



NATIVE PLANTS. NATURAL LANDSCAPES

FOX VALLEY AREA

# Chapter Newsletter

Volume 26 • No. 1

Winter/Spring 2018

Photo courtesy of Rebecca Eyer

## New Members

A warm Wild Ones welcome to these new members:

- Michelle Bogden Muetzel, Oshkosh
- Jessica Enter, Greenleaf
- James Ford and Lori Rey Kenyon, Eldorado
- Laura Hartman, Oshkosh
- Jim Ries, Neenah
- Erica Weingarten, Waupaca

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

Monday–Friday, 10 am–3 pm  
Grounds Accessible & Always Open

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

## Plant, Tree and Shrub Sale

by Donna VanBuecken, Plant Sale Coordinator

**YES**, you read correctly. We will again have native trees and shrubs available during our Spring Native Plant Sale! Review the inserted order form carefully. We tried to make it as simple as possible. The backs of the order forms provide helpful information so you may make the best possible selections for your site and your intended habitat.

In an effort to get your orders in while there is still stock left, we have again set an earlier submission date.

- **Orders are due MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2018.** (Ignore the March 30, 2018 date listed on page 3 of the order form.) We hope this will allow us to keep substitutions to a minimum.
- **Pick-up date is SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2018.**

### PLANT SALE TRAIL

We are also again partnering with the Outagamie Master Gardeners and the Paper Valley Garden Club for our second annual Plant Sale Trail. Details about the trail will be included in the Spring Wild Ones Fox Valley Area newsletter.

### NEW PLANT SALE SUPERVISORS

We also want to introduce you to our new Plant, Tree and Shrub sale supervisors:

- Spring Plant Sale inquiries contact: Pat ([psf4fiber@gmail.com](mailto:psf4fiber@gmail.com)) & Dick Filzen ([rfilzen@twc.com](mailto:rfilzen@twc.com)) (920) 754-4235
- Spring Forbs & Grasses Sale: Everett Grosskopf ([everettgrosskopf@gmail.com](mailto:everettgrosskopf@gmail.com)) (920) 470-6325

Let them know if you have any questions. They are especially interested in knowing your recommendations for plants, trees or shrub species not listed on the order form, or if you'd like to special order a larger plant, tree or shrub.



## Events – Winter/Spring 2018 of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter

### Appleton Pollinator Project, Build Your Own Bee House

March 22 | Thr | 6:30pm Social | 7pm Program | WILD Center |

2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd, Neenah, WI 54956

See Programs and Tours insert for details or go to <http://bit.ly/WOFVA2018ProgramBrochure>

### “Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home”

April 19 | Thr | 7pm Program | Appleton Public Library |

Meeting room C, Lower level 225 N Oneida St, Appleton, WI

See Programs and Tours insert for details or go to <http://bit.ly/WOFVA2018ProgramBrochure>

### Native Plant Sale & Order Pick-Up

May 19 | Sat | 9–2pm | WILD Center | 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd, Neenah, WI 54956

See article above and Plant, Tree and Shrub Order Form insert for details.

Photo courtesy of Donna Van Buecken

[foxvalleyarea.wildones.org](http://foxvalleyarea.wildones.org)

# How to Prevent Birds from Killing Themselves at Our Windows

By Joy Perry



Photo Courtesy of <http://www.conveniencegroup.com/featherfriendly/feather-friendly>

I love birds. Chances are that you love birds too. That makes the following data especially upsetting:

**FACT: Every year nearly a BILLION birds die in the U.S. after colliding with buildings.**

**FACT: The great majority of those bird deaths occur at windows of homes, not at high-rises and other tall buildings.**

**CONCLUSION: We homeowners have a great opportunity to improve the outlook for birds by reducing the likelihood they'll strike our windows.**



In November, a joint gathering of members of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter and Winnebago Audubon learned of a diverse mix of strategies and products that homeowners can use to keep birds from striking their windows. This outline of those options, presented by Chuck Hagner, member of the board of directors of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, in Ozaukee County, and former editor-in-chief of Birdwatching magazine, may provide you with some ideas to incorporate at your home.

