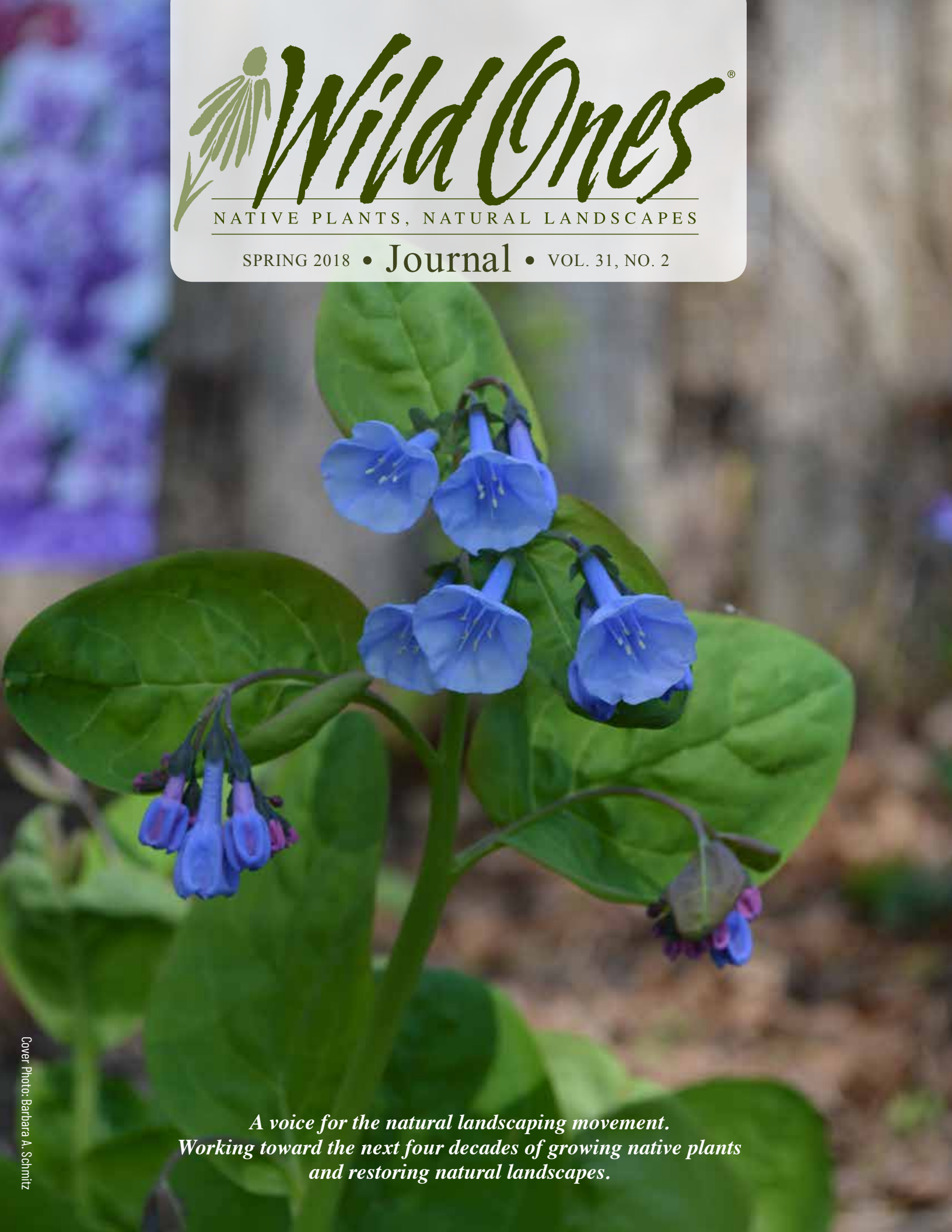

Wild Ones®

NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

SPRING 2018 • Journal • VOL. 31, NO. 2

A voice for the natural landscaping movement.
Working toward the next four decades of growing native plants and restoring natural landscapes.

Cover Photo: Barbara A. Schmitz

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Like me, you've likely read that "change is the only constant in life." While this is unmistakably true, it's also a fact that we humans are evolutionarily predisposed to resist change. After all, it's risky and scary. Unfortunately, none of us are immune to change, which seems to be increasing at an exponential rate.

Probably because spring is a season of change, I've been thinking about this concept lately. Not long ago, I read a good article on the process and psychology of change, which brought to mind Wild Ones and our changes over the past 18 months.

The article was by David Renz, director of The Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership. Renz wrote about leaders successfully leading change initiatives by working with the components needed to guide change and the factors that often play into change. The one thing that especially stood out was his explanation of the three components of change. Of course, there's a beginning and an end, but Renz's point was that we should not forget that there is also a middle part. The three phases of change are:

1. Endings and Letting Go: Those affected by the change have to let go of the old way and deal with its loss. There is always loss, even if the change is wanted.

2. The Neutral Zone: A transitional phrase, this is where people let go of the old ways but aren't quite yet at the "the new way." (Renz illustrated this with an especially good metaphor: like an acrobat, the person has left one bar but is not quite at the next, flying in the air.)

3. The New Beginning: People undergoing change start to execute the plan, fine-tuning it as they learn what works and what doesn't.

I had to ask myself, as one of Wild Ones' leaders, have I successfully guided our members and staff into our New Beginning? To test that, I reviewed Renz's tips for navigating this step, which are a) communicating, b) fine-tuning the new, and c) taking care of the important things that will get us where we need to be.

First, keeping communications going. *Checkmark!* We have done this through this column, my President's emails and the staff's National & Chapter Forum. In addition, chapter officers have attended five online briefings on Wild Ones problems, solutions and its future, the most recent of which was just this January. Our commitment and emphasis on communications will continue as I strongly believe in openly sharing organizational information.

Next, designing and fine-tuning new structures (e.g. eliminating the temporary structures created in The Neutral Zone). *Checkmark!* Wild Ones has finalized its staff structure, moved technology support from volunteers to a local IT company, and markedly improved our membership database. Dues sharing was re-instituted in Q1 2018, and the popular Photo Contest is back. (Watch for details in mid-April; entries are due June 22.)

Last, taking care of the "Four Ps" (purpose, picture, plan and people) as we make sure we're where we want to be (or at least headed in that direction). *Checkmark here, too!* The national board just approved a membership growth plan; End-of-Year Chapter Financial Reports and State of the Chapter Reports were summarized and posted for everyone to review (in the Members Only section of Wild Ones' website); and work is underway to update the organization's 2014-2017 Strategic Plan. Certainly, there's a great deal more to do in the "Four Ps" arena, but we definitely can report good progress.

Yes, our changes have been scary (I can personally attest to that — want to see my supply of antacids?) But look where the changes have brought us. I hope you will join me in embracing the changes we will make as we continue to transition Wild Ones into the future.

I can't help but add one more change concept, this one by Robert Gallagher: "Change is inevitable – except from a vending machine."

Janice

Wild Ones®
NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

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

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Established in 1977, Wild Ones is a national not-for-profit organization of members who teach the benefits of growing native plants and work together to grow and restore natural landscapes.

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.

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Wild Ones names new lifetime, honorary directors

The Board of Directors named two people as Wild Ones honorary directors earlier this year.

Doug Tallamy, who has served as an honorary director since 2009, became the third person to be named a Wild Ones Lifetime Honorary Director. A professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware in Newark, Tallamy teaches classes on insect ecology and conservation, behavioral ecology and advanced ecology. His current research centers on the behavioral ecology of insects, conservation of biodiversity, impact of alien plants on native ecosystems and plant-insect interactions.

Tallamy has also received many awards, including the Garden Club of America Margaret Douglas Medal for Conservation and the Tom Dodd Jr. Award of Excellence in 2013. He also won the Silver Medal from the Garden Writer's Association for his 2007 book, *"Bringing Nature Home,"* which is widely recognized as one of the most important books of its kind. More recently, in 2014, he co-authored *"The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden"* with Rick Darke. To date, he has written 89 research articles. In addition, Tallamy has traveled thousands of miles to present to Wild Ones chapters and numerous conservation groups to advocate the importance of supporting biodiversity by planting native plants and natural landscapes.

Tallamy was a post-doctoral fellow in entomology at the University of Iowa from 1980-81, after earning a Ph.D. at the University of Maryland in 1980, a master's degree in entomology at Rutgers University in 1976, and a bachelor's degree in biology from Allegheny College in 1973.

The other two lifetime honorary directors include Neil Diboll, president of Prairie Nursery, and Lorrie Otto, who was the inspiration for Wild Ones.

Donna VanBuecken, of Grand Chute, Wisconsin, was also named a Wild Ones Honorary Director in 2018. VanBuecken was the Wild Ones' first executive director, serving from 1998-2015, and started as Wild Ones' first administrative secretary, from 1996-1998. In addition, as president of Accent on Natural Landscapes Inc., VanBuecken spreads the word about native plants and natural landscaping, consults with local nurserymen and provides administrative support to small nonprofit organizations. Since her retirement, she also writes a weekly natural landscaping blog.

VanBuecken has been an active board member of the Fox Valley Area (Wisconsin) Chapter since its 1994 charter. She has been a hunter education instructor for nearly 20 years for the Outagamie Conservation Club, and leads eagle monitoring and Eagle Days activities in the Fox Valley. She serves on the board of the Citizens Natural Resources Association and the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame, and was a founding member of the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin. In her role as a park commissioner for the Town of Grand Chute Parks and Recreation Department, she promoted native plants and natural landscaping in the town's parks and other green areas.

She earned a degree in organizational management from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Our new Wild Ones staff configuration

By Janice Hand, National Board President

After eight months of study and debate on how to best staff the Wild Ones office, we have a new structure that will lead us into the future. Of our 2.5 paid employees, 1.5 are now in place. They are:

Elaine Krizenesky, our new national office director. Elaine was promoted from marketing and membership manager to this new role effective March 1. In her new position, Elaine will manage the national office and staff. This includes marketing, mission-related programs, the facility and grounds, compliance, office operations, technology and the Wild Store. Elaine's background includes a master's degree in marketing and management and a bachelor's degree in marketing and economics, both from the University of Arizona. Congratulations, Elaine!

Stephanie Marcelle, our part-time administrative specialist, joined Wild Ones staff in December, working 15 hours per week. Effective March 1, she stepped up to working 20 hours per week to better support our operations. In her role, Stephanie is mainly responsible for membership database data and its maintenance, phone support and Wild Store customer service. Stephanie's background includes a bachelor's degree in human biology from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and prior experience in customer relations. We're glad you joined us, Stephanie!

Soon, we will be hiring a new membership manager. Recruiting is well underway for the second full-time staff member. The membership manager will be in charge of member services, chapter support, donor management and the electronic *Chapter & National Forum*.

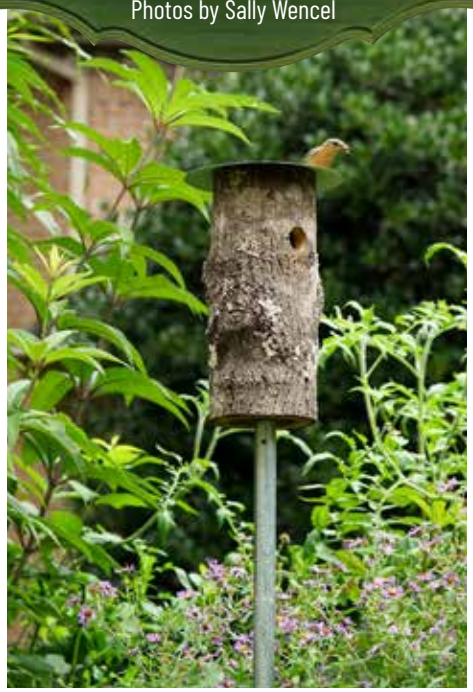
This is a different staff format than Wild Ones had in the past, when we had an executive director and three staff members. It was time to break the rules. Just because "it has always been that way" didn't mean the former staffing structure was the right one for the organization going forward. The Search Committee and the Executive Officers (who are tasked with all things personnel) are very pleased with the staff format change, which allows for organization and staff growth over time. After all, and as noted in this issue's Notes from the President, change is a constant.

Of course, with all things new, there will be a learning and break-in period. So, please join me in being patient with our new staff as they learn their roles and fine-tune office operations further, and expect great things!

Member Garden

Sally Wencel
Tennessee Valley (Tennessee) Chapter

Photos by Sally Wencel



Above: White wood aster *(Eurybia divaricata).* Left: A bluebird sits atop a birdhouse in their yard.

Editor's Note

We'd like to feature native gardens, large or small, in upcoming issues. If you're interested in sharing your native garden, send four to six high-resolution photos, as well as a brief description, to ***barbara.a.benish@gmail.com*** *or* ***journal@wildones.org.*** *Please include your contact information so we can get in touch with you.*

One step at a time. For nine years, Sally Wencel has been incrementally working to convert her yard into a paradise for pollinators and other animals.

Wencel says she was a pretty traditional gardener until 2009 when she completed the Master Gardener program and met others who were similarly interested in environmentally sustainable gardening. "We started a native plant and wildflower special interest group and began educating ourselves about native plants by hosting area experts on related topics," she says. That group became the Tennessee Valley Chapter of Wild Ones in 2012.

But last year, Wencel admits she pushed herself since her property was included on a Master Gardeners' yard tour, and she wanted it to be perfect. "The biggest challenge was that the garden tour was in early June when most native gardens don't look their best," she says. "It was an extra hard job to make it fabulous…"

But the years of planting, moving and expanding her gardens paid off, and the response from visitors was enthusiastic. "My Wild Ones buddies took people on educational tours in groups to explain all of it," she says. "That really made the difference since people understood the why behind my plant choices."

Retired for two years, Wencel says she normally doesn't maintain her garden, but rather takes a painterly approach. "Every so often, I look at different parts of the yard, squint and decide I need to trim back that plant or move another one. It's more of tweaking, rather than maintaining."

She adds, "I have incrementally enlarged and replanted borders and foundation areas and certainly have not finished the process." She's converted her shady backyard into a woodland aided by the maturing of existing small oaks, hickories and maple trees, and not raking and adding back a native understory.

She also "edits" her landscape when conditions change, such as when a neighbor removes a large tree that opens the canopy. "Sometimes it's because a plant belongs somewhere else, like the smooth dogwood (*Cornus amomum*) that was only supposed to grow 5 to 8 feet, but that doubled in size, or a flame azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*) that has been crowded out," Wencel says. From fall through spring, she moves shrubs to areas of the yard where they will grow better or provide specific functions like erosion control, or adds new ferns,

grasses, sedges and perennials to areas that need enhancement.

Wencel says she had no professional help in the garden design or installation. "I just got in touch with my inner landscape designer. Nature has been my guide and I have translated what I see in nearby natural areas into gardens. In fact, I take pictures of those intact plant communities and aim to replicate those communities where there are similar growing conditions."

