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.

What do you do when you visit a property and hear a perky “Bob-white!” call? If the timing is right, you might do as I did, and purchase the 30 acres for a future building site.

My story begins with the construction of my house, which, unlike many new constructions today, was strategically tucked as close to the front corner of the lot as the local zoning laws allowed. This way, I could leave the remainder of the field available for habitat plantings. I’m sure I heard a quail sing “Hurry up!”

The first 9-acre field was burned, new growth was sprayed with Round-Up® and then the area was seeded with a native tall grass prairie mix. The availability of the local Pheasants Forever habitat team and some very helpful neighbors made the task possible, as I own no large equipment. Hindsight advises that a second application of herbicide would have made a cleaner base and eliminated the pesky thistles and patches of quack grass that remained. However, the seeding

Please see “Labor of Love” on page 6
This is YOUR column. Send questions about native plants and wildflowers to our editor, Kathy Johnson, 11155 Hastings Point Road, Middleville, MI 49333 or e-mail to: klundjohnson@charter.net.

I always look forward to WAM's conferences. Can you give me info about the 2006 conference, including dates, speakers, and any other interesting details?

Thank you.

Arthur in Ann Arbor

Dear Arthur—

How timely that you asked about the 19th Michigan Wildflower Conference and Educators' Workshop! The WAM board and Conference Committee met earlier this month and we have just that information for you! The dates are Sunday, March 5 and Monday, March 6. The Stewardship Network will join WAM for the 19th annual conference at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on the beautiful Michigan State University Campus. Plan to arrive on Sunday and stay over at the Kellogg Center Hotel. WAM is booking a block of rooms at a special reduced rate for conference attendees. You can call the Kellogg Center at 1.800.875.5090 to reserve your room.

The theme is "Nature's Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together." Our chief puzzle solver and keynote speaker will be Carolyn Harstad who is the author (and photographer) of Go Native! Gardening with Native Plants and Wildflowers, and Got Shade? A Take It Easy Approach for Today's Gardener, both published by Indiana University Press. Carolyn has been gardening with native plants for many years and is a strong advocate for the environment. Her efforts to raise awareness of the value of native plants won her the 2000 Indianapolis Beautification Award. Carolyn is co-founder of two successful organizations—the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (INPAWS) and the Indianapolis Hosta Society. We will have more about Carolyn in the winter newsletter and registration brochure.

Other speakers with pieces to our puzzle are Dana Jackson speaking on "agroecology," and "eating as if nature mattered," and Lisa Brush who will tell us about The Stewardship Network.

Sunday afternoon and all day Monday will be filled with concurrent sessions featuring speakers like U of M's Bob Grese who will tell us "why we should care about natives," Ferris University's Bob Krueger explaining his specialty of "medicinal plants," MSU's Doug Landis updating us on "invasives," and Mogans Neilson highlighting the importance of "host plants."

Other pieces of the puzzle include: James Crum on "soils," Dan Kennedy with "first steps in restoration," Pat Osborne with a "community garden," David Mindell and David Borneman with a "prescribed burn panel," Julie Medlin on "lichens," Joe Rogers with his "raptors," Tyler Bassett with "quality habitats in urban areas," and Bradley Rowe on "greenroofs and living walls."

The Stewardship Network will help complete our puzzle with Patrick Doran on "planning for landscape-level restoration," Michael Kost on "prioritizing areas for large scale restoration in Michigan," Doug Schemske asking "if genotype really matters," and Carolyn Malmstrom on "interactions between diseases and exotic/native grasses."

There will truly be something for every-one at this conference.

Always trying to provide a better educational experience for everyone, the Conference Committee has arranged for the annual Sunday Social get-together to be even better next year. It will start shortly after the last session on Sunday, run from 4:15 to 6:30 P.M., and include a shortened annual meeting, social hour, and book signing with cash bar and munchies. The exhibit and sales booths will stay open during the "WAM Mixer" so you will be free to look around, shop, visit, and just enjoy visiting before rushing off to dinner or the drive home. And there will be drawings for door prizes during this mixer, too!

The annual Grant Awards Luncheon will be on Sunday, and lunch on Monday will be available before the keynote address in Big Ten A—which will be open to all conference attendees after the lunch.

