



Art & Linda's Wildflowers

Spring, 2010
Special Awards Edition!

Art and Linda's honored by The Conservation Foundation



The much-coveted,
Conservation@Home Award



Art, receiving the Conservation@Home Award

The photo, (above, right) shows Art receiving the first annual Conservation Foundation's "**Conservation@Home Award**" during the Fall Membership and Awards Luncheon, November 4, 2009. The event took place at Fisherman's Inn Banquet Hall in Elburn, IL.

Group picture, (above right, from left to right): Alex Ragland (Designer, *Art and Linda's*), Brook McDonald (President/CEO, Conservation Foundation), Art Gara and Jim Kleinwachter (Land Preservation Specialist, Conservation Foundation).

(Above, left) Art was honored for "his outstanding efforts to support and further the mission of The Conservation Foundation and its Conservation@Home program, and to build more eco-friendly landscapes throughout the Chicago region."

"I feel so very grateful to be honored with this award by such a wonderful organization - the Conservation Foundation. Since 1972, they have been purchasing land to preserve it for generations to come. Watersheds, prairies, wetlands and rivers have been saved from extinction and protected *forever*, due to their diligent efforts.

They have reached out to thousands of people and numerous organizations, as well as government bodies, to inspire and educate us on the need to preserve our natural heritage.

They, and all their members, are simply wonderful people. I only wish that my beloved mother and father, Bessie and Herbert, and my brother and sister, Melvin and Fay, would have lived to see this.

For many years Linda and I would take our dogs, King and Luke, for long walks exploring the forest preserves around Chicago and other beautiful areas such as rivers, lakes, beaches, prairies, wetlands, waterfalls and so on in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin. We were awed and inspired by the beauty and intricacy of the natural world.



Conservation@Home and
Art and Linda's yard signs

We wondered if it would be possible to *capture the spirit of the natural world* and transform people's homes and gardens to reflect the beauty we have seen and enjoyed. Art and Linda's Wildflowers was started in 1997 and Yes It Is Possible!"

Visit The Conservation Foundation's website where you can read about their activities and learn how to get your garden certified. www.theconservationfoundation.org

Art and Linda's Invasive Plant Alert



Invasive Species

It is amazing how much destruction (of natural habitats) just a few species of plants and animals can do. Invasive species, species that readily establish themselves in a new habitat and threaten or eliminate the ability for native species to thrive, are generally non-native and have no or few natural predators. Restoring the natural habitats damaged by invasive species costs the U.S. over \$125 billion a year. Many of these species are very difficult to control once they have established themselves.

Why Are Invasive Species a Problem?

Over the last 10,000 years our natural ecosystems have developed a balance through predator and prey interactions. This delicate balance is already threatened by development and outright habitat destruction. Invasive species further disrupt the balance because they do not have natural predators to keep them in check.

Invasive plant species like Buckthorn form dense colonies and shade out native woodland species. Not only does this destroy the under-story plant community, it also causes erosion due to bare soil being exposed.

Aquatic invasive species like the Rusty Crayfish and the Zebra Mussel threaten local populations of native crayfish and mussels by out competing them for food and habitat. Zebra mussels can completely cover a native mussel, using it as substrate, decreasing its ability to eat or move.



Invasive Species threatening Illinois' Native Habitats

Plants

Buck Thorn
Autumn Olive
Bush Honeysuckle
Black Locust
Garlic Mustard
Canada Thistle
Multi Flora Rose
Teasel
Sweet Clover
Reed Canary Grass

Giant Reed
Purple Loosestrife

Animals

Rusty Crayfish
Asiatic Clam
Zebra Mussels
House Sparrow
European Starling

What Can You Do?

- 👉 Learn to identify invasive species on your property.
- 👉 Remove invasive species in your yard and replace with native or non-invasive species.
- 👉 Volunteer at your local natural area to help with the removal of invasive species and the restoration of native habitats.
- 👉 Removing invasive species from our native ecosystems helps to implement the Watershed Plans throughout the region.



