

Toward Harmony with Nature

Saturday • Jan. 24, 2026 • 8^{am} – 4:15^{pm}

UW-Oshkosh Culver Family Welcome Center • 625 Pearl Ave • Oshkosh, WI 54901

Schedule

8:00 ^{am} – 8:30 ^{am}	Registration & Coffee
8:30 ^{am} – 8:45 ^{am}	Welcome & Announcements – Shannon Davis-Foust, President, Wild Ones Fox Valley Area
8:45 ^{am} – 10:00 ^{am}	Keynote Address – Neil Diboll, “ <i>Genetic Diversity and Plant Preservation</i> ”
10:00 ^{am} – 10:45 ^{am}	Break
10:45 ^{am} – 11:45 ^{am}	Plenary – Anahkwet (Guy Reiter) “ <i>Rights of Nature in Indian Country</i> ”
11:45 ^{pm} – 12:00 ^{pm}	Break
12:00 ^{pm} – 1:00 ^{pm}	Lunch
1:00 ^{pm} – 1:45 ^{pm}	Session 1 – Sara Walling, “Neonic Pesticide Use in Wisconsin and Implications for Our Health and Our Environment”
1:00 ^{pm} – 1:45 ^{pm}	Session 1 – Ben French, “Native Plant Propagation at Johnson’s Nursery”
1:45 ^{pm} – 2:15 ^{pm}	Break
2:15 ^{pm} – 3:00 ^{pm}	Session 2 – Dr. Skye Bruce, “ <i>Butterflies and Botany: Cultivating Connections in Native Gardens</i> ”
2:15 ^{pm} – 3:00 ^{pm}	Session 2 – Danielle Bell, “From Turf to Habitat”
3:00 ^{pm} – 3:30 ^{pm}	Break & Conclusion of Silent Auction
3:30 ^{pm} – 4:15 ^{pm}	Session 3 – Dan Carter, PhD, “ <i>Identifying and Caring for Oak Woodlands</i> ”
3:30 ^{pm} – 4:15 ^{pm}	Session 3 – Laura Ladwig, “ <i>Prairie Plants’ Responses to Winter Climate Change</i> ”
4:15 ^{pm}	Conference Closing

Keynote Address (8:45 am – 10:00 am)

“Genetic Diversity and Plant Preservation” NEIL DIBOLL

Neil provides an overview of the various strategies that different plants have developed for reproduction and adaptation to their environments. The ramifications for the structure of plant gene pools, their genetic diversity, and adaptability to a rapidly changing world are highlighted. Ecological gardeners tend to be more concerned with creating low-maintenance, sustainable, native gardens that provide not only enjoyment for the gardener but also preserve native plant gene pools while creating habitat for birds, butterflies, pollinators, and other creatures.

This thought-provoking talk provides an inside perspective on plant reproduction and its implications for preserving and maintaining a diverse genetic bank for native species. Neil embraces a technical topic and makes it understandable and interesting to both native plant enthusiasts and the average gardener.



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Fox Valley Area

PO Box 385
Appleton, WI 54912

“Genetic Diversity and
Plant Preservation”

2026

29th Annual Conference

Toward Harmony with Nature

Native Plants, Natural Landscapes

presented by



Fox Valley Area



Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026

**UW-Oshkosh Culver Family
Welcome Center**

625 Pearl Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54901

Public Welcome

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TO PRE-REGISTER – Choose One of the Following Options.

Virtual Attendance – We are offering a virtual option this year. All speakers will be live-streamed. To attend virtually (do NOT use this form), register on-line at FoxValleyArea.WildOnes.org/THWN and receive a link to attend the conference in real-time. Registration deadline January 22.

in-Person Attendance – All attendees will be seated at round tables. Keynote and Plenary addresses will be presented in one large room and the rest will be in breakout rooms. Sessions will take place in exclusive rooms, ensuring a dedicated space for presentations. We have increased break times between speakers to ensure attendees can engage in meaningful conversations with exhibitors while still enjoying the presentations. We aim to provide a comfortable space for learning and making connections. Copies of the brochure can be downloaded from this website: FoxValleyArea.WildOnes.org/THWN. Registration deadline January 12.

