

*Photo courtesy of Deb Benada.*

## 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:

- June Petersen, *Waupaca*
- Meghan Huss, *Appleton*
- Mel Mohr, *Appleton*

## 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 Stroebel Rd. From Stroebel, 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

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

## 26<sup>TH</sup> Annual Conference

# Toward Harmony with Nature

Saturday, January 28, 2023 | 8 am–4:15 pm

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Culver Family Welcome Center, 625 Pearl Ave., Oshkosh, WI

**JOIN US IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY** for an exciting all-day program of expert speakers, exhibitors and vendors, and networking with like-minded natural landscaping enthusiasts. To register visit [TowardHarmonyWithNature.org](http://TowardHarmonyWithNature.org).

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER** (9–10 am)

## “Aldo Leopold, Land Health, and the Resilience of Nature”

Aldo Leopold's concept of “land health” is a central goal of his “land ethic” which provides a moral compass for living sustainably on Planet Earth. He regarded ecological resilience as one of the pillars of land health.

**Stanley A. Temple Ph.D.** ([wchf.org/stanley-temple](http://wchf.org/stanley-temple)) is the Beers-Bascom Professor Emeritus in Conservation in the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology. For 32 years he occupied the faculty position once held by Aldo Leopold. He and his 75 graduate students have worked on conservation problems in 21 different countries and have helped save some of the world's rarest and most endangered species and the habitats on which they depend. Professor Temple's career in conservation and ecology has been characterized by highly respected scholarship in conservation biology and wildlife ecology, by interdisciplinary approaches to solving environmental problems, and by energetic contributions to the conservation movement at scales from local to global.

*Silent Auction Items Needed - See page 2 | Additional Conference Speakers and Registration - See page 3*



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

### 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Toward Harmony with Nature Conference

Jan 28 | Sat | 8 am–4:15 pm | University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Culver Family Welcome Center, 625 Pearl Ave., Oshkosh, WI

Visit the conference website at [TowardHarmonyWithNature.org](http://TowardHarmonyWithNature.org) for conference details and registration.

### Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter Annual Meeting

Feb 18 | Sat | 1-3 pm | In Person & Zoom | WILD Center, 285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd., Neenah, WI

#### “From Mowing to Growing: Putting Society on the Path to Ecoliteracy”

presentation by Chapter President Shannon Davis-Foust

You have realized the importance of growing native landscapes, but the social norm of mowing lawn for landscape beautification persists. Join us for an afternoon of discussion and inspiration on how we can gently remind society of the many benefits of native landscapes. We will cover both educational and communication strategies.

*Snacks will be provided, and a short business meeting will follow (as required by our bylaws).*

*Photo courtesy of Deb Benada.*

### COMING SOON!

The program committee is finalizing the **2023 PROGRAMS & TOURS.**

Watch updates on [foxvalleyarea.wildones.org](http://foxvalleyarea.wildones.org) and in the January Members mailing.

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

# The Importance of Nature Education

by Shannon Davis-Foust

As of November 15<sup>th</sup>, this year, the world population reached 8 billion people. That's twice as many people who were on the planet when I was born.

People cry out, "save the monarch," "save the bees," "save the polar bears!" And more often "save us!" with little understanding that it's our own actions that are causing the problem. The disconnect is plain to see as people race to achieve manicured lawn perfection, spreading ever wider from urban to rural neighborhoods. Seemingly unbreakable social norms are chipping away at what little habitat is left for the critters we share the planet with.

Education is key. My environmental science college students often ask, "Why didn't I learn this in high school?" The vast majority of my first- and second-year college students have had little to no environmental education in their lifetime. In my work to connect college students with elementary students in nature study, I've been fortunate to work alongside teachers of all ages, many with no training in environmental education, yet also perceiving this problem.

Our series of classes in the Wisconsin Native Plant Certification program are part of the solution. Native landscapes are the perfect place to begin nature study, and in basic observation exercises, the teacher needs to know little. Nature is also conducive to teaching the foundations of science. As more people grow familiarity with our natural heritage, appreciation and stewardship will follow. As we work to increase our outreach to youth, I plan to teach a class for guiding nature activities with children.

