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natural
landscaping
movement.

November/December 2015

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Working toward
our next four decades
restoring native plants
and natural landscapes.

Donna standing in front of WILD Center
entrance garden on the Friday before
Wild Ones 2015 Annual Conference.

PHOTO: Barb Velez Barbosa

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JOURNAL

The End of an Era

By Tim Lewis

Welcome everyone. Thanks for coming for this very special moment as we give recognition for Donna VanBuecken's passionate service.

Some may say that dirt was created when she was born just so she could grow her native plants. I'm not so sure that is true. But what is true is that Donna has a passion for the health of the Earth by planting native habitats. And equally, she loves to share that passion with others.

To learn more, and to share with like-minded people, in 1986 she joined a very young organization, called "Wild Ones Natural Landscapers Ltd," which got its start in Milwaukee.

In the fall of 1994, a group of wildflower enthusiasts were called together by the Winnebago County horticultural agent, Rosemary Eiden, to form a possible interest group. They held their introductory meetings at Donna and John's house, with a tour of their back yard prairie. Donna told the group about an organization in Milwaukee called Wild Ones and she suggested that they invite some Milwaukee members to their next meeting. That was the beginning of their chapter. Since they were from several neighboring counties, they called the chapter, the Fox Valley Area chapter. They chartered in November 1994 with Donna as the first President. Back then, all chapter presidents were on the national board.

In 1996 Donna maintained the membership list as a contractor for national Wild Ones. Membership by then was over 1500. That year, she also helped develop the *Fox Valley Area Chapter New Member Handbook*.

In 1998, she became the first Wild Ones Executive Director through her company Accent on Natural Landscaping Inc. There were 18 chapters and 2356 members. The following year, she helped Joy Buslaff create the *Wild Ones New Member Handbook*, using the Fox Valley Area Chapter's handbook as an example.

continued on page 4



WILD Center Cartoonist John Klossner

1988
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National President Tim Lewis
presented this plaque to Donna
VanBuecken from the Wild Ones
national Board during Donna's
recognition reception.





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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT



Tim Lewis
President

A New Era

Wild Ones entered a new era in the history of the organization on September 14, 2015. This is the date that Donna VanBuecken retired as our Executive Director after serving Wild Ones for 17 years. Also on that date, Gail Gerhardt became our new Executive Director.

While we celebrate this juncture in our evolution, it is important to note that Wild Ones is not about individuals—it is about embracing the mission and collectively finding new ways to promote this mission. People come and go including our leaders but the mission does not change.

During our first 35 years of existence, it was a struggle to get recognition for what Wild Ones does. We can now say that we have turned this around. We have partnered with several notable organizations and developed successful programs that *plant seeds* the public can embrace. Wild Ones is being recognized by other organizations “as a national not-for-profit organization with local chapters that teaches about the many benefits of growing native wildflowers in people’s yards.”

I am celebrating Donna’s retirement. She had been talking about it for a couple of years. She has dedicated a large portion of her time to ensure that Wild Ones would grow and educate the public about the importance of native plants in our landscapes. Last August, I asked her what she planned to do in retirement. She said, “I have always wanted to publish a book

my brother started as well as write a couple of my own.” We wish her well with her plans and aspirations. We are also grateful Donna remains involved in this time of transition assisting with the publication of the WILD ONES JOURNAL and volunteering for several national and WILD Center committees.

Gail comes to Wild Ones with impressive business and nonprofit management credentials, including 14 years as Executive Director of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Northwest Wisconsin. Her responsibilities there included interacting with regional Association members; representing her organization at the local, state and national levels; and working with Boards of Directors/Trustees of several organizations. Gail has also been a Crisis Intervention Counselor with the Mental Health Department of Outagamie County since 1998.

These are exciting times to have Gail take over as the Executive Director. New leadership brings new ideas to the organization. Part of my responsibility is to help her get settled in her job and to ensure a smooth transition. We have weekly phone conversations and right from the first week, she reports she and the staff are strategizing with new ideas. Donna and others tell me how much they like Gail and are impressed with what she has done so far.

I am looking forward to seeing where this new era will take Wild Ones. 🌸

— Wild Ones Board of Directors —

At the August national board meeting the directors elected four officers. Tim Lewis was asked to serve another year beyond the term limit in order to support Gail Gerhardt, Wild Ones new Executive Director.

The officers are as follows:

Tim Lewis, President • Sally Wencel, Vice President • Steve Windsor, Treasurer • Karen Syverson, Secretary

Thank you to outgoing Secretary Trina Hayes and Treasurer Pam Dewey for their extra service as officers this past year.

The Board appointed Janice Hand as a new director. She has been instrumental in developing our strategic plan, led the executive director search committee and has served on other committees. She lives in Bozeman, Montana. Welcome Janice.

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.



Gail Gerhardt
Executive Director

Plant a Seed

Hello Wild Ones! I am your new Executive Director, Gail Gerhardt. I have had the pleasure of working with Donna over the past couple of months while she has been orienting me to the native landscape world. I have met several members and have worked alongside some of the most wonderful volunteers. I am forging through the thick of things and learning more every day.

When I first arrived at Wild Ones, I wasn't aware this organization existed right in my own backyard. I was born and raised in Appleton, Wisconsin and had never heard of Wild Ones! I met Donna VanBuecken, the leader of this organization, and she began teaching me about all of the projects, introducing me to volunteers, orienting me to our partners and business members, and explaining how everything works and fits together. She has been instrumental in the success of Wild Ones. I may not ever have the native plant knowledge Donna does, but I am privileged to learn from a dedicated leader who has given so much to support this terrific organization. Enjoy your retirement, Donna.

As you have probably heard, our membership has grown to over 4000. President Tim Lewis made that a goal for 2015 and together we have achieved it. As of November 1st, we have 4033 members, 49 chapters in 15 states and three seedlings preparing to become chapters. This is exciting news. Wild Ones continues to grow while spreading the word about native landscaping.

Our Wild for Monarchs program now includes Citizen Science Monitoring. Citizen scientists are volunteers who help professional researchers collect data that guide scientific and conservation efforts. We developed a brochure that promotes four citizen science programs and held a training session at our annual meeting in August. Training was conducted by Dr. Karen Oberhauser from the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (www.mlmp.org). Dr. Oberhauser oversees the Monarch Lab at the University of Minnesota and is a Wild Ones Honorary Director. This training session was filmed and is now available on the Wild Ones website at www.wildones.org/learn/wild-for-monarchs/citizen-scientist-training/. It is a great little video and will help you learn more about monarch butterflies and what citizen scientists are monitoring for and why.

The Seeds for Education (SFE) grant program has received 40 applications this year. The SFE committee is in the process of having the projects judged and will announce award winners in mid February. Some of the projects are very creative. Good luck to all of the applicants.

