

Photo courtesy of Susan Shillinglaw.

New Members

We're looking forward to spring and to meeting these new members of our Chapter:

- Diana Beck, Fond du Lac
- Cindy Carter, Appleton
- Jan Faust, Winneconne
- Steve Lankton, Manitowoc
- Mary Schreiber, Appleton

Don't Become Extinct!

Check 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
Neenah, WI 54956

Directions: From Hwy 41, take Exit 136, drive east on BB (Prospect Ave) to right on Northern Rd, then left onto Stroeb Rd. From Stroeb, turn right onto Butte des Morts Beach Rd.

Hours: The center is temporarily closed due to the corona virus. Normal hours will resume as conditions allow.

Grounds Accessible & Always Open

wildones.org



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS EXCITING ADDITION TO OUR TOURS

Mecan Prairie Tour

July 21, 2020 | 9:30 am-12 noon

John Schillinglaw invited Wild Ones Fox Valley Association (WOFVA) members to join the Central Wisconsin Chapter of Prairie Enthusiasts' tour of Mecan Prairie in Waushara County on Czech Road from 9:30 am – 12 noon on July 21, 2020.

John, the landowner, will host a guided, educational hike through the restored prairie and savanna. We hope to see rare plant communities and the second flight of endangered Karner blue butterflies.

This historic prairie has a few mowed paths and a portable toilet. *Bring a picnic lunch and a kayak (not required for the tour)* and John can tell you where to put in on the Mecan River or Mecan Springs.



John Schillinglaw

Photo courtesy of Susan Shillinglaw.



Karner blue butterfly in the Shillinlaw prairie. We hope to be in time for a hatch.

Events – Spring/Summer 2020 of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter

COVID-19: Watch the WOFVA website and Facebook page for event updates due to the corona virus.

Spring Ephemerals: Short-Lived Beauty CANCELLED

April 23 | Thr | 6:30 pm Social | 7 pm Program | WILD Center | 2285 W Butte des Morts Beach Rd, Neenah, WI 54956

Join author, columnist, and radio host Rob Zimmer for a closer look at the spectacular ephemeral wildflowers of spring. Rob will share some of his favorites from around the state, offering intimate portraits of this fascinating group of native beauties.

Native Plant Sale Pre-Order Pickup Only by Appointment

May 16 | Sat | Pickup Only | WILD Center (outside) | 2285 W Butte des Morts Beach Rd, Neenah, WI 54956

Pick up your Plant Sale order on May 16. Expect some changes as we add extra precautions to keep you and our volunteers safe. **No extra plants will be available for sale on May 16.** For questions about the Spring Plant Sale, contact Pat & Dick Filzen (920-754-4235, psf4fiber@gmail.com). For Spring Tree & Shrub Sales, contact Everett Grosskopf (920-470-6325, everettgrosskopf@gmail.com).

Stone Silo Prairie Gardens Tour

May 23 | Sat | 2:30-4 pm | Tour | Stone Silo Prairie Gardens | 2325 Oak Ridge Circle, DePere, WI 54115

Owner Justin Kroening will lead us on a tour of his nursery greenhouses to learn first-hand about the propagation of native plants from seed. Stone Silo Prairie Gardens has been providing the area with native plants since 2004. Plant sales available after the tour.

Dorothy's Prairie Tour & Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum

June 27 | Sat | 10 am-12 noon | Tour | Dorothy's Prairie | 76 Stone Castle Dr, Fond Du Lac, WI 54395

With approval from the city of Fond Du Lac, Dorothy Messner started a prairie by her home on Camelot Pond in 2015. The site is now flourishing as a habitat for birds, pollinators and wildlife. Dorothy will guide us on a tour of the prairie and share the steps she took to bring this project to fruition. Park near Dorothy's home on Stone Castle Drive. The prairie is adjacent. After the tour, drive over to Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum, 400 University Dr., Fond du Lac, WI 54935. WOFVA member Connie Ramthun will then lead a tour of Gottfried Prairie, including two wildflower gardens she planted.

NEW EVENT! John Shillinglaw's Tour of Mecan Prairie

July 21 | Sat | 9:30 am-12 noon | Tour | Mecan Prairie | Czech Road, Washara County

Mecan Prairie in Waushara County on Czech Road from 9:30 am-12 noon. John will lead a tour of the restored prairie and savannah. Trip leader: John Shillinglaw, jshillinglaw@gmail.com, 920-213-8037. *Feel free to bring picnic lunches and kayaks.*

Photo courtesy of Susan Shillinglaw.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Time for Growing

By Barb Cattani

It's spring and the start of another growing season for our gardens and for Wild Ones! Our national membership has grown to more than 4,300 households, with 59 chapters in 18 states and 4 Seedling chapters. Our Fox Valley Area Chapter membership as of March 1, was 218 households. Many thanks to Bob and Carol Niendorf, our Chapter Membership Co-Chairs, for their hard work in communicating with members and reminding us when it's time to send in our dues.

