

New Members

Fall is in the air as we welcome these new Chapter members:

Christopher Danson, Appleton

Leah Dittberner, Oshkosh

Michael and Mary Klepping,
Menasha

Cathy Scott, 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 Ones Fox Valley Area Receives Green Gift from Cellcom

Kristin Kauth, Conference Facilitator, accepted a \$200 Green Gift from Cellcom presented by Jeff Arps for the upcoming "Toward Harmony with Nature" conference. Cellcom's Green Gift will support this event to keep costs low for attendees.

Since 2004 Cellcom has offered a cell phone recycling program where customers can bring in their old or unwanted phones to be reused and recycled. Cellcom sends the phones to recyclers who in return send money to Cellcom for the materials that were saved from the phones. Cellcom has

always donated this money back to local non-profits. In 2010, Cellcom launched the Green Gift program, donating their recycling funds to green non-profit initiatives in an effort to complete the green cycle that starts with consumers being environmentally-conscious and donating their devices.

Cellcom is proud to support organizations of all sizes, whose work is impacting the community and building a greener tomorrow. The company's recycling program has generated over \$194,500 for local charities over the past eleven years.



Kris accepting the Green Gift from Jeff

Events of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area

December | No Meeting

January 24 | Saturday | Oshkosh Convention Center | 2015 Toward Harmony with Nature Conference

Volunteers needed on day of conference to help our coordinators. Volunteer times are during the registration and break periods, so everyone can attend all presentations (Note, all volunteers are expected to register for the conference as do the members of the Annual Conference Planning Committee). Your help will be greatly appreciated as always! Call or email **Kristin Kauth**, Conference Facilitator, 920-766-2292 or kkauth@sbcglobal.net.

Silent auction items needed, please consider donating Silent Auction items for our Saturday, January 24, 2015 Toward Harmony with Nature conference at the Oshkosh Convention Center. The silent auction benefits our attendees and our Chapter's financial reserves for future programs. We appreciate all donations. *Past donations have included birdhouses and feeders, quilt wall hangings, nature art, handmade soaps, stepping stones, photos, native plant seeds, gift certificates, handmade cards, sculptures, scarves, garden tools, gloves—any items related to nature, native plants or natural landscaping.* Contact **Lucy Valitchka** at Lmvalitchka@new.rr.com or e-mail at wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com.

February 1 | Saturday | Grant Applications Due

Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow Grants are a great opportunity. The deadline for these grants has been moved up this year to **February 1st**. Please be aware of this when assisting any organizations who may be applying. These grants are a wonderful chance to enhance the environment through native plantings. Up to \$500 can be awarded to successful applicants for purchase of plants or seeds for habitat restoration or creation of outdoor classrooms. Start planning by visiting <http://foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/resources> for an application form and details on the program.

February 19 | Thursday | 6-8:00 PM | WILD Center | Annual Chapter Membership Meeting & Potluck Dinner

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



President's Message

Twenty years ago, in August of 1994, a group of 'wild life enthusiasts', some of them Master Gardeners, were gathered together by Rosemary Eiden, who was then the Winnebago County Horticultural Agent. Others soon rallied round, including one couple, Carol and Bob Niendorf, who had planted a prairie garden at their home in 1989. As Carol remembers, "There were 19 of us who met at the home of Donna VanBuecken. Donna showed us her prairie garden and we each told about our own experiences with these 'new' kinds of plants. Donna told us about an organization she had joined as a member-at-large. That organization was Wild Ones, a group begun ten years before in Milwaukee with Lorrie Otto as their mentor. Donna invited several members from Milwaukee to come to our next meeting and tell us how to form a Wild Ones chapter in our Fox Valley area. That night on October 27, 1994 they voted to organize a chapter with Donna as their President.

Twenty years ago, The Fox Valley Chapter of Wild Ones was born!

Now the largest Wild Ones chapter in the country, 266 members strong, we are a collective of individuals who are interested in native plants, natural habitats, and promoting environmentally sound landscaping. We are grateful to the original 19 charter members, who got the ball rolling and those who have contributed to the mission. As we move through autumn into winter in 2014, we honor our beginnings of twenty years ago. At our annual WOFVA membership meeting in February, we will look more in depth at the start-up days of our Chapter, acknowledge our founders, review our accomplishments, and celebrate your continued membership in this important environmental organization.

Loris Damerow
President, Wild Ones Fox Valley Area



Toward Harmony with Nature

Jan. 24, 2015 • 8 am – 4:15 pm

Register online at TowardHarmonyWithNature.org

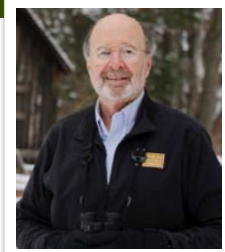
KEYNOTE PRESENTATION (9:00 - 10:00 a.m.)

