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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.

WAM Mourns Loss of Founder

Professor Louis F. Twardzik, age 79, died January 5 of a heart attack at his home in East Lansing. Lou was the chairperson of the exploratory meeting held at Michigan State University in 1986, during which plans were made to establish the Wildflower Association of Michigan. He initiated the meeting by contacting statewide groups and individuals who had the knowledge, influence and interest to become partners in developing and convening a wildflower conference during Natural Resources Week at MSU. As a result of the first Wildflower Conferences, interest in wildflowers increased. Soon a seed-growing industry began in Michigan, supplying the growing needs of the public. He was instrumental in put together the earlier conferences and was elected president for the 1988/89 term. Kim Herman, the recorder at the original meeting recalls, “Without Lou and the support he provided through Michigan State University Department of Parks and Recreation and ANR week, we would never...
I DIDN’T KNOW THAT!

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.

Dear Wildflowers:
I’ve been thinking about adding some native ferns to my garden, but I really don’t know much about them. Are they difficult to grow and maintain? I’d appreciate any information you could provide!

Mike in Munising

Dear Mike:
What a great question! Michigan’s native ferns provide stunning accents and backdrops in our gardens, and—here’s the best part—they’re surprisingly easy to establish and to care for!

Like all plants, ferns have certain cultural requirements, environmental conditions in which they flourish. It’s best to select species that are appropriate for your intended growing location.

Two of our most popular native ferns, cinnamon fern (Osmunda cinnamomea) and royal fern (Osmunda regalis), require consistently damp, acidic, “humus-y” soil, and mixed sun and shade. If you have a nice wetland area on your property, these ferns would be good choices for that spot. While lacy-looking maidenhair fern (Adiantum pedatum) prefers humus-rich moist neutral soil, it will tolerate periods of dryness. It grows best in partial to full shade. A damp woodland garden would be an appropriate home for this fern. Its delicate shape makes it a fine partner for woodland violets such as Canada violet (Viola canadensis).

Both interrupted fern (Osmunda claytonia) and Christmas fern (Polystichum acrostichoides) thrive in moist well-drained humus that is neutral to acidic in an area of light to full shade, but will tolerate deep shade and dry soil. If your conditions vary throughout the year, these ferns would be a good choice for you. A fern that is intolerant of high temperatures and dry, windy conditions is oak fern (Gymnocarpium dryopteris). It’s very important that this fern be planted in partial to full shade in moist, acidic soil. Because of its low-growing habit, oak fern is a perfect complementary ground cover for other woodland plants. A popular wetland fern is sensitive fern (Onoclea sensibilis). While this fern prefers moist to wet neutral to acidic conditions, it will thrive equally well in sun or shade. It’s at its showiest when combined with other wetland plants, including blue flag iris (Iris versicolor) and turtlehead (Chelone glabra). Its separate spore producing fertile fronds persist throughout the winter, adding seasonal interest to the landscape.

These are merely a few examples of Michigan’s stunning native ferns. For more thorough descriptions, and photographs of the species, I encourage you to access—whether by purchasing, or by checking with the Munising Public Library—one or two of the great books available on the topic. I recommend the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Series: Ferns: Wild Things Make a Comeback in the Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, Inc., 1984, edited by well-known writer and garden designer, C. Colston Burrell (see the book review by Marji Fuller on page 9 in this issue). This is a perfect opportunity for me to mention that Mr. Burrell will be the Keynote Speaker at WAM’s 2005 Wildflower Conference in March, and one of his presentations will be about cultivating ferns! Within this compact book, you’ll find information on all things “ferny,” including cultivation and what ferns grow best where. Another helpful book is Ferns To Know and Grow by F. Gordon Foster, Timber Press, 1984, which includes sections on propagation and garden design using ferns.

And where can you find ferns? I’m glad you asked that question.... Two of WAM’s business members just happen to sell Michigan’s native ferns! They are Cheryl Smith Tolley, of Sandhill Farms in Rockford, and Laura Leibler, who recently opened Sorus Plants, LLC, in Ann Arbor. Both businesses can provide you with hardy ferns that are adapted to Michigan’s northern climate, and they can advise you on the appropriate choices for your project. For more information, or to purchase plants, contact Laura at <info@sorusplants.com>. Her phone number is 734.678.6685. You can reach Cheryl at <cherylt@iserv.net> or 616.691.8214.

Well, Mike, I hope you found this information helpful and encouraging and I wish you good luck with your project!