We are holding registration fees to the 2004 prices in an attempt to help folks defray the cost of transportation to get to the conference. The registration forms will be sent out at the first of the year, with the winter newsletter. Information will be put on our Web site as soon as all the details are finalized.

I hope this answers most of your questions, Arthur. We are all working hard to bring relevant topics and speakers to the people of Michigan who are interested in learning about and protecting native plants and their habitats. Mark your calendar now—we hope to see you at the 19th Annual Michigan Wildflower Conference, March 5 & 6, 2006 at Michigan State University.
President’s Note

Cheryl Tolley, President

Fall is one of my favorite seasons and, after this hot summer, I am looking forward to it even more this year. After a season of extra watering and struggling with hoses and sprinklers that didn’t work, I am even more impressed with native plants. All of the natives in my garden came through with little or no extra watering and they look great! Some of them are even getting out of control and will need to be divided soon. I left the thistles up this year (a gardening no-no) and was surprised by the number of butterflies that used them, along with the goldfinches.

I did have to fill my pond several times this summer, since there was not adequate rainfall. It was scary having all those frogs looking in the windows asking, “Where’s the water?”

The 2006 WAM Conference Committee has been hard at work and they have quite the line-up for next year. The theme will be “Nature’s Puzzle – Putting the Pieces Together.”

Our keynote speaker will be author Carolyn Harstad, one of the co-founders of the Indiana Wildflower Society. Due to scheduling conflicts, Andy Wasowski will not be able to be with us next, as we had hoped, but joining Carolyn on the agenda will be Brad Rowe, speaking on the topic of Green Roofs/Living Walls, WAM board member, Robert Krueger, on Medicinal Plants, James Crum on soils, Mogens Neilson on Michigan butterflies and moths, Doug Landis on invasives, a burn panel, and others. The Educators’ Workshop on Sunday will feature a past grant recipient with their experiences plus sessions on raising funds, getting your plan started, and more!

This year, we will have The Stewardship Network joining with us for several joint sessions. I am looking forward to seeing all of you again next March!

Best wishes,
Cheryl

Calendar—Fall 2005

Kalamazoo Nature Center

WEDNESDAYS, NOVEMBER 2 THROUGH DECEMBER 7 – YOGA AT THE NATURE CENTER 9:30 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M. JOIN CERTIFIED YOGA INSTRUCTOR, JEAN KETCHUM, FOR A RELAXING AND REJUVENATING MORNING OF YOGA. ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME. BRING YOUR OWN MAT. MEET IN THE GLEN VISTA GALLERY. $12/WALK-INS OR $55 FOR A 6-WEEK CARD. PRE-REGISTER AT 269.381.1574, X-27. AGES 14+, BEGINNERS TO ADVANCED. PLEASE PRE-REGISTER, AS SPACE IS LIMITED.


NOVEMBER 6 – GEOLOGY ROCKS! 2 P.M. GLACIERS ARE MIGHTY POWERFUL AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LAY OF THE LAND AROUND HERE. TAKE A HIKETO THE TOP OF THE GRAVEL PIT TO GET A BIRD’S EYE VIEW OF THE LOCAL TERRAIN. BRING YOUR FAVORITE ROCK TO SHARE. MEET IN THE INTERPRETIVE CENTER LOBBY. MEMBERS: FREE, NON-MEMBERS: REGULAR KNC ADMISSION. ADULTS AND FAMILIES.


NOVEMBER 22 AND NOVEMBER 26 – KNEE HIGH NATURALISTS: ‘TURK TALKIN’ 10 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M. LEARN ABOUT AN ALL-AMERICAN BIRD, THE TURKEY! COME ALONG TO TRY ACTING LIKE A POULTRY, A BABY TURKEY, IN A FUN GAME. WE WILL ALSO TAKE A HIKE TO LISTEN FOR TURKEY CALLS, MAKE A TURKEY CRAFT, READ A STORY AND HAVE A SNACK! MEET IN THE TREE TOP. $4/CHILD WITH ADULT (IN ADDITION TO REGULAR ADMISSION RATES, IF APPLICABLE). PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED: 269.381.1574 X-27. CHILDREN AGES 3-5, WITH CAREGIVERS.


