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🌸 January/February 2015

Vol. 28 | No. 1

- 2 Notes from the President
- 3 Executive Director Notes
- 4 Moving for Monarchs
- 5 Transplanting Seedlings
- 9 Hometown Habitat



Hal Mann, Catherine Zimmerman,
and Rick Patterson.



- 10 Providing a Winter Home
for Native Lepidoptera
- 11 Recording Speaker Presentations
- 14 Planning Strategies to
Improve Pollinator Health
- 17 Little House Naturalist
- 18 The Meeting Place

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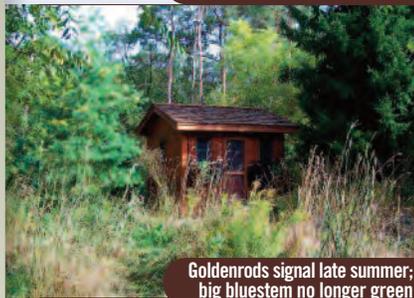
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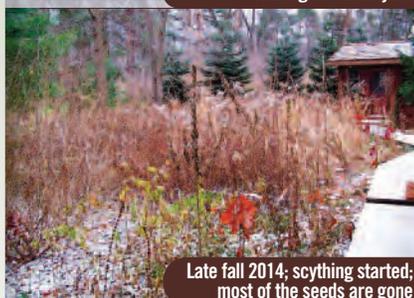
Summer; shed seen from the
farthest distance of our lot.



Goldenrods signal late summer;
big bluestem no longer green



Waiting for the scythe



Late fall 2014; scything started;
most of the seeds are gone



After scythe 2014 view from
shed across the meadow

CABIN in the WOODS

Text and photos by John Kreutzfeldt

When I retired, we had a twelve by twelve cedar shed built toward the back of our ½ acre. It is my bedroom 365 days a year. It is so peaceful there, especially when I'm lying in my sleeping bag listening to rain on the roof or screech owls calling. Our septic field is in front of it and is the closest we can come to a meadow. It is dominated through the seasons by big bluestem, spiderwort, goldenrod, bergamot, blood-root, and trillium. Once a year we scythe our property.

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear; nor did I wish to practice resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to live so sturdily and Spartan-like as to put to rout all that was not life, to cut a broad swath and shave close, to drive life into a corner, and reduce it to its lowest terms."

- HENRY DAVID THOREAU



Snowpocalypse 2014 early Thanksgiving snowfall; melted in a rain a week later

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Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities. Wild Ones is a not-for-profit, environmental education and advocacy organization.



Tim Lewis
President

Wild Ones Moving Forward

I have news that we're quite excited about. In December last year, the national board approved a three-year strategic plan that moves us forward through 2017. This is our first real plan so we might expect a lumpy learning curve reflecting some false starts and setbacks. But in the long run, if we all work at achieving the goals set before us, we will make progress.

The plan outlines actions that are centered on four subjects: Audience, Financials, Growth and Programs. Within these subjects are nine goals. Here is a brief synopsis:

Audience

Our potential audience extends far beyond our membership—there are growers and nurseries, landscape designers, and landscape installers. Each approaches the public in a different way. We need them all to encourage their customers to choose native plants.

GOAL 1 Initiate a national business coalition of native plant growers and landscapers.

GOAL 2 Partner with like-minded organizations that have complementary programs and resources.

Financials

These goals relate to resource development and the need for a strategy to diversify Wild Ones' funding base.

GOAL 1 Increase staff fundraising and grant-seeking expertise.

GOAL 2 Broaden and diversify our funding base.

Growth

These goals relate to the numbers and locations of chapters as well as the size and composition of memberships (individuals and business partners).

GOAL 1 Increase the number of chapters by 10 in 3 years.

GOAL 2 Increase member retention rate to at least 90%.

GOAL 3 Increase new member count by at least 20%.

Programs

These goals relate to Wild Ones-sponsored events, educational series, contests, and other offerings by the Home Office.

GOAL 1 Inventory and evaluate national Wild Ones programs.

GOAL 2 Annually, inventory and promote chapter "best practices."

The goals and how they are to be accomplished are the most interesting and challenging part of the plan, and I encourage you to consider making them a part of your Wild Ones experience during the next three years. In order to accomplish these goals, based on the needs of our current and future members, we are going to need not only your input, but also your help. Take a look at these goals and let either Donna (execdirector@wildones.org) or me (president@wildones.org) know your thoughts, and if you can volunteer some time to help to carry out the Wild Ones Strategic Plan. To read the detailed strategic plan, go to the Wild Ones website at (<http://www.wildones.org/about-us-2/>).

The plan and schedule are ambitious, as they should be. The very nature of strategic plans is that they are aspirational while also being achievable. We believe that this plan is achievable. Some tasks have already been approached and others will be spread out over the three years.

At last year's Wild Ones 35th anniversary celebration/annual conference, attendees received silicone wristbands with the words "Wild Ones Moving Forward." The next three years we're going to work very hard to see that saying comes true. We'd like you to be a big part of that movement. Send us an email right now and let us know what you think of our Strategic Plan and what you can do to help. 🌸



Donna VanBuecken
Executive Director

The WILD ONES JOURNAL and your tax return

This is the time of year we start thinking about income taxes, so I wanted to remind you that your membership dues are tax deductible if you choose to itemize deductions on your tax return.

Wild Ones is a national not-for-profit natural landscaping and educational organization, hence its donors can deduct their contributions. Donations are considered membership dues as well as other donations for special projects or just to advance Wild Ones mission.

We are a corporation organized or created in or under the laws of the United States of America solely for the purpose of educating the public. Educating and networking with our members is an important way to further the goals of Wild Ones. Because we are a not-for-profit organization, we may publish a local or national newsletter under the following conditions:

- Publication of a newsletter will always be an annual membership benefit;
- Its primary purpose is to inform members about the Wild Ones activities and concerns;
- It will not be available to non-members by paid subscription or through newsstand sales;
- It will not be printed as a professional journal causing it to be treated as a commercial quality publication and therefore not tax deductible.

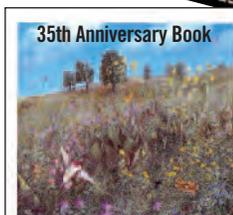
By following this policy, Wild Ones is able to promote its membership dues, which include the WILD ONES JOURNAL, as being “fully” tax deductible. Further, all fees and contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

This is annual appeal time and I hope you will think of Wild Ones as generously as you can as you plan your donations throughout the year.



We need to print a new supply of Wild Ones yard signs, so I'd like to hear from members about what they think of the design on the current yard sign. Do you like it? Do you have a suggestion for a different look? Please send me your thoughts regarding what you'd like to see on an updated yard sign.

Elsewhere in this issue of the JOURNAL, you will also find information about ordering the 2014 Wild Ones calendar, publication of the Wild Ones 35th Anniversary book, and an update on Hometown Habitat.



Wild Ones Oak Openings Chapter member, Professor Todd Crail (in white shirt and baseball cap), and his army of Habitat Heroes from University of Toledo—see page 9 for details.

Thanks for all your support during the past year and please join me in looking forward to a very excellent new year.

