failures.
- > I call on state and federal employees responsible for encouraging native plant use to solicit help from the experts to fine-tune rules and regulations that work.
 - > I call on landscape architects to solicit ideas and suggestions from grass roots experts to make designs more practical, economical, and workable for contractors.
 - > I call on landscape contractors to visit native landscapes, both new and established, to glean tips and techniques unique to native plantings.
 - > I call on growers to use their experience with native communities to provide customers with crucial information about the plants they sell.

By working together toward the common goal of increasing and improving native plantings, we can pool our knowledge and effort to ensure success for all the professionals in the native plant industry. Ultimately, this can lead to even greater acceptance and appreciation of native landscapes and improvement of the environment for all God's creatures. As winter fast approaches and my gardens are laid to rest, I look forward to again seeing many of you at the 16th Annual Michigan Wildflower Conference, March 2 and 3, 2003, on the beautiful Michigan State University campus. Until then, keep growing and never stop learning! ✨

—Steve Keto

Wildflower Association of Michigan

A nonprofit organization founded in 1986, Lansing, Michigan
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Courtesy Michigan DNR

Michigan's State Wildflower
 Dwarf lake iris, *Iris lacustris*

The next quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors is Wednesday, November 13, 2002, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Hancock Turf Center (Farm Lane and Mt. Hope), Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. Members are always welcome.

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