However, being on last year's yard tour caused Wencel to add signs (such as Wild Ones Butterfly Garden, Xerces Pollinator Habitat and National Wildlife Certified Wildlife Habitat) that tell people her yard is pollinator friendly. She's kept those signs up, and that is helping to educate her neighbors about what she is doing, she says. Her own husband isn't on the natural landscaping bandwagon, so she knows that she needs to make her yard look "intentional" if he and the other neighbors are going to eventually get on board.

For the past few years, Wencel says she has been experimenting with groundcovers like dwarf cinquefoil (*Potentilla canadensis*), woodland strawberry (*Fragaria virginica*), green and gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*) and pussytoes (*Antennaria spps*) because those less glamorous plants serve an important purpose. "Of course, some groundcovers like phlox (*Phlox divaricata*, *P. subulata*) are brilliant and should be planted because they are excellent spring nectar sources," she adds.

But Wencel says determining her favorite plant is akin to asking her about her favorite child. "I like to turn that question into what are the best performing and underused native plants, particularly native shrubs since traditional landscapes in my area are dominated by exotic ornamentals." Native viburnums (V. *acerifolium, dentatum, et al*) lead the pack, followed by native hollies like winterberry and inkberry (*Ilex verticillata, I. glabra*), and chokeberries (*Photinia pyrifolia, P. melanocarpa*).

For those new to natural landscaping, Wencel suggests they go out to natural areas and be inspired. "If you have a shady yard, go to a woodland or state park and look at what plants you see. Then decide what plants you like," she says.

But you also need to be patient. "You're not going to get an instant garden full of color," she says. "Try to put a lot of plants in, and start with plugs vs. paying $20 for one coneflower in a half-gallon container." She also encourages people to propagate their own plants. "It's fun and less expensive."

Thirdly, she recommends that you give yourself a break. "Some plants will die. Look at what you have for soil and light conditions, and then plant accordingly. If you try to put in plants that don't belong there, weeds are the only thing that will thrive."

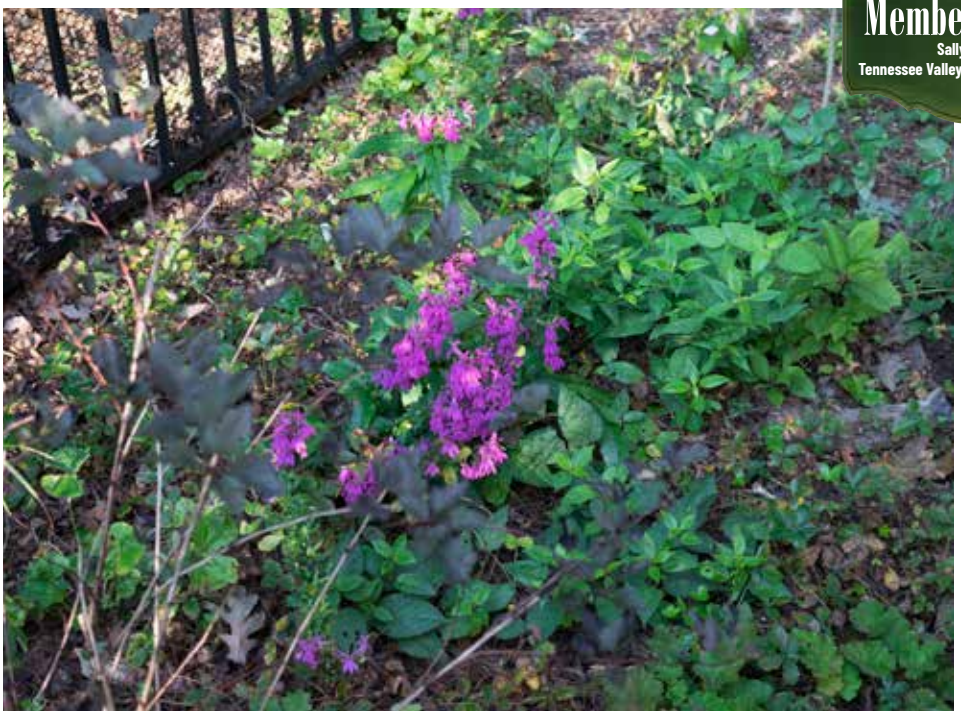
And most importantly, Wencel encourages newcomers to go to Wild Ones meetings and ask members for advice. "Wild Ones members really are a great source of information," she says.

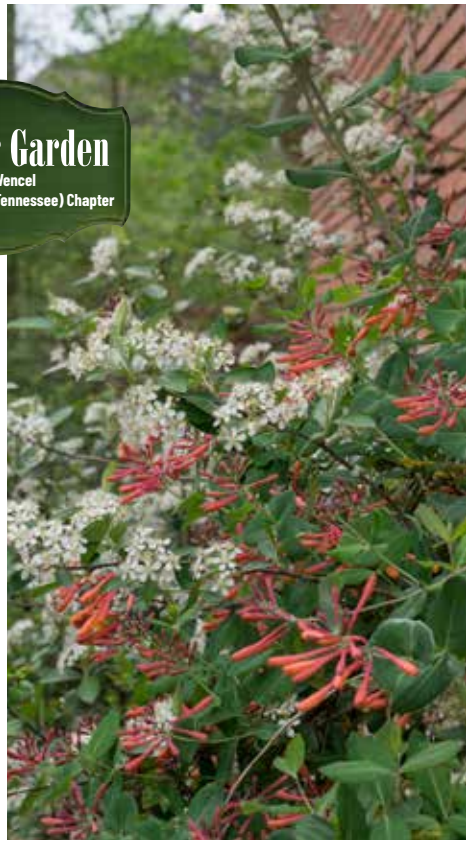
About the Yard

- The ½-acre property is located in Tennessee's Ridge and Valley Appalachian physiographic province, less than a quarter mile from Lake Chickamauga, which is part of the Tennessee River watershed.
- The Wencel Turgeson yard includes about 320 species of native plants, including sedges and grasses. Sally has also participated in several dozen native plant rescues in Tennessee and North Georgia, so many ferns and shrubs are from connected ecosystems.
- The yard is composed of several areas that are modeled after natural archetypes – woodland, woodland edge and meadows, both mesic and wet. Each area is densely planted with shrubs and perennials that bloom from early spring through late fall to support pollinators.
- About 80 percent of the yard is permeable surface, minus the house footprint, driveway and front sidewalk.

Below: The cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) adds brightness and color to any home landscape. Right: Shrubs like this chokeberry and vines like Coral honeysuckle are key parts of the Wencel Turgeson property.

Member Garden
Sally Wencel
Tennessee Valley (Tennessee) Chapter





Foraging for wild edible plants

By Joy Perry

Are you tired of pulling garlic mustard from a beloved woodland *every* year? Does a carpet of cheery yellow dandelion blooms in your yard make you or your neighbors see red?

There's a simple solution to these problem plants: eat them!

Why forage for wild edible plants? Garlic mustard, dandelions and dozens of other wild plants make up a vast – and free – resource of tasty edibles. Many are also very nutritious. The foraging process itself offers another way to connect with nature and have an adventure in working for our food. Foraging also allows us to better appreciate our ancestors who survived through foraging in times past. Finally, and most satisfying, it's the ultimate revenge against some maddening, but delicious, invasive or aggressive plants.

You may be hesitant to nosh on unfamiliar leaves and flowers. In fact, many wild plants taste bitter, a result of their coevolution with the millions of species of plant-eaters. Wild plants produce many chemicals to deter those who would eat them. Some are toxic, but others simply taste bad. Careful selection and patient plant breeding has provided us with domestic food plants that have greatly reduced levels of those bitter substances. You can find many wild plants, though, that are mild or have a pleasant tang. Experimentation is the name of the game.

Rules of safe and ethical foraging:

• Know what you're gathering. Confirm identity. *If you aren't sure, leave it. Be safe!*

• Don't forage along roadsides where pollutants may be highest, or in areas that may have been treated with pesticides or contaminated with industrial or other pollutants. Wash all plants thoroughly in running water.

• Do not collect protected species or species from National Parks, National Monuments or state parks or reserves, depending on your specific state's rules. National forests *do* allow collecting for personal use.

• Plants most susceptible to overharvest are those with a single underground root, corm or bulb that is harvested, as this usually kills the plant. Gathering leafy greens is less damaging, but a good rule when harvesting greens from a wild perennial is to take only one third of the volume. Collect shoots of perennials only once a season, and not every year. There is one notable exception: Harvest edible weedy or, especially, invasive species with abandon! In fact, consider harvesting more than you need and sharing the surplus with a friend to help control the population.

Violet (*Viola soraria*) and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) leaves

Or, eating well can be the best revenge

Identifying edible wild plants:

This subject can (and does) occupy entire semesters of college courses and lifetimes of study. The most important steps are:

1. Find a good plant identification book or a website you can access while in the field. A "good" guide will offer clear written descriptions along with sharp photos or line drawings of multiple identifying characteristics of the species. The best guides will have definitions, preferably illustrated, of botanical features.

2. Compare the plant you've found with the guide description, paying attention to details. Don't force the plant to correspond to the description, but recognize that most descriptions are of typical mature plants and yours might be a different growth stage.

3. Most plants are identified by the number and arrangement of flower parts and leaves. Sizes, colors and seasons of flowering/fruiting are less consistent and less reliable.

4. Use multiple features to identify the plant, and when you're uncertain, consult multiple field/online guides or experienced people.

5. Be safe: If you've never eaten a specific plant before, exercise restraint and try only a small portion. If you're allergic to peanuts or cashews or have severe reactions to other plants, avoid eating wild plants from the same plant family.

Ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) fiddleheads, cleaned and blanched

What tasty edible plants might await you? While there are many candidates available to us all, I'm focusing on a few species that are either invasive or aggressively weedy and that are common across significant areas of the United States. First, several "weedy" species:

Dandelions (*Taraxacum officinale*). All parts of this Eurasian import are edible, but my German grandmother looked forward most to the first spring salad of young dandelion leaves. Their pleasantly bitter tang is beloved also in Italian cuisine. The yellow flower heads (without the bitter green bracts) are sweet and great in salads or can be mixed into softened butter as a spread.

Common blue violet (*Viola sororia)*. The state flower of Wisconsin, Illinois, Rhode Island and New Jersey is native east of the Rocky Mountains. However, it can become quite aggressive in its shady wooded habitats, spreading readily from seeds carried by ants. The flowers are delicious and beautiful in salads; the leaves are mild and tasty in salads and pesto or cooked in soups. Violets are also the host plant for several species of fritillary butterflies.

Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia)*. This medium-sized tree is native to the southeastern U.S. although it has been planted and spread more widely. A legume, it can be a valuable component of woodlands, adding fixed nitrogen to soils. However, in the Midwestern states it can be an aggressive intruder into restored prairies and savannas. Black locust's most notable feature is beautiful, sweetly scented blossom clusters in early summer, which have been described as tasting like sweet peas tinged with vanilla. During their brief bloom time, gather young clusters (before any individual flowers are shriveling or fading) and eat the flowers raw as a treat right off the tree or in salads, cooked in cream sauces, sautéed, in stir-fries or added to soups. If that's not tempting enough, try the most common culinary preparation of black locust flowers: battered and fried fritters.

Ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris)*. Native to central and eastern North America, Europe and eastern Asia, this fern forms distinct clumps of sterile fronds (leaves) in spring, followed in the centers of the clumps by persistent dark brown spore-producing fertile fronds in mid-summer. Though a native plant, ostrich fern can be a thug in the moist, partly shaded areas it prefers, spreading aggressively by a robust rhizome system. In my small woodland planting area, I happily practice ostrich fern population control with repeated cuttings of the edible "fiddleheads," the young, coiled, sterile frond. Cut the fiddleheads, remove their papery brown coverings, and steam or boil just until tender to enjoy their asparagus-like flavor. Fiddleheads can also be pickled.

However, it's especially important to positively identify ostrich fern fiddleheads. While all fern species' young fronds have the fiddlehead shape, some species are toxic and dangerous to consume.

Stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica)*. Spreading with an insidious underground rhizome system through moist, rich soil in full sun, nettles can be weedy. More noteworthy, though, this well-armed plant stings with tiny hairs, effectively irritant-filled glass syringes on leaves and stems that readily break when touched and cause painful welts. Wear gloves and long sleeves and pants when working around stinging nettles. Fortunately, the stinging properties are eliminated when blanched even briefly, leaving tender shoots and young leaves of spring and early summer as a choice green tasting like spinach. Chop the blanched greens and use as a tasty side (a little butter and spritz of lemon juice never hurt), in a soup, frittata or stir-fry, in pesto, or any place you want the flavor of a mild green. In my opinion, this one is especially worth the effort.

Now, two noxious (but delicious) invasive species:

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata)*. No wonder this invasive species makes a good edible: Settlers brought garlic mustard to North America from its native Eurasian range in the mid-1860s for use as a food plant. A valued plant in Europe where dozens of herbivore species keep it in check, it was liberated from those constraints and has come to dominate woodland understories in much the U.S. except for the southern tier of states and those of the northcentral Plains.

Garlic mustard is a biennial plant in the mustard family. As its common name

Ostrich fern fronds in different stages: previous year's brown fertile frond, which is a great way to make positive ID, fiddlehead and slightly older frond

suggests, it has a garlicky aroma and flavor. Shoots of first-year seedlings are edible but small. Most foragers gather the young shoots and leaves of second year plants before they bloom. Since the preferred method of control of garlic mustard is hand-pulling and bagging, avoid dirt contamination by cutting the edible parts first, then pulling the remainder of the plant for disposal.

Add garlic mustard raw to salads, pesto, frittatas and salad dressings. Use it cooked in soups, casseroles or frittatas. You'll enjoy the garlic-like flavor even more knowing that you're helping control this noxious invasive plant.

Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*). "The plant that ate the South" was another well-intentioned introduction, this time from Asia. A vine in the legume family, it was vigorously promoted to farmers to reduce soil erosion with its rampant growth, to enhance soil fertility and as a highly palatable food for grazing livestock. It does those jobs well, but it has also become highly invasive, smothering large tracts of vegetation. It is now found in all states east of the Rockies and south of the Great Lakes, as well as in the Pacific Northwest. Fortunately, there are many ways to eat kudzu.

While it's not hard to identify kudzu in its hill-covering mode, identification of smaller plants is tricky because the three-lobed leaves resemble those of poison ivy. Carefully consult guides to be sure of your identification.

Although all parts of kudzu are edible except the seeds and seedpods, the most easily gathered and palatable parts of kudzu are the young leaves, shoot tips and flowers. The young leaves and vine tips can be eaten raw, though since they are covered with fine hairs, most people prefer them after they've been chopped and blanched. Add them to quiches, casseroles, pasta sauces or stir-fries. The purple blossoms have an aroma of grapes and can be steeped in hot water to provide the base for a delicately flavored jelly.

