



Wild Ones

NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

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A voice for the natural landscaping movement.

Becoming a force for change

By Sally Wencel

At this writing, we are preparing for the Annual Membership Meeting to update everyone on Wild Ones activities in 2022 and to look forward to 2023 and beyond. Regardless of strategic plans and goals, a timeless theme is connecting communities to effect change.



Sally Wencel

For many years, Wild Ones members worked within local communities through information tables, native garden installations, conferences, speakers' bureaus, newspaper articles, plant sales and so forth. Through education and advocacy, Wild Ones has grown over the years as a credible resource for information on how to use native plants in the landscape. From its humble beginnings in the Midwest, Wild Ones' reach is extending beyond its original range and this expansion has accelerated in the past two years, in large part because of new ways to communicate our message and recruit chapter leaders from these local communities. I thank these new community leaders and commend Wild Ones staff for empowering these leaders to grow their chapters. [For you Partners at Large, I thank you for your support of Wild Ones mission – you are important, too.]

The way I picture Wild Ones' growth is like the formation of a crystal. If you've watched how ice forms, it often starts with random crystals that form as individual water molecules, which then begin to form bonds with other molecules. Depending on the ambient circumstances, these hubs develop slowly – or rapidly – as more bonds are formed. Liquid becomes solid. You are probably catching my drift – what was once individual action becomes group action, and stronger and more forceful as a result.

A recent example of strength through numbers is Wild Ones receiving the Tom Dodd, Jr. Award of Excellence at the 2022 Cullowhee Native Plant Conference. (Read more about this award on [Page 39](#).) A member from my chapter called me from the conference to let me know about this award and I shared his excitement because this recognition boosts the credibility of Wild Ones and increases our reach across the native plant world. I attribute this award to the growth of chapters in the Cullowhee, N.C. area – from Virginia to Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, Tennessee and beyond. Similar growth is happening in the East and West. Wild Ones is no longer just a Midwestern organization.

Our goal is to create a strong matrix or bonds between chapters and members that extends our influence beyond our own local communities. You might notice changes in our approach, particularly when it comes to establishing standards for how we conduct ourselves. Please understand these changes are to strengthen Wild Ones by encouraging these bonds to stabilize and grow.

Our challenge is to reach beyond our comfort zone and connect with new communities, especially those of color, the economically disadvantaged, displaced or otherwise marginalized. We are all negatively affected by the consequences of poor land management and our mission is more important than ever. Please join us in meeting this challenge.

Together we are a force for change.



Promoting environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities

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Established in 1977, Wild Ones is a national not-for-profit organization of members who teach the benefits of growing native plants and work together to grow and restore natural landscapes.

Wild Ones' definition of a native plant:

A native plant is a species that occurs naturally in a particular region, ecosystem and/or habitat and was present prior to European settlement.

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NEWS

ACROSS THE NATION

GEORGIA

Rare sea turtles that spend summers laying eggs on Southern beaches have crawled to a new state record in Georgia, The Stamford Advocate reported.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources said by early August more than 3,960 loggerhead sea turtle nests had been counted since May along the Georgia coast. That's 10 more nests than the previous state record set in 2019.

Giant loggerhead sea turtles are protected as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act. Every summer they crawl onto beaches from Florida to the Carolinas to lay their eggs, as an army of volunteers in each state works to record each nest and protect it from predators.

The high number of nests reflects Georgia's ongoing conservation successes, [CNN](#) reported, as biologists and volunteers monitor loggerhead nests to help protect them from poaching and habitat destruction during the spring and summer nesting season.

The nesting loggerhead sea turtle population in Georgia has increased by around 4% each year since the '90s, according to the [Georgia Sea Turtle Center](#).

MINNESOTA

Goats are working to get rid of invasive plants and help restore land to its native habitat for pollinators in Maplewood, [WCCO CBS Minnesota](#) reports.

Sixty goats and their kids are a bit noisy, but they are also hungry as they eat invasive plants like buckthorn, thanks to a grant from Great River Greening and an environmental and natural resources trust grant.

Supporters say the goats are helping to reduce the amount of herbicides needed to control buckthorn, as well as labor. Once the buckthorn is gone, the city plans to seed with native plants.

NEW JERSEY AND PENNSYLVANIA

Dramatic declines in bee populations at fruit farms in Pennsylvania and New Jersey are alarming scientists, who have been studying the downward spiraling trend for eight years but have yet to determine the cause behind it, [Penn Live](#) reported.

The Rutgers researchers reported in the science journal "Insect Conservation and Diversity" that more research is necessary to determine whether it's a natural phenomenon or a warning about a future threat to the world's food supply.

Researchers analyzed data collected at 19 commercial farms in eastern Pennsylvania and central

New Jersey during peak bloom periods from 2005 to 2012, observing pollination visits by 73 species of bees in three broad categories – wild bees, bumble bees and honey bees – to the flowers of watermelon plants.

Pollination of the watermelon flowers by wild bees and bumble bees fell by more than half from 2005-12. Honey bees, which aren't native to the region and are managed in hives by farmers, remained stable.

According to the researchers, the eight years of the study is too short a time to lead them to sound the alarm just yet. They said even longer-term studies are needed to determine whether the decline represents a true drop in bee numbers or a normal variation over a larger cycle.

WORLDWIDE

The monarch butterfly was declared endangered in July by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the leading global authority on the status of biological diversity.

The butterfly, known for its twice-yearly, 2,500-mile journey across the continent between its summer and winter grounds, has declined by between 23% and 72% in the past 10 years, according to the IUCN.

Though the monarch has long been considered under threat, its listing on the IUCN Red List — the inventory of species' conservation status — marks the first time it has been officially declared at risk of extinction, [National Geographic](#) reported.



Photo: Barbara A. Schmitz

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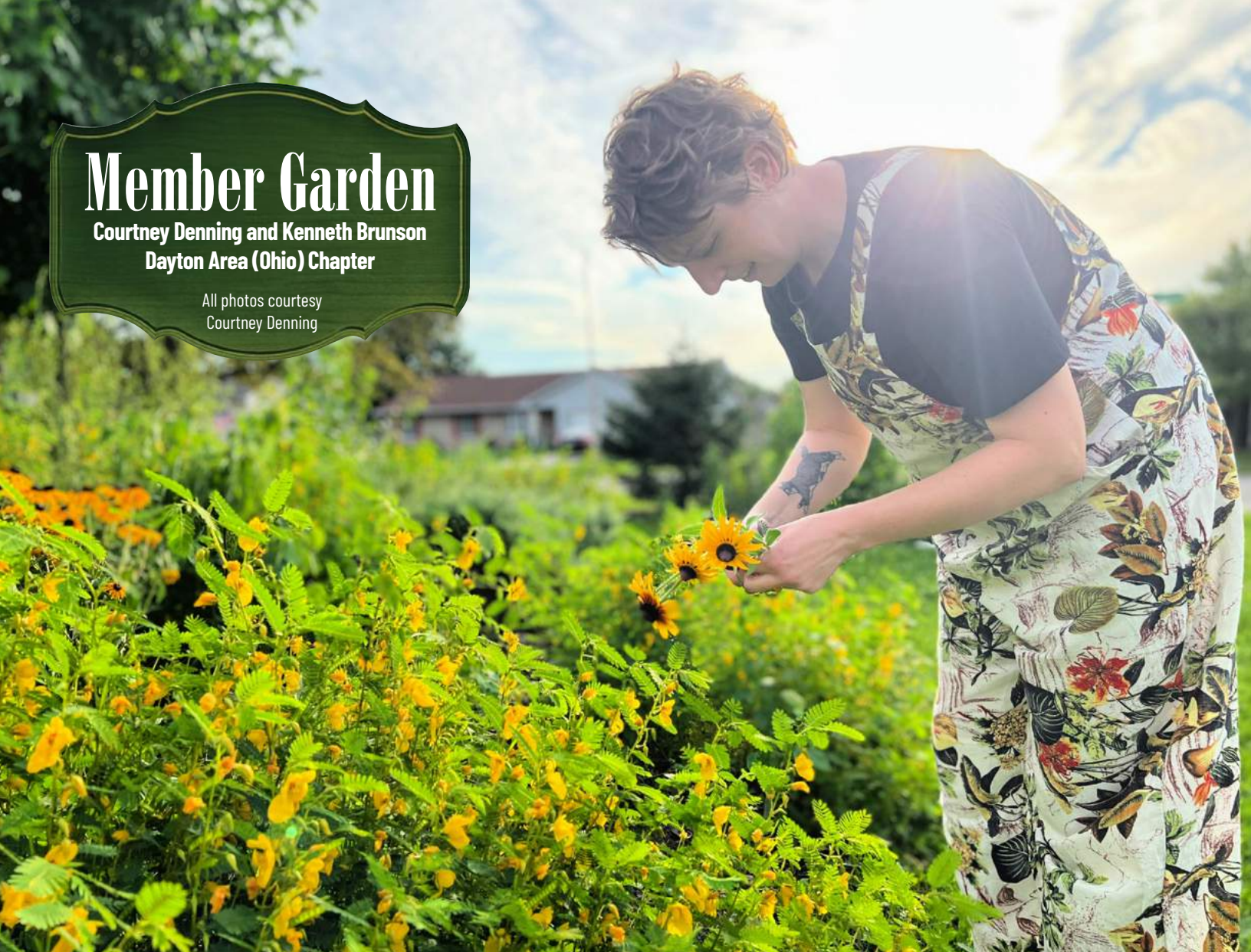
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Member Garden

Courtney Denning and Kenneth Brunson
Dayton Area (Ohio) Chapter

All photos courtesy
Courtney Denning



By Barbara A. Schmitz

From a chemically manicured landscape to a lush, living garden, Courtney Denning and her husband, Kenneth Brunson, have transformed their home and yard into an oasis where they can relax and enjoy nature.

