

Photo courtesy of Deb Benada

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.

New Members

Welcome to newest members who have joined our chapter since the last issue:

- Brianne Connelly, *Appleton*
- Michael Nofz
- Russell Behnke, *Greenville*
- Rogelio Gonzalez, *Appleton*
- Margot Brand, *Winneconne*
- Michael Peebles, *Fond du Lac*
- Susan Grundy, *Appleton*

– Dan and Dawn Barker,
Membership Co-chairs

WILD Center

Wild Ones National Headquarters
2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd
Neenah, WI 54956

920-730-3986
support@wildones.org

Directions: From Hwy 41, take Exit 136, drive east on BB (Prospect Ave) to right on Northern Rd, then left onto Stroebé Rd. From Stroebé, turn right onto Butte des Morts Beach Rd.

Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday, 10 am – 3 pm
(by appointment only)

**Grounds Accessible
& Always Open**



ANNUAL NATURAL LANDSCAPING AND COMMUNITY FAIR Toward Harmony with Nature

Saturday, January 27, 2024 | 8 am–4 pm

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

JOIN US for a transformative experience at the Toward Harmony with Nature Fair, natural landscaping, and community come together! Embrace a wild future as we gather leading experts, enthusiasts, and the Wild Ones community for an uplifting native landscaping one-day fair. This dynamic event is not just a fair; it's a convergence of minds dedicated to shaping one landscape at a time.

FAIR HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Inspiring Keynote Speaker, Emily Stone:** Immerse yourself in thought-provoking sessions led by renowned speakers, exploring the latest trends, challenges, and breakthroughs in natural landscaping.
- **Vendor Showcase:** Connect with mission-oriented non-profits, businesses, and organizations.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Forge valuable connections with like-minded individuals, businesses, and organizations. Collaborate on ideas, share success stories, and build a network beyond the fair.

WHY ATTEND?

- **Empowerment:** Gain the knowledge and tools needed to make a real impact on native planting issues.
- **Community:** Connect with a passionate community committed to making a positive difference.
- **Action:** Transform inspiration into action with tangible takeaways to implement in your garden and community.
- **Treats:** Wonderful silent auction items will be for your bids.

NEW!
Conference
Format



Keynote Speaker: Emily Stone



DON'T MISS your chance to be part of this educational event! **REGISTER NOW** to save your spot at the annual WOFVA fair. *Together, let's pave the way for greener, more native landscapes!*

foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/thwn-fair-2 - Website (or scan QR code) | *Speakers and Registration - See page 3*

Upcoming Events Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter

Annual Toward Harmony with Nature Fair

Jan 27 | Sat | 8 am–4 pm | University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Culver Family Welcome Center, 625 Pearl Ave., Oshkosh, WI

Visit the conference website at foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/thwn-fair-2 for conference details and registration.

Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Annual Meeting of the Chapter Members

Feb 24 | Sat | 2-4 pm | In Person & Zoom | WILD Center, 285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd., Neenah, WI

This year we are celebrating 30 years since our Charter and the retirement of two charter member, Donna VanBuecken and Susan Forbes. See newsletter insert for tribute to Donna and Susan.

COMING SOON!
**2024 PROGRAMS
& TOURS**

Watch for updates on
foxvalleyarea.wildones.org
and in the January
Members mailing.

Photo courtesy of Deb Benada

A MESSAGE TO WOFVA CHAPTER

We appreciate all the work and efforts that the Fox Valley Area Chapter has put into assisting in the maintenance of the Wild Ones property throughout the past years!

From our extensive research into the options for the property, the board and staff have concluded that Wild Ones National maintaining a property in Wisconsin does not align with our mission as a national organization and are moving in the direction of selling the Wild Ones property. With the proceeds from the sale of the property, we will be better suited to provide support for all our chapters across the country.

The Wild Ones property is under a DNR easement which stipulates that the land can only be sold or transferred to a non-profit or government agency for recreational use.

The top contender for purchasing the Wild Ones property is Outagamie County. Staff from Wild Ones and Outagamie County have met to discuss the property. The county will be an excellent steward of the property, can perform required maintenance, and potentially expand the Fox Cities trail system. If there are any suggestions for potential purchasers, please send your recommendation to support@wildones.org.

As Wild Ones works through the sale process, we still need to maintain the property and gardens. Wild Ones national team would appreciate any assistance in maintaining the grounds while we undertake this process, we would like to pass on the native gardens to their next steward in the best condition possible.

Many of our Wild Ones chapters have amazing partnerships with local municipalities and mission-aligned non-profits, including WOFVA. We encourage the WOFVA chapter to seek out partnerships with the next steward of the property and continue to assist in maintaining the property as a beautiful example of natural landscapes.

