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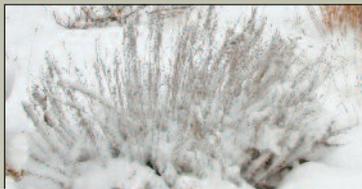
March/April 2015

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JOURNAL

WHERE THE PRAIRIES USED TO BE

If you could look at one of those big, bulletin-board-sized, maps of the country, the ones that Sierra Club and National Geographic used to send out, one that is in brown and green, showing the various elevations around the country, you would get a good idea of just where the 100th meridian runs north-south through the country; where the green and the brown meet, equidistant between Lincoln, Nebraska, at around 96 degrees longitude, and Denver, Colorado, at about 104 degrees.

[If you can, pull up this map on your computer. It will help you make sense of the terrain. <http://www.angelfire.com/sbrophy/27/elevation.jpg>]

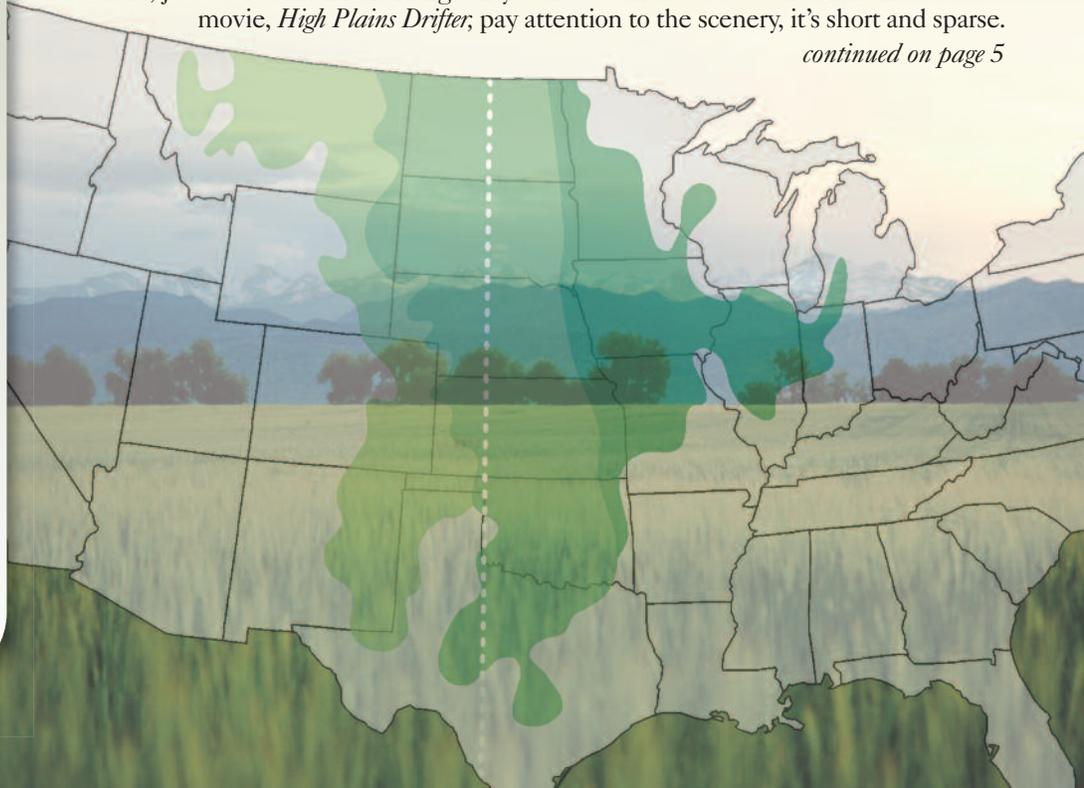
Roughly half the country lies east of this line, and half lies west.

Dodge City, Kansas (a tiny dot), sits at the intersection of the 100th meridian and the Arkansas River. Just a few degrees west of Denver, Colorado, runs the Continental Divide, a figurative line joining the highest points of the Rocky Mountains. At the Continental Divide, the headwaters of the Arkansas and the Colorado rivers disentangle and separate; one flows east and the other one west. In fact, all the rivers that originate in the Rockies can only flow in one direction, toward one ocean or the other. A lot of geography happens in this part of the country.

More relevant to our interests is an observation by 19th Century explorer, John Wesley Powell: *Here lies the boundary between well watered prairies and the more arid plains landscape to the west.*

The city of Denver lies just east of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. The registered elevation of the city is 5280 feet: one mile. The short grass prairie of the High Plains starts here, just east of the Front Range. If you have a chance to see the Clint Eastwood movie, *High Plains Drifter*, pay attention to the scenery, it's short and sparse.

continued on page 5





Promoting environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities.

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Tim Lewis
President

Growing Chapters



During a strategic planning brainstorming session last August, a group of us discussed the growth component of the plan. We concluded that, important to growing the organization, is retention of the chapters we have, while increasing the overall number of chapters by 10, in the next three years. This takes into account that we inevitably decharter a few chapters.

We plan to develop at least ten sprout and daughter chapters in the foreseeable future. 'Sprouts' are chapters that are formed by individuals who have a passion for native landscaping and know there are others in their area who share their interest. They contact these people and organize a meeting to consider starting a chapter. Sometimes these people are partner-at-large (PAL) members, and other times they are people who simply want a way to learn more about native plants and have heard Wild Ones is the way.

For example, the Tennessee Valley chapter was started by three Master Gardeners. Their special interest group focused on native plants but because the organization was going in another direction, they looked for a not-for-profit organization to continue their interest in native plants. They found out about Wild Ones through Catherine Zimmerman (Wild Ones Honorary Director) and then held a meeting with eleven people who decided to apply to be

a chapter. Catherine then gave a talk in Atlanta so the chapter members used the event as a membership drive and signed up an additional 70 people.

'Daughter' chapters are those that have split from existing chapters. This usually happens when a chapter is serving a large

region but some of its members do not attend the meetings because of travel distance. So the parent chapter identifies those members and helps them set up a new chapter. We have several daughter chapters because of this sort of process. The Greater DuPage chapter is an example. They helped a group of their members start a new chapter in a nearby county and then encouraged members in the area to transfer to the new chapter. Both chapters are growing.

The key to achieving growth is through careful consideration and collaboration. Individuals can meet with others to see if their area will support a 'sprout' chapter. Larger chapter boards can look at their membership base and determine if they can start a 'daughter' chapter. The national board and staff are committed to helping start new chapters and assisting in maintaining current chapters.

For more information about starting a chapter see <http://www.wildones.org/connect/chapter-start-up-information/> 

Wild ones is a national not-for-profit organization with local chapters that teaches about the many benefits of growing native wildflowers in people's yards.



Wild Ones definition of a native plant:
A native plant is a species that occurs naturally in a particular region, ecosystem and/or habitat and was present prior to European settlement.