And more importantly, they've transformed it into an area where birds, bees, butterflies, mammals and other animals can live and thrive.

Denning and Brunson purchased their home in 2016, and they immediately started replacing parts of their lawn with native plants. "At first, I focused on pollinator plants, not necessarily native plants," she said. "But as I read more about gardening for wildlife and the importance of native plants, I began to focus more heavily on adding native plants."

She said their home had very traditional landscaping when they moved in, so her initial focus was to remove invasive species like the Bradford pear tree and burning bush shrubs. But instead of getting rid of all nonnatives, she decided to keep and relocate some plants like hostas.

"There were a lot of plants planted in the wrong areas, like hostas in full sun and peonies in full shade," she said.

There was a method to her madness of creating new native beds. "I view problems we've had in our landscape as an opportunity to add native plants," she said. "For example, our home came with a grafted dwarf crabapple with a weeping habit. It was a monster and took a long time to prune and shape it the

Courtney Denning has many hobbies but working in her yard teeming with native plants probably tops the list.

way it was intended to look. So, we removed it and I created a bed of native plants to go in its place."

In August, their garden was one of 19 homes that took part in a native yard tour, hosted by the [Midwest Native Plant Society](#). The garden tour aimed to educate people about native landscapes that attract wildlife and support biodiversity.

Denning and her parents went on the first yard tour in 2021. When she heard that the Midwest Native Plant Society was looking for additional hosts for the 2022 tour, she was excited to volunteer her small suburban garden. She spent the next few months preparing her yard for guests.

Member Garden

Courtney Denning and Kenneth Brunson
Dayton Area (Ohio) Chapter



This garden, located near the front door of the Denning and Brunson home, proudly proclaims their yard to be pollinator friendly.

"I tried to get everything weeded, cleaned up and finish as many projects as I could," she said. For those areas not yet converted to natives, she included signs describing what was to come.

Their landscape includes various garden areas: a pocket prairie, redbud garden, moon garden, corner bed, woodland garden, wet/rain garden, shade garden, southwest garden and an edible garden. Their yard also includes a patio with a firepit and a water feature.

Denning said their yard is still a work in progress, with each section added one by one. Her favorite area, at least so far, is probably the first fully native bed they added, the pocket prairie, a rectangular bed in their front yard located near their driveway. She said that area took a joint effort with her husband and parents helping do everything from laying down cardboard to kill grass and removing sod, to planting and mulching.

"I was really nervous about doing it, especially since our next-door neighbors have a beautiful, traditionally landscaped yard," Denning said. "I also spent a lot of time trying to keep it looking intentional."

But the neighbor she worried most about has been one of the most supportive of their native landscaping.

"One day I was working in our pocket prairie in the front yard when the neighbor came over and said he had noticed monarchs nectaring on our meadow and rough blazing star (*Liatri ligulistylis* and *L. aspera*) during the day and roosting in their bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) trees at night," she said.

In addition, some of their plants, like smooth blue aster (*Symphotrichum laeve*) have escaped to the neighbor's yard, and so far, they're still there and growing bigger.

Denning said she previously worked at a library, which closed for 12 weeks during the COVID-19 pandemic. "That gave me a lot of time to garden," she said. And she used that time productively installing a fence, their edible garden area, a patio and the Southwest inspired planting in front of their patio. "I've really ramped up the number of new beds since 2020."

Denning said their soil is primarily clay, rocks and pebbles left over from the construction of the neighborhood in the mid-1990s.

About the property

- Courtney Denning and Kenneth Brunson's home 30 minutes north of Dayton, Ohio sits on a nearly 1/3-acre site that is filled with nine native plant beds. Some beds are entirely native, while others are a mixture of native and ornamental nonnative plants
- They planted their first native bed in 2019 with plugs from [Prairie Nursery's 96 Plant Monarch Habitat Garden](#).
- Denning said she loves cheerful plants, especially spring ephemerals like spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) and the common blue violet (*Viola sororia*). "I love plants that I can interact with beyond planting and watering them," she said. So it's no surprise that pale touch-me-not (*Impatiens pallida*) is one of her favorite herbaceous plants because the seed pods are fun to pop.
- Denning also enjoys the textures of grasses, like prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) and northern sea oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*). "They are lovely to touch and add excellent movement to my garden," she said. Lastly, she enjoys planting edible native plants, such as sunchoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*) and ground nuts (*Apios americana*).
- About 59% of their 317 plant species are native to Ohio, and 68% are native to the U.S.
- Their yard is often visited by a variety of mammals (red foxes, raccoons, grey squirrels, eastern cottontail rabbits, deer, etc.); birds (northern cardinals, robins, mourning doves, ruby-throated hummingbirds, red-tailed hawks, etc.) insects (carpenter bees, monarch butterflies, wasps, flies, spiders, etc.) and amphibians (American toads and tree frogs). The only animal she hasn't seen — yet — is snakes. "And I hope that changes soon," Courtney said.

"It's not easy to dig in, but the native plants I have planted have done well, and we use raised beds for edible gardening," she said. "Our lot is pretty sunny; I have a single shady spot at the back of our house filled with shade-loving native plants. We have planted several trees and shrubs on the north side of our home and should have some more shady spots" in the future.

Member Garden

Courtney Denning and Kenneth Brunson
Dayton Area (Ohio) Chapter



One of her goals is to rid the home of its Kentucky bluegrass lawn.

“My main focus with our garden is to create a habitat and an outdoor space that is enticing to wildlife and people,” Denning said. “I view my garden as an extension of our home and a place to relax and enjoy nature. I want to be an example of how to have an extensive garden without a lot of land.”

Denning admits she doesn’t spend much time relaxing at this point. “We don’t have any shade in our patio area where I could work

on my laptop or read,” she said. “But I’m not good at relaxing. I’m either in the garden working or thinking about plants in the garden.”

Denning said working in her native flower beds also improves her mental health as it allows her to clear her head.

Already she is showing people that you don’t need a lot of land to make a difference. By planting more native plants, you will invite more pollinators into your yard.

“In my head, I used to think I needed acres of land to make an

Shooting stars (*Dodecatheon meadia*), Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) and other colorful native plants thrive in the shade of a crabapple tree that was planted before the couple bought their home.

impact,” she said. “But by focusing on each part of each garden, I’ve learned what is possible even with a smaller space.”

In the future, Denning plans to add a greenhouse to the side of the garage, as well as find a spot to hang a hammock.

“I want a space that is dedicated to plants and is not dual purpose,” Denning said. “In the past I worked at a botanical garden, and I was able to go into the biodomes in the middle of winter and be in a tropical climate when snow is on the ground. I’d like to have a tiny slice of that again.”

For those new to native landscaping, Denning recommends they start small. She stresses they don’t need to immediately get rid of everything that is nonnative.

“At first, my thinking was very black-and-white and I was obsessive in an unhealthy way” when it came toward nonnative plants, she said. “But there’s no reason to rip out your favorite roses as long as they’re not invasive. But going forward, look to buy native plants from local nurseries.”

Be sure to purchase straight species, and not cultivars, she said. “If it’s got a clever or cute name on the tag, it’s a cultivar and it may not be as beneficial to pollinators. It’s just clever marketing and it’s not necessarily helpful to wildlife.”

Editor’s Note: We’d like to feature members’ native gardens, large or small, in upcoming issues. If you’re interested in sharing your native garden, send four to six high-resolution photos, as well as a brief description, to journal@wildones.org. Please include your contact information so we can follow up.



All photos by Steve Tavener

An early summer glimpse of the bee balm (*Monarda fistulosa*) and coneflower (*Echinacea*) in the foreground with coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) crawling out on the walls of the visitor center.

