



Wild Ones

NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

WINTER 2021 • *Journal* • VOL. 34, NO. 4

Diana Linsley's "Swallowtail on Cardinal Plant" received the People's Choice Award in the 2021 Wild Ones Photo Contest. Linsley belongs to the St. Louis (Missouri) Chapter. For more winning photos, see page 34.



*A voice for the natural landscaping movement.
Growing native plants and
restoring natural landscapes for future generations.*

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

We know that native plants, restoring native plant communities and using sustainable landscaping practices directly contributes to improving the environment and that Wild Ones' mission is more important than ever. I would like to thank all of you for the work you are doing to make a difference, one landscape at a time. Even with all the challenges we've faced in 2021, we are still moving ahead, putting native plants in the ground and spreading the word about sustainability and habitat restoration through education and advocacy at the national, state and local level.



Sally Wencel

Despite the challenges of the pandemic and the havoc it wreaks, Wild Ones is growing in membership size and breadth, and bringing in new people to our team. As of Nov. 1, I'm happy to report that this year, we have:

- Grown membership by 1,624 members, an increase of 38%. Let's all welcome these new Wild Ones!
- Launched 14 new seedlings, five of which have already chartered.
- Added seven new chapters total. (Go to <https://wildones.org/chapters/> to see the most current listing and locations.)
- Increased Wild Ones hosted online programming from two in 2020 to six in 2021, including programming by Wild Ones Honorary Directors Doug Tallamy and Heather Holm and the "Meet the Designer" series. If you missed these programs, please go to the Wild Ones YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/WildOnesNativePlants>.
- Rebooted the Seeds for Education grant program that was suspended in 2019-2020 due to COVID-19. More than 60 schools, community centers and other organizations applied for funding.
- Transferred the membership database to a new system that gives members more flexibility in managing their accounts.

We have also been working to enable chapters to expand their reach by increasing our Zoom web conferencing platform tenfold and hosting chapter meetings and gatherings ("Sit and Sip" and "Zoom and Bloom") to share best practices and ideas. These sessions help me to understand what is going on at the chapter level, learn about the challenges chapters face and identify tools chapters need for success. These remote platforms have also helped put faces to names, all which makes Wild Ones seem more tangible and welcoming -- I hope the participants agree!

As far as continuing to stabilize the organization, I'm happy to report we are completing our first financial audit — an objective examination and evaluation of financial records by an outside accounting agency — since 2013. Transparency and accountability are two watchwords for any organization, and we aim to promote both through our actions and deeds. Financial health undergirds our work, so please consider a gift to the Annual Appeal and don't forget to participate in workplace giving matching programs!

Looking forward to 2022, we are putting together Wildly Important Goals to build on our 2021 momentum. Among our likely goals are to launch a branding refresh to help Wild Ones look fresh and modern and develop more tools for chapters and members to promote our mission. Stay tuned.

On behalf of the Wild Ones Board, I extend our thanks to YOU for promoting Wild Ones' mission. Have a prosperous, healthy and Wild 2022!



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

NATIONAL OFFICE WILD CENTER

2285 Butte des Morts Beach Road
Neenah, WI 54956

Phone: 920-730-3986

Email: info@wildones.org

NATIONAL STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Executive Director

Jennifer Ainsworth • 920-730-3986

execdirector@wildones.org

Mission Manager

Katie Huebner • 920-730-3986

khuebner@wildones.org

Membership Coordinator

Rachel Checinski • 920-730-3986

rchecinski@wildones.org

Chapter Liaison

Lisa Olsen • 720-295-3423

lolsen@wildones.org

Administrative Assistant

Cara Nagy • 920-730-3986

cnagy@wildones.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Sally Wencel • 423-313-3620

Please leave a message after the tone

president@wildones.org

Vice President

Loris Damerow

vp@wildones.org

Secretary

Rita Ulrich

secretary@wildones.org

Treasurer

Karl Ackerman

treasurer@wildones.org

Board General Counsel

Jim Poznak

Board Members

Marty Arnold, Michigan, 2022

John (J.D.) Carlson, Michigan, 2024

Loris Damerow, Michigan, 2024

Eric Fuselier, Arkansas, 2024

Michele Hensey, Pennsylvania, 2024

Holly Latteman, Ohio, 2022

Jim Poznak, Illinois, 2024

Carrie Radloff, Iowa, 2022

Matthew Ross, Pennsylvania, 2024

Pam Todd, Illinois, 2022

Honorary Directors

Neil Diboll, Wisconsin, Lifetime

Lorrie Otto (Deceased), Lifetime

Doug Tallamy, Delaware, Lifetime

Heather Holm, Minnesota, 2024

Donna VanBuecken, Wisconsin, 2022

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.

<u>5</u>	<u>News across the nation</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>Member garden</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>Seeds for Education</u>
<u>13</u>	<u>Brooklyn Bridge Park</u>
<u>15</u>	<u>Trees in American history</u>
<u>24</u>	<u>Q&A with Heather Holm</u>
<u>26</u>	<u>Wild Ones staff</u>
<u>27</u>	<u>Going native</u>
<u>32</u>	<u>National native garden</u>
<u>34</u>	<u>Photo contest</u>
<u>40</u>	<u>Book review</u>

Wild Ones Journal is published regularly by Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes. Views expressed are the opinions of the authors. *Journal* content may be reproduced for nonprofit educational purposes as long as the *Journal* is credited as the source. Individual articles that carry a copyright are the property of the author and cannot be reproduced without the author's written permission. No artwork may be reproduced, except to accompany its original companion text, without written permission of the illustrator or photographer. Contact editor if in doubt about use rights. Manuscripts and illustrations are welcome; Wild Ones does not pay for articles, photos or illustrations. For guidelines for submitting material, contact editor or see Wild Ones website. Sponsors: Contact National Office for rates and schedule.

Copyright © 2021 by Wild Ones.

Wild Ones Journal

Online version: ISSN 2472-5900

Print version: ISSN 1551-9155



**Wild Ones Journal
– Editor –**

Barbara A. Schmitz
journal@wildones.org

(Please indicate topic in subject line.)

– Contributing Writers –

Jennifer Ainsworth • Amber Brockman • Cindy Crosby
Heather Holm • Aaron Michael
Emily Roberson • Matthew Ross

– Design/Layout –
Kevin Rau

– Editorial Intern –
Amber Brockman

Copy Editor –
Alyssa Pritzl

– Proofreader –
Mariette Nowak

**NEEDED:
20
MILLION
ACRES**

**Your support can
help turn the
Biodiversity Crisis
into a THRIVING
ECOSYSTEM of
20 Million Acres
of native plants.**

**Help us reach and
motivate MILLIONS
OF PEOPLE by
taking action HERE**



Start a new HABITAT®

HOMEGROWN
NATIONAL PARK®

Get on the Map at
HomegrownNationalPark.org



NEWS

ACROSS THE NATION

Compiled by Amber Brockman

ARKANSAS

Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station researchers conducted a study that shows nocturnal pollinators are just as important as their daytime counterparts in nature's system of pollination.

The three-year study of pollination research on apples, led by Stephen Robertson, found that moths and other nocturnal pollinators are equally as capable of pollinating apple trees at night as bees are during the day, magnoliareporter.com reported.

"They are the unsung heroes of pollination," Robertson said. "If you look at the diversity and the sheer numbers of moths out there, the other pollinators pale in comparison. So, you're talking about a massive group of animals that probably contribute not just to fruit crops or crops in general ... but to pollination overall. They may just be the most important pollinators as a group."

KENTUCKY

Last year, a monarch butterfly tagged in Kentucky survived a 1,600-mile journey to a sanctuary in Mexico.

According to the [Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources](#), the female monarch was tagged during an event at the Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site in October 2020 and was recovered the following winter at El Rosario Butterfly Preserve in Michoacán, Mexico.

Though massive migrations of monarch butterflies happen every year, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife officials said that this discovery was "rare and exciting."

Of the 600 monarch butterflies that Kentucky Fish and Wildlife officials have tagged over several years, this was the first recovery.

MINNESOTA

The chair of the Minnesota House Environment and Natural Resources Committee introduced a bill that would require all cities to permit native landscapes.

The bill was prompted by a Minnesota Court of Appeals case, in which the court ruled it was illegal for the city of North Mankato to force Edward Borchardt to cut back his trees, bushes and grasses, Minnpost.com reported.

The new bill is considered a next step to the state's Lawns to Legumes program that provides residents with

microgrants and how-to advice to help them convert their lawns into native gardens that support pollinators.

NEVADA and CALIFORNIA

The [Department of the Interior](#) announced it will commit \$348 million for 62 projects dedicated to conservation throughout Nevada and California. Some of these projects include recreation improvement, wildlife habitat conservation, hazardous fuels reduction, wildfire prevention and more.

The sale of public lands under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act provided funding for the projects, including over \$15 million in investments for 15 projects aimed at targeting the states' unprecedented wildfires through hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire prevention.

NEW YORK

The Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee held a public meeting regarding the renewed version of the [Birds and Bees Protection Act](#), which would restrict the use of neonicotinoid pesticides, or neonics. It is the first legislation in the nation that would rein in the use of neonics.

A November 2020 poll showed that 66% of New Yorkers support regulation of neonics, while a recent Cornell University report highlighting the risk of neonics on bee populations prompted the revision, the [Natural Resources Defense Council](#) reported.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania is enhancing its efforts to combat hundreds of nonnative plants, insects and fish.

The plans include collaborating with seven state agencies and 14 non-governmental organizations for coordinated attacks on the threats. It also plans to increase public education about the damage that results from spreading invasive species, and the state legislature may be asked to set fines for citizens and businesses that violate anti-spreading rules.

According to the [Bay Journal](#), the state is adopting a successful model used in New York that prioritizes early detection of invasive species, maintains a database of culprits and sets up regional public-private partnerships to try to stop newly discovered problems in their tracks.

New Directions in the
American Landscape presents its...
Winter Virtual Education Series

Developed by
Larry Weaner

*Registration opens
early December*

NDAL.org

NDAL is an educational series dedicated to the art, culture, & science of ecology-based landscape design. Winter Series featured speakers include **Wambui Ippolito, W. Gary Smith, Claudia Thompson, Larry Weaner, & Thomas Woltz.**

.....