With so many people on the planet today, we can't keep doing things the same old ways. You understand the importance of native landscapes. Join me in teaching others. Please reach out to me with your program ideas. We are looking for more teachers and partners anywhere in Wisconsin.

**"If you want the tree to grow, it won't help to water the leaves. You have to water the roots"**

– *Thich Nhat Hanh*

## WELCOME

# Stephanie Losse, New Vice President

Stephanie has been active in organic farming and horticulture for over ten years. She works in urban forestry and landscaping, and is a longtime advocate for wildlife conservation in Wisconsin and the Great Lakes region. She has an AAS in Sustainable Horticulture and is currently working toward a degree in Biology with emphasis in ecology and Environmental Education. Her goal is to educate others on the importance of ecologically-sustainable and native-friendly practices.



Our new Vice President:  
Stephanie Losse



Stephanie with new organics ready to plant.

## GRANT PROGRAM

# The Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow

The Fox Valley Area Chapter is now accepting applications for the Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow chapter grant program that supports schools, houses of worship, and other public and nonprofit organizations in the Fox Valley Area for projects involving the creation of natural landscapes and/or outdoor classrooms using native plants. Grants awarded range from \$100 to \$500 to match up to 50% of the project costs.

### Grant Applications are due by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please pass this on to schools, houses of worship, nature centers or other non-profits that you think may be interested in this grant program.

To download a grant application form or learn more about Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow grants, go to <http://foxvalleyarea.wildones.org> resources or contact Ron Jones to request a mailed copy at [rjones3155@gmail.com](mailto:rjones3155@gmail.com) or phone: **920-915-0898**



## 26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE – TOWARD HARMONY WITH NATURE

# Silent Auction Items Needed

**Wild Ones members and friends:** Please consider donating Silent Auction items for our 26<sup>th</sup> annual Toward Harmony with Nature conference which will be held at UWO Culver Family Welcome Center on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Past donations have included birdhouses and feeders, quilt hangings, nature art, handmade soaps, stepping stones, native plant seeds, gift certificates, handmade cards, sculptures, framed art showing native landscapes or plants, scarves, garden

tools, gloves—any items related to nature, native plants, natural landscaping or things you think native gardeners might enjoy.

It is best for donations to be brought the morning of our conference. Please contact Kathleen Hallett ([kmahallett@gmail.com](mailto:kmahallett@gmail.com) or 920-809-7692) if other arrangements need to be made.

The silent auction benefits our attendees and our Chapter's financial reserves for future programs. Thank you!

26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
**Toward Harmony with Nature**

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Culver Family Welcome Center

625 Pearl Ave., Oshkosh, WI | Saturday, January 28, 2023 | 8 am – 4:15 pm



Email  
[wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com)

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

Mailing Address  
**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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Shannon Davis-Foust  
Kathleen Hallet  
Ron Jones  
Stephanie Losse  
Bob and Carol Niendorf



**Featured Address** (10:15 am – 11:15 am)

**“Native Species and Ecotones: We Can’t Do Without Them”**

**JENNIFER J. WILHOIT, Ph.D.** ([tealarborstories.com](http://tealarborstories.com))

Jennifer’s presentation will begin with an overview of ecotones including definitions, environmental significance, examples of ecotones in the landscape, as well as the ecological and metaphorical values of them. She will then highlight the importance of conserving, restoring, and maintaining ecotones in native plantings and landscapes. Finally, she will provide an opportunity for conference attendees to explore their own relationships to native species through guided practices.

**SESSION I** (11:30 am – 12:15 pm)

**“Taking Action on Invasive Plants Through Citizen Science”**

**ANNE PEARCE** ([fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wifdn](http://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wifdn))

Managing invasive plants is often a key part of promoting native plants in our yards. Learn about approaches to and resources for managing invasive plants with a focus on non-chemical options.

