



Art & Linda's Wildflowers

Summer 2009

IT'S INCREDIBLE! - ART AND LINDA'S TOPS THE WEBSITE CHARTS

As you know, at *Art and Linda's*, the heart of our business is wildflower garden design, installation, consultation and stewardship. When we used these same criteria in a web search we were surprised to discover that our website has come out with very high rankings on the top three search engines. Our many thanks to Karen Green who passed away in August of 2007. She created the website ten years ago. Also, kudos to Jim Arbuthnot, our current webmaster, for his hard work in getting us recognized on the web. See the chart below for the amazing results:

Search Engine Ranking for: www.artandlindaswildflowers.com

Search Topic:	YAHOO	GOOGLE	ASK
Wildflower Garden Design	3rd out of 2,480,000	7th out of 104,000	7th out of 68,900
Wildflower Garden Installation	1st out of 472,000	2nd out of 1,370,000	7th out of 939,000
Wildflower Garden Consultation	1st out of 565,000	2nd out of 10,100	1st out of 8,160
Wildflower Garden Stewardship	3rd out of 144,000	4th out of 13,500	8th out of 8,600

The Tender Loving Care Club! (TLCC) PHASE 2:

Here's what to expect now that the Tender Loving Care Club has swung into the summer months: First of all, enjoy a TLCC discount of 20% off of our standard rate for labor. You pay only \$32.00 an hour per helper and \$64.00 an hour for a designer (who is rarely if ever necessary).

In Phase 2, *Art and Linda's* will:

- Clean up the beds by removing debris and litter.
- Remove or thin out overly aggressive plants.
- Stake up leaning plants.
- Weed the beds - either manually or by the selective use of herbicides.
- Clean up the work area when finished

Additionally, **IF NEEDED** we will:

- Add pine bark nuggets to the paths, pea gravel to the stream beds and pine bark mulch to the gardens.
- Trim the trees and shrubs and edge the garden beds.
- Plant additional flowers and grasses.



(Above) *Tender Loving Care Club in action*).

The photo above shows a prairie garden which became overgrown with Ohio Spiderwort, Downy Sunflower and Stiff Goldenrod.

We removed the excess plants, placing them in pots to be used at a school or library and we planted the many spaces with assorted flowers and grasses that weren't present before.

These additions increase the number of new species and add to the diversity and beauty of the garden.

Gardening at Home

SUMMER GALA- SALE CELEBRATION EVENT!!

This summer, our customers may enjoy 20% off of our regular labor charges. Pay only \$32.00 an hour per helper and \$64.00 an hour for the designer. This rate applies for customers who wish to add a new garden bed to their landscape or wish additional work done on their garden. The work will be performed just as if you were having TLCC work done. **If you wish to take advantage of this amazing offer, please contact us soon. The offer expires September 1, 2009.**



Don't Let Them Do It!

If you are not using *Art and Linda's* as your wildflower garden stewards, please don't let the lawncare companies dump mulch on the garden beds! This buries the plants in muck and does not allow for a free exchange of water or air. In addition, many landscape companies trim yews and arborvitae giving them the same "haircut" like a fashion model. This doesn't work for native shrubs.

In the picture above a landscaper put "tons" of mulch on the bed which was really unhealthy. You could see the plants didn't grow into the soil but instead, note that they are growing into the mulch!



(Above) Penstemon in wildflower garden

Vinegar, A Simple Solution

Art and Linda's is licensed and trained in the use of herbicides to kill grass and weeds. However, some people are uncomfortable with chemical herbiciding. We have found that pouring vinegar from a watering can on the turf grass kills it.

E-mail Address For Your Next Newsletter?

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please let us know by sending us your e-mail address. This saves on paper and postage while allowing you to store the newsletter in your computer.



(Above) Toby makes friends easily. Here he is, glomming on to Georgette.

Updates and Resources

Your Best Investment

Your best investment in landscaping by far, is a new wildflower garden. Garden beds bring color and texture into your life. The dividends from such an investment literally grow every year that your native plants return and flourish. We can create a site appropriate garden for you whether it's shade, full sun, clay, sand, wet soil, large or small places.



(Above) Pale Purple Coneflower in a garden at the Berwyn Public Library.

New Website Goes Up

Once again, our website is being 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. Be sure to check it out to get some great ideas for changes or additions --even minor ones, to your own garden. www.artandlindaswildflowers.com

Green Home Experts Oak Park

Maria Onesto Moran is passionate about the environment. She is the owner and president of "Green Home Experts" on South Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park. This specialty store, which opened in February of 2008, carries all green materials for building and remodeling needs. Their motto is "Good for Your Family, Good for the Earth"

Maria's first exposure to "green products" was from 2002 to 2005 when she worked on the capital campaign for a non profit housing developer. This developer incorporated so many environmental products and services into its building that it earned a "LEED" title. (LEED is a green building measuring standard that means "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design"). Qualifications for obtaining LEED certification for a project is difficult, so working on this campaign gave Maria excellent, first-hand knowledge in what is truly needed for an environmentally sound building.

During this time, while remodeling their downtown condo, she and her husband decided to incorporate as much green building material and items as possible. They began to see that it was difficult to find green products without going to many different sources or going on-line. Thus, Maria had the idea of opening her own store, where many everyday items could be conveniently purchased under one roof.

"Green Home Experts" has now experienced tremendous growth in it's first year and half as it offers a wide variety of green alternatives for just about anything in the home. One of the biggest sellers is house paint, followed by top quality but affordable general cleaning supplies and baby supplies. Also very popular are the flooring alternatives such as cork, bamboo and recycled porcelain. A gardening section offers rain barrels, compost bins and fertilizers.

Green Home Experts regularly holds workshops and hosts speakers who are knowledgeable on a variety of green home topics such as gardening, remodeling and energy efficiency.

Curious? Pay them a visit at 823 South Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park, or call Maria at 708-660-1443. Their website is www.GHExperts.com and e-mail is GoGreen@GHExperts.com



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To:



Art & Linda's Wildflowers

*Beautiful Native Wildflower Gardens
That Capture the Spirit
of the Natural World*

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