Kathy Johnson
Association News & Views

President’s Note

It is with mixed emotions that I write this last column as president. I’m looking forward to new traveling adventures with my husband, but I will miss the close contact with WAM and our members. It’s a good thing for organizations when people come and go. The change of leadership brings new ideas and growth.

One of the things I remember best about our late founder, Lou Twardzik, was his desire to partner with like-minded organizations. Whenever we talked about another group, he would always ask how we could contact them to form a partnership or association. That was a great idea because associations help us broaden our knowledge and ability to fulfill our mission.

Proposed WAM and Michigan Wild Ones Partnership

In keeping with Lou’s philosophy, we are forming a committee under the capable guidance of board member, Maryann Whitman, to research the possibility of a partnership with the Michigan chapters of Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes. Many of us already belong to both organizations. Because WAM is a statewide organization without chapters, it is very difficult to find individuals to work on committees because we don’t know many of you personally. Therefore, we have to depend on members to contact us when they are interested in becoming active in WAM. Conversely, Wild Ones is organized along chapter guidelines and has a good grass-roots organization where projects can be taken on by entire chapters. We are looking for members from both organizations to work on this proposal. Contact Maryann Whitman at <maryannwhitman@comcast.net> if you would like to participate in this study.

Lansing Home & Garden Show — WAM Exhibit

For the past few years, WAM has had an exhibit at the Lansing Home and Garden Show. We have been fortunate to have our booth right by the Garden Stage in the MSU Pavilion where we can talk with visitors attending those programs. We also have been fortunate to present programs on native plants and wildflowers on several occasions. This has been a wonderful opportunity to educate the general public about our mission and to help people with their individual questions.

This year’s Lansing Garden Show is March 17-20 at the MSU Pavilion on Farm Lane south of Mt. Hope. This is a great opportunity to educate the general public about our mission and to help people with their individual questions.

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Calendar — Winter/Spring 2005

Hidden Lake Gardens
February 5 – Orchids 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
February 10 – Earth Ponds: Construction and Maintenance 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
February 22 – Ground Work First 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
March 12 – Pruning Fundamentals 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
May 7 – Annual Plant Sale 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information and to register for the classes, e-mail Karen Gentry at <gentry@hlg.msu.edu>, go to the HLG Web site at <www.cpp.msu.edu/hlg/> or call 517.431.2060.

Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District
May 6 and 7 – Annual Tree Sale. Order forms will be mailed out in March. Anyone wishing to receive an order form should contact HKCD at 906.482.0214 or download it from our Web site: <www.hkconserve.com>.

Kalamazoo Nature Center
March 20 and 21 – Spring Native Plant Sale. Friday, March 20 from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact Suzie Knoll at <sknoll@naturecenter.org> or 269.381.1574.

Michigan Botanical Club, Southwestern Ch.
January 17 – 7 p.m. Chris Jackson, manager of Western Michigan University greenhouses, will host a tour of the Finch Plant Science Greenhouse and Hanes Herbarium, on Western’s campus, which contain historical plant specimens collected from Kalamazoo County, southwest Michigan and beyond. Meet at Wood Hall (directions on our Web site).
February 21 – 7 p.m. Ellery Troyer, Andrews University’s Master’s candidate, will share the results of his recent study of plant biodiversity at Fernwood Botanical Gardens and Nature Preserve. His presentation will cover the property history, the presently occurring plant species, and the forest communities. He will also discuss the impact of horticulture, agriculture, and invasive species on the biodiversity of the area.
March 21 – 7 p.m. Bob Pleznak, prairie expert, will help us understand how best to initiate and foster the growth of prairie plants. Bob has extensively studied the remnant prairies of southwest Michigan, and has rescued, planted and restored a number of prairies in the Kalamazoo area. He will describe propagation techniques specific to prairie species—including when and how to gather seed, plant seed, and transplant.
For more information, visit <www.michbotclub.org/chapters/southwestern>.

Michigan Nature Association
February 5 – Field trip to Roach Point, Chippewa Co. Join us on snowshoes for a winter adventure with Woods & Water Ecotours biologist Jessie Hadley. The cost is $25/
REGIONAL REPORTS

We’re hearing from some of you with information you would like to share in Regional Reports and we’d like to get more of you involved! We'd love to hear from your 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 1 — U. P.

Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District — Sue Haralson, Administrator, reports...

