It's only two days before Thanksgiving as I write this and I hope, on behalf of the WAM Board, that all of our members had a very Happy Thanksgiving and wonderful holiday season. We do have a lot to be thankful for here in the Great Lake state as I know you all realize. Our flora and fauna is beautiful and diverse, and our water resources populate our landscape with sparkling vistas unlike anywhere else on earth. Though many of our citizens are unemployed, our economic outlook is slowly improving. And best of all...in 2012 your Wildflower Association will celebrate its 25th anniversary!

The book is for everyone," says Tom, "who wants to know more about making a difference—a difference they can see—in the struggle to preserve and restore the wonderful diversity of plant and animal species so stressed and threatened by industrial agri-
Kim Painter wrote an intriguing column entitled “5 Ways: To Get the Kids Outside in Autumn” for the October 5th USA Today. Since plagiarism is the sincerest form of flattery I have borrowed her titles and applied it to winter. Her original column can be found on the web at yourlife.USAToday.com.

1. Adapt homework to what is going on outside by being outside. Math problems – use snowflakes or snowballs!

2. Track the seasons (original K. Painter). One day each week go to the same spot and photograph, or pad and pencil and record the changes. Watch the buds on trees swell, or shrink in fiercely cold weather. Note the presence or absence of birds at feeders. Discover mouse tunnels in the snow.

3. Freeze water into weird forms or color snow with sprayed food coloring and build a “?”! The more creative the better!

4. Embrace the night (original K. Painter). Those crisply clean cold winter nights are perfect for star gazing, sledding with light stick illumination, or snow monsters that building will amuse the neighborhood in the daytime (ala Calvin and Hobbs!).

5. Lead the way (original K. Painter). Pull on those boots, gloves, hats, etc and march out the door with a challenge for the kids. “Who wants to build a snow fort?” “Anyone want to beat me in a sledding race?” “I need some soccer (or football or baseball or?) players.” Don’t forget ‘snow cones’ aren’t just for summer! And winter bouquets can be very charming!

Order your 2012 WAM Conference T-Shirts now!!

*These 25th Anniversary shirts are sure to become a collector item. T-Shirt only available by pre-order with pick up at the conference. Please order with your conference registration. $15/shirt*

*If you are not able to attend, but would like to order a shirt, use the registration form to order and add $5 for shipping and handling*
Who Am I?  By Mike Saint

Think of yourself as a Bumblebee. Your short choppy wings beating at an amazing two hundred eighty strokes per second. As you fly above the plants in your garden, your two large compound eyes enhanced by three simple ocellar organs detect the conspicuously developed UV patterns on the florets of this native plant. Your three primitive eyes centered in the middle of your head lock onto the glowing signal of this spectacular plants guidance system as ultra violet patterns, guide you effortlessly into its cone shaped nectar station.

Open up your imagination and let your senses become one with the _______. You have a long proud history of colonizing America. Your strong roots greeted the pilgrims, as they landed on Plymouth Rock. Tolerant of drought, poor soil, winter conditions, disease, and insects, your strong stems are hairy, upright, and highly branched. Your alternate leaves are parallel, shallow, veined, and covered in rigid hair. Incorporated in your DNA, ultra violet honey conductors create enzymes that formulate UV - absorbing flavonols1 in your petals. Slowly as your flower begins to develop a Bull’s eye pattern appears in these early stages of development. A ring of green petals uncover the bud as you create a supportive backdrop for the golden drenched petals that encircle your silken purplish-black fringed button. Generously you offer up your halo of golden pollen to all who wish to partake. The cycle of life begins in your garden. See Page 4 for answer.

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