Our goals for 2016 include "Plant a Seed" as our theme. We are planning to have member challenges and chapter challenges with the opportunity to win prizes. We are bringing new merchandise offerings beginning this year and want to expand into children's apparel in 2016. We will also be expanding our Wild for Monarch program to include Wild for Pollinators. It is sure to be an exciting year for Wild Ones. Don't miss out, make sure to renew your membership and think about gifting a membership to a friend, co-worker or family member for Christmas. A Wild Ones membership is a gift that is sure to please gardeners, landscapers and native plant enthusiasts. Why wait, "Plant a Seed" with others today. Find membership and renewal information on our website at <http://www.wildones.org/wild-ones-store/join-renew/>.

Since coming on board, I have been very impressed with the dedication of our members and the commitment of our volunteers is unlike any I have seen in other organizations. Keep up the great work and continue healing the Earth one yard at a time. 🌱

ANNUAL DONATION Reminder

Soon you will have received the Wild Ones annual appeal letter. Each year, we ask members and chapters to consider generously donating money, in-kind services and equipment to support Wild Ones. This is our main funding request and we do this only once a year. The national organization raises money through membership dues, this appeal and occasional grants. Your donation is very important and supports the many services and programs for the benefit of members and chapters.

We are entering a new era and are well positioned to *plant seeds* so new chapters can be established, chapters can grow their membership and members can expand their knowledge about the importance of native plant habitats. In order to ride the wave and be successful, your yearend donation is ever more important.

After you've read the annual appeal letter from President Tim Lewis, please consider using the "doing for one" principle of placing Wild Ones at the top of your short list of who you will financially support this year. Remember, because Wild Ones Natural Landscapers is a 501 (c) (3) organization, your dues and other donations are fully deductible if you take deductions on your income taxes.

WILD ONES JOURNAL

— Acting Editor —

Donna VanBuecken
journal@wildones.org

(Please indicate topic in subject line.)

— Contributing Editors —

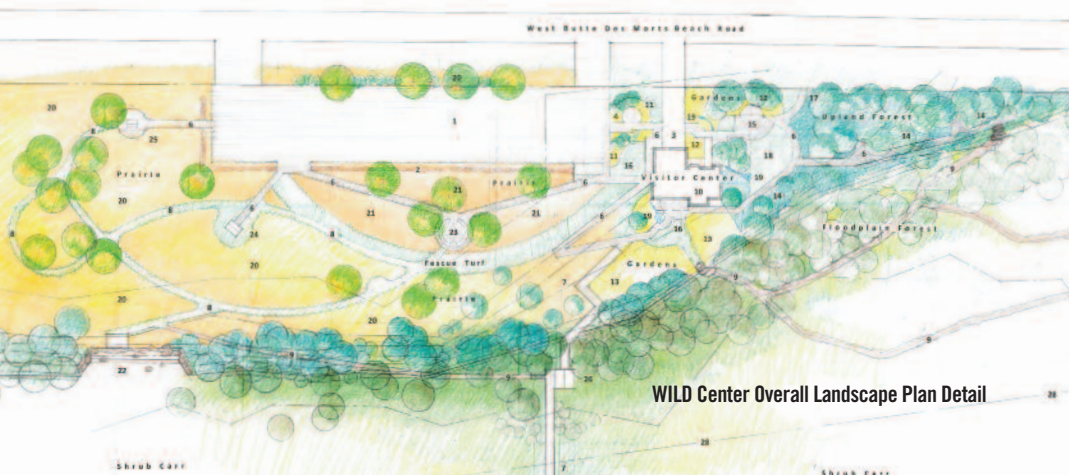
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WILD Center Overall Landscape Plan Detail

The End of an Era

continued from front page

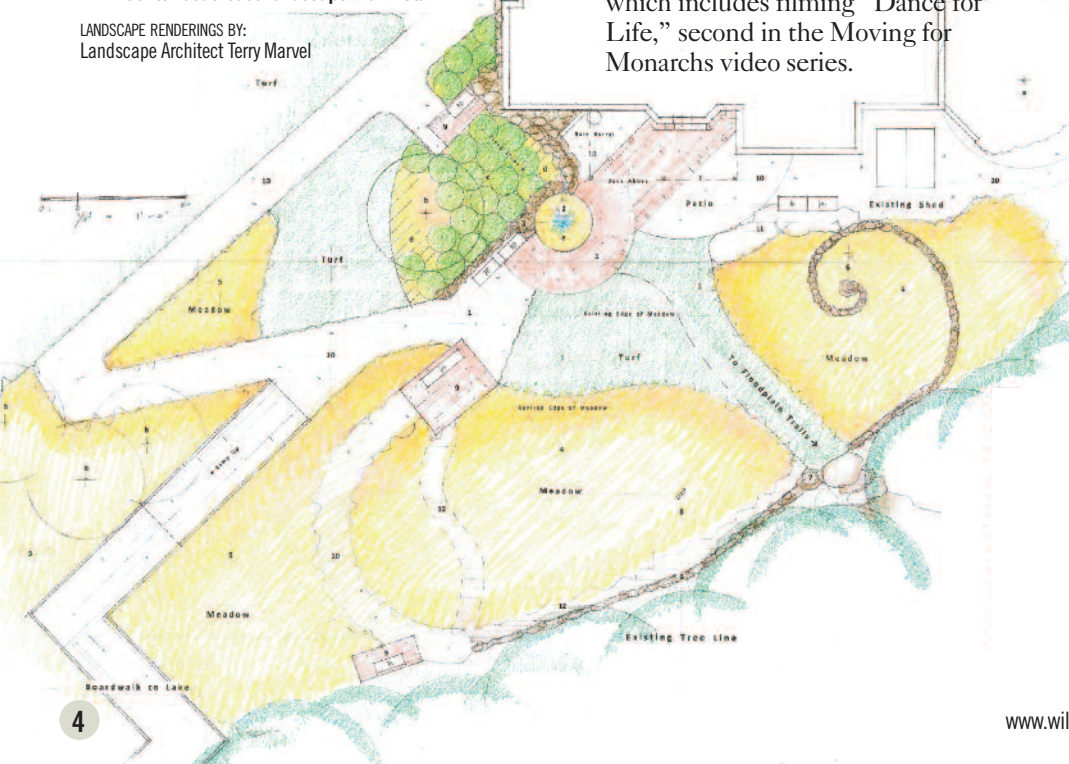
Donna helped update the national bylaws which reduced the board to 15 directors. At this time in 2000, teleconferencing was used for board meetings.