A historical gem in northern Michigan

By Matthew Ross

Every public garden has its own history, whether it is a former estate, a rebuild of a post-industrial warehouse, an historic cemetery or a municipal park that evolved into a sprawling public space.

One of the more unique garden backstories is that of The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, located at the former farm of the Northern Michigan Asylum in Traverse City, Michigan. At its peak, the asylum was home to more than 3,500 patients and hundreds of staff and their families, as well as a farm that produced a plethora of crops and livestock. The facility is modeled after the Kirkbride Plan, a design focused on a holistic approach to mental health incorporating the beauty of nature and featuring a sprawling conglomerate of stately buildings with ornate features, many of which remain today.

A group of dedicated community members and the daring vision of a development group from Detroit saw the potential of the site that had been closed and abandoned for several decades. As the plan for its demolition was coming to fruition in the early 2000s, these conscientious and resolute citizens halted the wrecking ball, and one of the largest historical restoration projects in the nation began. A subset of these visionaries embarked on a daring plan to include a botanical garden as part of the restoration.

In 2013, Kurt and Karen Schmidt and a team of passionate founders broke ground on the site that included a former grain storage facility, a series of dairy barns dating back to 1900, and several other key buildings from the farm's operation, most of which had been abandoned since the late 1950s. They inherited a property full of aggressive weeds, invasive plants, graffiti and debris.

What has transpired since has been nothing short of a miracle: weaving together a landscape that pays tribute to its incredible past and a gateway into the future with a masterplan designed by landscape architectural firm Nelson Byrd Woltz.

One of the feature gardens is the Native Plant Garden, which has grown into one of the most photographed areas within the greater 487-acre campus, now widely referred to as "The Commons." The layout of the garden has changed over time to allow for full accessibility with an extended ADA ramp to provide guests of all abilities to immerse themselves in the plantings.

During the excavation of the site, two silo foundations were discovered and have been transformed into a conversation circle surrounding a bluestone rose pattern patio and a stunning water feature. These architectural features frame the central axis of the garden. The planting mix

includes an array of successional blooms of plants indigenous to the Great Lakes region. Originally, it was meant to be a composition of only plants native to Michigan, but the difficulties of planting in a barren subsoil and the remnants of the old foundations necessitated broadening the plant palette to incorporate a wide range of plants native to the Midwest, including a few gems from the prairies just across Lake Michigan.

Spring in the garden begins with a strong display of columbine (*Aquilegia*), false indigo (*Baptisia*), golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*) and prairie smoke (*Geum*), which give way to mass plantings of bee balm (*Monarda fistulosa*), milkweed (*Asclepias*), sideoats grama (*Bouteloua*) and purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*) in the early summer months. As the summer draws to a close, the taller blooms of the false-sunflower (*Helianthus helianthoides*), rose mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) and coneflower (*Echinacea*) tower over the garden. The winter months are highlighted by the persistent foliage of warm season grasses, including big (*Andropogon gerardii*) and little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) and switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), woven into a matrix with the seedheads of gray-headed coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*) and many other forbs.

With such a plethora of plants, it is hard to find a favorite, but two plants that co-founder and Board President Karen Schmidt finds herself drawn to are false indigo (*Baptisia*) and queen-of-the-prairie (*Filipendula rubra*). She enjoys those plants because of their ability to pop high above their neighboring plantings. While the garden has only been in cultivation for the past seven years, it has thrived under the direction of a crew of botanic garden volunteers, the Ma-Me-Ne-Sewong Garden Club (who helped develop, plant and have continuously maintained the plantings), and the guidance of Laurel Voran, the garden's horticultural expert who is known for her expertise on cultivating native plants in the region.



The incredible pop of vibrant pink blooms of the queen-of-the-prairie (*Filipendula rubra*), a favorite of co-founder Karen Schimdt. Below: Excavation of the site revealed the silos that were adjacent to the granary building, now home to a conversation circle and stunning water feature.

The Native Garden is not the only garden at Historic Barns Park that has a strong emphasis on our native flora. Under development is a Native American Medicine Wheel Garden, planned with guidance from the Ottawa and Chippewa Band of Grand Traverse to celebrate the spiritual and healing properties of plants native to the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe. This garden will be installed over the next two years and includes a foraging foot path featuring more than 55 plants used in traditional medicine that will be

centered around four sacred plants: cedar, sage, tobacco and sweet grass. As the executive director, I look forward to watching this garden and other native plant infused collections thrive within the Pollinator Garden, Rain Garden, Fire-wise Garden and the upcoming Children's Sensory Garden at the 26-acre Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, a true gem of the Great Lakes!

Matthew Ross is executive director of The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park and a Wild Ones National Board member.



Engaging kids with nature

“Wow – that bug has eight legs!” “Can I get closer?”
 “Mmm - It smells like chocolate!” “Oooh -it feels furry!”
 “Shhh - I can hear wind flying through the grass!” “Yum - tastes like salsa!”

— Reactions from a group of excited second graders during a field trip garden exploration.

By Vicki Saragoussi Phillips

Many of us remember going outside after school and playing in our yards, on the street, in grassy fields or at the water’s edge. The grittiest pile of dirt, muddy puddles or wispy collection of grasses and flora revealed endless opportunities for exploration, observation, imagination and discovery in our small, intimate worlds.

But today there are many distractions keeping children indoors, busy with flashy technology and in isolated, protective environments. What’s missing are the many benefits and favorite childhood memories that grow from being outdoors!

Benefits to nature engagement

Allowing children to connect with the natural environment offers many ben-

A child observes flowers. Research has shown that the act of exploration improves a child’s physical activity, social relations and self-discipline.



All photos by Vicki Saragoussi Phillips

efits. Exploring the outdoors increases their ability to concentrate and pay attention to detail, problem solve, discover and apply experiences in academic applications such as math, science, literature, history and the arts. The act of exploration improves their physical activity, social relations and self-discipline. Emotionally, stress is reduced, happiness is heightened, and calmness and self-worth evolve.

Richard Louv, author of “Last Child in the Woods,” says, “The importance of exposure to nature is essential for healthy child development – physically, emotionally and mentally.”

Even though summer has ended, you can still engage children in nature in the upcoming seasons. Try the activities that follow with a young friend or a small group of children.

Things to keep in mind when out there

Focus on the local, familiar environment – what kids are most connected to, before tackling global environmental issues. For example, let them admire the beauty of pollinating buzzing bees before learning about their habitat loss and disease resulting from pesticide use. From there, they grow to appreciate the natural world and then begin to commit to citizen engagement.

Don’t just babysit them; spend time exploring with them and ask lots of questions. Focus on “how does it look, smell, sound and feel?” rather than “what’s that, what’s its name?” Make connections with personal experiences and knowledge,



Two scavenger hunt printables found online.

then teach them more about the subject when they express interest.

Given the opportunity, children naturally interact with nature. They are innate scientists and they use their senses to experience the outdoors. They observe natural events that provide examples of how the natural world works. They solve problems by observing nature’s solutions (consider greater burdock (*Arctium lappa*), nature’s “hitchhiker - hook and loop” seed serving as inspiration for inventors to create **VELCRO**®). Exploration with a hand lens or

binoculars is a great motivator and helps the young observer get up close to their specimen.

Author and environmental educator, David Sobel, says, “We need to offer the opportunity for children to connect with and fall in love with their immediate environment before we ask them to be compelled to heal the environmental problems and push for policy change.”

So, what are some fun activities we can use to engage children with nature? How can we help them “fall in love” with what is ultimately theirs to live in and take care of?”

Here are two examples of activities you can share when exploring nature with children:

Nature scavenger hunt

Let’s explore! You can facilitate a scavenger hunt just about anywhere in your local outdoor space.

Activity:

This can be done individually, in pairs, small groups, etc. It’s a great way to promote communication, coordination and cooperation. Children take turns using investigative tools (e.g.- hand lens, binoculars, small insect net), read the instructions card with items to find, use their senses, get exercise and breathe fresh air!

Very simply, you can create a small card to distribute with the following information:

Find something that:

- feels smooth
- is fluffy
- moves fast
- makes a sound
- you can crunch on
- has a nice smell

You can also search “nature scavenger hunt cards” for other ideas for exploring the outdoors or to find cards that are free and ready to print out.



A child shapes seed balls while learning the importance of growing native plants in a fun and engaging way.

Gardening with seed balls

This is a great project promoting the importance of growing native plants in your local environment in a fun and engaging way.

Seed balls are quarter-sized capsules made of earth materials containing everything needed to germinate a seed: compost (nutrition), clay (stabilizer) and seed (life)! Plants that germinate help vegetate the landscape and support pollinators. Little hands can easily disperse the balls any time of the year into personal gardens or vacant, neglected landscapes. Once scattered, nature does the rest. They can land in spots you couldn’t otherwise reach and they’re good, earthy fun.

