

*Photo Courtesy of Donna VanBuecken*

## New Members

Help us give a warm welcome to the new members who joined our Chapter between February 19 and June 15, 2019:

- Brittany and Earl Vogt, *Fremont*
- Laura Zeit, *Oshkosh*
- Ann Biselex, *Kaukauna*
- Mary Schreiber, *Appleton*
- Eric & Sarah Marcoe, *Menasha*
- Stacie & Joe Jansen/Stellner, *Appleton*
- Michelle Michalski, *Oshkosh*
- Paula Champaign, *Neenah*
- Kathy & Tim Murphy, *Menasha*
- Jessica Monro, *Oshkosh*
- Jean Pritchard, *Appleton*
- Renee George, *Fond du Lac*
- Pamela Bullington, *Fond du Lac*
- Martha Moore, *Neenah*
- Paul Gessler, *Appleton*

We're so glad you joined Wild Ones!

## 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 Stroebel Rd. From Stroebel, turn right onto Butte des Morts Beach Rd.

**Hours**  
Monday–Friday, 10 am–3 pm  
Grounds Accessible & Always Open  
[wildones.org](http://wildones.org)

## Donna VanBuecken Given 2019 Invader Crusader Award

*By Robert Benada, Newsletter Editor*

Donna VanBuecken was honored as an Invader Crusader by the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council (WISC) and the Wisconsin DNR. The ceremony was at Olbrich Botanical Garden in Madison on June 5 and recognized individuals and organizations from the state that are leading the fight against invasive species.

DNR Deputy Secretary Elizabeth Kluesner thanked the recipients, saying, "Today, we celebrate the results of your work - lakes and lands that are given a chance to recover after many hours of hard work and dedication."

Tom Buechel, chair of the WISC, told award winners that they take fighting invasive species to the next level saying, "You are transforming local hands-on management into teaching and organizing opportunities to broaden the impact of your efforts."

In recognition of Donna, Mr. Buechel said, "Donna VanBuecken has worked with invasive species for nearly 40 years, beginning as an at-large member of Wild Ones and then as a founding member of the Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter (WOFVA), where she has served on the Board of Directors for over 24 years. She also served as the national Wild Ones first Executive Director for 17 years. As a founding member of the



Tom Buechel, Council Chair presents Donna VanBuecken with her Invader Crusader Award.

*Photo courtesy of Donna VanBuecken*

*Continued on page 5*

## Events of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter

### Schultz Prairie with Jim Schultz

**Sept 17 | Sat | 4-6 pm | Tour | Schultz Prairie | E8068 Knitt Road, Clintonville, WI 54929**

Wolf River Wild Ones member, **Jim Schultz**, embarked on an ambitious project when he seeded 30 acres of his sandy-soiled farmstead in prairie. Seven years later, the rolling hills are alive with rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), *Liatris* spp., *Guara* spp. and a plethora of other native species. Tour this habitat with Jim as our guide. For car-pooling information call WOFVA (920) 572-9540.

### Walking the Wild Center Grounds – A "Pop-Up" Tour

**TBD | Tour | Wild Center | 2285 W Butte des Morts Beach Rd, Neenah, WI 54956**

Watch for an email announcing when the native plants are blooming at the WILD Center. Join us for a tour to enjoy the best of summer wildflowers and grasses.

### Seed Collecting Workshop with Connie Ramthun

**Oct 19 | Sat | 9 am-12 pm | Workshop | Wild Center | 2285 W Butte des Morts Beach Rd, Neenah, WI 54956**

**Connie Ramthun**, native plant expert from the Kettle Moraine region, will teach the collecting, storing, and planting of native wildflower and grass seed. After seed collection and cleaning, participants will have seeds to take home. Pre-registration required, see WOFVA Chapter website [foxvalleyarea.wildones.org](http://foxvalleyarea.wildones.org) and the form printed in this newsletter.

### Audubon Partner Meeting / Flying Jewels of the Garden with Mickey O'Connor

**Nov 21 | Thr | 6:30 pm Social | 7 pm Program | Evergreen Retirement Community | 1130 N Westfield St, Oshkosh, WI 54902**

**Mickey O'Connor**, Avian Zookeeper at the Milwaukee County Zoo, will discuss Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and their natural history. She will relate her own experiences banding them, as well as provide information on how to attract these beautiful birds to your home environment.

