

Welcome New Members

- Joanne Avery, Ripon
- Natalie Ulrich, Neenah
- Gareth Johnson, Appleton
- Richard Satre, Saint Cloud
- Kelly Droysen, Wautoma
- Britney & Charlie Sizer, Neenah
- Natalie Ulrich, Neenah
- Gareth Johnson, Appleton
- Richard Satre, Saint Cloud
- Courtney Wright, Omro
- Julie Daley, Appleton
- Barry Grossman, Sheboygan
- Startlene Grossman, Sheboygan
- Pauline Braun, Oshkosh
- Vicki Van Deurzen, Little Chute
- Raji Subbarayan, Appleton
- Ivy Mand, North Fond du Lac
- Dave Gutbrod, Neenah
- Renee Berube, Oshkosh
- Gregg Clark, Appleton
- Jim Dreyer, Appleton
- Lee Salm, Neenah
- Bradley Shippis, Appleton
- Jacklyn Lemke, Neenah

as of 08/01/25

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.

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 Stroebe Rd. From Stroebe, turn right onto Butte des Morts Beach Rd.

Grounds Accessible
& Always Open

Volunteer of the Year

By Deb Benada, Chapter Secretary



Kathleen Hallett receiving award from Shannon Davis-Foust, WOFVA President.

Kathleen Hallett was awarded “2025 Volunteer of the Year” at our June Chapter Member Meeting. Her name and face are familiar because she has organized the group to keep the WILD Center within the Wild Ones organization. She has spent countless hours researching the history of the WILD Center, communicating with Chapter and community members as well as Wild Ones Chapters in the Midwest, National staff and board. Kathleen has also chaired the silent auction committee for our Toward Harmony with Nature annual conference making it a fun and successful contribution to the event. She always brings a calming and encouraging presence and we are so grateful for her.

Upcoming Events

Leaf Mandala Workshop

Oct | Date & Time: TBD (check website for updates) | Facilitator: Janelle Jentz

Expand your relationship with nature by looking for matching leaves of similar size, shape, and color to add to a mosaic the group creates—laying leaves/ berries/cones/stones/etc. in a pattern on the ground. Some basic plant identification will be shared, but the approach is one of art therapy - noticing, observing, sensing, feeling and creating.

Seed Collecting Workshop at Gottfried Prairie!

Oct 18 | Sat | 9am – 12 noon | Gottfried Prairie | 400 University Dr | Fond du Lac

Come join us for a hands-on Seed Collecting Workshop where you can learn all about gathering and preserving native plant seeds. Gottfried Prairie is a hidden gem adjacent to the UWOF Fond du Lac campus. Bring small paper bags, small snips, light gloves, and a sharpie marker. A limited number of supplies will be available. This is a free event sponsored by Gottfried Prairie & Arboretum and Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter. Our expert instructors will guide you through the process and share tips on how to identify different seeds. (Rain date is October 19, 2025)

Audubon Partner Meeting

Thurs | Nov 20 | 6:30 pm Social | 7 pm Program | Evergreen Retirement Community | Oshkosh

Come join us for the annual partner meeting with Audubon held at the 1130 N Westfield St, Oshkosh, WI, 54901.

FREE Programs
but online registration
is appreciated



<https://foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/events/>



Photo courtesy of Katie Reed.

Remembering the Night Shift

By Shannon Davis-Foust



Photo courtesy of Shannon Davis-Foust.

As you go to sleep, a workforce wakes up. Creatures like bats, frogs, fireflies, owls and moths emerge from their hiding places for a busy night to fulfill their ecosystem assignments. It's important to recognize that your work to restore native landscapes protects these nighttime guardians, whose contributions are just as critical to natural systems and human well-being as those of our daytime friends.

Most of us have chased butterflies across fields for years trying to get a good photo, but did you know that moths have neat shapes and colorful patterns. You don't need fancy equipment to observe moths. On a mid-summer to early fall night, turn on an outside light. Your invited guests will fly in and eventually land. Take photos of them and magnify them. You will find variety in shape and color that rivals the beauty of butterflies. You can use an app such as SEEK to identify them. They have neat names! Before long you'll be sitting outside in the dark waiting with anticipation to identify a new species - there are about 10 times more moth species than butterfly species.