Historically, the seed ball meth-

od has been used for farming and revegetation by the early Egyptians, Native American tribes and more recently by Japanese low-impact, natural farmer [Masanobu Fukuoka](#) and the 1970s “[guerilla gardeners](#)” of New York. The seeds used depended on the vegetative needs of the time – grains, vegetables, herbs, trees, native flora, etc.

There are many internet resources on the whys and hows of making seed balls that you can access for in-depth instruction. Just type in “seed balls” or “seed ball lesson plans.” Note that the goal is to invite curiosity, dig in and have fun. Depending on how messy you want to get, here are two quick and dirty ways to make the balls.

Get your hands dirty (Masanobu version):

Materials:

Large bowl, measuring cups, 5 parts dry red clay, 3 parts sifted compost, 1 part mix of easy germinating local native seeds (e.g.- 1¼ cup clay, ¾ cup compost, and ¼ cup seeds), water, paper egg cartons, small paper bags

Activity:

Before making the seed balls, ask the children what part each ingredient plays in helping the seeds to germinate. Explain why it is important to use local native seeds (e.g., brings in local pollinators, increases biodiversity, etc.). Show pictures or samples of the flowers/plants being used in the mixture.

In the bowl, mix the compost, seed and clay. Slowly add small amounts of water and continue to combine until the mixture starts to hold together, like cookie dough. It should not be wet and loose. Pinch small amounts of the mixture and roll between your hands into firm penny-to-quarter-sized balls. Place the seed balls in paper egg carton compartments or in small paper bags to let them dry. If expecting wet weather in spring or summer, you can throw the seed balls right away onto the soil. Otherwise, if you toss the seed balls other times of the year, nature will decide when the appropriate time is right for seeds to germinate (warmth, moisture, sunshine). Some seeds will germinate right away and some will benefit from cold stratification.

You can suggest that the children take one or two seed balls and plant them in their yard/garden or in a small pot outside. Stick the ball half-way into the soil surface. This way, they can keep track of the evolution of the seed ball over time.

Ask the youngsters what they expect to see in the area where they have tossed their seed balls. How long might it take for the seeds to germinate? What can prevent the seed balls from germinating? Think of other questions that might encourage inquisitive conversation.



What's a little dirt when you're having fun and learning? A child shows off her muddy hands after shaping seed balls.

Neater, wet clay method:

This method works well when you want easier clean up, especially of everyone's hands!

Materials:

Sifted compost (lightly moistened with water), air-dried red clay (found in craft stores or in your local ground), mix of easy germinating local native seeds, water, paper egg cartons, small paper bags


Activity:

The activity is essentially the same as the "messy" version. The difference is that you pinch a small amount of clay and flatten it to about a thin 1.5" disk. Then take a small pinch of compost and very small pinch of seed (remember, there are lots of seeds in a pinch!), place on top of the clay circle then close and gently form it into a ball (it doesn't have to be perfect!). I had one student call it a "burrito!"

Follow the rest of the instructions for the "messy" version. Here is a [sample plan](#) with good illustrations.

Take the time to explore with children and share with them the things you love so much about being in nature. As Rachel Carson, ecologist, writer and conservationist, once said, "If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in."

Vicki Saragoussi Phillips has worked as an environmental outdoor educator in a variety of outdoor organizations including most recently running onsite children's programs at Denver Botanic Gardens as well as 25+ years in the classroom teaching preschool, elementary school and middle school science. She serves as the event registrar for the Wild Ones Front Range Chapter in Colorado.



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Broadening our focus: Optimizing how we use native plants

By Eric Fuselier

As a result of our globally interconnected society, goods and services are shipped around the world every day. An unfortunate side effect of this is that sometimes plant and insect species hitch rides on ships and other modes of transportation, only to find themselves arriving in a new environment that is very different from the one in which they evolved.

Sometimes these displaced species can't survive in these new environments. Other times they thrive too well and become invasive species. Invasive species overpopulate an area where they lack a natural predator or other environmental check on their population, and will wreak havoc on their new, foreign ecosystems. Invasive species can present challenges to those who wish to eradicate them in order to preserve native flora and fauna.

When trying to eradicate some invasive species, conservation agencies and land managers have tools at their disposal such as Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) techniques, which may include pesticides. Proponents of IVM recommend the judicious application of herbicides in a focused, selective manner where and when appropriate. In addition to being more efficient and cost-effective, IVM techniques also reduce the risks to environmental and human health associated with these herbicides.

But sometimes the targeted pest is a native species that is trying to grow or live in a place where it isn't wanted. Not all land managers are focused and selective in their use of pesticides. There are many homeowners, land managers, main-



Newly planted switchgrass around bioretention ponds at an office building in Arkansas will help to mitigate pollution like pesticides.

tenance crews and farm laborers who apply pesticides excessively or indiscriminately, sometimes near streams or bodies of water, without understanding the impacts these actions have on native plants, wildlife and human health.

Once again, phytoremediation can be part of the solution to this problem. In this article, we continue to look at how the "Big Four" can be selectively and strategically placed on the landscape to mitigate the impact from pesticides on the environment and human health.

Pesticides

Those who live close to agricultural lands may be exposed to pesticides through non-occupational pathways such as spray drift, or from the volatilization of pesticides beyond the treated area. Other non-occupational exposure can result from con-

suming food or water contaminated with these chemicals.

In fact, when comparing urban and rural streams, researchers have found that herbicides are the most common pesticide found in streams in agricultural areas. By contrast, a greater prevalence of insecticides, in addition to herbicides, are found in urban streams. Insecticides in urban streams are a concern for aquatic life and can impact downstream water supplies.

Pesticides can also enter aquatic ecosystems through stormwater runoff originating from lawns, fields, agricultural lands, roadsides, rail corridors and utility corridors. Even if no body of water is adjacent to where pesticides are being applied, runoff can still reach aquatic ecosystems by way of ditches, storm sewers or underground drainage

pipes. Once in the aquatic environment, pesticides can cause direct harm to fish and aquatic invertebrates, as well as reduce the availability of aquatic plants and insects that serve as habitat or as food for fish and other aquatic organisms. Pesticides can also cause harm to terrestrial wildlife, as we'll see below.

Atrazine

Atrazine is an herbicide commonly used in both residential and agriculture areas, and is found in more than 300 products on the market. Highly mobile in the soil, atrazine has a high potential to reach ground and surface water and is commonly found in both agricultural and urban streams, as well as shallow groundwater.

Atrazine is toxic to fish, freshwater invertebrates and amphibians, and has been found to have a half-life of 578 days once it is in the water. Studies have also shown that many bird species raise fewer young when exposed to atrazine. In addition, small mammals near fields sprayed with atrazine have been shown to be at long-term risk, with harm to these mammals occurring up to 250 feet away from the crops where atrazine has been applied.

Luckily, research has shown that the roots of switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) and Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) are great at facilitating the breakdown of atrazine through phytostimulation.

Metolachlor

Metolachlor, another herbicide commonly used in both agriculture and residential areas, is also available in a variety of commercial products. A potential human carcinogen, metolachlor is highly mobile in soil and is commonly found in urban streams. Residues of metolachlor have been found in groundwater in 20 states, causing concern at the Environmental Protection Agency about the degradation of



Research shows that Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) facilitates the breakdown of atrazine through phytostimulation.

water quality in areas where metolachlor is used.

Metolachlor is among the top five herbicides found in surface water in the Midwestern Corn Belt, and once it enters aquatic ecosystems, it can be toxic to freshwater fish and macroinvertebrates. Other ecological effects from the use of metolachlor are associated with the risk from ground or aerial application to non-target plants.

Research has shown switchgrass to be effective at facilitating the breakdown of metolachlor through phytostimulation.

Pendimethalin

Pendimethalin is an herbicide that is also commonly used in both agriculture and in residential areas. Like atrazine and metolachlor, pendimethalin is available in a variety of commercially available products. Water surfaces and soil may be contaminated from spray drift associated with aerial and ground spray application, or from stormwater runoff. Essentially immobile in the soil, the EPA has determined that there

are risks of human exposure after it has been applied to residential turf grasses as pendimethalin is also a possible human carcinogen.

For pendimethalin contamination, we can turn to the same species we used above. Switchgrass, big bluestem and Indian grass have once again been shown by research to be effective at facilitating the breakdown of pendimethalin through phytostimulation.

Alachlor

Alachlor is another highly mobile herbicide used primarily in agriculture for weed control on corn, soybean, sorghum, peanut and bean crops. Toxic to mammals, fish and aquatic plants, residues of alachlor are also commonly found in groundwater.