In the following years, Donna was involved in a number of things that help spread the word about landscaping with native plants. Some of these were:

- A video, *A Tapestry of Learning: Creating School Natural Areas* for SFE Program under the direction of then SFE Coordinator Steve Maassen.
- National website in collaboration first with Mark Charles and then Peter Chen.
- The first online discussion group (before there were e-programs).
- Published *25 Years of Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscaping* in collaboration with Carol Chew.
- Coordinated the 25 Year Anniversary Celebration Annual Membership Meeting with Madison (WI) Chapter.
- With producer Mike Syverson's help, updated *Wild About Wildflowers* video to DVD.
- With the assistance of Cartoonist John Klossner designed the "Die Buckthorn Scum" and "Garlic Mustard Spreads" Wild Ones t-shirts.
- Collaborated with Janice Stiefel's husband John to publish Janice's book *The Inside Story*, which was dedicated to Wild Ones.
- With the assistance of the Fox Valley Area Chapter, filmed and created a DVD of Doug Tallamy's presentations *The Value of Having Native Plants in Our Yards* and *Creating Healthy, Biodiverse Neighborhood Corridors*.
- Encouraged Wild Ones to join the Monarch Joint Venture partnership, our first official partnership.
- With the national Monarchs Committee, helped to develop the Wild Ones Wild for Monarchs Campaign and finalized the Wild for Monarchs Native Plant Garden Recognition program.
- Partnered with *Moving for Monarchs* which includes filming "Dance for Life," second in the Moving for Monarchs video series.

WILD Center Southeast Landscape Plan Detail

LANDSCAPE RENDERINGS BY:
Landscape Architect Terry Marvel



The national Wild Ones Board named the WILD Center prairie for Donna. PHOTO: Tim Lewis

- With the help and support of volunteers from the Fox Valley Area Chapter and the community developed the WILD Center through Phase II demonstration gardens and the prairie.
- With the help of staff, held six annual conferences here at the WILD Center.
- As of 2015, despite the Great Recession, with the assistance of staff has helped Wild Ones reach the 4,000 member threshold and 50 chapters.

Over the years, employees were added to the staff through her business, Accent on Natural Landscaping.

In 2005, Donna brought to the board the idea of purchasing an ecocenter property which would become the Wild Ones headquarters. The following year, the fundraising began. In 2007, Wild Ones purchased the building along with 3 acres for \$250,000. In 2008, Wild Ones purchased the rest of the 16 acre site. Four acres of the upland was leased to GW Partners, LLC to store clean materials used in cleanup of PCBs in the Fox River. This additional income allowed Wild Ones to own the entire WILD Center property debt-free. Total cost \$850,000.



Elmer Krushinske

Donna's WILD Center Advisory Committee came up with the name, WILD Center, which means Wild Ones Institute of Learning & Development. Over the years as Executive Director, she personally solicited approximately

\$1.2 million in donations and grants including a very large Legacy donation from her friend Elmer Krushinske.

Former Board member Marty Rice wrote the following.

Donna's impressive leadership and long-term vision brought Wild Ones from her home's dining room, spare bedroom and garage to this beautiful WILD Center on 16 acres in a preserve



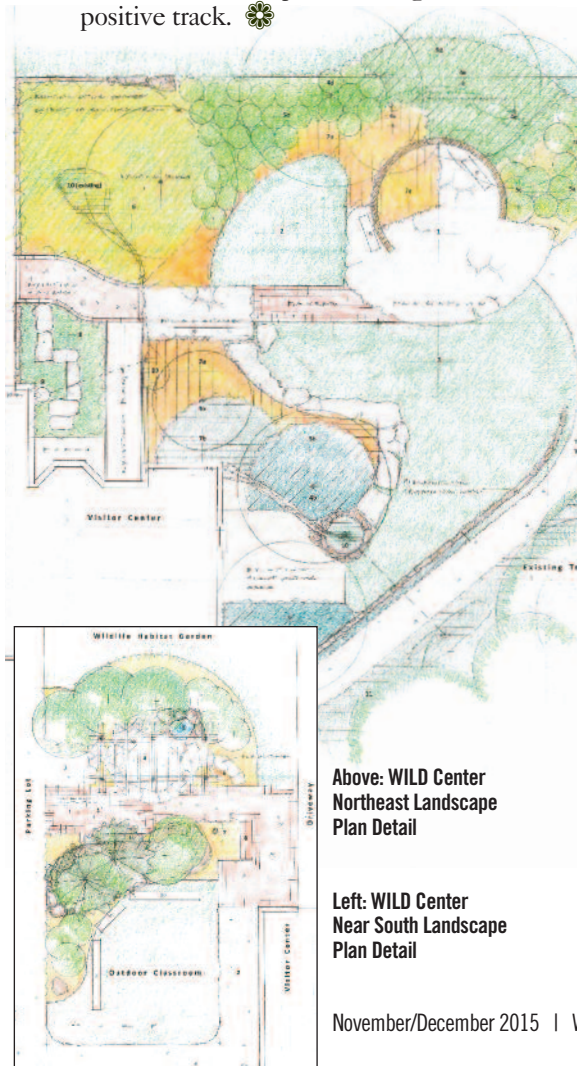
Donna with youth. PHOTO: Tom Young

along the shore of Little Lake Butte des Morts. As impressive, with Donna's help and the generosity of a couple of very special anonymous Wild Ones members, we are fortunate to own the entire property debt free.

Wild Ones was also a recent recipient of a very significant donation, which will help carry us into the forefront of the native plant movement, thanks to Donna.

A testimony to her dedication and ability to multi-task: she kept Wild Ones humming even while turkey hunting at their family shack in the woods.

On a more personal level, as a former treasurer and Finance Committee member I can say there were divergent opinions on finances, yet her respect for others and calm demeanor kept us moving ahead on a positive track. 🌸



Above: WILD Center Northeast Landscape Plan Detail

Left: WILD Center Near South Landscape Plan Detail



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Above: Maintaining gardens
at Linwood Rest Area;
Mid-Mitten



Left: Coogan Farm crew
removing invasives;
Mountain Laurel



Manning Wild Ones booth at Lansing
Home and Garden Show; Red Cedar

The *GROWING* Wild Ones Movement— the proof is in the chapters and our members

To give you a sense of how far Wild Ones has come we thought we'd share with you some thoughts from our chapters and members about Wild Ones impact on the native landscaping movement.

The Wild Ones organization was created in Milwaukee and from 1977 to 1995 this small group handled the administration of the growing organization. As chapters started to form, they became known as the **Milwaukee-North Chapter** and they've always been "proud that their own Lorrie Otto's vision was the inspiration for Wild Ones." The fourth chapter of the Wild Ones to be chartered, and the first chapter outside of Wisconsin, became the **Greater DuPage Chapter**. "There was some resistance from Wisconsin members to go beyond their state borders. It was Pat Armstrong's and Vicki Nowicki's persistent inspiration that turned the Milwaukee-based Wild Ones into the *national* Wild Ones, greatly enlarging the vision of the organization."

