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



Wild Ones®

NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

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COVER PHOTO: Rick Francis
Great spangled fritillary
on milkweed.

[2016 Wild Ones photo
contest winner: People's Choice]

JOURNAL

4

Plant Milkweed

9

Drifts of Color

17

Bee Concerns

19

Camouflage

20

Sedges

23

Watch Nature

2 Notes from the President 3 Executive Director Notes 11 Member Yards 17 WILD Center Update

21 News 22 Book Reviews 26 Chapter Info 26 Calendar





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

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Tim Lewis
President

Thank you and goodbye

This is my last column because I am passing the virtual gavel (and pen) to your new president, Janice Hand. It has been my privilege to serve as your president these last six years. It has been very rewarding.

Several years ago, I was asked to serve as a director on the Board of Directors, and a few years later I was asked if I would be on the ballot as president. I was happy to serve because it gave me the opportunity to make a difference in Wild Ones. It has been a way for me to give back to the organization that has taught me the benefits of native landscaping. I am very proud of what Wild Ones has accomplished under my watch.

Some of those achievements come to mind:

- Changed from a working board to a policy board
- Established a set of governance policies
- Set up committees to do the work of the Board
- Completed our first financial audit and continue to have audits or reviews
- Created and implemented a strategic plan
- Moved the annual meeting, along with the leadership conferences, to the WILD Center
- Brought chapters and the national organization closer together to work as one organization
- Increasingly brought in funds from the annual appeals to support worthy initiatives
- Grew membership from 2,821 to 4,011

- Increased chapters from 44 to 50
- Formed partnerships with several like-minded organizations
- Revised the website to make it more engaging
- Set up a Facebook® page and actively post to it
- Created a Facebook discussion group for members
- Hired a new executive director after Donna VanBuecken's retirement
- Moved from a printed JOURNAL to an electronic one

I did not accomplish these things myself. I had the honor of working with the Board of Directors, two executive directors, headquarters staff, honorary directors, several committee chairmen and chairwomen, and Wild Ones members who all worked together as a team. Of course, important parts of the team are the chapters and members who help spread the word about landscaping with native plants. While we also dealt with a few challenges along the way, many things have had positive impacts on the organization.

I am confident that Janice will be a good leader and that Wild Ones will continue to grow because of all the passionate people involved. As she takes the lead, I will help Janice transition into her new role for a year as the immediate past president. It's also likely that I will be assigned special projects or participate on a committee. But I also plan on spending more time in my yard. So with this, I say thank you very much and goodbye. 🌸

Seeds for Education grant applications due

Applications for the 2017 Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program are due Oct. 15. Please let your schools or youth groups know that the deadline is quickly approaching. Learn more at <http://www.wildones.org/seeds-for-education/sfe/>.

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



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



Gail Gerhardt
Executive Director

Kudos to Wild Ones volunteers

What is volunteerism? It is the practice of freely giving one's time or talents for charitable, educational or other worthwhile activities, especially in one's community.

Why is volunteerism important? It helps organizations or others who need help, but it also gives people a purpose and a deep sense of satisfaction. In short, it makes people feel good.

Why do people choose to volunteer? They believe in the cause, they want to help others and they want to make a difference. Yes, even one person can make a big difference. This describes Dave Edwards, a dedicated volunteer at the WILD Center, the Wild Ones national headquarters. Every time he comes in he has a big smile and a story or two to share. He has a heart of gold, and he does whatever he can to make the world around us a better place. Who is the Dave Edwards in your chapter? Have you thanked him or her lately?

Wild Ones was founded on volunteerism. Everything members do impact our organization and the communities we live in. Whether you Plant a Seed with someone who is not familiar with native plants, Plant a Seed with others at a Wild Ones booth, Plant a Seed with a neighbor who doesn't understand why you have a rain garden, or Plant a Seed with a small child who is fascinated with your butterfly garden, you make a difference. These are all volunteer activities that help make our organization strong.

Without volunteers like yourself, Wild Ones would not and could not exist. Our national Board of Directors, every national committee member, our chapter officers and committee chairmen and chairwomen all volunteer their time and effort, with little thanks. But I want you to know that all our members who give of their time to spread the word or help where they can at chapter activities are very much valued and appreciated.

"The breeze, the trees, the honey bees – All volunteers!"

— AUTHOR JULIET CARINREAP

Without your individual commitment and dedication to Wild Ones, this organization would not be what it is today. Kudos to our volunteers for choosing to make a difference. You truly are "Healing the Earth One Yard at a Time." Thank you! 🌸

Chapter Challenge brings in 259 new members



The Plant a Seed Chapter Challenge, held May 1 through July 31, 2016, gave chapters the opportunity to win prizes for their efforts to bring in new members. The two leading chapters were the Illinois Prairie chapter with 34 new members and the Tennessee Valley chapter with 19 new members. Each of these chapters will receive their choice of a banner or table runner with their Wild Ones chapter

logo on it to use at events. Congratulations to both chapters for their efforts.

A big thank you also goes out to the 44 chapters that participated in the Chapter Challenge; together, they brought in 259 new members. To see how your chapter did, click [here](#).

What do chapters do to welcome new members?

That question was raised at the 2016 Wild Ones National Conference, and members present asked if we could ask all chapters for their input. So if you have ideas you'd like to share, please email them to editor Barbara A. Schmitz at write2us@sbcglobal.net.

Your answers will be shared in the November/December JOURNAL.

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IF you plant milkweed...

By Candy Sarikonda

If you have been following monarch-related news, you know that the monarch population increased last year, only to be struck by a severe storm in March while they overwintered in Mexico. So as I awaited arrival of monarchs to our yard in late spring, I started thinking about how best to welcome them and create additional habitat.

Over the years, I have experimented with planting different milkweed and nectar species. What has worked in my yard may be different from what works at a university garden or at a friend's yard only five or 10 minutes away. What milkweed species do monarchs prefer? What time of year are they likely to use different plants? What are the best nectar plants for yards?

In my experience, monarchs tend to use multiple milkweed species.



PLANT MILKWEED FOR MONARCHS

The Monarch Joint Venture is a partnership of federal and state agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and academic programs that are working together to protect the monarch migration across the lower 48 United States.



MONARCH JOINT VENTURE

Partnering across the U.S. to conserve the monarch migration

www.monarchjointventure.org

MISSION

Recognizing that North American monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) conservation is a responsibility of Mexico, Canada and the U.S., as identified in the North American Monarch Conservation Plan, this Joint Venture will coordinate efforts throughout the U.S. to conserve and protect monarch populations and their migratory phenomena by developing and implementing science-based habitat conservation and restoration measures in collaboration with multiple stakeholders. Our mission will be achieved by coordinating and facilitating partnerships and communications in the U.S. and North America to deliver a combination of habitat conservation, education, and research and monitoring.

VISION

The vision of this Joint Venture is abundant monarch populations to sustain the monarch migratory phenomena into perpetuity, and more broadly to promote monarchs as a flagship species whose conservation will sustain habitats for pollinators and other plants and animals.

Monarch Joint Venture
University of Minnesota
monarchs@monarchjointventure.org

Milkweed Regions

There are many native milkweed species in each of the six "Milkweed Regions" shown on this map. The species highlighted are known to be used by monarchs, and are easy to establish. Please try to find plants grown as close as possible to where you'll be planting them, and from the closest possible seed source.

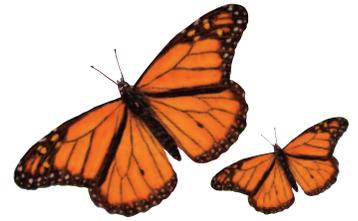


Wild Ones Chapters by Milkweed Zone

- WEST**
Colorado
Oregon
- NORTHEAST**
Connecticut
Illinois
Indiana
Kentucky
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
New York
Ohio
Virginia
Wisconsin
- SOUTHEAST**
Tennessee



...they will come



Monarch preferences may differ between garden locations, or from week to week or even from year to year. That is why I always stress the importance of planting more than one milkweed species in any garden or restoration project. For example, monarchs preferred swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) in my yard for years. More recently, however, in spring they seem to prefer common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) over both swamp milkweed and butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). But in late summer, they tend to prefer swamp milkweed as my common milkweed becomes older and tougher. Monarch females are most attracted to healthy, young, lush and tender milkweed plants, so having a milkweed species that stays green later into the season can help attract monarchs. Swamp milkweed and whorled milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*) both meet this requirement and can help you sustain monarchs in your garden late in the breeding season.

continued on next page

SOURCE: Monarch Joint Venture

Northeast Region Milkweed Species



Common Milkweed
Asclepias syriaca
Well drained soils.
Photo by Louis-M. Landry



Swamp Milkweed
Asclepias incarnata
Damp, marshy areas.
Photo by Janet Allen



Butterfly Weed
Asclepias tuberosa
Well drained soils.
Photo by Thomas Muller, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Whorled Milkweed
Asclepias verticillata
Prairies and open areas.
Photo © Kim Davis & Mike Stangeland



Poke Milkweed
Asclepias exaltata
Woodland areas (except in NE, KS, MO, ND & SD).
Photo by David Smith

South Central Region Milkweed Species



Green Antelopehorn Milkweed
Asclepias viridis
Dry areas and prairies. Also known as green milkweed.
Photo by Harlen Aschen

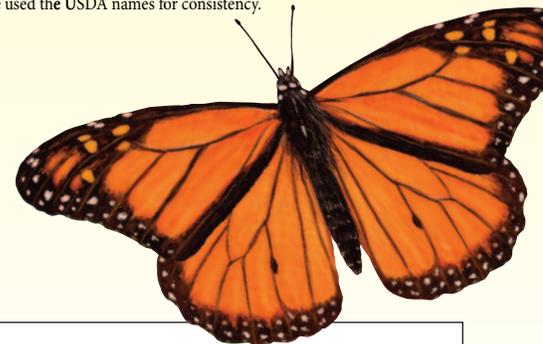


Antelopehorns Milkweed
Asclepias asperula
Desert and sandy areas.
Photo by Kip Kiphart



Zizotes Milkweed
Asclepias oenotheroides
Sandy/rocky prairies and fields.
Photo by Jennifer Kleinrichert

*Common names vary from place to place, so we have used the USDA names for consistency.