Research has shown that switchgrass can be used to remediate alachlor through phytodegradation. In this process, switchgrass can take up alachlor through its roots and break it down into non-toxic components internally through its metabolic processes. After the

alachlor is degraded it is then used by the switchgrass as nutrients and incorporated into its plant tissue.

Chlorpyrifos

Chlorpyrifos is an insecticide used to control pests such as termites, mosquitoes, fire ants and roundworms. This pesticide is used in agriculture for feed and food crops, and in cattle ear tags. On golf courses, chlorpyrifos is often used to control fire ants and mosquitoes, and products which contain chlorpyrifos are also used to treat wood fences and utility poles.

Humans can be exposed to chlorpyrifos when applying this pesticide either as part of their job or outside of their home. Non-occupational pathways for exposure to chlorpyrifos can include contaminated well water if products containing this pesticide have been used for termite control near the well.

In the environment, chlorpyrifos is toxic to many species of birds, and can cause the eggshells of some bird species to be thinner than normal, thereby increasing the mortality rate of young hatchlings. Chlorpyrifos is also very toxic to fish and aquatic invertebrates, and can even bioaccumulate in species that consume smaller animals with tissues whose bodies contain chlorpyrifos due to exposure to this pesticide. Chlorpyrifos is also very toxic to bees and can inadvertently poison non-target insects after it is applied.

Chlorpyrifos is more commonly found in urban streams than in agricultural streams. If we want to remediate chlorpyrifos to prevent it from causing harm to people or other living things, we can turn to big bluestem, which research has shown to be effective at remediating this pesticide. By planting big bluestem in rain gardens, alongside agricultural fields, and near other locations where chlorpyrifos is being applied, we can help mitigate its environmental impact.

Conclusion

Once again, we see that the Big Four play another important role in improving environmental quality. If, despite all your efforts at educating them, your neighbor still refuses to stop indiscriminately spraying their lawn, or if you own land that is adjacent to agricultural land where the above-mentioned pesticides are applied, the Big Four can be thoughtfully placed on the landscape to mitigate the adverse effects from their imprudent application practices.

Useful locations to plant these grasses include rain gardens, bioswales and detention ponds that accept stormwater runoff from residential areas. Additional locations include the edges of crop fields where these pesticides are applied, and in the riparian buffers of streams, rivers, lakes and other water bodies that are near these crop fields or residential areas.

By planting the Big Four strategically on the landscape, we can help protect terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems from the damaging effects these pesticides pose.

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Wild Ones honors a native plant champion

By Jean Ponzi

On July 1, Scott Woodbury gave his professional care of Missouri's Whitmire Wildflower Garden into new hands, having tended this native-planted gem for 30 years. He turns his focus to family care, while staying strong in his gardening partnership with nature.

Almost 25 years ago, Woodbury founded the Wild Ones St. Louis (Missouri) Chapter after being encouraged by Bret Rappaport, lawyer and then Wild Ones national president. While planning the annual two-day native plant conference at the Shaw Nature Reserve, Woodbury saw an article by Rappaport about his representation of clients charged with weed ordinance violations in the Chicago area. Woodbury immediately invited him to be a keynote speaker on that topic at the upcoming conference.

To the 250 attendees, Rappaport presented the importance of educating municipalities about the benefits of native plants in order to change weed ordinances. Rappaport also told Woodbury that due to the extraordinary amount of interest in native landscaping in the St. Louis area, "you need a Wild Ones Chapter." The rest is regional history, with the St. Louis chapter now the largest Wild Ones chapter in the country.

Since then, Wild Ones members and a national host of native plant enthusiasts have heard, met or read Woodbury's wisdom at conferences, in articles, through videos, or in Native Plant School or Shaw Professional Series classes and tours, hosted by Shaw Nature Reserve, the rural holdings of Missouri Botanical Garden. Some of you may have worked along-



Scott Woodbury snips and saves seeds at the Shaw Nature Reserve.

side Scott on the 5-plus acres where he knew the plants in every bed.

How did this gardening laureate take root in ecological ground?

Growing up in Rockford, Illinois, Woodbury recalls the spring he was in eighth grade. "I raked leaves, I did some gardening, and one day I *watched* a bleeding heart grow," he says. "So fast! I thought it was fooling me! I met the magic of plants."

Woodbury studied horticulture at UW-Madison, where training in the 1980s was structured and conventional. "Hort[iculture] had a standard of practice in working with plants," he recalls. "That did inspire me to get where I am, but the program at that time was missing an emphasis on native plants and landscaping."

He tapped into these trends

through courses in botany and landscape design and wanted to re-enroll, but after graduation he had to go to work.

He first got a job on the Georgetown estate of a granddaughter of Martha Washington, a formal garden around an historic home – with a woodland! Woodbury replaced English ivy and wintercreeper with native plants he discovered in the woods, and others he was able to find in obscure corners of local garden centers. This job led Woodbury to his native plant vocation, taking him west to Shaw Nature Reserve.

Woodbury says that learning from mistakes is important in gardening.

"You start tinkering, you fail and learn and realize your mistakes are golden!" he says. "I've always told



Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden

Wild Ones St. Louis President Marsha Gebhardt works with Scott Woodbury in the Trial Garden.

new employees and volunteers to celebrate their failures as much as their successes. You'll score points from your mistakes when you're willing to make them, learn from them and keep gardening.

"Gardeners like working with our hands; we like being outside," Woodbury says. "This is the opposite of plant science courses that are analytical, theoretical. When we feel free to mess around, we're more at ease, in the garden, with the plants, and more willing to explore and practice new stuff."

This guiding value, Woodbury's gift to so many fellow gardeners, would grow to empower a native plant movement, through a birthday gift now known worldwide as the Whitmire Wildflower Garden.

When he came to work at Shaw Nature Reserve, hiking trails were the 2,400-acre site's prime attraction. Visitors like Peg Whitmire, and her best friends Betty Nellums and Janet Ulmer, often made the half-hour trip from St. Louis to study or simply enjoy nature and take wildflower walks.

"They just loved wildflowers!" Woodbury recalls. "When Blanton Whitmire asked Betty and Janet what his wife would like for her 70th birthday, their response was inspired: a wildflower garden, out at Shaw, that others could also enjoy. Blanton floated the idea to longtime Shaw director John Behrer who immediately supported the new garden. Thanks to a generous gift from the Whitmires, the Missouri Botanical Garden hired Marshall Tyler Rausch, one of the biggest landscape design firms in the country, to design the new wildflower space, which was established in 1993.

Today, paths thread through woodland, wetland, glade, savanna and prairie communities planted with more than 500 Missouri native species. A home gardening area showcases options for perennial, rock, container, rain and water gardens.

Woodbury is modest in describing his role. "I was the technician, the guy who came in to implement this super-professional plan," he says. "I have a brain for the technical aspects,

for making a garden work. I manage the shovels, dig the holes and move the plants around as the garden evolves. We learn from the plants and the communities they form."

He credits three key partners for the garden's ecological excellence: the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC); Mervin Wallace, founding owner of [Missouri Wildflowers Nursery](#); and Carol Davit, executive director of the [Missouri Prairie Foundation](#), and its program *Grow Native!*

"When MDC became a contributor to this garden, we were obligated by that funding," Woodbury says. "Our MDC relationship solidified a serious dedication to promoting the native plants of Missouri. I come from the tradition of conventional gardening, so Mervin and Carol were sounding boards for me."

Wallace sent over a copy, hot off the presses, of "Bringing Nature Home," the first book from [Doug Tallamy](#). He recalls with a mentor's pride, "At the next Native Plant School, Scott was teaching Tallamy's message."

Davit says: "Scott has shared his knowledge of plant selection and design with thousands of people, as well as his understanding of native landscaping maintenance and the ecological benefits of natives. This work - and his generous contributions to it - are making a tremendous impact on a more sustainable future for all."

Quinn Long, Shaw Nature Reserve's director since 2017, says the Whitmire Wildflower Garden has grown to become the finest demonstration of native plant horticulture in the Midwest.

"The legacy of this remarkable landscape exhibits the convergence of Scott's exceptional knowledge and vision, the inspiring philanthropy of the Whitmire family and other generous supporters, and the passion and skill of numerous dedicated staff and volunteers over the course of nearly three decades," Long says. "This mag-



Native plantings frame a long view.

Photo: Natilda Adams, Missouri Botanical Garden

ical setting will continue to inspire generations to come, demonstrating how native plants can create landscapes that are aesthetically pleasing and ecologically beneficial.”

Woodbury’s work has actively evolved the field of horticulture at St. Louis Community College, with horticulture program director Jerry Pence as key partner in the shift. “Hort[iculture] got a 180 [degree] update through an emphasis on native plants,” he says. “When Jerry started there, he’d invite me to come in and teach one session in the woodies course, one in the perennials course, only a couple of hours each semester.”