"Aldo Leopold, Phenology and Climate Change"

DR. STANLEY TEMPLE, Senior Fellow, Aldo Leopold Foundation

Throughout his life, Aldo Leopold kept daily journals recording observations of seasonal events, especially those occurring at his beloved "Shack." Leopold's meticulous phenological observations have provided us with an unparalleled record of when plants bloomed, birds migrated and other natural events occurred. Analyzing his historical observations of hundreds of natural events as well as recent records helps us understand how climate change is affecting the ecological community. One lesson of Leopold's journals is clear: For those who love nature and take time to observe it closely, keeping records enhances the enjoyment and value of our time and effort, both now and in the future.

Stanley A. Temple is the Beers-Bascom Professor Emeritus in Conservation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. For 32 years he held the academic position once occupied by Aldo Leopold. As Senior Fellow with the Aldo Leopold Foundation, he advises and assists the Board on technical matters and conservation issues and represents the Foundation at public meetings and dealings with the academic community. He has received many prestigious conservation awards and has been President of the Society for Conservation Biology and Chairman of the Board of The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin.



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

"Landscaping With Native Plants"

CAROL BANGS, Carol K. Bangs & Associates

What can we learn from native plant communities? Are all native plants suited to residential landscapes? What are the special features to be considered about these plants?

Carol Bangs is owner of Carol K. Bangs & Associates. She developed and taught field study classes in natural landscaping at Milwaukee Area Technical College. She has actively worked to improve curricula and the status of sustainability in Wisconsin's landscape horticultural industry. She served for ten years on the Mequon Park Board, served as a consultant to the city of Mequon on landscape projects, and on the Ozaukee Land Trust founding board. She started a drive and aided in the preservation of the Highland Woods Nature Preserve.



"Interactions Between Plants and Insects"

DR. GRETCHEN MEYER, Senior Scientist, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station

Plants and insects are linked in many ways. Plants with colorful flowers often rely on insects for pollination, but plants must also contend with the numerous insects trying to eat them. In the case of carnivorous plants, plants have turned the tables on insects and can trap and consume them! This presentation will cover these links between plants and insects, including pollination, herbivorous and carnivorous plants, focusing on plants of Wisconsin.

Gretchen Meyer holds an M.S. in forest ecology from Yale University and a Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology from Cornell University. She is the Manager of the UWM Field Station at the Cedarburg Bog. She has been studying the interactions between insects and plants for over 20 years, with much of her research focused on goldenrods and the insects that feed on them. She has explored how release from insect herbivores contributes to the success of introduced, invasive plants. She is currently studying pollination ecology of native sunflowers. She teaches a weekend workshop on Plant-Insect Interactions at the Field Station, in addition to teaching other classes on insects.



"Ecology, Economics, or Culture: What Determines the Composition of Your Prairie?"

SCOTT WEBER, Owner, Bluestem Farm

In spite of 70 years of prairie and savanna restoration in Wisconsin, few plantings match the composition and diversity of our native remnant prairies. Many iconic species such as gentians, shooting stars, prairie lilies, and other "conservative" species are lacking or under-represented. Scott will challenge widely held beliefs of restoration ecology and show why our remnant prairies should be the model for all plantings.

Scott Weber has restored prairie and oak savannas for more than 35 years, including 19 years with the Wisconsin DNR State Natural Areas program. He has worked on projects with the Carleton College Arboretum, the International Crane Foundation, the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, The Prairie Enthusiasts, Madison Audubon Society, and the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. He has owned and operated Bluestem Farm, a native plant nursery, for over 20 years with his wife, Muffy Barrett.



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CONCURRENT SESSION II (1:15 – 2:30 pm) Choose one of the three speakers below:**“Grassland Bird Conservation” JOHN DADISMAN, Research Scientist, Wisconsin DNR**

As America's prairie grasses gave way to agriculture in the 19th and early 20th century, many of the bird species that inhabited native prairies were able to adapt to the hayfields and pastures. However, over the past 40 years grassland bird populations have declined more than any other group of birds. We'll take a look at who these birds are, why their numbers are declining, and how high-quality prairie restoration and protection can help.

Mr. Dadisman is a research scientist with the Wisconsin DNR Bureau of Science Services studying grassland bird communities primarily in the southwest part of the state. He has been working with birds in a variety of cool-season and warm-season grassland habitats including pastures, set-aside fields, prairie restorations, and prairie remnants. He will discuss the conservation needs and land management for the avian members of our grassland ecosystems.