Wild Ones staff and board members are optimistic that selling or transferring the property will best honor Donna VanBuecken and will further raise public awareness regarding the benefits of native plants so landscaping with native plants becomes the norm rather than the exception.

Regards,

Jennifer Ainsworth,
Wild Ones, Executive Director



Jennifer Ainsworth

Photo courtesy of Deb Benada

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 - \$500 to match up to 50% of the project costs.

Grant Applications are due by February 1, 2024.

To download a grant application form or learn more about Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow grants, scan QR code, go to foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/resources or contact Ron Jones to request a mailed copy at wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com.

WELCOME

New Chapter Board of Director Members

We are excited to introduce three new members of the Chapter Board of Directors. They will lend their expertise and experience to our current and future planning and activities.

Katherine Freund – Chair of the Toward Harmony with Nature Fair

My name is Katherine Freund, Chapter Liaison for Wild Ones National. I am a librarian by trade and have always loved putting around my yard, gardening, and doing self-induced research projects. I was a Wild Ones lurker for 10 years while my family moved around the country in the military. When my husband retired, we moved back home, and I finally got to have my own home and property that I didn't have to leave in two years! I love finding new wildlife and plant species in our woods and wetland every season. *Warmly, Katherine Freund, Chapter Liaison (kfreund@wildones.org)*



Katherine Freund

David Langner – Plant Rescue Chair & Plant Sale Supervisor

My name is David Langner and I have been extremely interested in plants and nature since I was young. I have my associates degree as a Natural Resource Technician. I was an assistant naturalist intern at 1000 Islands Environmental Center in 2015 and in 2017 I was the LTE assistant naturalist at Kettle Moraine State Forest-Northern Unit. I have and currently volunteer at multiple nature centers in the Fox Valley doing environmental education, invasive plant removal, and giving edible plant programs. The winter of 2021 I wrote and had printed a short native and invasive edible plant cookbook which I used as a fundraiser for area nature centers. This year I taught an elective class on native and invasive edible plants for the Wisconsin Native plant certification through Wild Ones of the Fox Valley. *Looking forward to serving, David (Lanikarask@yahoo.com)*



David Langner

Grace Elonen – Plant Sale Chair

Hello, I'm Grace! Very glad to be a part of the Wild Ones family. I am based in Oshkosh with my husband and my dog on 10 acres. I love nature and tending to my garden, which is part of why I joined. This coming year I'm planning to continue growing veggies and will be adding more flowers, of course including natives! I love to knit and have cozy nights in. I also love to work out, and just ran a half marathon. Look forward to seeing you at the Plant Sale! Grace Elonen (elonegrace@gmail.com)



Grace Elonen

ANNUAL NATURAL LANDSCAPING AND COMMUNITY FAIR

Toward Harmony with Nature

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Culver Family Welcome Center
625 Pearl Ave., Oshkosh, WI | Saturday, January 27, 2024 | 8 am – 4 pm



Email
wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com

Website
foxvalleyarea.wildones.org

Mailing Address
PO Box 385, Appleton, WI
54912

November 1, 1994:
Fox Valley Area became
chartered as a Wild Ones chapter

TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

Finding the Stories in Nature

Emily Stone, Naturalist & Education Director at the Cable Natural History Museum

Do you love finding adventure and intrigue in strange places? Join naturalist and author Emily M. Stone as she uses science to tell stories that make the world feel more alive. Emily is a naturalist by birth, training, profession and passion. As the Naturalist/Education Director at the Natural History Museum in Cable, Wisconsin, Emily writes a weekly "Natural Connections" column published in more than a dozen local and regional newspapers. She has earned multiple Excellence in Craft awards from the Outdoor Writers Association of America. Her two Natural Connections books will be available for sale and signing after the talk.



Emily Stone

We Are All Connected - The Secrets of Native American Cultures

Dawn Moneyhan, S.C., Enrolled tribal citizen of The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Founder & Chief Clergy at The Kwegag Indigenous Culture Church (The KICC)

For hundreds of years everything about Native Americans was forced into secrecy to survive. The removal of indigenous stewardship practices has contributed greatly to the climate crisis. Dawn is on a mission to share the secrets of Native American indigenous cultures that are the foundation for environmental stewardship so the world can reconnect and work together to help save our struggling planet.



Dawn Moneyhan, S.C.

Ethnobotany of American Indians

Randy Powers, Ecologist, Restorationist, Owner of Prairie Future Seed Company

Ethnobotany of American Indians explores the relationship between American Indians and the environment. We will take a look at what plants were used for building materials (fibers and cordage), food and beverage sources, medicinal purposes, and dyes. We will also discuss poisonous plants you should watch out for. Lastly we will discuss the "Three Sisters of Agriculture", the many uses of Sweet Grass (*Hierochloa odorata*), and take a look at what the Mitchell Park Domes looked like 223 years ago.