Monarchs cannot survive without milkweed. Monarch caterpillars need milkweed plants (*Asclepias* spp.) to grow and develop, and female monarch butterflies only lay their eggs on milkweed. With shifting land management practices, we have lost much milkweed from the landscape. Please plant milkweed to support monarch populations, and their incredible migration! Planting milkweed is a great way to help other pollinators too, as milkweed provides nectar resources to a diverse suite of bees and butterflies.

Try to observe your garden and note patterns in monarch preferences for different milkweed species. Compare what you see with what other observers are seeing in their yards. You might be surprised at what you learn. In a hospice garden I designed, monarchs clearly prefer the butterfly weed and ignore the common, swamp and Sullivan's (*Asclepias sullivantii*) milkweed. In a nearby friend's yard they only use her swamp milkweed and seldom use the common milkweed or butterfly weed. In my yard, as mentioned earlier, their preferences vary from spring to late summer.

To keep track of your observations, consider using the [Monarch Larva Monitoring Project datasheet 1C](#), which will allow you to not only keep track of the monarch eggs and caterpillars found in your garden, but also to record the milkweed species upon which you found the monarchs. Save your datasheets, and use them for reference from year to year. You can also enter your data online at the [MLMP website](#) and include your observations about milkweed preference in the notes section of your report. Your report will be archived on the MLMP website, which is a citizen science project involving volunteers from across the United States and Canada in monarch research.

As you note which species of milkweed monarchs are utilizing, also note which nectar species they seem to prefer. In my northwest Ohio yard, I have found they especially enjoy milkweed, New England asters (*Aster novae-angliae*) and stiff goldenrod (*Oligoneuron rigidum*). I now include these in every pollinator garden I create. I also noticed that there is a period in late summer when I have few butterfly-attracting natives in bloom. This period extends from the time my milkweed stops blooming to when my asters begin to bloom. Trying to figure out what could fill that void took a few years, but after some experimentation and observation I found that Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*) is the perfect plant. No wonder, since I often saw it blooming at that time of year in roadside ditches throughout Michigan during my youth!



Milkweed can thrive, even in planter boxes, as this display at the Toledo Zoo illustrates.
PHOTO: Candy Sarikonda

PLANT MILKWEED FOR MONARCHS

Southeast Region Milkweed Species



Butterfly Weed

Asclepias tuberosa

Well drained soils.

Photo by Thomas Muller, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Whorled Milkweed

Asclepias verticillata

Prairies and open areas.

Photo © Kim Davis & Mike Stangeland



White Milkweed

Asclepias variegata

Thickets and Woodlands.

Photo by Melton Wiggins



Aquatic Milkweed

Asclepias perennis

Hydrated soils.

Photo © Kim Davis & Mike Stangeland



Sandhill/Pinewoods Milkweed

Asclepias humistrata

For use in some regions of FL.

Dry sandy areas and soils.

Photo © Kim Davis and Mike Stangeland

Note: *Asclepias syriaca* and *Asclepias incarnata* are native to parts of this region and may also be suitable species to plant.

More details on the native range of each species can be found at: <http://bonap.net/NAPA/TaxonMaps/Genus/County/Asclepias>

Western Region Milkweed Species

NOTE: Excludes Arizona; see page 7 for Arizona milkweed.



Mexican Whorled Milkweed

Asclepias fascicularis

Dry climates and plains, except in CO, UT, NM & AZ.

Photo by Christopher Christie



Showy Milkweed

Asclepias speciosa

Savannahs and prairies.

Photo by Robert Potts © California Academy of Sciences

Selecting and Finding Milkweed Plants

While any of the species listed here can be grown in garden settings, please use species that are native to your county for larger restoration projects. You can find more information about milkweed, together with a directory of native plant vendors that sell milkweed plants and seeds, on our website:

www.plantmilkweed.org

*Common names vary from place to place, so we have used the USDA names for consistency.



Asclepias exaltata
PHOTO: wikimedia.com



Asclepias verticillata
PHOTO: wikimedia.com

Finally, if you do not have a lot of space to grow milkweed, do not give up. While some species have long taproots and may struggle a bit when grown in pots, species like common milkweed and swamp milkweed can do very well with the appropriate soil mix in containers, planter boxes and even raised planter boxes. Swamp milkweed grows well in containers due to the more compactness of its root system. Common milkweed will need a deep container to accommodate its long taproot, so choose a container that is at least two feet deep and cover any drainage holes with landscape fabric. If you plant common milkweed in a planter box, cover the bottom of the box with landscape fabric as well. You can also plant common milkweed in a black plastic pot recycled from your local nursery, and bury the whole pot in the ground, leaving just 1-2 inches of the rim above the ground. Hide the rim with mulch. Again, cover any drainage holes with landscape fabric to prevent the roots from escaping the pot. This is a great way to prevent more aggressive milkweed species from taking over a formal garden! By using containers, your new garden can also now be mobile, allowing you to take milkweed plants to pollinator events and educational programs.

Planting milkweed not only helps monarchs, but it also supports many other pollinators, birds and wildlife. Including a variety of milkweed species and native nectar sources in your yard can ensure that you will have an attractive and well-designed habitat for your garden guests. If you plant it, they will come! 🌿

CANDY SARIKONDA is a Monarch Watch conservation specialist and serves on the national “Wild for Monarchs” committee. A member of the Oak Openings, Ohio 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/lcs/>.

SOURCE: Monarch Joint Venture

California Milkweed Species



Mexican Whorled Milkweed
Asclepias fascicularis
Dry climates and plains.
Photo by Christopher Christie



Showy Milkweed
Asclepias speciosa
Savannahs and prairies.
Photo by Robert Potts © California Academy of Sciences



Desert Milkweed
Asclepias erosa
Desert regions.
Photo by Christopher Christie



California Milkweed
Asclepias californica
Grassy areas.
Photo by Christopher Christie



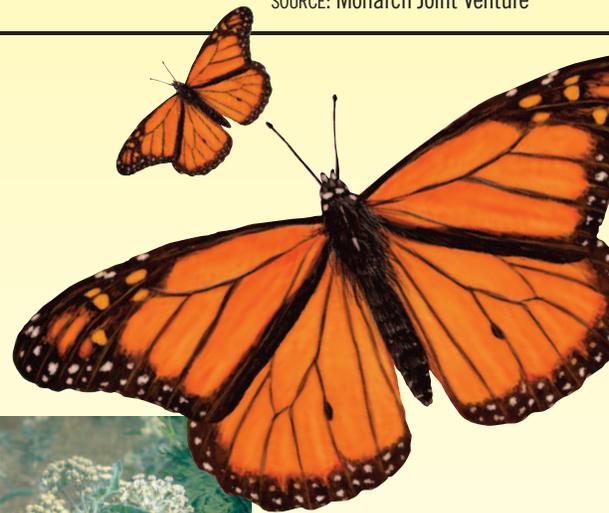
Heartleaf Milkweed
Asclepias cordifolia
Rocky slopes.
Photo by Dee E. Warena



Woolly Milkweed
Asclepias vestita
Dry deserts and plains.
Photo © 2010 Neal Kramer



Woolly Pod Milkweed
Asclepias eriocarpa
Clay soils and dry areas.
Photo by Br. Alfred Brousseau, St. Mary's College



Arizona Milkweed Species



Butterfly Weed
Asclepias tuberosa
Well drained soils.
Photo by Gail Morris



Antelopehorns Milkweed
Asclepias asperula
Desert and sandy areas.
Photo by Kip Kiphart



Rush Milkweed
Asclepias subulata
Desert areas.
Photo by Gail Morris



Arizona Milkweed
Asclepias angustifolia
Riparian areas and canyons.
Photo by Morris Family



