

## New Members

Welcome, new members! We hope to see you at the conference in January.

Terri Cole, Larsen  
Karinna Lindert, Neenah

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)

## Leadership Changes at Wild Ones

by Loris Damerow, Chapter President

We are now moving out of a presidential election year and into 2017 with change afoot. Wild Ones, too, is experiencing organizational change at national and local levels. Having grown into a movement 4,000 members strong with chapters throughout the Midwest and beyond, our leadership continues to transition. It was Lorrie Otto who, 40 years ago, became the 'philosophical compass' and inspiration for the movement. Next, Donna VanBuecken became the first executive director of Wild Ones in 1998. In 2015, Donna retired after 17 years of fulfilling this pioneering and anchoring role. A regional search for an executive director, conducted by the national board, brought Gail Gerhardt to the scene in September of last year. Gail brought a different perspective to the executive director position and stepped down in October of 2016.



In August of this year, the national Wild Ones board also experienced some shifting of members. Janice Hand, who led the national strategic planning of process in 2015, has become the new national board president. Recently, the board has drawn from the Executive Service Corps of Chicago to bring Pam Wilcox to the Wild Center two days a week to serve as interim executive director. During this time, Ms. Wilcox will be overseeing operations of national headquarters in Neenah and assessing the state of the organization. This assessment will help guide the future financial and staffing needs of the organization.

In this time of transition, the national board is reaching out to the general membership asking for participation in four national committees: Finance, Communications, Governance, and the Wild Ones Journal Advisory Council.

At the local level, the Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter board is also leading growth and transition by beginning a strategic planning process. As we begin to clarify the strengths and weaknesses of our organization, our mission will become more focused as we purposefully identify outcomes and action for our Chapter. What an exciting time for our organization!

Regarding transition, our Chapter will also have a new president in February of 2017. In addition, we are looking to fill two open positions on our Chapter board, that of secretary and newsletter editor. We are reaching out to the

membership to join with us to 'be the change you want to see' for the environment. We welcome you to take up a role on the Chapter board, join the program committee for preparing next year's offerings, attend the conference in January, participate in our strategic planning process, be a mentor, and more. Please email the board at [wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com) regarding your interest in any of the above opportunities, including participation on the national front. In this 'climate of change' (quite literally) we must work together to support and sustain our educational efforts to create a healthy planet.

## Events of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area

January 28 | Sat. | 8:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. | Oshkosh Convention Center | 2016 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Toward Harmony with Nature Conference

February 25 | Thurs. | 6:30 p.m. | WILD Center | Annual Membership Meeting and Potluck

# President's Message

Change has been a theme these last few months and we anticipate change when it comes to gardening and the seasons; winter follows autumn, follows spring, etc. Yet, there have been a few surprises. Last November delivered a month of weekends with temperatures in the 60s. During that time I 'put my garden to bed' and in doing so realized that my routines and regimens have changed. I no longer clip everything to the ground nor rake the dirt bare. Now, I travel around the neighborhood with four 30-gallon garbage cans and fill up on other people's shredded leaves. As a Seinfeld character used to say, "It's gold, Jerry!" In my case I am referring to shredded leaf mulch, the perfect free soil builder and plant protector. I have also taken to dragging fallen tree trunks and limbs to my property to serve as over-wintering sites for precious pollinators. Leaving up the seed stalks of the coneflowers and vervains continues to add sculptural interest to my landscape. I know the birds are happy with them. Russet little bluestem will be filtering the slanted light all through the cold until the snow brings it down.

Another subtle change in me occurred sometime in November. In scrolling through my daily e-mail inbox, I chanced to open a message from a national perennial retailer, with the title 'Preparing the garden for winter'. As I read the conventional advice, I suddenly changed my behavior, pressed reply and wrote:

*Dear Bill at the perennial dealership:*

*Please consider promoting landscape practices that are good for the environment, i.e. pollinators, birds, wildlife, etc. Fall/winter gardens provide habitat and sustain many layers of stratified life. Insects over-winter on leftover stalks. Leaves provide insulation, amend the soil, and slow erosion, compaction, and evaporation. Seed heads provide food and cover for the birds. Encourage a garden paradigm that is more life-friendly.*

*Did this message just float out into cyberspace? Does Bill care?* I don't know if putting my thoughts into words had any effect at all but it felt good to reply. Who knows how many more times and in how many more ways I will continue taking this tack; speaking up for my beliefs about protecting the environment.

Change is a mysterious thing; it changes you.

Loris Damerow  
President, Wild Ones  
Fox Valley Area



## Toward Harmony with Nature

### "Reclaiming Our Heritage - Enhancing Our Landscapes with Native Plants"

Jan. 28, 2017 • 8 am – 4:15 pm



**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION (9:00 - 10:00 a.m.)**

#### "The Surly Surveyor: A Look at the Presettlement Landscape"

*ROB NURRE, Landscape Historian*

Have you ever wondered what your property and our surrounding area looked like before the first European settlers came and altered it forever? For our keynote presentation, a very special "time traveler" will answer that question for you in the first person. Landscape historian Rob Nurre will give us a privileged look at our presettlement landscape through the eyes of David Giddings, who traversed our area in 1839 as a Deputy Surveyor for the U. S. General Land Office.