Jim Rivard, HKCD forester, is available to provide free on-site consultations with private landowners for forestry and wildlife assistance in Houghton, Keweenaw, Gogebic and Ontonagon counties. This is made possible by a $55,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

In January the HKCD was notified by the Michigan Arbor Day Alliance that it has been awarded a $200 grant through their Mini-Grant program. With our $200 match, the conservation district will be able to purchase books and videos to help establish a natural resource reference library for use by the public and local natural resource professionals.

REGION 2 — NORTHERN L.P.

Missaukee Conservation District —
Sherry Blaszak reports...

A new log cabin raffle was unveiled at the Annual Dinner, held on October 11, 2004. We are raffling off a newly-built log cabin on 3.5 acres, located at 7380 S. Forward Road, McBain (1/4 to 1/2 mile south of Falmouth). With a stove and refrigerator in place, the cabin is ready for occupancy! Tickets are $50 each; we will sell a maximum of 3500. Missaukee Conservation Club has graciously allowed us to be the agent for this raffle, license #78737. Proceeds from the raffle will be used for cost share of reforestation in Missaukee County, and conservation education programs, through the conservation district and the conservation club. The winning ticket will be drawn at the next Annual Dinner, October 17, 2005. For a picture of the cabin, visit our web site at <www.missaukeecd.mi.nacdnet.org>.

REGION 3 — SOUTHWEST

Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy—
Pamela Larson reports...

The Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy will be presenting a Conservation Celebration on Thursday, April 28. This will be part of Kalamazoo Valley Community College’s “Eye on Ethics and Civility” series. Steven Apfelbaum, of Applied Ecological Services and Landkeepers <www.appliedeco.com> in Brodhead, Wisconsin, will speak on the land and stewardship ethic. The celebration will begin with a reception at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Commons at KVCC, Texas Township Campus. The event is free and open to the public. SWMLC is also in the process of organizing details for a workshop/field trip with Apfelbaum on April 29th. Call Pam at 269.324.1600 for more information.

REGION 4 — SOUTHEAST

Michigan Nature Association
Natalie Kent reports...

The Michigan Nature Association’s membership program experienced remarkable growth in 2004, with over 1,000 new members and donors joining us in the effort to protect Michigan’s precious natural areas. This is more than five times as many newcomers as in 2003! The quarterly newsletter is now being sent to over 2,500 households in Michigan, to 42 other states across the U.S., and to Canada and New Zealand. Want to join? Contact MNA executive director, Jeremy Emmi, at <michigannature@michigannature.org>, go to our Web site <www.michigannature.org>, or call 517.655.5655.
HKCD Awarded Three Grants Totaling $451,117
by Sue Haralson, Administrator

On November 23, the Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District (HKCD) was informed that grant dollars to purchase Bete Grise South Areas 1 and 2 had been approved! HKCD, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Keweenaw Land Trust (KLT) and South Shore Association (SSA) all worked in partnership with Dave Kenaga of the Michigan Coastal Management Program to obtain the grants. Bete Grise South Areas 1 and 2 are part of the larger Bete Grise Wetlands Project, which TNC and the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) long ago identified as a top priority for site protection.

The funding source for Bete Grise South Areas 1 and 2 is the Great Lakes Coastal Restoration Grant, provided through the Michigan Coastal Management Program, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Both grant parcels are comprised of dune and swale marshes and mature mixed conifer upland forests located in Grant Township, Keweenaw County, near Lac La Belle. The Bete Grise wetlands are an excellent example of an estuarine Great Lakes coastal plain wetland community. This area is ranked “A” by the MNFI and has diverse flora and fauna, including prime nesting habitat for various migratory waterfowl, migratory neotropical song birds, eagles, and four species of threatened and endangered plants.

The goal is to acquire, protect, and manage Bete Grise Areas 1 and 2 in their primarily unspoiled and undeveloped condition for perpetuity, and also to provide organized, non-motorized public access to the Bete Grise Wetlands, a large Great Lakes coastal plain area, the Lake Superior shoreline and adjacent shorelines.

Bete Grise South Area 1 consists of 633.7 acres (537.7 acres of wetland and 76 acres of upland) and 2,625 feet of Lake Superior frontage. The grant award for this parcel is $300,000, with a local match of $95,250 provided by The Nature Conservancy.

Bete Grise South Area 2 consists of 411.8 acres (361.8 acres of wetland and 50 acres of upland) and 1,400 feet of Lake Superior frontage. The grant award for Area 2 is $146,617, with a local match of $159,183 provided by The Nature Conservancy.

