

Chapter Newsletter

Volume 29 No. 1

Winter 2021

Photo courtesy of Barb Cattani.

New Members

We welcome the New Year and these new Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter members:

- Megan and Timothy Florek, Neenah
- · Jessica Riley, Oshkosh

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 Stroebe Rd. From Stroebe, 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

by Lawanda Jungwirth - *Lawanda is a frequent contributor to Wild Ones Fox Valley Area (WOFVA) Chapter Newsletter.*Last issue, I talked about the value in allowing dead trees to stand. But one day, after years of

AFTER THE FALL (Part 2 of "When Dead Doesn't Mean Dead")

Last issue, I talked about the value in allowing dead trees to stand. But one day, after years of providing for birds, animals and insects, a dead tree will finally topple. Even then it continues to perform useful ecological services, perhaps even more so than when it was standing. If it is propped up by its branches, animals like bears, foxes and porcupines may make a den in the protection of its branches. Generations of grouse may use it for drumming stands.

Eventually even those supportive branches will give way and the trunk will lie flat on the ground where fungi and soil microbes will soften the wood, and insects and worms will arrive and thrive. Now the rotting log is performing ecological benefits such as soil fertilizer, erosion control, soil moisture stabilization and carbon storage.

At this point, salamanders arrive and search the downed log for food. Salamanders don't get much press, but did you know that Wisconsin has seven species of salamanders? And that in eastern forests salamanders make up more biomass than do deer? Salamanders eat insects like beetle larvae, ground beetles, spiders, sow bugs and round worms that would like to consume all the leaf litter on the forest floor. When salamanders prey on these species, a deeper layer of leaf litter remains in



Photo by Lawanda Jungwirth

the forest which holds in moisture important for other forest plants and reduces erosion. Below that leaf litter is a whole other layer of life dependent upon dead wood. A complex food web made up of bacteria, fungi, protozoa, springtails, mites and more tiny organisms work to improve the soil for forest regeneration.

Back to salamanders for a minute. Do you know what eats them? Wild turkeys for one, so you can see how allowing downed logs to remain in the forest can directly affect the results of the spring turkey hunt. Other animals that prey on salamanders include snakes, birds, shrews, frogs, fish, skunks, raccoons and other small mammals.

Continued on page 2

Upcoming Events of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter (WOFVA)

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

Annual Meetinga nd Summer Dreams

Feb 13, 2021 | Sat | 1:30 pm | Zoom

Tired of the cold of winter and dreaming about summer's beauty? Do you have memories to share of your native landscape or plans for summer rejuvenation? "Zoom in" to our annual meeting to get a chapter update and share your accomplishments last summer or plans for next year. Participants have a chance to share slides and chat.

Our Living Ancestors: The History and Ecology of Old Growth Forests in Wisconsin April 22, 2021 | Thur | 7-8:15 pm | Zoom

Join a Zoóm video presentation of northern Wisconsin naturalist, John Bates walking us through an old growth forest. John will describe the ecological and human history of northern Wisconsin forests. He describes remaining old growth forests in the upper Midwest and their values, based in on his recent book, Our Living Ancestors: The History and Ecology of Old Growth Forests in Wisconsin and Where to Find Them.

Native Plant Sale Order Pickup

May 22, 2021 | Sat | By Appointment Only

Pre-order your plants for your Spring planting. The order form accompanies this Newsletter. Deadline to place your order March 31m 2021.

Order form is available from **foxvalleyarea.wildones.org**

Summer Dreams!

by Barb Cattani



Summer dreams: That's the theme of our program for the 2021 Annual Membership meeting. After a brief (under 15 minutes) business meeting, we'll have a virtual gettogether to share our summer experiences and plans. The business meeting will include financial and membership reports, but the main purpose of the meeting is to elect a new WOFVA Chapter President and Vice President.

Once the business is done, participants will have an opportunity to share their accomplishments from last summer or plans for next year with fellow members.

If you're tired of the cold of winter and are dreaming about summer's beauty, or have memories to share of your native landscape or plans for summer rejuvenation, plan to join us and catch up with other Chapter members. I have a survival story about the repair of a broken tile line that demolished a pollinator garden and the plants that showed up last summer. Spoiler alert: the monarchs were very happy with the results!

The Annual Meeting and Program is scheduled for Feb. 13 at 1:30pm. Instructions for sharing photos and how to sign-in to the meeting were sent by email. If you can't attend on Feb. 13, you can vote for the Chapter Officers on-line.