Please see “Calendar” on page 7
**REGIONAL REPORTS**

We’re hearing from some of you with information you want to share in Regional Reports, and we’d like to get more of you involved! We’d love to hear from conservation districts, Wild Ones chapters, state and national forest representatives, the DNR and MDOT, local nature centers, etc. — as well as private individuals. We know exciting things are happening everywhere — we just need someone to tell us about it! Please send your reports to Kathy Johnson by e-mail (klundjohnson@charter.net) or U.S. mail to 11155 Hastings Point Road, Middleville, MI 49333. We look forward to hearing from you before the next newsletter!

**REGION 2 — NORTHERN LOWER U.P.**

Missaukee Conservation District —
Sherry L. Blaszak, Administrator, reports...

The Wildflower Association of Michigan was gracious enough to award a $250 grant to Missaukee Conservation District for their planting of a native garden at our office site.

The title of this project is Missaukee County Landscape Project at the Human Resources Building. Its purpose is to educate landowners and school age children about using native plants, local natural materials (i.e. rocks, stone and stumps) and resources to landscape property, to encourage current and future property owners to create and maintain sustainable landscaping.

In July, a swarm of Master Gardeners converged at the building on Sanborn Road in Lake City to assist with planting the native flowers. The planting took place after Round-up® had been applied several weeks earlier. Our plants included prairie smoke, butterfly weed, columbine, lupine, rattlesnake weed, bee balm, and rough blazing star. Our plans called for footpaths winding through what had been a mowed lawn. Creativity at its peak, we requested some shredded bark from a local wood pole manufacturing and wood treating company. They agreed to give us 10 yards, a generous gift, which presented a problem... delivery! Hmmmmm, what to do? We called the Missaukee County Road Commission and asked if they would mind swinging by the company with one of their dump trucks sometime. No problem! The first 10 yards didn’t go quite far enough, so we hesitantly called the company again to ask for two more truckloads for a total of 30 yards! They agreed, which meant we had to call the road commission again to ask for free delivery. It turned out that we got the amount of wood chips/shredded bark needed for our project at no cost!

Our native plants are now in, bark placed around them, and paths in place. In September Master Gardeners returned for weeding, additional Round-up® placed, and more bark distributed. Now the site will be prepped for the planting of some donated native plants. Rocks and stones will be gathered from local farmers at a later date. We can’t wait to see the end results!

October 17 is our annual dinner at Timber Wolf Lake Camp, north of Lake City on M-66 at 6 p.m. Our featured speaker will be Michigan State Police Officer, Mitch Stevens, who will share “What’s Meth Got to do With Conservation?”. That evening, the winning ticket will be drawn for our log cabin raffle.

**REGION 3 — SOUTHWEST**

Kalamazoo Nature Center —
Lisa Panich, Communications Coordinator, reports ...

Work on the Purple Loosestrife Project started August 11, with coordinated flights and simultaneous data collected by ground crews covering areas from Fort Custer to Portage, and the Kalamazoo Nature Center. Purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria) is an invasive perennial plant species that has become strongly established in wetland areas along rivers, streams, ponds, and ditches in the Great Lakes Region. While the showy purple spikes may be pleasing to the eye, the plant is widely considered a threat to native plant species and animal habitats, as it forms dense stands, choking out native flora and fauna.

The Purple Loosestrife Project will locate and evaluate purple loosestrife patches and study the effects of ongoing biocontrol from the distribution of beetles (Galerucella calmariensis) that have shown promising results in the defoliation of purple loosestrife and, thus, the restoration of native plant communities.

During this study, conducted in partnership with the Kalamazoo Nature Center, Kaiser & Associates, and ITRES Research Limited of Calgary, researchers will identify areas in which purple loosestrife is growing, and evaluate the relative health of several purple loosestrife stands. The project will produce maps to pinpoint new purple loosestrife stands for future biocontrol, and the data collected will be used for broad management efforts.

The Purple Loosestrife Project has been partially funded from local farmers at a later date. We can’t wait to see the end results!

October 17 is our annual dinner at Timber Wolf Lake Camp, north of Lake City on M-66 at 6 p.m. Our featured speaker will be Michigan State Police Officer, Mitch Stevens, who will share “What’s Meth Got to do With Conservation?”. That evening, the winning ticket will be drawn for our log cabin raffle.

