

New Members

Welcome to these new Wild Ones, who popped up along with our Spring wildflowers:

Linda Foust,
Omro
Susan Gerhardt,
Menasha
Dave and Jan Hanke,
Oshkosh
Rick and Sue Larson,
Neenah
Tim and Joby McKeag,
Appleton
Lori Poehls,
Appleton
Jason Schmitz,
Neenah
Liana Weiland,
Appleton

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

Chapter Grants for 2014 Awarded



Wild Ones Fox Valley Area announces 2014 *Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow* Grant recipients. Four organizations were awarded \$500 in support of their projects. Recipients were Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (FVUUF),

Ledgeview Nature Center, and High Cliff State Park. Each group plans to use the award to support and increase biodiversity of their ecosystems in the following ways:

Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow Grant recipients, from top to bottom:



Dixie Jarchow, 2013 grant recipient, Horace Mann Middle School, Fond du Lac

Rosie Geiser, 2014 grant recipient, Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Appleton

Louise Marum, 2014 grant recipient, Ledgeview Nature Center, Chilton

Becky Horvath, 2013 grant recipient, Omro Middle School, Omro



Dave Skiba, 2014 grant recipient, Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, Appleton



Cynthia Mueller, 2014 grant recipient, Friends of High Cliff State Park, Sherwood



Randy Tuma from Bubolz Nature Preserve says the award will be used to support their popular 'Sap to Syrup' Educational program. Sugar maples will be planted to replace invasive buckthorn and help overcome devastation caused by deer browse on regenerated saplings. This project will ensure that future generations are provided this educational opportunity to learn about the maple syrup process.

FVUUF is a church located just south of Calumet Street in Appleton. Having worked with native plants on their property for 15 years, they saw the addition of their expanded sanctuary as an opportunity to extend their pollinator garden. Jan McHugh, native plant landscape volunteer and church member wrote, "Our renovation was an opportunity to create a new garden to support pollinators and draw people into the native landscape."

Continued page 2, Awards

Events of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area

June 21 | Saturday | 9 AM – 12 Noon | Appleton City Park
Butterfly Festival – Wild Ones Monarch committee will have a display and activities.

June 26 | Thursday | 6 PM | Menasha

Tour: Be Woods Wise (Managing Your Native woodland), Heckrodt Wetland Reserve, 1305 Plank Road, Menasha, WI
Tour and talk by Tracey Koenig, Executive Director of the Reserve, about how to evaluate woodland properties, recognize invasive species (plants and our pesky friend, emerald ash borer), and other problems, plus develop and implement a plan.

July 19 | Saturday | 10 AM | Kaukauna

Tour – Sturgis/Jackels Property, W4245 Schmidt Rd, Kaukauna, WI 54130 – a guided tour of a rural property with a ½ acre L-shaped prairie, mound system prairie, native windbreak, vegetable garden, future rain garden, and a nice mix of native and non-native plantings surrounding the entire home and workshop.

August 15–17 | Friday–Sunday

Wild Ones Annual National Conference – 35th Anniversary Celebration

President's Message

From now until September, WOFVA will be taking to the field with yard tours and site visits throughout the area. For me, this is the most exciting benefit of having a Wild Ones membership. I am inspired and stimulated by seeing what people have preserved or co-created right in their own back yards. For my Mother's Day treat, I asked my family to join me for a walk on the WILD Center grounds. On that beautiful morning, we listened to birds, watched for turtles, and took note of plants in flower. It was a relief to be out IN nature rather than just reading about it. The upcoming WOFVA yard tours provide that direct natural landscaping experience in places you would not normally get a chance to see.

Before the trees are fully leafed out is when spring ephemerals are up and blooming. Our May yard tour schedule features two Oshkosh sites; one with the 'miracle under the oaks' phenomena, the other with sun loving lupine in bloom amidst a sea of grasses. June brings a trip to Heckrodt Nature Preserve on the edge of Lake Winnebago, with advice on how to manage your native woodland. In July, we will be in rural Kaukauna visiting a home with prairie plantings plus extensive native and non-native landscaping. Later in summer, we will be traveling north to DePere and Green Bay for a look at two residential environments; the first, sports 101 species of native trees and shrubs planted in what was once a cornfield 35 years ago and the other is a home on two acres of prairie with a small wetland and creek running through it. Join us and be enthralled. Learn more about the use of native plants and become inspired by the vision of our membership in the Fox Valley corridor. Stop and smell the roses; in our WOFVA tours, it's bound to be a native.