For More Information:

The Conservation Foundation:

Conservation @ Home 630-428-4500

www.theconservationfoundation.org/tcf/ch/

Chicago Botanic Garden:

<http://www.chicagobotanic.org/research/conservation/invasive.html>

Illinois Natural History Survey:

<http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/chf/outreach/VMG/VMG.html>



This fact sheet has been provided by The Conservation Foundation, made possible by a grant from The DuPage Community Foundation.

Gardening at Home

NEW!
**Tender Loving Care Club,
(TLCC)**
Our services keep growing!

Have you had it with bagging your leaves in the Fall? Don't miss the article on **page 6** about enrolling in our Tender Loving Care Club which tells you about our improved Fall Stewardship segment. (Also explained below).

First, we cut down most of the garden and rake this material to the edge of the bed. Then we rake up all the leaves from around your house and place them at the edge of the garden bed also. We then pulverize the leaves with a mulching mower and spread them out over your garden along with the plants we have just cut down. This way, we get the leaves and the garden all at the same time. We do not dispose of the leaves but, rather keep them in your garden to act as a perfect mulch!

We tend many gardens so we like to plan ahead for our skillful stewardship program. We make up our visits according to routes or clusters. In this way we can just go from house to house. Our "Routes & Clusters" process makes it possible for us to perform the stewardship on your garden in a timely manner. **Please call early so we can sign you up for the TLCC and put you on our route (or in one of our clusters!)**

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION

Such a deal! Enjoy a 20% discount

Existing customers will save 20% on labor for NEW beds or any additional work we do for your garden. We want our clients to enjoy a good customer discount!

Art and Linda's (708)785-2943



(Above) The Sherman Family of LaGrange, gathered around their newly created rain garden and downspout in Fall, 2009.



(Above) A small path composed of flagstone and pea gravel from the lawn to the patio.



(Above) Our happy customer, Marilyn Potyen and her divining rod in her Glen Ellyn garden in Fall, 2009.

Updates and Resources

Meet Katy Darr, our new ecologist

We are proud to introduce you to our new Ecologist, Katy Darr.

Katy has a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from Northeastern Illinois University and a newly discovered passion for restoring native prairie.

She actually found *us* earlier this year after seeing a garden we had created for one of our Glenview, Illinois, clients. She was so impressed with it that she immediately wrote to Art, wisely praising his work and sharing her enthusiasm about the native ecosystem. In an excerpt from her letter (below), she describes the experience of working at the Air Station Prairie in the Glenview Park District in 2007:

“I had learned a little bit about the prairie in previous classes, and seen a few in the late Fall on field trips, but that year I watched the prairie start flowering as a spark in the Spring and end up as a roaring fire that Fall. I fell in love instantly. I began identifying flowers and grasses, learning hundreds of species of plants, both native and nonnative, woodland, wetland and prairie.” Katy went on to write that since the beginning of her “affair” with the prairie, she felt a need to promote the use of native plants in landscapes.

While working at the Air Station Prairie she explained that she was able to share her enthusiasm with visitors and began to see that others, like her, “...only needed to see it to find beauty in it.” After working at the Air Station Prairie, Katy went on to work in several other natural areas in the village of Glenview and met other well known prairie enthusiasts. Over the summer of 2009 Katy worked as an intern for the Village of Glenview. Here she helped manage the many natural areas of the village.

After receiving her letter, Art contacted her and asked if she would like to meet him at a client's home in Glenview. This “client” happened to be Evelyn Pease Tyner, the very person after which the Air Station Prairie Nature Center in Glenview was named. The meeting was exciting and Mrs. Tyner thoroughly enjoyed sharing her Art and Linda's Wildflower garden with our new ecologist, Katy! We hope that you too have a chance to meet Katy in the upcoming months.



Katy Darr, Fall, 2009



(Above) Bright red seeds of the Jack-in-the-Pulpit (Arisaema triphyllum), in seed during the Fall

NEWS FLASH- *SEE THE EAGLE!*

This January while doing some stewardship work at one of our clients homes on the Fox River, a Bald Eagle circled above us, displaying his approval of our hard work. To see the eagle, go to our website and click on “Samples of Our Work”. Then go to “Wildlife Habitats” and scroll down until you reach the info on “Yorkville on the Fox River.”