A third grant of $4,500 is for the preparation of the conservation easement that will be held by the Keweenaw Land Trust.

The deed to Bete Grise Wetlands Areas 1 and 2 will be held by HKCD with a permanent conservation easement held by Keweenaw Land Trust. Areas 1 and 2 will be permanently preserved in their natural state, and will be available to the public for noninvasive recreation, research, and education. These grants, along with the recently awarded National Coastal Wetland Conservation grant, will help preserve over 1,800 contiguous acres of wetland, Lake Superior shoreline and Lac La Belle sloughs.

The groups involved were notified of this grant award just prior to Thanksgiving—what a wonderful Thanksgiving we enjoyed! HKCD sends out a heartfelt “Thank you!” to the hardworking individuals of the Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality, The Nature Conservancy, Keweenaw Land Trust, and the South Shore Association for their belief in and dedication to this important project. Mark your calendars for July 9th, the official dedication day of this breathtakingly beautiful conservation preserve!

For more information regarding these grant projects, contact the Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District at 906.482.0214.

Wildflowers Newsletter
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This Lake Superior beach area will be protected with grant monies.
opportunity for members of WAM, Wild Ones, Master Gardeners, and Master Naturalists, who are looking for volunteer hours, to not only get credit but also get in to see the show free! We are looking for volunteers who can spend at least two hours during the show talking with visitors about native plants and their habitats. There is also an opportunity for one person to coordinate the volunteer work schedule. This would be a good chance for someone who cannot attend the show but would like to volunteer behind the scenes. The coordinator would need to have e-mail and be available by phone to other volunteers. If this describes you, contact Val Reed at <vfrrabbit@aol.com>.

Newsletter/Publications
Speaking of volunteers, I’m looking for someone who is interested in working on the newsletter and other WAM publications, such as the conference registration brochure and program book, with our editor, Kathy Johnson. I’ve promised my husband for too many years that we could go south for the cold months. He has finally called in my promise and, starting right after the conference, we are heading for Texas. That’s not a problem because I can do the spring newsletter in May when we get home, which will make it only a month late. The kicker comes when we leave next year right after Christmas. December, January, and February are the busiest months for getting all the conference preparations written and to the printer in time by conference time.

The following is the annual WAM publication schedule, with the dates items are due at the printer: winter newsletter—Jan. 15, conference program—Feb. 10, spring newsletter—April 1, summer newsletter—July 1, fall newsletter—October 1, conference press release to MSU—Nov. 1, conference registration brochure—Dec. 12. This next year will be a transition year to see if I can still do the actual graphic design/layout work while traveling or if we will need to find someone else to do it.

There is a lot of background work that needs to be done by editorial assistants, such as finding stories, people to do book reviews, writing articles, finding question and answer topics for the newsletters, etc. It would be great to have help assembling the information for the conference registration brochure and program book, such as following up with speakers to make sure they send their titles, program descriptions, and biographies in to us on time.

In an all-volunteer organization like ours, with members spread out all over the state, it is difficult to find and ask individuals for help in person. As much as I would like to know each and everyone of you personally, it’s impossible. The best I can do is let you know through the newsletter and at our annual meeting that we really need your help to keep our organization going. If you have any interest at all in working with publications and/or publicity, please let me, or Kathy Johnson, know. Please don’t be frightened away because you think we might ask you to do too much. We would like to have a publications committee with many members so no one person would be overwhelmed like we are now.

Publicity
Another committee that would work closely with the publications committee is publicity. We need to keep our Web site current and help our Webmaster. There are on-line organizations that will advertise our conference, but we have to send them the information. We are fortunate this year that Nancy Szerlag, Detroit News Garden Writer, is going to devote an entire column to our conference and our keynote speaker, C. Colston Burrell. The publicity committee/chair should handle this type of contact. It was at the Lansing Garden Show last year that I met Nancy at the Garden Stage and told her about our conference and the possibility that Cole Burrell would be our 2005 keynote speaker. She said that at that time if we did get Cole to speak, she would do a story on our WAM conference. Networking is a year-round necessity that will pay off in big dividends if we all keep at it.

