

Wild Ones

Volume 20, No. 6
2013 December / 2014 January

Grants Deadline

The *Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow* grants program supports schools, houses of worship, and other public and nonprofit organizations in the Fox Valley Area for projects involving the creation of natural landscapes and outdoor classrooms using native plants. Grants awarded range from \$100 to \$500. Award amounts are based on the judges' ranking of the project in comparison to all applications received, and the available funds.

Applications are due February 15.

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. Off Stroebe, turn right onto Butte des Morts Beach Rd.

wildones.org

January 25, 2014 — Not To Be Missed

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO REGISTER NOW — The 18th annual *Toward Harmony With Nature* conference is coming up fast, and we anticipate a very full house at the Oshkosh Convention Center, 2 North Main Street. This year we are proud to present award-winning author Douglas Tallamy for a morning-long keynote session. Doug excels at making it crystal clear how important native plants are to our very existence. Then in the afternoon, six guest breakout session speakers will teach you how to “bring nature home” to your own yard and garden. As always, the conference is open to the public, so invite your neighbors and friends. There will be many native plants exhibitors and vendors, networking opportunities, a silent auction, a buffet luncheon, a book table, and Wild Ones merchandise.

To register, visit towardharmonywithnature.org or call 920-749-7807 to request a conference brochure and registration form.



Great Gift Idea

We know that you “get” how important native plants are to our existence on this planet, but perhaps you have a friend, relative, or neighbor who isn't quite there yet. If so, our January 25 conference keynote speaker Doug Tallamy is just the person for them to hear. How about giving that friend a conference registration as a gift? See next page for conference details and how to register.

Events of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area

December • No meeting

2014

January 25 • Saturday

Full day in Oshkosh
Toward Harmony With Nature Conference

February 15

Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow grant applications due.

February 27 • Thursday • 6–8:00 PM

At WILD Center

Annual Chapter Membership Meeting & Potluck Dinner
Begin the Chapter's new program year by celebrating the accomplishments of the past year while enjoying the company of other members, everyone's favorite dishes, and a very brief business meeting. If you have extra native plant seeds you gathered this fall and would like to share with others, please bring them.

President's Message

Greetings Everyone,

I sure hope by now that most of you have registered for our annual conference in January. Trust me, you do not want to miss Doug Tallamy's presentation. We are extremely fortunate to have him spend the entire morning with us—a rare treat. Whether you are a new or a seasoned gardener of native plants, he will inspire you and give you new thought as to how the message on native plants can be effectively shared with many others.

My yearly thank you goes out to our members who made their yards available for seed gathering. Your generosity makes it possible to offer this members' only benefit.

The second year of the Native Tree and Shrub Sale was a great success. Thus, we certainly will continue with it, with the help of Sharon Ziebert, coordinator.

I hope you are enjoying the Chapter's new webpage and for those on Facebook, have you checked out the Chapter's Facebook page? If not, I encourage you to do so.

Please share information on our *Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow* Grant Program with schools, houses of worship and other non-profits. It is a great program and the grant co-chairs would appreciate your help in getting the word out. Applications are due February 15.

As you will read, there will be two openings on the board when we begin our new year in February. Please consider volunteering, bringing your skills and interest to help keep the Chapter viable and active. Take it from me, the board is a great group of people to work with. I consider my time on the board well spent.

Board Action

The Newsletter Editor now has the option to publish up to six pages for a normal newsletter, plus more pages for special functions, as the annual conference, plant sales, etc. (As activities have increased, so has our need to share more with you through the newsletter.)

The board has been working with a graphic artist to put guidelines together on Chapter Branding, so we have a comprehensive and consistent approach to marketing our materials. This document will be completed by the end of the year.

Sending warmest wishes to all in this holiday season. See you at the conference.

Kristin Kauth, President

2014 Conference Speakers

9:00 AM KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Vital New Role of the Urban/Suburban Garden

Dr. Douglas W. Tallamy

9-10:00 AM KEYNOTE Part I *The Value of Having Native Plants in Our Yards*

Dr. Tallamy says that our natural areas are too small and isolated to sustain the plants and animals that run our ecosystems. By using native plants in our neighborhoods and corporate landscapes we can restore vital ecosystem function where we live and work.



10:30 - 11:45 AM KEYNOTE Part II with Dr. Tallamy *Creating Healthy, Biodiverse Neighborhood Corridors*

Doug Tallamy is Professor of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 79 research articles and has taught insect taxonomy, behavioral ecology, and other courses for 32 years. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. Tallamy's book, "Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens," was published by Timber Press in 2007 and was awarded the 2008 silver medal by the Garden Writer's Association. Copies of his book will be available, and Tallamy will stay for autograph sessions.