Then, see the eagle at the very end!

Someone You Should Know...

A Parkway Prairie Garden in the City

“The final reward comes in the Fall when I hear the sound of goldfinches and enjoy the sight of butterflies going back and forth over my house.” These are only two of the unexpected rewards Shari Pergricht has received for following her vision - (of a prairie garden along the side of her home). On her decade-long journey, Shari has received the compliments and gratitude of her neighbors and eventually, the attention of the Mayor of Chicago, himself.

The dream of creating a wildflower garden began almost 10 years ago, after visiting a friend's garden in St. Louis, who had turned his entire front & back yard into a prairie. Soon after, she found *Art and Linda's Wildflowers* while attending a Farmer's Market in Skokie and she decided it was time to dig in. The first step was to employ *Art and Linda's* expertise to help her create a wildflower garden in her corner parkway. “The entire parkway was a mess, she said, full of weeds and thin areas of grass”. To begin the transformation, *Art and Linda's* tilled the corner parkway and planted beautiful, healthy plants which thrived in the soil and sun along her street.

After tending the parkway garden herself in the second year, she began hearing comments from neighbors like, "I just want you to know that we appreciate the efforts you have done to beautify this site". The following year, she began incorporating native plants in her own backyard, as well.



Shari Pergricht receiving her award from Mayor Daley, 9-11-09

After two years, the full length of Shari's parkway was full of thriving, native plants.

Last Spring she saw a flyer at her library. It announced the Mayor's Annual Landscape Awards, to be given to exemplary gardens within the city limits. The application simply asked for a few photos along with a brief description of the garden. In October of 2009, she received a phone call, congratulating her on being awarded the prize of 2nd place in the category of native landscaping. The award ceremony was held in early November of 2009 at The Garfield Park Conservatory in Chicago and the awards were handed out by Mayor Daley. Shari noted that many of the accolades were given to gardens associated with museums or schools and other public buildings. As it turned out, hers was the only native landscaping award given for a personal residence in Chicago!

Altogether, there are over 30 different native plants at her site including those of a shade garden on the north side of the house. As for stewardship, Shari asks *Art and Linda's* to come out in the Fall, take her garden down and help thin it out but she still enjoys the activity of tending the gardens herself.

Shari appreciates the acknowledgment of the Mayor's office and hopes that “more people will consider turning their own parkways into native gardens.”



Along Shari's parkway, Summer '09 (Purple Coneflower, Prairie Dock, Blazing Star, etc.)



Mistflower (Eupatorium coelestinum) and Meadow Anemone (Anemone canadensis) Summer - 09



Shari's parkway garden featuring Switch Grass (Panicum virgatum) Fall - 09

Garden Stewardship Program

TENDER LOVING CARE CLUB – (TLCC)

Existing customers will enjoy a TLCC discount of 20% off of our standard labor rate. You pay only \$32 per hour for a helper and \$64 per hour for a designer, (who is rarely if ever needed in stewardship).

SPRING: We begin with a clean up of your garden beds by removing debris and litter. Then we cut down the previous year's dead growth and rake this out of the beds. The next step is to shred this material, (dead plants, leaves, etc.), with a mulching lawnmower and redistribute this newly created mulch back into your beds where it will rapidly decompose and help invigorate the soil. When we have finished, we will clean up the work area.

Additionally, if needed, we will remove Buckthorn, Mulberry, Japanese Honeysuckle, Garlic Mustard, Dandelions and other early weeds, trim your trees and shrubs and edge the garden beds.

SUMMER: We again clean up your garden beds by removing debris and litter. Then we remove or thin out overly aggressive plants. We may also stake up any plants that are leaning. We will weed the beds - either manually or by the selective use of herbicides - and then clean up the work area when finished. Additionally, if needed, we will add pine bark nuggets to the paths, pea gravel to the streambeds and pine bark mulch to the beds. We can also trim the trees and shrubs and edge the garden beds. This is also a good time for us to plant additional flowers and grasses.