Randy Powers

Phoenix from the Ashes – Recovery of Bass Bay Lake from Years of Neglect

Bridie Fanning, First graduate of WOFVA Native Plant Certification Program

Explore the incredible revival of the North Shore of Bass Bay Lake, rising like a phoenix from decades of neglect and damage by the emerald ash borer. Once a paradise for the Potawatomi people, this area succumbed to invasive plants. She will share her top ten restoration lessons applicable to various projects, covering wetlands, prairies, sedge meadows, woodlands, and bur oak savannas.



Bridie Fanning

Parasitic Harmonies: Plants and Pollinators

Micah Kloppenburg, Xerces Society

The natural world is a veritable web of connections and interactions with some organisms sometimes benefiting at the expense of another. Cherry picking a few examples, we'll look at a few parasitic plants and pollinators whose lifestyle could be interpreted, anthropomorphically, as an act of helpful balance or as an act of self-serving sabotage.



Micah Kloppenburg

Developing Urban Ecology Center and Social Importance/Impacts

Paul Van Auken, Associate Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies, UW Oshkosh

The mission of Urban Ecology Center (UEC) is to connect people in cities to nature and each other. Paul will share our experiences and plans for Urban Ecology Oshkosh, a new entity for environmental education being created based upon the Urban Ecology Center model.



Paul Van Auken

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Shannon Davis-Foust

Vice President

Steph Losse

Secretary

Deb Benada

Treasurer

Ron Jones

Display

Vacant

Plant Rescues

David Langner

Membership

Dan and Dawn Barker

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Katherine Freund

Native Plant Sale

Grace Elonen

Newsletter Contributors

Jen Ainsworth
Dan and Dawn Barker
Grace Elonen
Katherine Freund
Ron Jones
David Langner
Carol Niendorf

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS WELCOME

Please consider donating silent auction items. Contact **Kathleen Hallett** (kmahallett@gmail.com) if you would like to contribute. Thank You!



To register or for more details on our speakers visit
foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/thwn-fair-2



Photo courtesy of Deb Benada

Email articles
for 2024 Winter
Newsletter by Jan. 15



PO Box 385
Appleton, WI 54912



RENEW!

Don't Become Extinct!

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.

Thank you and we'll look forward to seeing you at the meetings!

— Dan and Dawn Barker, *Member Co-Chairs*

WOFVA Native Plant Certification Course

WOFVA Native Plant Certification Course is going strong! Register today for the upcoming course:

FINDING YOUR CONNECTION WITH NATURE

- *Instructor:* Shannon Davis-Foust
 - *Begins:* Friday, Jan 5, 2024, 12 pm
 - *Ends:* Sunday, Jan 7, 2024, 12 pm
 - *Location:* Lowenwood, Land O' Lakes, WI
 - *Elective:* 4 hours
 - *Fee:* \$170* for Wild Ones members, \$200* for non-member
- *Includes lodging and meals*

Join us on a Northwoods adventure, where we aim to strengthen your bond with Wisconsin's native environment. This program focuses on exploring nature up close, refining your observation skills, and deepening your understanding of ecosystem functions. This course covers the art of nature journaling, helping you effectively document your thoughts and observations. Alongside this, we'll engage in brief readings and create our own nature story narratives. Questions, email wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

DECEMBER 18, 2023

To register for a class please go to:
foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/classes.

Photo courtesy of Deb Benada

Contact us: wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com

JOIN

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

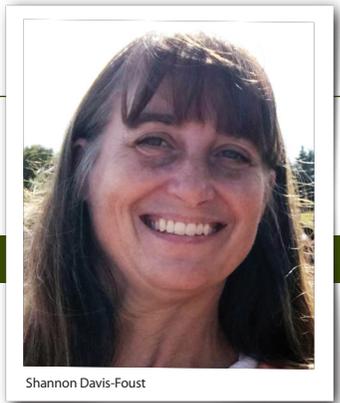
Photo courtesy of Deb Benada

Fall 2023 4

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Chapter Buzz

by Shannon Davis-Foust, WOFVA Chapter President



Shannon Davis-Foust

2023

We are approaching the end of another transformative year for our Chapter. We are enthusiastic about future possibilities as we enter 2024.

Most notably, two individuals who have been literally foundational to our chapter are retiring this year. Donna VanBuecken was the founder of our chapter and was most recently serving as the Coordinator of the Plant Sale and Plant Rescues. She has also contributed her native plant blog, "Accent on Natural Landscaping," to our Facebook page for many years. She continued to serve on our chapter board even after suffering a stroke several years ago. Her leadership has played a key role in the growth and success of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area, and we express our gratitude for all her guidance over the years. *(See back side of this insert for tribute to Donna.)*

Susan Forbes was also a founding leader. She is retiring as a Mentor Chair and Speaker for our Chapter and moving to warmer landscapes (Georgia!). She has been a source of wisdom and support for many years. At the annual meeting, we will celebrate to honor Donna, Susan, and other founding members, acknowledging their many contributions to our Chapter's legacy. *(See back side of this insert for tribute to Susan.)*

Thanks and farewell to Paula Knier, Display Chair. She designed the new display as her capstone project for the certification program. We also extend our gratitude to Education Committee teammates Tena and Woody Benson, who have stepped down after two years of dedicated service.