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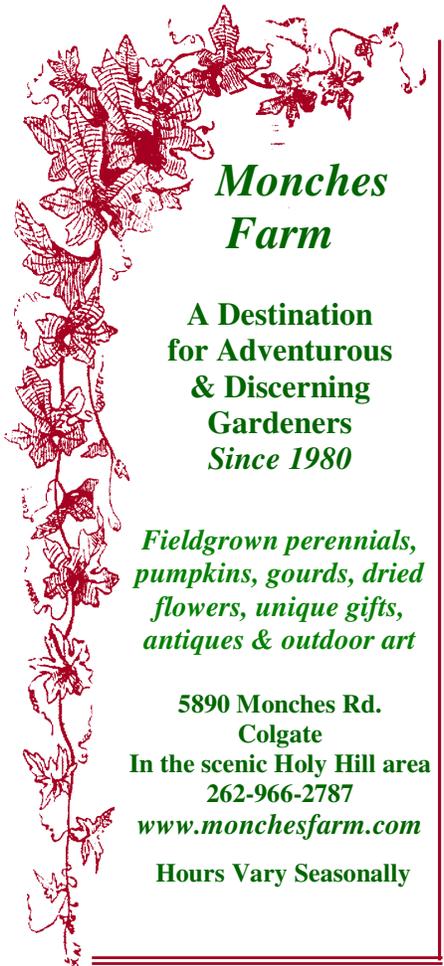
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By Rosemary Eiden

If you want to create a landscaped prairie garden or a native garden that looks more formal, you won't find much literature or designs how to do it. However, when I was a landscape designer by profession, I drew landscapes for clients using perennials, shrubs and trees. I thought the same principles would apply to prairie plants.

A few landscape designers are practicing using drifts of color by using native plants. I had visited Lurie Garden in Chicago and was so impressed by its use of color. I decided to use it as an example in my presentation.

The difference between planting a traditional prairie and one in which you use drifts of color is that the traditional prairie is usually started by seed. Drifts of color are achieved by using plants in groups.

Planting in drifts of color is more of an artistic approach. One uses the color wheel to set color against color. Artists use the color wheel to place one color next to one another for different effects. For example, yellow or yellow green next to purple has a dramatic effect. Blue backgrounds give a receding perspective. Yellow next to orange equals a harmonious feeling. These concepts are the focus of the "The Know Maintenance Perennial Garden" by Roy Diblik. In the book he uses famous landscape paintings. From the colors used in the paintings he matches the color to the prairie plant (foliage or flower color) and then places them in the garden space based on the effect he wants to achieve.

With a working knowledge of the blue and yellow plants, the tall and the short, and so on down the list, it is possible to create a well-designed and more formal landscaped look to your prairie garden. However, you need to focus on understanding plant relationships, background and foreground concepts, and plant selection for sun and shade with a plotted drawing and suitable plant list.

More planning is needed when creating a garden using drifts of color. You need to design and make a plan on graph paper, spacing the individual plants with their requirements in mind. Numbers of plants form an inventory. Plants are then placed out on the soil and dug in where placed.

But first you'll also need a basic awareness of your soil type. You should start your drifts of color garden by doing a rough sketch of the foundation of your house, deck, yard or area to be planted with general dimensions. Be sure to note placement and size of windows and doors, as well as size and placement of existing trees, shrubs and other plants, including their color. I suggest using colored pencils,

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rosemary Eiden is a board member and mentor of the Fox Valley Area chapter of the Wild Ones. When discussing how to get younger members to activities last year, the group decided to pursue programming to address some of their needs. And the No. 1 request of younger members was how to design a landscaped prairie garden or a native garden that looked more formal. So Eiden set out to find out how to do just that in a recent presentation; here, she shares her findings.

a protector and a native plant catalog so you can easily look up plants and see how much space they will need.

Always a great source for native plants and information is Prairie Nursery's Native Plant Catalog. The catalog has photos of all the plants, site requirements, and growing conditions. And now there are sample plant designs for pollinator gardens, butterfly gardens, rain gardens, etc. This catalog is the "Bible of native plants" in the industry. I always have one by my easy chair for quick reference.

If you're new to native plants, a good rule of thumb is to learn 10 plants per year. Start with a small bed (10-foot by 10-foot). In three years time you will triple your plant inventory. Then you can increase the size of that bed or create another one. In the meantime you will have learned another 10 and so on.

Each year your knowledge will increase about which plants look best together, which plants will make bold statements and which ones you might use as filler for large areas.

Err on the side of starting small and working up to a large area. Try not to overwhelm yourself at the start for that has some defeating repercussions. Seeing success in the beginning has a way of propelling you forward to your final 'dream garden'. When you get there, it will feel like a finished painting. You can stand back and admire — and then just maintain. 🌸

Using drifts of color in prairie garden gives more formal look

Lurie Garden in Chicago was designed using the "drifts of color" philosophy.

PHOTO CREDIT: Wikimedia Commons

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- Raingardens
- Retaining walls – natural and block (green and plantable)
- Patios – flagstone & flat rock and permeable, porous and water-retaining pavers

Maintenance

- Prairie burns
- Restoration
- Bio-detention
- Weed & invasive species control

When Dennis Nagan became ill with severe systemic rheumatoid arthritis, he could no longer get into boats or take long drives to go “up north” anymore. So he brought “up north” to his backyard in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Nagan, a member of Fox Cities Wild Ones, created Memory Lake to honor his deceased parents, as well as to create new memories with his friends and family, and particularly with his grandchildren, Jakob, 12; Eli, 10; Easton, 2; and Claire, born in June.

His backyard is now filled with a 20-foot by 40-foot manmade lake that is stocked with perch and home to turtles and frogs, as well as a children’s beach and fishing dock. The lake is surrounded by more than 120 native plants that were specifically selected to create a garden that pollinators, and particularly monarch butterflies, would visit. Last year, he added two carved wooden bears to his backyard, one holding a “Memory Lake” sign; the other holding fish that are engraved with his grandchildren’s names.

His garden and pond will be three years old this September, he says, and he has nothing major planned for improvements this year. “I think things will really take off this year,” he says. “I don’t know if I can get more plants in; it’s pretty jammed, but I want it to look like a very natural setting.”

The yard includes a wide variety of more than 115 different monarch native plants, as well as over 24 native grasses. His favorite plants include blazing stars (*Liatris*), ironweed (*Vernonia fasciculata*), beebalm (*Monarda didyma*) and rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*). His yard is also home to blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) and black spruce (*Picea mariana*) trees, as well as water lilies.

His yard is already a favorite of pollinators, such as monarchs and bees, and birds, particularly hummingbirds and cardinals, he says. And, especially on bad days, when he isn’t feeling the best, he says he enjoys going out to his yard and just enjoying all of nature’s beauty. 🌸



LEFT: Dennis Nagan has been successful in getting pollinators, and specifically monarchs, to come to his native garden that is his own paradise.

Yard highlights

- 20-foot by 40-foot manmade lake that ranges in depth from 2-feet to 8-feet
- Waterfall and fishing dock
- Beach area for younger children
- 115 monarch native plants and 24 native grasses

MIDDLE: When Dennis Nagan became too ill to go “up north,” he created this native area to bring “up north” to his backyard.



BOTTOM: Memory Lake is stocked with perch, turtles and frogs, and includes a sandy beach. More than 120 native plants surround the lake.

ALL PHOTOS: Dennis Nagan



Member Yards
Dennis Nagan, Fox Cities Wild Ones

EDITOR’S NOTE: We’d like to feature our members’ native gardens, large or small, in upcoming issues. If you’re interested in sharing your native garden, send two or three high-resolution photos, as well as a brief description, to journal@wildones.org. Please include your contact information so we can get in touch with you.



2016 *Wild Ones*
NATIVE PLANTS. NATURAL LANDSCAPES

Annual Conference

By Barbara A. Schmitz

Learning. Sharing. Meeting new friends.

That's what the annual Wild Ones National Conference on Aug. 19-21 was all about. More than 60 members from over seven states attended the conference, which was held at the WILD Center in Neenah, Wisconsin.

Many undoubtedly left with ideas and a renewed enthusiasm to enlarge or improve their own native gardens or improve their chapter's efforts to attract new members, create new and engaging programs, and more. In fact, that's the idea behind the conference, said Executive Director Gail Gerhardt.

"We certainly want people to have a good time, but we also want them to learn from the speakers, share their own knowledge with other members and take that knowledge home to Plant a Seed with their own communities about the importance of native plants," she said.

Even rainy weather couldn't dampen the spirits of convention-goers. Highlights included:

Annual Meeting and Awards

All outgoing board members were recognized with a special plaque for their service, but two deserve special mention for their distinguished and outstanding service: Tim Lewis and Bret Rappaport. Lewis has served Wild Ones for 12 years, including six years as national president, while Rappaport has served on the Board for 21 years, also including a stint as national president. Rappaport, a Chicago area attorney, has also agreed to continue on as corporation counsel. Thank you both for your many years of dedicated service!



Bret Rappaport

Deb Muraro, who has volunteered to lay out and design the WILD ONES JOURNAL for three years, also received a citation for distinguished service for her extraordinary work in making the publication so aesthetically pleasing.

