

Art & Linda's Wildflowers

Spring/Summer 09

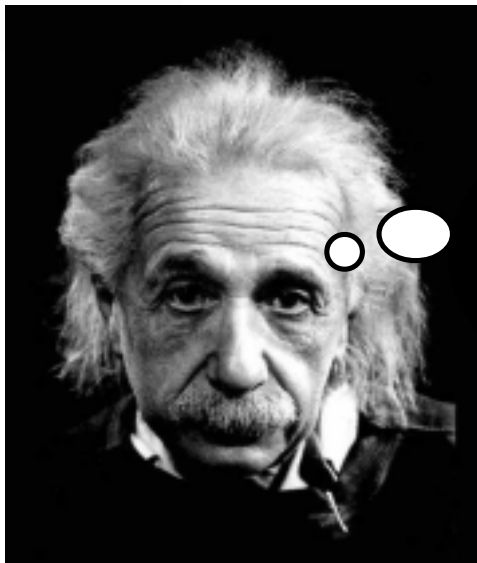


THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE!

Over the past two years we've offered two excellent stewardship services. You are probably familiar with the "Early Bird Special" (EBS), our original service. Many of you have already experienced its benefits. It primarily involved cutting down the garden in Spring, cutting old growth, doing some weeding and trimming and setting the stage for a healthy growing season. Then, we added the "Relentless Care Club" (RCC) which

guaranteed that we would visit your garden occasionally till Fall, pruning, mulching, weeding, dividing and generally watching for overgrowth. We also took care to cut back plants that might be getting too aggressive. Both Stewardship programs involved a 10% discount on services. and together proved very beneficial in maintaining that great garden look! Now, finally, after much deep thought and contemplation, we are combining the EBS with the RCC to create ONE, and only ONE all inclusive, effective and comprehensive program called:

The Tender Loving Care Club (TLCC)



Early Bird Special (EBS)
+ Relentless Care Club (RCC)
= Tender Loving Care Club
(TLCC)!

THE TENDER LOVING CARE CLUB! (TLCC)

They said it couldn't be done, but we did it! Now you don't have to choose between one or the other of our great stewardship programs. One service has it all. Once you sign up for **The TLC Club**, you will receive all the benefits of the other two services and a 20% discount on labor (\$32/hr for workers. Designers time not usually required). We will automatically keep your wildflower garden looking its best by visiting your site, beginning in the Spring and continuing on until Fall. (We may call you when we're in your area, or schedule a time to visit.) This is, finally the way in which you can best enjoy your native wildflower garden all year long! The TLC Club benefits are found to the right. So please call early and sign up for this new, comprehensive and complete garden care service which offers you the maximum value for your Stewardship dollars!

~~ Announcing the many benefits of ~~
The Tender Loving Care Club



NOW! Receive garden care for the entire growing season!

BEGINNING IN SPRING:

- CUT DOWN OLD GROWTH AND REMOVE TO COMPOST BIN OR BAG FOR CITY PICKUP.
- WEED AND REMULCH
- TRIM OR SHAPE SHRUBS
- ADD ART & LINDA'S YARD SIGN
- REMOVE BUCKTHORN
- EXPLAIN HOW TO BECOME CERTIFIED THROUGH THE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

GOING THROUGH TILL FALL!

- STAKE FALLING OR LEANING PLANTS
- ADD, REMOVE OR DIVIDE PLANTS TO LOOK THEIR BEST.
- REMOVE SCHMUTZ AND CLINKERS
- MULCH, WEED AND TRIM
- TAME OVERGROWN OR AGGRESSIVE PLANTS.

*** 20% DISCOUNT ON ALL LABOR FOR TLC CLUB!
(\$32 HR - OUR LOWEST PRICE IN 3 YEARS)**

**CALL US BY APRIL 20TH!
(708) 785-2943**

Art and Linda's Invasive Plant Alert

Here's an aggressive and wide spread pest of a plant that can take over a garden in a summer~!



Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT FROM INVASIVE PLANTS

IDENTIFY

Garlic mustard starts growing earlier in the season than our native plants. It spreads rapidly in shady or wooded areas, forming tall, dense stands that smother native wildflowers. Garlic mustard is a biennial plant with a two-year life cycle. The first year it forms a rosette of round, scalloped-margined leaves that reach a height of 2 – 6 inches and stay semi-evergreen through winter . The first year's growth may be confused with violets and ground ivy (Creeping Charlie). In the second year, garlic mustard sends up a flower stem with triangular toothed leaves. This plant bears tiny white flowers (1/4 inch wide) with four petals and blooms late April to early June. It dies in July or August after producing long narrow seedpods. At maturity, garlic mustard plants may be 3-4 feet tall and bear up to 500 seeds per plant. Garlic mustard can also be identified by the distinct odor of its leaves. When crushed, especially in spring and early summer, leaves have the distinct odor of garlic.



First year basal rosette



Second year plant

NOTE: Info above from The University of Wisconsin. See website for more info on controlling and identifying weed species: <http://weedid.wisc.edu/index.php>

Gardening at Home

The Use of “Beneficials” in your Garden

First of all, what *IS* a beneficial and why use it? When speaking of your home garden, a beneficial is a tiny creature that “benefits” your garden by helping to eliminate the use of pesticides that contaminate it. You can utilize their individual characteristics to help improve the quality of your garden and its soil. Thus, using beneficials is a way of gardening naturally and helps to save the useful “good guys” so they can do their excellent work. The beneficials are divided into four basic categories: predators, parasitoids, decomposers and pollinators. A brief description of the four types of beneficials follows:

Predators: -Hunt other critters and are bigger than their prey. Some common ones of this group are: lady beetles, praying mantis and some spiders. **Parasitoids:** This kind of beneficial is usually the same size as its host. Its function is to kill their host whereas the function of a **parasite** is only to weaken the host. The majority of parasitoids are small wasps, or certain species of beetles or flies. **Decomposers:** These guys are ubiquitous and their role as beneficials is enormous. Without the little “earthworm” we would be up to our eyeballs in all kinds of disgusting organic waste. Decomposers work at breaking down dead organic matter for their own use and make it available for use by other life forms. The earthworm is the most famous of the decomposers. Others include bacteria, protozoa, fungi and certain nematodes. **Pollinators:** Unlike the three beneficial groups mentioned above, the pollinator does its own tremendous job for mankind - that of fertilizing plants. The most commonly known pollinator is the Honey Bee.

NEMATODES

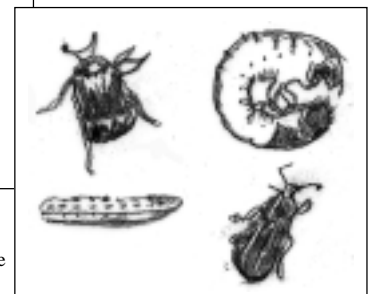
Described frequently as “one of the most numerous animals on earth” nematodes live abundantly in the soil, oceans and fresh water. They are also found living in many animals and plants. They are uncomplicated, cylindrical forms of life with no blood, or respiratory system.

Their movement is performed by little S-shaped curves. Just one scoop of soil from your garden will probably contain thousands of these microscopic critters. Using *Parasitic* nematodes will not harm you, your animals or your garden. In addition, they will not be harmful to other beneficials in your garden. Primarily the parasitic nematodes will only attack particular enemies that live near the soil’s surface, like GRUBS!. Here are some other bad guys that are affected by the nematode: Borers, Japanese Beetle grubs, Masked Chafer grubs, Other White grubs, Cutworms, Root Weevils, Black Vine Weevils, Flea larvae, and Leafminers.

