

22ND TOWARD HARMONY WITH NATURE CONFERENCE A GREAT SUCCESS!

By Kristin Kauth

The Chapter's annual conference held on January 27 in Oshkosh was attended by 317 people. Included in this, were 18 vendors that brought a great deal of expertise and variety to the event. Neil Diboll's keynote on "The American Garden - A Life or Death Situation" held the audience spellbound. The nine concurrent session speakers also shared their expertise with full audiences.

This year we've added a new feature. In the near future materials from five of the presentations (presentation slides and related links including contact info) will be made available on the conference website **TowardHarmonywithNature.org**. This will include the keynote presentation. At a much later date, a DVD of the keynote presentation will also be available for purchase. The availability of these materials will be announced in the Chapter's monthly e-message.

KEY NOTE SPEAKER

Neil Diboll gave many frightening statistics about the state of our environment and the history of turf and gardening in our society. He gave hope in letting us know what we can do to improve our situation.

Neil Diboll
Photo Courtesy
of Joan Rudolph



WHAT CAN WE DO?

1. Work for positive political change
2. Minimize our ecological footprint
3. Create wild-life friendly landscapes
4. Encourage others to "Go Native"
5. Educate the next generation about ecological gardening with natives.
6. Our planet depends on it!

"We must be leaders in the conversion of the American Garden from self-serving contrivance to a Living Habitat."

"Our landscapes should be a Joint Venture with Nature - Meeting her halfway in a mutually beneficial co-existence in our cities, suburbs, and rural lands."

THANK YOU

Many thanks go to the conference planning committee for executing such a well-run event: Janet Carlson, Barb Cattani, Jamie Fuerst, Shannon Davis-Foust, Kathleen Hallet, Kristin Kauth, Dave Misterek, Carol and Bob Niendorf, Sue and Dave Peck, Laura Ramseier, Barb Stanek, Karen Syverson, Donna VanBuecken, Janet Wissink. And many thanks to the volunteers that helped that day: Angela Dodge, Dave Edwards, Rebecca Eyer, Sue Forbes, Kay Lettau, Tim McKeag, Mary Nortman, Ed Pahl, Vicki Redlin, and Joan Rudolph.

Also a special thanks to our members and the vendors who donated to and made the Silent Auction a worthwhile and fun activity.

This conference was **sponsored by Cellcom and We Energies Foundation with an in-kind donation from The Oshkosh Convention & Visitors Bureau**. We thank them for their support which was greatly appreciated and helped to make this conference possible.

Vendor Mosquito Hill Nature Center
Photo Courtesy of Jamie Fuerst



Special Performance by Folksinger and Songwriter Steve Hazell
Photo Courtesy of Joan Rudolph



2018 Programs & Tours

Feb 22 | Thr | 6pm | WILD Center | 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd, Neenah, WI 54956
Annual Meeting, Potluck Dinner

March 22 | Thr | 6:30pm Social | 7pm Program | WILD Center | 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd, Neenah, WI 54956
Appleton Pollinator Project, Build Your Own Bee House

Israel Del Toro, Assistant Professor of Biology at Lawrence University, will relay his research from the Appleton Pollinator project that aims to boost pollinator habitat sites in the Fox Valley. Del Toro will lead participants in constructing a mason bee house to take home.

April 19 | Thr | 7pm Program | Appleton Public Library | Meeting room C, Lower level, 225 N Oneida St, Appleton, WI 54911
"Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home"

View an environmental documentary highlighting the critical role native plants play in the survival of local ecosystems. All of us have the power to support habitat for wildlife and bring natural beauty to our patch of the earth.

May 19 | Sat | 9–2pm | WILD Center | 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd, Neenah, WI 54956
Native Plant Sale & Order Pick-Up

The annual Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter plant sale is an opportunity to purchase regionally sourced native forbs, grasses, shrubs and trees at reasonable prices. Proceeds from the sale go to further the environmental mission of the Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter. Pre-Orders are due **March 31, 2018**. Order form in the WOFVA winter newsletter & on website: <http://foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/spring-native-plant-sale>

- Spring Plant Sale inquiries contact: Pat & Dick Filzen at psf4fiber@gmail.com, rffilzen@twc.com or (920) 754-4235
- Spring Forbs & Grasses Sales: Everett Grosskopf at everettgrosskopf@gmail.com or (920) 470-6325

June 27 | Wed | 6-8 pm | Green Bay Botanic Garden | 2600 Larsen Rd, Green Bay, WI 54303
Green Bay Botanical Gardens Tour: Focus on Natives

Tour the new Schneider Family Grand Garden with Director of Horticulture, **Mark Konlock**, and learn about the incorporation of native plants into this 2.5 acre garden expansion. The design of this area will inspire you to combine grasses, natives, and pollinator loving ornamentals in your own yard. Admission to the gardens on Wednesday evenings is free. Gather in the main lobby for tour.

July 26 | Thr | 6 pm | WILD Center | 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd, Neenah, WI 54956
Hypertufa Planter Workshop

Create a rock shaped planter out of hypertufa, a Portland cement compound. Using a free-form method, gardener **Loris Damerow**, will lead you through this hands-on workshop to make a simulated rock with a pocket for planting. You will also receive a pad of native prickly pear cactus to take home. To register, e-mail Loris at lorisleaf@yahoo.com. Limit 12 participants. Materials fee of \$15.00.

Aug 23 | Thr | 5:30 pm | Appleton Memorial Park Gardens | 1313 E Witzke Blvd, Appleton, WI 54911
Appleton Memorial Park Gardens Savanna Tour

Walk with **Dick Nikolai**, retired DNR Wildlife Biologist and volunteer, and **Jim Kinderman**, Appleton Parks Dept. Learn about the prairie savanna site within this public park. We will be guided to the initial planting areas created in 2001, identify native species, visit new developments, and witness how the area has grown and changed over time. Hear about plans for increasing the native diversity at this choice community location.

Sept 27 | Thr | 6:30 pm Social | 7 pm Program | WILD Center | 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd, Neenah, WI 54956
An Ethic of Restoration in the Fox River Watershed

Laura M. Hartman, assistant professor of environmental studies at the UW-Oshkosh, brings environmental philosophy to a real-world discussion at Wild Ones. What counts as "natural" when we restore an ecosystem? What is the value of nature and how does human intervention diminish or enhance that value? This presentation is part of a larger project bringing ecological restorationists of all kinds into conversation with environmental philosophy.

Nov 15 | Thr | 6:30 pm Social | 7 pm Program | Evergreen | 1130 N Westfield St, Oshkosh, WI 54902
Partnership with Winnebago Audubon Society, Birdscaping in the Midwest

Mariette Nowak, author of *Birdscaping in the Midwest* and former director of the Wehr Nature Center in Milwaukee County, will present on attracting birds to your home landscape. Creating a native plant environment in your yard can offer a year-long smorgasbord of berries, nuts, seeds and insects while providing habitat for birds, butterflies, bees, and bats.

Jan 19 | Sat | 8am–4:15pm | Oshkosh Convention Center | 2 N Main St, Oshkosh, WI 54901
23rd Annual Toward Harmony with Nature Conference

Watch for information in the fall edition of the WOFVA newsletter and on conference website: TowardHarmonywithNature.org.

Illustration courtesy of Arno B. Damerow

