



PO Box 385
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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.

Deadline for Fall Newsletter is October 2, 2022. Refer to the Wild Ones website (wildones.org) for announcements and updates.

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Chapter Newsletter

Volume 30 • No. 2

Summer 2022

Photo courtesy of Robert Benada

New Members

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

- Daniel Barker, *Neenah*
- Cristy Burke, *Appleton*
- Janna Davis, *Kaukauna*
- Karen Freiberg, *Neenah*
- Maureen Garrison Powless, *Redgranite*
- Bradley Lauderdale, *Neenah*
- Vicki Maas, *Menasha*
- Kathy Mohrman, *Oshkosh*
- Abbey Sena, *Neenah*
- Cheryl Teske, *Grand Chute*
- Suzette Vosters, *Menasha*
- Corinne Weis, *Two Rivers*

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

WOFVA 22nd Annual Plant Sale Wrap-Up

by Donna VanBuecken, Plant Sale Coordinator

The WOFVA 2022 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.

Volunteer Time +200 HOURS	Grasses, Forbs, Trees & Shrubs +160 SPECIES	Individual Plants +4,000 PLANTS
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= \$6,000 Estimated Net Profit
to use toward Plant Education,
Mentoring and Grants for Non-Profits

We again partnered with the Outagamie County Master Gardeners Association for the 4th Annual Plant Sale Trail, which has given us an additional opportunity to make others aware of the environmental benefits of using native plants.

SPECIAL THANKS to these volunteers who helped make the sale a success!
(in no particular order)

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Barb Cattani | Lynn Stuart |
| Carol Hernke | Margaret Alexander |
| Cathy Larsen | Mary Mares |
| Dave Edwards | Nancy Jones |
| David Misterek | Pat Filzen |
| Deb Benada | Paula Champaign |
| Diane Perschbacher | Rachel Checokolinski |
| Dick Filzen | Rich Fischer |
| Don Brill | Robert Benada |
| Everett Grosskopf | Roger Kanitz |
| Gwen Bomann | Ron Jones |
| Karen Syverson | Rory Williams |
| Kristin Kauth | Sharon Duerkopf |
| Lori Poehls | Tom Ziebell |
| Lucy Valitchka | |

WOFVA DONATES NATIVE PLANTS TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

by Lucy Valitchka

At their new homes, two families received native plants for their gardens. WOFVA Member Lucy Valitchka coordinates the project with Kristi Clover, the Director of Family Services with Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity. Each family received nine plants along with a Wild Ones program schedule and a Prairie Nursery catalog for reference. WOFVA is happy to help these new gardeners get started with native plants in their gardens.



Tanya is happy with her WOFVA plants and is eager to make her neighborhood more creature friendly.
Photo courtesy of Kristi Clover

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

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 coronavirus. Normal hours will resume as conditions allow.

Grounds Accessible & Always Open



Upcoming Events

Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter

Ramthun/Volkert Property Tour

Sept 10 | Sat | 9:30 am-12 noon | Tour | W996 Birchwood Dr. | Campbellsport

For over 35 years, Connie Ramthun and her husband, Bill Volkert, have been working to restore a series of native plant communities by managing invasive species in an oak hickory forest and wetland, along with converting former agricultural land into prairie. Over the years they have documented 675 species of plants and animals on their land. An optional tour of the nearby Spruce Lake Bog State Natural Area will be offered by Connie.

Audubon Partner Meeting: Benefits of Restoring the Bohn Family Farmstead

Nov 17 | Thr | 6:30 pm Social | 7 pm Program | Evergreen Retirement Community

Restoring a portion of the Bohn Farms site required partner-ships and years of planning and monitoring to restore a mosaic of wetland, prairie, and forest habitats that were historically part of the landscape surrounding Lake Poygan. This presentation by Jon Gumtow, program manager, Stantec, will discuss the site history, funding for restoration, restoration techniques, climate adaptation techniques, and partnerships associated with restoring this 80-acre parcel.