A great way to deal with adult Japanese Beetles is to trap them before they produce the grubs in the soil. This can be done with something called a Japanese Beetle Trap. This kind of gadget uses a highly effective yellow, bag-like pheromone trap which catches and kills beetles throughout the season.



(Left) **Beneficials** From top left, clockwise Praying Mantis, Earthworm, Ladybug and Nematodes.



(Right) **Pests!** From top left, clockwise Japanese Beetle, White Grub, Root Weevil, Cutworm

Should you wish to purchase some Beneficials for your own use here are some companies that sell them:
GardensAlive, in Indiana, www.GardensAlive.com, (513) 354-1382. / Organic Control Inc. 5132 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90019, (323) 937-7444 / Arbico Organics, www.arbico-organics.com, 1-800 827-2847, Tucson, AZ.

Updates and Resources

New Website Goes UP

By the time you get this newsletter, our website will have been updated with the latest garden news and photos for your enjoyment. The basic look of the site has remained virtually the same, while updates and revisions have been added by Jim Arbuthnot, our new webmaster.

You'll find that there are more photos with captions for you to browse through and many well organized pages full of resources for your garden and for keeping it looking the best. Be sure to check it out before the spring to get some great ideas for changes or additions --even minor ones, to your own garden.
www.artandlindaswildflowers.com



Send Us Your Garden Photos

We would be honored to have photos of your beautiful Art and Linda's gardens to show off in our newsletter and on our website! If you have a garden planted by us, and have taken color photographs and/or wish to share comments or testimonials, please consider sending these to Art at the address below. We can accept your original photo or a copy of your original photo. Always add a line or two to tell us about why you chose the picture

If you have digital photos to share, Put them on a CD and send them to the address below. Or, if you wish to send them to our e-mail address, we can accept either a .jpg format or a .tif format, but please do not exceed 5 megabytes (5mb) per e-mail, as this will cause a problem downloading the files. If you send them to our e-mail address, please try to limit the number of pictures to no more than three of your very favorites and don't forget to add a line explaining why you chose the picture!

If you must have your original print outs returned to you, please make a note on your submission and we will make every effort to do so. Thank you!

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Cicero, IL 60804



U of I Extension University of Illinois

Bringing the most current knowledge about many aspects of your everyday world out to you in your community

"University of Illinois Extension brings the research from the University of Illinois to the community, providing workshops in area libraries, schools, businesses and more. The Extension has something to offer everyone. They provide classes on relationship skills, money management, nutrition and wellness, home gardening, youth development, and a variety of other topics". -- From the webpage www.extension.uiuc.edu/dupage.

The stated mission of the U of I Extension is "To enable people to improve the lives and communities through learning partnerships that put knowledge to work".

The Extension has a wealth of information on the topics above plus many, many more. OF special interest to our readers is their excellent Horticultural staff. Some of the Highlights in recent years have included the "Master Gardener's program which reached 12,000 residents of Dupage county alone, with information on environmentally safe gardening practices.

The Master Gardeners program trains and supports adults to volunteer as University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners. In 2009, certified Master Gardeners and Interns are bringing University of Illinois Extension horticulture information to several counties where they will volunteer their services and share the knowledge.

Master Gardeners also teach many school children lessons about insects, plants and the environment. The program is growing each year as more and more residents discover the benefits of this wonderful outreach program.

Other U of I Extension Programs include the 4-H Club and Nutrition and Health. To find and extension program office near you look for your county location on the general website U.of I Extension under: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu>
Or contact them by phone in Cook County at the

Cook County Unit
4801 Southwick Drive, Suite 100
Matteson, IL 60443
Phone: 708-481-0111
FAX: 708-481-4151
cook_hdq@extension.uiuc.edu

Someone You Should Know...