Pat Brust who is a former national secretary wrote "as part of Wild Ones and the **Milwaukee Southwest/Wehr Chapter** for 27 years, I have seen the evolution of a significant change in attitude towards native plant landscaping. In the beginning, natural landscaping was promoted as an easy, "no maintenance" way to landscape as an alternative to costly and time-consuming management of lawns and gardens. Well, we have since learned that native landscapes take as much management as any system, although with more sensible use of water and chemicals. The change I see is the realization that native plant landscaping is not just a way of "gardening," focused on the plants alone, but a way of creating a healthy and productive environment for all species. Because of this, the movement has encompassed people of more varied interests than just gardeners, including butterfly lovers, birders, foodies (edible landscapes), educators, landscape architects and nurseries.... This change in the conception of native plant landscaping has expanded our influence into areas not normally concerned with gardening, and that can only help us move Wild Ones into another era of growth and expansion."

This growth and change in conception has prompted Wild Ones national to change the way they do business as well. Initially all Chapter Presidents were members of the Board along with nine elected at-large members. The Board functioned as a "working



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board” then, with members of the Board directly handling the business of the organization. Eventually Donna VanBuecken was contracted as an administrator to provide office support. Board members continued to work in committees as volunteers to run the organization. As the organization grew, Donna took on more and more responsibilities as chief administrator and was named Executive Director. Eventually more support staff was needed and it became obvious that the role of the Board and the role of the Executive Director needed to be more clearly defined.

“In the past five years the Board has worked to define these roles,” Governance Committee Chair Karen Syverson wrote. “The Board has taken on more of a Governance role — setting guidelines for the direction of the organization and providing oversight to ensure the Wild Ones mission is carried out. Where Donna was a contractor hired to run the business of Wild Ones, now the Board has hired an employee as Executive Director to be the chief administrator of Wild Ones and responsible for running the business of the organization. Wild Ones and the national Board have grown from a garden club with chapters to a national organization that functions as a well-organized unit.”

Through Mark Charles’ able coordination we’ve expanded and digitized the Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program. Through Donna’s efforts we’ve purchased with grants and donations a permanent headquarters called the Wild Ones Institute of Learning and Development (WILD Center) that is debt free. The demonstration gardens developed in the various ecological zones that make up this site attract visitors from throughout North America and even the rest of the world.

The WILD ONES JOURNAL with its emphasis on biodiversity through science, and not just the narrower focus of gardening aesthetics, is subscribed to not only by household members, but also professionals, educators, businesses, libraries, schools, municipalities and other not-for-profit organization. And we now have eight chapters hosting regularly scheduled conferences.

The programs Wild Ones national and our chapters have established are generating much success. Wild for Monarchs materials, along with a variety of educational materials, are sought after by members and non-members alike. **St. Louis Chapter’s** Landscape Challenge, co-sponsored by Grow Native and Shaw Nature Reserve, and featuring a front yard makeover, held its 10th annual competition this year. **Lexington Chapter’s** partnership with the Garden Clubs of Kentucky to increase the number of monarch waystations state-wide has been an overwhelming success. The GIS mapping project to identify member wildlife corridors in the **Fox Valley Area Chapter’s** location is developing into a sought-after project.

And Wild Ones chapters are busier than ever. We are seeing chapters assisting communities with rewriting and updating ordinances allowing for and encouraging native plants and natural landscaping. We are seeing more chapters mentoring seedling chapters. Barbara Velez Barbosa, President of the **Columbus Chapter**, feels this is “a result of exhibits at

Left: Sarah Dalton pointing out monarch eggs on field trip; Columbus

Below: Landscape Challenge group; St. Louis



Wellington garden sign with monarch; Lexington



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conferences and spreading the Wild for Monarch campaign for Wild Ones... people want a local resource to learn about native landscaping and creating a habitat for pollinators."

Other chapters are spreading the word about the importance of native plants through their presence on community college and university radio shows. Or working on projects that will resonate throughout the USA. "The **Wolf River Chapter** has undertaken a project that has transformative potential for thousands of acres of abandoned landfills. Smaller grass roots efforts like ours through Wild Ones could turn these discarded acres into productive pollinator habitat." Two years ago the **West Cook Chapter** set the goal of creating a Wildlife Corridor. "There are now well over 200 homes on our Wildlife Corridor, along with many new school and park native gardens. We've been successful in attracting grant money for the past two years to fund these efforts, and the success of Wild Ones has energized other environmental organizations in our area and provided many opportunities for partnerships with groups that share common goals. Now that our Wildlife Corridor is well underway, we hope to expand our efforts to create a regional corridor."

Many of our chapters are forming partnerships. **Tennessee Valley** President Dennis Bishop wrote that "Wild Ones is a well-organized, first class organization with a clear and timely mission. Through partnerships we have become a moving force in the community." While **Wild Ones Root River Chapter** is "working with almost 50 faith and environmental groups on a sustainability framework called Greening Greater Racine."

Nurserymen and landscapers are starting to take notice as well. "**Our Blue Ridge Chapter** is working with a large local nursery to identify native plants for the work force," according to Past President Donna Williamson. "Their customers' growing interest in natives is reflected in increased sales."



Blue Ridge Native Tag

We've also heard from individual members about the continuing relevance of the Wild Ones mission. "I have been a naturalist/outdoor educator for over 30 years and Wild Ones has given me solid footing as I share the idea of natural landscaping with our visitors," wrote Barb Holtz, **Partner-at-Large from Cleveland, Ohio**. "To be able to point to a 30+ year national organization when "planting the



Bobbie Lambiotte pointing out monarch eggs to visitors during the 20th Anniversary celebration landscape tour, Rock River Valley.

natural landscaping seed," shows that this isn't some flash in the pan idea... It does my heart good to share Wild Ones literature and see more and more hands raised when I ask a program audience, "Has anyone heard of Wild Ones?"

It is awesome how the efforts of our chapters have been helping expand the native landscaping movement and how Wild Ones has grown as a national organization because of it. The full text of these excerpts and their writers is featured on the Wild Ones website at <http://www.wildones.org/connect/chapters/> along with any latecomer comments. If you have something you'd like to add about how you see Wild Ones influence expanding write to editor@wildones.org and we'll add your comment to the webpage. 🌸



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wildones.org update

At Wild Ones we are constantly updating and adding to wildones.org—some major updates and additions and some minor ones. Highlighted below are some recent changes...

New The Citizen Scientist workshop presented by Honorary Director Karen Oberhauser and her Mother, Sanny Oberhauser at the 2015 Annual Wild Ones Conference is now available on-line. The workshop covered various citizen science projects but mainly focused on the

Monarch Larva Monitoring project (www.mlmp.org). This video along with the WFM Citizen Science brochure offers you a good opportunity to learn how to be a monarch citizen scientist. Find both at <http://www.wildones.org/citizen-scientist/>. The video is also available on YouTube.