In addition, Gerhardt reported that Wild Ones membership has risen to 4,035, up 71 from a year ago, while the number of chapters grew from 47 to 50 and three seedlings within the year.

New national President Janice Hand said the Board will be working to get the organization on a financially solid and sustainable path, and will be offering call-ins in mid-September to get member input on possible proposals.

Interesting Sessions

While the first day's sessions and activities are directed at the Board of Directors, the second day's program is geared toward members. Activities included two keynote speakers and six workshops on topics as varied as how to create a great chapter newsletter, to tips to promote and grow your chapter, to how to develop partnerships and more.

Heather Holm, a Wild Ones member and landscape designer and consultant specializing in native pollinator plants, was one of the keynote speakers. She talked about how to select plants, shrubs and trees that support pollinators. She also led a pollinator walk through the WILD Center property, pointing out plants and insects.

The second keynote speaker was James Beard, author of "Growing People: How green landscape and garden spaces can change lives," and retired agriculture and horticulture instructor at Fox Valley Technical College. He also talked about using strawbale system for planting.

LEFT: A group listens intently during one of the presentations. **RIGHT:** Pat Clancy, Greater DuPage chapter, inspects a bumblebee captured during the pollinator walk.



BOTH PHOTOS: Barbara Schmitz



Prairie Dock.
PHOTO: Tim Lewis

Fun times

Whether it was watching the Hometown Habitat movie, enjoying the open house, or just snacking on ice cream treats from the WILD Center's own little "ice cream truck," the national conference was a chance to meet others with similar interests and passions. And what can be more fun than that?

Thank you

The conference couldn't have happened without the support of our sponsors. A special thank you goes out to all our sponsors, including First Business Bank, Greater DuPage Chapter, Tennessee Valley Chapter, Fox Valley Area Chapter, Twin Cities Chapter and Illinois Prairie Chapter (Wildest Level sponsors); Ernst Conservation Seeds and Wildtype Design (Wilder Level sponsors); and Missouri Wildflower Nursery, Brian Zimmerman & Associate – Four Seasons Nursery, Gibson Woods Chapter and LaceWing Gardening & Consultation Services (Wild Level sponsors). 🌸



WILD Center blazing star.
PHOTO: Tim Lewis

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Welcome new board members; thank you to departing members

Wild Ones is pleased to welcome the following members to its Board of Directors: Nan Calvert from the Root River Chapter - Kenosha and Racine Area, Wisconsin; Denise Gehring from the Oak Openings Region Chapter - Northwest Ohio and border Southeast Michigan; and James Schultz from the Wolf River Chapter - Shawano, Wisconsin.

Those re-elected to the Board include Janice Hand, a Partner at Large member from Bozeman, Montana who has been named president; Daniel Segal from the Habitat Gardening in Central New York Chapter; and Karen Syverson from the Fox Valley Area Chapter, Wisconsin.

Congratulations! Wild Ones is looking forward to your leadership and expertise.

In addition, Wild Ones would like to thank the following for their dedication and years of service as they leave the Board. They include Katrina Hayes, 6 years; Tim Lewis, 12 years; Bret Rappaport, 21 years; William Snyder, 4 years; Richard Webb, 4 years; and Stephen Windsor, 7 years. You will all be missed.

All of these directors have served on various committees and some have also served as officers on the Board. If they are part of your local chapter, please send them a personal thank you for their hard work over the years. Many thanks again!



Incoming Wild Ones President Janice Hand presents a plaque to outgoing president Tim Lewis for his 12 years of service to the organization, including six as president.
PHOTO: Barbara Schmitz



Jim Beard talking about his strawbale system.
PHOTO: Tim Lewis

LEFT: Heather Holm collects insects. MID: Tim Lewis interacts with session goers during a workshop. RIGHT: Pat Clancy, Hal Mann and Janet Rasmussen during a workshop.



PHOTO: Tim Lewis



PHOTO: Barbara Schmitz



PHOTO: Tim Lewis

2016 WILD ONES



People's Choice Award

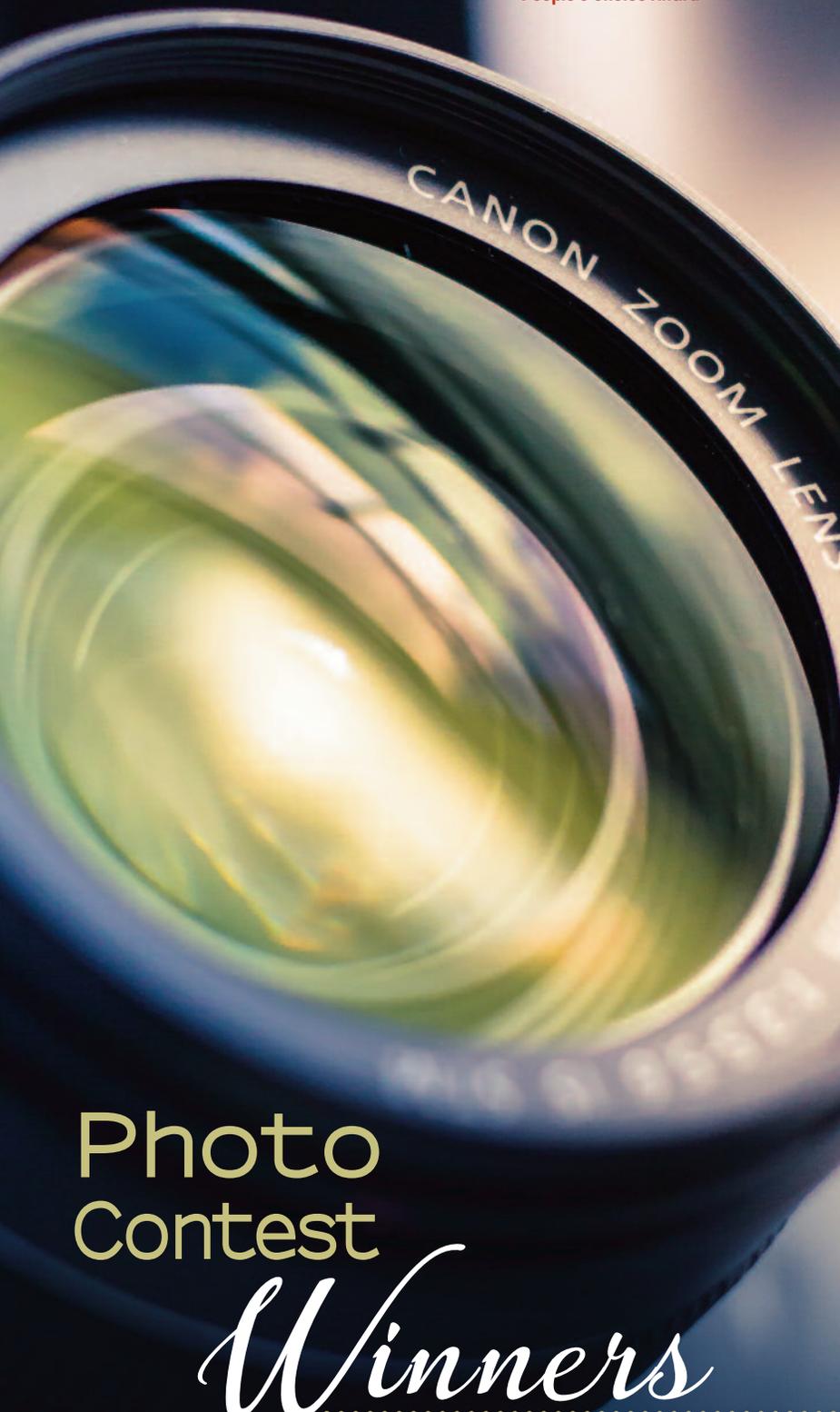


Photo Contest Winners

AWARD	CATEGORY	NAME [TITLE]
1st	Child or Children	David Poweleit <i>[Ponderosa Pushover]</i>
2nd	Child or Children	Ken Greshowak <i>[Reaction to a Pollinator]</i>
3rd	Child or Children	David Poweleit <i>[Next Generations]</i>
1st	Flora	Dawn Weber <i>[Garden Doodles]</i>
2nd	Flora	Dawn Weber <i>[Ice Ribbons]</i>
3rd	Flora	Michele Jasik <i>[Field of Trout Lily]</i>
1st	Non-Residential Landscaping	Michael LeValley <i>[Native Pollinator Garden - Morey Public School Academy]</i>
1st	Photo by Kid	Maya Sarikonda <i>[Expect the Unexpected]</i>
2nd	Photo by Kid	Maya Sarikonda <i>[Golden Triplets]</i>
3rd	Photo by Kid	Maya Sarikonda <i>[Sunny Halo]</i>
1st	Pollinators	Ed Buchs <i>[Shooting Star]</i>
2nd	Pollinators People's Choice Award	Rick Francis <i>[Great Spangled Fritillary on Milkweed]</i>
3rd	Pollinators	Dawn Weber <i>[Bee...and My Shadow]</i>
1st	Residential Landscaping	Alistair Bradley <i>[Summer Show]</i>
2nd	Residential Landscaping	Becky Erickson <i>[Escapes 7]</i>
3rd	Residential Landscaping	Becky Erickson <i>[Moment after Snowfall]</i>
1st	Scenery	Dawn-Marie Staccia <i>[Prairie Eagle Nature Trail]</i>
2nd	Scenery	Valerie Lindeman <i>[Cattail Hoar Frost]</i>
3rd	Scenery	Candy Sarikonda <i>[Snowy Oak]</i>
1st	Wild Ones In-Action	Alistair Bradley <i>[Adrift in the Tallgrass Prairie]</i>
2nd	Wild Ones In-Action	Donna VanBuecken <i>[Volunteers Cleaning Seed at the WILD Center]</i>
3rd	Wild Ones In-Action	Michael LeValley <i>[Violet Fruit Dissection]</i>



● Dawn-Marie Staccia



● Michael LeValley



● Dawn Weber



● Alistair Bradley



● Maya Sarikonda



● David Powelitt



● Ed Buchs



● Alistair Bradley

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Study: Home garden pesticides pose greater danger to bees

A new study from Ohio State and Purdue universities shows that pollen collected by honeybees in fields was contaminated throughout the growing season with multiple agricultural pesticides, including neonicotinoids used as seed treatments.