Joy Perry is a board member of the Fox Valley Area (Wisconsin) Chapter of Wild Ones and serves as chairwoman of the Speakers Bureau. A plant pathologist by training, she taught botany, environmental science and ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley before retiring several years ago. Now she frets over the plant invaders in the plant beds and restored prairie areas around her rural home, but prefers eating the transgressors to spraying them with herbicides.

Wild Pesto

2 ½ cups packed fresh garlic mustard or other "greens"

3 large garlic cloves, peeled and chopped

½ cup pine nuts, walnuts or pecans

¼ to ½ cup quality olive oil

½ cup grated Parmesan cheese

Salt to taste

Combine garlic mustard, garlic, nuts and salt in food processor, and chop finely. With motor running, add olive oil in thin stream until all is of spreadable consistency. Add cheese and process briefly; add salt to taste. May be kept in refrigerator for a week or frozen in airtight containers if covered with thin layer of olive oil.

Cream of Green Soup

1 pound washed wild greens, such as blanched nettles and kudzu, violet leaves, or other "greens"

1 medium onion, chopped

2 tablespoons olive oil or butter

3 cups chicken or vegetable stock

1 cup cream, half-and-half or milk

Salt, pepper and grated nutmeg

Sauté onion over medium heat until wilted. Add greens and stock; bring to a boil, then lower heat and simmer, stirring occasionally, until greens are very tender. Turn off heat, add seasonings to taste and allow to cool so that it's safe to handle. Puree in a blender and return to the pan. Add cream and reheat, stirring occasionally. Adjust seasonings and serve.

"Tabbouleh Gone Wild"

1 cup bulgur (fine cracked wheat)

1-2 bunches green onions, finely sliced

2 cups finely chopped herbs and greens (see below)

1 tomato, chopped (optional)

½ "English" cucumber, chopped (optional)

Soak bulgur in 1½ cups hot water until water is absorbed or at least until grain is softened. Drain bulgur and squeeze dry. Combine bulgur with onions, herbs and greens. Add additional vegetables such as chopped tomatoes or cucumbers as desired. Dress with olive oil and lemon juice. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Chopped herbs and greens:
Combo of violet leaves, blanched fern fiddleheads, blanched nettles, dandelion leaves, blanched kudzu tips and leaves, flowers (violet, dandelions, black locust, etc.), herbs such as the traditional parsley and spearmint, but also chopped apple mint, wild bergamot other tasty herbs or greens.

NEWS

ACROSS THE NATION

CALIFORNIA
A 12-year-old girl in San Luis Obispo is on a mission to save the monarch butterfly.

After learning that the monarch population was declining, Genevieve Leroux grew *Asclepius fascicularis* from seed, then gave away all of the plants to friends and neighbors. In addition, her garden is now an official research site for The Monarch Alert program at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Learn more about her project here.

IDAHO
A monarch butterfly born in Boise spent the winter on the California coast, where it was found in mid-March in a swimming pool in the Santa Barbara area, according to the *Spokesman-Review*.

This is the first documented case of a tagged Idaho monarch making the journey to California, according to a news release from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The butterfly was not injured and flew off after being rescued, the release said.

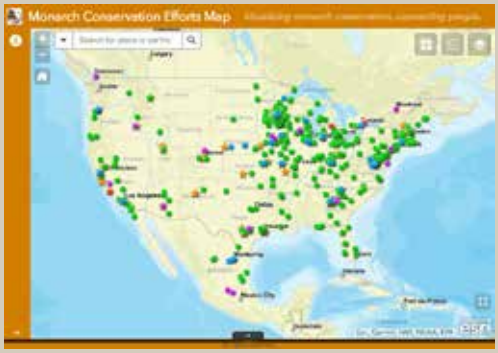
Idaho resident Melinda Lowe reared the butterfly she named Monet in August, which then left Idaho in September. The monarch flew about 662 miles to California.

IOWA and NEVADA
A partnership between the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association and the Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium is good news for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Under the Monarch Fueling Station Project, ethanol and biofuel plants across the state are encouraged to convert green spaces on their land into monarch habitat, *The Gazette* reported.

Lincolnway Energy in Nevada became the first plant to sign on to the effort. Preparations recently began to seed a 2-acre plot at the facility with milkweed and other wildflowers this spring.

Steve Bradbury, a professor of entomology at Iowa State University, said small plots are perfect for monarchs when spread across the state. The butterflies fly from one habitat patch to another on a migratory path that takes them south to Mexico and back north each year. "Having lots of little patches is just what the monarch needs," he said.



A new Monarch Conservation Efforts Map helps users visualize what activities are happening across North America to benefit monarchs and their habitats, and to better connect people who are passionate about this issue.

The map features various conservation actions ranging from educational monarch events to garden habitats and monitoring activities. With options to zoom in, search, and filter by category, the Monarch Joint Venture Monarch Conservation Efforts Map will connect people and programs across North America. MJV also provides free webinars on monarch butterfly conservation.

NATIONWIDE
Earth's global surface temperatures in 2017 ranked as the second warmest since 1880, according to a NASA analysis.

Continuing the planet's long-term warming trend, globally averaged temperatures in 2017 were 1.62 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than the 1951 to 1980 mean, according to scientists at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies. That is second only to global temperatures in 2016.

In a separate, independent analysis, scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration concluded that 2017 was the third-warmest year in their record. The minor difference in rankings is due to different methods used by the two agencies to analyze global temperatures. However, both analyses show that the five warmest years on record all have taken place since 2010.

OHIO
Responding to documented environmental damage associated with the spread of invasive nonnative plants, Ohio has banned the sale of 38 destructive plant species, The *Columbus Dispatch* reported.

Examples of the harm caused in Ohio by nonnative invasive species include:

- Bush honeysuckle plants can negatively impact the genetic fitness of Ohio's state bird, the cardinal.
- The Japanese barberry shrub has been linked to increased tick population and incidence of Lyme disease.
- Garlic mustard can release chemicals in the ground that prevent native plant seeds from germinating.

The list of illegal plants includes various types of honeysuckles, Bradford pear trees, autumn olive shrubs and fig buttercup flowers.

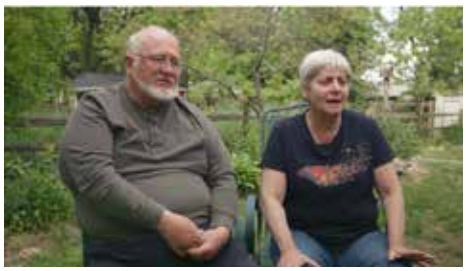
Washington D.C.
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently released controversial analyses that rely heavily on industry studies to conclude that glyphosate poses no significant risks to humans.

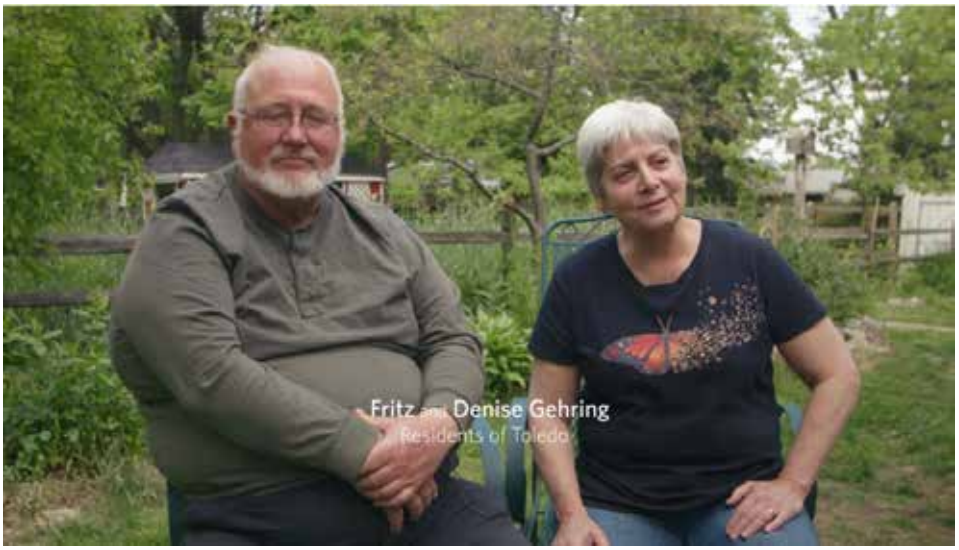
The EPA review, which ignored the agency's own guidelines for assessing cancer risks, contradicts a 2015 World Health Organization analysis of published research that determined glyphosate is a probable carcinogen.

Glyphosate is the active ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup and the most widely used pesticide in the world; 300 million pounds of it are used in the U.S. each year.

"The EPA's biased assessment falls short of the most basic standards of independent research and fails to give Americans an accurate picture of the risks posed by glyphosate use," said Nathan Donley, a senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity.

Board member featured in Nature Conservancy video





More than 400,000 people in Northwest Ohio went without water when a nutrient-fueled algal bloom erupted in Lake Erie and contaminated drinking water supplies in 2014. Now a Wild Ones board member is helping to educate others about what happened and how it can be avoided in a new Nature Conservancy video.

Denise Gehring and her husband, Fritz, of Toledo, are featured in the 4.16-minute video that promotes water quality in the Great Lakes using the Four R's in farming —applying the right source of fertilizer at the right rate and right time in the right place.

A member of the Nature Conservancy since 1980, Denise said she had collaborated with the organization on projects before retirement and is now a TNC volunteer. The Nature Conservancy came to the Gehrings and asked if they would be interested in being part of the video, knowing that they had been affected by the water crisis.

The production crew spent an entire day filming at their property. And yes, the red house shown at the beginning of the video is the Gehring home.

While Denise is happy with the finished video, she said she wished they would have included information about native plants and how the deep roots help to contribute to water quality. "But that didn't make the final cut," she said. "The audience for the video is primarily farmers to learn about their critical role in water quality. Data shows that while nonpoint pollution problems come from our cities and suburban areas, most of the nutrient run-off of nitrogen and phosphorous is from our farmland in the watershed."

In 2014, weather conditions, warmer lake waters and fertilizer run-off made for a perfect storm for blue-green algae to quickly take over, she said. This algal bloom produced microcystin, a toxin that's harmful to living things. People couldn't drink water, shower with it, or cook with it. This was not a boil-first advisory, but rather a more serious health threat that was also harmful to wildlife, pets and livestock. Even gardeners who produce food could not use the water for irrigation, Denise said.

For one weekend, it meant over 400,000 people in the Toledo area, including those from about 25 nearby municipalities, had to buy or get water from friends who had wells. The area got lucky when cooler temperatures arrived, and the algae threat decreased at the municipal water intake on its own after the weekend, she said.

But some good did come out of the water crisis, Denise said. People started paying attention. Since then, communities, scientists, government officials and farmers have come together to not only research the problem, but also tackle it. The U.S. EPA Great Lakes Initiative funding has also helped to support more wetland restorations and other projects to take up the nutrients.

"The Soil and Water Conservation Districts, USDA/NRCS and the Nature Conservancy are helping to get the word out to the agriculture community," she said. "The water problem cannot be solved without the farmers. Many are cooperating by volunteering to increase cover crops and utilizing the 4Rs, but more still needs to be done, especially with factory farms and contained feed lots."

The city is also upgrading its water treatment plant and developing a regional water system, and residents support it because they now realize it's necessary, she added.

But this video is important for all to see nationwide. "This isn't just a problem for Toledo," Denise said. "It can be a problem wherever you have high-intensity farming upstream."

Chapter's plant sale grows members

By Sherrie Snyder and Meredith Schroeer

The Illinois Prairie Chapter of Wild Ones held its sixth annual plant sale in 2017. After the dirt was swept away, the few remaining plants loaded into cars, and the day's profits tallied, we had set a new chapter record — 30 new members in one day!

Well before the day of the sale, chapter members were busy advertising the sale. Our members, of course, know about the sale through announcements at our monthly programs and newsletter articles. But we also seek to spread the word to non-members (potential future members) as well.

Our first booth of the year is usually at a local Master Gardeners' event where, besides sharing information about our chapter and the benefits of native plants, we hand out colorful "save-the-date" cards for our upcoming plant sale. These cards are available at all programs and booths leading up to the sale. They are also distributed to local garden centers, libraries and other public locations. From information gathered at earlier sales, we learned most non-members hear about our sale from friends or on our chapter's Facebook page. To expand the reach of our plant sale Facebook posts, we pay a small fee to use Facebook's "Boost" option. Other publicity is focused on local newspapers, newsletters of like-minded organizations, and local radio station public service announcements.

The advertising continues the day of the sale. We put up a large banner announcing our sale on the busy road in front of the building where the sale is held. But what really grabs the attention of passersby is the chapter member dressed up as a Coreopsis and waving to those who drive by, beckoning people to stop. Those who stop find ample parking and also drive-up pickup for purchases — with carry out help!

Once inside the building, shoppers find an atmosphere of excitement, enthusiasm and competence. Before the sale opens, there is already a long line in the foyer, inspiring confidence that something special is in store. For gardeners, this proves true — arrays of beautiful, healthy young plants neatly laid out on green-covered tables, each species having a handsome sign with information about the plant's size and optimal growing conditions, and each pot with its own smaller information marker.

A friendly member greets all guests, giving them an alphabetical list of all the plants, as well as suggested uses (rain garden, butterfly garden, etc.), and prices. The greeter explains that the plants are also alphabetically arranged on the tables, points out the special area for shrubs, and invites them to ask our "floaters" questions about specific plants; those floaters are always happy to share their experience and expertise. The greeter also points them to an ample supply of boxes and trays to carry their purchases.

Photo by Jennifer Sharkey.

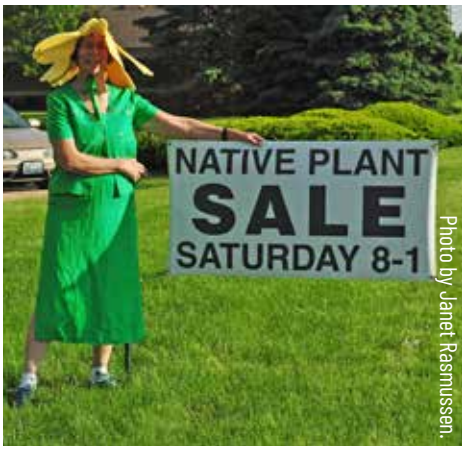


Photo by Janet Rasmussen.

Above: Shoppers peruse the native plants offered at the Illinois Prairie Chapter's plant sale. Below: The Illinois Prairie Chapter's "coreopsis" Joan McMullen poses by the sign where their plant sale is held.