— Donna execdirector@wildones.org

Update your e-mail address

2015 is going to be an other exciting year for Wild Ones with many goings on. Please keep us up-to-date with your current e-mail address so you won't miss out on any of the updates as we move through the year. Please e-mail admin@wildones.org

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, January 24, 2015

Toward Harmony with Nature Conference, Oshkosh Convention Center, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Hosted by Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter. Stanley Temple, Keynote

Saturday, January 24, 2015

Plant Natives 2015: Landscaping for Life, Chattanooga State Community College, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Hosted by Wild Ones Tennessee Valley Chapter. Doug Tallamy, Keynote

Saturday, February 21, 2015

Wild Ones 2015 Design With Nature Conference—Changing Tactics, Nicollet Island Pavilion, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Hosted by Minnesota Area Wild Ones Chapters. Travis Beck, Keynote

Friday-Sunday, February 24-26, 2015

Wetland Science Conference “Telling Our Stories,” Monona Terrace, Madison, Wisconsin. Hosted by Wisconsin Wetland Assoc. Sharon Dunwoody, Keynote

Saturday, March 21, 2015

The Prairie Enthusiasts 2015 Annual Conference, UW-Stevens Point Dreyfus Center, Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Heather Holm, Dinner Speaker

Saturday, March 8-9, 2015

“Landscape Design: Where Art and Nature Meet,” Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. Hosted by Wildflower Association of Michigan. Darrell Morrison, Keynote

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MOVING FOR MONARCHS

By Gwynedd Vetter-Drusch



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Last August, Moving for Monarchs had the pleasure of joining the Wild Ones Annual Conference in Neenah, WI. We came to film on the location and to conduct a Monarch Move event, following Dr. Chip Taylor's address to gathered Wild Ones members on the enormity of the challenges facing the monarch butterfly and the measures that need to be taken to preserve this treasured species.

Wild Ones had generously backed M4M earlier in the year when we launched our effort to promote the message of Dr. Taylor and other conservationists through programming that combines art and science, as well as simultaneous reflection on both the natural world and our daily lives. We were eager to travel to WI to meet the people at Wild Ones who were passionate about protecting milkweed and other native plants. Furthermore, we were looking forward to discovering Wild Ones's unique contribution to the "dance of life," a short movement phrase (story) that would take shape from the collective monarch experiences of those present.

The participants exchanged memories of monarchs and examined what they symbolize and what they teach us about the interconnectivity of life. They found fellowship with one another as they shared monarch stories and turned those stories into movement, recognizing the importance of the "dance of life": the intricate choreography performed by all pollinating species. Ranging in age from 4-year olds to seventy-somethings, the diverse group discovered a commonly held belief about the monarchs: "Our *love* for monarch butterflies, and their ability to *surprise* us, makes us want to *dance*, giving us *hope* for the future to come."

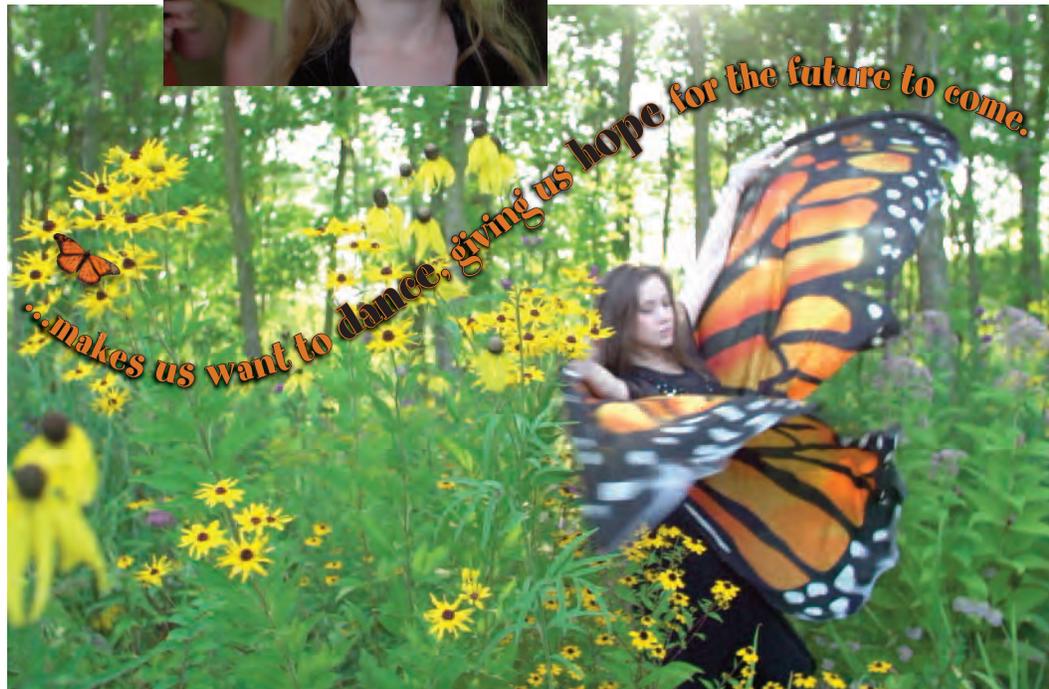
This particular message, which had corresponding movements generated by the participants that day, will find its way into the larger project as Moving for Monarchs continues to conduct Monarch Move events throughout the U.S., Mexico, and Canada.

*Our love for monarch butterflies,
and their ability to surprise us...*



Adoring fan talking with Gwynedd after she danced.

If you would be interested in hosting a Monarch Move Event at your local Wild Ones chapter, please contact Gwynedd Vetter-Drusch at gwynedd.vetdru@gmail.com 🌸



Gwynedd moving like a Monarch butterfly.

Seedling of *Baptisia bracteata* (Cream indigo).

Transplanting Seedlings

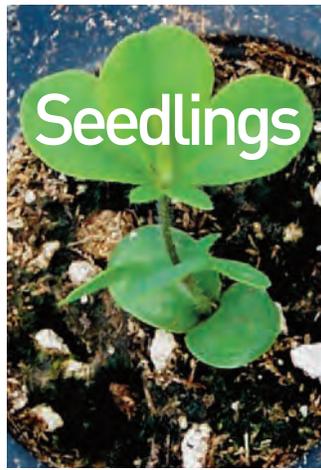
Dicot leaves at base of stem; mature at the top.

From Germ Tray to Plug Flat

Text and photos by Becky Erickson

If you received the previous issue of WILD ONES JOURNAL [Propagating Wildflowers from Seed; WILD ONES JOURNAL, Nov/Dec 2014 pp 6 – 9], you probably read the instructions for stratifying native seed to coax them to germinate. If you try to start here without reading the previous article none of this one will make sense.

This first paragraph is a synopsis to remind you of the most important points. Remember we talked about pulling fruit off the dry plant stems and doing a little abuse to break out the seeds. Then you dried this seed and chaff, placed it in labeled envelopes or small brown bags and stored them in a zippy bag in the back of your refrigerator or in a mouse-proof container in the garage. After the holidays you can think about what to do with this seed. Remember to determine your last average hard freeze date. In Appleton, WI it is late May; here in central MO it is mid-April. Refer to the species stratification chart in the Prairie Moon Nursery catalog <http://www.prairiemoon.com/cultural-guide.html> or the Wild Ones website <http://www.wildones.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/propagation.pdf>. Find your species name



close. Wildflower seeds are fairly forgiving. I once forgot a bag of *Ratibida pinnata* [gray headed Coneflower] stratifying in the refrigerator for two extra months. It was slimy and smelly, but it grew hundreds of plants for me.



