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Neenah, WI 54956

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Hometown Habitat

Wild Ones Honorary Director Catherine Zimmerman has finished her film Hometown Habitat featuring Wild Ones Honorary director Doug Tallamy, PhD. Narrating throughout the video, Doug makes listeners aware of the interdependency of humans and wildlife and the need to sustain biodiversity and habitat.

Hometown Habitat is a film about hometown heroes — individuals and organizations — who already understand the valuable ecosystem services native plants provide. There are a number of Wild Ones environmental heroes featured including Steve Apfelbaum, MS, Rock River Valley Chapter; Ned Dorff, Green Bay Chapter; Todd Crail and Hal Mann, Oak Openings Chapter; and Donna VanBuecken, Fox Valley Area Chapter.

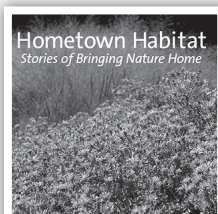
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By showing the work these individuals and organizations undertake to preserve biodiversity and habitat, the film hopes to inspire a new group of habitat heroes to carry on the natural landscaping movement.

Copies of the film are now available in DVD format at **themeadowproject.com** as well as the original trailer. Catherine is working on a press kit to include with the new trailer which will be coming out shortly. If you'd like to book a screening, contact Videographer Zimmerman at **info@hometownhabitat.com**

Catherine is also in need of donations toward the production of the video. If you can help, please go to **themeadowproject.com** to donate.



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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



Chapter Newsletter

Volume 24 • No. 3 June 2016 – July 2016

New Members

A warm Wild Ones welcome to these new members of our Chapter:

Bob Fox, Kaukauna

Bob and Carol Hemke, Winneconne

Tina Lyon, 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 Accelerated Learning Program

The Wild Ones New Member Handbook has lots of great information in it from philosophy to seed gathering to FAQs. But the section I like best is one entitled “Wild Ones’ Accelerated Learning Program.” Why? Because it tells us the best way to learn about natural landscaping is through volunteering.

Personally, I love to volunteer because I love sharing with people what I know about natural landscaping and learning from them what they know. It's a great opportunity to communicate with fellow human beings. I have found that the more time I spend with Wild Ones members and other environmentalists, the more I learn.

As a member of the Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter, you have this same opportunity to learn available to you. Through simply volunteering, for example, to be a greeter at the door of a Chapter meeting or offering to help clean up after afterward, you will be on the inside track of learning about natural landscaping. Volunteering will help you to learn not only people's names, but also who's experienced at raingardening, propagating shrubs, or diagnosing tree diseases. It also gives you the opportunity to share your knowledge with others.

Beyond these personal rewards, volunteering also helps to more evenly distribute Chapter tasks among members so fewer burdens are placed on any individual and the Chapter stays healthy and strong.

Our Chapter has **volunteering opportunities** available for a variety of tasks, all of them relatively simple to accomplish – it just takes a little time:

- **Display:** setting up and/or manning the Chapter display at various community events

- **Newsletter:** edit and/or report on various items of interest to Chapter members
- **Photos:** provide for use on the display, Chapter newsletter and various promotional materials
- **Mentoring:** meeting with novice members and helping them get started on their natural landscaping
- **Meetings:** greeting attendees, providing refreshments, setting up/taking down chairs and tables for Chapter educational meetings
- **Conference:** participating on planning committees and/or helping out day of conference
- **Social Media:** helping update webpage and maintain facebook page; also geo mapping program
- **Programs:** arranging for speaker presentations and/or summer tours; leading a tour at the WILD Center
- **Board:** volunteer for any one of several board positions which have responsibility for running Chapter
- **Gardening:** assist with maintenance of WILD Center as payback for use of facility for Chapter meetings and other events
- **Dig:** finding sites and/or supervising plant rescues

Join us on July 21st to learn more about these volunteer opportunities and about the goals for the Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter for the Fox Valley community. Learn how a small investment of your time can yield big returns in your education as you get to talk to others who know or need to know more about natural landscaping and native plants.

The WILD Center is located at 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd, Neenah, Wisconsin. The Wild Ones **New Member Handbook** can be found at **wildones.org/download/Journal/NewMemberHandbook2010Ed.pdf**

Events of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area

June 23 | Thr | 5–8 pm | WILD Center
Shrub and Tree ID at the WILD Center

July 21 | Thr | 6:30 pm | WILD Center
Wild Ones Accelerated Learning Program

July 28 | Thr | 6-7:30 pm | Fremont
Tour Langner Property
N414 Winchester Rd., Fremont, Town of Dale

August 19-21 | Fri-Sun | WILD Center
Wild Ones National Annual Conference Weekend

President's Message

In preparing to give a Wild Ones talk this week, I spent some time distilling our mission and digging deeper into our Wild Ones message and why it is so important. I found myself using the word imperative to convey the urgency of our cause.

Wild Ones Mission: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes, promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities.

