

New Members

We welcome Spring AND our newest members:

Larry Brumond, Larsen
Daniel Fiser, Oshkosh
Sharon Hansen, Wautoma
Mike Jahnke, Berlin
Matt and Laura Kroening, Oshkosh
Sandra Mathison, Larsen
Paul and Lori Mendels, Greenville
Ana Paula Mendes, Appleton
W. Frank Raith, Reedsville
Shelly Smith, Appleton
Rhonda Spence, 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

Have Display Will Travel

Over the course of a year, would you believe nearly 700 people visit our Chapter Display at various events? The display is a key outreach component for telling people about the importance of native plants and for recruiting members. And, we are getting more requests for our display every year. But, we have a problem. We need more members willing to volunteer for these events. No, you do not need to be an expert on native plants. You just need to bring your enthusiasm to tell people about the Chapter and Wild Ones as the go to



resources on native plants. We have a core group of people who have been doing this for many years, but we need more members to help out. Don't be afraid to volunteer.

We use a buddy system so two or more members always work together. New volunteers will be teamed up with members who have experience doing this. So, next time you see a request for

display volunteers, please consider signing up! You can contact Loris Damerow or Kris Kauth if you are interested in this "reaching out" experience.

Events of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area

April 28 | Thr | Social: 6:30 pm | Program: 7pm | Evergreen RC

Shoreline Restoration

Chad Casper, Winnebago Co. Land & Water Resource Conservationist, & Melanie Leet, Conservation Technician, will speak about designing shoreline buffers and their environmental benefits

May 14 | Sat | 9-11am | WILD Center

Native Plant Sale & Order Pick-Up

Order due date April 29. Contact **Sharon Ziebert** at 920-410-6932 or raimann158@gmail.com

May 21 | Sat | Racine | Kenosha Area

Full day tour to Chiwaukee Prairie, lunch at Infisino's, and Northwind Perennial Farm for tour and shopping. (See sheet in this newsletter)

June 23 | Thr | Social: 6:30 pm | Program: 7pm | WILD Center

Shrub and Tree ID at the WILD Center

Ben French from Johnson's Nursery

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

SPRING IS HERE and with it comes the feeling of fresh possibilities and new growth; quite literally. We are not so far into the season that the garlic mustard, creeping Charlie, and buckthorn have not overwhelmed us, nor, most likely, have those invasives been completely eradicated in the patch, yard, or acreage that you steward. As Wild Ones members, we support each other in deepening efforts to keep invasives at bay and to build home environments of living habitats rather than monoculture lawns.

Spring is the time for editing OUT the invasives and it is the time to incorporate IN new native plant specimens. Surely, you have your own wish list of items from the plant sale. You might want to add a tufted drift of prairie drop seed, *Sporobolus heterolepis*, or try a wild petunia, *Ruellia humilis*, next to a sunny rock. Royal catchfly, *Silene regia*, was my new find last year.

As you experiment with new plants in your yard, I encourage you to experiment with new ways to relate to our organization. Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter has a place for you! We need folks to share their first hand experiences by becoming a mentor, or to answer questions about monarchs and milkweed at our display board. You don't need to be an expert; your interest in nature and your ecological orientation to landscapes is enough. We look forward to seeing you...at the Wild Center pulling weeds, mentoring a newbie, giving a 10 minute talk on the importance of natives, watching a WOFVA program, enjoying a bus tour, sharing photos of your yard, getting on the corridor map, chatting on the Facebook group. Write me at **wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com** for your ticket to more WILD. It is going to be a great season.



Loris Damerow
President,
Wild Ones Fox
Valley Area

Rescuing Native Plants

This is the time of year we will start to see new residential developments and new road construction taking place. So, this is the time of year for you to watch for native plants in danger of destruction. Wild Ones members rescuing plants take them home to be able to share future seed with others. Non-profit organizations developing naturally landscaped areas are also recipients of these rescued plants.

If you are aware of native plants that are going to be destroyed in the name of progress, please let one of the Chapter plant rescue volunteers know directly or e-mail **wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com** or call 920-749-7807.



Photo courtesy of Caroline Beard.

Photo courtesy of Betty Hall.

Photo courtesy of Clair Kim

Join the New Natural Landscaping Blog

There's a new natural landscaping blog on the website. Edited by Donna VanBuecken, former Executive Director of Wild Ones, this will be where you want to go to learn about new and interesting things related to natural landscaping and biodiversity. Just go to **accentnatural.com** and join others who want to be in the know. Recent posts have included information on the progress of the monarchs as they left their frozen winter quarters and recent legislation on natural resources, as well as information on seminars and conferences and availability of environmental funding.