The complete list of 2021 Programs is included in this newsletter. Remember to watch for email updates about changes to programs due to on-going COVID-19 concerns. You can also find the latest news about schedule changes on our website and Facebook page. I sincerely hope to see you in-person at one of our events this year.

After the Fall (Part 2 of When Dead Doesn't Mean Dead) *Continued from page 1*

Deer also benefit from dead trees. They eat the lichens that often grow on the bark of dead or dying trees. They'll also eat mushrooms that grow in the damp rotting wood and leaves, as do insects, turtles, birds, mice and squirrels. Mushrooms can make all the difference in a deer's survival of a difficult winter.

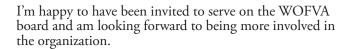
Over the years, as a log slowly decomposes, it releases its nutrients into the soil and becomes what is known as a nurse log. Bright green mosses and colorful mushrooms may grow on it and tiny plants and even tree seedlings will find purchase on the rich decomposing wood.

When a tree ends up falling into a stream instead of the forest floor, it slows the movement of the water and traps sediment behind it. This provides habitat for fish and amphibians. Most trout fishermen know that streams edged with downed trees produce more fish. Scientists have not pinpointed a maximum density of logs in streams that is too much. Basically, the more wood, the more fish.

Lawanda Jungwirth is a Wild Ones member and has been a Master Gardener since 1994. She has written a garden column in the Oshkosh Northwestern since 2000 and the "Plant Matters" column in Badger Sportsman magazine since 2010. A lifelong gardener, she has an intense interest in environmental issues. Lawanda received the 2010 Invader Crusader award from the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Swifka Tells Her Story





My husband, Dean, and I have been members for a number of years. As an environmental educator for more than 35 years, I've found Wild Ones to be a source of knowledge and resources to further the mission of my organization. As a person who has a desire to transform our semi-urban yard into a native habitat for wildlife, belonging to Wild Ones was a no-brainer. As a person with more ideas than energy, I've come to realize this will be a life-long endeavor.

I moved to Wisconsin in 1988 and started working for Mosquito Hill Nature Center in 1990. A few months later, we bought our home on the city limits of New London. The yard was a typical lawn and lilacs type of yard. But we had a lot of space, so in addition to the vegetable garden, we sought out sources of native plants. Goldenrod and dogwoods were the first as I recall, taken from the empty lot across the street before the owners put up their apartment buildings.

Our home also came with some hidden gems. A couple scraggly old red cedars that might have been taken out by a different homeowner have been sought out by migrating cedar waxwings every year we've lived here. When we trimmed a few lower-hanging branches from the enormous Norway spruce in the back yard, elderberry bushes sprouted up. And, as we've gotten one step ahead of the buckthorn and honeysuckle in the northwest corner of the lot, the Canada mayflower (Maianthemum canadense) has taken a foothold.

My original dream to have a prairie planting in the backyard has had to be amended as the trees are 30 years older and 30 years larger. So we're looking at more shade-tolerant plants these days, and thinking we might need to rein in the wild ginger pretty soon.

Although we still mow plenty, the scrawny lilac is still standing and we don't think we'll ever get control of the ever get control of the Dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*) or buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), I'm pleased with the progress we've made so far. If we can keep the rabbits from girdling the hazelnut, and what's left of the big box elder from falling on our fire pit, we might just keep on doing this for a while.

Wild Bergamot (Monarda fistulosa)

by Donna VanBuecken, Accent on Natural Landscaping, accentnatural.com

Wild Bergamot (Monarda fistulosa) or Bee Balm is often mistaken for the introduced Canadian thistle (Cirsium arvense), but it is native to all of the United States and so perfectly adapted that it was thought to be a common weed. (Canadian thistle is a perennial native throughout Europe and western Asia, northern Africa and widely introduced elsewhere.)



The Flower

At the top of major stems are rounded heads of flowers about 1 to 3 inches across. Clusters of lavender, pink or white flowers, looking like ragged pom pons, bloom atop 2 to 5-foot, open-branched stems. The flowers begin blooming in the center of the head, gradually moving toward its periphery, forming a wreath of flowers. Its species name, fistulosa, refers to the tube-like structure of its blossoms.

The flowers are tubular and bilaterally symmetric, with a narrow upper lip and a wider lower lip. They are single, and are hermaphroditic, with male and female structures. The pollen-producing reproductive organ of a flower is called the stamen, and this plant has two of them. It is also noted for its fragrance.

