

## New Members

Let's welcome these brand **new members** at upcoming Chapter events:

Karen Anderson, Neenah

Larry Franzke, Kaukauna

John Hoepfner, Appleton

Kent Schoeni, Fremont

Diane Zempel, Appleton

We're so glad you joined Wild Ones!

## Don't Become Extinct!

See your membership expiration date on your newsletter label and follow directions for renewing.

Thanks, and we'll look forward to seeing you at the meetings!

— Bob Niendorf & Carol Niendorf,  
Membership Co-chairs

## WILD Center

Wild Ones National Headquarters  
2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd  
Located in Town of Menasha

Directions: From Hwy 41, take Exit 136, drive east on BB (Prospect Ave) to right on Northern Rd, then left onto Stroebe Rd. From Stroebe, turn right onto Butte des Morts Beach Rd.  
Hours

10 AM–3 PM Monday–Friday  
Grounds Accessible & Always Open

[wildones.org](http://wildones.org)

## Mentoring One Yard at a Time

If by mentoring we can help and encourage one yard at a time, we are happy to do so.

Six new mentees and nine continuing mentees got answers for their prairies this year. For the cost of a membership, questions on how to kill thistles, how to start a prairie, and how to design one were answered.

One mentee commented, “I didn't know it could be this easy”. Often times it is just that easy to make that initial phone call. From your needs that right person (*mentor*) will be assigned to you.

Being a member of the Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter has some definite benefits. The Wild Center, where all our resources are available for you to check out in the library, also has a model prairie right out the front door for you to see what feature plants are growing each month, their mature size, and how they color harmonize with other plants. Where else can you see this?

Some members expressed an early desire to be mentored, but the season just got away from them. Well next year is another opportunity. Just let *Rosemary Eiden* (920-233-1327) know and she can put you on the list.

Whether you are just getting started, or want to do a rain garden, or a new prairie, or don't know

if you should use seeds or plants, or want a drawn out design, there are mentors that have all kinds of experience they are willing to share.

Sometimes you run into a situation where one plant is taking over your prairie. Many of our members will have stories like that to tell. Our desire is to let you have the greatest success right away. By maintaining your prairie pretty much like a perennial flower garden you will have years of enjoyment. By having this kind of shared knowledge you will be able to do so.

Having and maintaining a prairie is unique to Wild Ones. It is a unique ecosystem - one that cannot be overlooked. So many insects and animals depend upon them for food and shelter. I was thrilled to find a monarch caterpillar munching away on one of my milkweeds. Knowing that there are fewer around I felt I had to do something to secure its life. I made a home for it in a jar in my home. I fed and cleaned out the jar daily and watched as it munched away. After a week it doubled in size. I put a twig in the jar where it made a chrysalis. The balance of nature has been shifted to humans. We need to help out these beautiful animals until their numbers increase again. I felt so special to have done so. My life was just a little more enriched by maintaining a prairie and sharing a monarch's life for 2 weeks.



## Events of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area

**Oct 27 | Thurs | 7 PM | Natural Dying Using Native Plant Material | WILD Center**

Loris Damerow, Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter President, will share some of the history and methods of natural dying. Participants will create a dyed silk scarf to take home. Materials cost is \$5.00.

**Nov 17 | Thurs | 6:30 PM | Audubon Partner Meeting | Evergreen RC**

Native Plants & Birds, “Stopover Initiative” Kim Grveles will discuss the work of the Wisconsin Stopover Initiative Including: Migratory birds and why stopover habitats are important to their survival; the significance of the Great Lakes region, particularly Wisconsin's Lake Michigan basin; helpful backyard habitat features, as well as easy contributions you can make to benefit migratory birds.

**Jan 28 (2017) | Sat | 8 AM - 4:15 PM | 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Toward Harmony with Nature Conference | Oshkosh Convention Center**

## President's Message

The WOFVA summer has been a fruitful one. In June, the board organized a membership engagement event, which brought a dozen new members to the Wild Center for an in depth exchange of ideas about creating new native landscapes. Resources were shared as homeowners discussed adding value to their new environments with native plants. Membership in our Chapter this year has been at an all time high, with 275 members. Our mentoring program, now in its second year continues to pull people in with the added value of specific planting help. Folks who find us are more than happy to join knowing they will get answers about their specific landscape issues, as well as support, from a friendly mentor. WOFVA mentored 15 landscapes this year: 5 in the community and 10 at private homes.

Did you get what you needed from Wild Ones this year? Your membership supports our environmental mission. We also want you to continue to receive something in return. Perhaps you went on one of the tours this summer: the diverse Langner prairie, the Winnebago lakeside home landscape, or the Sullivan's Woods community restoration. Perhaps you purchased a native shrub or tree from our fall plant sale, or gathered seeds for a winter sowing.

One 'take away' for me this summer was from Heather Holm's talk about pollinators. I learned that most native bees are solitary and they make their homes in the ground or in the cavities of plants. Fallen logs and other plant debris serve as habitat for critters in a way that I had never imagined. Now, in the glory days of fall, I have another reason to leave plenty of stems and stalks for our over-wintering pollinators.

As the season cycles around, consider what more you want from the Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter. The board is very interested to know! Also, we could use you on our team next year. Open positions on the board include secretary and vice-president. It is a very active team and we welcome the chance to work with you! Joan Rudolph will be retiring as newsletter editor at the end of this year, so

feel free to jump in with that role as well. Just email us [wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com).