For those who are encountering native plants for the first time, the chapter has an inviting and informative display about the mission of Wild Ones to educate our communities about the beauty and ecological importance of native plants. An adjoining display provides an outstanding example of the work being done nationwide to bring back monarch butterflies. While visiting our display, browsers can also pick up our chapter Program of Events, which contains a membership form and other helpful information.

If that's not enough to convince someone to join this engaged and fun group, we also offer discounts to our members – anywhere from $1 to $10 per plant. A non-member doesn't have to buy too many plants to find that a Wild Ones membership will save them money, in addition to providing them the many benefits of membership. Joining is made easy by the fact that they can write one check for both plants and a new membership when they check out. Our chapter treasurer mails all new membership forms with one check to the National office.

Prices are kept low so that, in addition to raising funds to pay for our speakers and grant program, we can carry out our important goal of increasing the number and variety of native plants in our community. It's a true pleasure to see native plants flying out the door to new homes. And we look forward to seeing our new members at future meetings.

Sherrie Snyder is a founding member of the Illinois Prairie Chapter of Wild Ones. She has served on its board since its inception in 2010 and serves as the chapter's plant sale chairwoman. Meredith Schroeer is also a founding member of the Chapter, and has served on the chapter board in several capacities. She is beginning her eighth year writing a "Native Plant of the Month" article for the Chapter newsletter.

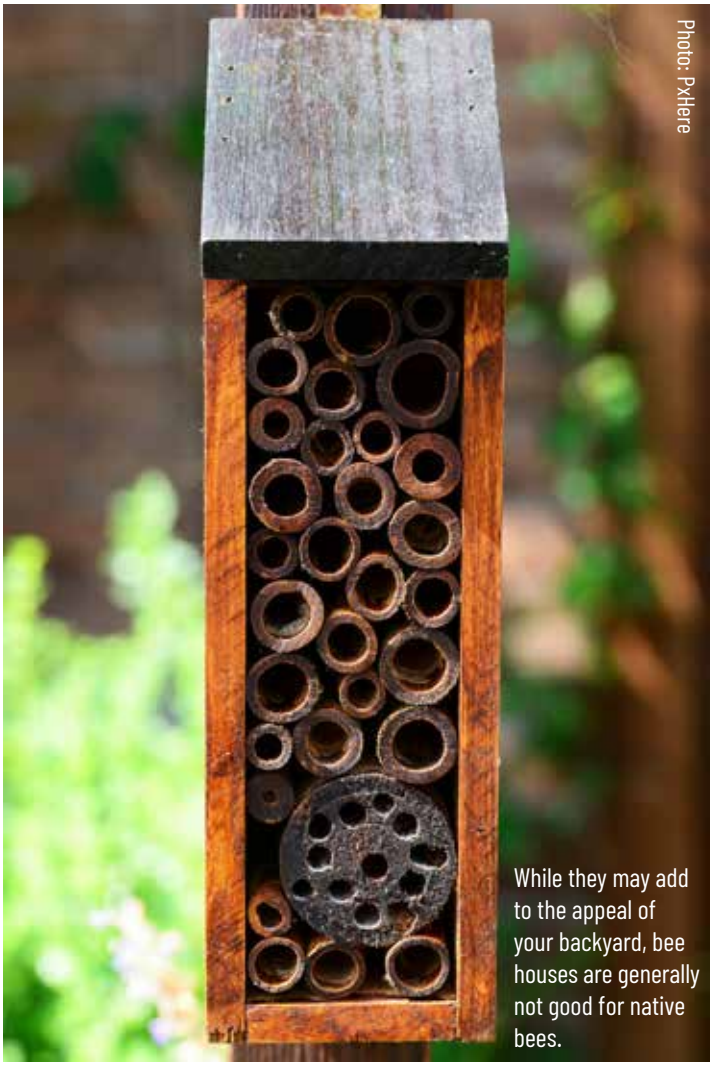


Photo: PxHere

While they may add to the appeal of your backyard, bee houses are generally not good for native bees.

Photo: Peter O'Connor/Flickr

Male and female Red Mason Bees (*Osmia rufa*) on English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

Bee houses vs. natural habitat:

Which is better for native bees?

By Charlotte Adelman

Whether you buy them in stores or online, or build them yourself, bee houses come in many forms: bee hotels, nest boxes, trap nests, bee condos, bee blocks, nesting blocks and stem or tube bundles. They are ornamental additions to our yards meant to make us feel good for helping our native bees. But do bee houses really help these important pollinators?

To give native bees "a helping hand," I scoured bee house advertisements and discovered a lack of uniformity in structural features, like frame depth and hole width. I found images of bee houses attached to ropes and hanging from roofs that conflicted with admonitions from the Habitat Network to "Make sure your bee house is firmly fixed to a wall, a tree or the ground; it should not shift around or sway in the wind." I learned that bee house maintenance requirements range wildly, from cleaning it every few years, to disinfecting it every fall, to replacing it every year. I purchased a plain wooden bee block with pre-drilled holes that mimic beetle holes in branches and logs and erected it according to the instructions. My bee block attracted no bees. It remains harmlessly, but firmly, attached to a tree.

Next, I searched for a "stem or tube bundle" bee house, and found a striking uniformity in construction materials. To achieve a "win-win," I could remove "invasive reeds" like Japanese knotweed or phragmites as these make "good hollow stems when cut and dried." I could also create a "fine nest" by using a bundle of 15 to 20 tubes made from the naturally hollow stems of bamboo, reeds and teasel, according to the Xerces Society's "Nests for Native Bees." But others question that advice since seed from teasel and other invasive plants spread rapidly as they adhere to lawn mowers, dog hair, human gloves, socks, boots, shoes, clippers, etc. Thus, moving the stems and accompanying seeds of invasive plants from infected roadsides to pristine backyards to build a bee house is *not* a "win-win," but rather a big "lose-lose."

To mimic natural bee nesting habitat, I purchased a holder and inserted cardboard tubes, placed my "stem or tube bundle" in the sun facing south so it caught the earliest morning heat as mason bees require morning sun to warm up, and firmly affixed it to a wall so it wouldn't sway in the wind. And the bees came! And it was good and I was happy. Sadly, before winter arrived, I forgot to store the bee bundle in the cold garage. Due to competing obligations,

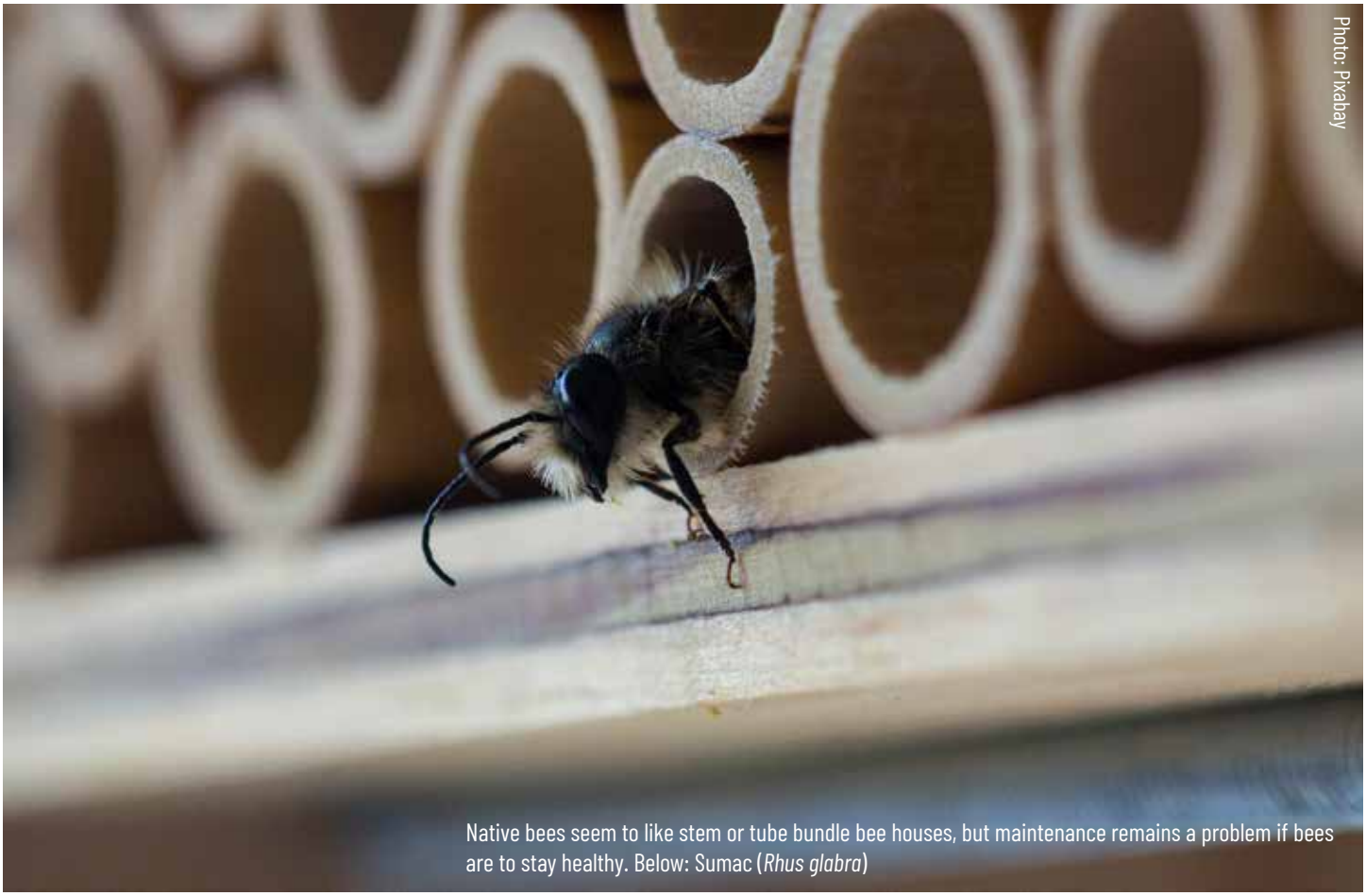


Photo: Pixabay

Native bees seem to like stem or tube bundle bee houses, but maintenance remains a problem if bees are to stay healthy. Below: Sumac (*Rhus glabra*)

being a novice or plain carelessness, I let my native bees down. The lesson is that only responsible people should erect bee houses. Why? Because unmaintained, dirty, parasite- or fungus-ridden bee houses can cause serious negative effects — including illness and death.

So why put up bee houses? As a "Butterfly House Plans" provider admits on its website, "Our feeling is that most of them go unoccupied by butterflies, but they sure do make the garden pretty and more interesting." According to a *Mother Nature Network* article, "The thing about a mason bee home is that it gets people to understand that there are a lot more bees out there than just honeybees." For specific bees seeking habitat, however, interesting garden ornaments and generalized public understanding are not enough. The bees need food. As stated by *Garden Culture Magazine*, "If pesticides don't kill them, starvation is the next greatest threat to wild pollinators."

Bees prefer natural habitats to artificial ones, but is there a place for the latter? Well documented population increases enjoyed by purple martins and bluebirds demonstrate that some artificial habitats provide quantifiable benefits, but this does not apply to all birds at all times. And, even the

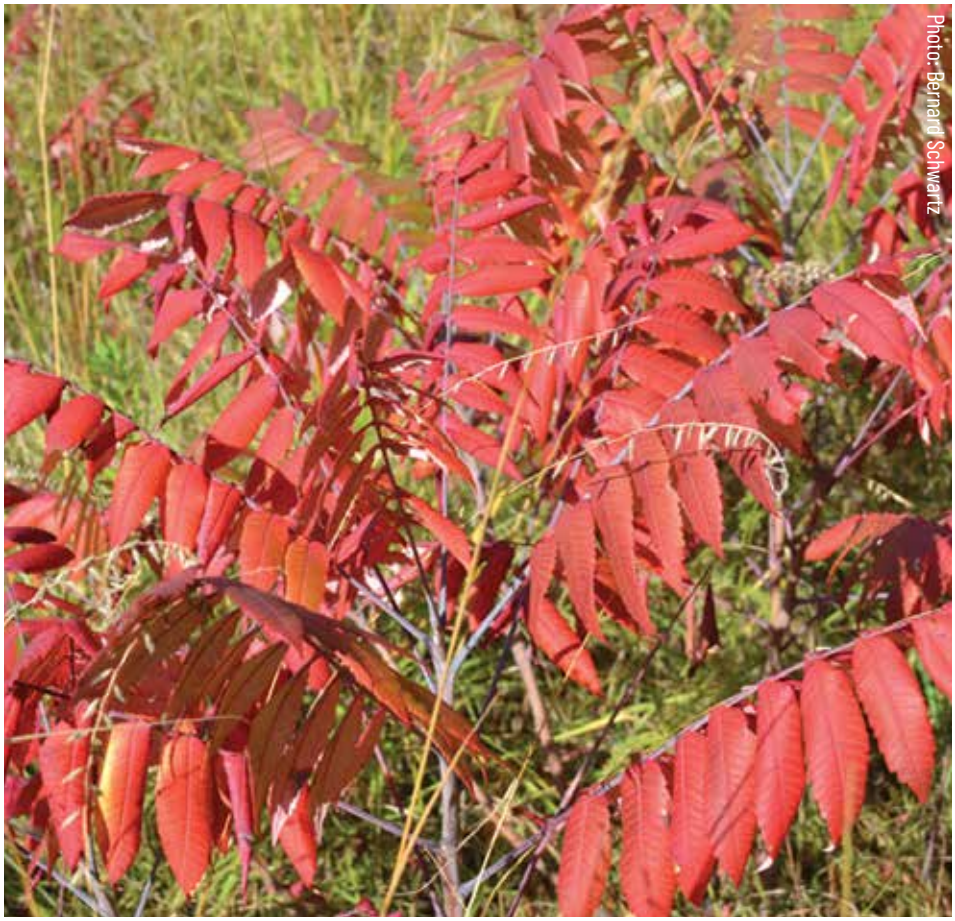


Photo: Bernard Schwartz

number of bluebird houses can be excessive, notes the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, stating that care must be taken that advances of bluebird populations are not made at the expense of other native bird populations in managed areas.

But what do scientific studies say about bee houses? I found only one study, published in 2015, where scientists from Toronto, Canada, surveyed almost 600 bee hotels over 3 years. The report referenced campaigns to "save the bees" that often promoted installing bee hotels that artificially aggregate nest sites of aboveground nesting bees. In fact, those campaigns promoted bee hotels despite the absence of data indicating they have a positive effect!

The study found:

• A significant increase in the total number of parasites attacking native bees compared to those that were introduced.

• Females of introduced bee species provisioned nests with significantly more female larva each year.

• Native wasps were significantly more abundant than both native and introduced bees and occupied almost 3/4 of all bee hotels each year.

• Introduced wasps were the only group to significantly increase in relative abundance year over year.