However, the highest levels of contamination in pollen came from pyrethroid insecticides, which target mosquitoes and other pests and are generally purchased over-the-counter for use in home gardens. The study, "Non-cultivated plants present a season-long route of pesticide exposure for honeybees," was authored by Elizabeth Y. Long of Ohio State University and Christian H. Krupke of Purdue University and printed in the May 2016 issue of *Nature Publications*.

Pollen collected by honeybees was identified and screened for agricultural pesticides over 16 weeks in 2011. Hives were placed at three sites: an open meadow, the border of a field planted with seeds treated with the neonicotinoid clothianidin and three fungicides, and the border of a field planted with seeds that received no pesticide treatment.

Honeybee colonies remained at each site for the length of the growing season and foraging bees had free access to pollen from all crop and non-crop species in the vicinity. No matter where hives were located, most bees picked up pollen that contained large amounts of pesticides. For example, the hives in the meadow and pesticide-treated field yielded pollen with about 29 different types of pesticides, while the non-treated cornfield actually had slightly more at 31 types.

Read the complete study [here](#).

Bee films making a buzz online

The film, "*A Ghost in the Making: Searching for the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee*," tells the tale of natural history photographer Clay Bolt's journey from state to state in search of this bumblebee. On his travels, Clay meets the scientists and conservationists working tirelessly to preserve it, until he finally comes face to face with his quarry in Madison, Wisconsin and discovers an answer to the question that has been nagging him: Why save a species?

The rusty patched bumblebee was once one of the most common native bees in the Eastern U.S. Today, its population is down 90-95 percent. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering listing it as an endangered species. To urge them to do so, as well as to urge the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the EPA to protect the rusty patched bumblebee, sign this [Change.org](#) petition.

"*A Ghost in the Making*" was produced by Day's Edge Productions in partnership with the [Xerces Society](#), with funding from [Endangered Species Chocolate](#).

• • •

There are many factors that affect the health of honeybees. What people can do differently is one of them.

A 25-minute film, "*The Bee Understanding Project*," is a story of four people — a commercial beekeeper, a farmer, a crop adviser and an entomologist — who swapped jobs to learn more about protecting bees. Instead of pointing fingers at each other, the movie shows what they learned, and how they could join together to make a difference and build partnerships.

Honeybees produce one in three bites of food we eat. The [Honey Bee Health Coalition](#) produced the film.



Chad Steidl, left, and his father, Wade, work on a bridge at the WILD Center. The bridge was built as part of Chad's Eagle Scout project. PHOTO: Mary Steidl

WILD CENTER UPDATE

A new Eagle Scout project is allowing the WILD Center to access areas that were previously difficult to mow.

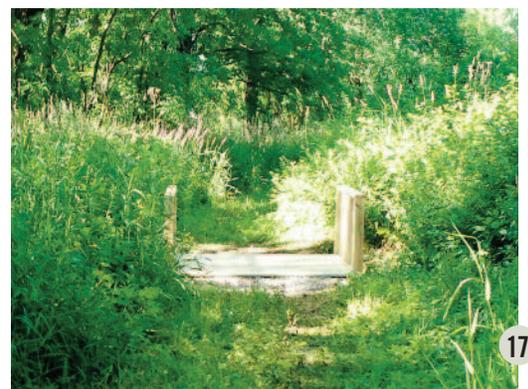
Chad Steidl surveyed and measured the area, designed a bridge, raised funds to purchase materials for its construction, and then came and built the project on-site. Chad, his parents Mary and Wade Steidl, and two other scouts, Trevor Kislewski and Aaron Esker, built a bridge across a ditch that was hard for us to get the lawnmower through without getting stuck. Now we can drive over the bridge and access the areas that need to be cut. A big **thank you** goes out to Chad and his team for a job well done!

Former Wild Ones Executive Director Donna VanBuecken always said, "If we build it, they will come." With the help of our **awesome WILD Center volunteers**, she built the rain gardens, the prairie and the rest of our display areas, and she was right. The WILD Center is home to an abundance of insects, birds, bees, butterflies, several deer, two woodchucks, snakes, turtles, bats, cranes, blue herons, eagles, ducks, and the list goes on. The native plants have provided nectar, food, nutrients and water to many pollinators and ground animals.

The WILD Center provides a safe haven for many species since there is no hunting allowed on this property. Donna built it, and the pollinators and animals came. This is another example of how one member with a vision can **Plant a Seed**, which will have effects for years to come. 🌱

Chad Steidl earned his Eagle Scout Award for building and installing this bridge on the WILD Center property.

PHOTO: KIM WALBRUN





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By Laurie Yahr

An excellent strategy for insects or bugs to avoid being eaten is to be invisible. But we managed to spot a couple of creatures hiding in plain sight on a recent excursion to Texas just by knowing what we were looking for.



Red Admiral
PHOTO: Laurie Yahr

The outside color and patterns of many moths and butterflies are drab and random, making them more difficult to spot in shadows, or on gravel, rock or bark. Sometimes they may be mistaken for a dead leaf. The Red Admiral and American Snout are examples of this; in Texas, both are year-round residents with some migrating in.



Mexican Bluewing
PHOTO: Laurie Yahr

It is also how people probably pass up viewing one of the most spectacular butterflies — the Mexican Bluewing. It prefers shaded woodlands and perches on the trunks of trees and higher branches. When it flies in the sun you may glimpse its iridescent blue-purple color alternating with black bands.



Caterpillar
PHOTO: Laurie Yahr

We were examining the green bark of a tree in the Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, trying to figure out if it was Palo Verde or Ratama, when Rich noticed a strange texture. Upon closer examination, we realized it was caterpillars! There were a half dozen or more at eye level. Our best guess was that it was a flannel moth. They were large, perhaps 4 inches long, rather flat with particularly hairy feet (the hairs emanating from a round white knob), though we never saw them move. When we enlarged the photos of the caterpillars we noticed two rows of uniformly spaced pairs of bumps down the center back and slightly raised rings between the segments. One of the rings had coloration near what I presume is the head end, although it is nearly impossible to tell which end is which. Literature shows irritating red spines may be projected from these crevices called mirrors. Pale greenish-grey and chestnut lines run the length of the body. The bark of the trees is smooth olive-green with thorns and patches, but wounds heal with a zipper look and I had the impression this caterpillar evolved to mimic that scarring.



Lyside Sulphur
PHOTO: Laurie Yahr

Another “now you see it, not you don’t” butterfly is the Lyside Sulphur. There are other sulphurs with wing shapes more like leaves, but this one is an expert at slipping under a branch and tucking itself between leaves, making it the consummate impostor.

Camouflage



American Snout PHOTO: Wikimedia.com

The veins on its wings have prominent ridges to add to the illusion it is only a leaf. I searched hard to find a photo at an angle where you could make out its body and legs. In the shadow it comes off as precisely the same shade of green as the leaf it is clinging to.

On our last day at Resaca de la Palma State Park, Rich spotted what I first thought was a weird walking stick. At first we thought its “arms” were damaged. But it was a Texas Unicorn Mantis. In addition to its knobby horns and leafy green appendages, it also has the peculiar habit of folding its arms back onto itself. We found another one not far away in the next hedge with a different leafy wing configuration. It is likely the one with the rounder wing is a female. The male has a more linearly shaped abdomen and much longer antennae. I love the way they always appear to be looking directly at you when you try to photograph them. 🌸



Walking stick
PHOTO: Laurie Yahr

LAURIE YAHR is a member of the Madison, Wisconsin chapter of Wild Ones and has been writing the chapter's monthly newsletter since 2001. She and her husband, Rich Kahl, spend most of their free time exploring and photographing the nearby arboretum, or state parks and natural areas in Wisconsin and wherever their travels take them. As a child, she remembers her mother taking her and her siblings on spring walks in the woods where she taught them the names of wildflowers. She also recalls finding her first gold-spotted monarch chrysalis hanging from the bottom of an apple at one of her grandfather's orchards.