**February -
March, 2022**

"Sharing this actionable
knowledge is crucial for us
now and into the future."

- Kate K., 2021 Winter
Series Attendee

2920 Mt. Carmel Ave.,
Glenside, PA 19038
510-518-0430

info@ndal.org
www.ndal.org



New Directions in the American Landscape
Founded in 1990 by Larry Weaner



MNL

Native Seed & Plant Kits
 Online Store
 Installation Services
 Conservation Grazing
 Tree and Brush Management
 Prescribed Burning
 Vegetation Management


www.MnNativeLandscapes.com (763) 295-0010

Helping to
 Create Critical
 Habitat



NATURAL SHORE
 Native Plant Nursery

NaturalShore.com / 612-703-7581
 Maple Plain, MN






**SPECIALIZING IN CONTAINER GROWN
 NATIVE PLANTS**

**THOMAS
 NURSERY**

931-808-4141

www.thomasnurserytrees.com



NATIVE PRAIRIE GRASS AND WILDFLOWER SEEDS

Native seed mixes for CRP,
 CREP, DOT, BWSR, reclamation,
 residential, commercial,
 and public projects.


SHOOTING STAR
 NATIVE SEEDS

20740 County Rd. 33 • Spring Grove, MN 55974
 507.498.3944 • info@shootingstarnativeseed.com
www.shootingstarnativeseed.com



The couple enjoys seeing white-tailed deer, coyotes and opossums move through their floodplain.

By Amber Brockman

Deb and Ray Rees are beginning to see the fruits of their labor in their third year of restoring a small floodplain woodland in Elgin, Illinois.

The couple bought the almost half-acre plot in 2017, primarily because it backed up to a natural area along a creek and contained many venerable shagbark hickories and white oaks in the subdivision.

At the time, the property had a 5-foot-wide bed of perennials on its border with the lawn backed by a wall of greenery consisting mainly of phragmites, reed canary grass, honeysuckle, buckthorn and privet underneath shagbark hickory, cottonwood, box elder, walnuts and black willow trees.

"In 2018 we realized that phragmites and honeysuckle were fast

taking over this perennial bed and that it would be a big task to keep the floodplain plants out of the bed," Deb said. "That's when we came to the conclusion that native plants would be a better fit."

They hired a professional to mitigate the phragmites and remove the woody invasives, such as honeysuckle, buckthorn, multiflora rose and privet, from the front of the floodplain.

"That was the best decision we ever made," she said. "We returned from a weekend away to see that they had serendipitously cleared the entire area behind our home back to the creek."

The area was transformed into an open floodplain woodland with an overstory of black willow, cottonwood, box elder, walnut and shag-

Member Garden

Deb and Ray Rees
Greater Kane County (Illinois) Chapter

All photos courtesy
Deb & Ray Rees

Editor's Note: We'd like to feature member's 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 journal@wildones.org. Please include your contact information so we can follow up.

bark hickory trees and an understory of dogwood and elderberry.

"This initial clearing of the 'wall of green' encouraged us to set our sights on one, keeping it clear of invasives and two, restoring it to its former glory with a diverse mix of native plants," Deb said.



Above: A rose-breasted grosbeak visits the Rees property. Below: A hummingbird enjoys a cardinal flower, one of the many plants that thrive in their yard.



After invasive removal, the first few years were spent observing what desirable native plants were there already and figuring out what parts of the land tend to be seasonally flooded or stay surprisingly dry.

In the process, they found Jack in the pulpit, orange and yellow jewelweed, tall meadow rue, white violets, purple trillium, bee balm, wood sedge and rudbeckia.

"I spent hours wandering around with the iNaturalist app, and still do, to determine what was native

and what was not," Deb said. "I also started researching plants native to floodplains in our area, attending Greater Kane County Wild Ones meetings and site tours, viewing webinars on all things native and spending considerable time visiting area nature preserves to observe what plants call our area home and what they look like."

With the goal of keeping the 5-foot edge somewhat more manicured in order to fit the aesthetic of the subdivision, they initially seeded

About the Yard

- The couple's almost half-acre plot is located in northeast Illinois. It features a woodland floodplain containing more than 180 types of native trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs, and backs up to a natural area along a creek.
- In this drought year, the two have been watering an ancient shagbark hickory outside their back door to reduce stress on the tree. It has a 90-inch girth and is estimated to be over 215 years old, predating the settlers in the area.
- Deb and Ray intentionally chose low-growing native plants in the perennial border surrounding the house because they are more drought tolerant and eco-friendly, supporting pollinators, birds and wildlife.
- The garden is visited by a wide variety of pollinators, birds and mammals including butterflies, bumblebees, red-tailed and cooper's hawks, yellow-shafted northern flickers, white-tailed deer, coyotes and many more.
- Their garden earned a Conservation@Home certification from The Conservation Foundation for good environmental stewardship and conservation of local resources.

the drier part of the original bed with a woodland mix from Prairie Moon Nursery.

"Several of the plants we so enjoy now were in that initial seed mix including late figwort, American bellflower, hairy woodmint, Virginia wood mint, Jacob's ladder and columbine," she said. "Realizing I was not so good at recognizing seedlings, I then decided that I would start buying plugs through the Wild Ones sales to add to the area."

Now the area also boasts may-apples; wild geraniums; big-leaved, smooth blue and New England asters; purple and orange coneflowers; blue-stemmed, elm-leaved and zig zag goldenrods; merrybells; wild gingers and spikenards among patches of the existing woodland sedge and tall meadow rue.

"We also have a nice patch of wild blue iris we planted near one of the house drains that was near-



From left: Hairy wood mint and tall bellflower back the variety of plants that make up the front edge of woodland; Last spring, Deb and Ray Rees saw a redtail hawk swoop down to grab a snake for a meal in their floodplain. Below: The initial clearing of invasives transformed the garden into an open floodplain woodland with an overstory of black willow, cottonwood, box elder, walnut and shagbark hickory trees and an understory of dogwood and elderberry.

Member Garden

Deb and Ray Rees
Greater Kane County (Illinois) Chapter



ly eradicated one year by a critter eating the rhizomes but is now protected by chicken wire pinned over the area," she said. "We are not sure who the culprit was."

In 2019, the couple utilized the Greater Kane County Wild Ones mentoring program for suggestions to improve the existing border that is seasonally inundated with water.

As a result, they planted the area with fox sedge, swamp milkweed, marsh marigold, cardinal flower, great blue lobelia, common bone-set, common sneezeweed, zig zag goldenrod, Virginia bluebell, Ohio spiderwort, blue vervain, obedient plant and turtlehead.

In a slightly drier border area, they added woodland phlox to the mix.

"This year, for the first time, we've spotted monarch cats (caterpillars) on the milkweed," Deb said. "We were over-the-moon excited to see this."

In 2020, they obtained oak tree saplings from the MillionTrees Project by Living Lands and Water for their subdivision, which was built on an oak/hickory savannah above the floodplain.

"We have many ancient white oaks and shagbark hickories over 200 years old in the subdivision, but continue to lose them due to wind

storms," she said. "We helped plant many swamp white, burr and red oak saplings throughout the subdivision and in our own floodplain restoration area for future generations to enjoy."

This year, their main focus was to work on the back third of the floodplain along the creek's edge, keeping invasives at bay and gathering seeds to spread from wildflowers they want to proliferate.

"Each year it is amazing to watch nature unfold and to find new discoveries," Deb said. "It has been the greatest gift, particularly during COVID-19."

Pandemic delays planting of Illinois school pollinator garden



COVID-19 delayed planting of the Elizabeth Meyer School Pollinator Garden, funded in part by a Wild Ones Seed for Education grant. But the end result was worth the wait.

"It was wonderful for us to have a safe outdoor community project that all could participate in this spring, and we're so happy that we have finally started our garden," said parent volunteer Betsy Seff.

In the year-end report about the Skokie, Illinois garden, Seff wrote that students in pre-K and kindergarten, as well as their siblings, did the planting in May 2021. "We had separate planting days for in-person and remote students," she said, "and it went very smoothly overall. Everyone was excited to get out and plant!"

The Wild Ones grant money was used to purchase seedlings from Red Buffalo Nursery in Richmond, Illinois. The \$500 grant went toward about 20 varieties of native plants, including purple coneflower, pale purple coneflower, swamp milkweed, whorled milkweed, Culver's

root, prairie dropseed, prairie dock, wild geraniums and others.

The school also later planted native seedlings from the Emily Oaks Nature Center plant sale. Those seedlings were all grown from seeds collected on site or from sources not more than 15 miles from the nature center, Seff said.

Parent volunteers donated a sprinkler and a timer to ensure plants were watered regularly so they could become established. All plants were flagged and labeled to help volunteers learn the difference between the plants and the weeds.

"I also made sure to create pathways through the center of the garden, so that eventually students can have the experience of truly being immersed in the planting that will be taller than they are," Seff wrote, noting that some pathways are wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs.

The school also holds monthly weeding workdays with parents and students, she said.



Clockwise from top left: For some of the students, getting the seedlings out of the pots was the most difficult part of planting the school pollinator garden; A student holds up a picture of a flower and insect she saw in the school garden; Due to the pandemic, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten-aged children of Elizabeth Meyer School were finally able to plant their native plant seedlings in May 2021. All photos courtesy Betsy Seff

Cason & ASSOCIATES, LLC

LAND & WATER MANAGERS



We can help you! Cason & Associates offers services to improve the habitat on your property:

- Wildlife Pond Construction
- Trout Stream Improvement
- Forestry Management
- Wetland Restoration
- Wildlife Plantings
- Prairie Planting
- Brush Mowing

Contact us to learn more!

Do You Own Land? Want to improve hunting and fishing on your land?

877-309-8408

www.casonassociates.com



PRAIRIE MOON
NURSERY®
SINCE 1982



THE LARGEST SELECTION OF NATIVE PLANTS

prairiemoon.com • 507-452-1362

Join Wild Ones!

Go to

wildones.org/register

Pick the membership level that's right for you.



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

it's
easy
to do.