• At their worst, bee hotels may act as population sinks for bees through facilitating the increase of parasites, predators and diseases as a result of functional responses to unnaturally high nest densities and nesting site entrances set up in two-dimensions rather than in the more three-dimensional arrangement found in nature (e.g. erect plant stems, decaying logs).

• Bee hotels designed to encourage different bee species by varying nesting tube/hole width or length encourage different bee species to create a cluster in a bee hotel, which might inadvertently increase the opportunity for parasites to attack nests of related species, develop novel hosts or affect more susceptible species.

• Bee hotels with thin-walled nest tubes facilitate parasite transfer within the hotel, even by certain parasitic insects that can result in mortality of entire hotel contents.

Overall, the scientists concluded more research is needed to elucidate the potential pitfalls and benefits of using bee hotels in the conservation and population dynamics of wild native bees.

So what can you do to help native bees survive and reproduce? Because nesting native mason and leafcutter bees require pithy or hollow herbaceous and woody plant stems, and holes created by woodpeckers, beetles and other insects in decaying stems and rotting logs, the best plan supports these specific natural conditions. Landscape with native pithy and hollow-stemmed herbaceous plants. Leave them in place through the winter until the bees emerge in spring. Incorporate hollow-stemmed woody plants, logs and brush piles into your landscaping plan and showcase snags. Create a landscape rich in native nectar and pollen producing plants. With bees' needs close at hand, the females won't waste energy commuting to distant food sources, and will be less likely to forage where they may encounter insecticides or other hazards that are outside of your control.

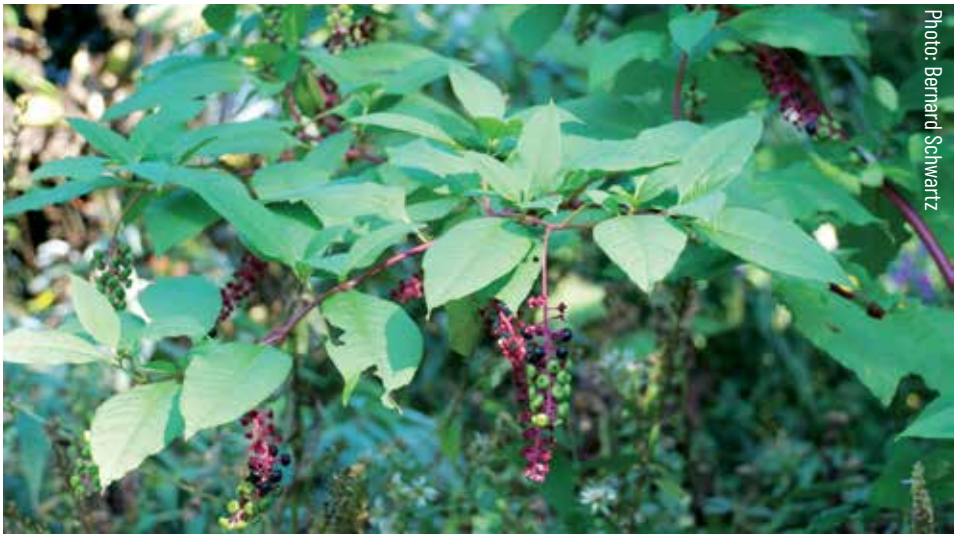


Photo: Bernard Schwartz

American pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*) is a good plant to add for native bees, but it also serves double duty as its berries help migrating birds make their long journeys.

Bee helpers starting from scratch should begin removing nonnative plants. Leave some soil bare and untilled, but plant an abundance of regionally native herbaceous and woody plant species, such as:

• Arkansas meadow-rue (*Thalictrum arkansanum)* in Oklahoma

• Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*) east of the Rocky Mountains

• Rush family (*Juncaceae*) For example, Smooth woodrush/Hitchcock's woodrush (*Luzula hitchcockii*) in northwest US and Canada

• Grass family **(***Poaceae*) For example, fescue (*Festuca*); buffalo grass (*Buchloe dactyloides*); Junegrass *(Koeleria macrantha)*; rice cutgrass (*Leersia oryzoides*); eastern gamagrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*); gumweed **(***Grindelia spp.*); switchgrass (*Panicum spp*.); Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*); prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepsis*); little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*); and big bluestem (*Andropogon geradii*)

• Hollow-stemmed Joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*)

• American black elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)

• Red elderberry *(Sambucus racemosa*)

• Horsetails, scouring rushes (*Equisetum spp*.)

• Cow parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum)* Note: This native may be aggressive

• Angelica & wild angelica (A*ngelica atropurpurea and A. sylvestris)*

• Cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum)*

• Sumac (*Rhus spp*.) For example, staghorn sumac (*R. typhina*) or smooth sumac (*R. glabra*)

• Common boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum)*

• Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis and I. pallida)*

• Some sunflower species (*Helianthus spp*.)

• Raspberry, blackberry and other cane fruits (*Rubus spp*.)

• Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca)*

• Box elder (*Acer negundo*)

• Wild native roses (*Rosa spp*.)

• Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus)*

• Ironweed (*Vernonia spp*.)

• Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*)

• Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

Charlotte Adelman, a retired attorney, is co-author of "The Midwestern Native Garden: Native Alternatives to Nonnative Flowers and Plants" and the "Midwestern Native Shrubs and Trees, Gardening Alternatives to Nonnative Species." She is also a lifetime member of Wild Ones.

Members support Wild Ones' Annual Appeal

Wild Ones thrives only though the heart and dedication of its amazing members. We deeply appreciate your efforts and extend our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed so generously to the Wild Ones 2017 Annual Appeal Campaign. We proudly share your names in this supplement.

Every effort has been made to ensure that our donor lists are accurate and reflect gifts made during the Annual Campaign period from Dec. 1, 2017, through Jan. 31, 2018. Should there be an error or omission, please accept our deepest apologies; contact the national office at (920) 730-3986 or email administration@wildones.org so we can correct the error.

A list of annual appeals from the appeal period of Dec. 1, 2017, to Jan. 31, 2018.

GENERAL OPERATING FUND

$1,000 TO $500

Anonymous
Darcy Adams
Kathie Ayres
Cecelia Jokerst
Roger Miller, in honor of Sally Wencel, Tim Lewis and Rick Sanders
Mariette Nowak
Illinois Prairie Chapter
Janis Solomon
Christa Orum-Keller
Marilyn D. Jones
Mack T. Ruffin
Bill Snyder

$499 TO $250

Anonymous
Tim Lewis
Sally Wencel
Kay Kummerow, in memory of her deceased parent
Carla Salmon
Karen Syverson

$249 TO $100

Anonymous
Rich Carlson
Mary Lou M. Findley
Christine Leodler
Rita Piekutowski
Martha Rice
Cindy Torrisi
John Reindl
Michael Brondino
Fayette Aurelia Nichols
Kevin Christensen
Holly Bartholmai
Alan Bedell
Betty M. Braun
Marilyn Case
Irene Day
Cathy Delfosse
Kirby Doyle
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Edward Elliott
Becky Erickson
Kathleen (Kate) Gill
Norman Grier
Judy B. Grimes
Kelly Hamilton
Michael J. Head
Carol Kopolow
Kathy Kramer
Lisa Lemza, in honor of Sally Wencel
Dick Linhart
Peg Lockman
Marjorie Lundy
William Matthaeus
Christine L. McCullough
Diane Mueller
Lexington Chapter
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Beate Popkin
Marnell E. Scheeper
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Judith L. Specht
Alice Tulley
Virginia Watson
Deborah Wolterman
Laurie M. Young

Our thanks for your generous gifts and contributions

UNDER $100

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Elisabeth A. Raleigh
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Jane Fagerland
Linda Gary
Janice Kooiker
John M. Meeks
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Janet Allen
Emilia Arellano
Marty Arnold
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Savannah Furman
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TECHNOLOGY FUND ABOVE $1,000

Janice Hand and Rick Sanders

CORPORATE MATCHING DONATIONS

Dave & Mariette Nowak – GE Foundation
Bill & Sherrie Snyder – State Farm Companies Foundation

RESERVE FUND ABOVE $1,000

Janice Hand and Rick Sanders

$1,000 TO $500

Mariette Nowak

$249 TO $100

David Edwards
Becky Erickson
Jan Gricus
Tim Lewis
Dick Linhart
John Marcum

UNDER $100

Wayne Svoboda
Janet Allen
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Wild Ones awards 14 Seeds for Education grants

In February 2018, Wild Ones awarded 14 Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education grants to educational projects in 11 states. Judges evaluated 43 applications from 21 states, more than at any other time since the program began in 1997. In total, 253 Seeds for Education Native Gardens and Habitats have been funded, connecting thousands of children to nature through our organization.

Five of the grants were made possible this year because of a special memorial donation. Thank you to members and chapters who have given generously over time to this very worthwhile Wild Ones program!

This year's winning projects by state include:

California

Learning Habitat for Pollinators, Oasis Public School, 6th grade

Native Plant Demonstration Garden, Julian Elementary School

Colorado

Seed Dispersal Investigative Garden, Wilmore-Davis Elementary (Grades K-4) and the city of Wheat Ridge Parks (Front Range Chapter)

Hawaii

Native Garden, Lokelani Intermediate School, Grades 6-8

Illinois

Native Species Courtyard, East Aurora High School, Grades 9-12 (Greater DuPage Chapter)

Kansas

Butterfly Habitat Garden, Learning Tree Institute, Grades 7-12, special needs

Missouri

Wildflower Garden: Bees, Butterflies and Beauty, Columbia Montessori, Preschoolers (Mid-Missouri Chapter)

Growing Curiosity, Collaboration, Creativity & Critical Thinking with Native Plants, Grant Elementary School, Grades 2 & 5 (Mid-Missouri Chapter)

North Carolina

Natural Play Area & Sensory Gardens with Native Plants, Rocky Face State Park, scouts & homeschool families, general public

Ohio

Butterfly World, GEMS School, Grades K-8 and families (Columbus Chapter)

Tennessee

Native Grassland and Meadow Restoration, United Methodist Camp Cedar Crest, Environmental Education students and summer campers

Washington

Girl Scout Gold Award Community Garden, youth applicant. Families, church members

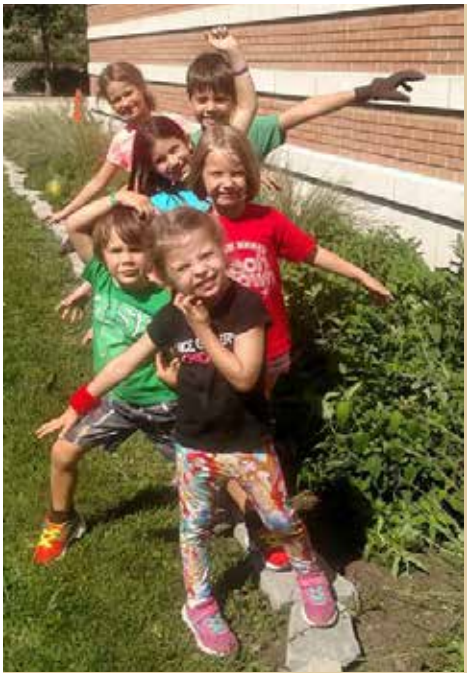
Hutton Elementary Native Plant Garden, Spokane Public Schools, Grades 5-6, Environmental Club

Wisconsin

Prairie Learning Garden, Weiss Public Library, Grades 6-8 and community

The 2018 SFE projects recommended for funding were determined by how well the educational native gardens and habitats projects were planned, student involvement and the potential for success including the judge's comments. We wish to thank these Wild Ones members, listed below in alphabetical order, who shared their expertise and time as 2018 judges:

Mike Brondino, Wisconsin
Pat Brust, Wisconsin
Wanda DeWaard, Tennessee
Denise Gehring, Ohio
Julia Gehring, Ohio
Marissa Grant, Illinois
Susan Hall, West Virginia
Janice Hand, Montana
Jan Hunter, Indiana
Rob Krain, Ohio
Laura Kubiak, Ohio
Michael LeValley, Michigan
Candice Meyers, Wisconsin
Cynthia Nelson, Illinois
Matt Ross, Pennsylvania
Charles Schwenk, Wisconsin
Janis Solomon, Connecticut
Karen Syverson, Wisconsin
Kim Vollmer, Illinois
Rick Webb, Pennsylvania
Caron Wenzel, Illinois



A Wild Ones Seeds for Education grant helped a Native Plant Pollinator Garden take bloom at the National Teacher's Academy in Chicago.

Project coordinator Sara Strasser wrote in their first-year report that many families from the NTA helped plant the flowers from Possibility Place Nursery last June.

"Students have been excited to learn about pollination, different types of pollinators and how they are necessary for our vegetable gardens," she wrote. And even those students who are frightened by bees and wasps are beginning to realize that those insects serve a very important role in our environment.

While the garden is completed, they continue to make improvements, she said. For instance, they added a flagstone path to border the garden, and next plan to add plant labels so students can learn to identify all the plants. Strasser wrote that they also grow many kinds of vegetables, in addition to the native garden.

The Academy holds family workdays to help weed, water and care for the plants.

"We are very grateful for the funds to start our native plant pollinator garden," she wrote. "It looks beautiful."

Students pose by the National Teacher's Academy new native plant pollinator garden, which is located adjacent to their vegetable gardens to help pollinate plants.

Photos on this page by Barbara A. Schmitz

A mowed pathway or edge serves as a cue to people that your landscape is managed.

Making 'messy' look good

How to make your native garden appeal to pollinators and your neighbors

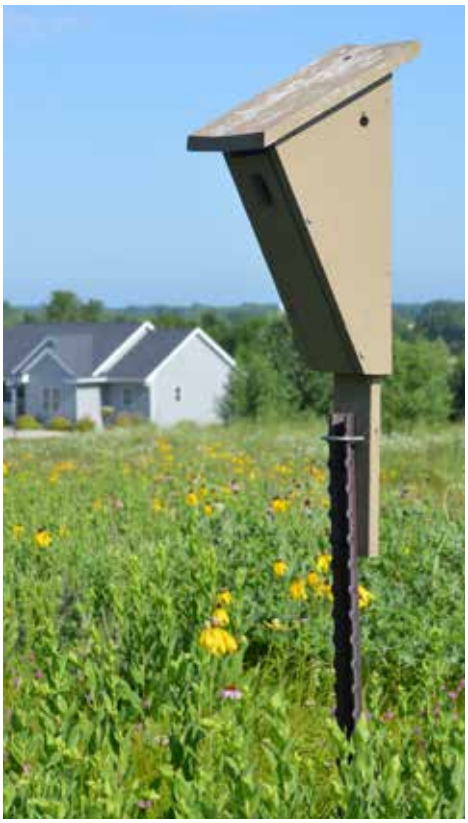
By Rhiannon Crain

One of the top worries we hear at Habitat Network from people considering wildlife friendly landscaping (or even just reducing the size of their manicured lawn) is a fear that it will look too messy. Like it or not, wildlife-friendly gardening has a reputation for not being tidy. But with a few little tricks, we think you can make even the wildest yard look tame enough to fit in on your block.

