

*Photo courtesy of Susan Brillwein*

## New Members

We're delighted to have the help of these new members of our Chapter in restoring the health of our Fox Valley Area by planting native plants in their landscapes:

- Amanda D'Arcy, *Fremont*
- Jeffrey Eckert, *Fond du Lac*
- Natalie and Bob Gehringer, *Menasha*
- Susan McFadden, *Appleton*
- Mary McPhee, *Oshkosh*
- Tom and Anne Norman, *Appleton*
- Mary Lou Senf, *Grand Chute*
- Lynn Sommers, *Neenah*

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

## Little Free Native Nursery

### An amazing and fun idea from our Chapter Treasurer

by Ron Jones

My wife, Nancy, and I started converting our yard in Appleton to native plants more than 10 years ago. Although the deer and rabbits have eaten more than their fair share, many plants are thriving and naturally spreading. Nancy decided it was time to thin some out this year where the native species were too thick and/or were crowding out other native plants.

About six years ago we put up a Little Free Library on our curb. It has since weathered to the point of needing refurbishing. Nancy got the idea to create a Little Free Native Nursery (LFNN) in its place, thinking it would be better to find a new home for the native plants rather than having them end up in the compost pile. The first ten plants put out

went like hot cakes and were all gone within 24 hours. We are thrilled that over 30 native plants have been spread to our neighbors' yards from the LFNN. When the Little Free Library is restored in our front yard, instead of "spreading the plants" we will be sure to "start spreading word" by including information about Wild Ones. We now know there is interest.

**Try it out and let's see this idea grow and flourish along with native plants!**



*Photo by Ron Jones*

## Events – Summer/Fall 2020

### of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter (WOFVA)

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

#### Nagan Pond and Garden Tour, Nagan Yard

**Aug 27 | Thu | 5-6:30 pm | Tour | 2812 Schaefer Cirde | Appleton, WI**  
Tour the property with homeowner, Dennis Nagan, who transformed his suburban lot into a wildlife habitat for attracting birds, bees, and butterflies. Dennis will outline the work of installing a large pond feature. We will follow social distancing guidelines, but bring a mask in case we need to gather under his covered shelter.

#### Bernie Meyer Garden Tour

**Sept 24 | Thu | 5pm | Tour | Neenah, Wisconsin**  
Postponed to 2021

#### Jim LaLuzerne Garden Tour

**Oct 10 | Sat | 10-11:30 am | Tour | 4238 Pouwels Court | De Pere, WI**  
Built around a small lake, other water features and interesting structures, this country garden sports one of the largest private collections of native plants in the state. It began over 40 years ago as a corn field and is now a beautiful mix of wild places and human spaces. We will be able to spread out on the property, but bring a mask in case we gather during the tour. Pre-register by emailing Lucy Valitchka at [lmvalitchka@new.rr.com](mailto:lmvalitchka@new.rr.com) by **Sept. 30**.

#### Audubon Partner Meeting / Grow a Birdfeeder with Rob Zimmer

**Nov 19 | Thu | 7-8:30 am | Meeting | 1130 N Westfield St | Oshkosh, WI**  
Nature writer, photographer, and radio host, Rob Zimmer, will dazzle with stunning photos of birds and native plantings. Learn how to grow a welcoming bird habitat, creating safety and forage for our feathered friends.

#### 2021 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Toward Harmony with Nature

**Jan 30, 2021 | Sat | 10-11:30 am | Meeting | Oshkosh Convention Center**  
Postponed to **January 29, 2022** at the Oshkosh Convention Center.

*Photo courtesy of Susan Brillwein*

## 2021 25<sup>th</sup> Toward Harmony With Nature is cancelled

**Plan for January 29, 2022 at the Oshkosh Convention Center**

**CANCELLED** – due to COVID-19. The decision was made by the WOFVA Conference Planning Committee and the full Board. This was difficult but was in the public's and Chapter's best interest. A key factor was not knowing how the guidelines the Oshkosh Convention Center will need to follow as the COVID-19 situation changes by next January. Possible changes could affect the number of attendees, presenters and exhibitors at the event. **Mark your calendars:** WOFVA is already looking forward to next years on January 29, 2022 at the Oshkosh Convention Center.