Solidago petiolaris seedlings.

If you followed all the previous instructions, in late winter [mid-March] you can start a small collection of tiny wildflower seeds stratifying in the garage refrigerator ready to sprout in separate germination trays and/or dairy containers. Hopefully, you have tagged all of these containers so you know the species you are growing. At the appropriate time when your spring warms up, pull out your wet seed, follow instructions in the last JOURNAL and put your babies out in the sun. They should germinate; you will see green in 7 to 30 days.

continued





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I am located in central Missouri, so I can start stratification the first part of February and put my germ trays out to grow in the sun in April. If the forecast is for temperatures below 36°F, I bring my germ containers inside for the night. (Typically, every 70 miles north or south is about 7-10 days difference in first/last freeze date.) **I must judge the weather each year.** About 5 years ago, warm spring started close to March 1st. Ten years ago we had 4 days of hard freeze over Easter in late April. This year the turtlehead and showy goldenrod seed did not mature because of the long hard freeze in early November.



Silphium (Rosinweed) seedling.
Note the difference between first two dicot leaves and single second leaf.

I hope you will watch your plants grow up from the dicot leaves (twin seedling leaves that come from the dicotyledon seed) to the small mature leaves. Then into larger mature leaves. You are learning what wildflower seedlings look like so you can identify them in your garden, in a seeded rehab area or in a wild area. Google: USDA Native Seedling identification guide. It will take a few minutes to download,

but it shows early growth stages of most common prairie plants.

Here in central Missouri, I start transplanting my seedlings when they get 3-5 mature leaves. That happens from May 15th to June 10th. *Remember* – people to the north need to add days.

I use *Root Prune Method* [RPM] plug flats. Pre-molded plastic, cone-shaped, open-bottom growing cells are the best environment for developing young native perennials. Cells with

open bottoms [RPM] are preferred to ones with solid bottoms, because cells with solid bottoms accumulate a coil of taproot at the bottom, which does not grow well when planted in a garden. Cells with open bottoms cause the root system to “air-prune”. In the RPM cells, instead of forming a single taproot, an evenly distributed fibrous root mass forms allowing for a robust plant to grow when planted in the garden



RPM cell flats, RPM pots, lattice tray for RPM flats and pots.

Larger RPM cells are about 1¾" diameter, 3 to 5" deep and 38 plugs in a flat. The more plugs in a flat, the smaller each cell. I recommend using 38, 52 or 73 plugs in a flat for the forbs and 73 plugs in a flat for grasses. The size you decide to use will depend on your table space and the time the plants will spend between germination and dibbling into the flats, and planting in the garden. The best source for air prune plug containers and the pots to move up to is Stuewe and Sons Nursery Containers www.stuewe.com. You don't need to search all over; these guys have collected the best products in one place.



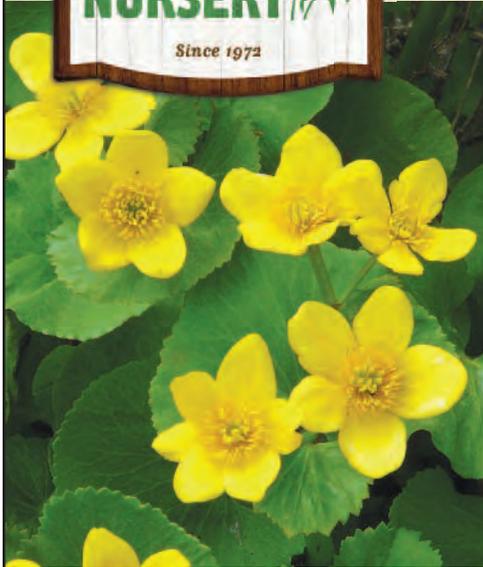
Table appropriate for RPM plug flats.

Tables: If you decide to use RPM plug trays, you will also need to build a wire-topped bench or table to take advantage of their



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air-pruning strategy. Wire top tables are a necessity for RPM seedlings and a very important tool. A simple 2"x4" pressure treated lumber frame of standard length boards (two 2x4 plus one 2x4 cut in half) with welded wire stapled on top has multiple uses. I suggest adding a lumber cross support every 2 feet. Then cover the top with 2"x4" welded (dog fence) wire, and for longer wear, add rat wire (hardware cloth). I have seen tables with 4"x4" posts on the corners for legs. When moving these tables, the legs get in the way and make the tables heavier. I suggest no permanently attached legs; you can set table tops on less expensive cement blocks for legs. All of these parts can be easily broken down by one person and stacked in a relatively small space.

Growing medium: You will find the best success with growing native flowers in pots if the growing medium you use is moderately coarse for good drainage. It is convenient to use a bagged or baled, commercial, peat-based growing medium. I have had best luck with *Berger #6* or *ProMix HP* from a local nursery and *Sta-Green Flower and Vegetable Planting Mix* (cheapest) found at some large hardware chains. All of these are coarse, but have no bark chunks. If your water is alkaline, algae will grow on the peat-based soil. Alkaline water/soil causes plants to damp off. I recommend you add an acid dispenser to your water supply or add a product called *ReadiEarth*, pH on the acid side, at about 15% to 20% to your basic medium (must mix in large container manually) and it will help to suppress algal growth for a short time depending on how alkaline the water is.

Dibble stick: A dibble stick is a simple instrument you use to make holes in the soil so you can plant seeds, seedlings or small bulbs. You can also use it to push the plugs out of their RPM

containers. "Professional" plastic and wooden dibble sticks are available from greenhouse suppliers. They get "lost." I have never used one that was the right size for my job. Several professionals I know use dull pencils or have whittled the perfect sized oak or hickory stick. *My favorite is a popsicle/ice cream stick.* They are free; they work perfectly for pushing roots of tiny seedlings down into potting soil.

Fertilizer: Most native plants need NO fertilizer. There are exceptions. Some genera such as *Penstemon*, *Baptisia*, *Asclepias* (except *A. incarnata*) and most monocots (grasses, iris, sedges, rushes, lilies and others) need the extra boost of a light fertilizer until they are planted in earth where they can sort out the food they need. I recommend a weak dilution (6-6-6 or 4-4-4) of equally balanced fertilizer with chelated iron every time I water, but only if: 1) there is a delay in field/garden planting, 2) there is any visible sign of nutrient stress, 3) seedlings are very slow to develop into your schedule.

Lights: I have tried artificial lights. They are not necessary.

Watering systems: Watering is the most important part of the care of these plants in which you have invested your time and money. I know your time is precious, but I am a firm believer that there is no timer / computer / mister / sprinkler system that can replace the human with caring judgment holding a hose with an adjustable wand.



Germination flat [germ flat] of seedlings.

continued

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School teachers learning to transplant seedlings into plug trays.