The two collaborated to offer Native Landscaping Practices, a full hands-on advanced course covering planning and design, site evaluation and preparation, problems and solutions with native landscaping, invasive plants, development of rain gardens using native plants, and best

management practices. Shaw Nature Reserve hosts seven weeks of this class; the other nine weeks are spent steadily transforming turf around the college’s Meramec campus into biodiverse living learning labs.

Woodbury, a quiet rockstar, is a regular on Professional Days, encouraging future colleagues in a program where 80% of students get green industry jobs prior to graduation. Peak demand is from employers focused on native plant horticulture.

Woodbury plans to let himself “go off the rails” after leaving the Whitmire Wildflower Garden. “I want to do garden design that helps people who are stuck in a conventional mode grow gardens that explore how conventions can work with ecology. I want to help people start where they are and wild their yards. Wilding gets us to work with nature, to learn from nature’s processes.”

Woodbury sums up from a Whitmire memory: “One early morning

out in the garden I saw a bumblebee, asleep on a flower, covered in dew, nestled onto a blossom of rosinweed. I’m touched by seeing a moment, a relationship like this. Not by reading about it. These kinds of connections inspire me, can and will hopefully inspire others to get that plant in the ground, to get out into the yard and experience nature. In a garden.

“Even in a little yard, when you put in some native plants, you can see the insects and other critters those plants will support,” he says. “You will have facilitated those relationships! You have the power to wild your yard. Could be the best thing you ever did.”

Jean Ponzi serves as green resources manager for the EarthWays Center of Missouri Botanical Garden. Her St. Louis yard is forested with native plants. A Wild Ones member with broad sustainability knowledge, she’s available to speak through greenresources@mobot.org.

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In ecology, the concept of keystone species is built on the idea that there are certain plant species that when present in the environment can support hundreds of other species. When these plants aren't present, the quality of the local ecosystem can crumble just like removing a keystone from a Roman archway. Insects are the primary focus for keystone plant species because in the food web, disrupting the primary consumers (insects) leads to greater disruption up the chain.

"The research of entomologist, Dr. Doug Tallamy, and his team at the University of Delaware have identified 14% of native plants (the keystones) support 90% of butterfly and moth lepidoptera species. The research of horticulturist Jarrod Fowler has shown that 15% to 60% of North American native bee species are pollen specialists who only eat pollen from 40% of native plants."

-- The National Wildlife Federation

Doug Tallamy has identified oaks as the champions among keystone species. Among flowering herbaceous perennials, species in the following genera are not to be overlooked: *Solidago* (goldenrod), *Symphyotrichum* (aster), *Helianthus* (sunflower), and *Rudbeckia* (coneflower).

[Read more on our blog.](#)



Banner: *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae* (New England aster) and *Solidago shortii* 'Solar Cascade' (Short's goldenrod).
Above: *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *fulgida* (orange coneflower)





Photo: Justin Wheeler

Leave the leaves!

By Justin Wheeler

Besides providing the right plants, and protecting your garden from pesticides, one of the next most valuable things you can do to support pollinators and other invertebrates is to provide them with the winter cover they need in the form of fall leaves and standing dead plant material. Frequently however, this is the hardest pill for gardeners to swallow.

It may be habitual, a matter of social conditioning, or a holdover of outdated gardening practices from yesteryear – but for whatever reason, we just can't seem to help ourselves from wanting to tidy up the garden at the end of the season – raking, mowing, and blowing away a bit of nature that is essential to the survival of moths, butterflies, snails, spiders and dozens of arthropods.

That's why this year – and every year – we are making the case for leaving the leaves and offering input on what to do with them. Read on!

Must love leaves

While monarch migration is a well-known phenomenon, it's not the norm when it comes to butterflies. In fact, the vast majority of butterflies and moths overwinter in the landscape as an egg, caterpillar, chrysalis or adult. In all but the warmest climates, these butterflies use leaf litter for winter cover. Great spangled

fritillary (*Speyeria cybele*) and woolly bear (*Pyrrharctia isabella*) caterpillars tuck themselves into a pile of leaves for protection from cold weather and predators. Red-banded hairstreaks lay their eggs on fallen oak leaves, which become the first food of the caterpillars when they emerge. Luna moths (*Actias luna*) and swallowtail butterflies disguise their cocoons and chrysalis as dried leaves, blending in with the "real" leaves. There are many such examples.

Beyond butterflies, bumble bees also rely on leaf litter for protection. At the end of summer, mated queen bumble bees burrow only an inch or two into the earth to hibernate for winter. An extra thick layer of leaves is welcome protection from the

elements. There are so many animals that live in leaves: spiders, snails, worms, beetles, millipedes, mites and more – that support the chipmunks, turtles, birds and amphibians that rely on these insects for food.

It's easy to see how important leaves really are to sustaining the natural web of life.

Leaves and lawn

According to a 2005 NASA estimate, there are around 40 million acres of lawn in the continental United States – making turf grass the single

Above: Fallen leaves have all the properties and benefits of expensive wood mulch – and they're free! Below: As a caterpillar, this Great spangled fritillary (*Speyeria cybele*) tucked itself into a pile of leaves for protection from cold weather and predators.



Photo: John Flannery



Photo: Megan McCarty



Photo: John Flannery/Flickr

largest “crop” we grow. This disproportionate ratio of lawn to garden is the main reason we rake, mow and blow. To mimic the natural ecosystem an animal needs, a layer of leaves needs to be at least a couple of inches thick. While this would be too much of a good thing for turf grass to handle – research has shown that lawns actually benefit from a thin layer of leaves, and the rest can be piled up around ornamental trees, shrubs and perennials to no ill effect.

If you must keep your lawn clear of leaves – try opting for raking or using a leaf vacuum to capture whole leaves, rather than shredding them with a mower and make a leaf pile in a corner of your yard. More on that below.

Better still would be to reduce your overall lawn footprint, replacing it instead with wildlife supporting plantings that can be future repositories for fall leaves.

To shred or not to shred

Many organic gardeners opt for shredding their fall leaves for use in compost piles. While this is certainly a more environmentally friendly practice than bagging leaves and sending them to the landfill – shredded leaves will not provide the same cover as leaving them whole, and you may be destroying eggs, cater-

pillars, and chrysalis along with the leaves. We suggest that leaves in garden beds and lawn edges be left whole. Where space allows, consider creating a leaf pile and allowing it to break down naturally, or add the leaves gradually to your compost pile over time. Such efforts will keep critters safe and allow you to benefit from the rich garden gift that falls from the trees above.

Free mulch!

Another reason to leave the leaves is for the many benefits they provide to your landscape. Leaves provide valuable organic matter and build up healthy soil. Fallen leaves have the same weed suppression and moisture retention properties of shredded wood mulch – and they’re free! Where mulch is desired as a decorative element, what could be more seasonally appropriate than a pile of brightly colored fall leaves?

In the past gardeners may have worried that fall leaves, matted down by snow or rain, would have a negative impact on their perennials. In reality, a thick layer of leaves provides additional insulation against bitter cold weather, and can protect newly planted perennials when frost-heave may expose tender roots. Anyone who has spotted fragile spring ephemerals popping up in the

Left: Swallowtail butterflies such as this Pipevine swallowtail’s (*Battus philenor*) chrysalis, disguise their cocoons and chrysalis as dried leaves, blending in with the “real” leaves. Right: The red-banded hairstreak is one of many butterflies that depend upon leaf litter as part of their life-cycle.

woods knows that all but the frailest of plants will burst through the leaf litter in spring without trouble.

The bottom line

You gave them flowers and a place to nest. You tended your garden and avoided pesticides. Don’t carry all of that hard work out to the curb. Simply put, when we treat leaves like trash – we’re tossing out the beautiful moths and butterflies that we’ll surely miss and work so very hard to attract.

While the idea is to “leave the leaves” permanently – for all of the benefits mentioned above – if you do decide you need to clean up the garden and remove the leaves in spring, make sure you wait until late in the season so as not to destroy all the life you’ve worked to protect.

Justin Wheeler, formerly the Xerces Society’s web and communications coordinator, is now a Penn State Extension master gardener, providing education and outreach to his community on a range of gardening-related subjects such as sustainable and pollinator-friendly gardening practices.



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Scary and creepy plants that are a perfect Halloween fit

Researched and written by Kim Moor

A horticultural twist on trick or treat... Some are scary-looking, and others have a certain creepiness about them. Still others are just plain ewwww. Here's a rundown of some of what's out there. Approach them at your own risk. Ha, ha – Boo!