Rising from the Piers: Brooklyn Bridge Park

By Matthew Ross

While New York City is often known as being the birthplace of trends in fashion, culture and dining, it is also a global hub for just about everything. Horticulture is no exception as it has spearheaded innovation for several centuries from the historic precedent of [Elgin Botanic Garden](#), to the [New York Botanical Garden](#) and the [Bronx Zoo](#), to modern trailblazing gardens like [The High Line](#).

But while it may not always capture the headlines, [Brooklyn Bridge Park](#) has been a pillar in urban renewal, and despite winning several awards and accolades, it remains less celebrated by native plant enthusiasts.

Situated on the historic piers of the Brooklyn waterfront, the park has been an evolving landscape and place of commerce since the earliest days of New Amsterdam and the evolution of the nation's largest city.

Above: Looking back at the continuous evolution and development of the properties overlooking the park on the Brooklyn shoreline. Below: Passages throughout the park transport visitors from the once abandoned shipping piers to a vibrant tunnel through a growing canopy created with the planting of over 3,000 trees.

The piers, now home to more than an 80-acre public park, were once the epicenter of water transportation along the East River and a bustling hub of commerce. Its transformative story is outlined on the Brooklyn Bridge Park website, which catalogs the [historical timeline and recent redevelopments](#). The master plan for the gardens was developed by [Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates](#) and its groundbreaking was held in 2008. Open for just over a decade, the park has welcomed millions of visitors and has a vibrant environmental education program.

Blending recreation and sports with ecology and community programming is what has made the park an overwhelming success. It offers moments of tranquility and calm underneath the stately architecture



of the Brooklyn Bridge and brings much needed life to the previously vacant shoreline. I have had the pleasure of visiting the gardens several times over the past seven years and have been amazed at how quickly and seamlessly the native vegetation has brought life to the area. A true testament to the philosophy of if you build it, they will come does not just apply to guests and tourists, but also to migratory birds, a myriad of insects and a host of other small fauna. The horticulture staff has been conducting research on the spectrum of bees, *Lepidopteran* species and birds that they have ob-

served in the park and openly share their data. From organized Bioblitzes to utilizing iNaturalist, the garden's staff has identified a plethora of species from *Megachile rotundata* or the alfalfa leafcutting bee to the *Pyrrharctia Isabella* or Isabella tiger moth.

While the average guest may not recognize it, the gardens within the park are a showcase of our native flora. With more than 3,000 trees, an incredible salt marsh, green roofs and an inventive mix of shrubs and forbs throughout the garden, the entire plant list of species is posted online and easily sorted by location.

While many gardens focus on the more charismatic and commercially available species, BBP has done a great job of sourcing and caring for many of the ecological important species that may not always grab the spotlight. I was fortunate to have Director of Horticulture Rebecca McMackin walk through the gardens with me during my first trip to see its development. She shared their organic approach to maintenance, told stories of spotting rare and endangered species for the first time, and delighted in the impact the garden has had on inspiring others to rethink their own home landscaping.

You would be hard-pressed to find a more holistic approach to urban renewal and dedication to the recreation of wetlands and shoreline habitat than at BBP. Spanning over 1.3 miles, it is flush with seasonal blooms, functional marshes and a growing canopy. Beyond the native plantings, the park is also committed to salvage, reuse and sustainability; many of the features that you will notice as seating, furniture and walls are from reclaimed materials. It also is home to the most picturesque location to capture sunset at the Pier 1 Salt Marsh, offering a low angle view from under the Brooklyn Bridge and an incredible reflection amongst the wooden piers visible only at low tide.

If you haven't visited NYC in a while, I'd highly recommend adding Brooklyn Bridge Park to your list of destinations, which should also include the nearby Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Brooklyn Grange Farm, all which provide moments of solitude and reflection in a city that never sleeps. *Matthew Ross, coordinator of continuing education at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, is a Wild Ones Partner At Large and has served on the national board since 2017.*

Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) and groundsel tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*) provide the perfect late season interest and mirror the stunning architecture of mid-town Manhattan.





Trees in American history: A quick look

Cindy Crosby

By Cindy Crosby

As a child, I loved to climb a straight-trunked sweetgum tree in our family's front yard. There, in the tree's aromatic leaves – away from my parents and siblings – I found a little oasis of solitude. I can't pass a sweetgum tree today without feeling a shot of happiness, remembering that time.

My maternal grandmother taught me the name of the tree with heart-shaped leaves. *Redbud*. My other grandmother laid sheets under her American persimmon tree each fall to catch the ripe, frost-touched fruit that she made into persimmon puddings. Sneaking a taste of a slightly unripe persimmon puckered my mouth for hours.

I cherish the tree stories that shaped my life. Think about your own tree stories. How have trees

White oaks, like this one covered in snow, are threatened today by oak wilt and sudden oak death.

changed the way you see the world?

Trees have not only shaped our lives, they have formed our nation. From our language, which contains such words as “bank branches” and “going out on a limb,” to the crack of a World Series’ ash baseball bat and to maple syrup on our pancakes, trees are an indelible part of our history. Trees have shaped our politics, our literature, our music and our thinking. The story of trees in America is one of joy and heartache, beauty and utility, inspiration and conservation.

In the beginning

Native Americans who lived in forest regions knew trees were one of our greatest resources. The paper birch was a staple for tribes such as the Ojibwe, crafting shelters, cookware and canoes from the bark. In

her book, “Braiding Sweetgrass,” Potawatomi tribe member Robin Kimmerer writes of using black ash trees to make woven baskets. “The tree gave its life for the basket you made. In turn, you must make something beautiful of it,” she writes. Indigenous people, the original founders of our country, knew that trees were essential to life itself.

The first European settlers to hit the shores of the East Coast delighted at the sight of 150-plus-foot-tall white pine trees. England was in the heyday of marine exploration, and the white pines provided perfect masts for ships, filling a critical void for a country that had cut its old-growth timber. Soon, British monarchs demanded the best white pines, no matter whose property they grew on.



Did this tree greed contribute to the growing unrest in the colonies? Probably! The colonists rebelled against England, and fought the American Revolutionary War under a flag with a white pine symbol.

Trees as symbols

Just as white pines transcended their status as a utility species to become something symbolically greater, elms are another species that took on symbolic importance in our history. According to the book, *“Republic of Shade,”* newlyweds planted a pair of “bridal elms” on each side of the walk leading to their front door to symbolize their commitment. Although bridal elms are a relic of the past, planting a tree to celebrate a special occasion is something many families still do today.

Trees are not always positive symbols. Consider the poem-turned song “Strange Fruit” about lynchings. “Black body swinging in the Southern breeze, Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees...” The song was most memorably performed by Billie Holiday in 1939. Today, some Black Americans like Rue Mapp, founder and CEO of the Outdoor

Afro program, look to the redwood tree as a symbol of resilience and persistence in the midst of violence.

Trees and identity

As a new country was founded and settlers pushed west, trees became part of our national identity. Literature popularized the rustic backwoodsman of the unexplored forests and tapped into our longing for adventure and self-reliance. In contrast, writers such as Henry David Thoreau (“I went to the woods...”) and John Muir viewed trees through the lens of transcendentalism, using terms such as “cathedral” and “pristine” to describe woodlands. “The clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness,” wrote Muir, a saying which is widely co-opted for T-shirts, posters and greeting cards today.

But trees were first and foremost utility trees. Oaks played a starring role in our nation as “Manifest Destiny” – a term coined in 1845 in the belief our nation’s fate was to span the continent – called for railroads. In *“American Canopy,”* Rutkow shares how oak railroad ties connected the railroad lines that bridged

A group hikes through the woods. Studies show that being outdoors in nature helps to lower blood pressure and get people in touch with their own internal landscape.

the East and West coasts. To make one railroad crosstie took a single oak tree, writes Rutkow, and each mile of track took 2,500 ties. Each tie lasted only five years.

You do the math. It’s not difficult to see how quickly our old-growth forests disappeared.

With the rapid clear-cutting of trees in mind, the U.S. Division of Forestry was created in 1881 and renamed the Bureau of Forestry in 1901. Trees were recognized as an important – but exhaustible – resource. Theodore Roosevelt led conservation of large tracts of treescapes with the “Midnight forests” Act in 1907, which helped establish more than 20 forest preserves and enlarge established ones.

So, were trees a utilitarian resource in the eyes of the American people? A cathedral? A symbol? Trees seemed to be all of these, and more.

Losing our trees

It’s difficult to imagine a world without trees. But, looking at the past 100-plus years, we grieve the losses of important tree species in numbers beyond comprehension. In 1904, chestnut blight swept through our forests, with the loss of 3-4 billion trees. Dutch elm disease, which entered our country in 1930, cost us America’s favorite street tree and

Our fascination with trees can be seen by the many books on that topic.



taught us lessons about the importance of biodiversity. The recent decimation of ash trees became a part of my personal history as my large subdivision in the Chicago suburbs, lined with ash trees planted in the 1960s, was denuded after the onslaught of the emerald ash borer.

With oak wilt and sudden oak death making inroads into our forests today, we look to researchers to help us avoid future losses. When we lost two ash trees in front of our house, I purchased an Accolade elm to replace one of them. The Accolade is one of several elms developed by The Morton Arboretum's researchers that resists Dutch elm disease and can be seen today planted in downtown Chicago. Perhaps the future will include new types of American chestnuts and ash trees as well.

Trees and our future

Trees continue to permeate every aspect of our lives. We listen to music like the golden oldie, "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree," and read Pulitzer Prize winning books such as Richard Powers' "The Overstory." We admire trees for their carbon sequestration, which may help slow climate change. We celebrate Arbor Day in April, often by planting a tree. When we plant a tree, we consider diversity and how that tree might support birds and the pollinators upon which our food web depends.

When the World Trade Center towers fell on Sept. 11, 2001, much was made of the "Survivor Tree," a lone tree that somehow lived through the chaos in the shadow of the towers. The tree became a symbol of resilience and rebirth. How ironic, perhaps, that this tree is a Callery pear, a species that conservationists revile for its invasive tendencies. This tree species, and other garden ornamentals that have nostalgic and aesthetic value, will be subject to discussion and debate for years to come.