Transplanting techniques

After seeds have germinated in the flat, keep them warm (above 40°F and below about 85°F) and moist (“Moist” is a moisture stage between perpetually soggy and dried out; probably well drained and damp.) until there are 2 to 6 true leaves above the seedling leaves. Check for adequate root structure by carefully removing one or two for examination. Now they are ready to dibble into plug flats.

Remove seedlings from the germ tray by *thrusting fingers or a tool like a putty knife* vertically into the growing medium then horizontally along the bottom of the tray and

gently removing a small cluster of the seedlings from the germ tray. When this cluster of seedlings and growing medium is placed on the table next to the plug flat, the whole mass loosens so the seedlings can be teased apart. **Do not separate more than you can transplant within a few minutes or roots will desiccate and die; keep little plants on table covered with moist soil or wet paper towel.**



Packing RPM #73 flat with potting medium.

1. Correctly pack several RPM trays with potting soil. This process is as important as watering and sunlight. Fill cells with soil and press it in. Spread more soil over tray and press it in firmly to 5-7 pounds of pressure; *practice with a bathroom scale.*

2. Use a dibble tool in your dominant hand, press or ream out a hole in the center of one of the

plug cells which was correctly packed with 5 to 7 pounds pressure on moist potting medium.

3. In your assisting hand, **hold a seedling by the leaves** over the hole in the plug cell. Since you could have chemicals on your hands, do not touch the roots. Just touching them can damage growth cells.
4. With the dibble tool, work the root of the seedling into the hole in the potting mix. **Look closely at the seedling and make sure the original soil line from the germ tray—there is usually a line, bulge or color change between the stem and root of the seedling indicating the plant crown—is close to the soil line in the plug.** If the seedling is dibbled in too deeply (below the original soil line) it will damp off.
5. **Finishing above the germination line is better than finishing below.** It is not necessary to worry about the orientation of all portions of the root. Try to get the taproot as straight as possible, but if all the root material is completely in the soil, it will figure out which way to grow.
6. **Firmly press** the surface closed around the roots using additional soil if necessary. **Firm soil contact with the root is essential to healthy seedling growth.**
7. Water lightly for several days until plants grow enough to stand water pressure. If seedling leaves get stuck to plastic during watering, you must release each one gently by hand. **Water according to weather!**

Methods for Forbs

Most forbs respond best to full sun and temperatures between 50°F and 85°F for germination in the first month of growth. *Most woodland forbs need to be moved to 40% - 60% shade after their first growth spurt.*

Forbs cannot be lumped into any one category. **You have to think about the habitat each one prefers.** Try to mimic the particular soil and moisture regime to which your species responds best. Examples: *Ratibida pinnata* needs to be moist throughout its care in your nursery and its first summer in the ground. If it dries out too long before moisture is re-applied, new growth will not revive from the root; it is dead. That’s why it doesn’t reseed as prolifically as other natives. On the other hand, *Dalea purpurea* thrives so much better if it is allowed to mostly dry between watering. In your nursery during prolonged overcast cool weather, it is best to not water *Dalea* at all. If small seedlings are too wet when weather is cool, they will damp off. *Asclepias incarnata* and *A. purpurascens* need more watering than *A. tuberosa* and *A. viridis*. *Study the needs of the species you are growing*, both in situ and from other authors. There is no way to adjust an automated water system to the needs of several different species from one sunny day to the next cloudy day.

Methods for Grasses

Native grass seed should be stored open in a cool and humid environment (such as a refrigerator) for at least 30 days, 45 days would be better, prior to seeding. Warm season grass seeds can be spread on germination flats, sprinkled with a thin layer of potting medium, then placed directly into a warm south window 8 to 10 weeks prior to planting in late April/May. Cool season grasses will germinate better if they are **planted in March**, watered and placed outside in the **shade (north side of a building)** for 2 weeks before exposing to direct warm sun.

Start grasses by seeding directly into #52 or #73 plug flats. Native grass has a germination rate of around 50 to 75% so you have the most success if you plant 3 - 5 seeds per cell. Seeded in this manner, some grass cells will have 3 plants; some none. Therefore, it is a good idea to seed one or two more flats than you want to plant. Seeds planted in plugs March 1st can tolerate the cool night conditions and fill out the smaller 73-plug flats nicely. If your space is limited, start grass in a germination flat and transplant to appropriate plug size so all of the cells are filled.

There is nothing easier to care for than native grass seedlings once they are germinated in RPM cells or are transplanted into RPM cells. Water only when dry. Fertilize lightly when established. If they wilt faster than you can keep them watered and they are 6" to 10" tall, cut about half of the growth. Grasses will grow more slowly if night temperatures consistently drop below 45°F (and, above freezing). They can be planted out as early as mid-April/May and on through the summer until early October as long as they are watered upon planting and irrigated during drought. 🌸



Chasmanthium seedlings

HOMETOWN HABITAT



Catherine Zimmerman and Rick Patterson filming in the field in Irwin Prairie, Ohio.

“Since 2011, Oak Openings Wild Ones Professor Todd Crail and his University of Toledo student army of Habitat Heros, have hand cleared invasive Buckthorn from Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve. Using only loppers and saws they helped restore 20 acres of prairie in by-monthly Department of Environmental Sciences Service Learning days. The result—a return of native prairie species and students who are now connected to nature! The only carbon footprint left, their breath!!”
— Catherine Zimmerman

Wild Ones members and chapters have been generous in supporting Catherine in her new video documentary. The kick-off started at the 35th Anniversary celebration at the Annual Wild Ones conference this past fall with all proceeds from the silent auction going to Hometown Habitat. Then Green Bay Chapter challenged all the other Wild Ones chapters to also donate toward this very worthy undertaking by putting \$1000 into the pot. Other chapters took up the challenge and so far, along with members’ donations, we have sent \$8,254.50 to Catherine to help her get her video done.

35th Anniversary Celebration Silent Auction DONORS and WINNERS

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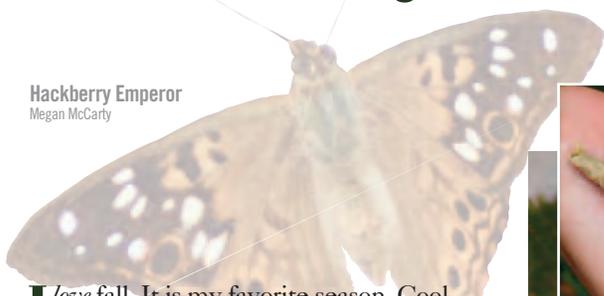
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Providing a Winter Home for Native Lepidoptera

By Candy Sarikonda

Hackberry Emperor
Megan McCarty



Big Poplar Sphinx



I love fall. It is my favorite season. Cool crisp weather, beautiful colors, falling leaves. Hmm...falling leaves. Not what I want to spend my days raking up. And why should I? In fact, it would be a lot smarter if I *didn't* rake up those leaves. Are you looking for an excuse not to clean up your yard? Well I can give you a very good reason not to! Your backyard Lepidoptera need you to reduce your fall clean-up. They need a winter home in your yard.