2005 Conference
Registration forms went in the mail December 29 to over 1,200 people. This year we are trying a little different format from previous conferences. For the first time, the keynote address will be given on Monday during the regular morning sessions. Our presenter will be C. Colston Burrell, a garden designer, photographer, naturalist, award-winning author, and internationally noted speaker. His talk on Sunday is Ferns: Wild Things Make a Comeback in the Garden. Monday he will present the keynote address—Native Plants and Ecological Design: Myths and Realities. Native plants are currently the height of fashion. Gardeners, restorationists and landscape architects are planting natives, but do we really know what is native, and where? When we plant a floodplain species in an upland, are we gardening ecologically? Are cultivars native? These are a few of the questions Mr. Burrell will explore as he examines the current popularity of landscaping with native plants from an ecological perspective. He will focus on the possibilities, techniques and issues behind ecologically based sustainable landscape design using native plant communities and regionally native species as the basis for creating gardens and restorations.

We have a great lineup for the conference this year and I’m looking forward to seeing you there! Our organization is at another crossroads. We will be electing two new members to the board of directors (their biographies follow), and all but
Association News & Views

one of the officers will change. Cheryl Tolley is president-elect and I wish her and all the board great success. In order to keep our organization strong and growing, we need more members to step up and take a more active part. Please take some time to think about what you can do to keep WAM moving forward as an educational organization. And please attend the annual meeting on Sunday afternoon and speak up when we ask if there is anyone who will help! Marji Fuller

Board Candidate Biographies

Jean Weirich
Jean Weirich has been a business teacher and educational/career counselor for over 30 years, and is currently employed by the Eaton Intermediate School District as the career placement counselor. A longtime interest in the environment led Jean to learn more about native plantings. As a result of this interest, in 1998 she turned her farm’s traditional crop production into a native prairie grass seed production business called Gaia Grass. The farm is located in Grand Ledge. Jean has recently been elected a member of Michigan Native Plant Producers Association.

Susan Baldyga-Grubb
Susan Baldyga-Grubb, a self-taught organic gardener, holds an associate’s degree in Applied Science from Macomb County Community College, and is currently working on her bachelor’s degree in Horticulture at Michigan State University. She has been a Master Gardener for 24 years. Susan works part-time at the Michigan Wildflower Farm in Portland, a job she’s held since finishing an internship there five years ago. She and her husband, who have three children, reside in Portland.

Maryann Whitman
Maryann Whitman has been a WAM member since 1997 and has served on the board of directors since 2000. For the past five years she has been responsible for the Wild Ones Book Sales booth at the annual Michigan Wildflower Conference. Maryann also serves as national vice president on the board of Wild Ones: Native Plants; Natural Landscapes, and is the editor-in-chief of the Wild Ones Journal. She is active as a steward in Oakland County, Oakland Township, where she lives, and recently was elected to the township’s Parks and Recreation Commission. For the past four years, Maryann has represented her township as a commissioner on the Paint Creek Trailways Commission.

Maryann and her husband, Doug, live on property that has a wetland, woodlands, and a dry open upland. Her stewardship, education, and preservation activities have introduced her to a broad variety of ecosystems about which she has educated herself.

Winter/Spring Calendar

continued from Page 3, Column 2

person. Registration is required by January 14. Call the office for more details.

March 29 – Food Workday at Dowagiac Woods, Cass Co. Leader: Natalie Kent. Help pull garlic mustard from the sanctuary and provide nutritious food for people in Michigan! (See Regional Reports on page 4 for more info.)

March 30 – Food Workday at Lefglen, Jackson Co. Leader: Natalie Kent. Help pull garlic mustard!

April 4 – Food Workday at Timberland Swamp, Oakland Co. Help pull garlic mustard!

April 6 – Food Workday at Hamilton Coastal Plain, Van Buren Co. Help pull garlic mustard!

April 6 – Food Workday at White Pigeon, St. Joseph Co. Help pull garlic mustard!

April 7 – Food Workday at Lefglen, Jackson Co. Help pull garlic mustard!

April 9 – “Eat the Invasive” Benefit Dinner! Time and place to be announced (southern Lower Peninsula). Come support MNA as we experiment with a new way of eradicating garlic mustard—by EATING IT! Foods prepared for the dinner will use garlic mustard in the ingredients. Call for more information.

April 12 – Food Workday Trillium Ravine, Berrien Co. Come help pull garlic mustard!

April 16 – 2005 Members Meeting 1 p.m. Location in the Lansing area to be announced.

April 30 – Fieldtrip 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Workday 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm at Black River, Van Buren Co. See the largest heron rookery in southwest Michigan along with a beautiful display of wildflowers with guide Carl Bouton. After lunch, help us with a garlic mustard pull.