Donna VanBuecken
Executive Director

This is a busy time of the year
for us at the
Wild Ones headquarters...

BUSINESS: State of the Chapter reports and Chapter Yearend Financial reports are coming in and dealing with 50 some chapters keeps us busy. Along with that we are trying to prepare our own yearend reports for the national board in anticipation of the auditor's review in March. But it is also the one time of the year that we get to communicate with all our chapters, so it is a good opportunity to get caught up with everyone.

WILD FOR MONARCHS: This year we have submitted a proposal to Monarch Joint Venture (MJV) to partner with Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, Monarch Watch's Monarch Tagging Program and Journey North in developing a citizen science program for Wild Ones members and friends. All the details haven't been worked out yet, but stay tuned for more information on how you can participate and become more involved as a citizen scientist. To join the monarch committee to help develop this program, e-mail monarch@wildones.org

MEMBERS ONLY WEBPAGES: The board has approved our proposal to begin the task of moving the 'members only' webpages to our new website format (which is in WordPress). We hope there won't be any snafus as we work through this process, but if there is please be patient with us. But do let us hear from you as well so we are certain to know what might not be functioning properly.

HOMETOWN HABITAT: Member and chapter donations are up to \$11,662 and we understand Catherine has started her editing process. At this point our most recent donors are: Columbus (OH), Gibson Woods (IN) and Southeast Michigan chapters, and Denise Gehring, Oak Openings (MI) and Shelly Cellak on behalf of Stephanie Walquist, West Cook (IL).

CONVENIENCE FEE FOR ON-LINE PAYMENTS: Fees charged for using credit cards and other forms of on-line payments have increased substantially over the years. The trend indicates that the fees Wild Ones will pay in 2015 will double (approx \$7,000). This is a cost we are not able to offset with current membership dues. Rather than considering increasing dues, Wild Ones is exploring the process involved in charging a convenience fee for all on-line transactions. We will keep you updated on what we find out and how we plan to proceed.

FOR THE WILD ONES: For those of you who celebrated Wild Ones 35th anniversary with us last August, have I got news for you! Steve Hazell recorded the Wild Ones songs onto a CD and we now have copies available for purchase. All three Wild Ones songs are on it. Go to <http://www.wildones.org/wild-ones-store/product-category/miscellaneous/> and order today! ❁



PHOTO: Jamie Fuerst

Mark Your Calendars

March 21 (Saturday)

The Prairie Enthusiasts
2015 Annual Conference

University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point,
Dreyfus Center, Stevens Point, WI.
Wild Ones Honorary Director Neil Diboll
and author Heather Holmes,
Wild Ones Prairie Edge (MN),
will be speaking.

April 18 (Saturday)

Native Plants to Know and Grow

Ohio State University
College of Food, Agricultural and
Environmental Sciences
& Meigs County Extension.
Pomeroy, Ohio.
Wild Ones Executive Director
Donna VanBuecken,
keynote speaker.

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SEEDS FOR EDUCATION

This past September, with help from a Wild Ones Seeds for Education Grant, a butterfly garden was planted at the For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum. This planting was spearheaded by Chance Karn who developed and implemented this effort as his Eagle Scout Project. Chance recruited 9 volunteers, including family members and 3 other Scouts. The installation of native perennials and shrubs, watering and mulching was done in 2 hours.

Because the planting was done in early September, many of the plants on the plant list were no longer available at the native plant nurseries. The job will be completed in the spring.

The new garden generated a lot of interest and excitement all season—even prior to the actual planting. When schools and community groups learned about the new garden, its potential and who was installing it, the positive response was overwhelming. It created a sense of pride in the community to see one of its local parks establishing a habitat for declining species, and partnering with a young adult to do so. This project strengthened the partnership between the Genesee County Park and the local Scout troops. 🌸



Eagle Scout candidate, Chance Karn, recruited family and three other scouts, to help with the installation of a Butterfly garden, which had received a Wild Ones Seeds for Education Grant.



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WHERE THE PRAIRIES USED TO BE

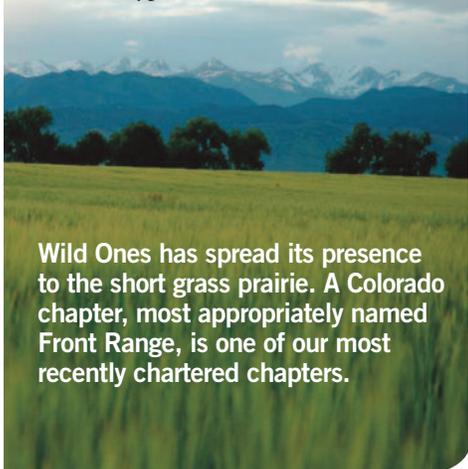
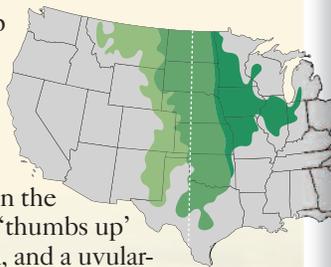
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In this area, immediately east of the Rockies, the short grass prairie system is able to survive by sheer obstinacy. In the first place, the ground water is extremely deep. And secondly, the average annual rainfall in the short-grass prairie is a scarce 15 inches—because it lies in the ‘rain-shadow of the Rockies’.

The air blowing inland off the Pacific Ocean drops most of its moisture over western Washington, Oregon and California. And, as the air rises higher and higher over the 10,000 to 14,000 foot elevations of the Continental Divide of the Rockies, there is little moisture to be picked up. Hence the term ‘rain-shadow’. It’s only as the icy air crosses the Front Range that it drops, and what moisture the air carries condenses, and falls on the short-grass system.

The air continues falling and picking up moisture, so that Dodge City, on the 100th meridian, at an elevation of ½ mile, gets about 22 inches. Cedar Rapids Iowa in the heart of the tall grass prairie system gets 34 inches.

On this map the light green is the color of the short grass prairie. The dark green in the east, with a ‘thumbs up’ in Michigan, and a uvular-shape in Wisconsin, is tall-grass prairie. In between, is a mixture of the two types of flora. 🌿



Wild Ones has spread its presence to the short grass prairie. A Colorado chapter, most appropriately named Front Range, is one of our most recently chartered chapters.

Ericameria nauseosa (rabbit brush) loaded with “snowballs.”



Front Range Native Plants Have Winter Interest

By Linda M. Hellow, Wild Ones Front Range Chapter CO

With the recent snow, I’ve been admiring my prairie anew. The white fluffy stuff provides a new background from which to appreciate nature. The tan grass stems and seed heads come to the foreground instead of just forming a monotone background. The large rabbitbrush seed heads hold little puffs of snow. It looks almost Dr. Seuss-ish! The subtle red colors of various stems are more pronounced against the snow and the sage looks almost blue.

