

Photo Courtesy of Rebecca Eyer

New Members

Welcome to these new members who joined our Chapter through September 22, 2018:

- Lynn Berry, Neenah
- Susan Farrar, Neenah
- Amy Henderson, Kimberly
- Monny Hjerstedt, Neenah

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

23rd Annual Conference

Toward Harmony with Nature

Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019, 8 am–4:15 pm

Oshkosh Convention Center, 2 N. Main St., Oshkosh, WI

Join us for an exciting all-day program of expert speakers, exhibitors and vendors, and networking with like-minded natural landscaping enthusiasts. Conference brochures with the registration form will be mailed in late November. Register now on-line at www.TowardHarmonywithNature.org or by mail.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER (9–10 am)

“The Value of Ecological Restoration”

DAVID CORDRAY, Senior Restoration Ecologist & Engineer; Owner, Environmental Returns LLC

The rich outdoor experiences of his youth in nature’s “outdoor classrooms” are the foundation of who David Cordray is today. Wishing to give others the opportunity to participate in their natural heritage, he will share a brief summary of his journey to finding ecological awareness and his insight into why we must actively participate in restoring the health of our lands. He will explore reasons for striving for ecological health, how that work benefits others, and how we can influence a greater ecological awareness.



As an engineer, David Cordray’s first career was working with environmental monitoring satellites. He changed careers in 2008 and brought his creative ideas, work ethic, and knowledge to natural land management. One of his research interests is native landscape design methods and planning to enhance the human outdoor experience. Since 2001, he and his wife Debra have been actively restoring their 100 acres near Belleville, Wisconsin to prairie and an oak savanna.

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Events

of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter

23rd Annual Conference - 2019 Toward Harmony with Nature

Jan 19 | Sat | 8 am–4:15 pm | Oshkosh Convention Center, 2 N. Main St., Oshkosh, WI

See See program details in this newsletter. Visit the conference website at www.TowardHarmonywithNature.org for conference registration, special offer for educators, vendor/exhibitor application, and detailed conference information.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Feb 28 | Thurs | 6:30 pm | WILD Center, 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Road, Neenah, WI 54956

Election of 2019 officers and tasty potluck dinner.

WILD Center

Wild Ones National Headquarters
2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd
Neenah, WI

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



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Vice President

Assist the President as necessary and assume the President's duties when necessary. Become familiar with all aspects of chapter functions. It is assumed the Vice-President will become President at the end of the current President's term.

Secretary

Attend and document monthly Board meetings, maintain and monitor implementation of by-laws, notify members of all regular and Board meetings, document Chapter Annual Meeting.

Treasurer

Maintain the Chapter checking account and make disbursements as required for conduct of chapter business, record all income and expenses, and prepare reports for monthly board meetings and the annual Chapter report to the national Wild Ones organization. Familiarity with Quicken or Quickbooks is helpful.

Co-supervisor – Trees & Shrubs

Assist Plant Sale Coordinator in setting up and sorting the tree and shrub orders. If interested, contact Everett Grosskopf, Plant Sale Coordinator, at 920-730-8436 or wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com.

Newsletter Editor

Solicit articles with associated photos for quarterly Chapter newsletter, edit and submit copy to selected members for editing, send final draft with photos to layout designer, coordinate printing and mailing of newsletter, monitor complimentary mailing lists, and costs associated with newsletter. Current newsletter editor will assist in transition to new editor.

If interested in any of the Opportunities to Serve, please contact wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FALL 2018:

What's Next?

By Barb Cattani

Change. Succession. Evolution. These are different aspects of the same thing – Growth. Sometimes growth is an unintended result of an unforeseen event. Like when a tornado came through my neighborhood a few years ago. It knocked down two big Colorado spruce (*Picea pungens*) trees in my front yard. A third tree was left standing, but my shade garden wasn't going to make it with just one tree on the northeast edge of the garden. Time to try something new. Maybe a pollinator garden would work there.