Monarchs migrate to Mexico. Painted Ladies migrate to the southwestern U.S. and northern Mexico. Red Admirals also likely migrate south. But many native lepidoptera spend the winter right here, in your Ohio backyard. They may spend the winter as a chrysalis or cocoon, a caterpillar, or even an adult butterfly. *What you do now as you clean up your yard can make all the difference for their winter survival.*

For example, butterflies such as Mourning Cloaks will hibernate as adults during the winter. Some may migrate south, while others will stay in our area and find a hollow log, woodpile or loose bark to take shelter in for the winter. You may actually see them flying on warm sunny days beginning in early March, as they seek sap from woodpecker holes or feed from dung and rotting fruit. Milbert's Tortoiseshell, Question Marks and Eastern Commas also overwinter as adults. So consider leaving a log on the ground, or allow a dead tree to safely remain standing, or build a woodpile for your overwintering friends. They will appreciate the protection!

Numerous lepidoptera spend the winter as pupae. All members of the Swallowtail butterfly family and the Spring Azure overwinter as pupae. You will find their chrysalids attached to the stems of host plants, other nearby plants, twigs, tree trunks, or even fence posts. The same is true for many moth species, such as Saturniid moths like Cecropia and Polyphemus, which often form their cocoons on the branches of their host trees. You can help these lepidoptera by leaving the old stems of garden plants in place through the winter, and watching for cocoons as you prune your trees or bushes. Another Saturniid moth, the Luna moth, lays its



Luna cocoons in Maya's hand

"It will climb down from the top of its host tree and hide in the leaf matter at the base of the tree...
...avoid cleaning up around these plants, or you may end up discarding your caterpillar friends!"

Polyphemus cocoon on basswood

eggs most often on the leaves of hickory or sweet gum trees. There may be 2 or 3 generations of this moth over our Ohio summer, and the last generation spends the winter as a pupa in a silken cocoon. And guess where it builds its cocoon? In your leaf litter! When the luna caterpillar is ready to form its cocoon, it will climb down from the top of its host tree and hide in the leaf matter at the base of the tree. There it begins to spin its cocoon, pulling leaves and plant material around itself as it does so. If you rake up those sweet gum or hickory leaves and discard them, then you may have just discarded a precious luna! Since many other lepidoptera species, including the fascinating Hummingbird Clearwing moth, also form their cocoons or chrysalids in leaf matter, you could be tossing them into the compost pile too! So leave some leaves in your yard, you now have a good excuse!

You may be surprised to learn that some caterpillars spend the winter in your yard, sheltered amongst your bushes, leaves, grasses, or decaying plant material. Woolly bears, the fuzzy reddish brown and black caterpillars often seen wandering around in fall, are the larval stage of the Isabella Tiger Moth. Woolly bears spend the winter as caterpillars, curled up in ground matter and grasses. They have a cryoprotectant in

their insect blood (hemolymph) that allows them to survive freezing, and have been known to survive freezing in a block of ice for the entire winter! Caterpillars of other lepidoptera species such as the Red Spotted Purple, Viceroy, Hackberry Emperor and Tawny Emperor will shelter inside a rolled-up leaf on their host plant, called a hibernaculum, and spend the winter. Look for them on your willow, poplar and hackberry trees, and check the ground beneath these trees for fallen hibernacula. Eastern-Tailed Blue caterpillars will hide inside the seed pods of their host plants, including legumes (peas) and clovers. Species such as Peck's Skipper, Northern Pearly Eye, Common Wood Nymph, Baltimore Checkerspot, Pearl Crescent, and Great Spangled Fritillary also winter over as caterpillars. Look for them hiding in the leaves and decaying plant material on the ground around their host plants. If you grow asters, turtlehead, or native violets, try to avoid cleaning up around these plants, or you may end up discarding your caterpillar friends!

Whenever possible, try to limit the amount of clean-up you do in your garden in the fall. Leaving dried stems, seed pods, leaves and branches will provide places for your overwintering lepidoptera to survive the winter. Chores can be saved until late spring instead, after many lepidoptera have already emerged. If you are lucky enough to find a chrysalis or cocoon as you clean up your yard, you can safely leave it where you found it. If you choose to bring it indoors, please keep it sheltered in an unheated garage or shed, away from mice. Do not expose the chrysalis or cocoon to the warm temperatures of your heated home, or your confused moth or butterfly may emerge in the middle of winter. Remember, it is always best to mimic nature as much as possible. After all, Mother Nature really does know best!

To learn more about how your favorite lepidoptera overwinter, you can reference these books — "Butterflies of the North Woods" by Larry Weber and "Learn about Butterflies in the Garden" by Brenda Dziedzic. The website <http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/> is also an excellent resource. 🍀

RECORDING CHAPTER SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS *By Barb Benish, Wild Ones Fox Valley Chapter*

One Wild Ones chapter found a good way to get its message out to the public. And your chapter can likely do the same.

The St. Croix Oak Savanna chapter, located in Stillwater, Minn., had scheduled a speaker at one of its meetings and wanted to get the information to more than just its members. So they turned to their local cable access TV station and asked if someone could record the presentation.

After a few emails and phone calls, as well as a little persistence, their answer was “yes”.

Valley Access Cable recorded the presentation, “*Neonicotinoid Insecticides and Bees: Is the Threat Real?*” by Vera Krischik, a University of Minnesota entomologist and insecticide researcher, at the chapter’s Sept. 11, 2014 meeting.

“In my welcome, fortunately, I mentioned our seven Minnesota chapters and Wild Ones National,” said Diane Hilscher, president of the St. Croix Oak Savanna chapter. “We thought they were just recording the presentation, but, lo, it was the entire meeting.”

To view the recording, go to <http://honeybeeclubofstillwater.blogspot.com/> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIBs0S2hF8w&list=UUxIgWcuencu7Gs906p823A>.

Honey Bee Club of Stillwater member and co-founder Elizabeth Welty initiated the video recording, Hilscher said. Welty wrote that she first contacted the host and speaker for permission, and with the go-ahead from both, she emailed the local cable company. When, she didn’t get a response, she just didn’t give up.

She eventually called the local cable company to learn about the recording options. These were the suggestions she collected:

- Taking the camera training and graphic courses, and checking out a camera to videotape the presentation herself
- Hiring someone at about \$12 an hour, or about \$150 to tape and load the presentation
- Asking the city to request the recording, which would mean no cost to the local chapter

Not surprisingly, she went with the third option. Welty contacted a council member and requested that Krischik’s presentation be taped. Believing the content was important, the councilor made the request to the appropriate people. Since there was no fee by the cable company because it was part of their service to the city, all that Welty was left to do was copy the cable company on the letters of permission and tell their cameraman when and where to show up.

Welty said she worked with the cable company to determine the title and time-sensitive TV airings, and to download the presentation to

their YouTube channel. She also posted the cable schedule and link on their club blog, as well as their listserv and by email.

Very importantly, when it was all over, she followed up with thank you notes to all involved.

How your Chapter might go about doing this

If you have a meeting you want recorded for the general public, it’s likely that your local cable TV access station offers an option. In fact, there are more than 200 access television channels on cable television systems in Wisconsin alone, according to Wisconsin Community Media. In neighboring Minnesota, the number is about 60, according to the Alliance for Community Media.

Some cable access channels have the ability to go out and shoot these kinds of events. But situations really vary widely, and there really isn’t a one-size-fits-all approach.