### 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Toward Harmony with Nature Conference

**Jan 25 | Sat | 8 am-4:15 pm**

Watch for information in the fall edition of the WOFVA Chapter newsletter and on the conference website: [TowardHarmonywithNature.org](http://TowardHarmonywithNature.org).

For a full list of events please go to [foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/programs-and-tours](http://foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/programs-and-tours)



# YOUR MISSION

By Barb Cattani, WOFVA President

### Your Mission is...

Wild Ones Mission Statement reads in part: "... to promote environmentally sound landscaping." Have you considered all the ways our Chapter fulfills that mission? The Native Plant Sale and annual Toward Harmony with Nature Conference are probably our most visible tools, along with our monthly programs.

But we have two other WOFVA Committees who reach people not already familiar with Wild Ones or native plants, the Display Committee and our Speakers Bureau.

The Display Committee members have attended eight events in the first half of the year reaching 405 people and signing up 38 for mail. The events included:

- Outagamie County Master Gardeners Association Conference and their summer Garden Walk
- Oshkosh Bird Fest
- Sustainability Expo for employees of Oshkosh Corp
- Walleye Weekend.

The Speakers Bureau is made up of people who respond giving pre-prepared Power-Point presentations when a group asks for information about native plants. So far this year, we have given two presentations.

Donna VanBuecken presented "Why Natives?" to a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) in February. George Meyer, WWF Executive Director and former Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), wrote saying "Your presentation was excellent and very valuable to our members. The next day our Board voted to support educational efforts for both urban and rural natural landscape practices." There are three more requests for presentations to be scheduled later in the year.

This is very satisfying work so consider helping us reach new folks through the Display Committee or Speakers Bureau.

Learning and landscaping with native plants are the primary ways most of us are fulfilling the mission. The next step is telling our neighbors.

*Mission Impossible?*  
**Not with us working together!**

# WOFVA 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Sale Wrap-Up

By Donna VanBuecken, Plant Sale Coordinator

The WOFVA 2019 native Plant, Tree and Shrub Sale was a huge success thanks to our three extraordinary supervisors, Pat and Dick Filzen and Everett Grosskopf, and all our awesome volunteers. Almost everything went off without a hitch and the few hiccups were handled quickly.

We again partnered with the Outagamie County Master Gardeners Association, OCMGA, and the Paper Valley Garden Club, PVGC, for the 3rd Annual Plant Sale Trail, which has given us an additional opportunity to make others aware of the environmental benefits from using native plants.

We also had some very excellent promotional opportunities through the airwaves this year. Our sincerest thanks to co-hosts Lisa Malek and Millaine Wells for inviting us to appear on WFRV-TV's Local 5 Live and to host Rob Zimmer for the phone interview on WHBY Radio's Outdoors. The plant sale would not have been the huge success it was without these opportunities. Because of you and your support teams, we were able to reach many new people about the importance of gardening with native plants.

Special thanks to the volunteers who helped make the sale a success!

Margaret Alexander	Pat Filzen	Nancy Jones	Dave Peck
Deb Benada	Rich Fischer	Kristin Kauth	Sue Peck
Robert Benada	Jamie Fuerst	John Kiefer	Lori Poehls
Ann Biselx	Alicia Griebenow	Jacki Kossik	Jean Prichard
Don Brill	Brian Griebenow	Cathy Larsen	Laura Ramseier
Barb Cattani	Everett Grosskopf	Tim McKeag	Dara Sitter
Sharon Duerkop	Kathleen Hallett	Sue Mings	Karen Syverson
Richard Dorn	Steve Hazelll	David Misterek	Lucy Valitchka
Dave Edwards	Carol Hernke	Bob Niendorf	Donna VanBuecken
Dick Filzen	Kathleen Isaacson	Carol Niendorf	Rory Williams

## THANK YOU...

The plant sale and the Conference are our two major fundraisers, so we appreciate everyone's efforts in making both of these events great successes!