Every fall I’m tempted to mow and clean up the beds. I think this urge to clean things up is some sort of mothering instinct that migrates from the house to the yard. But removing all the plant material really does not serve nature. I find that if I leave everything just as nature leaves it I have much more to look at during the winter. Plus, the birds and other wildlife feed on the seeds and find shelter among the stems and fallen leaves.

Enjoy these photos and keep in mind that any of these plants can be a specimen in a more formal garden where they will maintain their shape through the winter, while providing necessary ecological functions.

Solidago canadensis (goldenrod) reddish stems provide stable vertical interest even with mounds of snow on the seed heads.



Below: *Liatris punctata* (dotted gayfeather) provides a striking form with its linear leaves.



The eye-lash-like seed heads of *Bouteloua gracilis* (blue grama) gracefully hold their form in the snow.



The grey of *Artemisia frigida* (fringed sage) turns more blue against the snow.

Evidence of climate change is being found in the field journals of two of the best known American environmental writers

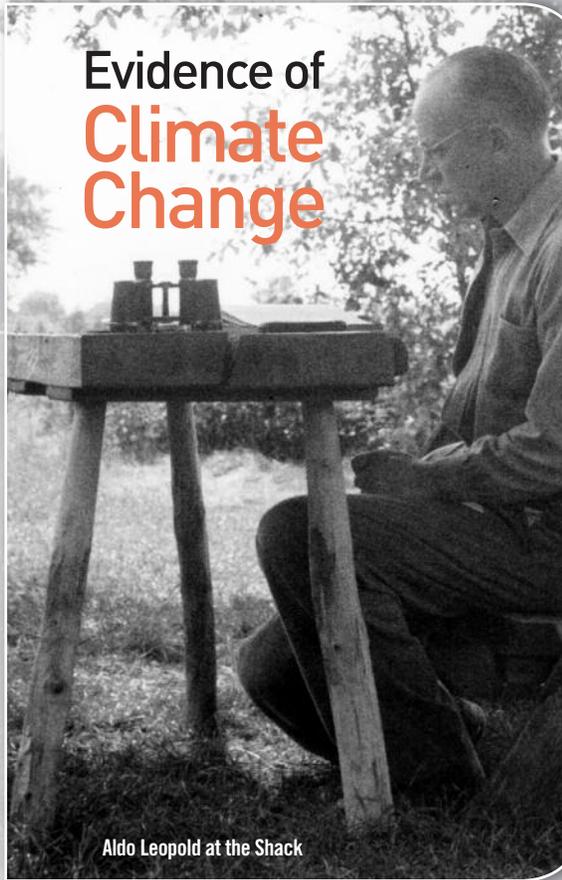
In 1852 Henry David Thoreau, author of *Walden*, started keeping records of flowering times of 32 species of native plants, in Concord, Massachusetts. He continued for six years.

From 1935-1945, Aldo Leopold, author of *Sand County Almanac*, kept similar phenological records of 23 phylogenetically diverse spring-flowering native plant species, in Dane and Sauk Counties, Wisconsin.

In 2013, biologists and ecologists from Boston University, University of Wisconsin, and Harvard University, published a comparison of those data and similar data collected by other naturalists in the intervening and following years. They had records of relevant temperatures and first dates of blooming, which encompass 161 years, collected at two separate geographical points that are 930 miles apart.

After intensive analysis of the data, it's safe to say that average spring temperatures are around 10 degrees warmer and that the plants considered are blooming over three weeks earlier. Climate change is happening at a remarkable rate.

There are many ways to tell the same story...



Aldo Leopold at the Shack

By Barb Benish,
Fox Valley Area Chapter of WI

Stanley Temple, (one of the authors of the previously mentioned 2013 paper ED), professor emeritus in conservation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who holds the same academic position once held by Leopold at the University, was the keynote speaker at the January 2015 Toward Harmony with Nature conference in Oshkosh.

Leopold, the first professor of wildlife management in the world, started his love affair with nature and journaling because of his parents. "His father was a great outdoorsman who believed your behavior in the outdoors should be guided by ethical considerations," Temple says. "And his mother insisted he keep journals."

He started keeping phenological records at age 8, noting things such as the first Phoebe of the year, which was clustered around



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skunk cabbage during a cold snap in early spring. Temple says Leopold understood the inter-connectedness of species, and that the Phoebe had learned the skunk cabbage provided bird food in the flying insects that surrounded it, as well as warmth.

Stanley Temple of Leopold Foundation



In 1935, Leopold acquired a worn-out farmhouse on the Wisconsin River that he called "The Shack." It was there that his journals became the richest, Temple says, when each weekend he gathered up the family to go there and record things like the return of the Great Crested Flycatcher during the first week of May.

Throughout time, Leopold found that some species didn't vary from year to year, no matter the temperature. He also discovered that not all species responded to temperature in the same way, Temple says.

Leopold wasn't the only one keeping records.

Bill Schorger (also from the University of Wisconsin), kept records dating back to 1909, and Leopold's own daughter, Nina Leopold Bradley, returned to "the Shack" in her retirement and resumed keeping daily records. They give southeast Wisconsin the largest run of phenological data in Northern America, Temple says.

When Nina compared her data to her father's, she discovered that many events were occurring earlier than in the past as temperatures rose. She found that the average spring temperature at the Shack had increased nearly 2 degrees since the 1950s, and two-thirds of the events had advanced with the warmer temperatures.

The sound of a cardinal's first song could be expected on February 27 from 1935-47. But from 1976-98, the cardinal arrived about 12 days earlier, on February 15. Her journaling also found that bloodroot was blossoming 14 days earlier, and Pasqueflower, nine days earlier than during her father's time.

As for birds, short-distance migrants like robins would arrive in Wisconsin about March 19 from 1935-47, and about two weeks earlier, on March 5, from 1976-1998, Temple says. Long-distance migrants such as Wood Thrushes, however, still come at about the same time, about May 5. "It makes sense," Temple says. "They are farther away so they don't know what the weather is like in Wisconsin."

With climatologists predicting warmer weather in the future, scientists are trying to discover what that will mean for species.

But past records of a particularly warm spring in 1977 give important insight into how species will respond, Temple says.

There will come a time, however, when plants can no longer blossom earlier because they require a specific "winter chilling" requirement or because they need enough daylight. "But Wisconsin hasn't run into those limitations and probably won't in our lifetime," Temple says.

The dates of natural events moved up by warm temperatures do come with some consequences. Door County cherries had their earliest blossoming ever a few years ago, but most of those blossoms died when a cold front came through. In western Wisconsin, apple trees also blossomed at a record early date, but there were not enough pollinators out yet to do their job so apples were few that year.

"It's indicative of what ecologists are concerned about," Temple says. "Species will get out of sync."