When it comes to front yard landscapes, neighborhood norms dominate people's preferences. Research shows that preferences for landscapes are determined by a set of implicit rules about what yards should look like. This is problematic when you want a landscape that not only appeals to your neighbors, but also benefits wildlife.

The solution? Embedding visible "design cues" indicating human intention in your wildlife-friendly landscape.

Mow the edges. Meadows can be really beautiful, but in the context of a yard they can look unkempt, or even weedy. Mowing a thin strip along human paths, like streets and sidewalks, or creating pathways is a clear cue to onlookers that the property is actively managed and can transform "untidy" into elegant.



The birdhouse indicates to neighbors that your planting choices are meant for the birds.

The grounds at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, New York, are maintained this way, and it results in a lovely space, not only for wildlife — since most of the open areas are left to grow wild — but also for visitors and staff who enjoy wandering the maintained pathways. There is no reason you couldn't employ (or encourage those worried about such things) to employ this same tactic.

Space plants wisely. Sometimes we make planting errors that negatively affect the look of a space. For instance, shrubs are often spaced too closely together. As they grow to their full size they are crowded and look messy. Sometimes, they are pruned to within an inch of their lives when mature to keep from crowding out other landscaping. It is important to take into account their full size when planting, even if it looks bare at first. Most perennials need to be spaced around 18 inches apart and many larger perennials are best planted 24 or even 30 inches apart. In my own yard, in drought-prone California, it has been a tedious waiting game with my well-spaced perennials; but I hope I am rewarded with an aesthetically and wildlife appealing yard as they establish and reach their full size.

Massing and drifting. Clustering plants, rather than just using one of everything, can really create a rhythm in an otherwise wild yard. If it were just one plant it would lose a lot of its impact. Also called massing or drifting, larger clumps of single varieties are known to attract certain pollinators because of the efficient foraging they offer, research shows, making them smart for wildlife, too. Many bee species practice what is known as "flower constancy," that is they will only visit one species of flower each time they leave the nest. You can imagine how helpful it is to them if there are many of the same kind of flower in one location.

Think high and low. Crisp edges and bold patterns in landscaping are another strong cue of management. One way to add this element to a space is to think about plants and structures that are both high (like large shrubs and trees) and low ground covers (wild ginger, violets and wild strawberry) and low clumps of sedges or grasses (Pennsylvania sedge and little bluestem grass). All of one or the other can make a space look flat. Turns out this is good for wildlife as well since different animals utilize different kinds of structure for foraging, hiding, reproducing and displaying. The more a yard provides, the greater diversity of wildlife it has the potential to support.

Line of sight. By removing some of the vegetation, you can make your house more visible from the street. This is one of those tricks for improving perception of landscaping. House is hidden; the yard is seen as unkempt and overgrown. House is visible; suddenly, the yard seems cared for.

Mix woody and herbaceous plants. Earlier we talked about the importance of high and low elements in a wild garden. Here we emphasize the importance of including both herbaceous and woody species. Often doing this will help you bring that "high/low" dynamic into a space, but there are some woody plants that aren't high at all. Even so, these bring interest and a "solidness" to a space as the seasons change and herbaceous plants grow and die around the woody ones. A solid mix can also help solve some of the spacing issues described above.

Containers, structures and other objects. Non-plant materials can go a long way toward defining spaces in your yard. Massive planter boxes can elevate an otherwise messy collection of plants. You can accomplish this with a variety of materials such as rocks, paths, containers and walls.

Wildlife-friendly elements. Bird nest boxes, feeders and baths are another clear visual indicator to passersby about the intentions of your landscape. Adding these to your landscape can help people see that your planting choices are for the birds and pollinators.

Ready for a nest box? We recommend checking out the NestWatch Project for nest box plans that will provide proper dimensions and spacing to invite wildlife to your yard.

Just add white? This may seem too easy, but we've come across landscapers who swear that adding a white element to a garden in the form of a painted fence or house, is often interpreted as a sign of investment in a property by onlookers.

Something linear. Some landscapers, like Pete Veilleux of East Bay Wilds, recommend adding at least one linear element to a wild garden. Examples include a stone wall, clipped hedge or decorative fence, each of which pulls the eye across a landscape, bringing a clear visual order to a scene.

Cover the foundation. Plantings to obscure house foundations are a nearly ubiquitously desired landscaping element. While the whole foundation should be hidden, make sure the plantings don't cover any doors or windows. You want the line of sight to these to be open.

Err on the side of flowers. Skew plants toward those with showy flowers. While many trees, shrubs and herbs have smaller flowers, some natives are known for showy flowers like purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) and California tree or matilija poppies (*Romneya coulteri*). Using a dominant number of these kinds of natives (higher numbers than in a natural landscape) indicates that this is a designed space.

Ready to get started? Check out the Habitat Network Local Resources Tool for information about great native plants and other resources local to you, and remember, the goal is to cue onlookers that the space is intentional and cared for. Do you have any other tricks of the trade to share with us? Please don't hesitate to get into contact and let us know at habitat.network@cornell.edu

Editor's Note: The original article appears at http://content.yardmap.org/learn/making-messy-look-good/

Rhiannon Crain, Ph.D., is project leader of the Habitat Network Citizen Science Project. She earned a bachelor's degree in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Arizona and her doctorate degree in science education from UC Santa Cruz's Center for Informal Learning and Schools. She has worked at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to help document the Habitat Gardening movement since January 2010.

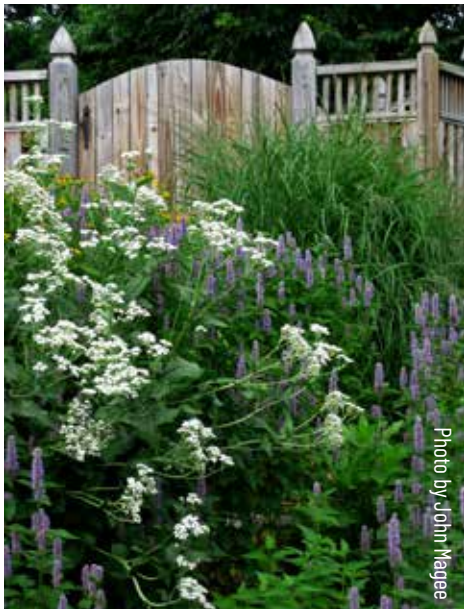


Photo by John Magee

Left: Clustering plants helps to create a rhythm in your landscape. Below: Mixing vegetation that is both tall and short creates a more welcoming landscape.

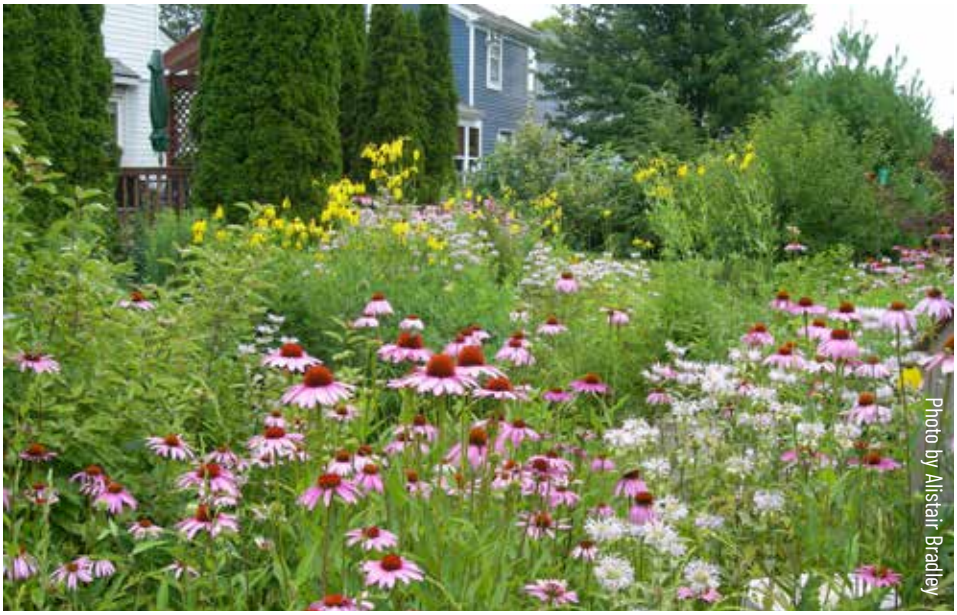
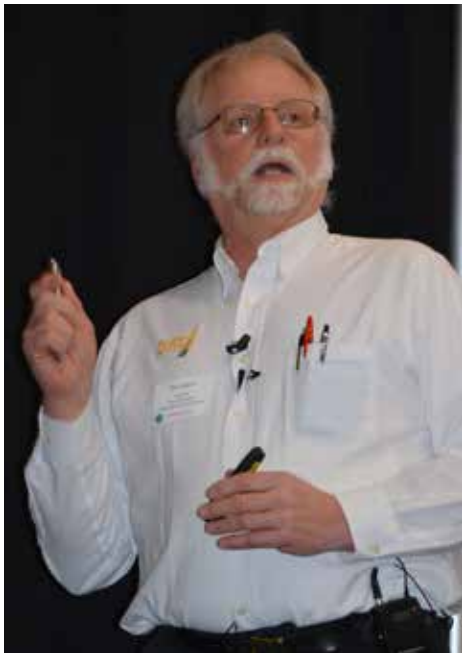


Photo by Alistair Bradley



Neil Diboll says it is up to all of us to educate others about the importance of native plants.

Diboll: 'We can do this'

It's time to educate, inspire and lead by example

By Barbara A. Schmitz

Neill Diboll, a Wild Ones Honorary Director and president of Prairie Nursery, is a cheerleader for native plants. And he doesn't pull any punches when talking about the need to change our ways.

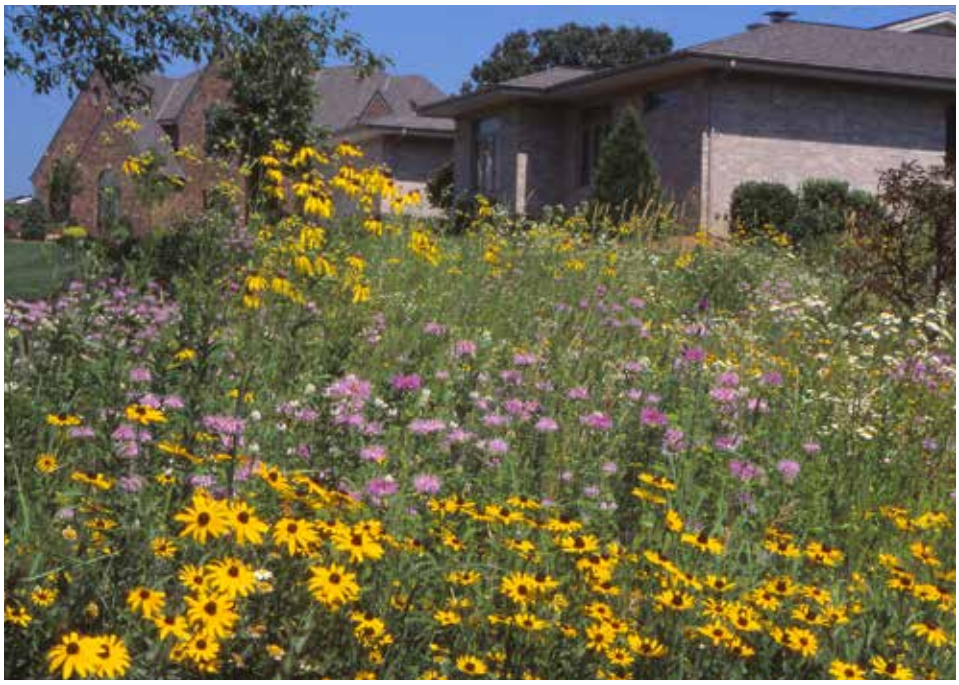
"Today, we are literally at the point of a life-or-death situation in the ecology of our planet and in our gardens," says Diboll, the keynote speaker at the Fox Valley Area (Wisconsin) Chapter's annual Toward Harmony with Nature Conference in January.

The purpose of a garden is to provide food, flowers, shade, sanctuary and natural beauty, he says. "But what is the American garden? It's lawn. It is the fifth largest crop in the U.S. after corn, soybeans, wheat and hay. It's the size of Pennsylvania and growing. And what do you harvest from that crop? Just dead bugs, pesticides and fertilizers."

He showed many photos of what many Americans think landscaping should look like, including a bed of mulch and an isolated island of a few flowers. "Where is the life in those gardens?" he asks. "Yet that is what many American think is right. Is it because we are stupid? Ignorant? Or just misled?" Diboll says it is the later. "We have been misled and bamboozled into this ecological crisis."

Lawns originated in England where only the wealthy could afford grass. But in the U.S., he says, the prairie is the cause of the rise of the lawn, with most of the destruction occurring in the 1860s to early 1900s.

"Most farms were subsistence and farmers did not have a lot of excess production," he says. But farmers found by converting prairies to additional agricultural land that they could plant more crops and make more money. Then farmers started flocking to cities, finding jobs that led to the rise of the middle class. "Then more people moved to the suburbs, and how do you tell people that you've made it?" Diboll asks. "You plant lawns and waste money on landscapes to show status. That became the social norm."



Prairies don't have to be large to be effective and beautiful as Rodney Sturm's side yard prairie demonstrates.

Bugs, bees and weed control

Many people today are afraid of bugs, bees and bacteria, and of weeds in the lawn. The cost of that fear is the loss of land and habitat, environmental degradation, lack of pollinators and birds, and disruption of the food web. "Someday, the people who are spraying pesticides on lawns are going to be recognized as villains," Diboll predicts.

He blames the increased use of neonicotinoid insecticide for the decline in pollinators. In 2005, less than 30 percent of corn was treated with neonicotinoids. In 2017, the EPA estimated that 92 percent of corn and 94 percent of soybeans grown in the U.S. was "Roundup-ready."

Monarch butterfly numbers peaked in the 1980s and 1990s, he says. But as weed control became better, monarch numbers have been diving.

"The monarch butterfly population has declined 86 percent between 1997 and 2017. And 25 percent of native bee species in North America and Hawaii are in danger of extinction — particularly important since native bees are responsible for pollinating $3 billion of fruit crops," he says. "What happens if pollinator populations collapse? How will fruits, vegetables and nut crops be pollinated?"

Bringing nature home

Diboll says 53 percent of American's 126 million households are considered suburban. "That's almost 67 million properties that could be native habitats. We don't need anyone else to do it. We can do it if we just talk to our neighbors."