Growth always involves change and in February, our Chapter and national website were moved to a new website hosting partner. This should provide a more stable website with fewer glitches. It's better for all of us when we can consistently find the information we want when we need it.

We have had several requests for our presentations on pollinators this year. Our Display Committee and Speakers Bureau will continue to represent Wild Ones at various events and conferences. Clearly, enthusiasm for native plants continues to grow.

As Wild Ones members, we focus on having a positive impact in our environment. Our slogan is "help heal the earth one yard at a time". We know that our gardens and natural areas are good for all beings. This is the time to give nature a chance to heal and restore us. Enjoy your gardens, share your passion for native plants, and take care of yourself. I hope to see you on a garden tour sometime this summer.

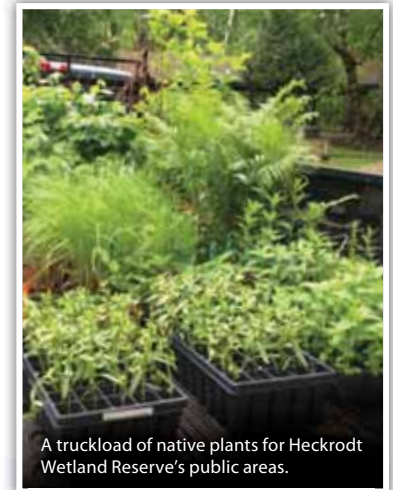
Photo courtesy of Susan Shillinlau.

2019 Grant Winners Show Results

By Shannon Davis-Foust

WOFVA Chapter was pleased to award Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow grants in 2019 to the Omro Area Community Center and to Heckrodt Wetland Reserve.

Our \$200 grant, supplemented with a grant from Thrivent, helped the Omro Area Community Center transform a sod area by the front doors of the Center into an attractive pollinator garden. Staff and Omro Taekwondo volunteers first smothered the grass and later planted approximately 140 native grasses, forbs and ferns. They were happy to see blossoms of trillium (*Trillium grandifloras*), lanceleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohioensis*), asters (*Aster spp.*) and more in the first year. Ongoing weeding will be an important part of maintenance. The garden, a visual attraction by the building entrance, serves as an educational opportunity for the public by demonstrating how a small native pollinator garden can be planted and cared for in an urban setting. The community hopes to expand the plantings in the future.



A truckload of native plants for Heckrodt Wetland Reserve's public areas.

Photos courtesy of Shannon Davis-Foust



Omro Community Center volunteers set up their new native plant bed.

Photo courtesy of Shannon Davis-Foust

Local Organizations Receive 2020 Grants for Landscaping with Native Plants

By Shannon Davis-Foust

The WOFVA Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow Committee approved three grants for 2020. Congratulations to all three grant recipients! We can't wait to see the results of your projects.

Heckrodt Wetland Reserve was awarded \$250 for their "Pollinators @ our Schools Program", a plan to install pollinator gardens at two Menasha schools: Clovis Grove Elementary School and Banta Elementary School. Heckrodt hopes to increase citizen science opportunities with these gardens.

The City of Menasha Sustainability Committee was awarded \$361 for their "City of Menasha Raingarden Renewal Project," which is a renewal and expansion of their high visibility raingarden in front of the East Central Regional Planning Commission. It will include signage to inform the community about the role of native plants in stormwater control.

Kaleidoscope Academy of Appleton was awarded \$227 for "Butterfly Garden Phase I," a proposal to construct a butterfly garden to increase awareness of butterfly-attracting plants.

Photo courtesy of Susan Shillinlau.

Landscaping with Native Plants of Wisconsin

Book by Lynn M. Steiner, Voyager Press, 2007

Reviewed by Robert Benada

This is the book my wife, Deb, and I use when considering a new native plant or have a space that needs something. Our book is well marked, underlined and tabbed as we go there first. Deb says “with the information in this book, I feel I know how a prospective plant will fit in the space I’m planning.”

This practical and comprehensive guide to Wisconsin gardening with our beloved native plants has abundant photographs throughout. The beginning has sections on Wisconsin plant communities and lists of species for different spaces such as shade, sand, clay, etc. The author has many suggestions for special focus areas such as “Attracting Butterflies,” “Creating a Hummingbird Habitat” and “Rainwater Gardens,” just to name a few. There is abundant good gardening advice focused on our area and the variety of issues we face in planning and maintaining our spaces.

Ms. Steiner’s section “Native Plant Profiles” running from page 68 to 188 contains specific descriptions of most all native plants one would consider for any space. For every plant, she gives Description, Landscape Use, Culture, Good Companions and Other Species. Plants are grouped into Flowers and Groundcovers, Grasses and Sedges, Ferns, Evergreen Conifers, Deciduous Shrubs and Small Trees, Deciduous Trees, and Vines.