Please see “Regional Reports” on page 5
by a grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, with matching and in-kind funding by the Michigan Department of Military Affairs, Kalamazoo Nature Center, Kaiser & Associates and ITRES Research, Limited.

For more information, contact Lisa Panich, KNC Communications Coordinator, 269.381.1574, x-38, or <lpanich@Nature-Center.org>.

Wild Ones, Red Cedar Chapter—

Mark Ritzenhein reports...

Wild Ones, Red Cedar and Flint chapters, held a joint field trip on August 25 with Ingham County Drain Commissioner, Patrick Lindeman, leading a tour of the Tollgate Drain project. The Red Cedar chapter is helping to create a native landscape on the riverbank in Williamston, and chapter president, Mark Ritzenhein, has built a native plant garden in the music conservatory courtyard at Olivet College.

REGION 4 — SOUTHEAST

The Nature Conservancy—

Chuck Pearson reports...

The Nature Conservancy has Volunteer Fundays on at least one of its preserves every week, year 'round, most often at Ives Road Fen Preserve in Lenawee County, conveniently located for people from Lansing and Detroit. Most of the fun consists of cutting and making brush piles of glossy buckthorn in a beautiful prairie fen. We also have refreshments, periodic prize drawings, and other extras. To find the location and date best for you, and to sign up, contact Rebecca Hagerman, East Michigan Conservation Assistant, at <eastmichigan@tnc.org> or 517.316.2282. To view photos of a recent workday, go to <https://home.comcast.net/~ivesroadfen/Workday2005.8.6/page_01.htm>.

Gladwin County 4-H Youth Involved in LUNKERS Project

by Mike Turner, CREP Resource Professional, Cedar River Watershed Project Manager

The Gladwin County 4-H Project F.I.S.H. Club was awarded a KATCH (Kids Are True Conservation Heroes) grant for $1,351.50 earlier this year, to assist in building and placing 185 linear feet of “LUNKERS” along a steep eroding bank on the Cedar River near Beaverton. The F.I.S.H. Club consists of approximately 20 members between the ages of eight and eighteen, led by 4-H leader, Teri Hicks, of Beaverton. LUNKERS are structures that help to keep riverbanks from eroding, at the same time creating habitat for fish by providing overhanging banks that aquatic life can use as cover. The structures also serve to reduce water temperatures. The LUNKERS were placed along the riverbank, then geotextile and rock were placed over the LUNKERS. The bank will be seeded with a mixture of wildflower seeds consisting of shasta daisies, galardia, clasping cone flowers, black-eyed Susans and gloriosa daisies that were harvested from one of the wildflower gardens owned by Mike Turner.

The project is located on property owned by a longtime resident whose husband has been institutionalized with Alzheimer’s disease, and who, without the assistance of the many volunteers and funding sources, would not have been able to stabilize the streambank next to her home. A project such as this offers a learning experience to the 4-H group, and allows a beneficial project to be completed where economic means would probably have not allowed for it. The club was assisted by the Gladwin Soil Conservation District, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Doyle Donn Excavating and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Club members began building the 15 LUNKERS in July and helped with placing them in the river at the end of August.

Katherin Schrouder, Fisheries Biologist for the DNR, stated earlier this year, “In the Cedar River below Chappel Dam, there are large areas of run habitat with limited areas of larger holes and cover. The project that the local 4-H club, with assistance from Mike Turner, Cedar River Watershed Project Manager, is proposing and attempting to get funded, includes the construction of a LUNKER structure. A LUNKER structure is designed to provide cover to a wide variety of species, including smallmouth bass. It is designed to be installed into the bank, and provide a simulated undercut bank. If installed properly, (the structures) look extremely natural and are very stable in the stream. Adding LUNKER structures (will) greatly add to the Cedar River’s ability to hold more smallmouth bass as well as other species.” The 4-H Club would like to thank Mike Turner of

Please see “Gladwin 4-H” on page 9

Donna VanBeuken, Executive Director, Wild Ones, reports...

