

## New Members

Our native plots are blossoming and so is our Chapter! **Welcome to these newest members:**

Linda DeNell, Green Lake

Vicky Redlin, Oshkosh

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 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](http://wildones.org)

## Tour Sullivan's Woods — September 22

by Katherine D. Rill, August 12, 2002 taken from Winnebago Audubon Society website

In pre-settlement times, native prairies and oak openings were present in the part of Winnebago County where Sullivan's Woods is now located. The idea to plant a prairie was conceived by Winnebago Audubon Society and The Friends of Sullivan's Woods in 1988 with the encouragement of Ray Wachholz, Environmental Coordinator of the Oshkosh Area School District.

An open area of approximately one acre of mostly reed canary grass was selected to establish a prairie. The goal was to plant prairie grasses and forbs to give students some idea of what a prairie looked like in the early days and acquaint them with some of the plants that may have been present.

To oversee the project, The Don Vorpahl Landscape/Environmental Planners was hired. Audubon members were told the first challenge would be to get rid of the reed canary grass and other weedy species before preparing the soil for planting. Using the herbicide Roundup was the recommended approach, but there were concerns about its use. Consultant Don Vorpahl said that the job could be done without an herbicide but that hand pulling weeds and a regime of plowing and waiting for weed seeds to sprout between plowings would be necessary. Members were willing to take this approach even though it involved more work. He suggested a



three till, multiple-harrow plan, supplemented by hand raking and weed removal at each stage with a final goal on planting day of having a firm seed bed with fine textured soil as free of weeds and weed seeds as possible. This plan was implemented and willing volunteers spent many hours removing weeds. On the day of the actual planting, July 8, 1989, a group of volunteers hand planted forbs and grass seedlings and broadcast other seeds. Then all that was necessary was to wait for nature to do its work.

In order for a prairie to continue to grow in Wisconsin on the prairie/forest border, shrubs and trees that will encroach must be eliminated. Prairies remained open in pre-settlement times because of fires caused by lightning or fires set by Indians to aid their hunting and agriculture. What this meant,

was that periodically, the prairie must be burned. This was done initially in consultation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and later burns were carried out by The Friends of Sullivan's Woods.

Since 1988, the Sullivan's Woods prairie has matured into a creditable example of the original prairies and is a valuable teaching tool for Oshkosh Area School District students.

**Address: 6342 Hay Rd, Town of Utica.** For a map, refer to the chapter website and calendar.

## Events of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area

**Aug 19–21 | Fri–Sun | Wild Ones (National) Annual Conference Weekend | WILD Center**

All members are welcome. Check the National website.

**Aug 25 | Thurs | 6-7:30 PM | Show Me, Tell Me – Rebecca Eyer & Tom Swaya Property | 5040 Island View Dr, Oshkosh, WI 54901**

Connie Ramthun, owner of Kettle Moraine Natural Landscaping and garden design, will "show" us the garden and "tell" ways to improve the native habitat and design. This long, narrow residential lot on Lake Winnebago has been transformed into a more native landscape with emphasis on reducing turf and attracting butterflies.

**Sept 22 | Thurs | 6 pm | Tour Sullivan's Woods & Prairie | 6342 Hay Rd, Town of Utica**

Friends of Sullivan's Woods will show an introductory DVD followed by a tour of the property.

**Sept 24 | Sat | 9-11 am | Native Tree & Plant Sale | WILD Center**

Pre-order pick-up only. (Order form in this newsletter and online. Contact Tim McKeag [tmckeag@firstbusiness.com](mailto:tmckeag@firstbusiness.com))

# President's Message

WOFVA is wild for pollinators. The Wild Ones organization has been promoting the use of native plants for over 36 years and the nation's growing awareness of the plight of the pollinator has highlighted our core mission. As a Wild Ones member, perhaps you have been learning more about pollinators this summer by attending our Pollinator Garden Bonanza event in July or listening to Heather Holm, photographer, author, and naturalist, lead a tour through the Wild Center prairie in August. As Holm declares in the preface to her book, *Pollinators of Native Plants*, "Native plants play a critical role in supporting pollinators and beneficial insect populations. Pollinators have evolved with native plants over thousands of years, developing unique and interdependent relationships. Incorporating more native plants into the home garden, agricultural, or large natural landscape, can have an extremely positive impact on pollinators and all wildlife. Every individual can make a difference by planting native plants."

As we move into fall, our own yards and gardens can be part of the solution. Now is the time to look around your home habitat and see where you can increase your positive impact by incorporating pollinator friendly native plants. Walk around your grounds with paper and pencil in hand, to see if there are areas that could use a refurbish. Is there an area where something could come out to make room for a native that will yield higher ecological return? The native tree & shrub order forms for the upcoming WOFVA sale are in this newsletter. Fall is a great time for site preparation and clean out as well as planning what to purchase. Take a look now, during high summer, to analyze what you have and identify new areas for breaking ground or upgrading. Orders for our 2017 spring plant sale will be placed earlier than in previous years so that we can maximize the availability of plant material from our suppliers in the spring. Take a walk. Look around. Enjoy the season and get those wheels turning, keeping the 'plight of the pollinators' and the beauty of native plants in mind.