Examples illustrating the down-to-earth (ha!) information given for some of our favorite plants:

- **Ohio Spiderwort** (*Tradescantia obiensis*) - in Landscape Use, “...can also be grown in perennial borders but the foliage often looks old and tired by midsummer. Plants may go dormant after flowering, so try to place them where they will be masked by other plants.”
- **Wild lupine** (*Lupinus perennis*) – in Landscape Use, “A mass planting of wild lupine is a stunning sight. Plant groups in full sun in prairie gardens and woodland borders or clearings. ...It is the only food plant eaten by the caterpillar of the endangered kerner blue butterfly.” In Culture – “...can be difficult to establish in landscape setting. ... Do not attempt to transplant mature plants. Start with young seedlings...”
- **Smooth Juneberry** (*Amelanchier laevis*) – in Other Species, “A. arborea (*downy serviceberry*) ...for shade gardens and for naturalizing. ... Fall color can be bright red, and the bluish gray bark is attractive in winter.”
- **Little Bluestem** (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) in Landscape Use, “... is among the best native grasses for fall color, and its small size makes it easy to use in most landscapes.” In Good Companions, “The blue-green foliage provides a great backdrop for summer prairie flowers... Plant it with ... coneflowers, monardas, blazing stars...”

We recommend this book as a great resource for planning your native plantings. It makes an excellent gift for new folks interested in native gardening as it will give them a good start toward success



Photo courtesy of Deb Benada

An easy to use, comprehensive guide for our kind of gardening



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foxvalleyarea.wildones.org

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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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Carol Niendorf

Kristen Kauth

Robert Benada

Shannon Davis-Foust



PO Box 385
Appleton, WI 54912

Your mailing label is date coded with your membership renewal. **Member dues are \$40 per household per year.** Please renew on-line at the Wild Ones national website, wildones.org/membership.

WILD Center is temporarily closed to the public due to COVID-19. "Refer to the Wild Ones website (wildones.org) for announcements and updates.

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OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Volunteer Needed for Handout & Signage Design

By Kristen Kauth

The Conference Planning Committee is looking for someone to serve on the Committee as the Handout/Signage Designer for the Toward Harmony With Nature Conference. The committee meets 2 or 3 times a year in the evenings. Knowledge of Publisher and Word (or similar software) is required to create necessary signage and the Schedule/Map handout given out at the conference. These are currently set up in Publisher and Word, so simple changes need to be made each year. Responsibilities include: Work with a local printer to have handouts ready for the conference; Put up directional signs and signs for breakout sessions; and work with planning committee members to determine what signs need to be made. The current designer, Janet Wissink, will gladly guide anyone interested in volunteering.

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.



Wild Ones
FOX VALLEY AREA

24th Annual
Toward Harmony With Nature
Save the Date for our 25th Conference: January 30, 2021

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE
by folksinger and songwriter
Steve Hazel
A special friend of our Wild Ones organization and of environmental stewardship, will open today's conference with his music in the Kynrope Room (Room A) beginning at 8:15 a.m. Steve has performed at folk venues all around Wisconsin and on Wisconsin Public Radio. He is a native of Wisconsin Rapids and has lived in Oshkosh for many years. Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter has been proud to present him as a featured performer at 18 past "Toward Harmony With Nature" conferences, and we warmly welcome him back today.

EXHIBITORS / VENDORS
Bran the Brain Press
Dancing Frog Farm and Green Heart Natural Health
Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance
Good Oak Ecological Services
Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin
Lion's Mouth Bookstore
Midwest Renewable Energy Association
Mosquito Hill Nature Center
NES Ecological Services
Northwest Wisconsin Land Trust
Prairie Future Seed Co.
Stone Silo Prairie Gardens
Stonewale
The Pollen Path LLC
The Prairie Enthusiasts
Two Ferns Native Nursery LLC
USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service
UW-Stevens Point UW Extension Lakes Program
Wisconsin Purple Martin Association
Wisconsin's Green Fire

Facility Equipped With Hearing Loop
In Kind Donations:
Sponsoring Sponsors

Conference Planning Committee
Registration: Donna VanBaacken / Jamie Fuert / Laura Ransel
Brochure Design / Artwork: Rebecca Christensen / Janet Wissink
Silent Auction: Kathleen Hultine
Exhibitors / Vendors: Alicia Christensen / Shannon Davis-Frost
Site Arrangements: Carol Henke
Finance: Bob Handorf
Speakers: Carol Nierdorf / Barb Stanek
Mailing / Signage: Janet Wissink
Technicians: Lori & Arno Demaree
Webpage: Karen Spynson / Nate Mueller

Conference Evaluation
An online evaluation will be emailed to you within two days. We would appreciate your input. Thank you.

Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter is glad you came. Please visit our Chapter display and our website at foxvalleyarea.wildones.org to learn more about us.

Photo courtesy of Kristen Kauth.

Become a Wild Ones Member

Join on-line at the Wild Ones national website, wildones.org/membership. Household membership is \$40 per year and is tax deductible. You may also send new and renewal memberships to the WILD Center at the address on Page 1.

Business and student memberships are also available through the same national web site, wildones.org/membership.

wildones.org

Photo courtesy of Susan Shillineau.