

Soapwort — a weed with benefits

As my daughter and I rode our bicycle along Farmington Road across from the Livonia Police Station, I noticed a cluster of wildflowers known as bouncing bet, or soapwort. They often grow in large patches in disturbed areas during the summer.

Though soapwort can be found throughout southeastern Michigan now, native Americans wouldn't have known about this flower in the 1700s. Soapwort is an alien. Not from outer space, but from Europe.

Many of our wildflowers, often known as weeds, grow in areas where man has disturbed the natural soil and many were brought from Europe to serve a purpose. To get a rough idea of how many alien plants are found in eastern North America, I counted 53 alien plants out of 342. Though the sample is small, approximately 15 percent of the wildflowers we see today were brought from Europe, intentionally or unintentionally.

Soapwort was brought over intentionally because of its long history of use. When the leaves are crushed in water and mixed, they produce a foamy lather. This soapy quality and its cleaning properties were known since the Middle Ages. It was brought from France and Germany



nature

Timothy Nowicki

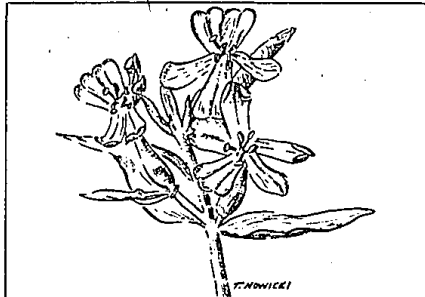
to England by friars, who planted it near their monasteries and hospitals.

Textile mills used a soapwort solution to whiten fabric before it was printed. It was also used to brighten china and glass. According to one source, a solution made from soapwort leaves is used for this purpose even today.

There are several other qualities of this plant which made it beneficial to man. It has a pleasant fragrance, which was used to cover up the stench of some of the English streets that had poor sanitation.

Modern research has discovered that some chemicals found in soapwort are useful in treating syphilis, jaundice and liver problems. Though the plant is moderately poisonous, medieval brewers used it to help put a head on their steins of beer.

Before the advent of modern synthetics, man had to use plants and



TIM NOWICKI/illustration

Wildflowers known as bouncing bet, or soapwort often grow in large patches in disturbed areas during the summer.

animals for producing products which he wanted and needed for survival. Today, the natural world — provided there is some remaining — is still a rich source of potential for man.

Camp Oakland gets grant from Skillman Foundation

A \$128,000 grant from the Skillman Foundation of Detroit will enable Camp Oakland Youth Programs Inc. of Oxford to provide its independent Living Preparation Program for young women for a second year.

Camp Oakland president Gary W. Baumann announced receipt of the grant supporting the program for young women. A similar grant was received from the Skillman Foundation in 1988.

The program is designed to help 16-year-old girls who have been living at Camp Oakland. They move into Adams House, a residence on the agency grounds.

They are helped to face their problems in preparation for their new lives. They learn skills such as budgeting their time and money.

In the second phase of the program, the girls live with families for up to six months while receiving

support services from Camp Oakland to help make successful transitions to independent living.

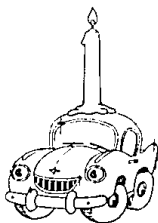
The program is a fresh approach to residential care. Leonard W. Smith, Skillman Foundation president, said, "We believe it is a good concept."

"There is a need to bridge the gap between residential care and the time when youths have to go out in the community. That's a difficult transition," he added.

Camp Oakland is a private, non-profit agency for children and adolescents. It provides residential care for 55 neglected and abused adolescents from Southeastern Michigan.

The Skillman Foundation makes grants for children and youths, basic human needs, community-wide efforts, culture, arts and education in southeastern Michigan.

A CAR WASH DEAL THIS GOOD ONLY COMES ALONG ONCE EVERY 75 YEARS.



CELEBRATE JACK'S 75TH BIRTHDAY WITH A 75¢ JAX WASH!

No matter when you got your car washed last, on Monday, August 14, you'll want to get it washed again. For Jax Birthday Celebration 75¢ Car Wash. It's a special day to celebrate Jack of Jax Kar Wash's 75th birthday. And to thank you for 40 years of

loyalty to Jax. All proceeds will go to the March of Dimes and the Michigan Cancer Foundation. So come in to any of Jax 9 area locations on Monday, August 14, for a 75¢ Jax car wash. It'll have you feeling good both inside and out.

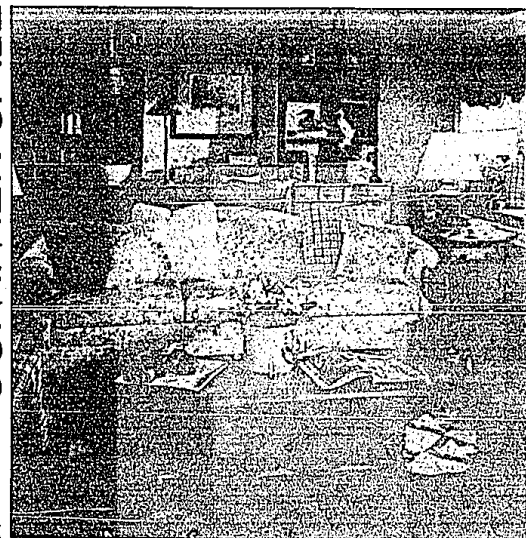


JAX
"more than just a car wash"



SUMMER SALE

Ethan Allen



The Design is Authentic. So Is The Sale.



LIVING ROOM	REG.	SALE
Overland Executive Suite, 15-8000	\$ 379.75	\$ 319.75
Overland Executive Suite, 15-8015	\$ 429.75	\$ 369.75
Overland Executive Suite, 15-8015	\$ 429.75	\$ 369.75
Overland Executive Suite, 15-8015	\$ 429.75	\$ 369.75
Overland Executive Suite, 15-8015	\$ 429.75	\$ 369.75

Ethan Allen

We care about your home



18700 MIDDLEBURY RD.
(DAY, 9 & 6 MILN RD.)
LIVONIA, MI 48154
(313) 251-7700

30170 VAN DYKE
(DAY, 23 & 23 MILN RD.)
TROY, MI 48067
(313) 254-8250



Pay as you go
Ask about our
financing plan.

Don't Miss This Sale!
1 Week Only

ATTENTION:
Homeowners!
Electrical Contractors!
Builders!

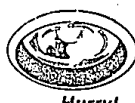
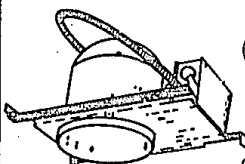
Decorator
Recessed
Lighting

Factory Promotion Sale

Approved for direct contact with insulation. Black baffled trim and 75 watt flood bulb included!

Reg. \$39⁹⁵

\$19⁹⁵



Hurry!
Limited
Quantities

Other Styles to Choose
From At Discount Prices

REID

Lighting

The store with bright Ideas

43443 Grand River at Novi Road 348-4055
Mon., Tues., Wed. 9-8; Thurs. & Fri. 11A-6 p.m.; Sat. 9-5