Bats are amazing. I've been using acoustic monitors to study them with UW Oshkosh students for three summers, and we're always learning things about them. We share this information in public monitoring events in order to help people better understand bats. Bats aren't just scary winged critters in the darkness that might carry rabies; they can eat more than 1000 bugs in a single night, which includes mosquitoes. Bats generally prefer to hunt in open spaces such as prairies rather than in wooded areas.

This year I've absolutely noticed more fireflies than I ever have before. I've especially noticed this during the bat walks. There was one particular walk where we emerged from a forest into a large field, and we were mesmerized with how numerous the fireflies were. As we watched their beams of light turn on and off, they seemed to go on forever into the field. Fireflies aren't just beacons of flickering light - did you know that fireflies are pollinators and slug predators?

When you plant native habitat, it's easy to say you're doing it for the bees, butterflies, and the birds, but you're doing so much more than what meets the eye. The bats, fireflies, frogs, moths, owls, and more also appreciate you!

Natives Successfully Rescued

By David Langner, Plant Rescue Chair

We had three plant rescues from the end of May through late June. The first was for a homeowner who needed plants rescued since it was getting harder for her to care for them. The second rescue was due to a gas line easement through a small parcel of private property; the homeowner wanted to rescue as many plants as possible. The final rescue was at the Miller Bay restoration sites where the rescue areas were being reduced in size so people were allowed to rescue plants from those areas. In all about 30 rescuers found new homes for these natives!



Our Chapter Display Reaches Out

by Dana Hartel, Display Chair

There are multiple ways that people learn about our Wild Ones Fox Valley Area chapter, and one of those ways is through our display board. Perhaps you are one of the people who attended an event, and it was your first experience learning about Wild Ones.

Then you know that our event participation, in which we have a booth with our display board, is important. The display tells of the many benefits of native plants, provides materials for people to get started or enhance their native planting, advertises our education programming, and is staffed by chapter members who want to help others connect people and native plants.

Our display schedule this year includes locations in Appleton, Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, Wautoma, and Green Lake with the potential for outreach in more communities.

I am grateful for the volunteers who step forward to represent our chapter at the various events. If you are interested in joining the display team or know of an event where we can reach others through our display board, please email wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com.



Theresa Granados, Social Media Chair,
at the Oshkosh Farmers Market.



Plant Sale Successful on Many Levels

By Grace Elonen, Plant Sale Committee Chair

This May we had a new venue for the Plant Sale: Heckrodt Wetland Reserve in Menasha. I think the new location was a success! Staff there were very helpful and supportive. Since Heckrodt usually has many visitors on Saturday we met lots of new folks and we sold out around noon. I'll have to order more plants next year! The major highlight from the sale is that we got over 3,000 native plants out into our community! We are grateful to all of you who purchased and planted natives throughout our Chapter's seven counties.

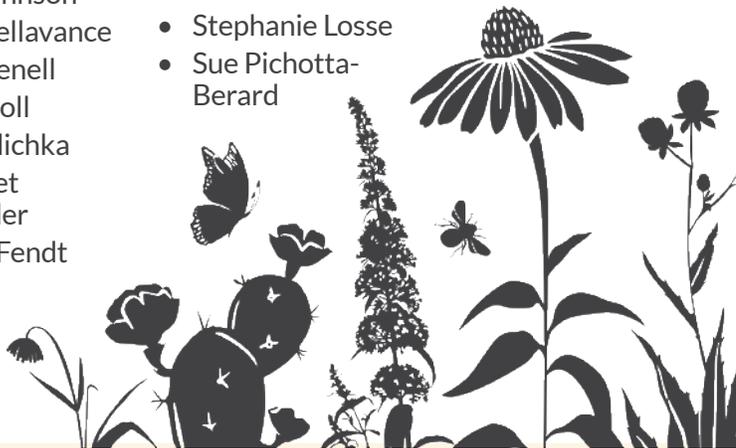
PLANT SALE COMMITTEE

- Chair: Grace Elonen
- Tree and Shrub Coordinator: Everett Grosskopf
- Volunteer Coordinator: David Langner
- Treasurer: Ron Jones

THANK YOU - VOLUNTEERS

And of course we couldn't do it without our many wonderful volunteers. Thank you all!