Meanwhile, nature happened. In the newly sunny area where there used to be turf grass, there were swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) seeds waiting in the soil. Several years before, there had been a big patch of swamp milkweed on that side of the yard but it had been taken over by red-twig dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) and largely disappeared. With the competition from the turf grass removed, spring brought a sixty-foot swatch of swamp milkweed seedlings. The problem was that it was a monoculture. It doesn't really matter if you're looking at field corn, stately elms, or native plants, little or no diversity is boring, and not sustainable. Within a few years, the swamp milkweed disappeared.

It was time to do some serious re-vamping. I decided to wait until spring when I could stock up at the Chapter Native Plant Sale. Now other plants, like New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), and wild quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*) thrive. Ironweed (*Vernonia fasciculata*) and Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium reptans*) found their way across the path to the new area.

For an organization, it's better to plan for the changes, rather than be taken by surprise. It's also usually better to take direct action, instead of waiting for something to happen. And that's why we sent out the survey to our Chapter membership. New Chapter officers, including Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, will be elected at the annual Business Meeting in February. We are seeking people willing to take on those roles. If you read the names listed in the sidebar on page 4 of this newsletter, you'll notice that several people have multiple jobs on the board. This is the organizational equivalent of a monoculture. It's also a lot of work for a few people to do, and they've been doing it for many seasons now.

The survey responses included lots of good suggestions. The board has ideas we'd like to implement, but we can't continue to add new projects to the same people. To improve a garden, the answer isn't more of the same species, it's also new species. And honestly, we recognize that we don't have the skills to implement some of the new ideas. Put the right plant in the right place to be successful.

We need volunteers at all levels of commitment. A board member attends monthly meetings and works on a specific project, like editing the newsletter or coordinating requests for the Chapter display. Annual activities like the Native Plant Sale and the annual conference need volunteers for a few hours during the events. Work days at the WILD Center are other opportunities to help without making a long-term commitment, with the benefit of learning more about native plants, the animals that live with them, and interacting with other Wild Ones members. If you're looking for more flexible tasks, please post on our Facebook page to help spread the word about native plants. Get us started on Twitter and Instagram. Can you be the person who tweets about Chapter activities and posts pictures from the WILD Center or your own garden? We know we aren't using social media enough. Please help us become more accessible, relevant, and engaging.

We may need to reduce or simplify our current activities to make room for new ideas. That was the reason for the survey and we appreciate everyone who took the time to respond. But we can't continue to grow without your help. Talk to a board member at a Chapter meeting or send an email to wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com to let us know what you're interested in doing. Most importantly, thank you for your support of Wild Ones. We are healing the earth one yard at a time.



Too much of a good thing -
(*Asclepias incarnata*)

Photos courtesy of Barb Cattani

Toward Harmony with Nature

Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019, 9 am–4:15 pm Oshkosh Convention Center, 2 N. Main St., Oshkosh, WI

CONCURRENT SESSION I (10:30–11:45 am) Choose one of the three speakers below:

“Native Trees and Shrubs that Work Together”

BEN FRENCH, propagator, Johnson’s Nursery Inc.

Ben will share how to select winning combinations from the native woody plants of Wisconsin. Join him in a discussion of how to prioritize your planting goals for your site.

Ben earned his B.S. degree in Forestry from the University of Wisconsin (UW) - Stevens Point. He started working at Johnson’s Nursery as an Intern in 2010 where he weeded, watered, potted plants, and propagated. He is now part of the senior leadership team. He also does recruiting and presentations for Johnson’s, specializing in propagation, plant insects and diseases, Wisconsin native plants, and nursery production.



“Natural Shoreline Restoration for Water Quality Protection”

PAUL SKAWINSKI, Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Educator, UW-Extension Lakes Program

Shorelines vegetated with native plants protect the property against erosion, absorb pollutants, slow runoff, provide wildlife habitat, and more. Paul will discuss the importance of natural shorelines and provide tips for making your shoreline the best it can be.

Paul teaches Aquatic Botany at UW - Stevens Point and is the author/photographer of the popular field guide *Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest: a photographic field guide to our underwater forests*. He enjoys gardening with native plants and established nearly 3,000 square feet of native landscaping in his yard in 2018 using over 2,000 plugs raised from seed. He has helped several local schools create butterfly gardens and restore native plant communities where invasive species once dominated.