Birds generally cannot see clear or reflective glass. Most bird strikes happen when birds are panicked, such as when strafed by a hawk at a feeder. Your windows may reflect the sky and yard, seeming to offer a safe pathway for the fleeing bird.

## FOUR SIMPLE STEPS TO REDUCE BIRD-WINDOW COLLISIONS

1. **CLOSE** curtains and blinds, especially if multiple windows might appear like a passageway to a bird.
2. **MOVE** houseplants away from windows so they don't look like protective cover to a bird. Look at your house from the outside, and if you can see houseplants inside.
3. **TURN OFF** outside lights at night, especially during spring and fall migration times when lights can attract birds.
4. **MOVE** bird feeders very close to windows, or far away. Most fatal collisions occur when feeders are located 4 to 10 meters from windows, so feeders placed very close are relatively safe for birds, as are those that are more than about 30 feet away.

We "plant people" also can reduce bird strikes through our landscaping designs. As the American Bird Conservancy suggests, avoid creating an effect where landscaping funnels birds toward glass panes (e.g., along walkways or edges) or where approaches to a building (by vehicles or people) flush birds towards windows.

Mr. Hagner described a large array of products that can be used to make glass visible to birds or to create barriers (*links on right*).

One strategy is to make patterns on the outer glass surface with tempera paints, especially on windows, such as clerestory windows that you do not need to see through clearly.

These should not be single elements, but groups that leave no spaces larger than about 2 inches high by 4 inches wide. Other methods rely on the fact that birds see ultraviolet light much better than we do. A UV liquid "dabber" from Window Alert can be used to create less-noticeable patterns (to us) on the outsides of windows than paint. Similarly, small window UV "clings" and UV bird tape can be applied in patterns; these need to be replaced about every 2 years to maintain effectiveness. CollidEscape, FeatherFriendly and other companies make these and also full window-covering sheets.

Window manufacturers also offer some solutions. Fritted glass, with lines or patterns of tiny ceramic dots on the exterior surface, makes the glass visible to birds. Not inexpensive, but these products are nonetheless worthwhile if you're considering a window retrofit. Installing windows so that they tilt a couple degrees outward at the top also is effective – the reflection is off the ground, not sky.

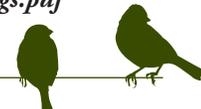
Some products are placed in front of the window surface. Acopian Bird Savers are "Zen Wind Curtains," fine nylon cords that dangle vertically in front of a window surface, moving gently in breezes and breaking up reflections. This is my favorite solution. I plan to install some of these for our most-offending windows using the instructions from the company's website.

Finally, we can create barriers that physically prevent the birds from crashing into our windows. These can be preassembled curtains of taut monofilament lines ([santaronational.com](http://santaronational.com)) or transparent black fiberglass screens that attach with Velcro outside windows or screen doors ([birdscreen.com](http://birdscreen.com)).

Many thanks go to Mr. Hagner for offering the helpful ideas above. For more information, also see the excellent publication (with photos!) by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "Reducing Bird Collisions With Buildings and Building Glass: Best Practices" at <https://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/reducingbirdcollisionswithbuildings.pdf>

## MAKING WINDOWS VISIBLE

- [www.windowalert.com](http://www.windowalert.com)
- [www.abcbirdtape.org](http://www.abcbirdtape.org)
- [www.birdsavers.com](http://www.birdsavers.com)
- [www.featherfriendly.org](http://www.featherfriendly.org)
- [www.collidescape.org](http://www.collidescape.org)



## BARRIERS

- [www.santaronational.com](http://www.santaronational.com)
- [www.birdscreen.com](http://www.birdscreen.com)



# Soils – Part 2

By Rebecca Eyer

In the last issue of the Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter newsletter, Volume 25, No 4, I wrote about my experiences with soil for my native plant gardens. My conclusion from my inquiry is that I should select plants for clay soil and possibly loam. In Soil - Part 2, I'll provide the results of a soil test I had conducted last summer on my Lake Winnebago property.

The results of the soil test showed that the soil has a very high pH (7.5+), is high in Phosphorus at a rating of 47 with a range of 25-40 being sufficient, and low in Potassium at a score of about 110 with a range of 120-180 being sufficient. A soil test is recommended to provide a better

understanding of your soil characteristics, capabilities, pH, nutrient levels, and deficiencies.