However, many offer procedures online so it’s easy to discover the steps. In Oshkosh, Wis., for instance, the 24-page policy of the Oshkosh Community Access TV states that they offer *free usage of television equipment for the production of community programming, in addition to training and instruction in television production techniques*. It also states that the cable channel is dedicated for use by non-profit organizations, persons or groups on a first-come basis, and that such groups or individuals need to supply the required documents for use of equipment and facilities.

Communications Coordinator Emily Makowski said Oshkosh Community Media is an underutilized option. “My job is to make sure people know we are around; once I make that initial connection with people, especially with non-profit organizations, they understand that we are an easy way to promote and market their organization.”

Groups can have their events publicized on their digital bulletin board or radio show. They can also be interviewed on the “Oshkosh Today” program about upcoming events and activities.

While many organizations that record programs, meetings or activities do their own production work, Oshkosh Community Media sometimes creates partnerships with non-profit organizations and then will help promote or record their programs or activities, Makowski said.

But as both a community and government-based entity, they don’t have the time or staff to offer production work to all who ask for it, she said. That’s why they offer training to help people learn how to handle filming and editing on their own. Once trained, “resident producers” can easily submit programming.

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Another option is to *look at radio-TV-film departments at local universities for help.*

When the Fox Valley Area chapter of Wild Ones held the 2014 Toward Harmony with Nature conference featuring Doug Tallamy as the keynote speaker, they turned to the University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley University Studios, a student club dedicated to teaching students the fundamental principles of video production and television broadcasting.

Thomas Frantz, University Studios adviser and director of IT at UW-Fox Valley, said that before they agree to do events such as that, they look at three criteria:

- Could a local video production company better handle the project? If so, Frantz will make referrals, noting their goal is not to take business away from companies that provide internships and jobs to their students.
- Would the event be a good learning experience for their students? Does it provide a learning experience that can't be duplicated in the classroom?
- Is the nature of the work within their capabilities? If the nature of the project is beyond what they can reasonably support — both technically and with the skill level of students — it's not in the best interest of the university or potential clients, he said.

"We want all parties to be pleased with the experience and final outcomes."

University Studios will do the work if those criteria are met, but it does charge a fee, Frantz said. "The campus has a responsibility to provide a good classroom experience for our students. Outside events transcend the normal expectation and so we charge clients. Those expenses can include covering costs such as travel, food, licensing fees, or expendables we may need as part of our work."

Frantz said they also charge fees for their equipment, allowing them to maintain or replace the equipment needed for classroom instruction.

After they filmed the Tallamy presentation, Frantz realized it might be a program of interest to the Wisconsin Public TV station. Making sure that both Wild Ones and Tallamy were on board, Frantz sent a copy of the program to Wisconsin Public Television, which reviewed it and made the final determination about whether it met their audience needs and technical standards.

"Regardless of how a program is distributed (broadcast, DVD sales, cable access, internet web-cast, etc.), it is critical that all the presenters know and agree to that distribution," Frantz said. "If they don't, and a program airs without their knowledge/consent, a chapter could be sued." 🌸

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West Town, Neenah	Nut Hatch Overseed, Sherwood
Sunset Park Overseed, Kimberly	Macco Pond, Green Bay
Amy Ave - McMahon, Darboy	Mike Arien's, Brillion
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GRAPEVINE

By Maryann Whitman

Ecological Pathways: Poisonous Slugs

How a series of interactions affect the Web of Life.

No-till farming (not plowing and harrowing and disking the land frequently), benefits field and forage crop production by reducing soil erosion, conserving water (if irrigation is necessary), improving soil health, and reducing fuel and labor costs. It's generally a 'good thing' to do.

Neonicotinoids are the most widely used insecticides, worldwide. They are systemic insecticides applied to seeds to prevent 'feeding' damage by early season insects. "Systemic" means that the insecticide enters into the actual cellular structure of the plant—including nectar and pollen. These insecticides are very successful against insects (and a number of other organisms, not to mention pollution of surface waters—but we won't go into all that at the moment).

Slugs thrive in the stable environment provided by no-till practices, and feed on duff and young green plants. Now, slugs are mollusks, not insects, so they are not

susceptible to the insect specific poisons. But by chewing on the young plants, and ingesting the insects who have taken in the insecticides, slugs accumulate the toxins in their bodies—they become poisonous. Then, the insects that eat slugs, mostly predaceous beetles (who also eat other "pest insects" like aphids, but we won't go into that just now), are poisoned.



Dead ground beetle



It's not yet clear what happens to frogs when they ingest the toxins accumulated in slugs, or birds when they eat the bugs. Hard to tell when they have tummy aches, or are feeling not so great.

The research did show that, in the field, plots with neonicotinoid-treated seed had fewer insects and predators, more slugs, and *lower yields than plots without the insecticides.*"

Ref: John F. Tooker, Department of Entomology, Pennsylvania State University

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THOUGHTS FOR PLANNING STRATEGIES TO Improve Pollinator Health

By Adrian Ayres Fisher

Adrian works at a community college where a colleague and she planted and manage a small prairie area. She is trained as a master gardener, has worked at an independent garden center, and is a restoration volunteer for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (Illinois). She is a licensed pesticide applicator. Along with growing vegetables, she has created and long managed a pollinator reserve in her small backyard in Oak Park, Illinois, and is active with West Cook Wild Ones. She has a blog at <http://www.ecologicalgardening.net/>



One last glimpse of summer.
PHOTO: Pat Malone, Wild Ones Door County Chapter

Best Management Practices: a general statement

Because I use judiciously applied herbicides to help control invasive plant species in the forest preserves, I respect both the power and usefulness of these toxic chemicals. However, out of this respect and long professional and volunteer experience grows a conviction that pollinator, beneficial insect, and general ecosystem health will not improve unless:

In June 2014, President Obama appointed a Pollinator Health Task Force to develop strategies for improving the health of insect pollinators. In November the Task Force held public listening sessions and invited written comments regarding best management practices, public-private partnerships, research, education opportunities, pollinator habitat improvements, and other actions. This is an edited version of Adrian's comments.

1) large scale pesticide use is curtailed on agricultural land, on public land such as roadsides and city parks, on large corporate and institutional campuses, and in private backyards and gardens across the nation; 2) agricultural and landscaping practices designed to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem health are instituted on a

large scale in rural, suburban and urban areas; and 3) widespread IPM methods are instituted, again on a large scale.

The studies, practices and tools already exist to improve pollinator health

If the EPA and USDA (and Congress) can disengage from the smothering embrace of big agricultural and chemical companies and their lobbyists, the agencies will find that important work is already being done (some of it funded through your own programs and recommended on your own websites (!)). We already know that pesticides (particularly broad spectrum, systemic ones such as neonicotinoids) and fragmented and destroyed habitat impair pollinator health. We already know the kinds of farming, gardening and landscaping practices that will foster pollinators and beneficial (pest destroying) insects. Anyone familiar with the

work of science-based organizations such as the Xerces Society knows that we know this. Anyone who gardens for biodiversity in their backyard knows this. What is frustrating is that while EPA and USDA sub-groups such as the NRCIS are doing good work, a corporate-lobbying-induced blindness seems to prevail at the policy level, which I believe ultimately is damaging to the land and people of our nation. You cannot have it both ways. You cannot continue business as usual and expect to actually halt pollinator declines. If pollinator health is made a priority, to be successful much current policy and practice must change.