Photo by Donna VanBuecken

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**920-572-9540**  
 Email  
**wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com**  
 Website  
**foxvalleyarea.wildones.org**  
 Mailing Address  
**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.*

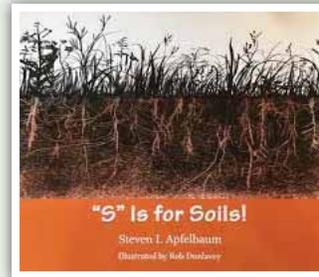
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Pat & Dick Filzen
- Tree & Shrub Sales Supervisor**  
Everett Grosskopf
- Newsletter Contributors**  
Barb Cattani  
Carol Niendorf  
Deb Benada  
Donna VanBuecken  
Kristin Kauth  
Robert Benada

# GOOD READS – GOOD READS - GOOD READS 'S' IS FOR SOILS

By Kristen Kauth, WOFVA Board Member

I recently read and highly recommend the new book *'S' Is for Soils!* by ecologist Steven I. Apfelbaum, founder of Applied Ecological Services, Inc., which explores the value of soil to all life on earth. Many of you may recognize Steve as a previous presenter at our January Conference and a keynote speaker a few years back. This book, only 38 pages, is written for the layperson. This easy to read narrative on a complex subject, along with whimsical graphics, which kept me smiling with the turn of every page, is educational and delightful at the same time. The book is divided into two sections: 1) The Basics - What is Soil? (Don't Call It Dirt); and 2) Expanded Understanding - Digging a Little Deeper (Whole System Thinking).



**I can't do better than the press release so here are excerpts:**

As this simple primer begins, "...It has been said that we know more about the moon than the soil under our feet." Today, with growing concern for dwindling resources, there is a new sense of urgency to better understand and care for soil (what many of us misguidedly call "dirt") and our very real connection to it. In fact, "our lives may depend on it."

Written for high school and older students, and lay, business, and professional audiences, *'S' is for Soil!* and its cast of soil characters guides the reader with clarity and humor through the essential and often complex understandings about soil, employing a conversational narrative.

The book reveals the remarkable story about the abundance of life—from billions of microscopic organisms to burrowing animals—that occupies the thin layer of soil on the planet and that represents 95% of all terrestrial life on Earth!

It explains the role healthy soil can play in addressing the challenging problem of climate change, touching upon the historic role that Earth's grasslands have played in storing large quantities of carbon deep in the ground and about innovative ranching and farming practices that are now being employed to "regenerate" or build-back soil health by putting all of those "unemployed" soil microbes and deep-rooted grasses back to work to re-build the lost carbon stores of the past.

*'S' is for Soil!* was produced in partnership with the Lower Sugar River Watershed Association. The book can be purchased individually or in larger discounted quantities online at [www.lsrwa.org](http://www.lsrwa.org) or by contacting LSRWA at **608.897.8641** (ask for Susan Lehnhardt or Steve Apfelbaum). A companion teacher's guide entitled *Digging into Soil: A Garden Practicum* has been created by KidsGardening of Burlington, Vermont, in cooperation with the authors and with LSRWA and is available to download at no cost on the KidsGardening website [www.diggingintosoil.org](http://www.diggingintosoil.org)

## WOFVA INTRODUCES MASTER GARDENER TRAINEES TO NATIVE PLANTS

By Robert Benada, Newsletter Editor

The current class of Outagamie County Master Gardeners completed their training with a tour of the WILD Center led by WOFVA members on June 12<sup>th</sup>. The 25 trainees were eager to learn what Wisconsin's native plants were like and how they could incorporate them into their personal and volunteer work.

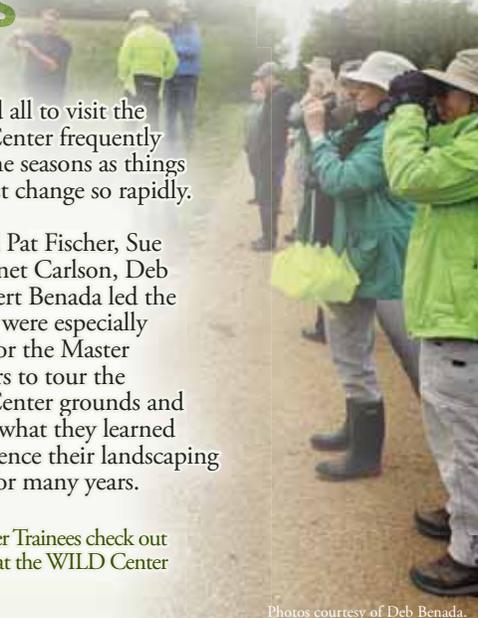
The blooms were late but there were plenty of plants and flowers recognizable to give good ideas of their look and use in garden design. There were even yellow lady's slippers (*Cypripedium parviflorum*) by the WILD Center's wall.

