



## WOLF RIVER WILD ONES NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025

Greetings Wild Ones!

As I write this 'Spring' Newsletter, the latest snowfall is glistening on the trees and in my prairie garden. So much for spring in Wisconsin! I did notice that most of the grasses in the garden have been toppled over, which for me, is good. I have found that leaving last year's growth in place forms a new layer of mulch in my garden. Not everyone has a rural location like mine, so I am lucky to have a more messy, but natural, look. It is best to do as little clean-up as possible to create habitats for the over-wintering insects.

Hopefully many of you were able to attend our "Go Wild" spring seminar. We had approximately 75-80 people attending. I suspect we will do it again next year. Do you have any suggestions for a speaker? Send an email to let me know ([gailwildones@gmail.com](mailto:gailwildones@gmail.com)). It was very fun and encouraging to talk with like-minded people and share our native-plant interests.

This summer, we will be having some display garden clean-up days. Keep watching on our Facebook page and website for upcoming dates. Also, we will have a booth once a month at the Shawano Farmer's Market. These events are great ways to introduce the public to landscaping with native plant species. The topics will range from planting for pollinators, saving the Karner Blue butterfly habitat to fighting invasive plant species. Please stop by to say hi!

We have made a financial donation to the Navarino Nature Centers pollinator garden project. The NNC has refreshed the garden and rearranged the planters to be wheelchair friendly. It is looking very nice and assessable! If you are out looking for migratory birds, walk around and take a look.

Have a great spring and planting season!

Waiting to hear the spring peepers,  
Gail Sarnwick, President  
Wolf River Chapter of Wild Ones



Photos by Gail Sarnwick

Navarino Nature Center Project supported by WRWO



Photo by Jean Barkow

## **A successful “Go Wild with Native Plants” Seminar!!!**

**Wolf River Wild Ones wishes to thank Karen Oberhauser UWM Emerita Department a of Entomology, who shared her expertize to help us understand the plight of the Monarch butterfly.**

**Justin Kroening of Stone Silo Prairie Gardens for explaining ways to establish a native plant garden.**

**Bob Dumke for his slide show discribing the lessons learned over the past eleven years establishing a thriving native plant / pollinator santuary at a local landfill.**

**We also give a big thank you to the Table Topic participants:**

**Abby Vogt – Timberland Invasive Partnership (TIP)**

**Libby Stein – Waterways Association of Menominee and Shawano Counties (WAMSCO)**

**Andrea Gruen – Stone Silo Prairie Gardens**

**Ashley Barkow – A. Barkow Garden Service and Design**

**Nicole Good – Generation Native Plant Nursery**

**Lastly, thank you to all that attended, we hope you enjoyed this educational opportunity as we have.**

**\*\*\*\*ATTENTION\*\*\*\***



– Plant sale orders are due Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Thank you to all that have already placed your order.

**Did you know.....**

There are 12 species of *Asclepias* (Milkweeds) native to Wisconsin! Check out the WISCONSIN MONARCH COLLABORATIVE (WMC) at <https://wimonarchs.org/> for the listing, printable handouts, and a wealth of information promoting Monarch conservation.

**Did you know.....**

WMC has a goal of adding 119 million milkweed stems in the state of Wisconsin between the years 2019 – 2038.

Monarchs and other butterflies need nectar for nourishment. Along with the milkweed flower, other native species that I have observed monarchs feeding on are:

- Agastache Foeniculum - Lavender / Blue / Purple Giant Hyssop
- Symphotrichum genus - Asters
- Echinacea pallida - Pale Purple Cone Flower
- Echinacea purpurea - Purple Cone Flower
- Liatris genus - Blazing Stars (especially Meadow (*Liatris liquilistylis*))
- Monarda fistulosa – Wild Bergamot
- Solidago genus – Goldenrods
- Phlox pilosa – Prairie Phlox
- Eupatorium purpureum – Sweet Joe-Pye-Weed
- Rudbeckia fulgia – Orange Cone Flower

<https://monarchjointventure.org> is another website for information.



## SCROPHULARIA lanceolate – Early Figwort



Figworts are not known for being a bright beautiful showy plant. They excel in their abundance of nectar grabbing the attention of many native bees, butterflies, and the Ruby Throated Hummingbird. These plants also attract predatory and parasitoid insects helping to keep the pest under control. Acrid compounds in figwort tissues usually keep the deer away!

Figwort's sturdy stalks can reach over 5' tall and will reseed readily if happy with their growing conditions. They will grow in full or partial sun but prefer partial shade with medium to medium dry moisture.

Early figwort has red, green flowers and the late has reddish brown making it the best way to tell them apart.

Early figworts bloom from May to July while late figwort blooms from July to October.

## SCROPHULARIA marilandica - Late Figwort



Information and photos from Prairie Moon Nursery

Join the "Wild Ones" at <https://wildones.org>

Follow us for meeting dates, time, location, and additional information:

Facebook: Wild Ones Wolf River Chapter

Web page: <https://www.wolfriverwildones.org>

To opt out of our mailing list, send email to [jeanwildones@gmail.com](mailto:jeanwildones@gmail.com) or text 715-853-5765