When strongly interacting species get out of sync with each other because they respond differently to climate change, the result can be devastating. The Great Crested Flycatcher, for instance, is still arriving in Wisconsin about May 1 or May 2, but as a cavity nester, it is finding many of the best nesting sites are already gone to other birds such as European starlings that now arrive earlier. Since the 1960s, the numbers of Great Crested Flycatchers has declined by 30 percent. "The winning strategy is to get there first," Temple says.

But remember the earlier story of the skunk cabbage and Phoebe? Those two species are still in sync, with the cabbage blossoming earlier and the bird still arriving one week after the skunk cabbage blooms. So if there is a cold snap, the Phoebe still has a place to go for food and shelter, Temple says.

Rather than just complain about what is happening, people can help. "Share your observations so you can help scientists find order in these events," Temple says. Share your observations with the National Phenology Network at http://www.usanpn.org/natures_notebook or eBird at <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>. 🌸

"Leopold and Thoreau had no idea their observations would help us understand responses to human-caused climate change," says Temple. "But Leopold knew his records might be useful in retrospect when he wrote: 'Keeping records enhances the pleasure of the search, and the chance of finding order and meaning in these events.'"

Bluestem Farm



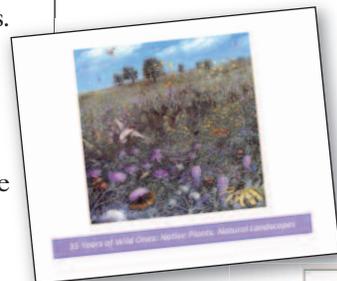
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For a number of years Bob Grese, Doug Tallamy, Lynn Steiner and Pat Sutton have served, and they continue to serve, as Wild Ones' Honorary Directors.

This year, 2015, is the beginning of a new term for some of our Honorary Directors. We welcome them and introduce them to you.

GLENN DREYER Glenn Dreyer started working with noted environmentalist William Niering while still a graduate student in 1982, while Niering was the Director of the Connecticut College Arboretum. In 1988 Dreyer was appointed the Director of the Arboretum, a position he holds today, along with being the Executive Director of the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment, which has one of the oldest Environmental Studies programs in the country. In 2004 the Arboretum and Dreyer initiated a 12-acre meadow restoration project. Dreyer did detailed plant census work on the project. This led to the first publication in the professional literature, of a documentation of an early successional habitat restoration. More recently Director Dreyer led a committee that compiled a new checklist of the native and naturalized vascular plants of Connecticut.

KAREN OBERHAUSER Best known to Wild Ones as the Co-chair of the Steering Committee for the Monarch Joint Venture Program, hosted by the University of Minnesota, Karen Oberhauser also serves as a Professor of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, an Extension Specialist for Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Education and as a Co-Director of Graduate studies in Conservation Biology at the University. Karen conducts research and teaches in the fields of conservation biology, insect ecology, global climate change, and monarch butterfly population dynamics. She is especially interested in promoting a citizenry with a high degree of environmental and ecological literacy, and, to this end, conducts workshops for K-12 teachers and directs the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project.

STEPHEN PACKARD For more than three decades, Stephen Packard has lectured, taught, written and founded on-the-ground initiatives and organizations – all focused on ecological conservation. He has been Director of Science and Stewardship for

the Illinois Nature Conservancy and Director of Audubon Chicago Region. Packard has extensive experience in the restoration of prairies and oak woodlands. He initiated and helped to plan and implement a number of large ecological restoration projects in Illinois including Nachusa Grasslands, Bartel Grassland, Orland Grassland and the Spring Creek Forest Preserves restoration (4,000 acres). His work on open oak ecosystems has led to the rediscovery of these now rare communities.

JAMIE REASER Jamie Reaser has had a long abiding love for amphibians (subject of her 1996 doctoral dissertation), along with a fascination for how humans communicate. Her knowledge of amphibians followed a branch into invasive species, and then her other interest took her into how ecologists might communicate the idea of invasive species to non-ecologists. Following her passion she has acquired an arm-load of accolades, titles, and professional publications. She has travelled around the world and back to a home in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

Announcing the Wild Ones 2015 Photo Contest



Photo by Becky Erickson

The deadline for the Wild Ones Photo Contest has changed. All photos must be submitted by 4:00 pm, **June 20, 2015**. This makes it possible for us to announce the winners at the Wild Ones Annual Conference in August. See wildones.org for details.



Photo by Chan Mahanta



Photo by Thomas Young

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ORLEY "CHIP" TAYLOR

Founder and Director of

Monarch Watch, Chip Taylor is known world-wide for his work related to saving the monarch migration in North America. Taylor is a Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Kansas where he conducts research on a variety of topics related to the evolution and ecological implications of life history traits in insects and plants. His Monarch Watch website among other things provides a database of monarch waystations across the world and a database of sequential seasons for tag recoveries. It also provides the location where the monarchs over-wintered in Mexico each year. Taylor's life work to save the monarch and its habitat was instrumental in gaining the interest of the tri-lateral Committee made up of the three governments of North America – Canada, the United States and Mexico.

CATHERINE ZIMMERMAN

Catherine Zimmerman

is commencing her second term as a Wild Ones Honorary Director. An award-winning director of photography, she is celebrating her 40th year as a documentary film maker, working primarily on education and environmental issues. Environmental videos of hers include

global warming documentaries for CNN Presents and New York Times Television; Save Rainforests/Save Lives, Fresh Farm Markets, Wildlife Without Borders: Connecting People and Nature in the Americas, and America's Sustainable Garden: United States Botanic Garden. Catherine is also a certified horticulturist and landscape designer based in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. She is the author of the book and film *Urban & Suburban Meadows* and is currently working on a new film entitled *Hometown Habitat*.

NEIL DIBOLL

Neil Diboll has been named as only our second

Lifetime Honorary Director. In 1982 Neil began his involvement with Prairie Nursery, producing native plants and seeds, designing native landscapes, and finally becoming its president. He has devoted his efforts to championing the use of prairie plants, as well as native trees, shrubs and wetland plants, in contemporary American landscapes. Neil is recognized internationally as an expert in ecological and natural landscape design, and is the author of numerous articles on designing and landscaping with native plants. The essence of Neil's philosophy is that we, as stewards of the planet, must work to preserve and increase the diversity

of native plants and animals, with which we share our world. The protection of our natural heritage and our soil and water resources is essential to maintaining a high quality of life for today, and for the children of future generations.

Glenn, Karen, Jamie, Neil, Steve, Catherine and Chip along with Bob, Doug, Lynn and Pat will be collaborating in the presentation of materials for the WILD ONES JOURNAL and our website. We will be featuring their blogs and websites on the Wild Ones website, along with news of their current work, research interests, restoration projects, speaker presentations, etc. in both the WILD ONES JOURNAL and through our Internet resources. They will be sharing their references to some of their favorite learning resources and they will also be available as presenters at chapter or national workshops or conferences. Their potential contributions to the Wild Ones mission and to the natural landscaping movement in general, are unlimited.