Afterward, Rob Zimmer gave an excellent talk on natives with his own photos. It was well designed to address gardeners' issues such as color, texture, bloom time, wildlife, and habitat needs.

He urged all to visit the WILD Center frequently during the seasons as things of interest change so rapidly.

Rich and Pat Fischer, Sue Ming, Janet Carlson, Deb and Robert Benada led the tour. We were especially pleased for the Master Gardeners to tour the WILD Center grounds and to know what they learned can influence their landscaping choices for many years.

*Right:* Eager Trainees check out the plants at the WILD Center



Photos courtesy of Deb Benada.

# THANK YOU...



Thank you to **East Wisconsin Savings Bank and employees** for their generous donation in May. Staff can wear jeans on Fridays by donating \$2 to a pool to give to the community. WOFVA was fortunate to receive one week's giving!

A "BIG" thank you to **Rebecca Eyer** for editing the WOFVA Newsletter. We have all benefitted by your fine work. Thanks for your continuing support of the newsletter.



## HOW NEW CHAPTER SECRETARY AND EDITOR FOUND (NATIVE PLANT) LOVE

By Robert and Deb Benada

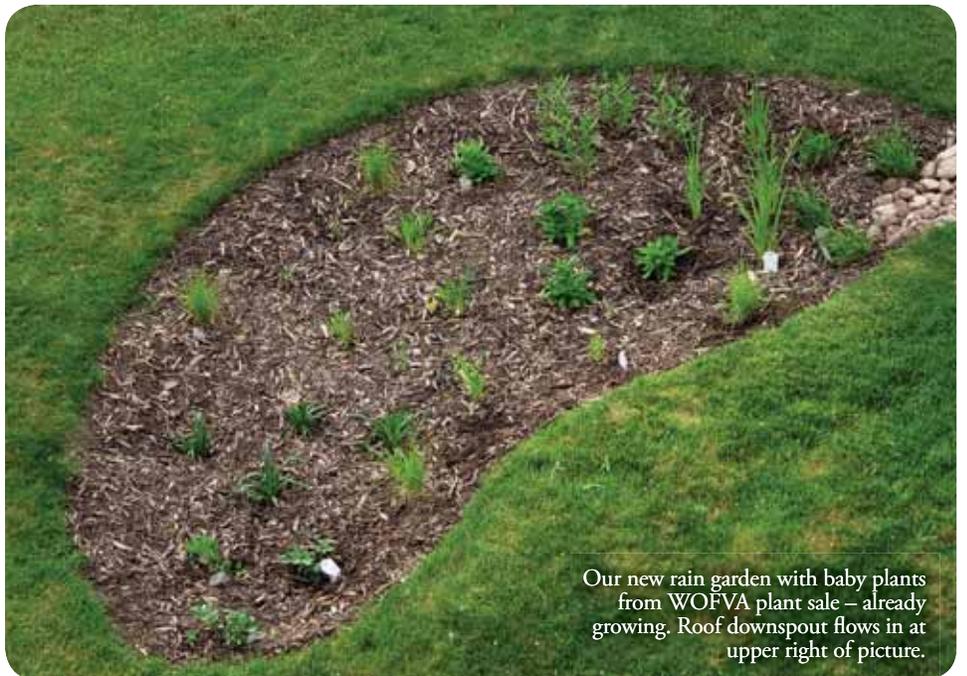
Deb, Chapter Secretary, and Robert, Newsletter Editor, are new to the WOFVA Board and happy to be taking an active role in the Chapter. In our past lives we were nurse and physicist, respectively. Back to WI from Pasadena, CA in 2006, Wild Ones was the first organization we joined, having been "converted" to native plant landscaping in our last three years in southern California.