1:15-2:30 PM Concurrent Session 1 (Choose one of the following three)

Susan Carpenter *Always New Questions: Learning From a Native Plant Garden*

At the Wisconsin Native Plant Garden at the University of Wisconsin



Madison Arboretum people of all ages participate in land care and learn about native plants, restoration, pollinator conservation and ecological relationships. Carpenter's presentation will trace the planting, maintenance and monitoring they do as their garden grows and develops, and share about their work in native pollinator conservation.

Susan Carpenter has been the native plant gardener at the University of Wisconsin Madison Arboretum for ten years. With background and experience in plant ecology, ecological restoration and science education, she especially enjoys gardening with many students and community volunteers. As a member of a citizen scientist group, she documents native bumblebees, including the rare rusty-patched bumblebee, *Bombus affinis*, which lives at the Arboretum.

James Reinartz *Assisted Migration: Can Landscaping With Native Plants Help Them Find New Suitable Locations?*

Fragmentation of the landscape has resulted in small, isolated populations of native species, eliminating the natural gene flow that maintains genetic diversity. As rapid climate change is expected to alter future environmental conditions, can thoughtful landscaping with native plants help reduce the loss of genetic diversity associated with habitat fragmentation and help plants migrate to suitable habitats?

Jim Reinartz is Director of the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee Field Station, where he has been working for over 30 years. He teaches courses on the vegetation of Wisconsin, wetland ecology, vegetation sampling methods, the ecology of plants in winter and several other topics. Reinartz's primary current area of research is wetland ecology. He is very active in the preservation and management of natural areas and has been studying Wisconsin's pre-settlement plant communities and trying to understand their distributions in Wisconsin for most of his career.

Concurrent Session 1 *Continued, page 5...*



Newsletter Online?

Would you like to receive only the online (color) version of the newsletter? If you like the option of reading the newsletter online and/or downloading it instead of receiving a mailed paper copy we would appreciate hearing from you. Although we will continue to mail out copies, reducing the number of issues to be mailed would help to lower printing and mailing costs. If you are interested in doing this, please contact newsletter Editor Joan Rudolph at wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com.

Two Opportunities to Become a Chapter Board Member

Wild Ones Fox Valley Area will have two openings on the board at the end of February 2014, following the Annual Membership Meeting. Please consider stepping forward to fill one of these positions. Not only is it a rewarding experience and great fun, but a very important function to carry on the Chapter's programs and services and to continue its growth. Positions opening are:

Vice-President (an elected office)

The role of the Vice-President is to become familiar with all aspects of the Chapter functions and assist and assume the President's duties when necessary. It is a two-year term before assuming the position of president. This person will work closely with the incoming president, Loris Damerow.

Program Committee Chair / Board Member

After two terms Lucy Valitchka will step down as chair, but continue as a committee member. Chair Valitchka and the program committee will have all the programs for 2014 established. Each committee member is responsible for monthly programs coordinated by the program chair.

This is an exciting position because of the opportunity to seek out diverse, educational programs for our members and guests. As a member of the Chapter board of directors, the program chair serves a 2-year term, attends monthly board meetings and votes on issues that come before the board.

Please contact Kris Kauth, WOFVA president, at wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com or 920-766-2292 or Lucy Valitchka at Lmvalitchka@new.rr.com or 920-733-0568 for more information about either of these positions.

Wild Ones Gift Coupon & Gift Ideas

Wild Ones has a beautiful calendar available for members to purchase again this year. The photos sent in for the Photo Contest were exceptional this year. Calendars are again available for \$12.00 each including shipping and handling. If you are interested in ordering multiple copies, email marketing@wildones.org at the WILD Center office.

Wild Ones is also offering a discount coupon for merchandise in the WILD Center store to run through December 31, 2013.



Wild Ones 2014 Calendar

Check Out the New Look to WOFVA Web Page and Join Our Facebook Page

Our Chapter now has a Facebook page. To Friend the Chapter, search on Facebook for "Wild Ones Fox Valley Area." Click on the *Like* button.

The Wild Ones Fox Valley Area website is now up and running with a new look. Jamie Fuerst, in the WILD Center office, has been busily working on the new national website. She is now helping chapters create their own pages within the national site. Ours was the first and has been up since early fall. It is slowly being added to and revised by our Chapter web committee. Go to: foxvalleyarea.wildones.org. This will open the Chapter page. You can explore further using the headings at the top of the page. If you have any suggestions or would like to assist this committee, you can e-mail wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com.



Silent Auction Items Requested

Wild Ones members and friends: Please consider donating Silent Auction items for our Saturday, January 25, 2014 *Toward Harmony with Nature* conference at the Oshkosh Convention Center. Past donations have included birdhouses, quilt hangings, nature art, handmade soaps, stepping stones, photos, native plants seeds—any items related to nature, native plants or natural landscaping. If you garden, even home preserved foods would be appealing to our audience. Contact Lucy Valitchka at 920-733-0568 or e-mail at wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com. Thank you.