**“Wetland Restorations: Are They for the Birds?”**

JILL HAPNER, PH.D., Senior Biologist, GeoBotany Consulting Services

Despite decades of interest in wetland restoration there have been few studies of the characteristics that make a restored wetland good bird habitat. Jill will describe how bird use of small created and restored wetlands changes over time. She will also discuss the effects of wetland design and land use surrounding the wetland, revealing whether the wetlands are indeed “for the birds.”

Dr. Hapner is a plant ecologist in wetland restoration science and landscape ecology. She earned an M.S. and Ph.D. in Wetland Science/Landscape Ecology at UWM. She owns GeoBotany Consulting Services and has previously held positions with the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management. She is Executive Director, past President of the Board and co-founder of the Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium, Inc.

**“Karner Blue Recovery: Where We Were, Where We Stand, and Where We Are Going”**

BOB HESS, Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery Coordinator, Wisconsin DNR

Wisconsin is home to the largest Karner blue butterfly populations in the nation. After five years of population growth, numbers have started to decline. We will explore the development of the Karner recovery program in Wisconsin, habitat restoration efforts, ongoing research and findings, current status, challenges to the Karner recovery program, and a plan to accommodate climatic changes.

Bob Hess is the coordinator for the recovery of the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly in Wisconsin, working for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation. A Wisconsin native, Bob earned a B.S. in Forestry from the University of Minnesota and an M. S. in Forestry from the UW Stevens Point.

**CONCURRENT SESSION III (3 – 4:15 pm) Choose one of the three speakers below:****“Be Woods Wise” TRACEY KOENIG, Executive Director, Heckrodt Wetland Reserve**

Learn how to evaluate woodland properties and establish targets for habitat management. Look at your wooded yard or lot with a new eye. What do you add to make your woods attractive to wildlife? What do you get rid of? How do you deal with impending management issues (like Emerald Ash Borer)?

Tracey Koenig is Executive Director of Heckrodt Wetland Reserve in Menasha. She has a B.S. in biology from Bowling Green State University and an M.S. in biology from the University of Mississippi. Her work experience includes hazardous waste remediation, environmental management, and habitat restoration. Tracey's passion is creating and managing good-quality habitat for urban wildlife and sharing her experiences with others so they can join in at home.

**“Invasive Plants and Those Earthworms Underneath”**

BERNIE WILLIAMS, Invasive Species Specialist - Forest Health, Wisconsin DNR

Invasive plants are on the move. Learn how to identify and understand them, and why earthworms are giving them an extra boost! What's really going on below ground? Where do worms fit in? Do we really need them? And why are you seeing more and more weeds and invasive plants every year? There's an incredible, mysterious relationship between invasive plants and invasive worms. They are spreading together!

Bernie Williams is enthusiastic about her species of choice and one of her favorites happens to be earthworms. She's a conservation biologist specializing in invasive species for the Wisconsin DNR Forest Health. If she isn't telling you scary stories about worms and plants you can find her fiddling with her bees and experimenting with those aforementioned worms in her garden.

**“Prairies: Continuing the Legacy of a Wisconsin Ecosystem”**

AMANDA ZOPP, Larsen Legacy Senior Naturalist, Riveredge Nature Center

Amanda will discuss best management practices for managing prairie habitats. Her talk will include discussion on what the future of prairie management might look like and what we might be managing for in the years to come.

Amanda graduated from UW Green Bay with a Master's Degree in Environmental Science and Policy with an emphasis in ecosystem studies. She has worked for NS Ecological Services as a restoration ecologist, as a biology lecturer at the UW-Platteville and as the Planning and Data Management Systems Coordinator for the WI DNR Watershed Bureau. As the Larsen Legacy Senior Naturalist at Riveredge Nature Center in Newburg, WI, she teaches adult education programs, coordinates academic research, and leads volunteers in land stewardship activities.



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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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Native Plant Sales

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Wild for Monarchs

Barb Gossen

Tracey Koenig

Newsletter Contributors

Loris Damerow

Kris Kauth

Carol and Bob Niendorf

Joan Rudolph

Lucy Valitchka



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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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Nov. Meeting was Quizzes and Swags

Loris Damerow led the November Chapter meeting with a quiz on identifying dried native grasses and flowers. This was followed by an activity of making fall swags for indoors or outdoors. The swags were made with evergreen branches and added dried materials. They were dressed up with bows of raffia and/or ribbon.

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.



"What is it" quiz?



In the basement assembling swags.

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