To ensure your attendance, register early (in-person attendance will be capped at 225).

Questions? Contact Conference Chair by email at wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com

REGISTRATION FOR IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE (Mail in registration MUST be postmarked by January 12).

Virtual attendance: online registration is required.

In-person attendance: online registration or complete and mail the registration form below.

Name (please list main contact name first)

Additional Attendee Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email (For registration confirmation)

Chapter/Business/Organization (To be printed on nametag)



Scan QR Code to Register Online

Light Breakfast, Lunch, Coffee, Tea (Note: State law does NOT allow you to bring your own lunch into the Conference Center).

Registration Fee (includes Lunch) - Select all that apply:

Early Bird (ends Dec. 19th): \$60 Member x___ \$75 Non-Member x___ \$35 Student x___

After Dec. 19th: \$70 Member x___ \$85 Non-Member x___ \$35 Student x___

Total Enclosed

\$

\$

Sorry, no refunds.

Checks Payable To: WOFVA Chapter **Mail To:** WOFVA Conference Registration, PO Box 385, Appleton, WI 54912

Please bring your own re-usable bag, water bottle and writing materials.

PLENARY ADDRESS (10:45 am – 11:45 am)

“Rights of Nature in Indian Country” ANAHKWET (GUY REITER)

Explore the powerful intersection of Indigenous sovereignty and environmental justice in our session on the Rights of Nature in Indian Country. This presentation will highlight how Native nations are recognizing legal rights for ecosystems, grounded in traditional ecological knowledge and cultural values. Learn how these efforts are reshaping environmental law and protecting sacred lands for future generations.



SESSION 1 (1:00 pm – 1:45 pm)

“Neonic Pesticide Use in Wisconsin and Implications for Our Health and Our Environment” SARA WALLING

Attend an informational session about a specific class of pesticides called Neonicotinoids, or “Neonics”, which are the most widely used insecticides in Wisconsin, the US, and globally. Their popularity has negatively impacted pollinators, aquatic ecosystems, and the food chains they support. During this session, you will learn about the use of neonics in horticultural, landscape, and agricultural settings and the implications for Wisconsin’s waterways, pollinators, aquatic insects, and people. Additionally, we will talk about ways you can learn more about and address this important issue!



“Native Plant Propagation at Johnson’s Nursery” BEN FRENCH

Learn how Johnson’s Nursery propagates plants. The fun and challenging task of propagating the native species of Wisconsin can be highly rewarding. Ben will explain how the business is changing and how consumer trends are making a big difference in the nursery.



SESSION 2 (2:10 pm – 2:55 pm)

“Butterflies and Botany: Cultivating Connections in Native Gardens” DR. SKYE BRUCE

We’ll explore the intricate relationships between butterflies and native plants, highlighting how gardening with regional species supports both beauty and biodiversity. Attendees will learn which plants serve as critical host species for at-risk butterfly larvae, which provide nectar for adult butterflies, and how thoughtful garden design can foster these connections.



“From Turf to Habitat” DANIELLE BELL

Too often, native plants in the home landscape get the image of being unruly and messy. The truth is, there are 5 simple steps you can take to incorporate native plants into your landscape to provide resources for a diversity of pollinators and wildlife on your property. We will discuss which native species are best suited for the home landscape and how to incorporate them to bring your landscape to life!



SESSION 3 (3:25 pm – 4:10 pm)

“Identifying and Caring for Oak Woodlands” DAN CARTER, PHD

Between more open savannas and dark forests, oak woodlands are often underappreciated and misunderstood. I will discuss how to recognize, restore, and care for oak woodlands



“Prairie Plants’ Responses to Winter Climate Change” LAURA LADWIG

Climate change during winter can influence many ecosystems, including prairies across Wisconsin. This talk will share the results from several experiments testing the impacts of winter climate change on prairie plant success.



MEMBERSHIP: To renew your Wild Ones membership go to wildones.org.

Visit FoxValleyArea.WildOnes.org/THWN for more details on our speakers.