Plants grow 2 to 4-feet tall with a 3-foot spread. The rhizomes typically send up multiple leafy steams in a tight cluster, giving Wild Bergamot a bushy appearance. The root system consists of deep, strong-branched roots, and shallow rhizomes that are responsible for the spread of the plant. The blooming occurs in midsummer and lasts about four to six weeks.

The Stem and Leaves

The light-green stems are four-angled and hairless. The opposite leaves are broadly lanceolate to ovate, and vary in color from light green to dark green, sometimes with yellow or red tints. These color variations are in part a response to environmental conditions. The hairless leaves are up to 4 inches long and 2 inches across, and have serrated margins.

Wild bergamot grows in any conditions, but it grows best in sunny, slightly moist soil. Because the species is prone to powdery mildew, providing good air circulation is important. *Monarda fistulosa* is widespread and abundant as a native plant in much of Quebec to the Northwest Territories and British Columbia, south to Georgia, Texas, Arizona, Idaho, and northeastern Washington.

Pollinator

The corolla divides into a tubular upper lip with projecting stamens, and three slender lower lips that function as landing pads for visiting insects. The stamen is the pollen producing reproductive organ of a flower. The nectar of the wild bergamot attracts long-tongued bees – bumblebees, Miner bees, Epeoline Cuckoo bees, large Leaf Cutting bees, and also small black bees, Halictid bees and wasps. It is visited by butterflies, skippers and hummingbird moths and the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird. The plant is said to be resistant to deer and rabbit predation.

Miscellaneous

This showy perennial has aromatic leaves often used to make mint tea. The crushed leaves of all species exude a spicy, fragrant essential oil. Oil from the leaves was used to treat respiratory ailments and was used by Native Americans and, later European settlers for medicine, tea and flavoring.

Donna VanBuecken is a member of the WOFVA Board, the Native Plant Sale Coordinator, and Chair of the Plant Rescue Committee. Follow Donna's blog at accentnatural.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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Barb Cattani

Vice President

(Vacant)

Past President

(Vacant)

Secretary

Deb Benada

Treasurer

Ron Jones

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Barb Cattani

Plant Rescues

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Conference

Kristin Kauth

Native Plant Sale

Donna VanBuecken

Newsletter Contributors

Barb Cattani Mary Swifka

Lawanda Jungwirth Donna VanBuecken



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**.

Non-Profit Organization US Postage PAID Oshkosh, WI Permit No. 90

Plans for the 2021 Native Plant, Tree and Shrub Sale

by Barb Cattani

Our WOFVA Plant Sale will be held in 2021, but it may look more like last year's sale than our "normal" event. At this time, we are focusing on orders and will decide in April about holding a public sale on Saturday, May 22.

- Orders must be placed by March 31.
- Order pick up will be May 22.
- Plant prices are the same as last year: \$6 per pot.
- If you order a tray of 12 plants of the same species, the tray price is \$60.
- A discounted price for not-for-profit organizations is available.
- We will not offer "Collections" this year. Instead, the order form lists "Donna's Recommendations," groupings of plant to fit specific needs.
- "Donna's Recommendations" can help you decide which plants to order. You can mix and match the species which are organized by category to fit your garden: Short Stature, Tall Butterfly, Sunny Rain Garden, Early Nectar, Shade, and Butterfly/Bird.

As we did in 2020, we will plan order pickup times to provide safe conditions for both our volunteers and people picking up their orders. That may mean staggered hours or additional dates for pickups to avoid crowding.

We always need volunteers. Watch for emails explaining what kinds of help will be needed for set-up during the week prior to the order pick up date. If you have questions, contact Pat Filzen at psf4fiber@gmail.com or Dick Filzen at rlfilzen@twc.com.

In the absence of the Toward Harmony With Nature conference, the plant sale will be our only fundraiser this year. Help us spread the word about native plants and natural landscaping by encouraging your friends and family to place an order. The order form can be found on our website at foxvalleyarea.wildones.org. Please download and share it widely!

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 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.

wildones.org

Photo courtesy of Barb Cattani

2021 Programs & Tours

Feb 13 | Sat | 1:30-2:30pm | Meeting | Zoom Presentation

Annual Meeting and Summer Dreams

Tired of the cold of winter and dreaming about summer's beauty? Do you have memories to share of your native landscape or plans for summer rejuvenation? "Zoom in" to our annual meeting to not only get a chapter update but also share with fellow members your accomplishments last summer or plans for next year. Participants will be given the opportunity to share slides via Zoom or just join to chat about their experiences and goals. Mark the date to relax and share with one another summer memories of native planting experiences.