If you’re aware of any school or other not-for-profit organization that is planning an outdoor learning center focusing on the use of native plants, Wild Ones “Seeds for Education” grant applications must be submitted to the Wild Ones national office by November 15th. For more information about the grant process, go to <http://www.for-wild.org/seedmony.html>.

Also, Betty Czarapata’s weed identification book is now available, and can be found in the Wild Store. It’s a fabulous book; you shouldn’t be without it. “Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest” sells for $30 which includes S&H. To order, go to <http://www.for-wild.org/store/ZARABOOK>.
took well and by the third year the grasses were over my head. Now rooster pheasants can be heard crowing, “Thank you!”

For Phase 2 of my project, the Calhoun County Soil Conservation District made available the application for funds from the Michigan Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program. When that was approved, the second field, which had been put into corn production in the interim, was then planted with a tree and shrub border on the north and west property lines to provide a wildlife food source and a wind break. Red pine, juniper, red oak, gray dogwood, silky dogwood, service-berry, highbush cranberry, and Roselow crabapples comprised the borders. To keep the seedlings from becoming an early snack for Bambi, I invested in plastic 4-foot tubes and staked each in place. Each tube was then covered with a net to prevent hungry bluebirds from dropping down inside after insects and not being able to fly back out. Most tubes now have the leaves and branches visible over the top, but they will be left in place for as long as possible for that extra protection.

Landscaping around the new home proceeded very slowly. I was determined not to have a high maintenance landscape, and native plants were the immediate choice. The farm’s claim to fame is its rock production, so rocks became the basis for much of the hardscape. Good friends helped me learn about the native species that would do well in this environment. More advice was gleaned from Michigan native plant producers, including Bill Schneider at WILDTYPE Design in Mason, Esther Durnwald from Michigan Wildflower Farm in Portland, and Stephan Keto at Nesta Prairie Perennials in Kalamazoo, all WAM business members. Most plants selected for the yard were either larval hosts or nectar sources for butterflies and hummingbirds. The trees and shrubs were chosen for their berry or seed production, since habitat was my prime goal. That list included serviceberries, crabapples, hop trees, river birches, highbush cranberries, chokeberries, spicebush, arrow-woods, junipers, winterberries and American plums. Just being pretty or unusual also counted, of course, and I welcomed family hand-me-downs of peony and iris plants.

One thing leading to another, as it often does, before I knew it, I had organized a Calhoun County chapter of Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscaping, to encourage others of like mind to learn along with me. As a money-making project for the group, I followed the lead of a knowledgeable member and began propagating native plants from locally collected seed, offering them for sale at the annual garden tour market. A barn built by a previous owner provided the perfect beginning for a greenhouse annex, with the addition of some recycled storm windows around the lean-to side. The space between the house and the barn was seeded to a no-mow fescue mix, bordered by short grass prairie. My next goal is to learn the names of the many songbirds that are now very apparent in the fields.
Marilyn Case

Marilyn Case joined the Wildflower Association of Michigan some years ago and, when she finished her term as treasurer of the Marshall Garden Club, asked if there was something she could do for WAM. In 1999 she happily accepted the volunteer position of conference registrar for the 2000 Michigan Wildflower Conference and was elected to the board of directors and, subsequently, treasurer and membership coordinator in 2000. Marilyn served in that position, and as conference registrar, until her retirement from the board in 2005.

During her time as Conference Registrar, Marilyn streamlined the operation as the numbers of attendees climbed. Comments were often and many about the incredible job she did—always thinking of others first.

Marilyn received recent awards for her conservation work. In 2004 the Calhoun Chapter of Pheasants Forever conferred the “Conservationist of the Year” title upon her and in 2005 she was named Conservationist of the Year by Calhoun Soil Conservation District “for lifetime commitment to conservation.”

Congratulations on your accomplishments, Marilyn, and thanks for your contributions and dedication to WAM and its mission!

Marilyn Case’s three-year old meadow proves the old adage—first year to sow, second year to grow and third year to show. The native grasses have grown to a height above Marilyn’s head and the wildflower have provided food and habitat for birds, mammals, and insects alike!