We were inspired to convert our Pasadena home (50'x150') to California natives by the Theodore Payne Foundation, a non-profit with similar goals to Wild Ones. We were three blocks from the dry scrubby chaparral of the San Gabriel Mts. where the soil was sand and rocks. By the second year, the front and back yards were alive with California lilacs (*Ceanothus spp.*), native buckthorn (*Ramnus spp.*), and sages (*Salvia spp.*), and local annuals including California Poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*). They were also alive with bees and other insects and birds. After three years, our front yard required no watering even with Southern California's mere 13" of annual rainfall. These plants felt back at home, and we were sold on our beautiful natives.

In 2006, we moved to Rural, Wisconsin to run the Crystal River Inn B&B near Waupaca. Here we learned a new native landscape and attended the WOFVA January conferences regularly. Within a few years, there was much less lawn and lots more gardens such as butterfly, rain and other specialty beds. Our vegetable garden fence adorned with virgin's bower (*Clematis virginiana*) became a bee haven much for much of the summer. We were fortunate our 10 acres had a wide variety of habitats from old oak woods, white oak (*Quercus alba*) and bur oak (*Q. macrocarpa*), a tussock sedge (*Carex stricta*) meadow and two former ag fields - one moist and the other dry. Nine years ago, Prairie Nursery seeded those two fields. The resulting prairie restoration was beautiful and amazing to watch as it matured. In 2017, much to our delight, our compass plants (*Sylphium laciniatum*) bloomed for the first time.

Last year we moved to Neenah on Doty Island to a 50'x100' suburban lot where the only native was pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*). For the first time, we are learning about gardening in clay and how to please both wildlife and the tame life that live on our street with non-native yards like ours. So far, we have made a rain garden with plants from the 2019 WOFVA plant sale. This will provide exciting educational opportunities for our block and the many dog walkers who pass by. They will see that natives can be beautiful not only in color and form but in drawing for butterflies, bees and other pollinators, too.

Thanks to WOFVA from both of us for the chance to serve you and give back a little of the abundance we have received through our connection with this wonderful organization. (We had fun at the Sullivan's Woods, the Navarino walk and the plant sale).



Our new rain garden with baby plants from WOFVA plant sale – already growing. Roof downspout flows in at upper right of picture.

Photos courtesy of Deb Benada.

### OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

#### Vice President

Vice-President: The Vice-President shall assist the President as necessary and assume the President's duties when necessary. Responsibilities include being 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. If interested, please contact Barb Cattani at [wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com).

#### Web Site Assistant

We are looking for a volunteer to serve on an ad-hoc Web Site Committee to better define our web presence. The Committee will probably meet once or twice. We are considering design changes and new features. If you are familiar with any of the following: communications, social media, education, website or website administration, please consider sharing your experience and ideas. If interested, please contact Barb Cattani at [wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com).

# Navarino – Great Place to Visit Again and Again

By Robert Benada, Newsletter Editor

Navarino Nature Center, is a wonderful place to visit with its 15,000+ acres of diverse habitat. On June 1, a WOFVA group drove only 40 miles north of the Fox Cities to tour the area with Rob Zimmer as our guide. Bloom times were late but we saw many living things that were “firsts” for some of us, such as dwarf ginseng (*Panax trifolius*), wild calla (*Arum palustris*) by the thousands, a sea of wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*), trumpeter swans and an endangered Blanding’s turtle crossing the road (very endangered). The trip was billed as an orchid tour and we DID see one, a 4-inch-high early coralroot (*Coralloriza trifida*).

Rob urged us to come back every two weeks during the year as the plants and animals change so often given the wide range of habitats within the property. For example, there is a large grove of witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) which will be spectacular in November when its late yellow flowers open.