New The neonicotinoids article from the Aug/Sep/Oct 2015 JOURNAL is now available as a pdf for easy reading and printing. It can be found at <http://wildones.org/Neonics.pdf>

New The complete list of responses from chapters and individuals about how Wild Ones is moving the native landscaping movement along (referenced on pages 6-8 of this issue of the JOURNAL) can be found at <http://www.wildones.org/connect/chapters/>

Please update your e-mail address

2016 is going to be an exciting year for Wild Ones with new programs and opportunities for growth. Please keep us up-to-date with your current e-mail address so you won't miss out on any of the fun! Contact admin@wildones.org

The JOURNAL and your tax return

Although no one has questioned us recently, we thought now would be a good time to remind everyone 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 environmental organization formed for the purpose of educating and advocating for native landscaping, hence its donors can deduct their contributions. 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. 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. "Under IRS guidelines, the estimated value of the benefits received is not substantial; therefore the full amount of your payment is a deductible contribution." Further, all fees and contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

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By Pat Armstrong,
Wild Ones DuPage Chapter

The most popular, well-known and wide-spread ground cover in North America is Kentucky blue grass: the American Lawn. Lawns now cover approximately 35 million acres of United States, which is about equal to the size of Virginia or Pennsylvania. Of course, we Wild Ones already are reducing the amount of mowed lawn in our yards using hundreds of different prairie and woodland wildflowers, grasses, sedges and ferns. However, most of these native plants are several feet tall, and many of them can be as tall, or taller than a person.

Originally, ground covers were used in shady areas where traditional lawns would not grow, but today we also have ground covers for sunny areas that are used to replace the chemical-dependent, water-dependent, and energy-wasting Kentucky bluegrass lawns. Please remember that plants listed for shade can often endure some direct sun, and that plants listed for sun can often endure some occasional shade. The type of soil (moisture holding capacity), amount of mulch, and local climate (rainfall, wind, exposure, etc.) will also influence the hardiness of the plants. Plant them where you think they will do best and observe. They will often tell you their needs by thriving, dying, or moving into a better habitat.

Here are ten native ground cover plants for sun. They are all less than one foot in height and tend to spread by rhizomes, stolons, layering or prolific seed distribution. There are many, many, more that can be used; some of which are taller than one foot or do not spread as well as these.

Natives for Sunny Locations

NATIVE GROUND COVERS

PLANTAIN-LEAVED PUSSY TOES (*Antennaria plantaginifolia*):

Plantain-leaved pussy-toes have wide, prominently-veined leaves, 3-5 veins. http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/savanna/plants/pl_pussytoes.htm

COMMON PUSSY TOES (*Antennaria neglecta*): Common pussy toes have leaves that are narrower than those of the plantain-leaved, and have only one center vein.

http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/fld_pussytoesx.htm

Their flowers are 6-12 inches tall. Pussy toes grow in open woods, prairies, dry, sandy, well-drained soil, and they reproduce by stolons. Plants are dioecious so clumps tend to be made up of only male or only female flowers.



COMMON BEARBERRY (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*):

These 6- 10 inch high plants are circumpolar. Common bearberry has leathery, smooth-edged, evergreen leaves with brilliant red berries. The bearberries prefer sandy, rocky, moderately acid to acid, well-drained soil. They spread by layering and are especially good under high evergreen trees. <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/tree-shrub/bearberry>

BUFFALO GRASS (*Buchloe dactyloides*):

This is the shortest and most drought-tolerant of all the prairie grasses. It only grows about 6-8 inches high and spreads by stolons and seeds. It is dioecious (has both male and female plants) and the seeds are bur-like so most plants sold by nurseries are the male only form. It grows naturally from the dry mountains eastward across the plains to Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. It does best in well-drained dry sites and poorly on our heavy clay soils.

It is a warm-season grass so it will frost kill in fall and not green up until soil temperatures reach 50 degrees in late spring, but it will be a lovely, soft-grey-green all summer without a drop of water. Minute hairs on the leaves and stem form dew and help to nourish the plant. It can be mowed once or twice a year to give an even lawn look, but in the Midwest it is not as hardy as Kentucky bluegrass for foot traffic so will not replace a lawn for active playing children.

http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/grasses/plants/buffalo_grass.htm



FALSE TOADFLAX (*Comandra umbellata*):

False toadflax is about 8 inches tall and grows in dry prairies, sandy areas and open oak savannas. It has shallow, long rhizomes and is partially parasitic on several different herbs and shrubs. The leaves are small and clustered up the stem. The flowers are small and white and clustered at the end of the upright stems. The fruits are edible.

<http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/toadflaxx.htm>



WILD STRAWBERRY (*Fragaria virginiana*):

These small plants are about 6 inches tall and spread by stolons (runners) and layering. They have white flowers in April and delicious berries in June (turtles love them and they grow at the right level). They make a light ground cover in dry to moist fertile soil.

http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/wld_strawberryx.htm

FOR WILD ONES' GARDENS

PRAIRIE SMOKE (*Geum triflorum*):

This delightful prairie flower loves sandy prairies. It is about 4-8 inches high when in bloom and up to a foot or more in height when in seed. It is named for its beautiful pink, plummy seeds which look like smoke across the prairie by the end of May or early June. Prairie smoke flowers in April with three closed rose-pink bells. The wedge-shaped leaves have deep notches and are wintergreen (often with a shades of red and yellow fall color). Prairie smoke spreads slowly by a heavy creeping rootstock and will usually form a horseshoe-shaped clump. Goldfinches love to eat the seeds.

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/prairie-smoke>



PRAIRIE LOUSEWORT (*Pedicularis canadensis*):

Prairie lousewort is partially parasitic on other grasses and plants and its early spring foliage is bright purple. The leaves are fern-like. The flowers are yellow and arranged in a spiral clump at the top of the stem (about 6-8 inches tall when in bloom in April). Prairie lousewort grows in dry-mesic prairies, open woods and sandy savannas. I'm not sure how it spreads, maybe by rhizomes. It is a prolific seeder and can grow under heavy tall-grass prairie helping to thin it (possibly because of its partially parasitic tendencies).

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/wood-betony>



CLEFT PHLOX (*Phlox bifida*):

Cleft phlox blooms in April with pale blueish-white, star-like flowers. The five petals are deeply cleft so it looks almost like 10 petals. The plant is about 8 inches high and forms nice clumps. It probably spreads by stolons and layering. It grows in dry, sandy soil, oak savannas, and on rock ledges including limestone. Its natural range is from Michigan to Iowa and south to Tennessee and Arkansas.



COMMON CINQUEFOIL (*Potentilla simplex*):

http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/cm_cinquefoil.htm

SILVERWEED (*Potentilla anserina*):

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/silverweed-cinquefoil>

Both cinquefoils spread by red stem stolons (runners) and layering. They have small yellow, five-petaled flowers. Note the differences in the leaves. *P. anserina* tends to lie close to the sandy earth it prefers.