Calendar — Fall 2005

Continued from page 3, column 2

Hidden Lake Gardens

October 22 – One on One Landscape Design 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Bring your photos, your plans and design ideas and sit down with Frank Dunbar, landscape instructor at Wayne County Community College, and Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, to discuss your property one on one! Leave with new ideas and sketches to implement when you get home. The class will be a series of workshops where you can watch other people learn what do with their properties. Limited to 10 participants. Members: $30, Non-members: $35.

October 29 – Beginning Spinning and Natural Dyeing 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. This class will start you through the process of taking wool from sheep, to producing dyed yarn. You will learn how to use natural botanical dyes to create fibers with autumn colors. Dress warmly in old clothes, as we will be outside and messy! Class instructed by Diane Crosley, an affiliate professor at Spring Arbor University, School of Education. Class is limited to 12 students. Members: $45, Non-members: $47.

November 12 – Pruning Fundamentals 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Karen Gentry, horticulturist and Hidden Lake Gardens’ Education Coordinator, will instruct an indoor class on pruning methods, tools and timing. Emphasis will be on shaping, size reductions, thinning and renewal techniques. Dress appropriate for the weather. Members: $16, Non-members: $18.

December 17 – Holiday Paper Making 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. We will take recycled paper and create our own unique paper cards, enhanced with flowers, leaves and other natural products. This process is fast, easy and you will leave with a skill you can do at home with shredded paper and a blender. The class will be taught by Diane Crosley, an affiliate professor at Spring Arbor University, School of Education. Members: $26, Non-members: $28.

The 2006 Master Gardener Training Program at Hidden Lake Gardens begins Thursday, January 12. The class will meet on twelve consecutive Thursdays from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. The program provides extensive training in many areas of gardening, including flowers, vegetables, lawn and tree care. The curriculum is used statewide and was developed by MSU faculty. The objective of the course is to further train people who have previous experience in gardening, and to develop volunteers willing to share their knowledge with others. Volunteering is central to the program, which helps disseminate research-based information to the public.

Applications are now available, and must be returned by December 1. Enrollment is limited to 40 students. The cost of the program, which includes the book and materials, is $195. A limited number of scholarships (based on financial need) are available. If you have questions regarding the program or wish to receive an application, please contact HLG at 517.431.2060 and provide your name and address, or visit our Web site: <www.hiddenlakegardens.msu.edu> to print out an application.
On June 9, 2005, the Big Rapids Parks and Recreation Board approved a proposal to include a rain garden as part of the Big Rapids Riverwalk Phase II. A rain garden is designed to collect storm water runoff. When rain and snowmelt flow off yards, roofs, sidewalks, roads and parking lots, the resulting storm water runoff washes pollution into our streams, rivers and lakes.

The proposal was submitted by Karen Motawi, president of the Big Rapids Garden Club, which contributed $2000 toward the project. The purpose of this rain garden is to catch and hold the stormwater runoff that runs from the new parking lot off of Osceola Street down a depression leading to the newly constructed gazebo, adjacent to the Big Rapids Riverwalk. The rain garden will prevent the runoff from going into the Muskegon River, located just beyond the gazebo.

The rain garden is approximately 3000 square feet and consists of over a dozen varieties of Michigan native wildflowers, grasses and shrubs. These deep-rooted, low-care perennial plants are adapted to our soils and climate conditions. They do not need chemical pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers to thrive. Once the plants have been established there is no need for watering.

After June 9th, the project went into full swing. Marlies Manning, of Manning Design, created the design for the project. The Mecosta Conservation District provided assistance with obtaining native plants. Northend Rentals donated their front-loader to move mulch. Ice Mountain donated bottled water, which was greatly appreciated by those who were subjected to near 90 degree temperatures. And, of course, none of this was possible without the hard work of many master gardeners and Big Rapids Garden Club volunteers. So make plans to take a walk along the Big Rapids Riverwalk, and enjoy the rain garden and its beautiful array of native plants.
The Cracked Water Pot

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on each end of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master’s house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water in his master’s house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. “I am ashamed for myself, and I want to apologize to you.” “What are you ashamed of?” “I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master’s house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don’t get full value from your efforts,” the pot said. The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, “As we return to the master’s house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path.”

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again it apologized to the bearer for its failure. The bearer said to the pot, “Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pot’s side? That’s because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you’ve watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master’s table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house.”