FIG. 5

*C. vulpinoidea*

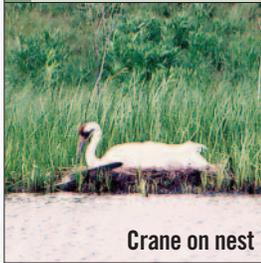
FIG. 6

*C. scoparia*

Sedges—WHAT GOOD ARE THEY?

By Linda W. Curtis

What good are sedges? You don't have to look far to see the answer.



Crane on nest

A pair of whooping cranes found a new home near a restored wetland along an Illinois River. A flock of 60 whooping cranes that usually migrated through found a new habitat on the

floodplain and some stayed and built nests of sedge leaves.

The farmers along 11 sites in Illinois were paid to take their flood-prone croplands and restore them back to their original function of accepting spring floodwater. The National Resources Conservation Service Recovery Act offered funding to the landowners through the Emergency Watershed Protection-Floodplain Easement Program. Soon, sedges and other wetland plants flourished and waterfowl flew in and stayed. After that bird watchers came and would eat at local restaurants, increasing the cash flow in small towns along the river.

What sedges are recommended for floodplains? The NRCS-approved plant list includes grasses, rushes and sedges. The sedge genus *Carex* are tussock sedge, *C. stricta* (Fig. 1), bottlebrush sedge, *C. hystericina* (Fig. 2), lake sedge or rip-gut, *C. lacustris* (Fig. 3), Bebb's sedge, *Carex bebbii* (Fig. 4), fox sedge, *C. vulpinoidea* (Fig. 5), and pointed broom sedge, *C. scoparia* (Fig. 6).

The selection of plants depends on which remnant species sprout in the floodplain from the seed bank in the soil. Sedge "seeds" are achenes, or dry fruits with tough outer skins like popcorn kernels, which persist in the soil for years. The sedges, grasses and rushes have rhizomes that form shoots and roots that grip the soil as a mesh and prevent erosion. The tufts of long leaves become food, nesting material, and resting habitats for wildlife and for us, scenic views.

Carex is the third most common genus in Wisconsin plants, but it has two main subgroups. One group has a narrow male terminal spike that is separate

from the lower female spikes. The other group, *Vignea*, doesn't have the separate male spike, and can be divided again into those that have stamens at the tips of numerous small spikes, the Fox Sedges including *C. vulpinoidea* (Fig. 5), or those with stamens in the basal scales of the spikes, the Ovals, with winged flat seed sacs (Fig. 4) such as *C. bebbii* that grows in the prairie garden at the WILD Center in Appleton.

Of course, there are exceptions like tussock sedge, *C. stricta*, that has seed heads with a separate male spike most of the time but often has a combination of half and half spikes with males tips with stamens in the upper part of an otherwise in female spike (Fig. 1). Fox sedge, *C. vulpinoidea*, does not have a separate male spike; its stamens are at the tips of its many small spikelets (Fig. 5).

Carex stamens are eaten by insects in addition to the leaves eaten by caterpillars of moths and butterflies. The *Carex* sedges are the base of a food chain; insects eat the sedges, and in turn become food for turtles, birds and other wildlife.

Birds such as the marsh wren and sedge wren feed upon the sedge seed heads and also upon the insects that fly into the marshes and sedge meadows. Perched on the nodding sedge culms, or stems, wrens sing their territorial songs, "This land is my land, this land's not your land," over and over.

Sedge wrens are prolific singers while marking their territory around sedge meadows and marshes. Even though quite small, they weave dry sedge leaves into domed basketlike nests that will keep their hatchlings safe and dry. Like other cavity nesters, the eggs are white and would be conspicuous to predators in an open nest. 🌸

LINDA W. CURTIS, a *Wild Ones* member, is author of two books on sedges: "Woodland *Carex*" and "Bog-Fen *Carex*," both sold through the Wild Ones store and Prairie Moon Nursery. When she's not sedge hopping in Lake County, Illinois, Curtis writes short stories and poems about life's interesting conundrums, as well as science articles for *Erigenia* and *Carex Corner* for the *Illinois Native Plant Society*. Find more on her website at <http://www.curtistothebird.com>.

*C. lacustris**C. hystericina*

CRANE PHOTO AND
LINDA CURTIS PHOTO:
James M. Curtis

ALL OTHER PHOTOS:
Linda W. Curtis

FIG. 1

C. stricta

Linda Curtis with
C. vulpinoides
PHOTO: James M. Curtis



NEWS

from across the

NATION



ILLINOIS — A new University of Illinois study suggests that the invasive garlic mustard plant, which affects forested areas in the Midwestern and Eastern United States, may become less aggressive over time.

According to *Science Daily*: Garlic mustard secretes a chemical called sinigrin into soil to deter the growth of other plants and decrease competition. Researchers have found that sinigrin concentrations decrease as garlic mustard populations age, demonstrating evolutionary change due to ecological processes. They predict that garlic mustard will decline and reach a balance with native species that re-colonize invaded areas.

IOWA — While the number of honeybees is falling nationwide, the number of beekeepers in Iowa is on the rise, *Radio Iowa* reports.

Dave Irvin, president of the *East Central Iowa Beekeepers Association*, says there are 127,000 beekeepers now in the state, up about 15 to 20 percent from two years ago.

Iowa bees produce about 4 million pounds of honey every year, valued at more than \$8 million. In addition, the annual economic value of honeybees as crop pollinators in Iowa is estimated at \$92 million.

IOWA, KANSAS, MINNESOTA, MISSOURI, OKLAHOMA and TEXAS —

Six states' transportation departments and the Federal Highway Administration recently agreed to implement measures to improve habitats along Interstate 35, known as the "Monarch Highway" for pollinating species.

Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and Minnesota signed the memo of agreement at the *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials* Board of Directors meeting recently in Des Moines, Iowa, according to the *TINewsDaily.com*.

The idea behind the multistate pact is to increase the number of plants that provide refuge and food not just for butterflies, but also for other important pollinating insects, according to the *Star Tribune*.

The Monarch Highway is part of a program backed by President Obama, who formed a Pollinator Health Task Force in 2014.

MARYLAND — Maryland will become the first state to ban consumer use of neonicotinoid pesticides, prompted by concerns that neonicotinoid pesticides contribute to the mortality of pollinators such as bees, birds and butterflies.

According to *Bloomberg BNA*, the ban is slated to take effect Jan. 1, 2018 after Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan said he will allow *S.B. 198 / H.B. 211* to become law without his signature.

The legislation, which includes exceptions for certified applicators, farmers and veterinarians, makes Maryland the first state to adopt such a ban on consumer use. Under the legislation, a person who violates the ban will be subject to a \$250 civil penalty. The ban will apply to the sale and use of imidacloprid, nithiazine, acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, thiacloprid, thiamethoxam and any other chemical designated by the Maryland Department of Agriculture as a neonicotinoid.

Maryland's beekeepers lost nearly 61 percent of their hives last year, according to the *Christian Science Monitor*. Bee populations have been declining nationwide in recent years due to a combination of factors, including poor nutrition, disease and use of pesticides.

MINNESOTA and NORTH DAKOTA —

An initiative aims to reintroduce prairie to Fargo-Moorhead and to make it much like it was before farming and urban sprawl ripped it up.

According to *The Dickinson Press*, Prairie Restorations Inc. is seeding 50 acres of Red River bottomland, mostly in Moorhead, Minnesota, with some work in Fargo, North Dakota, as part of the "Urban Woods and Prairies initiative," which was paid for by Audubon Dakota.

Last year, Prairie Restorations tilled and seeded about 142 acres on the Fargo side of the Red River in areas where there were home buyouts and other flood mitigation efforts, said Blaine Keller, the firm's site manager. "It's a three- to five-year kind of thing until the full maturity," Keller said. "It isn't an overnight thing."

The goal is to restore 1,500 acres of riparian prairie, floodplain forests and wetlands to their natural state. 🌸

GARDENING WITH *sedges*

Carex is the largest North American plant genus with nearly 500 species. Although known for great diversity, in general sedges are perennials that resemble grasses and grow in shallow water or moist soils, often in thick clusters.

One of the best ways to bring nature into our lives is to welcome it into our own backyards. Sedges grow well in our gardens because their environmental niche is in places where soil, water, and light conditions are typically too harsh for other plants. Endless varieties bring color, texture and movement to your garden as their leaves gently ripple in the breeze.

Carex seeds are an important food source for birds. They also support the insects many birds use to feed their young. The plants are host to many species of caterpillar. Submerged portions of aquatic sedges are home to invertebrates that provide food for aquatic species. However, while sedges appeal to an array of wildlife, they will not attract deer.



Sedge wren
PHOTO: Linda Curtis



FIG. 4 *C. bebbii*

BOOK REVIEWS

By Barbara A. Schmitz

“Mending the Earth in Milwaukee”

“*Mending the Earth in Milwaukee*” has a simple message: you should garden for life, not for decoration.