How will the trees we love continue to shape a nation? The future is unclear. As Wild Ones, we continue to learn about trees and manage our home landscapes with the most up-to-date information we have. We



The emerald ash borer (EAB) damages trees by tunneling underneath the bark of the tree and laying eggs or larvae. A close inspection can sometimes reveal a "D" shaped hole in bark where EAB exits.

read how trees support each other (Suzanne Simard in "Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest") or "talk" with one another (Peter Wohlleben's "The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How they Communicate"). We discover how forest bathing and forest therapy can help us help us lower our blood pressure and get in touch with our internal landscape. Trees shade our homes and cool a warming world.

In her poem, "When I am Among the Trees," the late Mary Oliver wrote that the trees saved her daily. In "I Go Among Trees," Wendell Berry tells us he sits still among the trees and his fear leaves him. In the midst of a pandemic, these are powerful words. Poets like these – and Wild Ones, gardeners, researchers and conservationists –

will continue to shape our relationship with trees in years to come. By understanding our past history with trees, we are better able to plan for the future.

Cindy Crosby is a member of the Greater DuPage (Illinois) Chapter of Wild Ones and presents an hour-long program, "A Brief History of Trees in America" for Wild Ones chapters, conservation groups and garden clubs. She is the author or contributor to more than 20 books, and lives in the Chicago region. Visit her website www.cindycrosby.com for more information.

Got tree questions? Email the Morton Arboretum Plant Clinic at plantclinic@mortonarb.org with your photos and questions, or call them at 630-719-2424. You can also visit them at <https://mortonarb.org/plant-and-protect/expert-advice>.



Izel Native Plants

Every Plant Counts. Grow Natives.



From quarts, to retail-elusive plugs, we offer cost effective ways to cover a lot of ground.

Easily find which species are best suited to your specific needs, from the most popular to the rare & hard to find ones.

==== izelplants.com =====



Roundstone Native Seed LLC
We have the Seeds you Need

Contact us for a free quote

888.531.2353

sales@roundstoneseed.com

9764 Raider Hollow Road
Upton KY 42784



At Prairie Nursery we believe that the best gardens and landscapes, created for more than human pleasure, are places where life flourishes and all creatures prosper.

Our wide selection of native shrubs, ferns, wildflowers, grasses and sedges has helped inspire biodiverse gardens and landscape restoration for more than 40 years.



PRAIRIE NURSERY

PrairieNursery.com

Restoring the native landscape



<https://bit.ly/ErnstWildOnes>



800 - 873 - 3321
sales@ernstseed.com



East Michigan
Native Plants LLC

Licensed & Inspected Growers
of Pesticide-Free Michigan
Native Wildflowers & Grasses
for Gardening, Education &
Restoration



810-333-7501

EastMichNatives.com

info@EastMichNatives.com

facebook.com/EastMichNatives
instagram.com/EastMichNatives



Prairie Seed Source

P.O. Box 85, North Lake
Wisconsin 53064-0083

Over 170 species from
southeastern Wis. prairies

PLEASE SEND \$1 FOR
SEED CATALOG!

Bob Ahrenhoerster,
Prairie Restoration Specialist

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
www.prairiebob.com

Amanda's Native Garden

8030 Story Rd. • Dansville, NY • 14437

585-750-6288 • amandasnativeplants.com

ellen@amandasnativeplants.com



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



We only ship to Northeastern U.S.

Join Wild Ones!

Go to

wildones.org/register

Pick the membership level that's right for you.



Please support our business members who support our organization

ARKANSAS

Holland Wildflower Farm

290 O'Neal Lane
Elkins, AR 72727
info@hollandwildflowerfarm.com
<https://hollandwildflowerfarm.com>

COLORADO

All Beings Ecoscapes LLC

3660 Holly St.
Denver, CO 80207
caleb@allbeingsecoscapescapes.com
<https://allbeingsecoscapescapes.com>

Earth Love Gardens

1905 15th St., #4873
Boulder, CO 80302
aaron@earthlovegardens.com
<https://www.earthlovegardens.com>

CONNECTICUT

New England Pollinator Gardens

3 Park Side Drive
Lyme, CT 06371
newenglandpollinatorgardens@gmail.com
<https://www.newenglandpollinatorgardens.com>

Wild Acre Farms

P.O. Box 721
New London, CT 06320
skconsultingcc@gmail.com

Wildscape Artisans

44 Fairview Drive
Wethersfield, CT 06109
Ted Johnson
ted.braziler@gmail.com

GEORGIA

Backyard Wildlife Habitats LLC

165 Austin Drive
Athens, GA 30606
backyardwildlifehabitats@gmail.com
<https://www.backyardwildlifehabitatsga.com>

ILLINOIS

Dig Right In Landscaping

9900 Derby Lane
Westchester, IL 60154
jeff@digrightin.com
<https://www.digrightin.com>

Midwest Groundcovers, LLC & Natural Garden Natives

6N800 Illinois Route 25
P.O. Box 748
St. Charles, IL 60174
mgsales@midwestgroundcovers.com
<https://www.midwestgroundcovers.com>

Possibility Place Nursery

548 W Monee Manhattan Road
Monee, IL 60449
terry@possibilityplace.com
<https://www.possibilityplace.com/>

Red Stem Native Landscapes

1255 W. Winona St.
Chicago, IL 60640
monica@redstemlandscapes.com
<https://www.redstemlandscapes.com/>

Spirited Gardener, Inc

1627 Cleveland St.
Evanston, IL 60202
spiritedgardener@gmail.com
<https://www.spiritedgardener.com/>

The Growing Place

25W471 Plank Road
Naperville, IL 60563
grow@thegrowingplace.com
<https://www.thegrowingplace.com/>

KENTUCKY

Fields to Forest

3374 Briar Hill Road
Lexington, KY 40516
annwhitney_garner@yahoo.com

MARYLAND

Native By Design

17817 Hollingsworth Drive
Derwood, MD 20855
Lauren Hubbard
laurenhubbard100@gmail.com

MICHIGAN

Creating Sustainable Landscapes

24291 Homestead Court
Novi, MI 48374
dlathin@gmail.com
<https://creatingsustainablelandscapes.com/>

East Michigan Native Plants

5320 S. New Lothrop Road
Durand, MI 48429
angela@eastmichnatives.com
<https://eastmichnatives.com/>

Folklore Botanical

2957 Giddins SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
dragonfly3931@gmail.com
<https://folklorebotanical.com/>

Four Season Nursery

7557 Harry's Road
Traverse City, MI 49684
FSN7557@aol.com
<https://www.fourseasonnurserytc.com>

Inner/Outer Services

424 Little Lake Dr. #16
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
innerouterservices@gmail.com

WILDTYPE Native Plant Nursery Ltd.

900 N. Every Road
Mason, MI 48854
wildtypeplants@gmail.com
<https://www.wildtypeplants.com/>

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS WHO SUPPORT OUR ORGANIZATION

MINNESOTA

Ecoscape Sustainable Landscaping and Native Nursery
25755 Zachary Ave.
Elko, MN 55020
Craig.stark1@gmail.com
<http://www.ecoscapes1.com/>

Minnesota Native Landscapes

8740 77th St. NE
Otsego, MN 55362
Amy.schaffer@MNLcorp.com
<https://mnnativelandscapes.com/>

Morning Sky Greenery

44804 E. Highway 28
Morris, MN 56267
info@morningskygreenery.com
<https://www.morningskygreenery.com>

Prairie Moon Nursery

32115 Prairie Lane
Winona, MN 55987
gail@prairiemoon.com
<https://www.prairiemoon.com/>

MISSOURI

Garden Edit

511 W. Polo Drive
St. Louis, MO 63105
gardeneditstl@gmail.com
<https://www.gardeneditstl.com/>

Missouri Wildflowers Nursery LLC

9814 Pleasant Hill Road
Jefferson City, MO 65109
mowldflrs@socket.net
<https://mowldflowers-net.3dcart-stores.com/>

St. Louis Native Plants

3910 Connecticut St.
St. Louis, MO 63116
Svdr1@sbcglobal.net
<http://stlouisnativeplants.com/>

NEW JERSEY

Aster Plans

12 Walker Ave.
Morristown, NJ 07960
carolle@asterplans.com
<https://www.asterplans.com/>

NEW MEXICO

Waterwise Gardening, LLC

2902 Rufina St. Unit A
Sante Fe, NM 85707
david.salman@highcountrygardens.com
<https://www.waterwisegardening.com/>

NEW YORK

Amanda's Garden

8030 Story Road
Danville, NY 14437
amandasgarden@frontiernet.net
<https://www.amandasnativeplants.com/>

Butterfly Effect

356 Washington St.
Geneva, NY 14456
butterflyeffectplants@gmail.com
<https://www.butterflyeffectplants.com/>

OHIO

Ohio Native Growers

1655 N County Road 605
Sunbury, OH 43074
leavesforwildlife@yahoo.com
<https://ohionativegrowers.org/>

Plant Natives LLC

2501 Chagrin Drive
Willoughby Hills, OH 44094
josh@plantitnativeohio.com
<https://plantitnativeohio.com/>

Scioto Gardens Nursery

3351 State Route 37 West
Delaware, OH 43015
folks@sciotogardens.com
<https://sciotogardens.com>

PENNSYLVANIA

Arcadia Natives

2273 South Main Street Extension
Washington, PA 15301
arcadianatives@gmail.com
<https://www.arcadianatives.com/>

Ernst Conservation Seeds

8884 Mercer Pike
Meadville, PA 16335
ayshea@ernstseed.com
<https://www.ernstseed.com/>

PittMoss

2603 Duss Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15003
info@pittmoss.com
<https://pittmoss.com/>

Redbud Native Plant Nursery

904 N Providence Road
Media, PA 19063
info@redbudnative.com
<https://redbudnative.com/>

The Weed Lady PGH

205 Emerson Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15215
Rachel@theweekladyph.com
<https://www.theweeklady.com/>

TENNESSEE

Bleeding Heart Landscaping

1316 McChesey Ave.
Nashville, TN 37216
bleedinghearthome@gmail.com
<https://bleedinghearthome.com/>

Thomas Nursery Inc.