Because in real life he worked for a number of years as the Land Records Manager for the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands and as a consultant to the federal Bureau of Land Management, Rob is in a unique position to provide us with reference points for the landscape changes that have occurred in the past two centuries. He has developed several character portrayals to help tell these stories. Most prominent among these characters has been the "Surly Surveyor" program based on the work of the General Land Office surveyors.



**CONCURRENT SESSION I (10:30 – 11:45 am) Choose one of the three speakers below:**

#### "Primer on Prairie Ecology"

*ALISON DUFF, Research Associate and Lecturer,  
UW Madison Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies*

Alison will provide an introduction to prairie ecology, including historical distribution, structure and disturbance, prairie ecotypes, and species interactions.



#### "Using Native Plants in Wetlands"

*PATRICK GOGGIN, Wisconsin Lakes Partnership*

Patrick will share ideas on how to utilize native plants in wetlands, wet places, and around your home landscape. He will offer gardening examples for working with wetland plants to support songbirds and pollinators and for storm water control.



He will also reveal grant money available to help landowners with wetland plantings along lakeshores through Healthy Lakes funding.

#### "Out of the Shadows: Native Plants for Shade"

*ROB ZIMMER, Naturalist and Author*

Explore the world of colorful and exciting native wildflowers and plants perfect for those tough shady locations in your yard and garden. Discover some excellent native plants that will provide stunning beauty, texture, color and four seasons of interest in your shade garden.



**CONCURRENT SESSION II (1:15 – 2:30 pm) Choose one of the three speakers below:**

**“Designing Scalable Urban Gardens with Native Plants”**

*ROB HOLLY, Landscape Architect, and JAMES COLETTA, Landscape Designer, LandWorks Inc.*

Rob and James will discuss preliminary site assessments, project goals and working within the realities of previously developed sites. You will learn from them how to work toward harmony with nature and neighbors.



**“An Introduction to Oak Savannas and Woodlands: Identification and Strategies for Restoration”**

*CRAIG MAIER, Coordinator, Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna Fire Science Consortium*

Open, bright, and buzzing with life—what’s not to love about an oak savanna or woodland? Today, oak savannas and woodlands are among the rarest natural communities in Wisconsin. Efforts to restore them can reward you with healthier soils, cleaner water, outstanding wildflower displays, and great wildlife visitors to your back yard or the back forty.



**“Using Historic Land Records in Planning Your Native Plantings”**

*ROB NURRE, Landscape Historian*

Historic land records provide numerous clues to the natural landscape and vegetation that once dominated this area. Rob Nurre, our Keynote Speaker, led the efforts to make some quarter million pages of the original land survey records and thousands of related maps available on-line. Learn how you can access and interpret these resources as a part of planning your restoration projects.



**CONCURRENT SESSION III (3 – 4:15 pm) Choose one of the three speakers below:**

**“Ways to Protect Your Property During Your Lifetime and After You are Gone”**

*ATTORNEY JACK KUSSMAUL, Past President, The Prairie Enthusiasts*

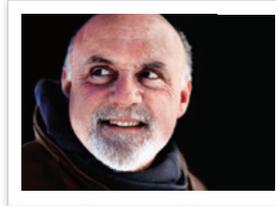
Learn about the various methods by which you can protect your property in a natural state, during your lifetime or after your death.



**“Saving Our Wildlife Through Conventional Landscaping”**

*JOHN MARIANI, Landscape Architect*

John will take you on a journey of nature experiences which have inspired him to develop what he feels to be a new and very timely landscape design approach most capable of restoring wildlife and our native heritage!



**“Our Birchwood Home: A 35-year Experiment in Natural Landscaping and Land Management”**

*CONNIE RAMTHUN and BILL VOLKERT*

For more than 30 years, Bill and Connie have worked to restore their land to a series of natural communities. This program focuses on their experiences in natural landscaping and land management and provides examples for a wide range of home landscapes.



See [Towardharmonywithnature.org](http://Towardharmonywithnature.org) for more detail on speakers.



**SPECIAL OFFER for Educators...**

Register online at [TowardHarmonyWithNature.org](http://TowardHarmonyWithNature.org).

Members will receive the conference brochure with registration form early December.



2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd.  
Neenah, WI 54956  
T: (920) 749-7807  
(877) 394-9453  
wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com

**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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wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com

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**Outagamie**  
Donna VanBuecken

**Winnebago**  
Dave Peck

**Native Plant Sale**  
Sharon Raimann

**Newsletter Contributors**  
Bob and Carol Niendorf  
Loris Damerow  
Kristin Kauth  
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 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd., Neenah, WI 54956**. Thank you.

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## Conference Silent Auction Items Needed

An important part of the 2017 Toward Harmony with Nature Conference will again be the Silent Auction. Suggested donations are weavings, birdhouses and feeders, quilted wall hangings, nature art, handmade soaps, stepping stones, photos, native plant seeds, gift certificates, handmade cards, paintings, scarves, garden tools, gloves, and any items related to nature, native plants or natural landscaping. Contact: Lucy Valitchka at [lmvalitchka@new.rr.com](mailto:lmvalitchka@new.rr.com) or email at [wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com).



### Newsletter Online?

*Have you considered switching to the online only WOFVAC newsletter?* It is better for the environment, helps reduce costs, and is so much more enjoyable to read in color.

To sign-up for the online newsletter contact 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  
2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd.  
Neenah, WI 54956

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)