Habitat: The more diverse and native plant-oriented, the better

Many species of bees and other pollinators can thrive in disturbed habitat, habitat that has undergone recent sudden change (fire in a prairie, attacks by insects in a wooded area). Plant biodiversity and features such as *uncultivated* ground and native plants left standing through winter are effective at any scale. In temperate regions, more species of bees often will be found in old urban and inner ring suburban residential neighborhoods with diverse vegetation, and haphazard (not manicured) lawn care, than in either “clean-farmed” agricultural land or *some* undisturbed natural areas.

- Ramp up efforts to help (require?) large-scale commodity farmers to increase pollinator-friendly, biodiverse native plant areas on their land such as hedgerows, buffer strips, insectaries and the recent USDA sponsored bee-pastures.
- Encourage efforts by municipalities and local organizations. For example, West Cook Wild Ones, homeowners and the park districts of Oak Park and River Forest are planting pollinator gardens, creating a broad east-west corridor between Columbus

Park in Chicago and Cook County Forest Preserve land along the Des Plaines River.

- Require conventional farms to establish shelterbelts that keep pesticides in their own fields. Drift from neighboring cornfields should not harm plants and reduce pollinator diversity on land I help care for in central Illinois.
- Increase mixed-use farms that utilize agroecology, agroforestry, managed grazing, and crop rotation and diversity.
- Increase habitat along roadsides and change management practices to favor reduced pesticide use, reduced mowing and increased biodiversity.

Partnerships: Find people who are already doing good work and help them out

So much great work is being done by so many individuals and organizations that forming partnerships beyond the usual trade associations and corporate councils should be a huge priority. Seek out these stakeholders who have scientific and practical expertise, who are already partnering with and educating municipalities, farmers and homeowners regarding land management, landscaping practices, use of native plants, and even urban green infrastructure such as raingardens, bioswales, and green roofs. Tap into the local and sustainable food movement.

Besides national organizations such as Xerces Society, Wild Ones, American Community Garden Association, and National Wildlife Federation, others have much to offer, e.g. native plant growers and nurseries; ecological landscaping associations and their member firms; organic farm associations; and conservation organizations.

Education: Find, encourage, and create formal and informal education programs

Much of my work is directly involved with teaching others about ecosystem- and pollinator-friendly land use practices. For example, I partner with my school's environmental science and ecology instructor to lead experiential learning opportunities for students. Our sustainable ag tech program teaches pollinator-friendly farming practice. We are currently collaborating to help a high school in an underserved community create a school food garden that will include perennial native plant areas to serve as pollinator and beneficial insect habitat.

Education needs to start at an early age and include families. I know of school butterfly gardens that have been replaced with turf grass because parents lacked knowledge about pollinators. Children are taught to be afraid of rather than understand and respect bees and other pollinators. Frequently, educators themselves lack the information to be able to teach about these things. Consequently, elementary schools and forest preserve nature programs are a good place to start.

High school science programs and college sustainability, science, agriculture, horticulture, landscape architecture and design, urban planning, and civil engineering programs should all be educating students about ecosystem health, reconciliation ecology, and practices that promote species diversity, including pollinators, in anthropocentric landscapes. To do this will require professional development and training for instructors, and changes in policy, learning outcomes and curriculum. In addition, interdisciplinary collaboration will be required among departments and instructors. This work is already being done in many places, but could use encouragement and federal dollars to be successful.

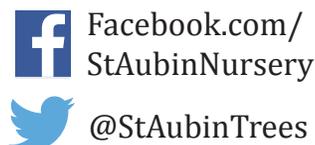
A plethora of other groups desperately need educating, including: Homeowner and condo associations; landscaping companies; golf course managers; school and park districts; large commercial growers; and last but not least, legislators.

Research: We need more, but already know enough to act

The scientific research that is presently going on is phenomenal and much basic research remains left to be done. Certainly,



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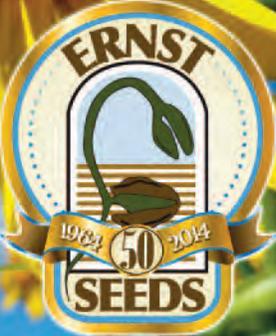
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studies regarding honeybee health and best practices for beekeepers are crucial. Little is known about the many species of wild native bees that inhabit our continent. And, though much is known about the biodiversity-enhancing practices that enable beneficial insects to thrive so that pesticide use can be reduced, more can be found out. Citizen science programs involving activities such as butterfly monitoring and bee spotting are vital.

However, even though there is a necessity for such large-scale studies as the STRIPS program in Iowa, we already know enough to be able to foster diverse, healthy pollinator populations. Any citizen scientist with moderate natural history skills will observe the following: *Areas with few (particularly native) plant species where pesticides are used will have fewer pollinators.* This is observable at any scale, from the back yard to large acreage and I, personally, have done so.

For example, an upscale, manicured suburban neighborhood will have fewer pollinators than a less kempt one and a conventional institutional campus will have fewer pollinators than a biodiverse one. (I once planted a small demonstration rain garden in the middle of a large area of turf and concrete walkways. Pollinators immediately showed up.) Conventionally farmed monocultures will have fewer pollinators (or beneficial insects of any kind, or birds) than biodiverse farming operations implementing IPM practices. By extrapolation, millions of acres planted exclusively to corn and soy in Illinois will have fewer pollinators than the biodiverse Chicago region.

In my opinion, at this point we need pollinator-friendly policy and a will to act as much as research.

Policy: Pollinators should have standing

Obviously, fostering pollinator health goes far beyond bees into issues of overall ecosystem health, the types of subsidies we give, and the laws we create that favor one type of crop and style of farming or one type of urban/suburban development over another. None of the suggestions I've noted above can be widely implemented without good policy and law. Right now, owing to money and legal expertise, the large agricultural and chemical corporations are overly influential on policy. This is made abundantly clear by the types of policies that are enacted and from the resulting toxic-chemical-laden state of our soils and waterways, from our declining bird populations — and poor pollinator health.

When developing policy and law, independent scientists, organic farm organizations and groups such as Xerces Society, Wild Ones and Center for Food

Safety should have a place at the table and equal voice. This will be difficult to insure, owing to disparities in organizations' available funds, but the policy situation will not improve until some kind of parity is created. In addition, when reviewing pesticide effects and environmental impacts, the EPA and USDA should not be relying on studies sponsored by the companies whose products are being reviewed. As a private citizen, I am extremely frustrated and disappointed that large corporations have more say in such matters than the people who have to live with the consequences of corporate-influenced government policy. We would not be in this crisis situation regarding pollinators if other groups had equal influence on policy, and had the ability to help craft policy beneficial to, and indeed prioritizing, land use practices that promote pollinator, and ecosystem, health. Recently, I reread the legal classic "Should Trees Have Standing?" In this case, very clearly, pollinators should have standing.