Moral: Each of us has our own unique flaws. We’re all cracked pots. But it’s the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You’ve just got to take each person for what they are, and look for the good in them. There is a lot of good out there. There is a lot of good in us! Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.

Remember to appreciate all the different people in your life! Or as I like to think of it—if it hadn’t been for the crackpots in my life, it would have been pretty boring and not so interesting . . .

Thank you all my crackpot friends,
Anonymous

Gladwin 4-H

Continued from Page 5

the Gladwin Soil Conservation District for all of his help in spearheading this project. The kids have really enjoyed working with him this summer. Also thanks to Wayne Kinne III of Beaverton for taking on this project as a summer intern with the SCD. The funds for this KATCH grant are provided by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, donors to the Michigan 4-H Foundation, the FishAmerica Foundation and the Harold and Jean Glassen Memorial Foundation.

If you know youth who would be inter-
Business & Organization Member Directory

ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS DEPT.
Wendy Tatar, P.O. Box 370, Ada MI 49010, 616.676.0520, E-mail: parkwendy@ada.mi.us

ANN ARBOR PARKS DEPT, NATURAL AREAS PRESERVATION DIVISION
Dave Borneman, 1831 Traver Road, Ann Arbor MI 48105. Phone: 734.996.3266, E-mail: dborneman@ci.annarbor.mi.us.

BENZIE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Mary Pitcher, P.O. Box 408, Beulah MI 49617. Ph. 231.882.3091, Fax: 231.882.9767 E-mail: marypitcher@charterinternet.com

BORNEMAN CONSULTING
David Borneman, 1123 Mixtwood Street, Ann Arbor MI 48105. Phone: 734.996.3266, E-mail: dborneman@ci.annarbor.mi.us.

BRIAN ZIMMERMAN & ASSOCIATES
434 Monroe Street, Traverse City MI 49684, Ph. 231.929.7400, E-mail: buzz06@aol.com

CANTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING
Leigh Thruston, 1150 S. Canton Center, Canton MI 48188-1699. Ph. 734.394.5170, Fax: 734.394.5157 E-mail: thruston@canton-mi.org

CREEKSIDE HERBS & ART
Wendy Wagoner, Les Cheneaux Islands, Canton MI 49684-1699. Ph. 734.394.5170, Fax: 734.394.5157 E-mail: buzz06@aol.com

DESIGNS BY NATURE
Vern Stephens and Sue Tangora, 9874 Chadwick Rd., Laingsburg, MI 48848 Ph. 517.631.6502, Vern’s pager: 517.251.8585. E-mail: designsbynature@hotmail.com

EDISON ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE ACADEMY
924 Russel Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. Ph. 269.337.0550.

FERTEILE CRESCENT NURSERY
Leila Bradfield, 8110 West ML Avenue Kalamazoo MI 49009-9434 Ph. 269.372.1598. (No E-mail)

FLUSHING TOWNSHIP NATURE PARK
Thomas Enright, 8293 N. McKinley Rd., Flushing MI 48433. Ph. 810.659.6161, Fax 810.659.4212. E-mail: ftnp@usol.com.

GAIA GRASS
Jean and Craig Weirich, 3947 E. St. Joseph Grand Ledge, MI 48837. Ph. 517.627.7927 Fax 517.622.5918, E-mail: jean@gaiagrass.com. <www.gaiagrass.com>

GEUM SERVICES, INC.
Stephen Allen, Cell 269.370.0150 and Lori Phalen, Cell 269.370.0984. P.O. Box 035, Richland, MI 49083-0034. E-mail: stevea@prairiesmoke.com.

GOOD EARTH LANDSCAPE AND INTERIOR DESIGN, INC.
Michael A. Saint, 6126 Snowapple Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Ph. 269.381.2257 Fax: 269.381.0150 and 10380 Clinton Road, Manchester, MI 48158. Ph. 517.435.2208, E-mail: jerry@nativeconnections.net.