Please join in welcoming to Wild Ones our newest designated Wild Ones Honorary Directors. If you would like to help us stay in touch with our Honorary Directors on a regular basis, please contact exccdirector@wildones.org and offer your assistance. 🌸

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Watch Them Grow

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South Native Trails, Neenah	Sullivan Pond, Fond du Lac
Pendelton Pond, Neenah	South Park, Neenah
Copps, Neenah	US Venture, Appleton
West Town, Neenah	Nut Hatch Overseed, Sherwood
Sunset Park Overseed, Kimberly	Macco Pond, Green Bay
Amy Ave - McMahan, Darboy	Mike Arien's, Brillion
Springfield Restoration, Darboy	Dewey Street Pond, Manitowoc
Wolf River Bank, Hortonville	
SCA Tissue, Town of Menasha	Slated for 2015
Roehl Truck Hwy BB, Appleton	22 Acres at Thrivent, Appleton

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Special Thanks to Stuart at McMahan Engineers for all his professional advice.

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By James P. Engel

PLAN YOUR LANDSCAPE

In every natural system that exists on this planet, the plants determine what other organisms will live and survive in that space.

Some species are able to adapt to human disturbance and live in close proximity to humans. But what about the hundreds of other species that once lived where our homes now stand? Are they banished to parks and preserves, or the few remaining natural areas saved from development?

This doesn't have to be the case. Many species of wildlife will live near our homes and offices if we provide them with the basic necessities for life.

Our modern landscapes, and the plants used in them, have been developed solely for their ease of care, and aesthetic appearance in the landscape. The biological role and the ecological function of plants in the landscape have been largely ignored and considered irrelevant to human needs.

But what is an attractive landscape without living organisms to animate it, and complete the drama of nature. We have short-changed ourselves if we design landscapes that do not provide for the needs of native wildlife.

Cover and Habitat

Cover is the primary requirement for most species of birds that will be drawn to our backyards. To live in a landscape birds need: *cover* for resting, *cover* for feeding, *cover* for nesting, *cover* for protection and *cover* for everything else that birds do.

The definition of appropriate cover will vary among birds. If adequate cover is present then most other needs of birds should be satisfied. For example the food requirements of birds will be satisfied by fruit and seeds, insects feeding on the plants that provide the cover, or by the invertebrates living in the leaf litter beneath the plants.

In a larger context *cover* can be combined with other important survival requirements of all wildlife, and be referred to collectively as *habitat*. Habitat refers to the space and area that provides the critical needs of a plant or an animal species. The habitat requirements of wildlife vary from species to species and even from individual to individual. Each species is adapted to live in a certain type of habitat. The cover type and species must be compatible to meet the comfort requirement for a specific species.

How do species use habitat? The area from ground level to several feet above the ground seems to be the most important habitat zone for most creatures. They use this space for most of their critical activities.

While a grass lawn is restricted to a two dimensional surface with limited attraction for wildlife, a similarly sized space covered with shrubs creates a three dimensional space that is used by animals quite differently. Birds and other wildlife can readily move in, out, and about this space to feed, rest or do any of the things that all wildlife does.

What about trees? Many species of birds are found feeding in, perching on and nesting

within the canopies of trees. Trees are very important to the needs of birds but not entirely by themselves. Even tree top dwelling birds are dependent on other habitat types for their survival.

In forest environments trees are seldom isolated from other vegetative layers. The different vegetative levels are integrated and structured so wildlife can move vertically up and down through all layers of the forest from ground level to the very top of the forest canopy. This vertical layering is what is missing from our backyard landscapes. Trees are isolated from each other and are devoid of companion plantings. The way we place trees and shrubs in the landscape is contrary to the needs of most wildlife.

By understanding the features that create good wildlife habitat one can maximize those characteristics to create the best possible habitat. You must first decide what type of habitat you are trying to create and what types of species you are trying to attract and then proceed to create it. You can create a grass-land, shrub-land, woodland, savannah or any variation in between. Also remember that habitats created of plants are living, growing, evolving entities that change over time and the species that occupy them will also change.

There are *four habitat values* that will have the greatest influence on quality of habitat and what species will live there: density of plantings, key species, species diversity and spatial scale. All of these factors are important in creating wildlife habitat, but no one value can be favored independently of the others

Density of Planting

A residential lot landscaped for wildlife with dense planting and native species will be more

attractive to wildlife than the same lot landscaped in the traditional way.

Planting density positively affects quality of habitat for many species of wildlife. Dense plantings are attractive to more species than are open plantings. Dense cover provides the variety of cover that many species need for raising young, for feeding, for escape and for resting. Dense plantings also provide more variety, surface area and volume than a less densely planted area.

Spatial Scale

A golf course covering an area of 300 to 400 acres may contain the same total number of species as a quality shrubby habitat covering 50 acres. In this example, the golf course covers a very large area but the large expanse of turf is deficient in the cover and wildlife requirements needed to support a diverse wildlife community. A parcel of shrub habitat that covers several contiguous urban lots is many times smaller but contains all the habitat requirements to attract a complex assemblage of bird and animal species.

Spatial scale can have the greatest positive impact on total wildlife numbers but only when leveraged with one or more of the other three habitat values.

Diversity of Planting and Food Value

Each plant species offers varying degrees of

Alaine and Brad's house



Large country lot

BEFORE

for Birds and Other Wildlife

value to wildlife, be it growth habit, food resources, associated insect communities, and other less obvious benefits to wildlife. No one species is intrinsically better than another but some key species have unique traits that make them more valuable to certain species of wildlife than others.

Select and plant those species that have above average benefits to wildlife or offer several benefits. Many shrubs produce abundant fruits or seeds that supply critical food resources during critical times of the year but also provide valuable cover. Conifers provide valuable cover year round but especially during the winter months.

An array of species insures against the failure of any one species. Species diversity helps protect against a total seed failure in one plant species or the outbreak of an insect or disease pest that attacks a single species. Plant diversity provides more resources and alternatives for a greater variety of wildlife, and reduces the risk of catastrophic failures.

Habitat Loss, Potential Remedies

Conversely, the decline of wildlife populations is directly linked to habitat loss and land conversion. As large tracts of land are fragmented and converted to residential use this land is converted to low grade habitat that provides little or no benefit to wildlife.

This can be remedied on a piece by piece basis by following the principals outlined here. Do what you can to improve habitat by planting and encouraging native species, removing invasive species, and allowing nature to have its way.

Whether you own a residential lot or a 100-acre woodland, you can have a direct positive influence on your immediate surroundings, and impact on the wildlife. Educate your neighbors and form collaborations to create neighborhood habitats. Volunteer and partner with environmental groups. Encourage your garden center to stock native species. Collect and disperse native seed into suitable habitat.

Each effort both large and small contributes to the greater good.