As shown in the Prairie Nursery Plant Finder, it is important to know your soil type and moisture retention levels when making plant selections. It is far easier to plant the right plant in the right place than to expect plants to adapt to unfavorable conditions.

Now that I know more about our soil, I am interested in researching the native plants that will grow in potash-deficient soils. I already know that tall ironweed (*Vernonia altissima*), cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*) and New England aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*) flop or lodge in our soil.

## THE BENEFITS OF KEY SOIL NUTRIENTS AND THE PLANT RESPONSES TO A DEFICIT OF THESE NUTRIENTS.

NUTRIENT	BENEFIT*	DEFICIENT*
 <p><b>Nitrogen (N)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building block for plant proteins.</li> <li>• Integral part of chlorophyll (photosynthesis).</li> <li>• Component of amino acids, nucleic acids, coenzymes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slow growth &amp; stunting.</li> <li>• Yellow-green colored leaves.</li> <li>• “Firing” of tips &amp; margins of leaves; yellowing begins with mature leaves.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Phosphate (P)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forms nucleic acids DNA &amp; RNA.</li> <li>• Stores &amp; transfers energy.</li> <li>• Promotes early plant growth &amp; root formation.</li> <li>• Important for flowering &amp; fruiting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slow growth &amp; stunting.</li> <li>• Purplish coloration on foliage of some plants.</li> <li>• Dark green coloration with tips of leaves dying.</li> <li>• Delayed maturity.</li> <li>• Poor fruit or seed development.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Potassium (K)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Translocation of sugars.</li> <li>• Starch formation.</li> <li>• Efficient use of water through stomata.</li> <li>• Disease resistance.</li> <li>• Assists in enzyme activation &amp; photosynthesis.</li> <li>• Increases size &amp; quality of fruits.</li> <li>• Improves winter hardiness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tip &amp; marginal “burn” starting on mature leaves; lower leaves turn yellow.</li> <li>• Weak stalks &amp; plants lodge easily (bending of stalk or entire plant).</li> <li>• Small fruits or shriveled seeds.</li> <li>• Slow growth.</li> </ul>

\*Source: <http://extension.missouri.edu/publications/DisplayPrinterFriendlyPub.aspx?P=MG4>

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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 President

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Loris Damerow

### Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow

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#### Winnebago

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### Native Plant Sale

Donna VanBuecken

### Plant Sales Supervisors

Pat & Dick Filzen

### Tree & Shrub Sales Supervisor

Everett Grosskopf

### Newsletter Contributors

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Carol Niendorf

Joy Perry

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Donna VanBuecken



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Permit No. 90

Your mailing label is date coded with your membership **renewal**. Please pay your dues by that date. Send your check, **\$40** per household, made out to Wild Ones Fox Valley, to the national office: **Wild Ones 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd., Neenah, WI 54956**. Thank you.

## Seed Collecting Workshop

By Rebecca Eyer

On Saturday, October 21, Connie Ramthun offered her expertise for collecting seeds from native plants. Participants walked through the WILD Center prairie with several experts who identified plants and Connie gave instruction on how to remove the seed heads to gather them for next season. Shannon Davis-Foust used adapted recycled milk jugs for seed gathering convenience.

After collecting the seeds, the group gathered in the garage at the WILD Center to separate the seeds from other plant parts. This is time consuming, and it is important to remember which seeds you are separating, so they are accurately labeled. We realized why seeds are rather expensive when we went through the identifying, gathering and cleaning processes.

Connie provided instruction and a hand out about storing seeds and preparing them for planting either through stratification or other methods, for direct sowing or seedlings. Thanks Connie for an informative and interactive workshop.

*Photos courtesy of Lucy Valitchka*



## Become A Wild Ones Member

Wild Ones household membership is \$40 per year. Entire membership fee is tax- deductible. Join Wild Ones by sending your name, address and phone number to the national office:

Wild Ones  
2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd.  
Neenah, WI 54956

Business memberships and student memberships are also available. Call Wild Ones National at 877-394-9453 for an application form or go to national website:

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

*Photo courtesy of Donna Van Beucken*

**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 at [wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com).

Contact us: [wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com)

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