461 Wilson Newby Road
McMinnville, TN 37110
Vincent Thomas
thomasnsy@msn.com

Walter G. George Soil Consultants

841 Blissfield Court
Chattanooga, TN 37419
wggsoil@aol.com
<https://www.waltgeorgesoi.com/>

WISCONSIN

Cason & Associates LLC

P.O. Box 230
Berlin, WI 54923
chadcason@casonassociates.com
<https://casonassociates.com/>

Formecology LLC

210 Cemetery Road
Evansville, WI 53536
John.g@formecology.com
<https://formecology.com/>

Good Oak Ecological Services

4606 Pflaum Road, Unit A
Madison, WI 53718
frank.hassler@gmail.com
<https://www.goodoak.com/>

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS WHO SUPPORT OUR ORGANIZATION

Hickory Road Gardens

140271 Saturn Road
Mosinee, WI 54455
brayherb@mtc.net

Kerry Taste and Nutrition

3400 Millington Road
Beloit, WI 53511
Abigail.Bukowski@kerry.com
<https://www.kerry.com/>

NES Ecological Services

1250 Centennial Centre Blvd.
Hobart, WI 54155
jhavel@releeinc.com
<http://neswi.com/>

Northern Native Plantscapes

25350 S. Garden Ave.
Cable, WI 54821
florabee@hotmail.com

Quercus Land Stewardship

4681 County Road JJ
Black Earth, WI 53515
aewenthe@gmail.com
<https://quercuslandstewardship.com>

Second Nature Landscape Services LLC

1404 E. 10th St.
Merrill, WI 54452
sandystoneman81@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/Second-NatureLandscapeServicesLlc/>

Wild Birds Unlimited

2285 S. Oneida St., Suite D
Green Bay, WI 54304
wbugreenbay@gmail.com
<https://www.wbu.com/>

NEW AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Mitchell Groenhof

E13701 Levee Road
Baraboo, WI, 53913
mitchell@aldoleopold.org
Madison

Kelly Riker

855 Munhall Ave., Unit A
St Charles, IL ,60174
Kelly.riker@hushmail.com
Greater Kane County

Melville Kennedy

8068 Kensington Blvd., Apt 193
Davison, MI 48423-2914
mkenedy60@charter.net
North Oakland

Linda Bulla

1245 Stillwater Parkway
Crown Point, IN 46307-5066
linda.bulla@hotmail.com
Gibson Woods

Donna Baker-Breningstall

2474 South Jackson St.
Denver, CO 80210
bakebren@comcast.net
Front Range

Ann Litrel

807 Bermuda Run
Woodstock, GA 30189
Ann@annlitrel.com
Georgia Piedmont (Seedling)

Maureen Ruben

7767 Park Ave.
Holland Patent, NY 13354
Pfmruben@yahoo.com
Mohawk Valley

Shana Byrd

7770 Jacksontown Road SE
Newark, OH 43056-9380
sbyrd@dawesarb.org
Columbus

Marilyn Trent

114 E. Second St.
Rochester, MI 48307
pollinators@trentcreative.com
North Oakland

RENEWING AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Danielle Bell

5451 N. 24th St.
Glendale, WI 53209
dgoodrich310@gmail.com
Menomonee River Area

Gayle Lohmar

2850 29th St. #103
Boulder, CO, 80301
wateritwithlove@gmail.com
Front Range

Margot Monson

22 Ludlow Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108
mpmonson.insx@gmail.com
Big River Big Woods

Louise Engelstad

4473 Glenwood Drive
Bozeman, MT 59718
louisee35@gmail.com
Partner At Large

Michele Shafer

305 Margaret St.
East Lansing, MI 48823
camlshafer@att.net
Red Cedar

Jessica Hagen

750 Howard St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
jessica@themontessorischool.org
Kalamazoo Area

Marcia Riquelme

3953 Finch Trail
Deforest, WI, 53532
mom.pazyarte@gmail.com
Madison



DOLLY SODS, A MASTERPIECE AMONG NATURE'S MASTERPIECES



Not all of nature's plant combinations can be easily recreated. Some ecosystems are so unique and dependent on so many intricate relationships that they can only be admired. They are a valuable source of inspiration to those dedicated to native plants and are akin to viewing masterpieces in an art museum.



Early fall on a beautiful, foggy day, the Izel Native Plants team set out to visit Dolly Sods, WV. The views were awe-inspiring and the experience was mystical. There's nothing like a nature hike to remind us of why we do what we do, and we encourage you to do the same. Our batteries are fully charged! [READ MORE ON OUR BLOG](#)



Now taking advance orders for spring 2022

Q & A with Heather Holm

All photos by Heather Holm

Wild Ones Honorary Director Heather Holm shared from her new book, "WASPS," in a Wild Ones webinar that had 833 live attendees.

A biologist, pollinator conservationist and award-winning author, Holm ran out of time to answer all the questions attendees had during the Oct. 21 webinar, so she's answered many of those questions below.

If you missed the presentation, you can still watch her talk, which is available on the [Wild Ones website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

Q: How are nests ruined when people walk on sand?

A: *It's common for people to walk on solitary bee and wasp nests. The entrance usually collapses, but the female will quickly reopen it if inside or when she returns.*

Q: What about the male wasps? Do they have short lives and live mostly to mate?

A: *Yes, like solitary bees, solitary wasp males have short lives as adults.*

Q: Where do wasps overwinter?

A: *Paper wasp females (foundresses) overwinter in a variety of spots providing some insulation. One common place that people frequently find overwintering aggregations is in large crevices in rock walls.*

Q: Will wasps eat brown marmorated stink bugs?

A: *Yes! The four-banded sand wasp (*Bicyrtes quadrfasciatus*) preys on brown marmorated stink bugs.*

Q: I had bald-faced hornets make a nest on the overhang above my garage. We coexisted peacefully all summer and now they are gone. I know all but the new queens have died, but how many new queens usually go off to overwinter some-



where? Also do they die in the nests?

A: *The number of new queens produced in a nest can be quite variable and not all survive hibernation. The new queens overwinter singly, often under logs lying on the ground.*

Q: Why don't paralyzed caterpillars starve?

A: *The caterpillar prey are only alive for a week at most after being stung by the wasp and then are fed to the larvae. The paralysis that results from*

being stung likely causes physiological changes in the caterpillar (cellular level) that keeps it alive long enough before the caterpillar would succumb to lack of feeding.

Q: If I need to remove a wasp nest, when is the best time?

A: *The best time is early in the spring (just after the nest has been initiated) when it's small and occupied only by a few females. The nests are annual so if you discover one late in the summer, it's easier to wait until the end of the growing season than risk removing it when it's at peak activity.*

Q: What can we offer to grass-carrying wasps in lieu of our storm-window tracks? (Window-track nesting, when the window has to be opened, ends up with destruction or damage to the egg cells and the wasp's "stocked" provisions.)

A: *Grass-carrying wasps will use supplemental cavity nests (bundles of hollow stems), 1/2" holes in wood.*

Q: I have heard of wasps being used to control other insect species, such as reducing populations of moths, in museum settings. I think one would have to be very careful introducing one insect species into a museum setting to control another. Do you have any experience with this?

A: *No, I don't. As you stated, introducing any kind of biocontrol has its risks.*

Q: Do people walking on paths harm the wasp burrows that are in the ground?

A: *It's possible for the wasps that nest in loose sand. I would imagine the burrows could get crushed since they can be quite shallow.*



The four-banded stink bug wasp (*Bicyrtes Quadrfasciatus*) preys on brown marmorated stink bugs.

Q: I have noticed that wasps love seed fennel when it flowers, and it seems to turn them into very happy little teddy bears. Is there something in the fennel pollen that actually calms them, or are they simply so content they don't care to bother people?

A: Wasps do like carrot family flowers such as fennel! Any insect at the 'restaurant' is usually quite calm. Aggressiveness occurs around the nest (social wasps).

Q: I thought *Vespula* do not use the same nest year over year. I had a very active nest in the same spot as last year. Is this common?

A: *Vespula* nests are annual, but the new queens produced in the nest that overwinter may establish a nest very close to their natal nest. Raccoons often dig up *Vespula* nests to feed on the larvae.

Q: There was an image comparing a bee and wasp nest, with multiple cells. It would seem that the first cells to be filled will hatch and mature first. But they would then need to work their way through still-maturing cells to exit the nest. Is that the case?

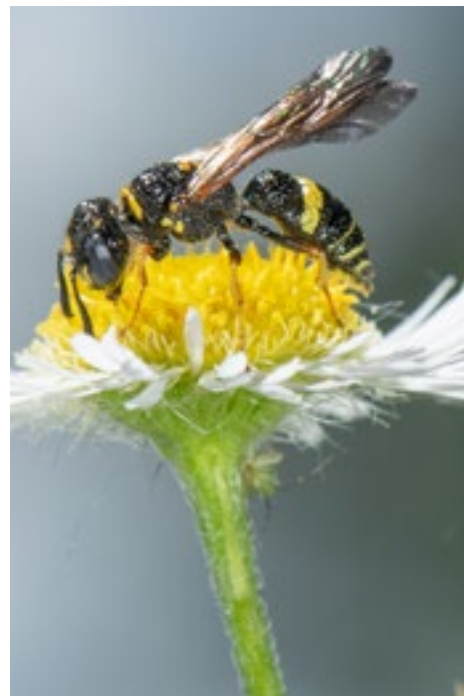
A: These solitary cavity nests typically have females developing at the back (dead end) and males closer to the front. Females are provided more food than males so their development time is a little longer than that of males.

Q: I didn't know mason wasps used pithy stems, as well as hollow stems. Do they remove the pith similar to a ground nesting wasp's excavation habit?

A: That has been poorly documented, but it's likely they chew out the pith like some solitary bees would.

Q: Does the crevice mason wasp actually create holes in concrete? Or does it use ones that it finds?

A: The crevice mason wasps uses preexisting holes or crevices.



Left: *Spheg ichneumoneus*, known commonly as the great golden digger wasp or great golden sand digger, is native from Canada to South America. Right: *Philanthus gibbosus* is commonly referred to as a beewolf due to its predation practices.

Q: Which types of wasps tend to find bee/insect hotels attractive for nesting?

A: Mason wasps (subfamily Eumeninae) and grass-carrying wasps are common residents in bee hotels.

Q: What happens to wasps in the winter?

A: Social wasp females (new queens) overwinter as adults; solitary wasps overwinter in some development stage (prepupae, pupae or adult) in their natal nest.

Q: Do wasps consume monarch caterpillars?

