

Photo Courtesy of Donna VanBuecken

New Members

Welcome to the new members who joined between December 15 and February 17, 2019:

- Paul Groell, Appleton
- Rebecha Harrah, Winneconne
- Patrick Nadolny, Neenah
- Norm Packer, Oshkosh
- Dale and Margit Rezabek, Neenah
- Gary Sagmeister, Oshkosh
- Jill Wilke, Appleton

Happy Silver Anniversary!

This year, 2019, will mark 25 years since we chartered our Chapter in November 1994. How about giving our Chapter an anniversary gift by volunteering to serve? Any of our Board members would be happy to talk with you about ideas for either short-term or longer-term service. As we can attest, it's a very rewarding use of any time you can spare.

— Bob Niendorf &
Carol Niendorf,
Membership Co-chairs

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

Events of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter



April Program:

Native Bees and Bee House Construction

April 25 | Thr | 7 pm | Program/Workshop

WILD Center | 2285 W Butte des Morts Beach Rd, Neenah, WI 54956

Josh Jensen and Emily Lukacs of J & E Apiary in Clintonville will present a program on the benefits of native bees and how to encourage their presence in our gardens and fields. Then they'll show us how to make a mason bee "home" for our own yard or garden. No social hour.



Mason bee.

Photo courtesy of Heather Holm

Native Plant Sale & Order Pick-Up

May 18 | Sat | 9 am – 2 pm | Sale | WILD Center | 2285 W Butte des Morts Beach Rd, Neenah, WI 54956

Mark your calendars for May 18, 2019, for the third annual Plant Sale Trail. We are again partnering with Outagamie County Master Gardeners Association and the Paper Valley Garden Club.

Pick up for pre-ordered native plants and day of sale native plants will be from 9 am to 2 pm at the WILD Center, 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Drive, Neenah. For details of the other plant sale locations, refer to the Plant Sale Trail flyer inserted in this newsletter. Please share it with your friends and neighbors.

Native Orchids with Rob Zimmer

June 1 | Sat | 9 – 11 am | Tour | Navarino Nature Center | W5646 Lindsten Road, Shiocton, WI 54170

Naturalist, photographer, and writer, **Rob Zimmer** will lead us on a hunt for native orchids and other unusual bog plants through portions of the 15,000 acre Navarino Wildlife Area. Gather outside the Navarino Nature Center at 9 to begin the tour. For car-pooling information call Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter (WOFVA) at 920-572-9540.

Nagan Pond and Garden

June 27 | Thr | 6 – 7:30 pm | Tour | Nagan Yard | 2812 Schaefer Circle, Appleton, WI 54914

Tour the property with homeowner, **Dennis Nagan**, who transformed his city lot, with the help of Wild Ones mentors, into a wildlife habitat for attracting birds, bees, and butterflies. Dennis will outline the transformation process which included much learning and hard work, including installing a pond water feature.

Niendorf Prairie

July 31 | Wed | 6 – 7:30 pm | Tour | Niendorf Prairie | 4024 Marquart Lane, Omro, WI 54963

Tour this exquisite private prairie restoration at the home of WOFVA charter members Bob and Carol Niendorf. This decades-old, short and tallgrass prairie, is home to native lupines, purple prairie clover, butterfly weed, and much more. Joining this tour will be the Fox Valley Group of Sierra Club.

For a full list of events please go to <http://foxvalleyarea.wildones.org>.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Building Connections

By Barb Cattani

Spring is just around the corner and it's time to begin thinking about all things outside and gardening! Have you heard about the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program (IMMP)? I found out about it last spring through an email from IMMP targeting Wild Ones members and in Donna VanBuecken's blog, *Accent on Natural Landscaping*. Program training was available at Mosquito Hill Nature Center so I signed up for the class. There were two aspects of this program that really appealed to me. First, it satisfied my "science itch" by giving me an opportunity to study monarch populations in the prairie at the WILD Center using scientific sampling protocols. Second, it's a "big picture" approach, looking at the overall habitat, not just milkweeds.

The connections between butterflies and plants are fascinating and complex. The immature stage, the caterpillar, often relies on a totally different plant species for food than the adult butterfly. We are busy planting milkweeds to feed the hungry caterpillars, but vital nectar sources for the butterflies can be, and often are, a totally different plant species. This difference is most significant in the spring and fall, critical times in monarch migration. As native plant enthusiasts, we can provide

important information to the scientific community about preferred nectar sources, helping to bolster knowledge that can be used to enhance adult survival. Best of all, someone else is doing the hard work of data analysis!

Without a membership in Wild Ones, I wouldn't have known about this unique opportunity. That's an intangible benefit we enjoy with our membership. We become part of a larger web of connections: connections with plants and pollinators, connections with other members, and connections with other groups that have related missions. On our recent member survey, many people rated "connections

to others of like mind" as an important benefit of membership. Make (or renew) your connections to Wild Ones members at a Chapter tour or program this summer.

You can read more about IMMP in Jennifer Thieme's article on page 3. I can use a second pair of hands and eyes in the field with monitoring beginning in May. If you can help or want to see what it's all about, send me an email at wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com. If monitoring a site on your own seems like something you want to try, do it! The monarchs – both caterpillars and adults – will appreciate the connection to a supportive habitat found in our gardens and yards.



Thank You!

Tim McKeag's term as Treasurer ended in February. Peggy McGaffey stepped down from leadership of the Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow Grants Committee. Shannon Davis-Foust assumed the responsibility of coordinating the grant application review process this winter. Thanks to Tim, Peggy, and Shannon for their hard work on behalf of our Chapter.

