



Art & Linda's Wildflowers

Capturing the Spirit of the Natural World

Fall-Winter 2007

**WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH,
AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!**

Volume I, No.2

Newly Arrived ! Our Signature Yard Sign

Announcing ! The Relentless Care Club



Art and Linda's new sign photographed this summer, among purple prairie clover. Photo: L.Gits/L.Godson

Right now, happy customers are proudly displaying our lovely, aluminum yard sign, designed by nature artist, Lana Gits. The sign is fastened to a slender cedar post and printed in rich, dark brown and fuschia ink. Subtle and artistic, this 6" X 9" sign will look right at home nestled in your natural wildflower garden, Just call us for a free installation at: **(708)785-2943 or visit our website for more details: www.artandlindaswildflowers.com** ❄️

Just what are we relentless about? We are relentless about caring for your garden all year 'round! We really want you to have the happiest and healthiest environment for your garden in all seasons. So, we're offering you an opportunity to go beyond the "Early Bird Special" to The "Relentless Care Club". With this new initiative, we will visit your garden - not only in the spring - but every month to six weeks or so, throughout the entire year. You don't even need to make an appointment. Just prior to or right after our visit, we will contact you, to advise you. Then, during the visit we will see if your garden is in need of work, if it is, we'll just do it, instead of waiting for problems to get out of hand. ❄️

Relentless Care Club Benefits:

- . **Includes all services in Early Bird Special**
- . **Enjoy a 10% discount on all labor**
- . **Falling or leaning plants staked**
- . **Plants added, removed or divided to look their *best***
- . **Mulching, Weeding & Trimming**

Please call us for more information about joining **The Relentless Care Club** at **(708) 785-2943** or visit our website at: **artandlindaswildflowers.com**

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In Loving Memory of Karen Green

A Great Garden Begins with A Great Conversation!



Karen at her computers in 2006 - a Mac and a PC. photo: Allen Green

by Art Gara

This August, I not only lost a wonderful “web mistress”, I lost a good friend when Karen Green passed away very suddenly. Karen had been working with me since 1997 on the creation of *Art and Linda’s* lovely and useful website. She was a source of support and inspiration on countless occasions. Thanks to her, our business was able to reach a larger audience and respond to the many questions from all over regarding the use of native plants in home gardening.

In 1997, I knew, (and still know), nothing about computers, but did know that I had to have a website with e-mail contact for my business. Karen was just getting started in website creation. She was an artist with a good eye for design as well as being a writer by instinct and training and willing to help. I bought her a fax machine and she did the rest - taking off from there by daily increasing her computer skills in programs that were very complex. Her husband, Allen, told me that Karen also worked with “WITI” - Women in Technology International, (this is an organization that helps women advance by providing access and support from other professional women working in technology). This too, gave her a boost and very soon she had expanded her business purely by word of mouth. By the time she passed away, she had 30-40 clients and in each of these she took a personal interest. This made working with her very comfortable and easy. A self-starter, and extremely conscientious, she was always on top of every assignment. Her commitment to work and family was only part of her sense of dedication. She was also involved in issues beyond (continued on page 3)

This was a great year for *Art and Linda’s*. We thoroughly enjoyed talking with you, our customers, about your plans and ideas. We also noticed something..- that a great garden usually began early on with a great conversation.

The decision to create a wildflower garden is a creative one and while you have the enthusiasm, interest and the time, it’s exciting to talk about your vision. So, tell us about your “dream” garden. What does it look like? Do you see places for meditation, features, rain gardens, birdbaths and feeders? Maybe you really want your garden to provide you with some privacy as well as natural beauty? Perhaps you have a special love for birds and want to consider plants that would attract them. AND, if you’re confused or stumped or just don’t know what you want - we’ll talk about that and find ways to bring you on board, based on our many years of experience. So, give us a call at (708)785-2943 or visit our site: artandlindaswildflowers.com, and let’s have a great garden conversation soon! No need to wait ‘till spring. ✨

Art and Linda’s in the News

Art and Linda’s wins landscape competition for “The Met”

Art and Linda’s recently won a competition to landscape the Chicago Metropolitan Apostolic Community Church in Chicago. This magnificent structure (sometimes referred to as “The Met”) will be undergoing restoration on 41st and Martin Luther King Drive.