May 7 – Fieldtrip 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; Workday 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Dowagiac Woods, Cass Co. Trip Leader: Dave Ewert, Director of Conservation Science, Great Lakes Program of The Nature Conservancy; and Ann Biek, Sanctuary Steward. Dave Ewert, one of the most knowledgeable birders in the Midwest will be helping us look for migrating warblers. Ann Biek, Sanctuary Steward, will help us identify the abundant spring wildflowers. After lunch, help us pull garlic mustard.

Please See “Winter/Spring Calendar” on Page 11
have been able to get WAM off the ground. I will greatly miss Lou, his warm smile, energy and enthusiasm.” He remained an ardent supporter of WAM until his death, currently making plans to attend the 2005 Wildflower Conference in March.

Lou was born on May 1, 1925 in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania. He earned his B.S. degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1948, and his M.S. and director's degrees in Park and Recreation Resources from Indiana University in 1950. Lou completed additional graduate work in Political Science at Wayne State and Michigan State universities. He also served in the Marine Corps in World War II, and in the Korea Conflict.

Lou’s career began with the State of Tennessee, where he was Director of State Parks. He came to Michigan in 1960 when he accepted a position as an assistant professor and extension specialist in the Department of Resource Development at MSU. He was appointed Professor and Chairman of the Department of Parks and Recreation Resources, a position he held until 1982. As a senior professor, Lou served as a teacher and advisor to students majoring in Park and Recreation Resources, and as Park Recreation Specialist for the Cooperative Extension Service. After retiring in 1991, he continued to work as a full time volunteer for MSU as Professor Emeritus; as the director of several statewide, national, and international projects; and as a lecturer for undergraduate and graduate level classes. Lou received many awards throughout his career, authored numerous publications, and held more than 150 appointed and elected offices in state, national and international professional societies and associations. Following his retirement, the Department of Park and Recreation Resources of MSU honored Lou by creating the Louis F. Twardzik Distinguished Alumni Award, which is bestowed annually. Throughout his life, Lou always remained focused on his family, his faith, and his commitment to education.

“The Wildflower Association of Michigan and all of Michigan’s wildflowers lost a dedicated advocate with Lou’s death,” offers Cheryl Smith Tolley, WAM’s 1st Vice President. The association as we know it would not exist if it had not been for Lou. We enjoy the annual conference at the Kellogg Center with reasonable registration fees because of Lou’s connection to MSU. When WAM was holding the fine art competition, it was Lou who packed up the art and carried it all over Lansing for exhibits. He was always ready to help the association in any way. On many occasions he would appear the evening before the conference to help stuff packets or check on room arrangements. The library in East Lansing was a favorite place of his; he took some of us there once to show us the wildflower garden he had helped create. All who knew him will miss Lou’s great smile and encouraging words.”

Says Larry Hill, president of WAM from 1996 to 1998, “One of Lou’s most obvious characteristics was his enjoyment of people. He had a unique talent for pulling people with common interests and knowledge into useful groups or societies that served to make our human experience more rewarding. He saw wildflowers, attractive roadsides, a well-maintained infrastructure, tourist facilities and environmental concerns as important parts of the universe. There was a new focus on wildflowers in the mid-eighties. It was time to bring interested parties together, and Lou did just that.”

WAM president, Marji Fuller, shares her memories . . . “Lou always had a big smile for everyone, and was so pleased with anything we did to move the association forward. I deeply appreciated that, in his capacity as a past president of WAM, he regularly would send me information about other organizations he thought we might partner with, or projects he felt were compatible with WAM’s purpose. My file is full of his suggestions. He never forgot about us. I’ll miss Lou dearly.”

To honor Lou’s memory and to recognize his dedication to the natural world, WAM has established the Lou Twardzik Memorial Library Fund at the East Lansing Public Library, one of Lou’s favorite places. WAM board member, Maryann Whitman, is compiling a list of books about native Michigan wildflowers, trees and shrubs, from which the WAM board will make final selections. All donations will help with the purchase of these books. To contribute to the fund, make your check payable to WAM, with a notation that it is for the “Twardzik Memorial Fund.” This tax-deductible donation should be mailed to Marilyn Case, Treasurer, Wildflower Association of Michigan, 15232 24 Mile Road, Albion, MI 49224-9562. You will receive an acknowledgement of your gift, and the library will be provided with a complete list of donors. The books will formally be presented to the library at the 2005 Wildflower Conference.