April 22 | Thr | 7-8:15pm | Zoom Presentation

• Our Living Ancestors: The History and Ecology of Old Growth Forests in Wisconsin

Presenter: naturalist and author John Bates, moderated by Joy Perry

Join a Zoom presentation to view a recording of northern Wisconsin naturalist, John Bates, taking us on a walk through the forest. John will present a discussion of the ecological history and human history of northern Wisconsin forests. He describes remaining old growth forests in the upper Midwest and their values. John's talk is based in part on his recent book, *Our Living Ancestors: The History and Ecology of Old Growth Forests in Wisconsin and Where to Find Them.*

May 22 | Sat | 9am Start | Order Pickup | WILD Center

Native Plant Sale Order Pickup

Pre-order your plants for the best choice of grasses, ferns, forbs, sedges, vines, trees, and shrubs. The order form will be available in February 2021. **Deadline to place your order is March 31**. Download an order form from the website: **foxvalleyarea.wildones.org**

June 26 | Sat | 10am-12noon | Tour | 76 Stone Castle Dr, Fond du Lac

Camelot Pond Prairie and Gottfried Prairie Tours

With approval from the city of Fond Du Lac, **Dorothy Messner** started a prairie near her home near Camelot Pond in 2015. Dorothy will guide us on a tour of the prairie and also a nearby oak savannah she is working to restore. She will share the steps taken to bring this project to fruition. Park near Dorothy's home on Stone Castle Drive. The prairie is adjacent. Afterwards, drive to the UW-Fond du Lac campus and ramble through the Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum. WOFVA member, **Connie Ramthun**, will lead a tour of two wildflower gardens she is responsible for planting at the prairie.

July 22 | Thr | 5-6:30pm | Tour | 116 Armstrong St, Neenah

Bernie Mever Garden Tour

Bernie Meyer, the Barefoot Gardener, will lead us on a tour around the 16-acre slice of the family farm that she began to cultivate in 1978. She began with only a row of red pines and wild roses at the end of their private road in rural Neenah. It is now a natural garden oasis blooming with native plants and an inviting water habitat.

Aug 26 | Thr | 5-6:30pm | Tour | 2812 Schaefer Circle, Appleton

• Dennis Nagan Pond & Garden Tour

Back by popular demand, tour the property with homeowner **Dennis Nagan**, who transformed his city lot into a wildlife habitat for attracting birds, bees and butterflies. Dennis will outline the work of installing a large pond feature on his property. His covered shelter will come in handy in case of rain.

Oct 9 | Sat | 10-11:30am | Tour | 4238 Pouwels Court, De Pere

Jim LaLuzerne Garden Tour

Insect-friendly native plants and habitat are the hallmarks of this unique property. Created from a barren former cornfield it now hosts well over two hundred native plants with an emphasis on woody species. Built around a small lake, other water features, and interesting structures, this country garden has one of the largest assortments of native plants in the state. This is a chance to see a variety of unusual mature trees and shrubs in a natural setting. This 23-acre property is located four miles south of East De Pere.

Nov 18 | Thr | 6:30pm Social | 7pm Program | Evergreen Retirement Community

 Audubon Partner Meeting: From birds to bur oaks. Butterflies to blazing star. Prairies to natural gardens.

Learn what is happening at UW Oshkosh to enhance its sustainable and environmentally friendly goals and practices. They are planting many native plants - prairies and wetlands - and putting up bird houses, bat houses, and more. UWO Grounds Supervisor, **Lisa Mick**, and Volunteer Prairie Keeper and Naturalist, **Anita Carpenter**, will be your guides.

Watch the WOFVA website and Facebook page for program changes due to the COVID-19 virus



Native Plant Alternatives - Use These, Not These

by Donna VanBuecken

As you shop, you may wonder how to tell if a plant is native to our area or not. The simplest way to tell is to compare the plant stake labels which contain the botanical name and habitat conditions for each plant. The botanical name of a native plant will have the genus name capitalized and then the species. If the plant is a cultivar, the variety will follow the species name. For example, Symphyotricum Novae-angliae is the botanical name of the native New England Aster. If "Honeysong Pink" is added to the botanical name, it refers to the non-native pink cultivar Aster Honeysong Pink. There are excellent native plants that may be used in place of non-natives to obtain a similar effect. Below are some examples.

For more information about alternatives to non-native and invasive plants go to: http://wwx.inhs.illinois.edu files/7913/8327/9534/Landscape Alternatives to Invasive Plants.pdf or invest in a copy of *The Midwestern Native Garden*, by Charlotte Adelman and Bernard Schwartz.