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| • Adam Sislo | • Joe Endres | • Nancy Jones | • Tom Ziebell |
| • Angie Fulger | • Kira Milhausen | • Rich Fischer | • Tracy Koenig |
| • Carol Fendt | • Krissy Tuma | • Robert Benada | • Zaiga Freivalds |
| • Corrine Weiss | • Lee Macrander | • Russ Benke | |
| • Dan Barker | • Leigh Johnson | • Stephanie Losse | |
| • Dana Kohlmeyer | • Leslie Bellavance | • Sue Pichotta-Berard | |
| • Dawn Barker | • Linda Denell | | |
| • Deb Benada | • Linda Stoll | | |
| • Desiree Johnson | • Lucy Valichka | | |
| • Donna VanBuecken | • Margaret Alexander | | |
| • Ivy Fischer | • Margie Fendt | | |
| • Janelle Jentz | • Mary Mares | | |
| • Janet Carlson | | | |
| • Jennifer Sattler | | | |



NATURE LANDSCAPES FOR TOMORROW GRANT

2026 Grant Program

By Ron Jones, Grant Chair

The Chapter's Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow grant program 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. This year we awarded a \$500 matching grant to the Green Lake School District who is creating an outdoor classroom in a school courtyard that will be filled with native plants. Students will be encouraged to explore, discover, connect, and spark curiosity about the natural world in this outdoor classroom. It's not too early to start thinking about a grant project for 2026.



APPLY TODAY: Grant Applications will be due by February 1, 2026. 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 wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President**
Shannon Davis-Foust
- Vice President**
Stephanie Losse
- Secretary**
Deb Benada
- Treasurer**
Ron Jones
- Display**
Dana Hartel
- Plant Rescues**
David Langner
- Membership**
Dan and Dawn Barker
- Mentoring**
Everett Grosskopf
- Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow**
Ron Jones
- Newsletter Editor**
Robert Benada
- Programs**
Vacant
- Publicity**
Janet Carlson
- Speaker's Bureau**
Vacant
- Web**
Mel Mohr
- Social Media**
Theresa Granados
- Conference**
Susan Pichotta-Berard
- Native Plant Sale**
Grace Elonen
- Newsletter Contributors**
Deb Benada
Shannon Davis-Foust
Grace Elonen
Kathleen Hallett
Dana Hartel
Ron Jones
David Langner
Maria Thomson



Fox Valley Area

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:
wildones.org/membership.

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

— Dan and Dawn Barker, Membership Co-Chairs

REGISTER TODAY WISCONSIN NATIVE PLANT CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

A Look at Native Plant Form and Function

Virtual | Mon | Sept 8 & 15 | 7-8 pm

In Person | Sat | Sept 20 | 12-4 pm

Instructor: **Dr. Paul Whitaker**

Location: **UW Stevens Point** (classroom location will be emailed to you) | **Elective (6 hours)**

Live Stream Available

Format: Blended, 3-part class

Recommended resource: Botany Primer, Understanding Botany for Nature's Notebook, USA-NPN.

Exploring the Fungal World

In Person | Sat | Sept 27 | 10 am-3 pm

(Central Time, 1 hour lunch – bring your own)

Instructor: **Dr. Jim Perry**

Location: **UWO – Oshkosh campus** | **Elective (4 hours)**

Live Stream Available

Format: Blended, 3-part class

Recommended resource: Botany Primer, Understanding Botany for Nature's Notebook, USA-NPN.

To register &
for more information:



foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/classes

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