“The Importance of Prairies to Threatened and Endangered Species”

SARAH WARNER, United States (US) Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist

Sarah will highlight species the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working to conserve that are specific to prairie ecosystems. She will discuss the conservation and risks to these species, as well as how to reduce potential threats.

Sarah works in the Madison, Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office and is involved with multiple projects across the Midwest that focus on endangered species recovery, habitat conservation and best management practices, and environmental contaminant projects. She works on projects focused on the poweshiek skipperling, monarch butterfly, rusty-patched bumblebee, whooping crane, and Kirtland’s warbler.



CONCURRENT SESSION II (1:15–2:30 pm) Choose one of the three speakers below:

“Integrating Natural Systems into Urban Landscapes”

STEVE APFELBAUM, Chairman and Senior Ecologist, Applied Ecological Services

Steve, who is one of the leading ecological consultants in the US, will share the restoration advice and the win-win solutions that he employs in situations where ecological and land development conflicts arise.

Steve has conducted ecological research, designed award-winning projects and contributed his creative scientific expertise to over 9,000 projects throughout North America and beyond. His work on conservation communities established Low Impact Development as a maintenance and regulatory precedent. His work on alternative stormwater management has contributed to changing the stormwater management industry nationwide. His book, *Nature’s Second Chance*, was one of the Top 10 Environmental Books of 2009. His recent book, *Restoring Ecological Health to Your Land*, co-authored with Dr. Alan Haney of UW - Stevens Point, has won praise as the first comprehensive “how-to” restoration book for landowners.



“Measure Twice and Cut Once: The Importance of Planning and Adaptive Management/When Restoring Oak Ecosystems”

AARON FEGGESTAD, Senior Associate Ecologist, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

Aaron will discuss the factors leading to the degradation of our vulnerable oak ecosystems before and during restoration and how to identify and respond to these factors in your landscape. He will discuss methods for assessing your property, setting and adjusting attainable goals, and evaluating outcomes to maximize your available resources. These factors and methods also apply to deciduous wooded ecosystems in general.

Aaron has overseen the restoration of thousands of acres of oak ecosystems and oak-prairie landscapes throughout the upper Midwest. He is involved with all phases of ecosystem restoration projects from baseline evaluations to planning, management, stewardship, and monitoring. His experience developing practical, economical, and implementation-ready plans is based on years of lessons learned.



“Amazed by Invasives – 15 Years on 15 Acres”

KATHARINE GRANT, Natural Ecosystems Management

Katharine will present her insights from 15 years of working to transform 15 acres of former cropland into restored prairie and savanna. She will introduce her favorite tools used to clear invasive plants, visit mechanical and chemical methods for managing weeds, and share tips for the long haul.

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In her work with native plant communities, Katharine has mapped tundra in the Arctic, studied understory regeneration in old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest, and mapped riparian grasslands in Oregon. She received her M.S. degree in Forest Resources from the University of Washington, School of Forestry, researching native plant communities. Moving to the Midwest in 2003, she worked at a grower's greenhouse while finding her joy restoring the prairie she shares with her husband.



CONCURRENT SESSION III (3:00–4:15 pm) Choose one of the three speakers below:

“Urban Lot, Native Plants, Big Change”

LORIS DAMEROW, Past President Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter

When a road project impacted her residential landscape, this homeowner seized the opportunity to use native plants to create a new environment on her challengingly sloped urban site. Three years later, the buckthorn and honeysuckle have given way to Joe Pye weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*) and asters (*Symphyotrichum spp.*), giving the landscape a whole new look.

Loris is an avid gardener, native plant enthusiast, and active Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter Board member.



“Restoring Your Woodland to Health”

FRANK HASSLER, President and Ecologist, Good Oak Ecological Services

Would you like to restore your woodland so it can be home to birds, butterflies, bees and wildflowers instead of buckthorn, garlic mustard, and mosquitoes? Frank will sequence the steps necessary to restore sites ranging from wooded gardens to multi-acre tracts, into a stable, healthy natural community.

Frank has more than twenty years of volunteer and professional experience in the fields of ecological land management and botany. His educational background includes a B.S. degree in Ecology and a M.S. degree in Forestry. He started Good Oak Ecological Services in 2008 with the goal of not only restoring our Midwestern prairies, wetlands, and oak woodlands, but also to reintegrate native plants and ecosystem services into our human environment.