In a meeting held in early September of 2001, six persons came together and declared themselves the "Coalition to Save the Met." Re-christened as the Metropolitan Apostolic Community Church, "the Met" is currently undergoing an extensive restoration. Through their struggle to save this historic church, the members of the Coalition to Save the Met have themselves made history. If any one would like to visit or consider making a donation you are invited to contact Janice Sidney at The Metropolitan Apostolic Community Church, 4100 S. King Drive Chicago, Illinois Phone: (773) 924.1601 ✨

Native Gardening at Home

Enjoy Your Garden in Winter



"Prairie Dock in the Snow" by Larry Godson

Essentially, to enjoy your garden in winter, don't cut it down! Leaving the tall stalks, stems, seeds and branches of this summer's growth will enhance your winter garden in many ways. The seeds and branches invite woodpeckers, cardinals and other birds that overwinter, providing them with a place to rest and seeds to eat. It becomes a sort of natural "birdfeeder" while the graceful stalks and stems with their interesting textures and different dried leaves also present a visual of their own. Also, these many dried plants will eventually decompose forming rich compost for the next year's growing season. ❁

In Loving Memory of Karen...

(Continued from page 2)

the cares of everyday life. Karen also had a love of nature. Volunteering at Thatcher Woods and Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve in Westchester, was one of her hobbies as well as being involved with the Oak Park Garden Club. In addition, Karen had a strong sense of justice and was committed to civil rights and working with The League of Women Voters. Karen is survived by her husband, Allen Green and her two children, Nathan, 16 and Ilana, 21, who graciously provided me with the lovely photograph of Karen at the beginning of this article...

and details about Karen's life which exemplify the worthwhile and interesting person she was. In her memory, Allen Green is helping to purchase books at the Dole Library - (a branch of the Oak Park Library). Subjects for these books will include: gardening, civil rights, and information on The League of Women Voters. ❁

Go Ahead, Start Something!

Recently, we heard from a client that something interesting had taken place after the **Conservation@Home** sign had been put up in her *Art and Linda's* wildflower garden. It started with her neighbors, friends and even the passers - by who saw this small but impressive little yard plaque and just couldn't help commenting on it. She said it definitely sparked curiosity, started conversations, and finally gave her the chance to be the expert as well as learn from others. Here's how you can find out more about this program and take place in the important business of save our natural resources.

The "Conservation@Home" Program for your *Art and Linda's Wildflower* garden involves a brief application, which we will give you, with a short questionnaire concerning your garden. This may qualify you to receive the special yard sign which is pictured below, (shown above the *Art and Linda's* sign). This plaque recognizes your efforts to protect and/or create yards that are nature-friendly and conserve water. Sample questions on the checklist include: Do you have native plants which are incorporated into existing flower beds, downspouts directed to vegetated areas, compost bins for yard waste or bird feeders and bird baths to attract and nurture local wildlife? The Conservation Foundation is a nonprofit organization, dedicated to preserving natural areas, restoring the water quality and promoting environmental activities in DuPage, Kane, Kendall and Will Counties Illinois. ❁



Why not double up?

NOTE: *Art and Linda's Wildflowers* can certify any of our own gardens. Please contact us at (708)785-2943, or visit our web site for more info: www.artandlindaswildflowers.com ❁



Art & Linda's Support the Arts

Introducing three local artists you should know

Lana Gits, *The Prairie Arts*



Lana Gits drawing at the prairie by L. Godson

After volunteering at Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve in the early 90's, Lana Gits, owner of *The Prairie Arts*, learned what was really meant by the word, "prairie". True prairie is not just "any open field" nor are Oak savannas just any old wooded area". In fact, these were places like no other - original and ancient, and definitely part of our own Midwestern heritage.

This knowledge created a lasting impression and she admits that she easily gave in to "prairie fever". Lana has since devoted much of her work to creating and using images of the native landscape. A card and stationery line was the result which you can see at her website. www.theprairiearts.com The Morton Arboretum Store in Lisle and Vaughan's Nursery in Western Springs also carry her line. (One of her Holiday cards is among the free samples in our newsletter.) In addition to the retail line, Lana also applies her Fine Art training to corporate imagery. In fact, she has just redesigned our logo, business card, brochure and newsletter as well as our own greeting card. Lana says, "I enjoy helping companies create designs that resonate strongly with their own values - and of which they can be proud." See her design and card line at her website or contact her directly for corporate imagery, newsletters, or for other design services at: **The Prairie Arts: www.theprairiearts.com e-mail: theprairiearts@gmail.com Phone (630) 887-8375**



Above; Drawing of Burr Oak Leaves and Acorns for "Care of Trees" corporate card.