A: Paper wasps may hunt monarch caterpillars. One introduced species, European paper wasp, is a threat to monarch caterpillars. The native paper wasps hunt a variety of caterpillars.

Q: For garden paths, would arborist wood chips over mud support the most wasps and bees? Or would sand paths or grass be best to support the most wasps and bees?

A: Open sand would be ideal, but that may not be the best option from the gardener's perspective.

Q: Are most wasps like bees in that they're too busy getting food to pay attention to you?

A: Yes! Most are solitary so they don't have negative interactions with people.

Q: How can you discourage *Vespa crabro* since they hunt bumblebees among my flowers?

A: If you find a nest, contact a professional to destroy the nest. It's much more difficult to control them visiting flowering plants.

Q: Will ground nesters survive prescribed burns?

A: If the fire is not too hot (controlled burn), then most ground nests (wasps or bees) go unharmed. Wildfires, being so intense and hot, would likely harm nests.

Q: Many pesky yellow jackets I have encountered near picnics can be swatted and don't sting. Is this unusual?

A: Many are likely males (lack a sting) that are attracted to sugary substances at the picnic.

Meet the Wild Ones staff

With a growing number of Wild Ones staff members, we wanted our members to have a chance to get to know us!

Have a question or need support? Email us at support@wildones.org or click the support button on the lower right corner of any wildones.org page. This will ensure that your message will get to the correct recipient.



Jen Ainsworth, Executive Director

Jen Ainsworth is responsible for accomplishing Wild Ones' mission through management of staff, national programs, fundraising, chapter and membership development and partnerships with other organizations. She has more than 10 years of nonprofit management experience in business operations, project management and continuous improvement. Jen graduated from Fox Valley Technical College with an associate degree in business management with a specialty and green belt certification in Lean and Six Sigma.



Rachel Checolinski, Membership Coordinator

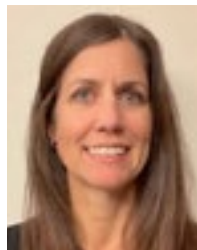
Rachel Checolinski is responsible for supporting Wild Ones members and donors by maintaining membership records, renewal systems, membership communications, membership benefits and membership program activities. Rachel has more than seven years of administrative assistant experience in a wide range of fields. She has provided mentorship to students and women in volunteer roles in agencies in her local community. She is currently working on her bachelor's degree in criminal justice and hopes to graduate with her bachelor's and

master's degrees in social work by the end of 2022.



Katie Huebner, Mission Manager

Katie Huebner is responsible for advancing Wild Ones' mission-related communications and programs for both members and the public. Katie has more than nine years of nonprofit experience and has worked for more than 13 years in the marketing and communications field. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stout in technical communication with a minor in journalism.



Cara Nagy, Administrative Assistant

Cara Nagy is responsible for supporting Wild Ones by performing a wide range of clerical and administrative tasks and projects. Cara has a background in office operations with 13 years' work experience as the office manager at a family owned business. She holds a bachelor's degree from UW-Stevens Point in business administration and a master's degree in counseling from Lakeland University. Cara has served the community in the mental health field for six years and has also been involved in a variety of organizations in a volunteer capacity.



Lisa Olsen, Chapter Liaison

Lisa Olsen is responsible for the development and operations of Wild Ones chapters in service to Wild Ones' members, mission and the broader community. Lisa has more than 25 years of customer service experience and has volunteered for several

conservation organizations, with a focus on environmental education and engagement. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California Santa Cruz in literature and is a Colorado Native Plant Master and Certified Nursery Professional.

Wild Ones needs go beyond our staff; below are few additional folks you should know who are critical to Wild Ones' operations and programming. These individuals have been contracted to support our important work.



Accounting and Bookkeeping Services provided by Nonprofit Bookkeeping

Jeremy Van Groll and Jessica Gummerus are responsible for Wild Ones accounting and bookkeeping, tax filing and Wild Ones state registrations.



Journal Publications

Barbara A. Schmitz is the Journal editor and Kevin Rau is the Journal designer. Together, they are responsible for the assembly and design of the Wild Ones quarterly publication.



Website and Technology Support

David Kryzaniak, an independent IT contractor, is responsible for maintaining all wildones.org websites, technology support and membership account sites.

Going native not only benefits nature, but also your immune system, life longevity

By Emily Roberson

Studies continue to demonstrate the substantial benefits to physical and mental health that accrue from expanding urban green spaces, particularly using native plants.

A study published in October 2020 by the Natural Resources Institute of Finland showed that the immune systems of children at daycare centers improved when the biological diversity at the centers increased. Diversity was increased by simple measures such as adding forest undergrowth, turf and planter boxes to the yards of urban daycare centers. Measurable improvements to children's immune health were found after as little as one month.

Many studies had previously found that children who live in rural areas and who are in contact with native plants and nature have a lower probability of developing immune system disorders such as asthma. This is the first time the phenomenon has been documented in urban daycare centers.

This research provides further support for the hygiene and biodiversity hypotheses. These theories state that children living in a more floristically and biologically diverse environment develop more robust immune systems. Their immune systems are strengthened through contact with the more diverse microorganisms that biodiverse environments support.

In another example involving urban parks, a report was published in November 2020 by the University of California Los Angeles in cooperation with the Prevention Institute for



Photo by Ken Greshowak

A boy puckers in surprise as a monarch butterfly lands on his head. New studies are showing benefits to both mental and physical health by expanding green spaces, particularly when adding native plants that many pollinators depend on.

health equity and an advisory board of community-based organizations. They found that high quality urban green spaces help people live longer. The study examined life expectancy in Los Angeles County neighborhoods with varying levels of access to well-maintained parks and green infrastructure.

The UCLA report found, unsur-

prisingly, that low-income communities and communities of color have significantly lower access to green spaces and significantly lower life expectancy. High quality green spaces were found to be disproportionately located in wealthy neighborhoods.

Other key findings include:

- More than 50% of Los Angeles County's 10 million residents live

in neighborhoods that rank as “high park need” or “very high park need.” Most of these high-need areas are concentrated in low-income communities of color.

- Increasing park acreage in areas with park deficits and low levels of tree canopy has the potential to considerably increase life expectancy in those areas.

- If all the census tracts in LA County with park deficits and low tree canopy levels had an increase in park acreage up to the county’s median level, those census tracts could see a gain of approximately 164,700 years in life expectancy across the population.

Of course, green infrastructure also sequesters millions of tons of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses, as well as moderates local climates.

Relatively few studies of the effect of green spaces on public health specifically examine the impacts of native vs. nonnative plants. However, those that do report that locally adapted native plants are more effective at providing habitat for the diverse microorganisms that are most helpful to immune systems. Childhood immune systems are particularly at risk in low-income communities of color.

Native plants also provide other benefits, such as vital habitat corridors for local pollinators, songbirds and other wildlife, and resilience in the face of storms, floods and other natural disasters.

Emily B. Roberson is director of the Native Plant Conservation Campaign. She holds a bachelor’s degree in plant ecology from Harvard University, a master’s degree in soil

science from UC Davis, and a Ph.D. in soil microbial ecology from UC Berkeley.

Read more

“More Parks, Longer Lives,” a summary of the Los Angeles urban parks study, in the [National Recreation and Parks Association](#) magazine

“A forest-based yard improved the immune system of daycare children in only a month,” a finding of the Finnish daycare immune system study, [University of Helsinki, Biological and Environmental Sciences](#)

A toddler finds the perfect place to nap with his new friends, toads. A Finland study recently found that the health of the immune systems of children at daycare centers improved when the biological diversity at the centers was increased.



Photo by Jeanne Leasure

Mark Your Calendar

DECEMBER

Dec. 13, 5 p.m. CT

National Board of Directors Meeting

All Wild Ones members are invited to attend virtual national board meetings.

Click for the Zoom meeting link at <https://members.wildones.org/board-meeting-link/>.

JANUARY

Jan. 5

National Bird Day

How about planning to add more bird-friendly plants this growing season?

Jan. 13, 6 p.m. CDT

America's Public Gardens: A Resource for Native Plants

Join National Board Member Matthew Ross of Longwood Gardens on a journey to several of the nation's public gardens. From gardens that grow exclusively native plants to others that have worked them into their diverse collections, you'll get an in-depth look into how public gardens can help inform and influence your design and maintenance practices.

Register at <https://wildones.org/ross-public-gardens-registration/>.

Jan. 31

National Seed Swap Day

Visit www.wildones.org/connect/chapters/ for a link to your chapter's website to see if there is a seed swap near you.

FEBRUARY

National Bird Feeding Month

Don't forget to incorporate plants with edible seed-pods or berries in your landscaping.

Feb. 2

National Wetlands Day

Feb. 28, 5 p.m. CT

National Board of Directors Meeting

All Wild Ones members are invited to attend virtual national board meetings. Click for the Zoom meeting link at <https://members.wildones.org/board-meeting-link/>.

Feb. 28

National Invasive Species Awareness Week

Rethink Your Lawn!

★ **NO MOW LAWN** ★

A Fine Fescue Blend for Full Sun to Partial Shade

*Drought Tolerant & Low Maintenance
for a Quieter, Healthier Environment.*



Learn more at
PrairieNursery.com
1-800-476-9453



Native plant nursery &
greenhouses in Ohio.

wcparks.org



Missouri Wildflowers Nursery



- ✓ Over 400 species.
- ✓ Flowers, grasses, trees, shrubs, vines, sedges, and pond plants.
- ✓ Plants for full sun, full shade, and everything in between.
- ✓ Seed, seed mixes, and custom blends.
- ✓ Expert advice.
- ✓ Contact us for our outstanding free catalog!

www.mowildflowers.net

573-496-3492, fax: 573-496-3003, mowldflrs@socket.net
9814 Pleasant Hill Rd, Jefferson City, MO 65109



Where service is always in season!

Heidi's GrowHaus has fresh-cut Christmas trees, designer wreaths, stylish decor for your home, and custom flocking for a unique Christmas tree.

Let us do the heavy lifting for you! Our landscape crews are booking for the 2022 season to create a sustainable garden at your home. We design with natives & nativars!

Attend one of our workshops for your holiday decor. Wreaths, spruce tip planters, gnomes and more can be created with our expert designers.