Lou was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Marie, in 2001. He is survived by two daughters, Catherine (Dr. Tim) and Karen (Robert) Pemberton.
Book Review by Marji Fuller

FERNS: WILD THINGS MAKE A COMEBACK IN THE GARDEN

C. Colston Burrell, Guest Editor
Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, 1994

This is just the handiest little book—tiny enough to tuck into a bag for a trip to the grower or into a backpack for a hike in the woods. I ordered this book because Colston Burrell was involved in it. Having read it, I highly recommend it for all gardeners and naturalists who want a better understanding of our native ferns.

This little volume has more packed into its 112 pages than many books twice the size. It is written to cover all eight regions of our country, including California/Coastal Areas and Subtropical Florida. Of the 26 ferns listed here, I was surprised to find that 19 of the species are native to Michigan. (My reference was the Floristic Quality Assessment List for the State of Michigan, published by the DNR.)

Before I even opened the book, the note on the back cover intrigued me. It read “Ferns impart a calm grace to gardens that no other group of plants offers. The first fiddleheads of spring unfurl a world of green as diverse and intricate as any meticulously orchestrated flower border.

Unlike many of the flowering plants, ferns have not been hybridized for garden conditions. They are essentially wildlings—precisely the kind of plants we need to invite into our gardens in a world in which wilderness is disappearing.” And then it goes on to list what’s inside—“Detailed descriptions and spectacular color photographs of scores of ferns for the home garden; recommended ferns for every region; tips from America’s top experts on growing ferns; special chapters on designing your garden with ferns, propagating ferns, and growing ferns in containers; easy-to-understand descriptions of fern parts; and rock ferns, woodland ferns, new and unusual ferns, and more.”

Right off, we learn what makes a fern a fern. The detailed diagrams of fern parts, frond shapes, and the fern life cycle, give clear meaning to the specialized terms used to describe ferns. When it came to the section on growing ferns from spores, my mind recalled the yearlong project by our editor, Kathy Johnson, who grew northern maidenhair ferns from spores for her article in the July/August 2002 issue of The American Garden magazine. Fearing a lot of technical jargon that I wouldn’t understand and didn’t want to know, I read through the glossary of terms and plunged ahead. It was so interesting and easy to read, that I was finished before I knew it—and I enjoyed it too!

As I’m a neophyte when it comes to ferns, this handbook helped me learn that not all our native ferns like acidic soil—that’s why the maidenhair ferns Kathy gave me didn’t live—they like alkaline soil. The book includes a good list of ferns for beginners, for sun, for deep shade, for wet soils, dry soils, alkaline soils, and for strongly acidic soils. Growing tips, landscaping ideas, and how to grow ferns in containers with tips for potting medium were also helpful.

FERNS definitely gets a thumbs-up from me. It will be for sale at the Wild Ones Book Sales booth at the 2005 Wildflower Conference. Be sure to pick up a copy—and have C. Colston Burrell sign it for you at the Sunday Evening Social!

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parkwenda@ada.mi.us

Ann Arbor Parks Dept, Natural
Areas Preservation Division
Dave Borneman, 1831 Traver Road, Ann
Arbor, MI 48105. Phone: 734.996.3266,
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Creekside Herbs & Art
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E-mail:rgale@mcc.edu, Fax:810-762-0454
For information, go to http://www.mcc.
edu/clubs/gardening/garden_index.shtml

Michigan Meadow Perennials
Natalie Hockamier, 112 College NE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Ph.616.451.2732
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<www.geocities.com/nat7718>

Michigan Wildflower Farm
Esther Durnwald, 11770 Cutler Road,
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<www.nativescape.net>.

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nurture.org

Nest Prairie Perennials
Stephan Knetz, Van Bochove’s Florist
& Greenhouse, 1019 Miller Road,
Kalamazoo, MI 49001. Ph. 800.233.5025
or 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

Oak Prairie Farm
Jim Heinrich, W4 642 Hwy 33, Pard-de-
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PlantWise Native Landscapes
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517.244.1142, E-mail: wildtype@msu.edu.
<www.wildtypeplants.com/>
WAM Mourns Loss of Founder
Continued from Page 1, Column 2

McKenna and Cynthia (Dr. Lee) Lemon, both of East Lansing; three brothers, John Twardzik, Walter (Beth) Twardzik, and Ted (Jean) Twardzik, all of Pennsylvania; and six grandchildren.

The Funeral Mass celebrating Lou’s life was held Monday, January 10, at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in East Lansing, with the Rev. Joseph Krupp officiating. Following the service, the Rite of Committal took place at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Lansing, with military services provided by the United States Marines.