JF NEW & JF NEW NATIVE PLANT NURSERY
Dave Nicholson, Client Relations, 600 S. Beacon Blvd., Ste. A, Grand Haven MI 49417. Phone: 616.847.1680, E-mail: DNicholson@jfnew.com. H.Q.: 708 Roosevelt Rd., Walkerton IN 46574 Ph. 574.586.3400, Fax: 574.586.3446, E-mail: <www.jfnewnursery.com>/ <www.jfnewnursery.com>

JZ ENVIRONMENTAL
Janet Zynda, 4720 Baldwin Road, Metamora, MI 48455. Ph. 810.797.4076 E-mail: jzenvironmental@msn.com

KALAMAZOO NATURE CENTER
Suzie Knoll, 7000 N. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Ph. 269.381.1574 E-mail: sknoll@naturecenter.org, Fax: 269.381.2257 <www.naturecenter.org>

MANISTEE NORTHERN FOREST
Pat Ruta McGhan, Box D, 660 N. Michigan Avenue, Baldwin, MI 49304. Phone 231.745.4631 Ext. 160, Fax 231.745.2345. E-mail: pat_ruta@hotmail.com.

MCC GARDENING ASSOCIATION
Mott Community College, Rebecca Gale, Advisor. 1401 East Court Side, Flint MI 48407. Phone 810.762.0455, E-mail: rgale@mcc.edu, Fax: 810.762.0454 For information, go to <http://www.mcc.edu/clubs/gardening/garden_index.shtml>

MARY ANN’S MICHIGAN TREES AND SHRUBS
Mary Menck, 2809 M-40 Hwy, Paw Paw MI 49079. Ph. 269.628.2474, E-mail: mamenck@mei.net

MICHIGAN MEADOW PERENNIALS
Natalie Hockamier, 112 College NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Ph. 616.451.2732 E-mail: natt718@yahoo.com. <www.geocities.com/natt718>

MICHIGAN WILDFLOWER FARM
Esther Durnwald, 1170 Cutler Road, Portland MI 48875. Ph. 517.647.6010, E-mail: wildflowers@voyager.net. <www.michiganwildflowerfarm.com>

MISSAUKEE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NATIVE CONNECTIONS
Jerry Stewart, 62791 Shaffer Road, Constantine, MI 49042 Cell: 269.580.4765, Home/Fax: 269.435.2208, E-mail: jerry@nativeconnections.net.

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY
Greg Vaclavek, P.O. Box 7841, Ann Arbor, MI 48107-7841. Ph. 734.677.3260. E-mail: plants@nativeplant.com. <www.nativeplant.com>

NATIVEVEG LLC
Chris Lehr, 10380 Clinton Road, Manchester MI 48158. Phone 517.456.9666, E-mail: chrisr@nativevegal.com. <www.nativescape.net>

NATURE AND NURTURE LLC
Erica Kempter and Mike Levine, 114 8th St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Phone 734.929.0820 E-Mail: info@natureandnurture.org

NEST A PRAIRIE PERENNIALS
Stephan Keto, Van Bochove’s Florist & Greenhouse, 1019 Miller Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. Ph. 269.343.1669, Fax 269.343.0768

NORTHERN WILD PLANT & SEED COOPERATIVE
Wendy Wagoner, P.O. Box 304, Pickford, MI 49774. Ph. 906.484.2415 <www.creekside-herbs.com>
Membership Form:  □ New  □ Renew

Category:  
Household  $ 15.00 _________
Business or Organization  $ 60.00 _________
Life member (Household)  $ 400.00 _________

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City ____________________________ State __________ Zip __________
E-mail ________________________________
Phone (day) ___________________________ (eve) __________

Please make check or money order payable to WAM and mail with this form to:

Wildflower Association of Michigan
4300 Quebec Ave. N, New Hope, MN 55428
Ph. 763.357.6639, Fax: 763.357-8352, E-mail: Truax@pclink.com
<www.truaxcomp.com>

犯錯誤
Notices

Winter newsletter will be our last!!!

We need a Managing Editor and several contributing editors for our Wildflowers newsletter to continue. This person will be responsible for content—gathering/writing articles—to fill each issue in preparation for setting type and printing.

Kathy and Marji will help through the transition. If you can help in any phase of publishing our newsletter, contact Cheryl Tolley at cherylt@iserv.net or phone 616.691.8214.
Your WAM membership expires on the date above your name. This is the only notice you will receive. IF IT’S TIME, PLEASE RENEW.