763.420.2909 | 7555 County Road 116, Corcoran | growhausmn.com |

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Karl Ackermann, Gibson Woods
Jessica Albert, Lake-To-Prairie
Kathy Andersen, Rock River Valley
Jack Armstrong, Rock River Valley
Donna Baker-Breningstall, Front Range
James Bankowski, South Bend
Trish Beckjord, Western Pennsylvania Area
Michelle Beloskur, Red Cedar
Sue Berg, Greater DuPage
Ashley Cantrell, Middle Tennessee
Tiffany Coggins, Twin Cities
Ney Collier, Milwaukee-North
Candace Davison, Western Pennsylvania Area
Patrick Farho, Front Range
Linda Gilbert, Greater DuPage
Justin Gish, Kalamazoo Area
Diana Green, Habitat Gardening in Central New York
Barbara Harmon, Lake-To-Prairie
Kathleen Hartman, Fox Valley Area
Hans-Willi Honegger, Middle Tennessee
Larry Hummel, St. Louis
Suzanne Jarvis, Partner At Large
David Keeler, Greater DuPage
Jessica Kerger, Oak Openings Region
Bruce Kessel, St. Louis
Toby Koosman, Smoky Mountains
Michael Lucas, Lake-To-Prairie
Carolyn Luck, Western Pennsylvania Area
Brady Maghran, Front Range
Kim Matthews, Middle Tennessee
Heather Mayes, Front Range
Ron McKittrick, Tennessee Valley
Raymond Michaels, Partner At Large
Leslie Morris-Smith, Southeastern Pennsylvania
Alan Nass, Green Bay
Ann Nowak, River City-Grand Rapids Area
Martha Osterberg, Arrowhead
Roger Paige, Lexington
Alayna Paquette, South Shore MA
Robert Pfeil, Lake-To-Prairie
Richard Phillips, Front Range
Leslie Pilgrim, Twin Cities
Robin Pilla, St. Charles Area
Holly Polich, Western North Carolina (Seedling)
Tom Priebe, West Cook
Carmine Profant, Twin Cities
Sue Puleo, Blue Ridge
Lucy Saunders, Milwaukee-North
Karyl Shaffer, Western Pennsylvania Area
Jennifer Sitze Martin, Red Cedar
Kathy Smachlo, Northeast Ohio
Laura Soddors, Capital Region
Ann St. Amand, Kalamazoo Area
Eve Steigerwalt, Middle Tennessee

Sharon Storbeck, West Cook
Sally Swartz, Front Range
Tracy Szemanski, Western Pennsylvania Area
Fran Tatarelli, North Oakland
Alice Tulley, West Cook and Kalamazoo Area
Colleen Wade, South Shore MA
Julie White, Greater Kane County
Colleen Whitver, Tennessee Valley
Keith Wilcoxson, Greater DuPage
Chuck Woolery, Chesapeake
Sasha Wright, Oak Openings Region
Donald Ystad, Central Wisconsin
Deborah Zanish, Twin Cities

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Carol Biesemeyer, Habitat Gardening in Central New York
Sasha Deveaux, Milwaukee-North
Rose Drain, Oak Openings Region
Mary Meinhardt, St. Charles Area
Janet Nardolillo, Capital Region
Betty Jo Page, Front Range
Mary Scalone, Partner At Large
Namrata Varty, Mid-South

CHAPTER ANNIVERSARIES

Madison, Wisconsin 26 years
Menomonee River Area, Wisconsin 24 years
St. Louis, Missouri 23 years
St. Cloud, Minnesota 23 years
Central Wisconsin, Wisconsin 21 years
Arrowhead, Minnesota 21 years
Greater Cincinnati, Ohio 20 years
Central Upper Peninsula, Michigan 20 years
Lexington, Kentucky 19 years
River City-Grand Rapids Area, Michigan 14 years
Front Range, Colorado 8 years
West Cook, Illinois 8 years
Smoky Mountains, Tennessee 6 years
Middle Tennessee, Tennessee 3 years
South Shore MA, Massachusetts 3 years
Louisville, Kentucky 3 years
Southeast Missouri, Missouri 3 years
Keweenaw, Michigan 2 years
Chesapeake, Maryland 2 years

IN MEMORIAM

Kathy Andrini, Greater Kane County
Anne Meyer, Rock River Valley
Martin Schultz, Central Wisconsin

Help inspire a national native plant garden



Photo by Gary Shackelford

By Aaron Michael

Imagine a native plant garden at the White House. With its countless benefits for pollinators, birds and humans alike, as well as its innate beauty, such a garden would shine as a positive beacon across the country and world. With your help, we can make native plant gardens at the White House and other notable locations a reality.

As an advocate for native plant habitats in highly visible areas for the educational, connective and inspirational effect they have among their many viewers, I decided to research, write and send a letter to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. The letter, featured in part at the end of this article, introduces the administration to the idea of adding native plants to the national grounds to benefit pollinators, people and the entire ecosystem.

What if Eastern red columbines, attracting hummingbirds, bees, butterflies and hawk moths, added their beauty and ecological value

An Eastern kingbird eats fruit off a dogwood tree. The North American bird population has declined by about 3 billion, or 29%, since 1970.

to the land surrounding the White House? Imagine if Eastern redcedar offered its fruits to cedar waxwings and provided cover for other birds. To add and maintain the grounds in an ecologically beneficial fashion, without spraying pesticides and the like, would be a demonstration and model to be replicated across the country and beyond.

It will take an inspired effort of introducing the right people at the right place and time to make such prominent native plant gardens materialize. With this concept, and through referral by the Audubon Rockies and their Habitat Hero program, my company, Earth Love Gardens, created such habitats at the Boulder Public Library and Habitat for Humanity Restore, in Fort Collins, Colorado. Now, there are discussions to install native plant gardens at notable Colorado government institutions. Sharing why native plants

are important raises public awareness, and it is the public that drives policy and change at the Capitol. Tell your personal story about why you value native plants and bolster our collective voice in support of native landscaping at the White House and in gardens of notable buildings and historic landmarks across the country.

You can help demonstrate there is national interest in planting a native garden by writing and sending a letter to the White House. With enough momentum, not only can we achieve creating such a garden there, but we could also educate and inspire White House visitors to plant and conserve native plant habitats in their home states or even other countries.

You can also send an email message to the White House at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>.

In addition to contacting the

White House directly, contact your state's members of Congress and the House of Representatives to educate and inspire them to support native plants at the White House and other similar gardens at other governmental properties. Outside the government, contacting people connected to other notable locations can bring exposure to and the education of native plants to light, further inspiring the planting, as well as the conservation, of these rich, ecologically imperative habitats at home and abroad.

To give you ideas of what to include in your letter or email, here is an excerpt I sent to the White House:

"We appreciate your administration's positive stance and actions in response to climate change. With this, we would like to share a simple, greatly effective way to provide for our pollinator, bird, insect and other beneficial wildlife populations in Washington D.C., the United States and the rest of the world.

"Pollinators, birds, insects and other beneficial wildlife populations are declining at an alarming rate that we have never experienced before. These unprecedented times may spell the recipe for an ecosystem collapse affecting all living species on Earth, including, of course, humans.

"According to the USDA, bees and other pollinators, including birds, bats, butterflies, moths, flies, wasps, beetles and small mammals, play a critical role in our food production system. A healthy pollinator population is vital to producing marketable commodities. More than 100 U.S. grown crops rely on pollinators. The added revenue to crop production from pollinators is valued at \$18 billion. Pollinators also support healthy ecosystems needed for clean air, stable soils and diverse wildlife.

"Mainly due to habitat loss, pesticide use and other negative environmental conditions, the numbers of all these species are dramatically declining. According to National Geographic, insects are far less common than they used to be. Since 1974, the number of bumblebees in North

America has declined by about 50%. According to Scientific American, there has been a decline of North American bird populations by about 3 billion, or 29%, since 1970.

"There are many solutions that are simple and effective. Banning the use of pesticides and insecticides, such as neonicotinoids, which kill beneficial native insect species, directly preserves and allows these species and other species further up on the food chain to regenerate.

"Another powerful, rather simple step of action is to plant regionally native plants (and remove foreign, invasive plants, when possible) that provide for pollinators, birds and other wildlife. According to Home-grown National Park, an initiative by author and University of Delaware Entomology and Wildlife Ecology Professor and Wild Ones Lifetime Honorary Director Douglas Tallamy, 40 million acres in the United States

are privately owned green lawns. Grass lawns are water-intensive, detract from otherwise valuable habitat from pollinators, require much maintenance, including artificial fertilizers, and have other disadvantages. By planting native plants, a beautiful and functional garden is created for both the benefit of the ecosystem and people on a local and large scale."

In my letter, I also included examples of plants native to the Washington, D.C. area that provide food and shelter for beneficial species.

With your help in writing to the White House, your legislators and others, let's grow a national plant movement.

Aaron Michael is CEO/founder of Earth Love Gardens in Boulder, Colorado and a Wild Ones business member.

A bee nectars on purple coneflower. Since 1974, the number of bumblebees in North America has declined by about 50%.



Photo by Troy Waldschmidt

And the winners are...



*By Jennifer
Ainsworth*

The 2021 Wild Ones Photo Contest once again showed all the wonderful ways in which native plants bring beauty into our lives. Wild Ones members submitted over 350 photographs across seven categories. The winners include:

People's Choice Award

(Voted by Wild Ones members)
Diana Linsley -
"Swallowtail on
Cardinal Plant,"
St. Louis (Missouri) Chapter

Linsley said she planted cardinal flowers two years ago to attract hummingbirds, but this year there were other visitors such as this spicebush swallowtail.



When Pokerwinski...asked if anyone knew what it was, responses ranged from sourdough bread to alien life forms...

Best In Show

(Voted by the judges)
Nan Pokerwinski
- "Alien," River City-Grand Rapids Area (Michigan) Chapter

It's Alive

(Organisms that do not fall under other categories that live on or with native plants)

1st Place: Nan Pokerwinski,
"Alien," River City-Grand Rapids Area (Michigan) Chapter

Pokerwinski said she found this plant growing by the roadside in late June, although at first she couldn't identify it. It was later identified as *Coprinopsis variegata*, commonly known as the scaly ink cap or the feltscale ink cap.