Join today and share **accentnatural.com** with others.



Members and Non-members Welcome

2016 Racine/Kenosha Bus Tour

Chiwaukee Prairie, Infusino's, and Northwind Perennial farm

Saturday, May 21 (8 am – 6:30 pm) • Cost: \$36/person*

*Cost includes tour, bus and lunch (meal, beverage, tax, and tip).

- 8 am Bus leaves Wild Center, Neenah.
- 8:30 am Bus leaves Festival Foods, Oshkosh parking lot.
(Use outer perimeter for parking)
- 10:30 am Arrive Chiwaukee Prairie, Kenosha
(Tour Prairie)
- 1 pm Lunch at Infusino's, Racine
(See pre-order form below)
- 2:30 pm Back on the bus
- 3:15 pm Tour Northwind Perennial Farm, Burlington
(Shop for plants)
- 4:15 pm Leave for Fox Valley.
- 6 pm Return to Festival Foods parking lot, Oshkosh.
- 6:30 pm Return to Wild Center, Neenah.



NorthwindPerennialFarm.com

LUNCH at Infusino's, Racine (Please indicate option on registration form below)

Chicken Saltimbocca – Chicken breast, asparagus, proscuitto, mozzarella, topped in white sauce (value: \$8.95).

Individual, Thin Crust Pizza – Cheese, sausage, mushrooms, onions, & red sauce (value: \$8.95).

Ravioli – Meat stuffed pasta pillows smothered in our classic sauce (value: \$8.95).

***Checks are payable to:** Wild Ones Fox Valley (Fees will be refunded if we do not have a minimum of 20 reservations.)

Mail to: Rosemary Eiden, 1391 Leonard Point Rd., Oshkosh, WI 54904 • **Info:** rosi5632@att.net, (920) 233-1327

Name: _____ **Phone:** (____) _____

Lunch (select one): ☐ Chicken Saltimbocca ☐ Individual, Thin Crust Pizza ☐ Ravioli

Name: _____ **Phone:** (____) _____

Lunch (select one): ☐ Chicken Saltimbocca ☐ Individual, Thin Crust Pizza ☐ Ravioli

Name: _____ **Phone:** (____) _____

Lunch (select one): ☐ Chicken Saltimbocca ☐ Individual, Thin Crust Pizza ☐ Ravioli

Name: _____ **Phone:** (____) _____

Lunch (select one): ☐ Chicken Saltimbocca ☐ Individual, Thin Crust Pizza ☐ Ravioli

Email: _____ **Pick-up:** ☐ Oshkosh ☐ Wild Center **Total Enclosed:** \$ _____

NATURAL LANDSCAPES FOR TOMORROW 2016 GRANTS ANNOUNCED

New London Public Schools

The goal of this project is to provide a space for students in multiple disciplines to study habitat, bird, butterfly and plant identification. Topics such as landscaping, soils and how to attract wildlife to an urban/residential setting will also be studied. This project will include a partnership between Environmental sciences, Earth science and Agra science to give high school students hands on and visual experience in multiple viewpoints. This project will also be partnered with Mosquito Hill Nature Center to meet a goal of making the New London community more bird friendly. The project will take a high school site, currently maintained as lawn, and create a prairie/pollinator plat.

Apple Creek YMCA/Bruce B. Purdy Nature Preserve

The goal of the Habitat Restoration Team is to enhance the forest habitat behind the Apple Creek YMCA by removing invasive species such as buckthorn, prickly ash, and honeysuckle and replace them all with native trees, shrubs and wildflowers beneficial to local wildlife and to increase the overall biodiversity of this highly disturbed area. Children ages 10-13 (grades 4-8), with the assistance of 2 Apple Creek naturalists, will create a plan of action for the proposed project area and carry out the plan over the course of the summer. These restored areas will be used in other summer day camp programming as well as on fall and spring school field trip visits to explain to students and other visitors the damage that invasive species can have on natural habitats. They will serve as an example of how successful invasive species management can result in a more diverse and native forest habitat. The site will encompass ¼ acres and will be a mix of woodland and prairie flowers, native shrubs and trees.



Ledge View Nature Center

The Carolyn's Cavern Woodland Wildflower restoration project aims to restore a badly disturbed and degraded woodland wildflower community. Species that were previously present in the area or that are found in similar communities within the park will be used. We will utilize Boy or Girl Scouts for planting as partial fulfillment of an environmental science badge. Interpretation will be placed in the area with the goal of educating park visitors on the importance of healthy natural plant communities and the process of restoration. On average 12,000 school age children per year visit Carolyn's Caverns and thus the proposed area of restoration and education.