P. simplex can grow taller and compete with short grasses and sedges.



Potentilla anserina



P. simplex

WILD PETUNIA (*Ruellia humilis*):

Wild petunia grows about 10-12 inches high and has pale lavender-pink petunia-like flowers. It prefers dry upland woods, sandy prairies and fertile, slightly-acid soil. The clumps spread slowly on fibrous roots and by seed. It will surprise you by coming up across the sidewalk in the parkway lawn.

http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/hw_petunia.htm



Definitions:

Circumpolar – a plant having a world-wide distribution around the north pole. These are usually plants of alpine-arctic bogs and the boreal forests of north temperate areas of the world.

Dioecious – male and female flowers grow on separate plants.

Monococious – male and female flowers grow on the same plant.

Evergreen – a plant whose foliage stays green all year and may last several years.

Ground Cover – a plant that grows near the ground densely, and spreads.

Layering – a means of vegetative reproduction where above-ground branches take root when bent to the ground.

Rhizome – an underground stem distinguishable from a root by presence of nodes, buds or scale-like leaves.

Rhizomatous – a plant that reproduces vegetatively by means of rhizomes.

Stolon – a horizontal stem near ground level that roots at its tip and there gives rise to a new plant. These are sometimes called runners.

Stoloniferous – a plant that reproduces vegetatively by means of stolons.

Wintergreen – a plant whose leaves stay green through the first winter, but are usually killed by subsequent winters.

By
Carla Mahony • Sarah Oftedahl
Joan Rudolph • Jamie Fuerst
Donna VanBuecken

Although wonderful volunteers and donors have helped Wild Ones grow through the years since we hired our first Wild Ones Executive Director, we couldn't have accomplished as much as we have without the capable assistance of Wild Ones staff. We thought you might enjoy reading a brief synopsis about how it was then and how things have changed over the years.



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WILD Center prairie PHOTO: Tim Lewis

- In **2002** when we hired our first staff person Carla Mahony, we had to manually copy, collate, punch and index the Chapter Guidebook pages and place into a 3-ring binder. Today we simply upload the pages to the website.
- In **2002** we had to manually copy and collate four sets of each SFE grant application and mail to judges. Today we simply upload the applications to the website.
- In **2006** when Sarah Oftedahl started, Wild Ones HQ was located in the Accent on Natural Landscaping office in Donna's home. Today Wild Ones has a home of its own with its own demonstration gardens open to the public year around at the WILD Center.
- In **2007** when Joan Rudolph started, she worked literally elbow to elbow with Donna and the supplies and books were in the basement. At the WILD Center she had a large desk with shirts and books at access right in the office.
- In **2009** when Jamie Fuerst started, we distributed three educational brochures to members/nonmembers. Today we distribute eight brochures in all fifty states.
- In **2009** we had no official partnerships with other organizations. Today we have seven.
- In **2009** we had a basic website. Today we have over 260 pages, along with 100s of PDF articles and pictures, 45 subdomain websites for chapters, and blogs, Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, LinkedIn and YouTube sites. And, the WILD Center has its own website and social media accounts as well.
- In **2009** the WILD Center upland was a gravel pad with dump trucks flying in and out all day. Today it is an established prairie with a council ring, turtle nesting area and raised platform for viewing Little Lake Butte des Morts.
- In **2014** we hired our third staff member, Kim Walbrun. She, along with the hiring of Jessie Cain this year, brings Wild Ones current administrative staff to three. Hiring Gail Gerhardt as our new Executive Director brings us to the start of a new era.
- In **2012** we achieved our goal of breaking the elusive threshold of 3000 members. In 2015 we achieved our goal of 4000 to just under 4100 at this writing.

continued on next page

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Copps, Neenah	US Venture, Appleton
West Town, Neenah	Nut Hatch Overseed, Sherwood
Sunset Park Overseed, Kimberly	Macco Pond, Green Bay
Amy Ave - McMahon, Darboy	Mike Arien's, Brillion
Springfield Restoration, Darboy	Dewey Street Pond, Manitowoc
Wolf River Bank, Hortonville	
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Special Thanks to Stuart at McMahon Engineers for all his professional advice.

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Where We're Going from Here

This is an exciting time for Wild Ones and the natural landscaping movement. People are finally starting to recognize the importance of their place in the circle of life, and because of our growing partnerships with like-minded organizations, we are reaching this larger audience. Who would have guessed that the beloved monarch butterfly would give a growth spurt to the expansion of the Wild Ones movement?

- In 2012 we began our partnership with Monarch Joint Venture.
- Known as the Trilateral Committee, the historic meeting on monarchs between the three North American Leaders took place in 2014.
- In May 2015 the White House issued the National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators toward developing a plan to improve monarch and pollinator habitat including more research. As a result of President Obama's Memo, managers of federal facilities are integrating pollinator-friendly strategies into everyday design, operations and maintenance activities. Native pollinators are an essential part of a healthy environment and our very livelihood, and this White House action makes their protection a national initiative.
- In June 2015 Pope Francis issued an encyclical on the environment calling for swift response to curb actions which fan climate change. He declared it caused by human-kind and called for Christians to save our planet by refraining from ecological sin. He concluded his statement saying that thwarting climate change is a common task which we must face together. That it transcends our traditional divisions. And that the risk is common to us all regardless of theological or professional identify. Approximately 22 percent of the American population are Catholics.
- Today our nation's 17 million acres of highway are on the verge of providing an enormous opportunity to create healthy pollinator habitats and forages along right of ways. The US Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee (EPW) recently passed the Drive Act which included an amendment that will bolster the habitat for our native pollinating species and also addresses stormwater runoff through implementation of integrated vegetation management practices. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee recently approved the Highway BEE Act which stresses the use of native plants and seed in the development of these lands.



WILD Center Entrance Garden

President Tim Lewis states, "The success of this strategy is dependent upon adequate funding and appropriate implementation. But it will still be up to organizations like Wild Ones and its members to continue to educate the public about the importance of maintaining native habitat for our native pollinators and to promote the use of appropriate native landscaping best practices. Although the national strategy makes a huge case for pollinator habitat, getting the public to consider the guideline important enough to undertake in their own yards and other land holdings, will continue to take a huge information effort."

Wild Ones mission has always been to spread the word about the importance to the circle of life of native plants and natural landscaping, and now that some of the rest of America seems to have caught up with us, we are poised to expand the movement. What an adventure it will be! 🌻

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Prairie Restoration Specialist*

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goodsearch

Search now and raise a penny!

Remember to use Goodsearch.com for all your internet searches instead of Google, Bing, Yahoo, etc. If you select Wild Ones as the organization you support, a penny is donated to support Wild Ones and our mission!

Since 2012, Wild Ones has been actively seeking partnerships with like-minded organizations whose missions and objectives are well aligned with ours, namely to encourage citizens to use native plants in their landscapes.