Loris Damerow
President, Wild Ones Fox Valley Area



Awards *Continued from Front*

Louise Marum, assistant naturalist at Ledgeview Nature Center, said monies will be used to enhance their arboretum. As trees and shrubs have gotten larger, sun-loving plants need to be moved to sunnier areas and beds replaced with woodland species. A scout-troop will help in the planting and plant ID signs will be added as an educational component for those visiting the nature center.

High Cliff State Park was awarded \$500 for their project entitled "Arbor Day Spring Tree Planting Day." Cynthia Mueller, Naturalist, and Char Baribbeau, FOHC President, intend that the award be used for a two-fold purpose. One goal will be for volunteers of all ages to convert a mown area above the marina to a woodlot by planting 500 native trees. The second part of the project will be to site prep and purchase native grasses and seed and possibly forbs for a plot called Elmer's Prairie.

We wish these groups the best on their endeavors to enrich the environment and educate the public on the importance of native landscaping for insects, birds, and other wildlife – people, too.

Volunteers Needed for Wild Ones Big Event August 15-17

Chapter members, come and enjoy the upcoming Wild Ones 35th Anniversary Celebration and think about volunteering for two or more hours to help make the event run smoothly. Our Chapter will be the onsite hosts at the WILD Center, making sure all the logistics run smoothly, our contribution to Wild Ones. A number of other chapters are co-hosts, making generous monetary donations toward the event.

This year, since more people are expected to attend, all food (lunches and dinners) will be catered and refreshment breaks will be kept simple. Our only job will be to make sure the snack bowls are filled and the sun tea is plentiful. The other functions we will help with are: welcoming other chapter members, making them feel at home (since the Center is their national headquarters or home too); making sure the event runs smoothly by helping with any set-up needs for the workshops or main presentations; and keeping the grounds and Center clean looking.

So, please check your calendars and consider volunteering during the event and attending one or more of the presentations. Look for a listing of the times volunteers will be needed in upcoming emails. Remember, every hour you work counts toward meeting our yearly required 350 volunteer hours at the Center. So, come do a little work and enjoy a great event. Kris Kauth, past president, and Loris Damerow, president, are the volunteer coordinators for this event.

If you have any questions or wish to confirm times you could volunteer—

Friday morning/afternoon/evening

Saturday morning/afternoon/evening

Sunday morning/afternoon

—please contact Kris Kauth at kkauth@sbcglobal.net.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Lisa Sturgis & Joe Jackels have been members since 2005. Lisa is serving her 3rd term as Secretary on the Board for Wild Ones Fox Valley Area. They live just south of Kaukauna in the Town of Harrison.

How did you get started with Wild Ones?

Joe and I built our country home in 2006 on 2+ acres we bought from Joe's uncle (we now have 4.2 acres which includes a barn and machine shed). Our property was flat, bare farmland with clay soil (full sun of course). I knew I definitely did not want all turf grass, and read an article in the Post-Crescent entitled "Going Wild" dated February 26, 2005 (I still have the article). That sparked my interest in creating a native prairie. I've always had a love for perennials and landscaping, and got my green thumb from my mom who had a huge rock garden when I was growing up, and my paternal grandmother who had wildflowers in the woodland area behind her home (just down the road from where I grew up in the Town of Neenah). Joe was skeptical about the prairie idea at first, but now he is very supportive and comments about how nice it looks.

What have you accomplished (in natural landscaping or growing native plants)?

We seeded our septic system mound with natives in early November 2006. I looked out the window in January 2007 and watched the seeds washing down the mound due to an unusual January heavy rain! We reseeded the mound in May 2007 and now it is doing great!

The first plant rescue I participated in was in July 2007 at the UW-Fox Valley Extension in Menasha. I knew very little about natives at that time and did not have a clue as to what I was digging, but asked the other members that were there. I slowly learned to identify the natives by observing them growing and thriving in my yard and referencing native catalogs and books. I also learned to identify some of the invasives, which is a continual learning process. Attending the January annual conference and monthly meetings, and asking a lot of questions has also helped me to learn about and appreciate native plants.