2nd Place: Brad Sabre, "American Toad on Sphagnum Moss," Milwaukee-Southwest-Wehr (Wisconsin) Chapter

3rd Place: Gary Shackelford, "Milkweed Bug Square Dance," Madison (Wisconsin) Chapter



Fauna with Flora

(Non-pollinator wildlife with native plants)

- ◀ 1st Place: Ed Buchs, "Green Tree Frog on Joe-Pye weed," Kettle Moraine (Wisconsin) Chapter

Buchs wrote: "While walking through my native gardens I spotted this tree frog on the Joe-Pye-weed. The frog's stance made me think it was contemplating the beauty of the Joe-Pye-weed flowers. However, I suspect lunch was the primary motivator. A pollinating bee is also seen exiting the area."

- 2nd Place: Gary Shackelford, "Eastern Kingbird Eating Dogwood Fruit," Madison (Wisconsin) Chapter

- 3rd Place: Gary Shackelford, "Hummingbird at Swamp Milkweed," Madison (Wisconsin) Chapter



Flora

- ◀ 1st Place: Barbara DeGraves, "Dancing Trilliums", SoKY (Kentucky) Chapter

DeGraves wrote that while visiting the Great Smoky Mountains, she photographed various spring wildflowers growing along a wooded hillside trail. "These white trilliums growing by a fallen log stood out in the soft evening light. They were swaying in the slight breeze and made me think of dancing partners."

- 2nd Place: Brad Sabre, "White Water Lilly," Milwaukee-Southwest-Wehr (Wisconsin) Chapter

- 3rd Place: Neal Bringe, "Gorgeous Combination," Front Range (Colorado) Chapter

"I captured this late August scene of a portion of the garden and the Conservatory at sunrise."
— Joan Brandwein



Natural Landscaping

◀ 1st Place: Joan Brandwein, "Minnesota Garden at Como Park Zoo and Conservatory," Big River Big Woods (Minnesota) Chapter

Brandwein wrote: "I live near Como Park Zoo and Conservatory in St. Paul, Minnesota, and walk in the park almost daily. Over the past several years, I've enjoyed watching the development of the recently added Minnesota Garden featuring native plants. I captured this late August scene of a portion of the garden and the Conservatory at sunrise."

2nd Place: Renee Benage, "Summer," St. Louis (Missouri) Chapter

3rd Place: Catherine McKenzie, "Prairie Smoke," Fox Valley Area (Wisconsin) Chapter

Photos By Kids

◀ 1st Place: Saeed Muhammad, "The Magnificent Butterfly Dress," Greater DuPage (Illinois) Chapter

Muhammad wrote: "I was looking for an area where I could find a nice pollinator and native plant. It just so happened that it was in our backyard. I saw the swamp milkweed and then waited for a butterfly to land on it. Once one did, I slowly moved forward and got a close up picture of the butterfly."

2nd Place: Saeed Muhammad, "Resemblance of a Prairie," Greater DuPage (Illinois) Chapter

3rd Place: Gabriella Lindholm, "Spring Fruit Tree Flowers," Greater Kane County (Illinois) Chapter





*Your creativity
and talent
shine through
your photos,
capturing the
beauty of
native plants
and natural
landscapes.*

Pollinators

- ◀ 1st Place: Gary Shackelford, "Monarchs on Blazing Star," Madison (Wisconsin) Chapter
- 2nd Place: Darcy Maile, "Taking a Sip," Partner At Large (Illinois)
- 3rd Place: David Silsbee, "Orange and Gold," Mountain Laurel (Connecticut) Chapter

Scenery

(Native woodland, savanna, prairie, wetlands, etc.)

- ◀ 1st Place: Gary Shackelford, "Sedges, Willows and Spring Snow," Madison (Wisconsin) Chapter

Shackelford took this photo of a grove of black willows in a sedge meadow at Fair Meadows State Natural Area after an early spring snowstorm. The snow-covered sedges, primarily common lake sedge, are shown in the foreground.



2nd Place: James Cudney, "Early Summer Prairie," Greater Kane County (Illinois) Chapter

3rd Place (Tie): Daniel Cruikshanks, "Asylum Lake in Early Spring," Kalamazoo Area (Illinois) Chapter

3rd Place (Tie): Gary Shackelford, "Nighthawk Meadow, Summer 2021," Madison (Wisconsin) Chapter

Wild Ones Projects

1st Place: Karen Eckman, "Island Lake School Pollinator Garden," Big River Big Woods (Minnesota) Chapter

Eckman wrote that this school garden was created as an Eagle Scout project in 2012, but wasn't maintained after the Scout went to college. In August 2015, the Big River Big Woods Chapter made this native pollinator garden rescue a Shoreview Service Project. The first two seasons required a total of over 250 volunteer hours, but the average hours has now declined to about 55 per year. It is 36 x 36 feet and is in a corner of the school playground in full sun.

2nd Place: Athena Salzer, "Chapter Prairie Tours - Pope Farm Conservancy," Madison (Wisconsin) Chapter

3rd Place: Dawn-Marie Staccia, "Female Monarch at the Monarch Restoration Garden in North Prairie, Wisconsin," Kettle Moraine (Wisconsin) Chapter

Congratulations to all the winners in this year's photo contest! Best in Show and People's Choice Award winners each received a \$50 prize. First place category winners will also receive a \$50 prize. Second and third place category winners receive bragging rights.

A big thank you to our wonderful judges for volunteering to participate in the photo contest and determine this year's winners:



- Ginny Levy: Head of Garden Club of America Horticulture Committee
- Lori Purk: Missouri Master Naturalist
- Tom Smarr: Executive Director of Jenkins Arboretum
- Robert Smith: Photographer and Wild Ones Member
- Josh Taylor Jr.: Professional Photographer and Canon Explorer of Light

We want to thank all of the participants for sharing your submissions with Wild Ones. Your creativity and talent shine through your photos, capturing the beauty of native plants and natural landscapes.

By entering these images in the photo contest, you are helping

Wild Ones further our mission. Wild Ones may use photo contest images in Wild Ones publications, promotional materials, presentations and on the Wild Ones websites so that others may be inspired to learn about native plants and natural landscaping.

A gallery of all the first, second and third prize winners can be viewed at <https://wildones.org/photo-contest-2021/>. All entries for the 2021 Photo Contest can be viewed at the [2021 Photo Contest - All Entries - Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes](#).

*Congratulations
to all the winners in this
year's photo contest!*

The Nature of Oaks

By Amber Brockman

"The Nature of Oaks" by Doug Tallamy will not only enhance your understanding of oaks, but also deepen your appreciation of these trees and the vital role they play in the ecosystem.

This 197-page book, published in 2021 by Timber Press, Inc., takes the reader on a journey of detailed observations surrounding an oak tree's life in Pennsylvania over the course of a year.

Tallamy explains in the prologue that he was motivated to write this due to society's growing indifference toward nature and ignorance of natural history in the midst of the digital age.

"I meet intelligent adults today, people who have excelled at all levels of their education and are successful members of our society, who cannot even recognize an oak leaf let alone tell me anything about the food webs linked to oaks or the many ways oaks provide the life support we call ecosystem services," Tallamy writes. "Even worse, they fail to see the importance of such minimal knowledge of natural history."

In 12 chapters, the book depicts the month-by-month happenings of an oak tree throughout the four seasons, including the parts of nature associated with oaks such as the species that depend on oaks for housing, food, storage and safety, as well as the functions of an oak and its impact in the community.

"Oaks support more forms of life and more fascinating interactions than any other tree genus in North America," Tallamy writes. "All this life does not show up at the same time nor stay with your oak the entire year."

This book includes captivating photos that detail the author's observations, and serves as an excellent guide to understanding the importance of oaks. For example, the oaks'

acorns provide a nutritious meal to a variety of birds and mammals, provide housing for ants and other insects and serve as a hubspot for the larval development of insects such as weevils and acorn moths.

As a keystone plant, oaks are among the few plant genera in North America that provide 75% of insect food required to support animal populations. In the author's county in Pennsylvania, 511 species of moths and butterflies develop on oaks, which is nearly 100 more species than their closest competitors, the native cherries.

Oak leaf litter supports decomposers that recycle vital plant nutrients, helps fight invasives and improves water infiltration.

During spring migration, many birds, including a variety of warblers, redstarts, blue-gray gnatcatchers, hermit thrushes, indigo buntings, eastern kingbirds and more, rely on oaks for food to sustain themselves as they journey to their breeding grounds. The food provided by oaks is especially important for maintaining migratory bird populations since there are about 350 species of birds that fly thousands of miles north to reproduce.

Due to their substantial leaf surface area and large root systems, oaks are an incredibly valuable resource in watershed management and flood prevention. Most of the water intercepted by oak canopies — up to 3,000 gallons per tree annually — evaporates before it ever reaches the ground, reducing the potential for runoff that carries pollutants into local water systems.

A crucial ecosystem service that oaks provide every day is carbon sequestration, not only in the atmosphere, but underground as well. "Every pound of glomalin produced by oak mycorrhizae is a pound of carbon no longer warming the atmosphere, and glomalin remains in

the soil for hundreds, if not thousands, of years," Tallamy writes. "These

factors rank oaks among our best options

for scrubbing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it safely in soil throughout the world's temperate zones."

Besides raising awareness of the oak's function in an ecosystem, the book is sprinkled with interesting facts about the species and plants in general. For example:

- Leaf shape is influenced by its exposure to the sun. Leaves lower on a tree will become larger and broader and usually have few lobes, whereas leaves at the top of the tree are smaller with deeply cut lobes. Changes in size and shape help the leaves maintain a balance of taking in enough carbon dioxide needed for photosynthesis without overheating and losing too much water.
- Acorn size and shape is determined by many environmental factors such as the dryness of its environment, the growing season time span, dispersal mode of the species and competition from other plants. For example, bur oaks in oak savannahs of the Midwest produce unusually large acorns, where competition from dense prairie plants might prevent the establishment of seedlings from small acorns.

From the insightful depictions of natural processes, to the captivating photographs and attention to detail, "The Nature of Oaks" is a perfect gift for nature lovers.

To explore more of Tallamy's publications, visit <https://www.timberpress.com/authors/douglas-w-tallamy>.