Doll's eyes (*Actaea pachypoda*): Just imagine walking through the woods and finding a bunch of these little eyes watching you. Doll's eyes, also known as white baneberry, is a native plant found in eastern North America. The berries, which are produced during the summer and fall, are white with a dark "pupil" at the end, which resembles a doll's eye. It's important to note that all parts of this plant are poisonous – which is also pretty scary!



You wouldn't want to be taking a hike and see this plant looking at you! The common name doll's eyes (*Actaea pachypoda*) refers to the plant's berries – the white of the eye – with a dark "pupil" at the end. Photo: Meneerke bloem, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons)



Not surprisingly, ghost plant (*Monotropa uniflora*) gets its name from its mostly white color. This plant was found in a Langlade County, Wisconsin park under pine trees.

Photo: Barbara A. Schmitz.

Ghost plant (*Monotropa uniflora*), also known as Indian pipe and corpse plant, gets its name due to its ghostly white color. These plants are white because they don't contain any chlorophyll. Instead of generating energy from sunlight, it is parasitic, more specifically a myco-heterotroph. Its hosts are certain fungi that are mycorrhizal with trees, meaning it gets its energy from photosynthetic trees. Since it is not dependent on sunlight to grow, it can grow in very dark environments such as in the understory of dense forests. The complex relationship that allows this plant to grow also makes propagation difficult. While they're

native throughout much of the United States and Canada, they aren't commonly encountered.

Dutchman's pipe: This plant, often called Dutchman's pipe and pipevine (*Aristolochia tomentosa*) captures and imprisons pollinators before releasing them. The flowers kind of look and smell like rotting meat. Once the pollinators are attracted to the flowers, they are directed through a tube into the chamber that houses the plant's reproductive organs. Downward facing hairs line the tube, which prevents insects from leaving once they have entered the chamber. Any pollen that was on the insect's body is passively deposited on the female parts of the flower. The insect is held captive overnight until the male part of the flower matures and showers pollen on the captured insect. Once this happens, the hairs on the inside of the tube wilt and the insect is released. If he's tricked again by



Dutchman's pipe (*Aristolochia tomentosa*) looks and smells like rotting meat.

Photo: Carol VanHook, CC BY-SA 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons.

another Aristolochia flower, then cross-pollination will occur.

The **sundews** (*Drosera linearis* in the Great Lakes region) are especially interesting. They have a sort of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde-type personality. The leaves produce a sticky substance that contains digestive enzymes. When an insect is attracted to the leaves and gets stuck, the leaves fold around the insect and it is eventually digested for nutrients. But this species of plant also produces flowers that attract pollinators. This plant needs to attract different subsets of insects to digest versus insects they use for pollination. Evidently it doesn't make sense to eat the guy who is providing a reproductive service for you!

Golden dodder: This parasitic vine (*Cuscuta campestris*) has a creepy, alien look. Like most other parasitic plants, it doesn't have foliage. This plant doesn't need leaves or chlorophyll because it sucks

the life and nutrients out of its host plants. Since this orange twining vine lacks leaves, it needs no water. This vine can grow up to 7 feet and has tendrils with suckers that give it a warty appearance. The vine eventually strangles and smothers its host plants. It's also known as devil's guts, strangeweed and witch's hair. Fall is the time of year that it is most noticeably creepy.

Bleeding tooth fungus (*Hydnellum peckii*): The name says it all. The fruiting bodies secrete a red liquid that resembles blood. It also has spikes and a bitter taste that makes the plant inedible. It is found in North America and Europe, though in recent years it has been discovered in Iran and Korea as well. Its goal is to take over the world. Creepy and gross!!

Kim Moor is the president and newsletter editor of the Gibson Woods (Indiana) Chapter.



The name says it all ... Bleeding tooth fungus (*Hydnellum peckii*) produces fruiting bodies that secrete a red liquid that resembles blood.
Photo: Dick Culbert from Gibsons, B.C., Canada, CC BY 2.0
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Wild Ones Journal keeps similar focus for 30+ years

By Barbara A. Schmitz

While the Wild Ones Journal may not look anything like the modest-length newsletter created in 1988 as a way to inform Wild Ones members about native landscaping, one thing has remained unchanged: its focus on environmentally sound, sustainable practices that help to make our planet a healthier place.

Rae Sweet created the first issue, but Carol Chew was the first official editor of the Journal, then called *The Outside Story*. Chew, now of North Kensington, Maryland, was teaching journalism at a high school in Napa, California, before moving to Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1987.

In those early years, the newsletter usually ranged from 2 to 8 pages and consisted of a calendar of upcoming events, as well as stories about native plants.

"I had been raising native plants since 1971," she recalled. "But when I moved to Wisconsin, I found out about Wild Ones and that Loirie Otto didn't live far away."

She soon got involved in the fledgling organization and volunteered to do the newsletter, which then came out every two months.

"At times I felt like I was the only one working on it," she said, laughing. "I had a toddler and other jobs ... there was a lot going on. But this needed to be done."

In those early years, the newsletter usually ranged from 2 to 8 pages and consisted of a calendar of upcoming events, as well as stories about native plants. All put together "on very primitive equipment," she added.

Chew recalled Otto went to Des Moines, Iowa, one weekend to

speak; she earned enough money that weekend to enable Wild Ones to purchase a laser printer, allowing them to print off and proof the newsletter.

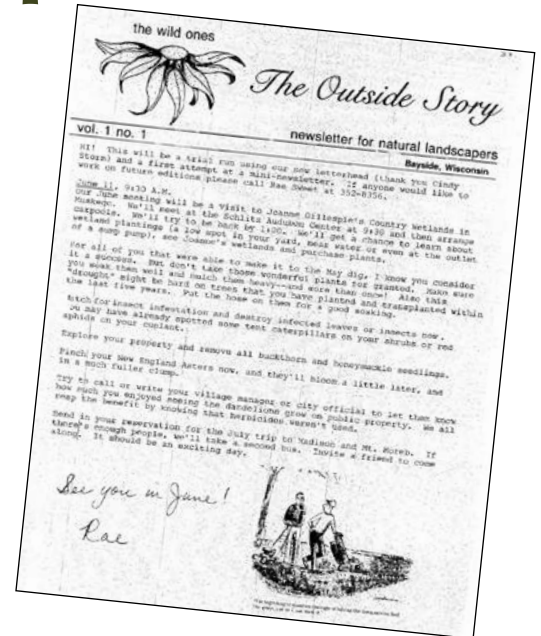
By 1995, the newsletter was usually up to 12 pages, and was black and white and printed on cream-colored paper, all for a cost of \$1 per issue.

In those years, Chew said she did much of the work — the writing, the editing and the designing — herself. However, she did have a few regular writers contribute, such as Janice Steifel, who would feature a native plant in each issue, and Otto, while Lucy Schumann did the early artwork.

"In the beginning, it was cut and paste, and I had to worry about getting things straight," Chew said. But as she did the magazine, she continued to expand her knowledge about native plants and natural landscaping, as well as the plants' scientific names.

"I've learned [about native landscaping] from so many people who are important in this field," Chew said. "Things were very adversarial in those first years," she recalled, as many people then considered native plants as weeds. Thankfully, that mindset is starting to change, she said.

Chew served as editor from August 1988 through October 1995, when family obligations became too much. But throughout the years, Chew has remained active in Wild Ones, earlier creating other publications and booklets for the organi-



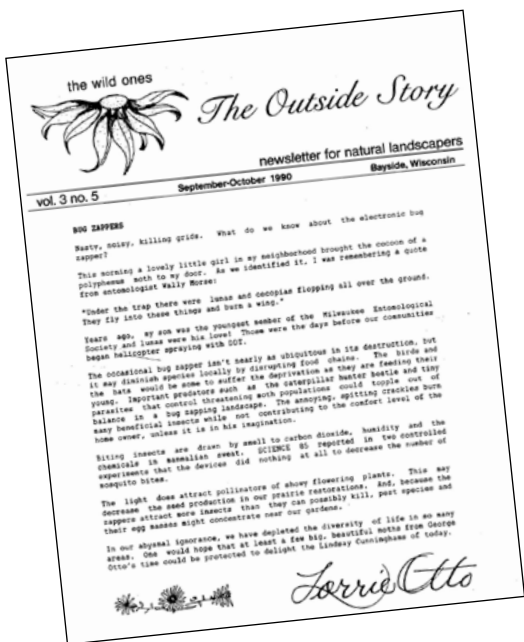
The first issue of the Wild Ones Journal, then called *The Outside Story*, was edited by Rae Sweet in 1988.

zation about native plants, natural landscaping and the organization's history, and later starting the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland chapter, where she currently serves as president.

Joy Buslaff, took over as newsletter editor in November 1995 for one year. But in January 1998, she returned as editor for the now-called Wild Ones Journal, before retiring in December 2001. (Read more about Joy on [Page 33](#).)

