

Photo courtesy of Robert Benada

New Members

Hello to our newest members who have joined our Chapter since the last issue:

- Bonnie Auxier, *Neenah*
- Kirsten Buckstaff, *Oshkosh*
- Dawn Schulz, *Appleton*
- Kate Trnka, *Kimberly*
- Brook Beyer, *Appleton*
- Nathan Bettger, *Oshkosh*
- Maria Lynch, *Valders*
- Barbara Beregszazi, *Fond du Lac*
- Jeanne Powley, *Neenah*
- Janna Davis, *Kaukauna*

Don't Become Extinct!

Check your membership expiration date on your newsletter label and directions for renewing.

Thank you 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 coronavirus. Normal hours will resume as conditions allow.

Grounds Accessible & Always Open

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Toward Harmony with Nature (THWN) Conference Well Attended

by Kristen Kauth

The 2022 Conference, our first attempt at offering the conference virtually, as well as in-person, was highly successful. Total attendance was 262 people, including attendees from Iowa, Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota! Of those attending, 59% did so virtually and 41% in-person. One person from MN, in an unrelated email to National Wild Ones, also included that he had attended the THWN conference in Oshkosh and enjoyed it very much!

Some of the responses from the conference evaluation: 70% indicated they chose virtual attendance for health and safety and 50% for

convenience; however, 45% would prefer attending in-person if health concerns were no longer an issue. Those attending in-person indicated they appreciated the precautions taken in providing an element of social distancing. 83% said the conference met their expectation; 92% came to hear speakers on environmental topics and 77% on using natives in urban/suburban areas; while 63% indicated the conference always provides good resources for my native landscaping. And, all speakers were rated highly! The Planning Committee appreciates the feedback from the evaluation and takes all responses, especially the ones in the comment section, into consideration when planning for the next event.

At the opening of the conference, three people who were involved in planning the first conference and also worked on this conference

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Upcoming Events Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter

Native Plant Open Sale and Pre-order Pickup
May 21 | Sat | 9 am Start | Order Pickup | WILD Center

We're having an open sale after a gap of two years. Come and shop these top quality natives at the Wild Center and treat your yard and pollinators to new plants! If you pre-ordered, your plants will be ready for you to pick up. **Happy planting!**

Cheryl Root Property
June 16 | Thr | 6-7:30 pm | Tour | 610 W Capitol Dr. | Appleton

For the past 39 years, **Brian and Cheryl Root** have transformed their urban yard into a pollinator, bird, and amphibian habitat through the installation of ponds surrounded by sun and shade-loving native forbs, grasses, vines and shrubs. Come and see what has taken root at the Roots and learn about the wildlife that now frequents this urban oasis.

Progress Toward a Sustainable UW-Oshkosh
July 21 | Thr | 5pm-6:30pm | Tour | UW-Oshkosh

Tour the grounds of UW-O to see what the campus is doing to enhance its sustainable and environmentally friendly goals and practices. Some initiatives include planting natives for prairie and wetland, installing bird and bat houses, and more. UW-O Grounds Supervisor **Lisa Mick** will be our guide.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Times of Change

by Shannon Davis-Foust,
WOFVA Chapter President



Wild Ones members unite under the mission to live in harmony with nature. We are unique because our mission is focused yet it addresses many environmental problems. For example, the restoration of critical native habitat not only brings back biodiversity – it also reestablishes ecosystem services such as cleaning water and greatly enhancing carbon sequestration. Further, our mission benefits humans and nature alike. I can think of no more noble cause.

As many Fox Valley Chapter board and committee members are retiring and moving away, big changes are on the horizon. This is your chance to get involved to help make changes for the better. We have many fun, interesting, learning and educational roles to fill on our annual conference committee, new Wisconsin Native Plant Education program, and many other programs and services that we provide. These are great opportunities to learn and network with others. (These people are easy and fun to work with! Ed.)

Not convinced that you should spend your time volunteering? Consider that volunteerism improves health by strengthening the body, improving mood, reducing stress, and if you're in the job market, those who volunteer regularly have a 27% better chance of gaining employment.

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

– Aesop

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

ALL MEMBERS:
Please fill out our survey at <https://forms.gle/s3gbg9m4oLPEvLYK7> or scan the QR code.



Toward Harmony with Nature Conference Well Attended *Continued from page 1*

were recognized. These were Carol Niendorf, Sue Forbes and Donna VanBuecken. In addition, Steve Hazell, folksinger and songwriter, who performed at this conference and many others, also did so at the first conference.

Jen Ainsworth, National Wild Ones Executive Director, attended the conference virtually. She texted “Please extend my congrats to the team there! Fantastic job managing your first hybrid meeting!” *(She also noted that our Chapter was the first to offer a conference while some restrictions still remained due to COVID.)*

A big thank you to all the volunteers that helped on the day of the conference.