Both houses were built on five-acre lots which were old fields. Note the old farm, field-edge, wind breaks in the background. The appearance of both homes benefits greatly from the additional hedge-row planting. Since the plants and layout were planned with wildlife in mind as well, the benefit is doubled.

For additional information on trees and shrubs that are particularly beneficial to moths and butterfly caterpillars, you can find a list put together by Doug Tallamy, in the March April, 2014 issue of the JOURNAL on the Wild Ones website. It can be found at <http://www.wildones.org/learn/native-plants-natural-landscaping/cursor-down-to-Are-you-a-birder>.

<http://www.audubon.org/magazine/january-february-2013/turn-your-yard-winter-refueling-spot> This Audubon site offers excellent suggestions for winter feeding of birds. 🌸



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Alaine and Brad's house four years later



Large country lot four years later



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Dan with kids.

Nancy and Dan receiving award.



A Project That Will Span Multiple Generations

By Nicole Kiefert, a journalism student at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Nancy Aten and Dan Collins of the Milwaukee-North (WI) Chapter recently received an award from the Wisconsin Wetlands Association for their work since 1988 at Bay Shore Blufflands State Natural Area. They work together in ecological restoration design, planning, implementation and management with their company, Landscapes of Place, LLC.

Aten said she was “thrilled” to receive the award. “It’s really nice to be given an award for something that, to you, is the most important thing you do. We have completed a conservation master plan for the whole State Natural Area of 4,200 acres. A fair amount of on-the-ground restoration work, probably about 200 acres, is done. The Bay Shore Blufflands project will be ongoing and will likely span multiple generations.”

Aten said her favorite part of her work at the Bay Shore Blufflands is coming across the animals they are helping or finding things she hasn’t seen before. They enjoy running into frogs, turtles, muskrats, salamanders, and plants ... that are new to them. Aten said, “It’s (part) of discovery and exploring and learning new things.”

This isn’t the first award the two have received for their work. In 2011, their company received the American Society of Landscape Architects Honor Award for their landscape restoration design in Milwaukee’s Menomonee River Valley. In addition, in 2012, Landscapes of Place received the Visibility Award from the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. 🌿

Nancy Aten literally up to her hips in her work.





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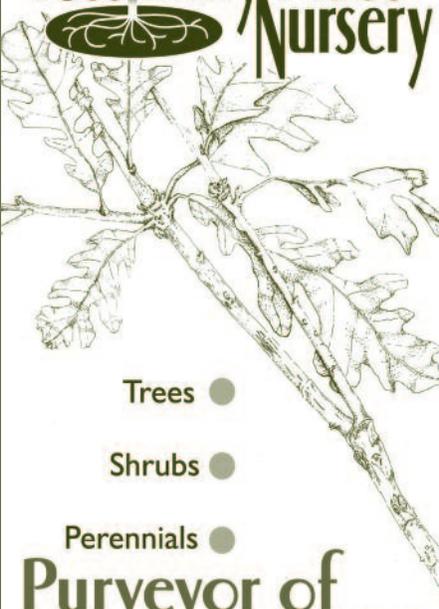
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Tropical Milkweed



South and Central American *Asclepias curassavica*.

AND Monarch Parasites

There has been much discussion about a recent scientific study published by Dara Satterfield and her colleagues, which focused on monarch butterflies that encountered both tropical milkweed and monarch protozoan parasites.

According to a response prepared by our Wild for Monarchs partner, Monarch Joint Venture, "This research shows very clearly that monarchs breeding and laying eggs on tropical milkweed throughout the winter months in North America, have higher levels of protozoan infection (caused by *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha*, OE), compared to monarchs in the migratory cycle. This result is not debatable. However, the implications of this for monarchs are more complicated."

Just as complicated as it is for Wild Ones to explain to family, friends and others why it is so important to use native plants in our landscaping. It's gardening for life. ED.

[Paraphrased from a response prepared by: Sonia Altizer, Karen Oberhauser, Dara Satterfield, and Candy Sarikonda.]

 Will infected butterflies at winter-breeding locations affect the monarch population as a whole?

The truth is that we don't really know. This depends on the abundance of non-migratory monarchs relative to the whole population, and the degree to which migratory and winter-breeding monarchs come into contact. Many of the winter-breeding locations occur along the migratory route in the southern U.S., so winter-breeding monarchs could spread parasites to migratory monarchs if they mate with each other or lay eggs on the same milkweed plants. (OE parasite spores are transmitted from infected adults to milkweed to caterpillars. Spores can also be passively transferred from adult to adult during mating.) As the overall monarch population in eastern North America becomes smaller, it is possible that winter-breeding monarchs will make up a larger proportion of the population. This could lead to a population-wide increase in infection rates. The potential mechanism for impact is clear, and we are strong believers in *precautionary principles* when it comes to conservation, so it seems prudent to err on the side of caution and avoid anything that could lead to a decline in monarch health.

The availability of tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) on the landscape in the U.S. is likely increasing as people become more aware of monarchs and their plight and seek to plant milkweeds that are sold in local garden stores. *continued*

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Creating Habitats for over 17 years

continued from previous page
Tropical milkweed itself is not “bad”. It provides larval food for monarchs in many places where it occurs naturally, such as across the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central America. Rather, it is the winter-breeding, a behavior that is enabled by the presence of tropical milkweed, which leads to increased parasitism. It’s important to understand the effects that increased planting of this particular milkweed might have for the monarch migration.

Is it going to drive monarchs to extinction? No.

Could its proliferation lead to greater fall and winter-breeding and increased disease? Probably.

We think that the risk is real enough and there are enough milkweed species that don’t have this effect that it makes more sense to plant native milkweed. If people want to keep planting the non-native tropical milkweed, they should understand and be comfortable with the likely consequences.

 *Is the problem really new? Isn't it normal for some monarchs to encounter milkweed and lay eggs on milkweed in the fall and winter as they move through Texas?*

As documented in a study by Karen Oberhauser et al., and noted in her book entitled *Monarchs in a Changing World: Biology and Conservation of an Iconic Butterfly*, native milkweed plants are sometimes green and available during the fall as monarchs are moving through Texas, but this is unusual, happening only in years with significant rainfall during the late summer and early fall. The native milkweed typically dies back in the winter, allowing the monarchs to come back to ‘clean’ habitats in the spring. This study also showed that the vast majority of sites that reported monarchs during the winter in Texas (through the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project) had tropical milkweed, and that monarch eggs were much more likely to be found on tropical milkweed. So, it is quite clear, as the authors of the Satterfield study point out, that tropical milkweed frequently supports monarchs breeding during the winter, whereas native milkweeds do so only in extremely rare circumstances.