Our first partnership was with Monarch Joint Venture (MJV). This partnership has provided tremendous opportunities for our chapters across the nation to engage in conservation actions for monarch butterflies. These include creating habitat, educating others, and studying monarchs through citizen science. MJV has grown to over 30 partners across the country, all organizations that are working to conserve the monarch migration through science-based habitat creation and enhancement, research and monitoring, and education and outreach.

Although Wild Ones isn't as specialized in science-based measures to protect monarchs, we do provide "troops on the ground" to spread the message and implement conservation actions across the U.S. through our broad base of chapters and members.

Through our partnership with MJV, the national Wild Ones Monarchs Committee helped to develop an extensive Wild for Monarchs (WFM) toolkit for use by chapters and members. During the past three years, members and others have reached more than 60,000 people through the use of these outreach materials and projects. As awareness surrounding the plight of monarch butterflies continues to grow, and partnerships continue to form and strengthen under the umbrella of the MJV, Wild Ones is growing as well. The fact that monarchs need native plants, especially native milkweed for egg-laying, to survive has helped us recognize the role we can play in the North American monarch conservation movement. And through our partnership with MJV, we are able to have a more meaningful impact in fulfilling the goals of the Wild Ones mission.

Karen Oberhauser, Ph.D., chief advisor for the MJV partnership through UW-Minnesota sums up our partnership like this: "The MJV is proud to count Wild Ones among its partner organizations. Wild Ones members and the people they reach are incredible ambassadors for the monarchs and the habitats on which they depend; the blend of public outreach and on-the-ground conservation action is key to making progress to restore monarch populations."

This year we've expanded our efforts in partnership with MJV to include citizen

Waiting to launch (from Steve Windsor's hand)
PHOTO: Donna VanBuecken
2014 Photo contest



Our first partnership

MONARCH JOINT VENTURE

science monitoring. We are promoting our members' participation in a variety of citizen science programs throughout North America related to the monarch annual cycle of breeding, migrating, and overwintering. Monarch citizen scientists are volunteers who participate in real scientific studies that help guide conservation efforts through programs such as Journey North, Monarch Larva Monitoring Project and Project Monarch Health as well as Monarch Watch's tagging program. Through scientific research and monitoring (including citizen science), we can better understand monarch biology, population trends, diseases, and habitat availability-factors that may influence the monarch's decline. By working in tandem with these programs, we are able to help our members and our communities learn more about monarchs and the importance of native plants and natural landscaping. Could there be a more perfect partnership?

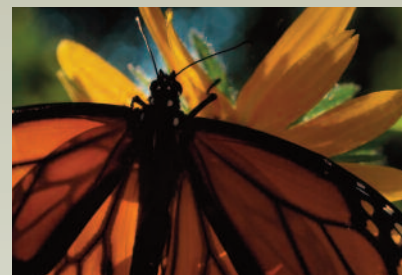
Since we've had such positive results from our partnership with MJV, we've continued our goal to partner with additional organizations. Namely, Bring Back the Monarchs, Moving for Monarchs, Go Wild with Native Gardening, National Pollinator Garden Network, Viva Lundin Productions' *Jens Jensen: The Living Green* documentary, and *Hometown Habitat*. All have been vital to our growth to over 4,000 members. We're looking forward to continued outreach and growth to do our share to restore, preserve and maintain native plant habitat. 🌸



Lost in Milkweed!
PHOTO: Christine Walsh
2015 Photo contest: 1st Place



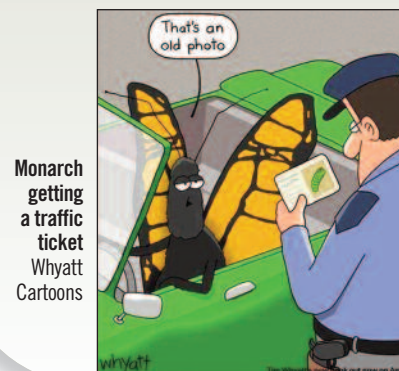
Monarch butterfly
PHOTO: Harry Dreher
2014 Photo contest: 2nd Place



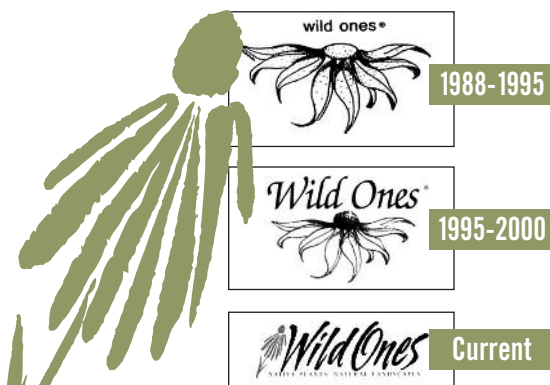
Follow the sun
PHOTO: Vicki Bonk
2015 Photo Contest: 3rd Place



Mural by photographer Art Weber featured at National Center for Nature Photography and used as a backdrop for Wild Ones Oak Openings WFM activities.



Monarch getting a traffic ticket
Wyatt Cartoons



THE WAY-BACK MACHINE / STORY

By Wild Ones Lifetime Member Mandy Ploch

It was back in the early eighties when I first heard of Wild Ones. Although I was curious, I did not attend the regular monthly meetings until 1987 when I moved close enough to Milwaukee. Then Lorrie Otto arranged the programs and always delighted the gathering with her witticisms and wisdom. As they are still today, our meetings were low key, informative, and welcoming and encouraging to newcomers. Attendees had name tags to foster interaction. Chapters began forming, but Milwaukee-North was considered

“headquarters.” In time I was asked to take the vice-president position. I said, “Sure, so long as I don’t have to be president.”

Part of my duties was to get to the post office several times each week to collect the mail. Wild Ones was just a post office box then. Loyal volunteers organized the memberships, kept the mailing list current, as well as labeling, sorting and mailing the newsletter (*The Outside Story* initially, renamed the *Wild Ones Journal* in 1996).

In 1994, at one of the monthly business meetings, the president unexpectedly announced her resignation. Well, here I was as the reluctant president. However, I found the job suited me and I enjoyed the challenge.

Wild Ones became a 501(c)3 organization in 1995. The national board was formed with attorney Bret Rappaport as president to guide the growing organization into the future. Again, I found myself vice president for the next six years. My main job was to bring Chicagoan Bret up to speed on the politics and volunteers up to this point. As my home was a convenient location, it served as base for our business meetings and dinner. Strong leaders came forward when we needed them to handle our growing pains. For several years we

Xerces Society founder Robert Michael Pyle and Lorrie Otto at the 2004 25th Wild Ones anniversary hosted by Madison Chapter.



were struggling financially, but we weathered the lows and came out to be the strong unit we are today.