FALL: Fall stewardship involves cutting down most of your garden while leaving just a few distinctive plants and grasses up to add texture and interest during the winter months. Some of these plants include Compass Plant, Prairie Dock and Big Bluestem. The homeowner can easily cut these down in the spring. We can also rake up the fallen leaves from your yard and parkway and shred these along with the plants we have just cut down. This way, we get the leaves and the garden all at the same time. We do not dispose of the leaves but rather, keep them in your garden to act as a perfect mulch. Naturally, the first snow cover pretty well signals the end of our season.

In order to discourage rabbit and deer from eating your garden, we will employ humane and non-toxic animal repellent products and techniques.

Call today (708) 785-2943 and sign up for the TLCC program as soon as possible!



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Art & Linda's Wildflowers

Beautiful Native Wildflower Gardens



*New England Aster
(Aster novae-angliae)*



Nice garden around a sculptured berm in Glenview, IL

How Our Gardens Are Priced

Our gardens are beautiful, exciting and colorful throughout the seasons - yet they are reasonably priced. We will work within your budget, and if necessary, we can spread the project out over several years.

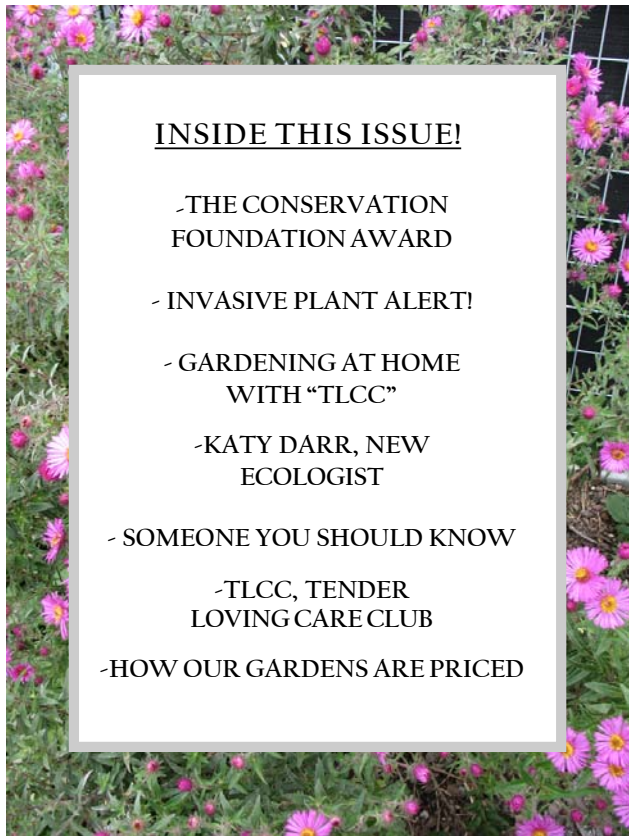
We have an excellent garden maintenance program, the ***Tender Loving Care Club (TLCC)***, which ensures that your garden will be skillfully cared for on a regular basis.

The price of the garden is determined by its size and scope. In the case of certain projects of an undefined nature, we will work on a daily time and materials basis. For instance, you may have a nasty, overgrown, wooded area which we will weed and replant with beautiful native shrubs, flowers, ferns and grasses. Here again, we will work within your budget.

Our gardens are creative and inspiring and you will be very happy with them. An enthusiastic agreement, a small down payment and a signed contract are all that are necessary for us to start. The plants and our work are guaranteed for one year.



*Great Blue Lobelia
(Lobelia siphilitica)*



INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

- THE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION AWARD
- INVASIVE PLANT ALERT!
- GARDENING AT HOME WITH "TLCC"
- KATY DARR, NEW ECOLOGIST
- SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW
- TLCC, TENDER LOVING CARE CLUB
- HOW OUR GARDENS ARE PRICED

To:



Art & Linda's Wildflowers
Capturing the Spirit of the Natural World

*Beautiful Native
Wildflower Gardens*

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