Larry Godson, *Godson Photography*

Larry Godson became active in prairie restoration in the early 1970s when a tract of land near his home in Westchester was discovered to contain many native prairie plants. Soon after, he joined a small group of other activists who had just formed "Save the Prairie Society" which manages the prairie to this day. In addition to his 20 year dedication as site steward at the preserve, Larry is a photographer, specializing in small product and nature photography as well as

photographic restoration. He also conducts classes in digital photography at the Oak Park Conservatory and co-teaches a program called "Junior Naturalists" with Jim Hodapp. Larry frequently combines his talent with that of Lana Gits. Together they have created special black and white photo-imagery called



Larry Godson, by Jack Shouba

"The Prairie Portraits" scenes of individual native prairie plants, photographed exclusively on site at Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve in Westchester. Prints and cards are available for sale through The Prairie Arts at: www.theprairiearts.com. His wonderful shot of the "Prairie Dock in the Snow," can be seen on page 3 of this newsletter and a free gift card is also enclosed with others in this mailing. In addition, you may wish to contact Larry for beautiful, restored images from your old photos or prints at: (708) 562-3280, or e-mail at lawrencegodson@yahoo.com ✨

Above, top right, "Shooting Star", Center, left, "Prairie Dock" by L. Godson and L. Gits, The Prairie Portraits, card line and limited edition prints.

Artists whose work celebrates the beauty of native prairie and natural landscapes:

Mike MacDonald,
Mike MacDonald Photography

We're turning the tables on Nature Photographer, Mike MacDonald.

In the Fall 2007 issue of Chicago Wilderness Magazine, (page 13 - lower left corner), you will see a picture of a native garden from Mike and Cordula MacDonald's previous home in Brookfield. It was planted by *Art and Linda's Wildflowers*. (In that photo, there are no plants in bloom, but it remains rich in color and texture from the seedpods and foliage.) So now, in OUR newsletter, we'd like to take the opportunity to show off a bit of Mike's garden and to present you with one of Mike's nature art cards as a gift enclosed in this packet.



Mik MacDonald



"River Through Fairyland", Photo & Card, Mike MacDonald

Simply put, photographing the natural beauty of the immediate Chicago area is Mike's passion. Over the years, his photographs have been published, literally, from cover to cover in Chicago Wilderness Magazine. His beautiful images not only tell a story, they evoke emotion. It has been said that his images allow the viewer to enter the scene—to experience the moment with him. Mike enjoys the fact that people often hold onto the cards to remind them of the special wilderness that surrounds them in this urban area. Mike's line of "Heart of Nature Art Cards" demonstrates his passion and attention to detail.



"Survivor" Photo & Card by Mike MacDonald

Each card is printed on premium, acid-free archival card stock using a unique lithographic process that is able to reproduce the rich colors and textures that nature offers. On the back of each card is Mike's full description of the image, which sometimes merges into the poetic. The cards represent all four seasons and, in their native form, are blank on the inside. They can be used as note cards or sent for various occasions throughout the year. The biggest portion of his card business, however, comes from companies who wish to send personalized Holiday, Thanksgiving and Christmas cards to their clients. Mike personalizes each card by custom printing the company's message on the inside, prints the envelopes, and if they wish, will even address and mail the cards. Financial companies, architects, law firms, even midwiferies use his cards to communicate with their clients. Mike expands, "*The companies who use my cards are big on quality and they want to make their clients feel special.*"

In addition to his line of cards, Mike offers a line of limited edition prints and murals that are available on both paper and elegant canvas material. He even offers photography workshops and public speaking programs. To see Mike's lines of cards and prints (and everything else), simply visit his website www.ChicagoNature.com. You may also call him at 630-852-8448 or toll-free 1-877-MAC-FOTO from 9am-5pm. ✨

Updates & Ideas

Webmaster, Jim Arbuthnot



The look of our website has essentially remained the same, while updates and revisions are being added by Mr. Jim Arbuthnot of Glen Ellyn, Illinois. Jim graciously stepped in to help maintain the site this August after Karen Green's sudden passing.

We give him credit for lending a hand at a difficult time and managing to take on secretarial, as well as the many website responsibilities. His valuable services allow us to add new and pertinent information to our on - line presence and to help keep the flow running smoothly. If you have a need for similar services, contact Jim at: 708-715-3710 or: j.arbuthnot@sbcglobal.net ✨

Photos to Share?

Do you have photos for Art and Linda's website that you would like to share with others - especially "before and after" shots? If so, please write or e-mail to us. Your photos will be appreciated by others who visit the site and everyone will benefit! Feel free to contact us at: www.artandlindaswildflowers.com and Jim will put them up or just call: (708)-785-2943 ✨

Art & Linda's

Early Bird Special!