In 1996 Lorrie Otto was feted for her many accomplishments on behalf of native plants and sound ecological principles including fighting “weed laws” and banning DDT. At that gala the Otto Education Fund was initiated along with an award to a deserving individual or entity that best reflects Lorrie’s life-long message. Each year the Milwaukee-North Chapter still gives the Lorrie Otto Award and national Wild Ones still maintains the endowment fund.

As with many others before and after me, learning from and assisting Wild Ones has been a labor of love. I treasure the friends made and remembered over the years, and the knowledge imparted and shared on behalf of our beautiful natural world. 🌻

GRAPEVINE

By Maryann Whitman

We just got the results of Karin Burghardt’s and Doug Tallamy’s most recent research on herbivore biodiversity in native plant communities compared to non-native plant communities. We hope to include the results in a future issue of the Journal.

Until then don’t jump to conclusions about some of the misleading blogs that have been written about the findings. This is an important paper: Ecology Letters (2015) 18: 1087-1098.



Announcing the Wild Ones 2016 Photo Calendar



Cover photo by Mary Jo Adams, Illinois Prairie Chapter

Wild Ones has produced a 12 month calendar for 2016 featuring pictures from Wild Ones 2015 Photo Contest.

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Go to wildones.org to see full photos and credits. Place your order at wildones.org or call 877-394-9453.

WILD CENTER UPDATE

There is always something happening at the WILD Center. St. Mary's High School in Menasha, WI, brought a bus load of students to help eradicate buckthorn as a community service project. Thanks go out to them. We have had many volunteers help with deadheading some of our flowers, eradicating buckthorn and gathering milkweed pods. The garage is full of the pods as they dry for cleaning. This is a big project and our volunteers always step up. Thanks for your help.

The WILD Center has been the recipient of a number of Scout projects over the years. The most recent include a promotional project by Laney Diamond of Troop 2092, Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Laney's project consisted of developing a pamphlet and brochure about the WILD Center and a coordinating PowerPoint. She also constructed a kiosk and two Leopold benches, and installed post markers that correlated to the printed material. The materials have been a welcome guide for the many visitors to the WILD Center. Trish Nau of the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission completed the materials by preparing a trail map for the WILD Center. Grant funds from the John C Bock Foundation have been used toward the printing of these materials.

The WILD Center also has a new observation deck in the Mesic Prairie/Oak Savanna area overlooking Little Lake Butte des Morts. The observation deck was an Eagle Scout project constructed by Alex Guevara from Troop 1, Bay-Lakes Council of the Boy Scouts in Appleton, Wisconsin. It is a great addition and looks terrific. Thank you Alex and helpers.

Preston Ruleau, an intern from Fox Valley Technical College, has been helping with our social media this semester. He has been posting articles and pictures on Facebook and also blogging and tweeting to gain "outside" exposure for Wild Ones and the WILD Center. He has been doing an outstanding job. If you are interested in our social media channels, follow us on Twitter at @WildOnesWILDCtr and like us on Facebook at WILD Ones WILD Center. ❀



Gold award recipient Laney Diamond with her post marker; kiosk is shown above



Eagle Scout candidate Alex Guevara and his completed project



Jacki Kossik PHOTO

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Chapter Anniversaries

24 years – Green Bay (WI)
21 years – Fox Valley Area (WI)
19 years – Lake-to-Prairie (IL)
16 years – Kalamazoo (MI)
15 years – Mid Missouri (MO)
12 years – St Croix Oak Savanna (MN)
5 years – Illinois Prairie (IL)
1 year – Southwest IL (IL)

Mark Your Calendars

December 13 (Sunday)

National Board Budget Meeting

January 8, 2016 (Friday)

Ecology and Physiology of Plants in Winter:
Surviving the Big Chill,
UWM Field Station, Saukville, WI

January 30, 2016 (Saturday)

Fox Valley Area Chapter's 20th Annual
"Toward Harmony with Nature" Conference,
Oshkosh, WI

February 20, 2016 (Saturday)

Minnesota Area Chapter's Annual "Design
With Nature" Conference, St. Paul, MN

March 5, 2016 (Saturday)

Tennessee Valley Chapter's "Plant Natives
Annual Symposium",
University of Tennessee, Chatanooga

August 19–21, 2016

(Friday–Sunday)

Wild Ones 37th Annual Conference,
WILD Center, Neenah, WI

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 <https://www.youtube.com/user/WildOnesNPNL>

For information about
starting a chapter in your area:
wildones.org/connect/
chapter-start-up-information/

The Meeting Place

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.

COLORADO


Front Range Chapter #86
Susan Smith 720-445-1506
frontrangewildones@gmail.com

CONNECTICUT

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1998-2015

PAST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES

You've already read a lot about what has happened during the past 17 years through my association with Wild Ones as your Executive Director. I've enjoyed every minute of it, but more importantly I feel I have left the organization in capable hands. I will be forever grateful that you allowed me to play such a big role in the native landscaping movement and with delight, I've watched it grow.

There are many people who helped me along the way and there isn't enough space to mention everyone by name, but I do want to mention a very special few. First my husband John who put up with all the interruptions over the years including the preoccupation of my time to keep Wild Ones growing. Then to the many volunteers and donors who have worked with me not only to help Wild Ones grow, but also to help the WILD Center grow – especially the anonymous donors who made owning the WILD Center mortgage-free a reality and volunteer Dave Edwards who has always been there to lend a hand or come to our rescue at the WILD Center. And the many quasi-volunteers who have helped along the way like WILD ONES JOURNAL Editor Maryann Whitman and Webmaster Peter Chen who helped move Wild Ones into the twenty-first century. Also to my wonderful staff who made my job so much easier; we could never have gotten this far without their capable assistance. Lastly, to Tim Lewis and our current board who have had the foresight to make those tough decisions around giving Wild Ones the impetus to grow. You all have been amazing!

My future plan include my continued involvement with my local chapter Wild Ones Fox Valley area and several non-governance national committees. But, beyond that, my goal is to start my third life adventure and do some writing. I'll keep you posted if I manage to get anything published.

Take good care one and all. I'd love to see you at next year's Wild Ones Annual Conference August 19-21 at the WILD Center. It will be the perfect opportunity to meet your new Executive Director Gail Gerhardt. 🌸



John and Donna VanBuecken with photo commissioned by Fox Valley Area Chapter to be hung in WILD Center.



Dave Edwards and Donna



Wild Ones President Tim Lewis, Monarch Watch's Chip Taylor and Donna



Honorary Director Doug Tallamy and Wild Ones Fox Cities Book Festival volunteers at WILD Center.

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PHOTO: Laura Hedin



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The Wild Ones 2016 Photo Contest

The deadline for the Wild Ones Photo Contest is **June 20, 2016**. We will announce the winners at the Wild Ones Annual Conference in August. See wildones.org for details.



Photo by Jim Rogers—Central Wisconsin



Photo by Mary Jo Adam—Illinois Prairie

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