Photo courtesy of Robert Benada



Blue or Ohio spiderwort, *Tradescantia ohioensis*



Red osier dogwood, *Cornus racemosa*



Cardinal flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*



Blue lobelia, *Lobelia siphilitica*
Photos courtesy of Robert Benada

So Many Good Things are Happening

by Shannon Davis-Foust, WOFVA
Chapter President



The plant sale was a fun day and a smashing success. Over 3,000 plants were dispersed throughout the Fox Valley, and people have continued to contact us who missed this year's sale. Check out our chapter website for a listing of native plant nurseries in Wisconsin. Each native plant that you propagate might not seem like much, but it is an important part of "healing the earth, one yard at a time."

More good news is that the Wisconsin Native Plant Education Program is off to a promising start. Enrollments are looking good for classes all the way into next year!

How did you get hooked on native plants? I think it happened for me when my first guests arrived. It only took about a year for my native planting to erupt into an oasis of critter festivities. Native bugs showed up that I had never known before, and more birds than ever came to check out my natural bird feeders. I was amazed that they found my little urban planting. I learned that if you plant it, they will come. It also drew in people as my friends and neighbors stopped by and complimented on the beauty and even the smell.

Keep encouraging folks to give natives a try. It is good for you, it's good for the earth, and every little bit makes a difference. We are here to help.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

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



Photo courtesy of Robert Benada

David Eagan's talk "Wild Harvest: Useful and Edible Plants"

by Deb Benada

David Eagan gave a wonderful talk and demonstration of native plants at the Wild Center last April. He had picked a wide variety of specimens from the Wild Center grounds for us to see close up and feel. Since it was rainy that morning, he came early to gather. In the presentation, he passed around some of his beautiful and amazing baskets he had woven. Then he had us weave some wild fiber into twine! The strength of the natural fiber cords was surprisingly strong!



David prepares us for a hands-on lesson

Right: Monarch caterpillar chomping on seed pod of red/swamp milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*

Below: Monarch caterpillar on red/swamp milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*



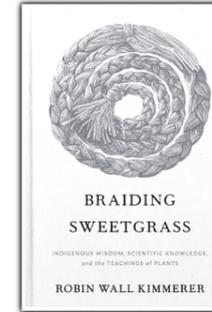
Photos courtesy of Deb Benada

HAVE A FAVORITE BOOK?

My Favorite Book About The Natural World

by Robert Benada

Have a favorite book? We invite you to write up a short piece 400 words or less about why it is interesting and what it means to you. Please mail them to our general mailbox for publication in a future issue. Since I'm the newsletter editor, I get to go first.



Braiding Sweetgrass – Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants

by Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Milkweed Editions 2013*

Ms. Kimmerer is an indigenous (Potawatomi) woman, a teaching biologist and a mother of two daughters. She brings all these to share the joys, wonders and necessary tensions in those life views by telling indigenous stories, wonders of the world and of her life with her girls.

I love this book and reread sections frequently. Her telling of the Potawatomi creation story is wonderful and inspires an appropriate reverence of the natural world and my place in it. I get teary (yes, a softie) reading about Turtle Island and the Sky Woman whose hair is the sweetgrass of the book title. When braided, sweetgrass is used as a cleansing or blessing smudge.

To me, her writing is spiritual but not religious, loving but not sentimental. She inspires a warm, loving view of our relationship with all world.

Practice: Ask permission, take only what need and not more than half and say thank you returning something in gratitude. (*Ed.'s summary*)

Bottom Line: "Stop what you're reading and read this!" (*Ed.*)

Sweetgrass, *Hierochloe odorata*, or in Potawatomi *wiingashk* thrives in wet conditions, so I planted it in our raingarden and it has made itself at home.

BEFORE & AFTER



Before



After

Photos courtesy of Robert Benada

LITTLE DOTY ISLAND: Deb and I have been working on our little Doty Island front yard since 2018; and wow has it evolved after three years of planting natives and removing turf. Obviously, we are all into natives as we did in our former home in southern California. Our yard is a constant source of joy to us as plants thrive and mature. There are lots of red and butterfly milkweed for our monarch friends but so far we've only seen two this year. This month we added a second rain garden that will complete receiving all the roof runoff and give another good habitat for sweetgrass! Obviously not a professionally planned garden but we love it and the plants are happy here, too.

SHARE
your favorite book or "Before & After" photo with us in the next newsletter.



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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.

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Photo courtesy of Robert Benada