We welcome Grace Elonen, David Langner and Katherine Freund who have stepped up to serve roles on the Chapter Board of Directors for 2024. *(See page 2 for their bios in this newsletter.)*

Additionally, Mel Mohr, our Web Chair, and I have been collaborating to engage students from educational classes, always looking for fresh perspectives to invigorate our chapter. The Program Committee, led by Chair, Mary Swifka, will release the list of monthly programs in January.



2024

As a testament to the power of kindred spirit, we are moving into 2024 celebrating our Chapter's 30th anniversary. Please join us at the annual meeting in February where we will honor our founding members with a historical presentation highlighting key events in our chapter. We especially encourage our pioneering members to attend this event to share your experiences with us.

There are many other events to look forward to in 2024. We are taking the annual conference in a new direction this year, changing it to a fair format. Check it out! We are also holding an affordable Northwoods overnight retreat coming up in January. Best of all, we are partnering with the National Wild Ones and UW Oshkosh to host a presentation by Robin Wall Kimmerer, award-winning author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*, at UWO Oshkosh campus in March. Find out more on our webpage.

Our Display Chair, Mentoring Chair, and Speaker's Bureau Chair positions are open! Each position is a great opportunity to expand your knowledge and make connections within our communities. You just need to like talking with people about native landscaping. Email us to learn more.

I urge you to actively engage in our chapter and with me, look forward to a future filled with growth, collaboration, and a deeper connection to the natural world.

THANK YOU & FAREWELL

DONNA VAN BUECKEN

by Carol Niendorf

Donna VanBuecken, a founding Board member of our Chapter, has announced that she will be retiring from the Board. She has been a member of the Board since our Chapter's beginning. Here is just a brief history of her leadership: In 1994, the County Extension Horticulture Agent assembled a group of people who were known to be interested in growing native wildflowers. The group met at Donna's home. Donna knew about and put the group in touch with Wild Ones, a new organization in Milwaukee interested in promoting native plants and natural landscapes. She suggested that a representative of the Milwaukee group be invited to visit the next meeting that Fall, and thus the new Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter was launched with Donna elected as the first President.



Donna Van Buecken

Since that beginning, great strides were made under Donna's leadership and that of the presidents who have followed her. We have about 200 household memberships in our Fox Valley Area, most of whom have planted and are maintaining their own native plants gardens ranging from small urban lots to large rural properties.

Donna's influence reached far beyond our Chapter area. When the national Wild Ones organization decided to hire their first National Executive Director, Donna was chosen to fill that position and continued to lead our organization both on the national and regional level for a number of years. She led the purchase of our national Wild Center and the conversion of the former home on that site to a center where the public can come and learn about native plants and how to install and maintain native plantings.

Donna nurtured countless volunteers who helped her carry on the work of our organization. For example, in January 1997 our Chapter held our first annual "Toward Harmony With Nature" conference, with expert guest speakers and numerous exhibitors and vendors, attracting about 300 attendees every year. Donna also held rain barrel workshops at the Wild Center, hosted birdwatching groups, welcomed schools and area nature organizations to visit and meet at the Center, and instigated a partnership with the Monarch Watch's "Bring Back the Monarchs" program. During her Board membership she served as Plant Rescue Chair and Plant Sale Organizer, among many other activities.

These are just a sampling of the things Donna has done to improve the environment of our Fox Valley Area. We salute and thank her with all our hearts!

SUE FORBES

One of our Chapter's founding members, Sue Forbes, will be retiring from the Board as she gets ready to move to Savannah, Georgia this coming summer. Sue was our Chapter's first Treasurer starting in 1995, handling both the general and the conference treasuries for several years. More recently, she has given speeches about Wild Ones to outside organizations and has served as our first Mentorship Chair. In the latter role, she has helped both individual property owners and organizations establish native plantings. She recently helped an area church put in a native planting border that is succeeding in an area that has been inhospitable to other plant species.



Sue Forbes

Now Sue looks ahead to her new adventure in Georgia, where she and her brother and sister-in-law are building a home on a 1.8 acre lot overlooking a salt marsh near Savannah. Sue has bought books about native plants that will thrive in that setting. She will be keeping a watchful eye out for any nonnative plants that might threaten some beautiful liatris that she spotted in the salt marsh. We wish her all the best in her new surroundings!