“The Present and Future of Goose Pond Sanctuary’s Prairies”

MARK MARTIN AND SUSAN FOOTE-MARTIN, Resident Managers, Goose Pond Sanctuary

This presentation will feature the Madison Audubon Society’s Goose Pond Sanctuary located near Arlington, Wisconsin and the past, current and future efforts of their prairie restoration work. Its 400-acre restored tall grass prairie benefits rare plants, prairie wildlife including birds, mammals and invertebrates, and other prairie visitors.

Mark and Sue have been involved with habitat protection and restoration for 40 years. They have been the resident managers at Madison Audubon Society’s Goose Pond since 1979. They have coordinated the acquisition, restoration and management of 800 acres owned by Madison Audubon in Columbia County. Both have worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) where Mark worked with the State Natural Areas Program and where Sue developed the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail and worked on the Endangered Resources license plate program. They have also worked with many public and private partners on habitat restoration projects.



**23rd Annual Conference - Toward Harmony With Nature
Silent Auction Items Needed**

Please donate Silent Auction items for the Toward Harmony with Nature Conference at the Oshkosh Convention Center, Saturday, January 19, 2019. Past donations have included birdhouses and feeders, quilt hangings, nature art, handmade soaps and cards, photos, native plant seeds, gift certificates, garden tools and gloves — any items related to nature, native plants or natural landscaping. Gift baskets filled with items native plant gardeners might need or enjoy also make excellent auction items.

Bring Silent Auction items to the conference center the morning of the conference. Contact Kathleen Hallett, Silent Auction Chair, at kmahallett@gmail.com or (920) 809-7692 if other arrangements are needed. *Proceeds from the Silent Auction support Chapter educational programs.* We appreciate all donations.

TowardHarmonyWithNature.org

Visit our conference website for conference registration, a special offer for educators, detailed conference information, and additional details on speakers.

Contact us: wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com



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PO Box 385, Appleton, WI 54912
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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Bob and Carol Niendorf
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Rob Zimmer

Searching for Elusive Orchids

By Rob Zimmer

In search of rare, elusive native orchids (*Orchidaceae spp.*) of the Northwoods, each spring and summer I hit the road, visiting our state's thickest, most impenetrable swamps, bogs and wetlands in hope of spotting these tiny and delicate treasures.

To many, orchids are tropical plants, found in florist shops and box stores, not in the wilds of Wisconsin. However, surprisingly, there are dozens of varieties of orchids that can be found here, native to our forests, bogs and wetlands. This includes some of the most elegant and beautiful of all wildflowers.

My interest in the native orchids of Wisconsin began with the obvious. The huge, showy beauties of the lady slipper (*Cypripedium spp.*) family caught my attention early on in my exploration of native wildflowers. My passion was kindled on my first orchid rescue, saving as many clumps of beautiful, large flowered yellow lady slippers (*Cypripedium paviflorum*) as I could as destruction of their forest home commenced for construction of a subdivision.

I quickly discovered the stunning beauty of moccasin flower (*Cypripedium acaule*), also called pink lady slipper, while exploring the thick cedar swamp at Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve, along the west shore of Green Bay. By then, I was hooked.

The tricky part with hunting down and photographing our native orchids is that these flowers don't grow in bright, sunny, easy-to-reach places like our colorful, prairie-blooming natives. For the most part, they also are not tall, showy and brightly colored. The majority of our orchids are quite small, reaching no more than 6 or 8 inches in height, and grow in the deepest, darkest shadows of our thick swamps, bogs, and wetlands.

Many of these locations, ideal for orchid bloom, are nearly impossible to enter without waders, bug protection, and a tenacious spirit filled with patience. It may take several visits to our deepest, insect-infested bogs and wetlands to find even one tiny orchid in bloom. Patience is definitely a requirement when seeking out native orchids.