“I hope to put a nail in the coffin of lawns with this book,” says author and artist Ney Tait Fraser, a Wild Ones member from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. “But I think that is very optimistic. People are very attached to their lawns.”

That’s an understatement. North America has lost 80 percent of its pollinators, thanks to monocultures of invasive plants such as Kentucky bluegrass that do not support America’s insects, Fraser says.

Her 180-page book, which she worked on periodically for 10 years, contains 16 stories of Milwaukee area yards landscaped with native plants to create mini Gardens of Eden. Nearly all are Wild Ones members, and all had the courage to defy convention in their landscapes. Their yards sustain pollinators such as butterflies, and indigenous species of bees, birds and critters that feed raptors. But just as importantly, their yards demonstrate the benefits of using native plants. For instance, lawns become brown in hot spells, but yards landscaped with native plants are basically unaffected since they have adapted to Wisconsin’s climate over millions of years and are drought-resistant.

In addition, the book includes stories of mistakes people made as they began their native plantings, in hopes that others won’t repeat those same mistakes.

However, the stories of these beautiful yards are as much about the plants, as they are about the peoples’ journeys toward a lifelong interest in native landscaping.

Most of the profiled gardens started small, and gradually grew larger as their owners’ interests and experiences with native plants grew. Sometimes, it was parents who instilled

in their children a love and interest in nature. Other times, it was meeting someone else who had a passion for native plants.

But for many of those featured in the book, it was Loirie Otto who nurtured their interest in native plants. The inspiration for the Wild Ones, Otto is also responsible for getting DDT banned in Wisconsin. “*Mending the Earth...*” includes many photos and stories of Otto and her quest for people to transform landscapes into diverse natural habitats.

There’s good reason why Otto is given prominent play in the book. Fraser writes: “Otto used the power of nature to transform people’s lives. Her personal dedication, energy, intellect and political efforts raised environmental consciousness. She was able to give Wisconsin’s native flora a place of horticulture honor, empowering native plant nurseries which did not exist before her campaign against laws and the lawn-care industry.”

Not surprisingly, Fraser dedicated the book to Otto and “all the friends of the Earth” mentioned in its pages.

Besides telling the stories of the yards and people behind them, Fraser says her book will also help to preserve the yards, at least in people’s minds and hearts. “The tragedy is that these yards may disappear when home ownership changes,” she says. “Loirie’s yard has already changed drastically since new owners moved in.”

Interspersed with useful information such as how to prepare your gardening site for native plants, as well as illustrated with many photographs, “*Mending the Earth...*” can be purchased in Milwaukee at the Woodland Pattern Book Center, 720 E. Locust St.; Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, 111 E. Brown Deer Road; Urban Milwaukee: The Store, 755 N. Milwaukee St.; or at the Wehr Nature Center, 9701 W. College Ave., Franklin. You can also purchase a book by sending a check for \$30 made out to Ney Collier to P.O. Box 170005, Milwaukee, WI 53217. 🌸

~ About the Author ~

Ney Tait Fraser has been a Wild Ones member for about three decades, becoming interested in native plants after a neighbor started spraying chemicals on his lawn, which then drifted onto her property. At a friend’s suggestion, she contacted Loirie Otto who got her started in native landscaping. “She was a very good teacher who didn’t insist you do everything at once,” Fraser says. Otto also taught her the importance of using native plants in a more formal and organized manner so they wouldn’t be as intimidating to others.

“My yard used to be lawn with exotic plants,” she says. “Now it is a certified butterfly habitat and wildlife habitat. And many of the plants were gifts from Loirie’s yard.”

“Becky the Butterfly Girl”

“*Becky the Butterfly Girl*” will make you wish your child or grandchild was just like Becky — inquisitive and appreciative of nature and its many wonders. And it might just be enough to get that special child in your life interested in caring for nature, and particularly for monarch butterflies.

Written by Janet Young, a member of the Greater DuPage, Illinois chapter of Wild Ones, the story is about a real-life girl who happens to be Young’s friend, 6-year-old Becky Lecroy. Becky’s parents, Joe and Sue, also belong to the Greater DuPage Wild Ones chapter.

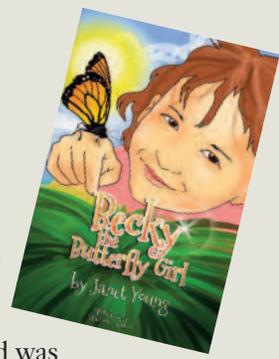
“Becky comes with her mother and father to all the Wild Ones meetings, and we’ve gotten to know her and she’s gotten to know us,” Young says. “They’ve had yard showings and visits, and Becky is always there, full of enthusiasm as she tells us things about the garden or the butterflies.”

In the book, Becky gives readers a tour of her yard, telling visitors all about her parent’s special flowers and plants that make it a safe and welcoming place for birds, bugs and butterflies. Becky’s enthusiasm is captivating and you find yourself eagerly turning each page to see just what makes her yard so special.

You’ll learn about their pond, which is home to goldfish and provides drinking water for the animals that visit. She shows you birdhouses and bee houses, and a nest with eggs in a nearby bush. But her favorite part of the garden is the milkweed area, where monarch butterflies lay their eggs on the underside of milkweed leaves. Once they hatch, the young caterpillars depend on the plant’s leaves for food.

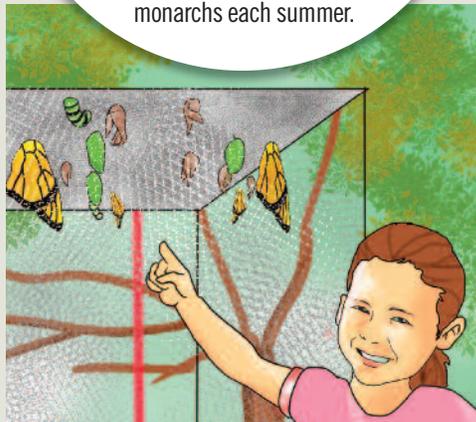
Becky and her family carefully move the young caterpillars into a screened “nursery,” where she helps to take care of the caterpillars as they grow, eventually releasing them after they become butterflies.

The book explains in simple terms why lawns, while they might be neat and green, and chemicals and cement, aren’t the best for birds and bugs, and why birds and bugs depend on native plants and flowers to survive and thrive. It also explains how to care for monarchs throughout their metamorphosis to butterflies.



~ About the Author ~

Author Janet Young is a gardener and butterfly protector. She and her husband, Tom Miller, live in Lombard, Illinois, and their yard has been a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat for many years. It is also a certified Monarch Waystation, providing milkweed, nectar plants and shelter for butterflies, with Young raising more than 100 monarchs each summer.



Young, who is also author of Danny books for children, says she decided to write this story because children need to know more about nature. “Kids today are so tied to computer games; this book allows them to learn ... about the benefits of growing native plants and why using chemicals on plants can be harmful to birds, bugs and butterflies.”

The book is illustrated by Vladimir Cebu of the Philippines, who also illustrates Young’s Danny books. “I sent him many pictures so he would make Becky look like Becky,” Young says, noting she and Becky are pleased with the end result.

Amazon readers are also giving the book many positive reviews:

- “This is a fun story for children to read; it took me back to the days when I was a kid chasing butterflies... Sometimes in our busy lives we tend to forget how things are created around us and it’s always a good reminder to stop and enjoy the beauty around us.”
- “I really like the way the book was organized — as if I were taking a tour of the garden, and that the tour guide in the story is a child. I also appreciated the discussion of the importance of taking care of the world and the creatures in it.”
- “I love reading about all the wonderful things you can find right in your own backyard. I feel inspired to start raising monarchs myself after reading the book.”

Published by Pine Lane Publishing, “Becky the Butterfly Girl” sells as a paperback or an e-book reader on Amazon at <http://jcy.me/BeckyBook>. 🌸

Sooty mold is named for its look. It looks like soot stained the bark and leaves of this *Magnolia sieboldii*.



It's great to watch nature

do its work



Scale insects on the bark of the tree look more like bumps on the branches.

Story and photos by Donna Williamson

Last spring I noticed that my *Magnolia sieboldii* was looking wonky. This is usually a spectacular magnolia with downward facing blooms and red stamens in the center of the flower.

I thought maybe the terrible winter had damaged it. The leaves had come out, but the closer I looked, I saw that it had sooty mold. It’s called sooty mold because it looks like soot staining the bark or the leaves. It is a fungus that grows on the sugary poo of tiny leaf-sucking critters, often aphids or whiteflies. And, in my experience, sooty mold is a harmless symptom of insect activity. It doesn’t really hurt the tree.

I went to get my glasses so I could look more carefully at what was on my magnolia. It turned out that scale insects were all over the bark of the tree, looking like bumps on the branches. Scale insects are covered with something that looks like a shell, so they are very well protected. Some were large, some were tiny, but there were hundreds.

There are many different types of scale insects and they often attack a plant that is already in distress. Folks who have planted euonymous in a hot, sunny location will often see a lot of scale and over time, the plant deteriorates.

Bad winter, I thought. But I didn’t want more damage from the scale insects that suck out plant juices. And then I noticed that there were dozens of wasps in the magnolia, different colors and sizes, and they were feasting on the scale insects.