He encouraged people to give copies of Doug Tallamy's book, "*Bringing Nature Home,"* to their neighbors, city councilors and others. "Have them read it and they will be convinced," Diboll says. "You can only control what you can control. We all have jobs and kids, but we can make a difference in our little landscapes."

Diboll stresses that he is not a plant Nazi. "I do have hostas in my yard. But mostly, I have native plants because they produce 35 times as many butterfly and moth caterpillars as nonnative plants." He says it is possible to integrate native landscapes into our yards. "It doesn't have to be a large prairie. Just a small prairie garden of 10 by 15 or … convert a couple flower beds into natives."

Those small spaces could have a big impact on pollinators since about 90 percent of insects are specialists that depend on a single genus or just a few genera for food. Most native insects also cannot exist without native plants with which they co-evolved.

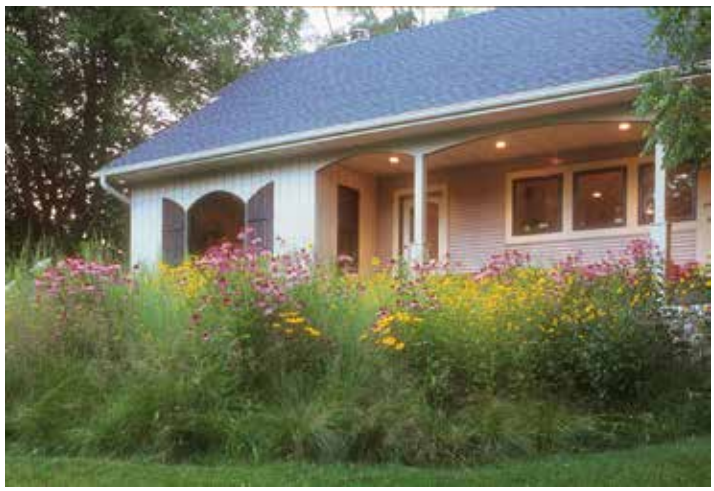
"If I don't have holes in the leaves of my plants in my yard, I am a gardening failure because who am I feeding? You want to hear a hum because that means you have created life."

Failure is not an option

"We must educate, inspire and lead by example," Diboll says. "Wild Ones is the one who can inspire, and so many are already inspiring with their landscapes and with their actions. But we need to get beyond (the people in) this room."

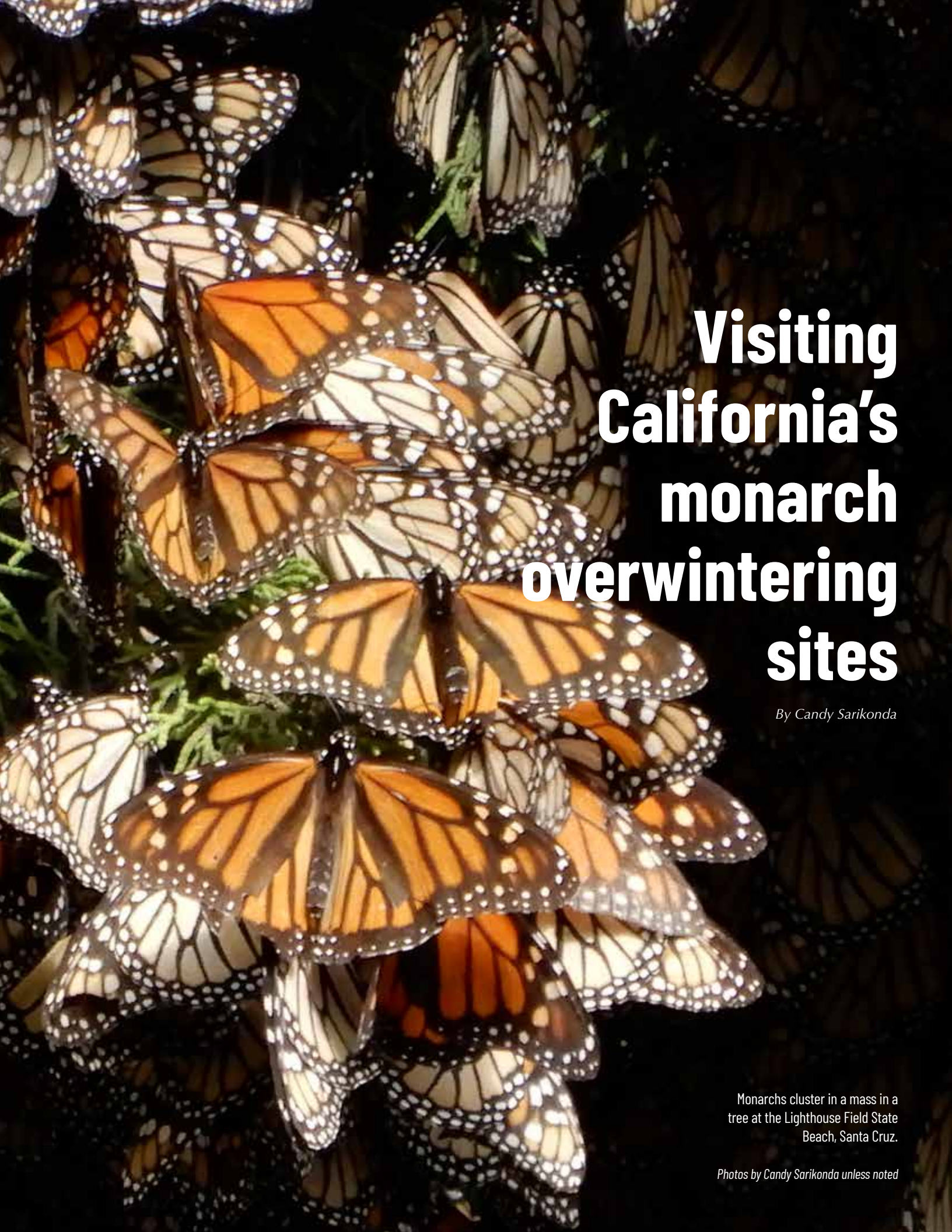
He encourages people to get involved and work for positive political change, to minimize their ecological footprint, to create wildlife-friendly landscapes, and to encourage others to go native. But just as importantly, we need to educate the next generation about ecological gardening with natives. "Our planet depends on it," he declares. "We have to make sure young people are exposed to the natural world. We have to get people to appreciate the natural environment. We can do this."

Diboll stresses failure is not an option; the entire food web will collapse and the human race will go with it. "Go out there and be leaders. Convince people (that planting natives) is in their own best interest. We must be leaders in the conversion of the American garden. Our landscapes should be a joint venture with nature, meeting her halfway in a mutually beneficial co-existence in our cities, suburbs and rural lands."



Above: Its best to plant native species because they produce 35 times as many butterfly and moth caterpillars as nonnative plants. Left: Bud Skupniewitz's prairie garden is alive with color and pollinators.

All photos by Neil Diboll.

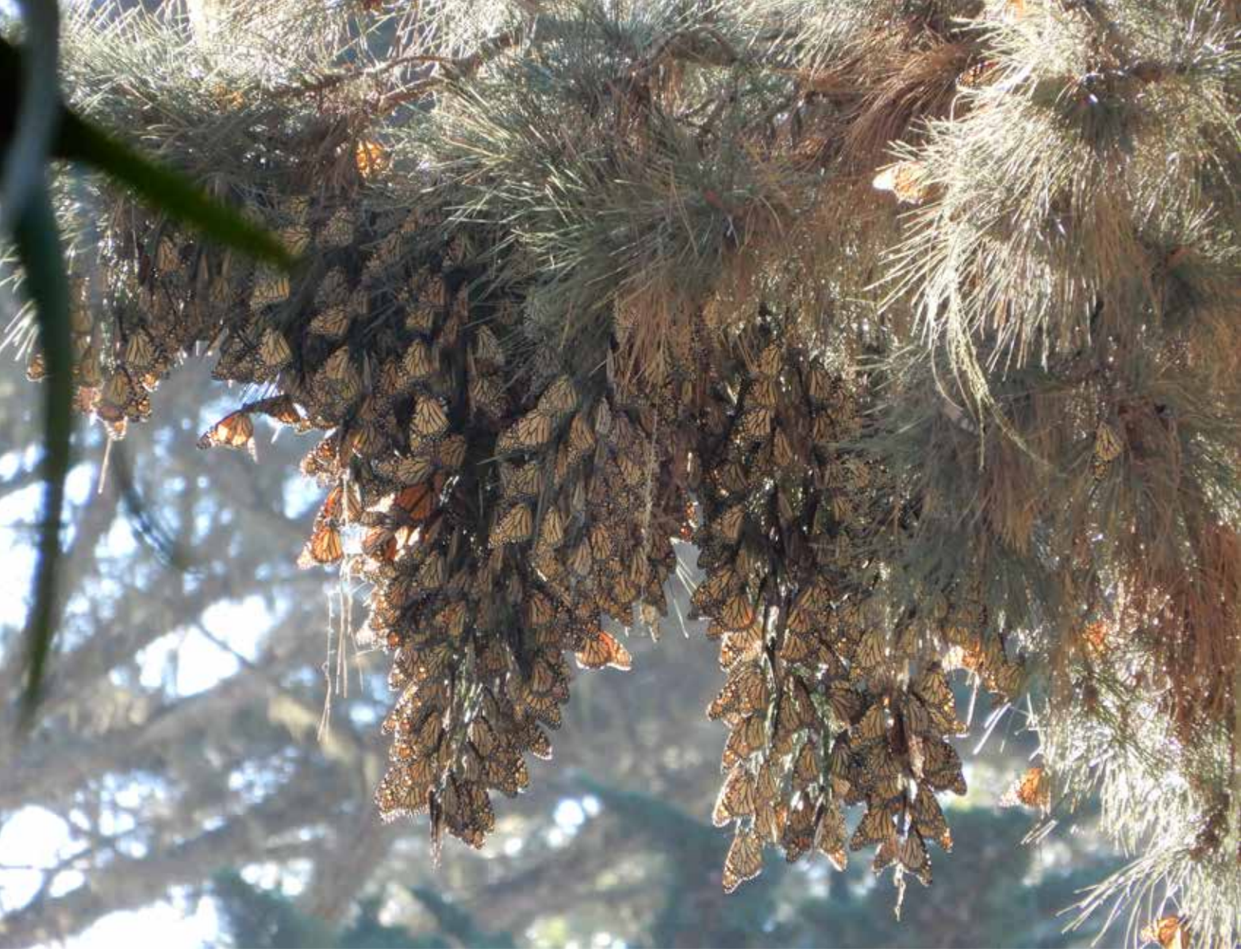


Visiting California's monarch overwintering sites

By Candy Sarikonda

Monarchs cluster in a mass in a tree at the Lighthouse Field State Beach, Santa Cruz.

Photos by Candy Sarikonda unless noted



Monarchs cluster in a Monterey pine, enjoying the morning sun at the Pacific Grove Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary.

During late December 2017, my family and I journeyed to California for our annual visit to two of our favorite monarch overwintering sites. We have long enjoyed seeing the monarchs at Lighthouse Field State Beach and Pacific Grove Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary, and always look forward to our visit.

Anxious to see how the monarchs were doing this year, we arrived at Lighthouse Field State Beach in Santa Cruz on Dec. 23, 2017. The grove is located at the southwest corner of Pelton Avenue and West Cliff Drive, about 100 yards from the oceanfront. We parked and headed for the trail that would lead us to the butterfly grove. As we rounded a bend, we saw two monarchs in flight, fluttering like shimmering stained glass in the dappled sunlight filtering through the large Monterey cypress trees. Some monarchs were nectaring from the blossoms of nearby eucalyptus trees, while others basked in the sunlight. As we came closer to the grove, we noticed a group of people standing in awe of a cypress tree in the center. The tree was packed with about 10,000 clustering monarchs! I squealed with delight.

The tree was packed with about 10,000 clustering monarchs! I squealed with delight.

Knowing the stresses that the western monarchs had faced this year, it was a welcome sight. An unusually warm, prolonged fall had led to a delayed migration, and there were many reports of monarchs mating late into the season and producing offspring. Migrating monarchs also had to contend with wildfires and smoke along their migratory route, and the effects of yet another dry season. We spent an hour walking around the grove, my kids quickly finding their favorite areas to explore, while I took numerous photos of the monarchs and searched—unsuccessfully — for tagged monarchs. I later learned the official monarch count for Lighthouse Field was 12,000 on Thanksgiving Day and 10,214 on New Year's Day.

After leaving the grove, we continued our journey south to Pacific Grove, which is also known as "Butterfly Town." It has a wonderful monarch sanctuary located next to the Butterfly Grove Inn. This grove is my favorite since the ancient soul of the grove can easily be felt upon entering it. But this year, like last year, I could feel the canopy opening in the grove, and the cool winds moving up through the center. The next morning, I stood on the balcony of the inn and observed the grove. There was a noticeable absence of the morning fog that often graces the site. Concerned, I entered the grove and walked down the path, anxious to see the source of the

A fox squirrel is eating the abdomens of some of the monarch butterflies, leaving them to die. Docents for the monarch counts call these butterflies zombie monarchs.

breach in microclimate. I found several trees cut down, and several other trees struggling for survival. Pitch canker, a fungal disease, has taken a toll on the beautiful Monterey pines in the grove. Drought-stressed trees become susceptible to the fungus, and once infected by the fungus, bark beetles attack the trees and quickly kill them. The city has been working on a plan to restore the grove for years. I can only hope that the plan soon works to restore my most cherished grove.

I met up with friends from the area, both who serve as docents for the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History and conduct the weekly monarch counts at the Pacific Grove Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary. As I lamented the lack of fog, docent Stephanie Turcotte Edenholm said that it has been very dry. Turcotte Edenholm talked about the fear they had at the start of the monitoring season, when relatively few monarchs showed up to cluster in the grove. Like last year, the monarchs were once again staying on the adjacent neighbor's property, clustering in the Monterey pine trees in her backyard. Thankfully, the neighbor kindly allows the docents into her yard to do the weekly monarch count. Just a few weeks before the Thanksgiving Day count, the monarchs numbered 2,900. But cool weather subsequently moved in, and the monarchs moved into the sanctuary, clustering in the southeast corner of the grove on the eucalyptus and cypress trees. The count on Nov. 28 was 7,350, a welcome increase, but still the lowest population in the grove since 2010.

I wondered if the Thanksgiving Day count was the peak number for the season, trying to gauge what affect the late migration and mating activity had on the number of overwintering monarchs. Pacific Grove Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary is monitored weekly during the overwintering season, and docent Connie Masotti shared her observations. "Before that cold spell (over Thanksgiving), we were seeing mated pairs in the trees and lots of mating chases. It stayed relatively cold most of December and they seemed to stay put, but then it got warmer and the chases started again, and the numbers dropped dramatically for the New Year's Day count."