Winter/Spring Calendar
continued from Page 7, Column 2

For all outings, dress in layers, bring water and a lunch, wear sturdy boots and gloves. Please remember to register for these events, and verify your current contact information so we can notify you in the case of a cancellation. Call the office at 517.655.5655 or e-mail Natalie Kent natalie@michigannature.org.

Missaukee Conservation District
April 29 and 30 – Spring Seedling Sale. Deadline for ordering is April 18th. A wide variety of native plants will be offered. Check the Web site at <www.missaukeecd.mi.nacdnet.org> for additional information.

Wild Ones, Kalamazoo Chapter

February 23 - Dennis Woodland, biology professor and a leader of the Michigan Botanical Club, will share his thoughts in the presentation, “Why Do Botanists Make the Naming of Plants So Difficult for the Average Person?” This will not exactly be, “Plant Taxonomy for Dummies,” but Dennis will give us lively, illustrated tips on how to solve the “puzzles” of taxonomy.

March 23 - Jeremy Emmi, Executive Director of the Michigan Nature Association, will tell us about the work of MNA and provide us with an illustrated overview of the wonderful preserves maintained by MNA in the southwest Michigan area. Copies of the beautiful book on MNA and its preserves will be available for purchase at the program.

May 18 - Visit Mary Ann’s Michigan Trees and Shrubs near Paw Paw. This native tree and shrub nursery was established two years ago by this chapter’s vice president and programs chairperson, Mary Ann Menck. Mary Ann has an ever-expanding stock of natives, lots of info to share, and an interesting location.

For additional information, contact Tom and Nancy Small at <yard2prairy@aol.cm>.

Wild/flower Association of Michigan
A nonprofit organization founded in 1980, Lansing, Michigan

Membership Form:

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Web site ____________________________________________________________

Please make check or money order payable to WAM and mail with this form to:
Wildflower Association of Michigan
c/o Marilyn Case
15232 24 Mile Road, Albion, MI 49224-9562

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The quarterly meetings of the Board of Directors are usually in April, July, October, and January* at 9:30 A.M., Hancock Turf Center (Farm Lane and Mt. Hope), Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. Members are always welcome.

*Contact Secretary, Jewel Richardson <Jewel@wetland-nursery.com> for specific dates.
Your WAM membership expires on the date above your name. This is the only notice you will receive. IF IT’S TIME, PLEASE RENEW.

2005 Michigan Wildflower Conference and Educators’ Workshop

What Nature Has to Offer: Be Inspired!

March 6-7, Kellogg Center, MSU

C. Colston Burrell — Keynote Speaker
Craig Tufts, National Wildlife Federation
Cheryl Lowe, New England Wild Flower Society
Frederick W. Case, Jr.,
T. Lawrence Mellichamp, Ph.D.,
Ray Adams.
Glen Pelgrem, Kim Smith, and Kimberli Bindschatel

Mark your calendar and join us for an exceptional wildflower conference!

If you can’t beat ’em, join ’em

Innovative Garlic Mustard Project Planned by Michigan Nature Association

Recognizing that garlic mustard (Alliaria officinalis) is an invasive species that is steadily devastating our natural areas around the state, the Michigan Nature Association has once again scheduled several workdays this spring where volunteers can gather to remove these plants from our sanctuaries. While the pulled plants are normally disposed of in garbage bags destined for landfills in order to prevent the uprooted plants from maturing on the sanctuaries, many of our garlic mustard plants are actually going to have a positive influence on Michigan this year!

Inspired by an innovative idea proposed by our staff member Natalie Kent, MNA is going to take advantage of an extremely significant, but often overlooked, quality of garlic mustard: It is edible and actually quite tasty in cooked dishes or used raw in salads! In addition to planning a benefit dinner for MNA with garlic mustard courses, MNA is going to try and turn this environmental destroyer into a social provider, as one solution to two very different challenges. We are teaming up with statewide regional food banks that distribute to over 2,700 local charities that help feed our hungry in Michigan. Each workday you see listed mentioned as a Food Workday in this newsletter’s Calendar column, means that the garlic mustard picked that morning is going to be taken to one of the regional food bank centers for processing and distribution.

Please sign up to join us for these unique workday opportunities where your actions will make a direct impact socially and environmentally! For more information or to become involved with other aspects of this project, please contact our office at 517.655.5655 or e-mail Natalie Kent <natalie@michigannature.org>.