 *I read that tropical milkweed is the ‘medicinal milkweed’ that helps monarchs when they are infected with OE. Does that mean tropical milkweed can keep my monarchs from becoming infected?*

Many people have cited other recent work from Jaap De Roode’s lab at Emory University showing that tropical milkweed

can have a medicinal effect on monarchs infected with OE, and that infected female monarchs seek out highly toxic milkweed like tropical milkweed to lay their eggs.

This is interesting and important work. However, **it cannot be emphasized enough that tropical milkweed does not ‘cure’ monarchs of infection.** If this were true, we would not see such high levels of infection in monarchs sampled in the winter-breeding tropical milkweed patches in the wild. In some of these patches, every single monarch was heavily infected. Tropical milkweed, like other toxic milkweed species, reduces disease severity (spore load) in infected monarchs – sometimes by half – and thus allows infected monarchs to live longer. But living longer can give infected monarchs more time to spread parasites. In other words, **feeding on toxic milkweeds is beneficial to individual infected monarchs, because they have a better chance of surviving long enough to mate and lay eggs. But if they do reproduce, their offspring will also become infected.** In this way, tropical milkweed could lead to high levels of infection in the wild.

This scenario is somewhat like parents giving their ill child Tylenol and sending her to school: she might feel better but is still infectious, capable of transmitting her disease to classmates.

 *What about tropical milkweed leads to high infections in winter-breeding monarchs?*

The problem is not with tropical milkweed *per se*, but rather with the winter-breeding *behaviors that it enables.* Tropical milkweed that grows year-round prolongs monarch breeding. In warm parts of the country, if tropical milkweed persists long enough so multiple generations of monarchs can lay eggs on the same plants, the results are a build-up of OE spores on the milkweed leaves and the consequent transmission of parasites to caterpillars.

OE spores deposited by infected monarchs are known to persist on surfaces for a long time – several months or longer – unless they are exposed to harsh chemicals or extreme temperatures. However, the parasites on native milkweed die during the monarch’s long absence during the winter months. The new growth of milkweed is parasite-free.

 *Could the milkweed be disrupting the migration by pulling monarchs out of reproductive diapause (mentioned but not tested directly in the Satterfield et al. 2015 study)?*

We can’t be sure of this. It is possible that tropical milkweed can disrupt migration

for some monarchs, but this has not been tested in the wild. Mentioned in Dr. Oberhauser's book is a previous study that used outdoor cages. Results suggested that a small fraction of fall migratory monarchs will break diapause when they encounter milkweed (of various species) that is in good, edible condition.

There are also a few anecdotal accounts of monarchs arriving at tropical milkweed locations in the fall and remaining there or reproducing. In general, though, we have not gathered enough data to be conclusive about this question.

So it remains unknown where the adult monarchs found at winter-breeding sites originate from. Some people think these monarchs simply come from local year-round tropical milkweed sites, and the monarchs remain in these areas generation after generation. Other observers think the monarchs found at winter-breeding sites were once fall migrants (or the offspring of fall migrants), that halted migration once they encountered tropical milkweed.

There is evidence suggesting that there is more winter-breeding in the southern U.S. now than in the past. If this is the case, we don't really know the impacts on the population. Our sense is that the precautionary principle should apply. We

should not take the risk of promoting a behavior whose consequences for the population are unknown, especially when we have better alternatives such as planting one of the dozens of native milkweed species.

 **Are gardeners to blame?**

No. Gardeners who have planted tropical milkweed are not at fault, despite what recent newspaper headlines proclaim. Rather, this problem stems from the fact that – until very recently – there was little to no scientific knowledge about the effects of year-round milkweed availability (which we now better understand).

A challenge for gardeners is the limited supply of native milkweeds available for purchase in some parts of the country. Gardeners have been helping – not hurting – monarchs by planting milkweeds and nectar flowers. And many gardeners and monarch enthusiasts have collected crucial scientific data on monarchs for this and other studies. Thanks to these citizen-science efforts, we now know that native milkweeds support healthier monarchs in the southern U.S. Gardeners have been, and continue to be, imperative to monarch conservation. We depend on their help and we look forward to having Wild Ones members participate in citizen science efforts. *continued*



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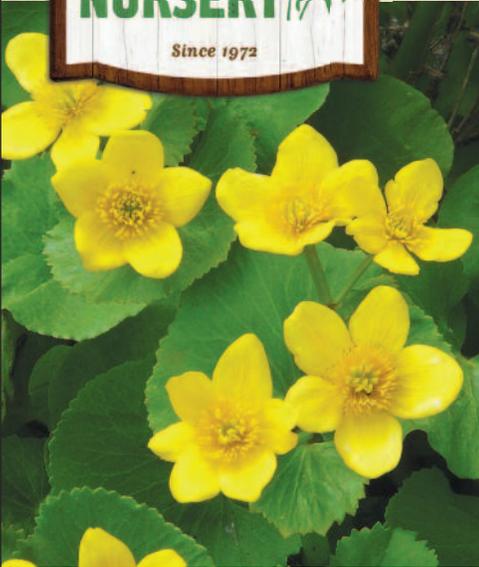
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What gardeners can do to support healthy monarchs

Now that we understand that monarchs are healthier when milkweed is seasonal and not year-round, we can work to improve monarch habitat.



Here are recommendations for gardeners interested in reducing monarch disease and non-migratory behaviors:

- ✿ **Plant** native milkweeds whenever possible.
*We recognize that native milkweeds can be challenging to find for sale in some parts of the country. We hope this will change eventually. A few helpful resources are listed below.
- ✿ If you have tropical milkweed, **cut it back** from October-February to within 6" of the ground (unless it dies back naturally on its own). Also remove any new plant growth at the base of the plant. If you live in a warm coastal area in the southern U.S. or California, cutting the milkweed back is especially important, and it will be necessary to prune frequently (every 2-3 weeks) as it quickly re-grows.
- ✿ **Replace** your tropical milkweed with native species as you are able.
- ✿ **Learn** to identify native milkweeds and protect them.
- ✿ **Ask** local growers to produce native milkweeds. Encourage nurseries to sell them.
- ✿ **Participate** in research efforts. There are several citizen-science programs dedicated to studying monarch ecology and conservation, including: *Monarch Health*, where participants test wild monarchs for the protozoan parasite OE (<http://monarchparasites.org/>); *Monarch Larva Monitoring Project*, where citizen scientists monitor a milkweed patch for eggs and larvae (<http://mlmp.org/>); *Monarch Watch*, for which participants tag monarchs (<http://monarchwatch.org/>); and *Journey North*, where you can report monarch and milkweed sightings (<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/>).

continued from previous page

Where can I find more information?