— Loris Damerow  
President, Wild  
Ones Fox  
Valley Area

## Native Plants out of Place

by Donna VanBuecken

Wild Ones Honorary Director Janet Marinelli recently wrote an opinion piece entitled "As World Warms, How Do We Decide When a Plant is Native?" In this article she cites the impact of transplanting umbrella magnolia (*Magnolia tripetala*) trees from the "sheltered woods and ravines of the Appalachian Mountain" to Emily Dickinson's reclusive home in Amherst, Massachusetts. Today, there are escapee umbrella magnolias growing outside of Dickinson's garden as well as elsewhere in the Northeast because they have been "horticulturally" moved.



Janet asks what role gardeners should play in helping plant species migrate as temperatures rise and change botanical zones. She concludes that Emily Dickinson's movement of the magnolias to her homestead in Amherst may be more appropriate than Thoreau's and Muir's desire to leave the wilderness alone.

The question is thought-provoking. There have been a number of articles written by the naysayers that focus on a similar premise. This Yale article, like most of the others, does not address the problem of lost biodiversity created by the horticultural or the personal movement of the native plants. Biodiversity is maintained when the native plants are allowed to migrate on their own (adaptive evolution). Horticulturally assisted movement of

*continues on page 3*



These plants are no longer native; they are naturalized.

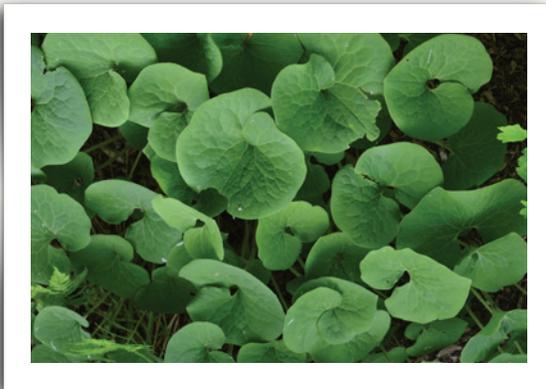
In the April/May/June 2012 issue of the Wild Ones Journal (pg 6), Maryann Whitman wrote a brief article about the importance of genetic diversity with respect to the American elm. Plant scientists have found some elms that were naturally resistant to the Dutch elm disease. "Without genetic diversity, all the elm trees would have been identical. They would have been infected and all would have died..." Thus the case for adaptive evolution. Had we simply moved the typical elm tree to a new location, ultimately it would have succumbed to the disease.



A similar situation could be imagined with respect to magnolias or any other Southern native plant. The native plants that are able to withstand, through migration or other adaptive generation, the changing environment are the ones that will survive climate change. The entire species will be stronger because of it. Those that are not able to adapt or migrate will be lost. A book that supports the premise of biodiversity is *The Living Landscape: Designing for beauty and biodiversity in the home garden* by Rick Darke and Wild Ones Honorary Director Doug Tallamy. Another is *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold.

Janet cites the work of biologist Robert Bertin who did a 2013 analysis of the flora of Worcester County in Central Massachusetts and "found that the ranges of native plants appear to be contracting." That certainly appears so based on the botanical map used in the illustration. However, we native plant gardeners would typically refer to the ecoregions map instead of the hardiness zone map to document the shifting of plants.

It's entirely possible the contraction may look different when recorded by ecoregion instead of by temperature. Since the hardiness zone map only takes into account sunlight/temperature, it is hardly relevant to a native plant in its place.



Another consideration is whether or not horticulturally moved native plants could "hijack the habitat of existing native species." Just like non-native plants imported from Eurasia, native plants imported to different parts of America may take over the native habitat so important to the insects, birds and animals in that area.

Finally, Marinelli also cites the travels of the mastodons, giant ground-sloths and other megafauna as being one of the unique ways in which native plants were dispersed more than 12,000 years ago. The same could be said for any of the wildlife today. But not to be forgotten is the fact that these critters are also part of the biodiversity continuum. Wildlife and the native plants upon which they depend need to make their movements relative to climate change together since typically their survival is interdependent.

My conclusion tends to still be **native plants out of place are not native plants.**

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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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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.



## Quotes: The Living Landscape

by Ricke Darke & Doug Tallamy

*“Trees in small urban parks have been shown to remove 48 pounds of particulates, 9 pounds of nitrogen dioxide, 6 pounds of sulfur dioxide, and half a pound of carbon monoxide daily during the growing season.”*

*“Plants, of course, do not want to be eaten. They want to capture the energy from the sun and use it for their own growth and reproduction, so they manufacture nasty tasting chemicals specifically to deter plant-eaters.”*

*“Because they have the potential to live longer than plants in the shrub and herbaceous layers, and because they profoundly affect growing conditions beneath them, trees of all sizes warrant special care in their selection and placement.”*

*“Not only do insects rely on a particular part of the plant for their nutrition, they also restrict their feeding to particular plant lineages.”*

### 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](mailto:wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com).

## 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](http://wildones.org)