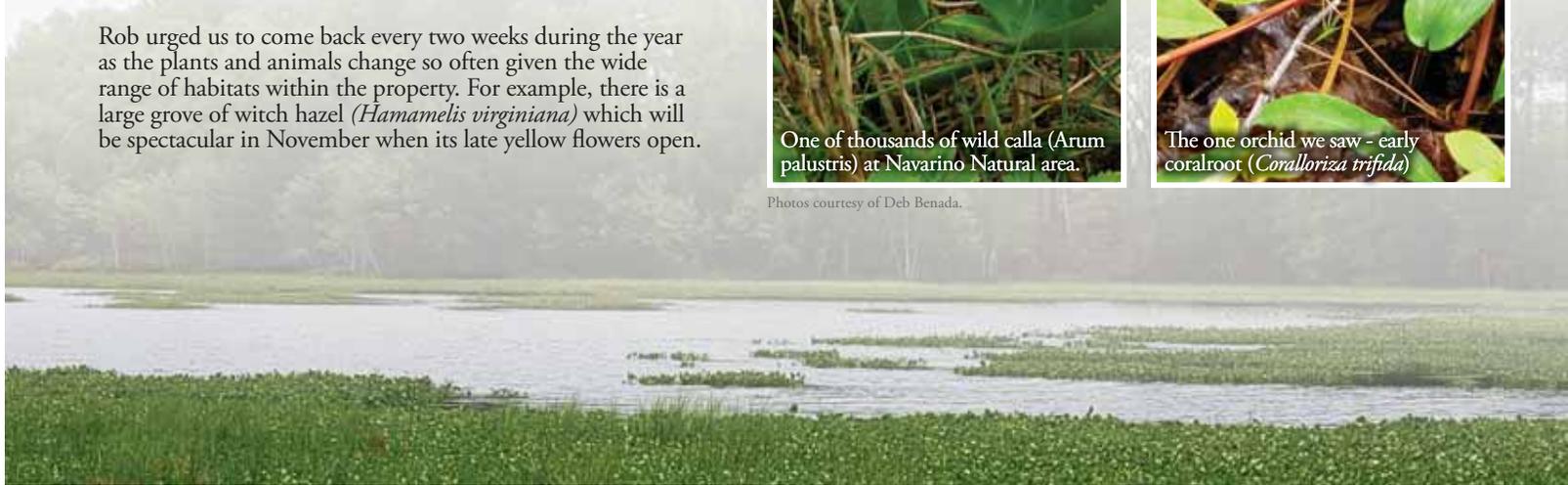


One of thousands of wild calla (*Arum palustris*) at Navarino Natural area.



The one orchid we saw - early coralroot (*Coralloriza trifida*)

Photos courtesy of Deb Benada.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR: SAT., JAN. 25, 2020!



By Carol Niendorf and Kristin Kauth

You won't want to miss our **Toward Harmony with Nature Conference** that will take place on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at the Oshkosh Convention Center. We're pleased to announce that the Conference will feature one of our country's most noted **native landscaping pioneers, Stephen Packard**. Stephen's mission is to foster the building of human communities to support biodiversity conservation. His keynote presentation will draw upon his many years of experience as a leader of volunteers in using garden-grown and wild-collected seeds to restore high-quality prairies, savannas, woodlands and wetlands.

Packard's work as a volunteer led to careers as Director of Science and Stewardship with the Illinois Nature Conservancy and as a teacher at Northwestern University. The North Branch Restoration Project, which he initiated, is a world model of volunteer ecological stewardship. His extensive experience in restoring prairies and oak woodlands has been featured in many books, most notably in *Miracle Under the Oaks*.

Following the keynote presentation, breakout sessions will feature nine speakers with expertise in a wide range of native plant landscaping topics. Breaks between sessions will allow opportunities to browse native plants-related items at a book table, bid on silent auction items, and gather information from vendors. Attendees may make a reservation to attend the buffet lunch or purchase food items at the concession stand.

**Registration will open November 2019.** What better place could you spend a Sat. in Jan. while your plants enjoy their winter's nap? Hope to see you on the 25th!

## Donna VanBuecken Given 2019 Invader Crusader Award

Continued from page 1

Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin, Donna served on the Board for five years and as Membership Chair.”

Donna, a current WOFVA Board member responded, “I'd like to thank not only The Wisconsin Invasive Species Council for recognizing my work, but also the countless volunteers who fight to protect our environment from non-native invasive plant species and the countless native plant enthusiasts who fight to provide a better environment for all life on this Earth. Without your devotion to our planet, my work, my dedication, and my passion would be fighting a losing battle.”

Readers can follow Donna's social media blog *Accent on Natural Landscaping* at [accentnatural.com](http://accentnatural.com).

*Right:* Donna's Crusader Award plaque is made of non-native invasive buckthorn (*Rhamnus*). A good use for such beautiful but annoying wood.

*Below:* All 2019 WISC Honorees including Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.



Photo courtesy of Donna VanBuecken



Photo courtesy of Donna VanBuecken



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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.



Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)  
Photo by Rebecca Eyer

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