## Hail and Farewell, Loris!

by Barb Cattani



One of our long time Board members, **Loris Damerow**, relocated to Michigan to spend more time as “grandma”. While we will miss her, this provides an opportunity for Loris to create some new gardens and spread the word about landscaping with native plants in a new neighborhood.

We are grateful for Loris’ leadership as a Chapter President and Chapter Board member. Loris has been a passionate supporter of our Speakers Bureau, Mentoring Program, newsletter and monthly programs. She has been a tireless contributor in those areas and more. Behind the scenes at Toward Harmony With Nature conference, Loris and her husband, Arno, provided A/V support to make sure presentations ran smoothly. She also is the author of the email message you receive each month!

**We wish Loris much joy with her new gardens. Thank you for all your contributions through the years.**



Typical of her work – Loris showing her garden.

Photo courtesy of Sue Hing

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

### Enough Change!

by Barb Cattani

**Once upon a time...** I enjoyed and embraced change. There’s an adrenaline rush that comes with finding solutions to unexpected challenges. It can be a thrill to meet new people and learn new things. A little uncertainty adds spice to life, keeps it from getting too routine.

Now, I think change is over-rated, at least at the current level of change and uncertainty. Some predictable, routine, even boring days would be refreshing right now.

That’s why I’m so proud of the way we were able to modify our Plant, Tree, and Shrub Sale to meet the challenge of COVID-19. The Plant Sale Committee and WOFVA Board decided to go ahead with the sale and made the necessary changes to keep volunteers, vendors, and customers safe. We were able to get more than 2,500 native trees, shrubs, vines, forbs, sedges, grasses, and ferns into the local landscape. When picking up their orders, many people thanked us for proceeding with the sale rather than cancelling the event.

Now we have an opportunity to increase the level of personal involvement in WOFVA Chapter activities due to a change on our Board. Loris Damerow has moved to Michigan and new volunteers are needed to roles in which she has participated during her many years of dedicated service. We need people to serve on the Board, but we also need people who are willing to work on some special projects. For the Board, we need leaders for the Program Committee, Display Committee and Vice President. In addition, our website administrator, Shannon Davis-Foust, would like to share the responsibility of maintaining and enhancing our website.

Special projects are most often short-term commitments. For example, Joy Perry and Loris Damerow created short videos for identification of invasive buckthorn. There is a need for video tutorials to answer questions about using native plants in our Wisconsin yards and gardens. We have identified several possible subjects for the tutorials. If you are interested in developing new material or curating material that is already available, we could use your help. Other requests came from several local organizations who wanted interactive programs on native plants, in addition to our standard PowerPoint presentations. Some ideas have been suggested, but we need people who are willing to create hands-on, educational tools and games. These kinds of projects will spread our message of the benefits of native plants in our landscapes.

We always need more volunteers: mentors, people to represent Wild Ones by staffing the display or making a presentation, newsletter contributors, and help with special events like our plant sale or annual conference. If any of these opportunities appeal to you, please get in touch with me at [wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com). If you have a different idea or want more details, let’s talk! I can promise that you will learn something new by becoming more involved. And that’s a good kind of change.

**Have a story to share?** We gladly accept short articles (400 – 600 words) for the Chapter Newsletter. *NOTE: Deadline for the Winter issue is October 15. Please send them or related correspondence to the contact email at the bottom of this page.*

## WOFVA Donates Native Plants to Habitat for Humanity

by Barb Cattani

Two families received native plants for gardens at their new homes. WOFVA member Lucy Valitchka coordinated the project with Jessica Fleek, the Director of Family Services with Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity. Each family received nine plants along with information about Wild Ones and a Prairie Nursery catalog for reference. WOFVA is happy to help these new gardeners get started with native plants at their new homes.



Carla is ready to add natives to her new yard!



Sue is planning where to use the natives to best effect.