USE THESE	NOT THESE
Native Early Blooming	Non-native Early Blooming Favorites
blue-eyed grass (Sisyrinchium angustifolium), squirrel corn (Dicentra canadensis), wild geranium (Geranium maculatum), bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis), heartleaf foamflower (Tiarella cordifolia), cutleaf toothwort (Cardamine concatenata), shooting star (Dodecatheon media), white trillium (Trillium grandiflorum) and Virginia bluebells (Mertensia virginica).	tulips (<i>Tulipa spp</i>), daffodils (<i>Amaryllidaceae spp</i>), Bergenia (<i>Saxifragaceae bergenia</i>) and common bleeding heart (<i>Lamprocapnos spectabilis</i>)
Native Early Sun-loving Perennials	Non-native Early Sun-loving Perennials
prairie smoke (<i>Geum triflorum</i>), prairie phlox (<i>Phlox pilosa</i>) and foxglove penstemon (<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>)	bugloss (Brunnera macrophylla)
Native Ground Covers	Non-native Ground Covers
wild ginger (Asarum canadense), Virginia creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia) and three-leaved stonecrop (Sedum ternatum)	periwinkle (Vinca minor), lily of the valley (Convallaria majalis), ajuga (Ajuga reptans) and pachysandra (Pachysandra terminalis)
Native Vines	Non-native Vines
virgin's bower (Clematis virginiana), Virginia creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia) and American bittersweet (Celastrus scandens)	Chinese bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculatus) and English ivy (Hedera helix)
Native Summer Sun-Loving Perennials	Non-native Summer Sun-Loving Perennials
purple coneflower (<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>), yellow coneflower (<i>Echinacea paradoxa</i>), black-eyed Susan (<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>), butterflyweed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>), prairie phlox (<i>Phlox pilosa</i>), beebalm (<i>Monarda didyma</i>) and swamp milkweed (<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>)	ditchlily (Hemerocallis fulva), veronica (Veronica filiformis), salvia (Salvia officinialis), Shasta Daisy (Leucanthemum superbum) and Dame's Rocket (Hesperis matronalis)
Native Summer Shade-loving Perennials	Non-native Summer Shade-loving Perennials
white (Actaea pachypoda) and red baneberry (Actaea rubra), Solomon's seal (Polygonatum biflorum), woodland phlox (Phlox divaricate) and early meadowrue (Thalictrum dioicum) and a variety of native ferns, such as Christmas fern (Polystichum acrostichoides) or lady fern (Athyrium filix-femina)	hosta (Hostas spp), ligularia (Ligularia spp) and campanula (Campanula spp)
Native Late Summer Sun-Loving Perennials	Non-native Late Summer Sun-Loving Perennials
Joe-Pye weed (Eupatorium purpureum), New England aster (Symphyotrichum novae-angliae), calico aster (Symphyotrichum lateriflorum), sky blue aster (Symphyotrichum oolentangiensis), prairie blazingstar (Liatris pycnostachya) and wild quinine (Parthenium integrifolium)	yarrow (Achillea millefolium), dianthus (Dianthus caryophyllus), blanket flower (Gaillardia pulchella), Russian sage (Perovskia atriplicifolia), scabiosa (Scabiosa spp), chrysanthemum (Chrysanthemum spp) and the multitude of non-native asters (Symphyotrichum spp)
Native Grasses	Non-native Grasses
little bluestem (<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>), side oats grama (<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>), prairie dropseed (<i>Sporobolus heterolepsis</i>), switchgrass (<i>Panicum virgatum</i>) and tussock sedge (<i>Carex stricta</i>)	maiden grass (Miscanthus spp) and fountain grass (Pennisetum spp)
Native Trees & Shrubs & Shrub-like Plants	Non-native Trees & Shrubs & Shrub-like Plants
red maple (Acer rubrum), sugar maple (Acer saccharum), hackberry (Celtis occidentalis), chokecherry (Prunus virginiana), serviceberry (Amelanchier arborea), winterberry (Ilex verticillata), witch hazel (Mamamelis vernalis), pagoda dogwood (Cornus alternifolia), elderberry	amur maple (Acer ginnala), Norway maple (Acer platanoides), autumn olive (Elaeagnus umbellata), Bradford pear (Pyrus calleryana 'Brad'), barberry (Berberis spp), burning bush (Euonymus alatus), butterfly bush (Buddleia davidii) and astilbe (Astilbe spp)

(Sambucus nigra), golden currant (Ribes odoratum), white wild indigo (Baptisia leucantha) and sweet black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia subtomentosa)