We seeded approximately another ½-acre (an L-shaped area to the south and west of our home) in October 2008 after we had properly prepared the site for seeding. We purchased the Claybuster Wildlife Prairie mix from Prairie Nursery and pretty much followed their directions to a "T," although I did have a hard time convincing Joe that we needed to mix the seed and sawdust in the back of a pickup truck! I believe my diligent efforts in the early years to eradicate the invasives are paying off. On the back sides of our prairie are 4 rows of what is to someday be a windbreak/wildlife habitat of mostly native trees and shrubs. Along one side of our driveway are 50+ Prairie Dropseed, which also border the prairie. There are perennial beds surrounding our entire home and workshop planted with both natives and non-natives.

We pride ourselves in that we have completed all of our landscaping ourselves, and therefore have done so quite frugally. Prior to building our home we moved perennials from my city residence to a holding area on Joe's uncle's property adjacent to us (hence the reason there are non-natives that were basically used for filler in the early years).

There is a large wooded area beyond the 40 acres behind our house where we take our Goldendoodle, Kylie, to run and swim. I've had great fun learning to identify all the woodland natives, as there is quite a large variety.

What are your plans for the future?

We are having a Chapter yard tour on July 19, which I will be narrating. We are very much looking forward to everyone coming out. In hindsight, I wish I would have talked Joe into planting no mow lawn in our front yard versus turf grass. In order to break up some of that lawn, we will be installing a rain garden in our front yard, and will hopefully have that planted in time for the tour. This year I am also removing some undesirable non-natives and replacing them with natives. At some point, Joe also needs to dig up the lawn in front of his workshop to fix his drainage problem, and told me we could kill that lawn and seed more prairie. That would be great as it would be by the road so everyone would see it before they pull into our driveway!

Lisa Sturgis and Joe Jackels with Kylie in front of their prairie



Queen of the prairie in the Sturgis/Jackels prairie garden

DOUG TALLAMY PRESENTATIONS DVD AVAILABLE



Finally arrived – The film we made of Doug Tallamy's presentations at the Toward Harmony with Nature Conference this past January:

“The Vital New Role of the Suburban/Urban Garden”

The presentations are in two parts. Part 1: “The Value of Having Native Plants in our Yards” (approx. 1 hr) and Part 2: “Creating Healthy, Biodiverse Neighborhood Corridors” (1-1/4 hr plus Q&A) along with the added bonus of the Wild Ones song written and sung by folksinger Steve Hazell (Intro & song approx. 1/4 hr).

\$10 through the Wild Store <http://www.wildones.org/product/miscellaneous/doug-tallamy-presentations-dvd/> or \$8 cash and carry from the WILD Center.

If you are interested in ordering 10 or more, please contact us for details at (877) 394-9453 or execdirector@wildones.org

Bluebirds Have Preferences

In March at Evergreen Retirement Center, member Dave Misterek illustrated and talked to us about a bluebird trail he has created at Utica Golf Club. Dave belongs to the Winnebago Audubon and Wild Ones. He is also a member of the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (www.braw.org).

In 1986, it was estimated that the Eastern Bluebird population in its historic range had declined by 90% during the preceding 50 years. Then 30–40 years ago interest increased and people built nest boxes which started to bring back the population. There were several factors which contributed to the population drop. Bluebirds are cavity nesters and woodlot owners don't save dead trees. They cut them down. The increasing use of pesticides killed bluebirds' food source of bugs and caterpillars.

Bluebirds have several predators among which are raccoons and house cats. Other birds chase them off their nests and use the houses for themselves. Starlings and Cowbirds prey on the young and House Sparrows take over the houses.

Dave told us the bluebird houses need to be spaced 100+ yards apart. This discourages tree swallows from nesting in the houses because the swallows are communal. The nest boxes need to be pointed toward the east so they are warmed in the mornings and avoid the summer heat beating into them. The houses should be mounted so the hole is at eye level. Nest boxes need to be monitored every 6–8 days during the nesting season to shoo out House Sparrows which will kill nestlings. There are special traps for catching the sparrows which Dave can tell you about.