We have three new Chapter Board members. Ron Jones is the Treasurer, Deb Benada is the Secretary, and Robert Benada is the Newsletter Editor. Welcome to the Board and thank you for stepping forward.

23rd Annual Conference Well Attended

By Kristin Kauth, *Conference Committee Chair*

The Chapter's annual Toward Harmony With Nature conference, held this past January, was attended by 303 people! Of these, 189 were Wild Ones members, including 8 new members. Many people, particularly those from the southern and western parts of the state, braved snowy driving conditions to reach the event. And, as the weather cleared in Oshkosh, 40 walk-ins registered that morning! The conference continues to be the most popular program offering of the Chapter and draws people from outside our area.

Attendees are always asked to fill out an online evaluation following the conference. The Planning Committee appreciates this feedback and takes into consideration all responses in planning for next year's program. Overall, 95% of those responding indicated the conference met their expectations with the exhibitor/vendor area receiving a 92% rating for being informative and valuable.

Important trends to note over the last several years: 1) the number of people attending in the 21-49 year age range has been slowly increasing; 2) the number of people attending their first conference has been increasing each year, and 3) the number of people with smaller yards that are planting natives has also been increasing.

Some comments shared by attendees:

"As a first-time attendee, I was impressed with the variety of topics."

"We brought our granddaughter as a gift, she now wants to focus on conservation when attending college. Will plant a butterfly garden at her home."

"Thanks to the committee for another well-planned conference. I was glad to see more age diversity in the attendance too."

The Conference Planning Committee wants to say "thank you" to our members, as well as many of the exhibitors and vendors, who donated items to the Silent Auction. The variety of items kept the bidding going throughout the day, bringing in \$1004. This support is always welcomed, is well received by those attending the program, and helps to cover the costs of this one-day event. An equally big thank you to all the volunteers that helped during the event, ensuring the program ran smoothly.



Photos Courtesy of Donna VanBuecken



Citizen Science and Beyond: An Effort to Monitor Monarch Habitat Nationwide

By Jennifer Thieme

The monarch butterfly populations both east and west of the Rocky Mountains have faced substantial declines in the past twenty years. To combat this trend and reduce risk of monarch extinction, the US, Mexico, and Canada are working together to increase an overwintering population of Eastern monarchs to approximately 15 hectares (approximately 37 acres). According to the Monarch Watch Blog of January 30, 2019, the estimated number of monarchs this winter covered 6.08 hectares.

In order to help increase monarch numbers, the Monarch Joint Venture, which is a partnership of organizations working to conserve the monarch migrations, is leading the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program (IMMP). The IMMP collects data specific to certain research needs such as measuring egg densities to assess monarch populations or tracking nectar resources to assess potential habitat.

One of the greatest strengths of the IMMP is its geographic and ecological expanse. While previous monitoring has primarily occurred on conservation lands and backyard gardens, the IMMP prioritizes randomly selected sites with potential monarch habitat. In this way, the IMMP broadens our understanding of habitat on typically under-surveyed areas such as unprotected grasslands and agricultural edges. Participants can monitor self-selected sites as well.

The IMMP is a flexible program for both citizen scientists and conservation professionals. It comprises four optional activities that participants may select according to their interests, time, or research needs: 1) record blooming nectar plants and count milkweed stems, 2) identify eggs and larvae on milkweed, 3) survey adult butterflies and their behavior, and 4) rear larvae to assess survival outcome.

Wild Ones members (who enjoy plant identification) can play a key role in the vital task of monitoring blooming nectar plants. Collecting this data is important to understanding where nectar resources may be limited in sustaining monarchs on their journey to Mexico, or if these resources are lacking during certain times of the year.

In order to ensure the success of this program, the Monarch Joint Venture (MJV) holds limited trainings in person each year and seeks leaders to host their own subsequent trainings, practice field days, or access sites to monitor. Local Monitoring Coordinators are key to expanding the reach of IMMP. In-person training is not required. Protocols are available on the MJV website, and online training videos will soon be available as well.

Consider how you might help in supporting the monarch migration by becoming an IMMP



Looking for monarch larvae and eggs.

Photo by Jennifer Thieme

volunteer. Visit <https://monarchjointventure.org/get-involved/mcsp-monitoring> for descriptions of monitoring activities as well as notes on frequency of data collection. Select the activity that meets your interests and availability as well as check out the informative webinars and information regarding future trainings. Mark your calendars for the next training that will take place on May 18th at the Leopold Center in Baraboo! Let us use our expertise to work together in helping preserve and protect the 'monarch of the butterflies'.

Jennifer Thieme is the Regional Monitoring Coordinator for Monarch Joint Venture based in Madison, WI. She can be contacted at jthieme@monarchjointventure.org. The MJV is a national partnership of federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and academic programs working together to conserve the monarch butterfly migration. Wild Ones is proud to be a partner with Monarch Joint Venture.

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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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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 Registration

Saturday October 19, 2019 • 9 am – 12 pm
WILD Center, 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd., Neenah, WI 54956

Name _____ E-mail _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip) _____ Cell Phone _____

Mail or E-mail Registration Form by October 5, 2019 to:

Lucy Valitchka • N2695 Meade Street • Appleton, WI 54913
e-mail: Lmvalitchka@new.rr.com • Phone: 920-733-0568 • Cell: 920-422-1673

Connie Ramthun, native plant expert from the Kettle Moraine region, will teach us how to collect, store and plant seeds of native wildflowers and grasses. The workshop is free. Class size will be limited to 20 participants.

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 920.730.3986 for an application form or go to national website:

wildones.org