Beginning as early as March, the native orchid parade gets underway in Wisconsin. The first wild orchids to bloom are the showy orchid (*Galearis spectabilis*), putty root orchid (*Aplectrum hyemale*) and striped coral root (*Corallorhiza striata*). Quickly following are the yellow lady slippers, pink lady slippers (*Cypripedium acaule*), early coral root (*Corallorhiza trifida*), ram's head lady slipper (*Cypripedium arietinum*), and a number of tiny bog orchids in green, white and speckled purple.



Photos courtesy of Rob Zimmer

The brilliant pink of dragon's mouth orchid (*Arethusa bulbosa*) begins to show in late May and early June. By the middle of June, the queen of all native orchids, the showy lady slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*) blooms in treasured wetlands and swamp edges throughout Wisconsin.

By late June, the twayblade orchids (*Liparis spp.*), with their beautiful, butterfly blooms begin to appear. Some of the twayblades are quite showy, while others may be just a few inches tall and green in flower. My favorite is the floriferous lily-leaved twayblades (*Liparis liliifolia*), blooming in purple and white in oak forests throughout central and southern Wisconsin.

July brings the incredible bloom of our stately and elegant fringed orchids (*Platantheras spp.*). One of our most endangered wildflowers, the eastern prairie white fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) is found in only a select few areas in southern and central Wisconsin. These may grow to 3 feet in height and feature breathtaking, feathery blooms.

The purple fringed orchids (*Platanthera spp.*) are somewhat more common, found along the edges of fast flowing, clear streams in the Northwoods, as well as moist, swampy edges, ditches and prairies. The orchid parade continues into August and September with the profuse bloom of the downy rattlesnake plantains (*Goodyera pubescens*), named for their beautiful, netted and intricately veined foliage in silver and green.

Spotted coral root (*Corallorhiza maculata*) signals the end of summer and the coming of autumn when it shoots up its tall, leafless flowering spike on the forest floor. The final group of orchids to bloom are the many species of ladies tresses (*Spiranthes spp.*), elegant in lacy white.

Following these native beauties means learning their flowering cycles and discovering their elusive haunts, a hobby and obsession I've come to love over the past several years in search of wild orchids.

Author's Profile: Find Rob Zimmer on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RobZimmerOutdoors. Listen to "Outdoors with Rob Zimmer," Fridays 4-5 pm and Saturdays 7-8 am on WHBY.

Rob Zimmer is an award-winning nature and garden author, columnist, photographer, and radio host who has written for many daily newspapers throughout Wisconsin. He is also the author of the books: *Voices of the Wind: Four Seasons in Wild Wisconsin*; *Wild Seasons: The Beauty of Native Wildflowers*; *Shadows and Light: Showcasing a Hosta Love Affair*; *Reflecting: Nature in Black and White*; *Don't Forget Where You Belong*; *Niagara*; *Horicon*; *Wild Orchid*; and several children's books. His features and photographs have also appeared in a number of magazines.



PO Box 385
Appleton, WI 54912

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.

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The Importance of Deadheading

By Donna VanBuecken

Most people think of deadheading when they want to keep plants from getting too tall or when they want to encourage the plants to be bushier, but deadheading is also important for maintaining the look of a more formal garden and the biodiversity of a planting using native species. Deadheading in this case means to cut the seed heads off the stems of plants before the seed can ripen and spread throughout the planting. There are some native plant species which are more aggressive than others. For example, branched coneflower (*Rudbeckia triloba*), sunflowers (*Helianthus spp.*), rosinweed (*Silphium integrifolium*) and goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*), just to name a few, produce a lot of seed.

Compare the photos of the same garden after a few seasons without fall deadheading. This small rain garden was planted with the intention of keeping it more formal. But some of the less aggressive species are being overtaken by the more aggressive sweet black-eyed Susan.

It is important to deadhead the more aggressive plants in your gardens to maintain the biodiversity and the design of your garden. If you want to save the seed from the deadheaded plants for the birds wintering over, cut the stems long enough so you can tie them together and put them on your patio or hang from your shepherd's hook during the winter months. This way you can avoid the hard work of removing aggressive species in the spring.



(**Top**) 2014 summer view of a rain garden. See clump of sweet black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia submentosa*) at center-back of the garden. (**Bottom**) 2018 view of same garden. Now the sweet black-eyed Susan seems to have taken over and the variety of the other plant species can barely be seen.

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