The Fox Valley is Wild for Monarchs

The monarch special committee of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area will participate in the Butterfly Festival, to be held June 21 at 9 AM in City Park, Appleton. The festival raises funds for Parent Connection, a division of Family Services. WOFVA will host a booth with monarch activities for kids. We hope to see you there. More information is available at: <http://www.familyservicesnew.org/parent-connection/butterfly-festival/>

WOFVA Monarch Committee will also host a monarch event on the afternoon of Sunday August 17 at the WILD Center. This special celebration will highlight the filming of the second segment of the series Moving for Monarchs entitled “Dance of Life,” which will help to raise awareness of the plight of monarch butterflies and the need for conservation and citizen action. More details will be available in the coming weeks.

Plant Rescues

We anticipate holding a couple of plant rescues this spring and we'll let you know via e-mail when they are scheduled. So if you're interested in rescuing plants in danger of being destroyed and transplanting them to your gardens, please make certain we have your e-mail addresses and what we have is up-to-date. Send niendorf2@att.net any changes to your e-mail address.



Volunteer Time Needed

Volunteer day at the WILD Center is typically the first Thursday of the month. But this year because of the way holidays fall, we're going to have to be creative. First Thursdays will fall on June 4, July 10, August 7, September 11, October 8 and November 5. So mark your calendars and plan to stop over at 4:00PM. Bring a dish to pass and we'll gather for potluck around 6:00PM and get together for some great socializing. See you then!

Registering For Members Only Webpages

If you've never tried to access the members only webpages on the Wild Ones website, here's how you register to do so.

Go to the upper right-hand corner of the Wild Ones website home page and click on the Members Login button.

In the next window, go to the second link which says "member email not registered? Register password for member here." The window which appears next gives you the opportunity to register your e-mail address. You'll need to make up a password. The internet will search the Wild Ones database to see if your e-mail address matches with what we have there, and if you're active, and if it's satisfied, it will allow you to go to the next step.

Next you will need to answer a couple of pretty simple questions. Once answered, you will be sent back to the log-in page from where you should be able to successfully access the Member's Only page and your membership data, the Wild Ones *Journal*, the New Member Handbook, and the national Wild Ones Photo Contest entries.

If, however, we do not have an e-mail address for you, it will give you a message that says that you cannot register because we do not have your e-mail address in our files. To review your membership data, go to the members only webpage and click on the fourth link down <http://www.wildones.org/db/update.cgi>.

Also, if you get that message, be sure to let Bob or Carol Niendorf (Wild Ones Fox Valley Area membership chairs) know what it is so they can get your membership information updated. Contact them at niendorf2@att.net to update your info.

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.



2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd.
Neenah, WI 54956
Phone: 920-749-7807
Toll Free: 877-394-9453
E-mail:
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

President

Loris Damerow
wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com

Vice President

Joy Perry

Past President

Kristin Kauth

Secretary

Lisa Sturgis

Treasurer

Angela Dodge

Dig Coordinator

Donna VanBuecken

Membership

Bob Niendorf
Carol Niendorf

Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow

Cheryl Root

Newsletter Editor

Joan Rudolph

Programs

Rosemary Eiden
Sue Mings

Publicity

Janet Carlson
Tracey Koenig

Web

Shannon-Davis Foust

Special Committee Chairs

County Digs

Outagamie
Donna VanBuecken

Winnebago

Dave Peck

Chapter Display

Dave Edwards
Kristin Kauth

Historian/Librarian

Janet Carlson
Cathy Larsen

Hospitality

Merchandise Coordinator

Angela Dodge

Native Plant Sales

Sharon Ziebert

Wild for Monarchs

Barb Gossen
Tracey Koenig

Newsletter Contributors

Loris Damerow
Kris Kauth
Dave Misterek
Bob Niendorf
Carol Niendorf
Cheryl Root
Joan Rudolph
Lisa Sturgis
Donna VanBuecken



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.

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Oshkosh, WI
Permit No. 90

To create parks and gardens out of the beauty and composition of our native landscape is a much higher accomplishment than to form a garden with varieties of plants that have no intimate association with each other or with us.

— Jens Jensen, "Siftings," 1939

Rob Zimmer, the Post Crescent garden columnist, was our April program speaker. He spoke not only about the plight of the monarch, but also gave us information on nectaring plants for many of Wisconsin's butterflies. His pictures of the butterflies on their preferred flower were superb. As he pointed out, many of the photos he showed us were taken of plants at the WILD Center.



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