Also, a big thanks to all our members, exhibitors and vendors who donated items to the Silent Auction, which raised \$812. These monies help support the Chapter's educational offerings.

Thank you to our sponsors. We gratefully acknowledge your generous support!



In-kind donation from Oshkosh Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Grants Awarded for Landscapes for Tomorrow

By Ron Jones & Shannon Davis-Foust

The Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow Grants Committee has awarded two grants to local projects that meet the grant criteria for native landscaping. The Grants were presented at the Annual meeting in February.

- A senior from Valley New School (AASD), through Heckrodt Wetland Reserve, has received \$500 for his senior project “Ecological Restoration.” The student is clearing invasive plants from an area east of the parking lot on the Reserve in which he will be planting native forbs, ferns, grasses, and shrubs to restore native plants.

- Friends of Mosquito Hill Nature Center received \$369 to purchase native plants that will be placed in the new “All People’s Garden.” The center’s former Butterfly House area will be repurposed into an all-inclusive sensory garden. The self-contained area will allow visitors to stimulate all their senses with a variety of native plants and garden features.



Old Growth Forest In Wisconsin From Our February 24th Annual Meeting

Guest Nick Sanchez talked to us about the “Old Growth Forest Network”. Nick is its Midwest Regional Manager and a Michigan Certified Forester. He described their mission, showed photos of old growth forests and encouraged us to explore this project further at their website oldgrowthforest.net.

He invited us to feel free to contact him at Nick@oldgrowthforest.net with questions and to join them!

“Our goal is to locate and designate at least one protected forest in every county in the United States that can sustain a native forest. We estimate that to be approximately 2,370 out of 3,140 total counties. To achieve this aim, we work to identify forests for the Network, ensure their protection, and inform people of the forest locations. We are building not only a network of forests, but also an alliance of people who care about forests.”

— Old Growth Forest Network

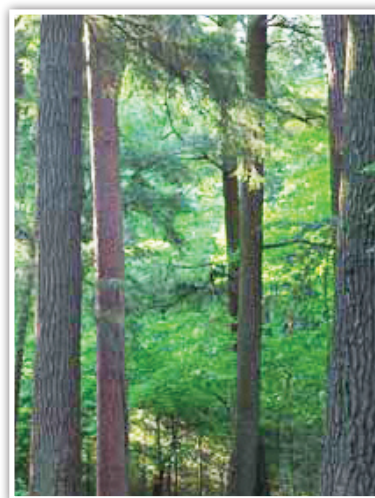


Photo by Thomas A. Meyer, DNR

Two registered places in Wisconsin (see their website above) are Cathedral Pines in Oconto Co. and Muskego Park in Waukesha Co. *(These are rare and precious places! Ed.)*

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

Help Plan the January 2023 Conference

Please consider joining a dedicated group of people to plan for the **Saturday, January 28, 2023 conference!**

If you would like to get more involved with Chapter events and get to know other members, being part of the conference planning committee is an excellent way to do so.

The committee meets as a whole only twice a year in addition to attending the conference. The chairs who are stepping down will assist new committee members during this year of transition. Each committee or chair's role, has a specific time frame within which the work needs to be done, thus it is not a monthly commitment.

The 4 positions to be filled are: Conference Chair; Speaker Chair; Registration Chair; Mailing & Sign-age Chair. Please consider joining the other 6 members of the committee to continue the tradition of offering this highly anticipated yearly program!

Please contact Shannon Davis-Foust, Chapter President, wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com to tell her of your interest in joining the Conference Planning Committee. Thank You!



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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

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Shannon Davis-Foust
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Kristin Kauth
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Donna VanBuecken

Photo courtesy of Robert Benada



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. **Deadline for Spring Newsletter is March 10, 2022.** Refer to the Wild Ones website (**wildones.org**) for announcements and updates.

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Special Recognition and Thank You!

A very special recognition and thank you goes out to five members of the Conference Planning Committee, who are stepping down after many years involved in the planning of this event. They are:

- **Carol Niendorf**, who was the Conference Chair for the first 3 years and continued as the Speakers' Chair (25 years)
- **Donna VanBuecken**, Publicity & Registration Chair (21 years)
- **Janet Wissink**, who served as the Conference Chair for 3 years and continued as the Mailing and Signage Chair (21 years)
- **Bob Niendorf**, Finance Chair (21 years)
- **Barb Stanek**, Speakers Co-Chair (18 years)
- **Kristin Kauth**, Conference Chair (10 years)

The conference would not be what it is today without their dedication through the years!

Thinking of volunteering? These folks are still active and are a friendly and wonderful resource available to you. You are not alone!

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 Robert Benada