Art and Linda's new Garden Client, Summer 2008:

Evelyn Pease Tyner Early Environmentalist



“The thing that blew my mind was the Prairie Lily that looks up at the sky and into your face”

Variety. It's the variety of plants that make up a healthy prairie. Interestingly enough, Evelyn Pease Tyner has lived a life with plenty of variety. Her love of nature, her deep interest in local history and her background as a bio-chemist all coalesced to create a sensitive individual with a timely concern for the environment and for saving native places when they could still be saved. “I always had an interest in wildflowers, but when I had my first visit to Woodworth prairie, it was like a whole new universe of plants.”

Beginning in 1965 with The James Woodworth Prairie Preserve in Glenview, Evelyn, along with several other volunteers, helped save the tiny but highly diverse 5 acre remnant. She remembers urgently saying, “If we don't save this, (then called Peacock Prairie), they'll put a McDonalds here!” Today a McDonalds adjoins the property. “Perhaps, long ago - farmers' wives would say ‘Don't plow that - it's my garden!’ , she said - and that small parcel of prairie remained untouched.” Whatever the reason, it survived to be noticed. “But the thing that blew my mind, said Evelyn, was the Prairie Lily that looks up at the sky and into your face...”

From here, she was involved with many others saving the Grove in Glenview in the 1970's - now a National Historic Monument. This was the home of Dr. John Kennicott, who arrived with his family in 1836. Notable among them was Robert Kennicott, our first naturalist, whose travels and work with the Smithsonian led to the eventual purchase of Alaska by the U.S. The Kennicott house and its native environs led Evelyn to enthuse, “If you had Mt. Vernon on the edge of the Grand Canyon - wouldn't you try to save 'em”? That property was purchased by Glenview after an overwhelming “BUY” vote, and is now a treasure of the Glenview Park System, often visited by school children as part of their studies.

Her major role in the restoration and saving of these remnants was taking pictures, especially of flowers close-up. For a year in Woodworth Prairie she recorded the flora and the landscape weekly (except in the worst of winter!). Her slide show presentations led to the purchase of Woodworth Prairie by the U. of I. (Chicago), which maintains it for research.

(continued on page 6)

Evelyn Pease Tyner, Early Environmentalist, continued...from page 5

More recently, the Air Station Prairie, a 32.5 acre remnant of the 1000-acre Glenview Naval Air Station, (now mostly built up as The Glen), was saved by an enthusiastic group of Glenview citizens, Evelyn among them. She was delighted to be a part of the committee who chose the architect and designer and helped plan the environmentally significant interpretive center. (The building achieved LEEDS platinum rating). It has been named for her; The Evelyn Pease Tyner Interpretive Center. (A signal honor)

Meanwhile, Evelyn's own yard had been tended and lovingly planted by husband, Dave. Ten years after his death she had despaired of keeping it up and it looked like a local jungle. Last spring ('08), a friend gave her a flyer from *Art and Linda's Wildflowers* and she was hooked upon meeting Art. She was impressed with his artistic eye and imaginative use of a variety of native plants. He also developed two rain gardens at the down spouts of her house. She can't wait for spring growth and is happy that labels will help her identify the new plants. Some of her old, overgrown native plants were removed and shared with other gardeners who, in turn had given Art some material which he planted for her.

Evelyn has collected a number of rocks and other specimens (even a few old Chicago street pavers), to which Art added other interesting items. These things will make a prairie garden which is unique and special for Evelyn.

As she remembers over 85 years, she dwells for a moment on her post-doctoral research at the University of Wisconsin in the early 50's. With radioactive carbon and phosphorus she was studying biosynthesis of DNA and RNA in cancer-bearing and normal rats. "No great break-through," she admits. (That was before Watson and Crick elucidated the structure of DNA in 1953). "Today I love to note the significance of the widely-known role of DNA. Darwin would have been thrilled. And the Innocence Project, (Wherein condemned killers are found innocent and saved from execution or life in prison by evidence from DNA testing), is an amazing development!"

Revealing again, a diverse background, Evelyn's other reminiscences include her over 600 scuba dives, twenty years of teaching at Harold Washington College in Chicago and other adventures. "My next adventure, this spring -- to see what Art hath wrought in my own backyard!"