— Loris Damerow  
President, Wild  
Ones Fox  
Valley Area  
Chapter



## 2017 Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow Grant Applications Now Available

Grant application materials are now available for the WOFVA 2017 Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow grants. Grant awards range from \$100-\$500 for the purchase of native plants or seeds. The applicant must:

- Represent a house of worship, or other public or nonprofit organization in the Wild Ones Fox Valley Area of Wisconsin.
- Provide matching funds equal to at least 50% of the cost of the project. Funds can be from the applicant's own treasury, fundraisers or from grants secured from other sources. A budget is required.
- Propose a project that emphasizes community or youth involvement and increases the educational value of the site. The site must be accessible to the public.
- Use native plants appropriate to the site and teach about natural landscapes.

**Applications are due February 1, 2017** with awards announced in early March 2017.

Awards will be distributed at the March 2017 WOFVA Chapter meeting. A final report and poster illustrating the implementation of the project will be required by January 15, 2018 for display at the WOFVA Annual Toward Harmony with Nature Conference.

Questions may be submitted to [wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com). Grant information and application materials are available at <http://foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/resources>.



Fox River Academy 3-4<sup>th</sup> grade students assist in Birdscaping project at Heckrodt Wetland Reserve.



Ledgeview: Boy Scout troop helps in native planting

# “Surly Surveyor” To Visit Toward Harmony With Nature Conference

Come to our Chapter’s 21st annual “Toward Harmony with Nature” conference on **Saturday, January 28**, at the Oshkosh Convention Center, where a very special “time traveler” will answer those questions for you in the first person. Conference attendees will get a privileged look at the pre-settlement landscape through the eyes of one of the intrepid surveyors who traversed our area in 1839. Landscape historian Rob Nurre will visit us in character as the “Surly Surveyor” David Giddings, Deputy Surveyor for the U. S. General Land Office.

Rob Nurre, whose real-life habitat is the Baraboo area, has long been fascinated by the interaction between natural and cultural landscapes. As the long-time Land Records Manager for the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, he has studied, preserved, and made the state’s original land survey records available online. This work has been the basis for his development of several character portrayals to help tell these stories. Nurre will also lead a breakout session in which you can learn how to access and use the land records in your own property restoration.

The “Surly Surveyor” will arrive just in time to give our conference’s 9 a.m. keynote presentation. And if you too arrive in time, you can hear not only from the Surveyor, but also from a day of breakout session presenters on the full range of natural landscaping and native plants topics, can shop from our book store and other exhibitors, can bid at our silent auction, enjoy a buffet lunch, and network with other native plants enthusiasts.

The next issue of this newsletter will contain the full day’s schedule. It will also be available soon online at [towardharmonywithnature.org](http://towardharmonywithnature.org), and you will receive a conference brochure and registration form at your mailing address in December. But for now, put THE SURLY SURVEYOR on your calendar for January 28!

*Have you wished you could have seen it in its native beauty and health?*

*Have you ever wondered what your property and our surrounding area looked like before the first European settlers came and altered it forever?*

*Would you like to have that knowledge as a guide to restoring your own patch to that beauty and health?*



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**November 1, 1994:**  
Fox Valley Area became chartered as a Wild Ones chapter

*Wild Ones promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities. Wild Ones is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization.*

## Board of Directors

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Loris Damerow  
[wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com)

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#### Newsletter Contributors

Loris Damerow  
Rosemary Eiden  
Kristin Kauth  
Tracy Koenig  
Bob and Carol Niendorf  
Joan Rudolph



2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd.  
Neenah, WI 54956

Your mailing label is date coded with your membership **renewal**. Please pay your dues by that date. Send your check, **\$37.00** per household, made out to Wild Ones Fox Valley to: **Wild Ones PO Box 1274, Appleton, WI 54912**. Thank you.

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## November Chapter Meeting to Help Migratory Birds

Plan now to attend the **November 17 WOFVA meeting at 6:30 pm** in the Evergreen Commons, (1130 N Westfield St, Oshkosh, WI 54902). This partner meeting with Winnebago Audubon features Kim Grveles of the Wisconsin DNR speaking about “The Wisconsin Stopover Initiative: Helping Migratory Birds.”

Kim’s presentation will discuss the work of the “Wisconsin Stopover Initiative” including:

1. Migratory birds and why stopover habitats are important to their survival
2. What is the significance of the Great Lakes region, particularly Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan basin, for migratory birds?
3. What are some backyard habitat features used by migratory birds?
4. Easy contributions that citizens can make to benefit migratory birds and the habitats on which they depend as they journey through our Great Lakes neighborhoods.



Kim will include a focus on the roles of native plants and habitats in supporting migratory birds. Join us in learning about this important topic as migrating birds pass through our skies!

Social at 6:30 pm, program at 7 pm. Evergreen Commons is in the lower level of the Evergreen Retirement Community, 1130 N. Westfield St, Oshkosh.

### Newsletter Online?

Would you like to receive only the online (color) version of the newsletter? Reducing the number of issues to be mailed helps to lower printing and mailing costs. If you are interested in doing this, please contact newsletter Editor Joan Rudolph at [wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com).

### *Become A Wild Ones Member*

A Wild Ones household membership is \$37 per year. Entire membership fee is tax-deductible. Join Wild Ones by sending your name, address and phone number to:

Wild Ones  
P.O. Box 1274  
Appleton WI 54912-1274

Business memberships and student memberships are also available. Call Wild Ones National at (877) 394-9453 for an application form or check out our website:

[wildones.org](http://wildones.org)