Two weeks later I went to check the magnolia again. The scale insects had been substantially reduced in number. The wasps had done their work. Even the sooty mold had faded on many of the leaves. There was less sugary poo around.

By September, there were just a few scale insects still hanging around. The wasps did a terrific job of controlling this outbreak. And I was able to avoid buying and using a chemical that would have killed all the insects out there – wasps and bees included.

Doug Tallamy, a professor and chairman of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware, talks about achieving a natural balance in the garden where pest insects are largely controlled by other creatures – predatory insects, birds, toads, etc. It’s so great to see it all work!

DONNA WILLIAMSON is a garden designer and coach. She has taught gardening and design classes at the State Arboretum of Virginia, Oatlands Historic House and Gardens and Shenandoah University; she continues to hold classes in Waterford each winter. Her e-book, “The Mid-Atlantic Garden,” is available on Amazon. She is part of the Blue Ridge Chapter of Wild Ones, the only chapter in the mid-Atlantic. Email her at donna@williamson2002@earthlink.net. 🌸

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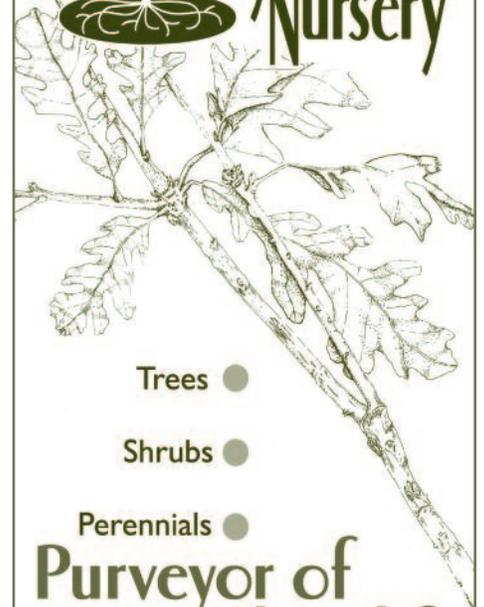
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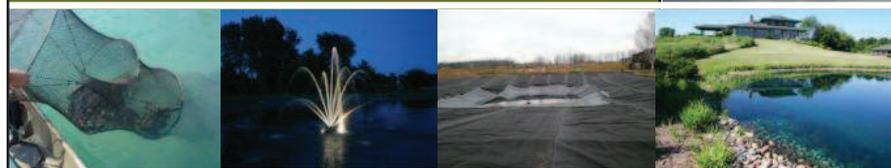
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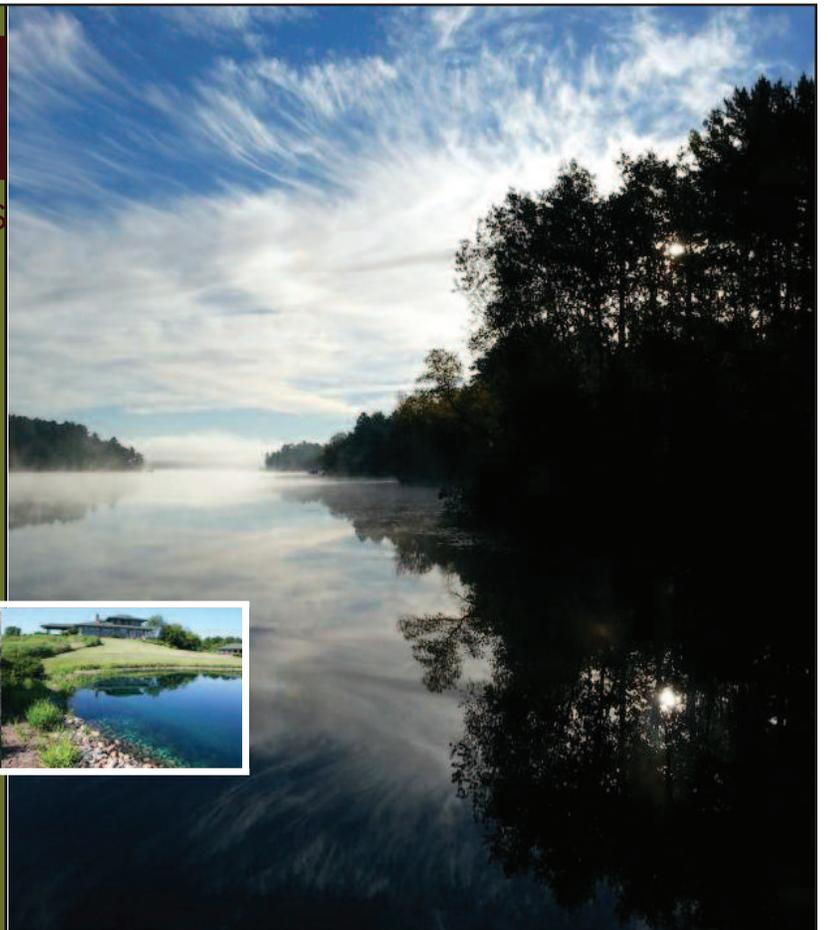
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www.gw-wildones.org/symposium--shows.html

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Madison Chapter — Madison Area
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Sue Reindollar 608-233-9383

Menomonee River Area Chapter — Menomonee Falls Area
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Milwaukee North Chapter — Bayside Area
<http://wildones.org/chapters/milnorth/>
Message Center: 414-299-9888 x1

Milwaukee Southwest-Wehr Chapter — Franklin Area
<http://wildones.org/chapters/milswest/>
Message Center: 414-299-9888 x2
f www.facebook.com/Wehr-Wild-Ones-Southwest-Milwaukee-Wisconsin-Chapter-231520990255238/

Root River Area Chapter — Racine Area
<http://rootriverarea.wildones.org/>
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Wolf River Chapter — Shawano Area
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Jacki Kossik PHOTO

A Gift that Saves the Earth?

Wild Ones Gift Memberships



How about a gift for:

- **Neighbors** who are redoing their landscaping
- **Local aldermen** who consider landscaping ordinances
- **Local inspectors** who decide what is/isn't a "weed"

Better yet, how about:

- **Neighborhood school classrooms** Help get them in tune with the environment and inspire them to learn the importance of gardening for life.

Three membership levels— all include a variety of benefits including the WILD ONES JOURNAL.

Wildier level also includes note cards.

Wildest level also includes the 2016 Wild Ones calendar or a copy of the Tallamy DVD (*shown here*).

We'll also send them a special acknowledgement letter along with the link to the top 18 JOURNAL articles — a how-to-do-it sampling for all new and renewing members.

Go to: <http://www.wildones.org/product/membership/gift-membership/>

Send your gift(s) today!

Helping save the Earth has never been so easy.



Headquarters Wish List

Volunteers to help with all sorts of things:

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

Things to help with all sorts of activities:

Outdoor use security or game cameras • Crock pots • Sealer for wood deck • Vacuum cleaner • Gardening Tools • Native trees (6 to 8 ft.) basswood and maple • Native shrubs: Witchhazel • Woodland plants: grasses, ephemerals, ferns, etc.

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

Wild Ones recommends that you patronize businesses that support our policies regarding species provenance and habitat preservation. The appearance of advertising in the Journal does not constitute an endorsement by Wild Ones of any organization or product.

On Sale
at the Wild Ones Store

Ladies V-neck T-shirts



T-shirts embroidered with Wild Ones logo
Available in four colors: dark green, lime, orange or purple.

Ladies Sizes: XS - XL ~~\$21.00~~
Now \$17.00

Price includes shipping & handling.

www.wildones.org/wild-store
or call 877-394-9453



Join Wild Ones...
Go to
www.wildones.org/join-the-movement/
Pick the membership level that's right for you.

Prefer to send a check?

Mail your membership fee to:
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Appleton, WI 54912-1274

Whether you're joining for the first time, or renewing for the umpteenth time...

it's easy to do.

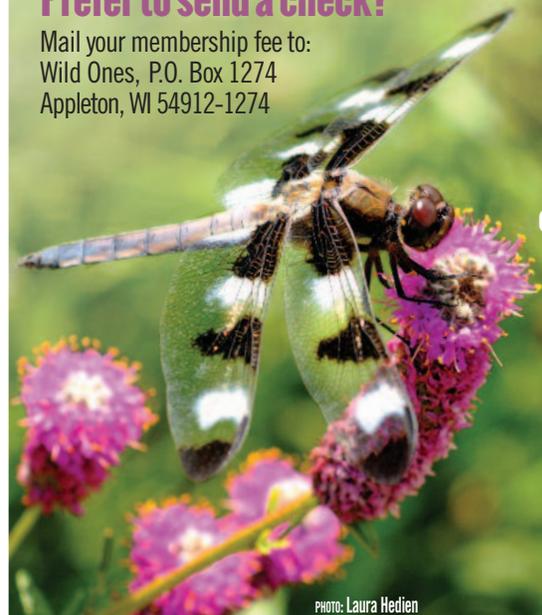


PHOTO: Laura Hedien