Riverview Gardens, Inc. (RVG)

RVG is installing 6.2 acres of natural prairie habitat on the former golf course in downtown Appleton, WI, which land now supports certified organic urban farm and other agricultural social enterprises as part of a job training program for people in need. Prairie creates natural landscape and ideal habitat for honey bees that thrive at RVG. RVG hosts numerous school groups (grade-college) for volunteering and research. Many educational opportunities exist. Since RVG is open for daytime public use, and public trails run along areas of proposed prairie (trail to be enhanced by City of Appleton in 2018), this area will be enjoyed by thousands of community members.

A Celebrated Event With Positive Results

20th Toward Harmony with Nature Conference held January 30

The event, attended by 292 people, of which 178 were Wild Ones members, also came from many places outside our area including Milwaukee, Racine, Green Bay, Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids, Madison, Sturgeon Bay, Cable, as well as, Marquette, MI, and Chicago and Buffalo Grove, IL., just to name a few.

Conference Attendee Survey* Results

- 62% attended previous conferences and 37% attended for the first time
- 85% of the attendees were 50+ years of age (*one challenge for our Chapter is to interest, involve younger people.*)
- 69% of the attendees were female, 31% male
- 87% indicated the conference met their expectations
- 93% rated the speakers informative/good
- 63% came to learn about using native plants in an urban or suburban yard
- 63% came to hear speakers on environmental topics
- 97% indicated the conference has impacted their landscaping decisions to use native plants.

"Great speakers, always learn something new that I can use in my transition to using more native plants."

"Great job. Thank you for a wonderful day."

"Always well organized, great vendors, well-addressed topics."

"I was very impressed with all the speakers I heard at the conference. Very knowledgeable and easy to listen to. Keep up the good work. I am looking forward to next year already."

Thank you to all the Chapter volunteers that helped during the conference, ensuring the day ran smoothly. At the opening of the program, the Conference Planning Committee was recognized for their work over the past 20 years – thank you to the following people for their time and talent they share with us:

- 20 years: Carol Niendorf
- 16 years: Bob Niendorf, Karen Syverson, Donna VanBuecken
- 15 years: Sue and Dave Peck, Janet Wissink
- 13 years: Angela Dodge, Barb Stanek
- 7 years: Dave Misterek, Lucy Valitchka
- 5 years: Kristin Kauth
- 3 years: Janet Carlson, Arno and Loris Damerow, Laura Ramseier

Thank you to our sponsors, we gratefully acknowledge their generous support.



**Grant from an anonymous donor of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation
In-kind Donation from Oshkosh Convention & Visitors Bureau.**

**1/3 of conference attendees responded to survey.*



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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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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First Annual UW Oshkosh *FREE* School

Who Should Attend: Everyone from the Oshkosh community and surrounding areas.

When: April 23 8 am – 8 pm *Come for the whole day or just part of it!*

What: UWO *FREE* School. A whole day of *FREE* workshops, skillshops and lectures, focusing on environmental awareness, green living, personal health, community engagement, and social justice.

***FREE* lunch and childcare will be provided!**

For an updated schedule email Sossina at: chirhs75@uwosh.edu or visit our website: <http://chirhs75.wix.com/uwofreeschool>.

Where: UWO Campus in Sage Hall. 835 High Ave, Oshkosh, WI. Please use the first entrance facing high street because that is where check in is.

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.




QR code Scan below

Come learn at the Free School!

Sponsored By: UW Oshkosh Student Environmental Action Coalition

First Annual University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Free School



Who? Everyone from the Oshkosh community and surrounding areas.

What? UWO Free School. A whole day of free workshops, skillshops and lectures, focusing on environmental awareness, green living, personal health, community engagement, and social justice. Free lunch and childcare will be provided! For an updated schedule email Sossina at: chirhs75@uwosh.edu or visit our website: <http://chirhs75.wix.com/uwofreeschool>

Where? UWO Campus in Sage Hall. 835 High Ave Oshkosh, WI. Please use the first entrance facing high street because that is where **check in** is.

When? April 23, 2016. 8a- 8p. Come for the whole day or just a part of it!

Why? Because learning should be free, especially learning the skills and attitudes needed to live a healthy, environmentally whole life in community. Free Schools bridge a social injustice, because they offer valuable knowledge to everyone without charge. The UWO Free School hopes to provide a forum for community engagement and a place where we can all come together to learn.

Questions? Please contact the event organizers:

- Sossina Chihart: chirhs75@uwosh.edu
- Laura Hartman: lhartman@uwosh.edu (920) 424-0746
- Emily Martin: emmartin@uwosh.edu
- Tayler Harlow: taylor007@uwosh.edu

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