Photos courtesy of Jessica Fleek

### ANNUAL PLANT SALE:

## COVID-19 Virus Couldn't Stop Us!

by Barb Cattani

Despite a pandemic and browsing deer, our Native Plant Sale and Tree and Shrub Sale was held as scheduled. Once again, the sale was a successful fund raiser for the Chapter. For safety reasons, the sale was limited to pre-orders only and we had nearly as many orders this year as last year. Order pick-up times were spread out over three days and all the plants were safely on their way to new landscapes by 1pm on Saturday! The weather was perfect. Pat and Dick Filzen, the Plant Sale Supervisors, remarked that it was the most relaxed sale day they had ever experienced. Hopefully, next year will return to a more hectic day with public sales as well as the pre-orders.

Thanks to Pat Filzen, Dick Filzen, Everett Grosskopf, Dave Edwards, Rory Williams, Diane Williams, Lucy Valitchka, Barb Cattani and Loris Damerow for spending several long days setting up. We appreciate all our volunteers and look forward to working with you again in 2021.



Everything ready for safe, efficient delivery to happy gardeners.

Photo by Barb Cattani

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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

Barb Cattani

#### Vice President

(Vacant)

#### Past President

(Vacant)

#### Secretary

Deb Benada

#### Treasurer

Ron Jones

#### Display

Barb Cattani

#### Plant Rescues

Donna VanBuecken

#### Membership

Bob Niendorf

Carol Niendorf

#### Mentoring

Susan Forbes

#### Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow

Shannon Davis-Foust

#### Newsletter Editor

Robert Benada

#### Programs

(Vacant)

#### Publicity

Janet Carlson

#### Speaker's Bureau

Joy Perry

#### Web

Shannon Davis-Foust

#### Conference

Kristin Kauth

#### Native Plant Sale

Donna VanBuecken

#### Newsletter Contributors

Barb Cattani

Carol Niendorf

Kristen Kauth

Robert Benada

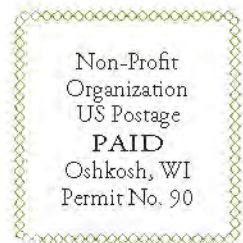
Ron Jones



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

**WILD Center is temporarily closed** to the public due to COVID-19. Refer to the Wild Ones website ([wildones.org](http://wildones.org)) for announcements and updates.



## CHECK US OUT ONLINE!

### Wild Ones Fox Vally Area Online Updates



**MEMBERSHIP:** Go on-line when you renew your membership. IT'S EASY! Moreover, it saves paperwork and check handling at a time of worry about COVID-19 transmission. Just go to the National Wild Ones website [wildones.org/membership](http://wildones.org/membership).



**GET ON THE MAP:** The "Get on the Map" project is an initiative to learn how Wild Ones members are connected to one another. We want to visualize the natural corridors our members maintain and quantify these natural landscapes. Please assist us by filling out the form to the best of your knowledge. The map will be accessible by the public; however, your name, address and contact information will not be online. Go to [foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/contact-us/get-map](http://foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/contact-us/get-map).



**INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS:** There are several new instructional videos on the Wild Ones Fox Valley Area website, [foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/design/help-videos](http://foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/design/help-videos). Videos on invasive buckthorn, common (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and glossy (*Frangula alnus*), have been added to the other excellent how-to videos there. These show buckthorn identification and control. (Future videos may include putting a curse on buckthorn.)



**2020 THWN KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** The keynote presentation from the 2020 Toward Harmony With Nature (THWN) Conference is available on line now. Listen to Stephen Packard's talk, "Re-establishing a Mutually Nourishing Relationship Between People and Nature" online at [towardharmonywithnature.org/speakers](http://towardharmonywithnature.org/speakers).

## Become a Wild Ones Member

Join on-line at the Wild Ones national website, [wildones.org/membership](http://wildones.org/membership). Household membership is \$40 per year and is tax deductible. You may also mail 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](http://wildones.org/membership).

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

Photo courtesy of Stevan Shillineau