Toward Harmony with Nature

Saturday • Jan. 23, 2027 • 8:00 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 – 8:55 am	**Welcome & Announcement** – Shannon Davis-Foust, President, Wild Ones Fox Valley Area
9:00 am – 10:00 am	**Keynote Address** – Dexter Patterson, *"Building a Culture of Conservation"* Sponsored By Winnebago Audubon
10:00 am – 10:45 am	**Break** – Exhibits, Silent Auction
10:45 am – 11:45 am	**Plenary Address** – Jim McCormac, *"Mysterious Moths: Their Outsized Role in Nature"*
11:45 pm – 1:00 pm	**Lunch Break** – Buffet Provided
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm	**Session 1** – Ruth Sanchez, "*From Runoff to Renewal - How Rain Gardens...TBC"*
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm	**Session 1** – Paul Whitaker, "*Weeds are Fascinating Thugs"*
1:45 pm – 2:15 pm	**Break** – Exhibits, Silent Auction
2:15 pm – 3:00 pm	**Session 2** – Keith Phelps, "*Prescribed Fire in NE WI: Learning From The Past to Manage for the Future"*
2:15 pm – 3:00 pm	**Session 2** – *Jennifer Lazewski, "Native Bees and Blooms Through the Seasons"*
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	**Break & Conclusion of Silent Auction**
3:30 pm – 4:15 pm	**Session 3** – *Nathan P. Lemoine, "A Pain in the Grass: Grass Identification for Wisconsin Species"*
3:30 pm – 4:15 pm	**Session 3** – *Shannon Davis-Foust,* Andy Gilsdorf, and Merrie Schamberger, *"Establishing Native Gardens Panel"*
4:15 pm	**Conference Closing**

Keynote Address (9:00 am – 10:00 am)
Sponsored By Winnebago Audubon



"Building a Culture of Conservation"

DEXTER PATTERSON

Dexter Patterson, also known as the Wisco Birder on social media, is an educator, author, speaker, and co-founder of the BIPOC Birding Club of Wisconsin. His lively "You Ready? Let's Go!" videos, which showcase his birdwatching adventures, have attracted millions of views online. At UW-Madison, Dexter teaches science communication with a focus on digital media and serves as the Director of Sciences and Climate at the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters. He is committed to promoting inclusivity outdoors and sharing his passion for birds and conservation with others.

In this engaging, story-driven talk, Dexter Patterson, author of Birds of the Great Lakes, shares how the BIPOC Birding Club of Wisconsin is reimagining conservation through Bird Joy, accessibility, and intentional design. Drawing from real-world experiences and the sense of wonder that birding inspires, he emphasizes practical ways to create inclusive, welcoming outdoor spaces where more people can connect with nature and find their own spark. Participants will leave with practical strategies, a new perspective, and a deeper understanding that when more people experience joy and belonging in nature, both humans and wildlife benefit.

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WILD ONES®
Fox Valley Area
PO Box 385
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"Building a Culture of Conservation"

NEW - FORMAT: more vendors, speakers, and topics!

30th Annual Conference

Toward Harmony with Nature

Native Plants, Natural Landscapes

presented by

WILD ONES®
Fox Valley Area



Saturday, Jan. 23, 2027

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 21.

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 13.

To ensure your attendance, register early (in-person attendance will be capped at 240).

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

Scan QR Code to Register Online

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 the mail 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) _____

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

Registration Fee (includes Lunch, Coffee, Tea, Morning Snack) - ***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)



"Mysterious Moths: Their Outsized Role in Nature" JIM MCCORMAC

Moths overwhelm butterflies in species diversity and sheer numbers. Most moths are nocturnal and largely out of sight and mind. Nonetheless, they are one of the most important animal groups. Moths are inextricably intertwined with native plants, bats, birds, and the whole of the eastern deciduous forest ecosystem. They play an enormous role in the pollination of native plants, and over the eons have spurred the evolution of myriad defensive plant compounds to ward off caterpillar herbivory.

SESSION 1 (1:00 pm – 1:45 pm)



"From Runoff to Renewal: How Rain Gardens Turn Stormwater into a Sustainable and Smart Landscape System" RUTH SANCHEZ

What if the solution to flooding, polluted waterways, and declining pollinator habitat was already perfected by nature? Rain gardens are more than beautiful landscape features, they are living systems that capture, filter, and absorb stormwater where it falls. By mimicking natural ecosystems, rain gardens transform runoff into a valuable resource, reducing flooding, improving water quality, replenishing groundwater, and supporting native plants and wildlife.



"Weeds are Fascinating Thugs" PAUL WHITAKER

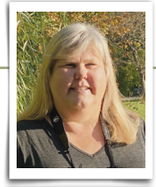
Weeds have fascinating life history traits that help them colonize bare or disturbed soil and gaps in plant communities. Understanding these traits is essential for managing weeds effectively. This presentation will look at life cycles, life history traits, and identification of a variety of weeds found in Wisconsin.

SESSION 2 (2:15 pm – 3:00 pm)



"Prescribed Fire in NE WI: Learning From the Past to Manage for the Future" KEITH PHELPS

This talk will unpack the rich and complex fire history in NE WI. We will then discuss how prescribed fire is beneficial for many ecosystems in NE WI, how prescribed fires are conducted, considerations for small-scale burns, and additional learning opportunities through the WI Prescribed Fire Council.



"Native Bees and Blooms Through the Seasons" JENNIFER LAZEWSKI

The key to supporting native bees and other pollinators is to provide continuous blooms that feed them from spring to fall. Learn how to do this by walking through the seasons from the early emerging mining bees on spring ephemerals to the last bumble bees on showy goldenrod. Build your garden up with native shrubs and trees that boost your bloom power and provide for birds and other wildlife. Leave with a better knowledge of how to enhance your yard's ecosystem value and provide for greater biodiversity with native plants.

SESSION 3 (3:30 pm – 4:15 pm)



"A Pain in the Grass: Grass Identification for Wisconsin Species" NATHAN P. LEMOINE

Grasses are notoriously difficult to identify, especially when trying to identify which need to be removed and which can stay. This talk will cover the basics of grass identification, including examples of common local and invasive species.



"Establishing Native Gardens Panel" SHANNON DAVIS-FOUST, ANDY GILSDORF, & MERRIE SCHAMBERGER

New for 2027 Dig deeper and join us for a collaborative panel discussion examining native plants through three unique lenses. This session features a convergence of minds, including a voice from the native plant industry; Andy Gilsdorf of Prairie Revival Ecological, Merrie Schamberger with 30 years of experience in Natural Resources Conservation, and our very own Shannon Davis-Foust Ph.D. in Biological Sciences and Wild Ones Board Member since 2010.

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

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