- Xerces' Milkweed Seed Finder: <http://www.xerces.org/milkweed-seed-finder/>
- Monarch Watch Milkweed Market: <http://monarchwatch.org/milkweed/market/>
- *Milkweed: A Conservation Practitioner's Guide* (Xerces): <http://www.xerces.org/milkweeds-a-conservation-practitioners-guide/>
- <http://www.jeffpippen.com/plants/asclepias.htm> This website has good photos of a variety of milkweed plants to facilitate your learning to recognize them
- Native milkweed fact sheet (Monarch Joint Venture) (*examples of native milkweed by region): <http://monarchjointventure.org/images/uploads/documents/MilkweedFactSheetFINAL.pdf>
- Oberhauser, K.S., K.R. Nail, and S.M. Altizer (Eds). 2015. *Monarchs in a changing world: biology and conservation of an iconic butterfly*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY: <http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/?GCOI=80140100672610>
- Wild for Monarchs (Wild Ones): <http://www.wildones.org/learn/wild-for-monarchs/> ✿

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Satterfield et al study:
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Monarch Joint Venture Q&A in response to press release:
<http://monarchjointventure.org/news-events/news/qa-about-research-related-to-tropical-milkweed-and-monarch-parasites>

Monarch Joint Venture Fact Sheet re Non-Native Milkweeds for Monarchs:
http://monarchjointventure.org/images/uploads/documents/Oe_fact_sheet.pdf

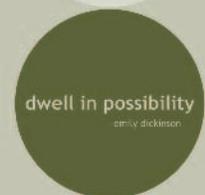
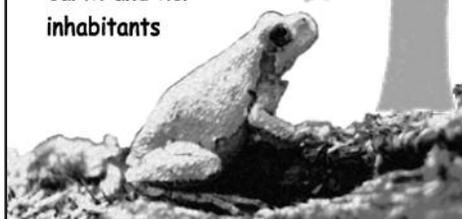
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WILD Center Volunteer of the Year Dave Edwards is scattering seed over the prairie prior to an evening snowfall.

GET WILD STAY WILD

How You Can Help Support Our Mission

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?

Annual Support

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.

Acorn Circle members provide dependable income for Wild Ones programs by making their annual gifts through convenient monthly deductions via credit card or direct debit from a designated financial account. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

Burr Oak Circle

Donors who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more are honored through this leadership circle program, and are provided with special benefits such as special retreats at the Wild Ones headquarters and a 10 percent discount on items at the Wild Store.

Oak Savanna Circle

Members of this circle have loyally supported Wild Ones for at least 15 years or more.

Employee Matching Gift Program

Many companies and organizations match employee contributions, greatly increasing the impact of a charitable gift to Wild Ones. Please contact your human resources office for further information.

Special Gifts and Heritage

Contact the Wild Ones Executive Director for further information about the Wild Ones Legacy Program which includes making gifts of appreciated stock, real property, in-kind gifts, IRA-rollover gifts (option through December 2013 per the Pension Protection Act of 2006 amended), and multi-year commitments. The Legacy Program (see opposite page) also can include bequests, charitable gift annuities, trusts, and other planned giving vehicles which provide significant support to Wild Ones while also benefiting the donors and their families.

Volunteer

More than 6,000 people annually volunteer their time and energy for land conservation, community garden plantings, and other chapter and national Wild Ones activities. Please consider becoming a “plants-roots” partner with Wild Ones.

Lifetime Members

Lifetime members have shown a long-term commitment to the Wild Ones mission and its goals.

Gift Memberships

One of the easiest ways to advocate and help others who are not already Wild Ones members learn about the benefits of using native plants in their landscaping is to give them a gift membership.

For more information about 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/.

What’s Going On at the WILD Center

It’s been pretty quiet at the WILD Center this winter except for the ice fishermen who make paths through our prairie to get to Little Lake Butte des Morts. Guckenberg-Sturm marsh is prime spawning area for northern pike, so fishing is typically good near the WILD Center for northern pike and the ever-present panfish (sunfish, bluegills and perch).

the upland prairie were scattered in the riparian areas, like around our trails on the easement under the power lines, the wooded areas, and the roadside ditches.

SEEDING THE SNOW

Why do we over-seed in the winter? We are overseeding to fill in the spots that didn’t fill in with seedlings from the original seeding. We are doing this during the winter because it is the easiest way to stratify new native seed in preparation for germination in the spring. We pick a day to broadcast seed just before a forecasted snow fall, and hopefully one that’s not too windy. Sowing seeds just before a snowfall, allows the winter weather (snow, sleet, freezing rain, etc) to put the seed in contact with the ground. The freezing and thawing drills the seed into the ground to the exact depth for proper germination and Mother Nature does the rest. In the spring when the soil temperature begins to rise, the seed germinates. We like winter seeding because it allows us to mimic nature, and nothing could be more of a sure-shot than that. Seeds drop in the fall and germinate in the spring. That’s about as easy as it can get.

GETTING AND SHARING

Many members and friends also gathered milkweed pods from the WILD Center prairie or dropped off or shipped pods from their own plantings (common, swamp and butterfly). Agrecol Inc. (see ad on page 13) donated the cleaning of the common milkweed seed for us to use in our future projects. The swamp weed and butterflyweed pods were sent on to Monarch Watch. See <http://www.wildones.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Milkweed-Basics.pdf> pages 6 and 12. 🌿



From left to right: John VanBuecken, Roger Kanitz, Carol Niendorf and Dave Peck cleaning seed for the prairie donated by Wild Ones members and friends.

SEED CLEANING

The major volunteer activity at the WILD Center this winter was again cleaning seed which had been gathered either from our own prairie, dropped off, or shipped in by Wild Ones members and friends to be used to over-seed another section of the prairie. This year we had a mixture of prairie, wet mesic and shade species to clean (various blazingstars and asters, pale purple and purple coneflower, yellow coneflower, iron weed, gentian, turtlehead, wild geranium, thimbleweed, little blue stem, Indian grass – to name a few). We mix the seed with hamster bedding and then broadcast by hand. This is the third year we’ve done this. We have one more section of the prairie to do next year. Seeds that weren’t appropriate for



Chapter Anniversaries

- Kettle Moraine (WI)**
4 years
- Northfield Prairie Partners (MN)**
4 years
- Oak Openings Region (OH)**
8 years
- Mid-Mitten (MI)**
9 years
- Wolf River (WI)**
11 years
- Red Cedar (MI)**
13 years
- Twin Cities (MN)**
14 years
- Greater DuPage (IL)**
23 years
- Milwaukee-Southwest/Wehr (WI)**
23 years

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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:

- Outdoor use security or game cameras • Small coffee pot • Vacuum cleaner • Gardening Tools • Household Tools (cordless circular saw, cordless jig saw, or other small tools) • Canoe or kayak • Chairs for meeting rooms • Native trees (6 to 8 ft.) basswood, maple, and oak (bur, white and swamp white oak) • Native shrubs: Witchhazel • Woodland plants: grasses, ephemerals, ferns, etc.

Contact the Headquarters office if you have others items that may be suitable for use by Wild Ones. We now have someone in the office from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday - Friday. Or call for an appointment: 877-394-9453

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