EDUCATORS: Free conference admission opportunity

We are happy to announce a new opportunity suggested by one of our Chapter members. We already have a special student rate of \$15 for students who attend the *Toward Harmony With Nature* conference, but we are now offering free conference admission to teachers who bring five or more paid students. Please register online at towardharmonywithnature.org and include the names of the students and your school. Thank you for helping promote environmentally healthy native plantscaping to the next generations.

Volunteers Needed On Conference Day

The Annual Conference Planning Committee needs volunteer help at the Conference on January 25. Help is needed with any of the following coordinators:

- Registration - Judy Peters
- Silent Auction - Lucy Valitchka
- Chapter Merchandise - Angela Dodge
- Wild Ones Books - Donna VanBuecken
- Greet/Direct Attendees - Kris Kauth
- Speaker Introduction - Carol Niendorf

You would be working with the committee coordinators and other volunteers so each of these functions is covered, especially during the break periods between sessions.

Your help would be much appreciated.

Please call or email Kris Kauth, 920-766-2292 or wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com

Concurrent Session 1 *Continued from page 2*

Dan Traas *Working With Native Trees*

What is the significance of working with native trees? When do they excel and when do they struggle? Find out what and when a native tree species is the best choice for your landscape. And discover why native trees can fail and what simple things you can do to prevent it.



Dan Traas

Dan Traas is the President of Ranger Services Inc., Appleton, which has been in operation for 26 years providing urban forestry consulting and arboricultural services for academic, municipal, commercial and residential clientele. Dan has conducted over a thousand tree care workshops, seminars and public education classes. He has developed and taught Urban Forestry courses for Mid-State Technical College and Northeast Technical College. He currently is an adjunct Urban Forestry instructor at Fox Valley Technical College in their new Urban Forestry Certificate Program.

3-4:15 PM Concurrent Session 2 (Choose one of the following three)

Cheryl Bauer-Armstrong *Planting Native Landscapes for People, Water and Wildlife*

Learn how the process of planting a native landscape becomes a special place full of wonder and delights, improves water quality, and encourages nature's interactions and cycles. Practical suggestions and featured examples such as rain gardens will provide you with creative ideas to transform a landscape into a water- and wildlife-friendly place.



Cheryl Bauer-Armstrong

Cheryl is passionate about engaging youth and the community in restoration projects that improve landscape health and water quality and grow a new generation of land stewards. Cheryl is the director of the Earth Partnership Program at UW Madison Arboretum and volunteer for the Ice Age Trail. She received a master's degree from Harvard University Graduate School of Design in Landscape Planning and Ecology. Her undergraduate degree is from the University of Wisconsin Madison in landscape architecture.



Connie Ramthun *From Seed to Flower: Growing Your Own Native Plants*

Have you ever wondered how native plant nurseries produce plants? Or have you wondered when to collect the seed from some of your favorite flowers? These are just a few of the questions that will be addressed during this session on growing your own native plants.



Connie Ramthun

Connie Ramthun, education coordinator for the UW Fond du Lac's Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum and owner of Kettle Moraine Natural Landscaping, will share her expertise about seed collecting, cleaning and propagation of native plants. Examples will be shown of how seedlings are grown in a greenhouse, cold frame and wildflower gardens.

Tom Wedel *Prairie and Savanna Restoration: A Work Always in Progress*

When Tom, a retired United Airlines Captain, and his wife Eva bought a former dairy farm and looked into enrolling 45 acres in CRP (Conservation Reserve Program), one thing led to another. In Tom's words, "The paperwork the county sent about approved grass mixtures had a section titled 'warm season grasses.' Then I asked, 'What are they?' It all went downhill from there." In this presentation you will hear and see the results this couple who started with, in their words, "only a vague idea of prairies and savannas," achieved in 25 years of learning.



Ted Wedel

Visit
TowardHarmonywithNature.org
for more details



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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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wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com

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Nancy Graham

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Angela Dodge

Newsletter Contributors

Kris Kauth
Carol Niendorf
Joan Rudolph
Lucy Valitchka



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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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Fox Valley Area Welcomed “Mother Nature” to October Meeting

In October we welcomed fellow Wild Ones member, Margaret Gerhard, a.k.a. Mother Nature, to our meeting to show us ways to use nature’s offerings combined with recycled objects. Margaret is a retired art teacher who made do with small budgets by using whatever came her way—even resorting to dumpster diving. She showed us some lovely objects made with pine cones, yarn, rope, fur, matt board, shells, etc. Following “Show and Tell” everyone dove in to make their own arrangement of dried plants and flowers to fit into the containers they had brought.



Margaret Gerhard

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