Meanwhile, Evelyn encourages the reader to visit The Evelyn Pease Tyner Interpretive Center of Glenview Air Station Prairie, at the corner of Lehigh and Compass Roads. Informational material is displayed outside the building so you can learn and enjoy the prairie at anytime. Expect the building to be open Saturday and Sundays from 10 - 2pm or by appointment.



Evelyn Pease Tyner Interpretive Center of Glenview Air Station Prairie



Art & Linda's Wildflowers

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Fax: (708) 863-6534

Capturing the Spirit of the Natural World

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www.artandlindaswildflowers.com

2009 Price Structure

Wildflower Garden Design, Installation, Consultation and Stewardship

The cost of your garden is determined by the cost of labor, plants and other materials used plus a service fee. A maximum price can be established and guaranteed depending upon your budget. (See details below). Your first site evaluation and visit are free.

Site preparation, including buckthorn and brush removal, herbiciding, rototilling, edging, planting and mulching. Designing, bed flagging, plant placement, hardscaping, constructing irrigation systems, fences, paths, stonework, birdbaths, compost bins, labeling and other decorative features.

Designers: \$80 per hour
Interns/Helpers: \$40 per hour.

PLANTS AND GRASSES: The price of the plants, whether they are grasses, sedges, flowers, ferns, vines, shrubs or trees are generally determined by the size of their container or pot.

Woodland root stock	\$2
Flowers and grasses in 2 1/2" pots and 2"x5" plugs	\$4
Flowers, vines, grasses and ferns in 4 1/2" pots	\$6
Flowers, vines and grasses in gallons (except trees and shrubs)	\$12
Trees and shrubs 3 gallons and larger	Generally \$25-\$30 each

OTHER LANDSCAPING MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES: Mulch and nuggets, permits, licenses, fertilizer, herbicides, top soil, composted humus and manure, structures, hardscapes, rocks and logs, etc.- at cost plus a service fee. Prices are at cost when secured while on client's time or delivered from supplier. Add hourly time factor when purchased on Art and Linda's time or 25% if secured from Art and Linda's stock.

TERMS: A 25% downpayment would be appreciated with balance due upon completion or as periodically invoiced.

PLANT AVAILABILITY AND GUARANTEE: We guarantee our plants and grasses for one year. If a plant dies within this time, we will replace it with another one of the same type or one more appropriate for your garden setting at no cost. This guarantee holds unless the plant was killed by deer, rabbits, or another animal, the owner or another person. In that case we will replace the plant at half price.

STEWARDSHIP: Weeding, mulching, edging, (plantings). Regular labor charge of \$80/ \$40 hourly, plus plants and other materials. (A designer is only needed for a short period of time - if at all).

CONSULTATION: We will provide an "on-site consultation-only service" for a flat rate of \$80 per hour with a 2-hour minimum. We can do a site evaluation, sketch plans for beds, label plants (labels are extra), provide plant lists and cultural guides and give detailed steps for completing and maintaining your project.

ESTIMATES ARE GIVEN IN GOOD FAITH, BASED ON CURRENT INFORMATION AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE FINAL COST.

Art & Linda's is fully insured for General Liability and Workers' Compensation. Certificates of insurance available upon request. Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Environmental Programs, licensed and certified herbicide/pesticide, commercial applicators and operators.

Art & Linda's Wildflowers is a member of: The Conservation Foundation/ Midwest Pond & Koi Society/ Wild Ones Landscape Design Association / Midwest Ecological Landscape Association/ The Illinois Native Plant Society/ Save the Prairie Society

Art & Linda's Wildflowers
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- GALLERY OF GARDENS
- EVELYN PEASE TYNER

To:



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

*Beautiful Native
Wildflower Gardens*

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BE SURE TO GET YOUR ART AND LINDA'S GARDEN SIGN!!!

SPRING 2009