The official count at the grove on New Year's Day was down to 4,520. It is unclear what happened to the monarchs. Since museum staff members are not currently tagging at the grove, it is difficult to assess movement between overwintering sites this season. Museum volunteers tagged monarchs during the 2014-2015 overwintering season, and the results were reported in the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History Monarch Monitoring Project report, which showed the recovery locations of monarchs tagged at Pacific Grove. Monarchs tagged at Pacific Grove were recovered at Andrew Molera State Park in Big Sur on Jan. 1, 2015, and again in late January of that year. A monarch tagged at Pacific Grove was also recovered on Nov. 29, 2014, at Lighthouse Field in Santa Cruz, indicating the potential for movement between colonies during the overwintering season. Masotti noted that for the past 3-4 years, monarchs have entirely left the grove by mid-February, dispersing to their summer breeding grounds.

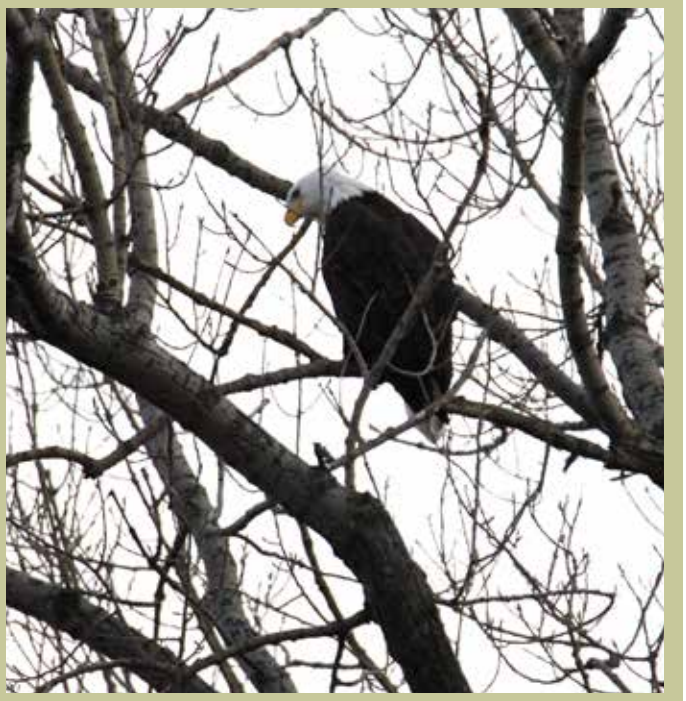
Masotti also said that the discovery of "zombie butterflies" continues to occur. Last year, Masotti arrived to the grove one morning to do the monarch count and found 192 butterflies on the ground trying to fly — but without their abdomens. Another 20 butterflies were dead on the ground. She later obtained photos of a fox squirrel eating the monarchs. There has been discussion as to how to address this nonnative squirrel's behavior since docents have continued to find zombie butterflies. So far this year, Masotti reports finding 77 zombie butterflies, and noted that volunteers are seeing a similar situation in Santa Cruz. It seems more than one predator has an unusual taste for monarchs!

Since my visit to California, the Xerces Society has released the official results of the Western Monarch Thanksgiving Day count, showing 192,629 monarchs at 262 sites. This is the lowest number of monarchs counted since 2012, despite volunteers visiting nearly twice as many sites as they did that year. The total represents less than one-sixth of the 1.2 million monarchs recorded in 1997, the first year of the Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count, and is part of a long-term downward trend in the population of monarchs overwintering in California. A study led by Cheryl Schultz, of Washington State University Vancouver, analyzed WMTC data and comparable historical data and demonstrated a dramatic population decline of more than 95 percent since the 1980s. This is similar to the decline of over 80 percent seen in the monarch population that overwinters in central Mexico since the 1990s, according to another study published in 2016.

I don't know what the future will hold for the western monarch population. But I do know this: more people are engaged in monitoring and helping monarchs than ever before. This year had a record number of overwintering sites being monitored by a record number of volunteers. Many people are working to improve monarch habitat not only in the west, but throughout the country. That gives me hope. As many others have noted, conservation is not an end game. There will always be work to do. But as long as there are those willing to help, we can make a future for monarchs and the other pollinators that share their habitat.

Candy Sarikonda is a Monarch Watch conservation specialist and serves on the national "Wild for Monarchs" committee. A member of the Oak Openings Region Chapter of Wild Ones, she enjoys monarch research, habitat restoration, writing and photography, and hopes to use those interests to leave this world a better, healthier place for generations to come. For more information, go to http://monarchwatch.org/cs/.

Editor's Note: This article is reprinted, with permission, from Southern Lepidopterists' News, Volume 40, No.1 (2018), pgs. 47-50.



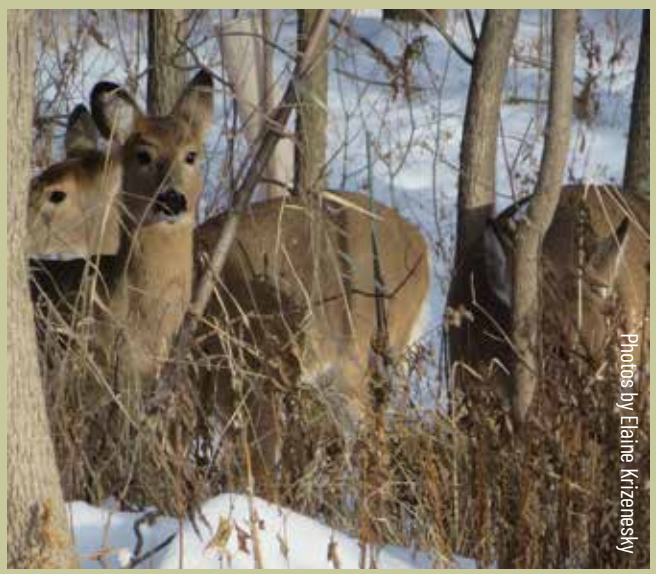
Eagles have been a common sight at the WILD Center.

WILD Center Update:

Neighborhood bald eagles have been taking advantage of the ever-changing weather by showing the ice fishermen how it's done every time there is open water on Lake Butte des Morts. The eagles have been spotted dining on their prey in the trees just behind the office.

Five deer have also been spending some time close to the building, snacking on seed pods in the rain garden.

Deer like to snack on seed pods on the WILD Center property.



Photos by Elaine Krizenesky

Mark Your Calendar

APRIL
National Garden Month

April 4
National Walking Day
Enjoy the outdoors whether in your own garden, or at a local park or conservancy

April 22
Earth Day
It's a great time to protect lakes and streams by planning (and planting) a rain garden!

April 26
National Audubon Day
This day is definitely for the birds.

April 27
National Arbor Day
Do you have a tree on your property that provides food and shelter for overwintering birds? If not, check your local native plant nurseries for sales and plant one.

MAY
National Photograph Month
Just in time, the Wild Ones photo contest is back! Grab your camera and take some pictures to submit (visit www.wildones.org and click Photo Contest for details, available mid-April). Deadline for submitting photos is June 22, so don't delay.

May 3
National Garden Meditation Day

May 5
National Start Seeing Monarchs Day

May 16
National Love a Tree Day
Tire swing is optional.

JULY
July 27-29
Midwest Native Plant Conference
Visit http://midwestnativeplants.org for details.

Wild Ones online

www.facebook.com/wildonesnative

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Thank you for your contributions

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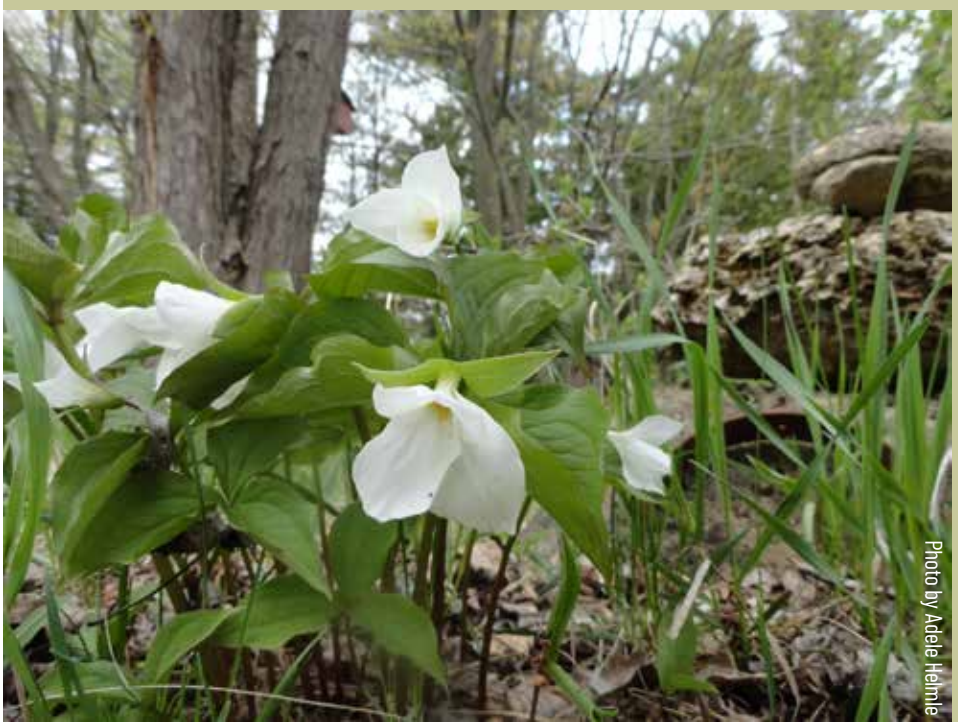

Photo by Adele Helmle

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Big River Big Woods

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Larry Bell, Kalamazoo Area
Tracy and Doug Marconnet, Kettle Moraine

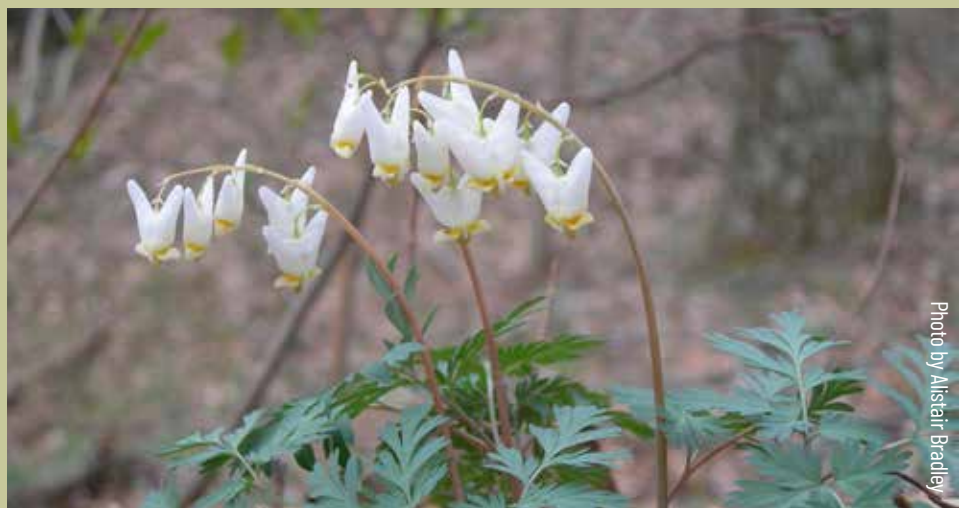
Photo by Alistair Bradley

Chapter News

The **Columbus** (Ohio) Chapter found a great use for leftover native seeds after their seed exchange; the seeds were hand sown by members at the Wesley Ridge Woodland Project, a partnership of the Columbus chapter, Branch out Columbus, National Wildlife Federation, Fairfield Master Gardeners, Boy Scout Troop 256 and others.

Driftless Area (Wisconsin) members enjoyed a presentation, "Using Native Trees & Shrubs in Your Landscape to Attract Birds and Beneficial Insects," by member Joyce Cielecki, a horticulturist and owner of Driftless Area Natives.

The **Grand Traverse** (Michigan) Chapter is focusing on butterflies, bug houses and trees in 2018.

Milwaukee North (Wisconsin) members learned how moths are essential to both the animal kingdom as a food source and to the plant kingdom as major flower pollinators, thanks to a talk by Randy Powers, a reconstruction ecologist, photographer and founder of Prairie Future Seed Company.

Mountain Laurel (Connecticut) members enjoyed a lecture covering biological controls for invasive weeds including black swallow-worts, which threatens monarch populations.

Members of the **Northern Kane County** (Illinois) Chapter learned how to create a healthy habitat for *Bombus affinis*, the rusty patched bumblebee, from member Fayette Aurelia Nichols. *B. affinis* has been spotted in member yards, so Wild Ones and its members are making a difference in the recovery of this native bee.

Rock River Valley's (Illinois) February program, "Changing the Conversation About Native Plants," reminded members that plants are living, breathing organisms and should be celebrated as such. One-fifth of the world's plants are threatened with extinction.

Minnesota chapters worked to organize and host the annual Wild Ones Minnesota Design with Nature Conference on Feb. 17. Although the Twin Cities Chapter hosts the conference, other chapters promote and help plan and organize activities. The Wild Ones Minnesota coalition includes **Arrowhead** (Duluth and northeast Minnesota), **Big River Big Woods** (Roseville and greater St. Paul), **Northfield Prairie Partners** (Northfield and southeast Minnesota), **Prairie Edge** (Minnetonka and southwest metro), **St. Cloud** (St. Cloud and central Minnesota), **St. Croix Oak Savannah** (Stillwater and northeast metro) and **Twin Cities** (greater Minneapolis).

Chapter Anniversaries

1 year . . . . . Driftless Area, Wisconsin

1 year . . . . . Grand Traverse, Michigan

1 year . . . . . Loess Hills, Iowa

7 years . . . . . Kettle Moraine, Wisconsin

7 years . . . . . Northfield Prairie Partners, Minnesota

11 years . . . . . Oak Openings Region, Ohio

12 years . . . . . Mountain Laurel, Connecticut

12 years . . . . . Mid-Mitten, Michigan

14 years . . . . . Wolf River, Wisconsin

16 years . . . . . Red Cedar, Michigan

17 years . . . . . Twin Cities, Minnesota

18 years . . . . . Southeast Michigan, Michigan

26 years . . . . . Greater DuPage, Illinois

26 years . . . . . Milwaukee-Southwest/Wehr, Wisconsin

In Memoriam

Bob Wilson, Milwaukee
Milwaukee-Southwest/Wehr (Wisconsin) Chapter

Marcella Ciucki, Munster
Gibson Woods (Indiana) Chapter

William "Bill" Hennessy, Rockford
Rock River Valley (Illinois) Chapter

Debbie Doerr, Gary
Gibson Woods (Indiana) Chapter

Please email Elaine Krizenesky at administration@wildones.org to report the death of a member.