Call by
APRIL 1ST!!
(708) 785-2943

•Cut down old growth
•Remulch & weed the garden

•Learn how to become certified through
The Conservation Foundation's
"Conservation@Home" Program

•Get your Art & Linda's Yard Sign!

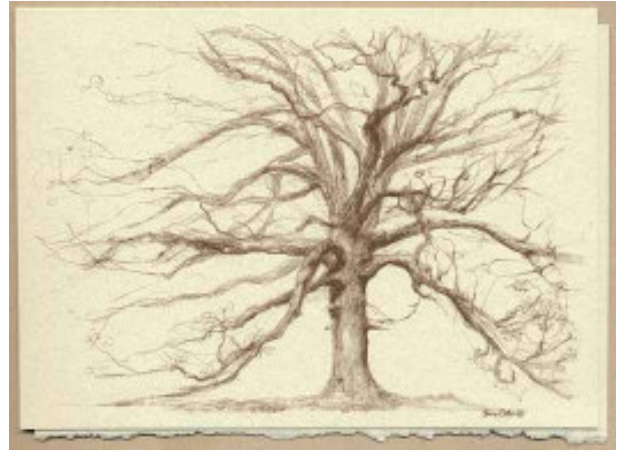
For more info be sure to visit:
artandlindaswildflowers.com
or call: (708) 785-2943



TAKE 10%
OFF LABOR

When You Can't Garden in Winter...

*There are events to attend,
places to visit, books to read and much, more
Here are just a few recommendations:*



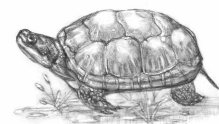
"The Mighty Oak" card. Drawing by Lana Gits

Books: Start dreaming now of planning that native garden in the spring. Here's a new book with beautiful pictures we've just discovered by a Chicagoland gardener named Patricia Hill. The book is called "**Design Your Natural Midwest Garden**".

Websites and Magazines: **Chicago Wilderness Magazine** and their website provide a wealth of local activities. Visit them at: <http://www.chicagowilderness.com>. "*Chicago Wilderness is all around you, in the forest preserves, state parks and other protected natural lands of our region. In fact, wherever you live in northeastern Illinois, southeastern Wisconsin, or northwestern Indiana, you're within twenty minutes of a natural area*". The following is a list of just some of the activities they cover on their website: bird watching, hiking and walking, cross-country skiing, hunting, kid-friendly activities, nature centers, museums, zoos, aquariums and gardens. For a listing of winter field trips please check the back of their magazine.

Illinois Steward Magazine, Chicagoland Gardening Magazine: (Great Calendar of events).

The Nature Conservancy in Illinois has launched a new kind of awareness campaign asking people to initiate various conversations with friends, peers and family members about something very important: Life. Visit their web site, for some starters. Topics include: climate change, economic impact, and habitat preservation. <http://www.startoneconversation.org> ✨



The rare Blanding's Turtle, sketch by L.Gits



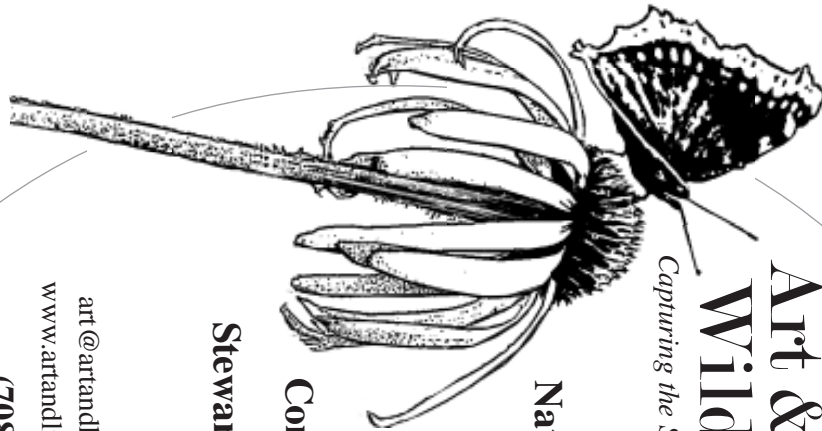
Art & Linda's Wildflowers

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Read about the NEW **RELENTLESS CARE CLUB**

*As a member of the
"Relentless Care Club", we will visit
your garden - not only in the Spring -
but every month to six weeks
throughout the year!
See details inside!*

To our valued customer:



Art & Linda's Wildflowers

Capturing the Spirit of the Natural World

Natural Landscaping

**Wildflower Garden
Design**

Installation

Consultation

Stewardship

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