If pollinators had standing, farm and other policies might shift in surprising ways. Suggestions:

- Adopt "do no harm" policies regarding chemicals similar to those in the EU.
- Reduce the pesticides available to untrained homeowners.
- Require lawncare companies to make organic lawn care the preferred, default option.
- Require garden center suppliers to label their plants with the types of systemic pesticides used in production. Many concerned gardeners don't buy these plants because we know that plants treated with broad-spectrum systemics such as neonicotinoids pose a danger to the very pollinators we wish to encourage.
- Prioritize ecosystem and pollinator health in all landscaping of government property, similar to energy-use efficiency and reduction requirements in government buildings.

**In conclusion: ecosystem health
= pollinator and other species health
= human health**

Thanks again for the opportunity to give input to the Pollinator Health Task Force. I am sure many other people will be giving the same information and suggestions and hope our collective voice will prove useful to the work of the Task Force. Hopefully the EPA and USDA will create far-reaching policies and prioritize pollinator-friendly practices to the extent that declines of honeybees, native bees, and other pollinators such as monarch butterflies can be halted, that populations of these important creatures can rebound, and indeed, increase. *Our lives depend on it.* 🌻

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Little House Naturalist

By Barb Bray

When I was a young girl in elementary school, I enjoyed reading the series of “Little House” books by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Now, so many years later, I find myself picking up the same books again for help in bringing the past alive for kids visiting the historical site where I now work. The latest book I revisited was “On the Banks of Plum Creek”. As I began chapter 3, I was surprised by Ms. Wilder’s beautiful description of wild iris growing along the creek:

“There along the creek rushes were growing, and blue flags. Every morning the blue flags were new. They stood up dark blue and proud among the green rushes. Each blue flag had three velvet petals that curved down like a lady’s dress over hoops. From its waist three ruffled silky petals stood up and curved together. When Laura looked down inside them, she saw three narrow pale tongues, and each tongue had a strip of golden fur on it.” (p. 18)¹

Ms. Wilder continues her memory of Plum Creek. She spots a bumblebee visiting the flowers. She experiences the warm, soft mud along the creek bank with her toes and notes footprints left in the same mud by oxen. “Bright dragonflies” fly and “pale-blue butterflies” hover around the creek. I smiled when I read about “tiny fishes” nibbling her toes. One day, Laura pulls on a rush and it squeaks. She discovers that the round green sections of the plant can be pulled apart and (sort of) put back together. Most likely these are the interesting plants we call Scouring Rushes (*Equisetum hyemale*). After reading this wonderful adventure, I realized that Laura was more than a pioneer girl; she was also a keen observer of nature.

The series of Little House books are full of enticing adventures for children of all ages. Let me give you an example. I was about 10 years old when I read “Little House in the Big Woods”. In the chapter titled “Dance at Grandpa’s,” Laura describes her grandmother stirring a kettle full of boiling maple syrup. Soon she announces to everyone that the syrup is waxing. Everyone stops dancing and hurries to the kitchen to fill a plate with clean snow. Then her grandmother pours hot syrup on the snow to make soft maple candy. It sounded so wonderful to me that one winter I decided to make maple candy too. The only problem was that I didn’t really understand the process. I grabbed a bottle of pancake syrup from the kitchen shelf and heated it on the stove. Then I poured it on my plate of snow. The warm syrup sunk through the snow and made a watery mess. It wasn’t until many years later that I realized a couple of things. First, you need REAL maple syrup to make maple taffy candy, and second, you need to boil the syrup long enough to reach the “waxy” stage, around 235 degrees Fahrenheit. When I finally made Laura’s maple candy, it was 30 years later, but I felt proud that finally I got it right.

The Little House books by Laura Ingalls Wilder provide not only a fun way to help kids understand life long ago, but they can also send you on outdoor adventures. Below are some additional ideas for experiencing what Laura did as a child. You could read the book before you go or take it with you. Imagine the excitement of seeing what Laura saw, touching the same kinds of things she did, and hearing the same kinds of sounds she experienced in her life. Take Laura along as your “Little House Naturalist”.

On the Banks of Plum Creek:

- Find a crayfish in a stream or creek nearby
- Listen to grasshopper’s wings buzzing or whirring as they fly

Little House on the Prairie:

- Look for yellow plumes of goldenrod and starry daisies blooming in a meadow
- Watch long-legged water bugs skating on the water’s surface
- Look for green colored frogs and silvery minnows in a pond

On the Banks of Silver Lake:

- Walk through grasses taller than you
- Listen for animal murmurs and birds talking
- Watch a sunset over a prairie or a grassy meadow
- Look for purple shadows
- Find a duck by a lake

¹ Wilder, Laura Ingalls. 1965. *On the Banks of Plum Creek*. Scholastic Inc: New York, NY.



Water striders
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Blue flag
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Lady Luna PHOTO: C Sarikonda



Spider on a flower
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Male Green Frog
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Chapter Anniversaries

Prairie Edge, MN – 1 year

Will County, IL – 1 year

North Oakland, MI – 5 years

Root River, WI – 14 years

North Park Village Nature Center, IL – 17 years

CONGRATULATIONS! Wild Ones Chapters

Wild Ones West Cook (IL) Chapter recently received a \$5500 toward Developing a Wildlife Corridor from the Patagonia Environmental Grant Program and Wild Ones Southeast Michigan Chapter received funding in the amount of \$5,000 from the AT&T CARES Program which recognizes AT&T employees and retirees for their service to non-profit organizations and the community.

West Cook Chapter is planning to create a wildlife corridor in the Oak Park/River Forest community and are kicking it off with a presentation at Wild Things, the conference that Chicago Wilderness stages each year at the University of Illinois at Chicago. They are also working on a presentation by Catherine Zimmerman and screening of her new film, Hometown Habitat in partnership with One Earth Film Festival. In May they are launching their first Native Plant Conference at Dominican University featuring Doug Tallamy as keynote. Bret Rappaport serves as national board liaison.

Southeast Michigan Chapter has been working on converting eight abandoned parking-lot islands into natural habitat in Southfield, Michigan along 8 Mile Rd since 2011. Their goal along with community volunteers was to make a difference that could be seen from space in 1000 days. The 2014 season presented quite a show. Nominated by AT&T employee, Fred Kaluza, the AT&T CARES program. With these funds the chapter plans to continue promoting native landscaping in home landscapes and communities in their local area. Laura Zigmanth serves as national board liaison.

If your chapter is working or would like to work on such large scale projects, they may also be eligible to apply for funding from these granting entities.



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For information about
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The mailing label on the WILD ONES JOURNAL and other mailed communications to Wild Ones members tell you which chapter you belong to and the date your membership expires.

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Headquarters Wish List

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- Access programmer • Weeding demonstration gardens • Recording bird and critter sightings • Removing buckthorn • Restoring woodland understory & overstory

Things to help with all sorts of activities:

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PHOTO: Laura Medien



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There are many ways you can help Wild Ones promote environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities – including financial support or volunteering your time. You can choose to provide additional support in various ways. Which of these might work for you?

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Annual gifts, in addition to membership fees, provide critical ongoing resources to support daily operations and enable Wild Ones to carry out its mission throughout the year.

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For more information on supporting Wild Ones, contact Donna VanBuecken, Executive Director, Wild Ones, P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, Wisconsin 54912-1274, 877-394-9453 (toll free), execdirector@wildones.org, or visit our web site at www.wildones.org/.