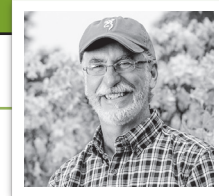


**SESSION 2** (1:30 pm – 2:15 pm)

**“Native Shrubs and Trees for the Birds and the Bees”**

**DAVID STEVENS** ([arboretum.wisc.edu](http://arboretum.wisc.edu))

Learn about the rich variety of woody plants native to Wisconsin and the benefits of incorporating them into your home landscape to help attract and sustain a diversity of bird and pollinator species.



**SESSION 3** (2:30 pm – 3:15 pm)

**“Making Your Yard Wildlife Friendly: Connecting People, Plants and Wildlife”**

**RANDY POWERS** ([prairiefutureseed.com](http://prairiefutureseed.com))

How to convert your yard or property to simulate a natural system and support our native plants, wildlife and pollinators. Re-visiting the idea of creating your own privately owned mini national park in your backyard.



**SESSION 4** (3:30 pm – 4:15 pm)

**“The Exotic Invasion of our Native Landscapes: How Does It Happen and What Are We Doing About It?”**

**RYAN WALLIN** ([sewisc.org](http://sewisc.org))

Multiple factors have caused major changes to our ecological landscape over time, providing the opportunity for exotic species introductions, establishment and spread. Efforts are being made to combat this problem on a national, state, local and individual level.



Visit [TowardHarmonyWithNature.org](http://TowardHarmonyWithNature.org) for more details on our speakers.

**Register now at [TowardHarmonyWithNature.org](http://TowardHarmonyWithNature.org)**



**IN PERSON (registration deadline: January 11)** - All attendees will be seated at round tables. All sessions will be presented in the one large room, with exhibitors placed around the perimeter. **To ensure your attendance, register early. In-person attendance is limited.**

*Note: No walk in registrations will be accepted at the conference. We are offering a virtual option this year.*

**VIRTUAL (registration deadline: January 25)** - All speakers will be live-streamed. To attend virtually, register on-line at [TowardHarmonyWithNature.org](http://TowardHarmonyWithNature.org) and receive a link to attend the conference in real time.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Conference Chair by email at [wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com)



PO Box 385  
Appleton, WI 54912

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Permit No. 90

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).

**Deadline for Winter Newsletter is January 5, 2023.** Refer to the Wild Ones website ([wildones.org](http://wildones.org)) for announcements and updates.

## BOOK REVIEW

# The Nature of Oaks by Doug Tallamy

by Ron Jones

As a forester, I have long appreciated oak trees for the beautiful strong lumber it provides and for the benefit to multiple species of wildlife sustained from its mast (acorns). After reading *The Nature of Oaks: The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees*, by Douglas W. Tallamy, I developed a new appreciation of the complex and fascinating web of life that oaks sustain. This wonderful book reads like a journal highlighting many of the rich cycles of life (death and renewal) during each month of the year. Beginning with October and ending with September, Tallamy describes monthly visitors, interactions, and community involvements on and around oaks as well as describing its importance in watershed management, carbon sequestration and micro-climate moderation. There are certain "cornerstone" animals and plants in ecosystems around the world on which many other species of life depend. Tallamy beautifully describes the central role oaks play in the ecosystem as a cornerstone species supporting a rich web of

life. In Wisconsin, oaks on rich soils (mesic) are gradually being lost through natural succession to shade loving hardwoods such as maple. Although oak can easily be reproduced on dry sandy soils (xeric), it is more difficult on rich moist soils that can only be reproduced to oak with carefully planned harvesting and site preparation (i.e., prescribe fire). Tallamy ends his book with the statement "...it is the loss of the common kingpins like oaks that we must prevent as if our well-being depends on them. For it does." He encourages everyone interested in contributing to the conservation of local animals and insects and thus enjoying the wonders of nature, to plant one or more oaks on your property or community. After reading this book, I am inspired to plant a few more oaks on my property next spring.

Louisiana Live Oak, *Quercus virginiana*, taken near Baton Rouge, LA. Difficult not to use the term "stately"! Very similar to the California Live Oak, *Quercus agrifolia*. The green vegetation on the branches is "resurrection fern".

*Photo courtesy of Deb Benada.*

## 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 Deb Benada.*