Wild Ones is an organization with environmental focus; saving the planet, one yard at a time. Our message puts the accent on empowerment regarding our global environmental crisis. You can have positive impact through personal action; you can make a difference. We educate to three main points: utilizing native plants, engaging in ecologically sound landscape practices, and increasing biodiversity.

At the top of our priority list is promoting the use of native plants. Tallamy, and others, are gathering a significant body of knowledge as to the role of native plants in our ecosystems. The path is now clearer for making a scientific case for the high ecological value of natives. Native species, like oak (quercus) or switchgrass (panicum) or purple coneflower (echinacea) are the underpinnings of our eco-webs.

Our statement about environmentally sound landscape practices, means stewarding water resources, creating wildlife habits, and not relying on chemicals to keep our home environments green.

Increasing biodiversity is also right up there on our mission list. We value native genus, Rudbeckia for instance, that familiar yellow black-eyed Susan flower, over Rudbeckia 'Cherry Brandy', which is commercially developed to be maroon red. This makes it a nativar. To quote this article, Nativars: Where do they fit in? Wild Ones Journal, Nov/Dec 2013 issue, to be found on the national website, <http://www.wildones.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Nativars-Statement-with-reference.pdf>.

"Nativars are not the same as straight species in the wild. Nativars are selected and perpetuated by horticulturists for many reasons including unusual colors or forms of flowers, compact size, insect or disease resistance, etc. The premise behind the use of nativars is to isolate a single genetic sliver from the diversity of the natural gene pool of a native species." The use of nativars inherently limits genetic diversity, not to mention the confusion it can cause to pollinators who are used to a yellow plant. As John Muir so eloquently put it in 1911, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe."

The list below and the words which precede it, also from the nativar article, summarizes the five action items of our mission. "In a time of climatic uncertainty, it is important to protect the natural environment we live in. Without it, we cannot survive. Part of that protection strategy is to create our own native gardens to:

- connect corridors for songbirds, pollinators, etc.;
- incorporate species of our natural heritage;
- reduce use of potentially invasive garden plants;
- reduce water, fertilizer and chemical usage;
- educate our family and neighbors;
- support local native plant growers."

Loris Damerow
President, Wild Ones Fox Valley Area



Our Chapter has a New Vice President!

Tim McKeag has taken over the Vice Presidency of our Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter from Joy Perry. Tim is Vice President – Business Development Officer of First Business Bank. He attended UW-O for his under graduate and MBA degrees.



Tim was recently elected to the Appleton School Board and is on the Appleton Education Foundation Board. He is also a member of the board of CAP Services and the UW-O College of Business Advisory Board.

Tim is married to his wife, Joby and they have two adult daughters.

Tim has been a Wild Ones member for three years and an active member for two years. He joined Wild Ones because of his interest in environmental matters. He feels he should've joined Wild Ones years ago but did not have the time. Now, since his children are grown, educated, married, and have moved away he is getting into growing and promoting native plants.

Over the last two years, through help provided by Wild Ones members, he has completely redone his small urban lot. Though he still has some non-native plants, he has eliminated Buckthorn, Honey suckle, and Goutweed (still fighting Lilly of the valley, vinca, and day lilies). He has replaced the invasive plants with serviceberry, viburnums, and wild ginger. He has established three small native plant gardens and is working on a couple more. He has decreased his traditional yard, started composting, installed a rain barrel, and uses a manual push mower when cutting his smaller traditional lawn. He has also indoctrinated family and neighbors in the joys of using native plants and organic gardening techniques.

All of this in the last two years! Tim is looking forward to further spreading the Wild Ones mission. One yard at a time! We are very happy to have his enthusiasm and fresh outlook on the Chapter board.

Educational Enrichment Stipends Available for Chapter Members

Since there is so much to learn about native plants, sustainable landscaping and the complex interplay of natural eco-systems, Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter (WOFVA) encourages the membership to seek further educational enrichment as it relates to the Wild Ones mission.

Each year in an effort to promote learning, the Chapter Board sets aside \$500 annually for educational stipends. In its second year of being offered, \$250 per person is available for approved conference, workshop, or leadership trainings. These funds can be used toward registration fees, lodging, travel, or meal expenses. Once a WOFVA board member, committee member or member-at-large, identifies a suitable educational opportunity they would like to pursue, funds can be applied toward these purposes.

Applications can be obtained on the Chapter website, wildonesfoxvalley.com

under GRANTS/Application for Monetary Support for Members to Attend Educational Programs. All applications must be submitted to a Chapter Board meeting prior to the event for approval. Chapter Board meetings are usually held on the first Monday of every month.

Upon approval, the recipient of the award will be expected to make a formal presentation to the Board and/or the membership, through an article in the Chapter newsletter or presentation at a membership meeting. This is relatively a new benefit of WOFVA membership, one that we hope members will consider this year and in future years.

If you have any questions on this program, contact Loris Damerow, Chapter President, by email at: wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com.

2016 Plant Sale

Many orders were filled and volunteers worked hard getting everything sorted and labeled with the appropriate names.



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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.

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wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com

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