In between, Mariette Nowak, then director of the Wehr Nature Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, got involved with Wild Ones and its Journal. In fact, she's been involved with Wild Ones before it was even a recognized organization.

Nowak served as a national board member for four years, including a stint as vice president. She said in those early years, the vice president was also editor of the newsletter. Besides serving as editor, she has also written articles (and continues to do so), as well as serves as proofreader, a position she took on in 2020. In addition, she's started two Wild Ones chapters, and still



In early issues of Wild Ones' publication, Lorrie Otto often wrote stories like this one on the use of bug zappers. She wrote: "The annoying, spitting crackles burn many beneficial insects while not contributing to the comfort level of the home owner, unless it is in his imagination." This was published in 1990 when Carol Chew was editor.

volunteers as president of the Kettle Moraine (Wisconsin) Chapter.

While the Journal played an important part in Wild Ones' growth in the past, its role is even more important today and in the future, Nowak said. "The role of the Journal in the future must be to cover the real problems we have," she said. And climate change, carbon storage and biodiversity should be an important part of that coverage, she added.

Former Wild Ones Executive Director Donna VanBuecken said she had the privilege of working with all of the early editors, including Chew, Buslaff, Nowak, Babette Kis, Merry Whipple, Fran Gustman and Maryann Whitman, the last who has had the longest tenure as editor of the Journal. She said they were all passionate people, especially about native landscaping.

Whitman, a member of Wild Ones since 1995, began the Oakland (Michigan) Chapter in 1999 and served on the national board for 12 years. (The Oakland Chapter was de-chartered in 2009 and the North Oakland chapter started in 2010.) Whitman started as feature editor un-

der Whipple and Gustman in 2002, before assuming the editor roles from 2004 to 2015, a period of 11 years.

As an undergraduate, Whitman majored in psychology, Russian literature and French. "Clearly, I wasn't preparing for my future with Wild Ones," she said.

But later, when her daughters were in middle school, she began taking chemistry and biology courses. "I was captured by the environmental and native plant movement." When the opportunity came to edit the Wild Ones Journal, she jumped at it.

She didn't just jump at the opportunity, she stayed with it. "I really enjoyed the subject matter and interacting with the authors and members. I was studying and learning," she said. "I was thankful for the support of Wild Ones, including (then-Executive Director) Donna VanBuecken and then-presidents Bret Rappaport and Joe Powelka."

Whitman said the most rewarding part of being the editor was working with the contributing editors, and members who wrote essays and papers relevant to native plants.

"In some cases we worked with botanists and biologists at universities to reprint or abstract something they'd published in a professional journal," she said. "We tried to ensure that the material was more available to the general reader."

During Whitman's tenure, the Journal added color in 2013 and went up to 20 pages. It was still published six times a year.

She worked with a regular group of contributors and they worked as a team. "Contributing editors, such as Barbara Bray, Celia Larson, Janet Allen, Mandy Ploch, Richard Erhenberg, Mariette Nowak and Candy Sarikonda were wonderful partners over the years," Whitman said.

Several of those people are still writing for the Journal.

Whitman did write some articles, as well as a regular column called

The Grapevine, which consisted of personal observations, references to interesting articles and thought pieces. "Often my front-page articles attempted to provide a readable presentation integrating botany with native plants. We worked to integrate the discussion of native plants with current research, and to clarify topics in the literature."

She said the most challenging part of the job was deadlines. "Getting it done in time, and making it both educational and entertaining," she said. "The contributing editors did a great job of getting me to the end point of each issue, but the final week was always challenging."



The Wild Ones Journal first added full color to the publication in 2009 when Maryann Whitman was editor.

Whitman agreed that integrating climate change with the discussion of native plants is increasingly critical today.

"Native plants exist in regionalized ecosystems – but the ecosystems are changing, and native plants and their biological partners, the fungi, bees, butterflies and so on, are facing new threats," she said. "Consider the current situation for monarch butterflies. Back then we noted the problem of climate change, but spent more time talking about glyphosate destroying milkweed.



She said, “Although I had agreed to do a print Journal, by the time I started in January, the Board had decided to go to a virtual format, not only to save trees but also to save money.” Even before postage increases that have since become commonplace, the cost was more than \$30,000 per issue for printing and mailing.

Schmitz said the advantage of going electronic is that the Journal can now add links to sources and more information, and can include more stories — and pages — with no additional cost. Today, most Journals are 40+ pages long. Since 2018, the Journal has also become a quarterly publication, coinciding with the seasons.

And with those changes, the Journal has also become an award-winning magazine, taking first place in the Apex Awards for Publication Excellence in 2020. It was the first and only time the publication was entered in a contest.

Today, the Journal is getting more members to write stories and more chapters to tell their success stories. And as acceptance to natural landscaping has grown, so too has the number of chapters and members.

Schmitz said the best part of being editor of the Journal has been everything she’s learned as she edits

the publication, many of which she’s already added to her yard. “These days when I work on the Journal, I’m usually sitting out on my deck, overlooking my yard containing a lot less grass and a lot more native flowers, bees, butterflies and birds.”

While much has changed with the Journal over the last 30+ years, some things have stayed the same. As Whitman said: “The Journal informs the members of what other chapters are doing ... members benefit from articles that broaden their understanding/knowledge about native plants, their ecological importance and their place when we consider climate change. ...

“The challenge for the Journal is to find the balance between being merely a vehicle to talk about native plants, and addressing how that fits into society, the political and national priorities, and so on,” Whitman said. “The Journal needs to be both entertaining and educational, but if the native plant community doesn’t get involved with the larger society we may become irrelevant.”

So, help us stay relevant. Write for us. Tell us your story ideas and subjects you’d like to see covered. Get involved, and make a difference —now.

For more information, email journal@wildones.org.

The March/April 2016 issue was the first PDF issue, allowing the Journal to add links to advertisers or for more information on a variety of topics. This was also editor Barbara A. Schmitz’s first issue.

Chemical threats aren’t gone, but now climate change and the absence of a political will to address it fully threatens the milkweed and other native plants.”

Barbara Schmitz took over as editor in 2016, after learning about Wild Ones when one of her Girl Scouts completed her Gold Award project at the WILD Center. When Marianne announced her retirement, she applied for the editor position, was interviewed and eventually hired, working first with graphic artist Deb Muraro and now Kevin Rau.

Former Wild Ones Journal editor, supporter dies

Former Wild Ones newsletter editor and longtime member and supporter, Joy Buslaff, died in April 2022.

Joy joined Wild Ones in 1995 and immediately began a long career of contributions to Wild Ones’ mission. In November of that same year, she took over as editor of the newsletter, then called The Outside Story, for one year. She returned as editor in January 1998 for what was then (and still is) called the Wild Ones Journal, retiring in December 2001.

In 1997, Joy designed and compiled the “Wild Ones Handbook” that was provided to every member, and in 1999, she edited the first edition of the “Wild Ones New Member Handbook.”

In celebration of Wild One’s 25th anniversary, Joy resumed her role as editor in 2004 of the fourth edition of Wild Ones new member handbook. She also served as editor of the Milwaukee Southwest/Wehr chapter newsletters from 2005-21.

Retired Wild Ones Executive Di-

rector Donna VanBuecken said her relationship with Buslaff grew out of respect for her publishing work and her love for native plants.

“Joy was artistic, and the graphic designs always came first,” Van Buecken said. “She monitored the brochures and kept them up to date (and redesigned), even designing all the new ones that we required such as business, affiliate, rain garden, etc.”

Buslaff created attractive and informational brochures and other

resources for Wild Ones on a variety of topics, ranging from planting native plants for monarchs to creating rain gardens.

She also created a three-part [native landscaping video series](#) about landscaping with native plants and addressing local land-use ordinances, VanBuecken said. She wrote about that video series and why she did it in a [2012 Wild Ones Journal](#).

Buslaff also wrote books on one-room country schools, landscaping and rain gardens, VanBuecken said.

"Knowing Joy personally was literally a joy," said Pat Brust, friend and fellow Wild Ones chapter member. "Her enthusiasm and love for natural landscaping and native plants knew no bounds and she was always ready to share, encourage, support and inspire others in our chapter."

Brust said that Buslaff had a special interest in designing sound civil landscape ordinances that were sensitive to natural landscaping and



helped many who were fighting unjust enforcements of poor laws.

"Another project that was very important to her was the restoration of her beloved Quarry School where she grew up and moved back to later in her adult life," Brust said. "She worked hard to document its history as a one-room schoolhouse in the early days of Waukesha County." Buslaff also created a [website](#) about the school's history and renovation, gathering many photos and stories.

Joy "approached life with gusto and lived with grace and commitment to her family and community," Brust said. "She loved the land, her family, her friends and native plants. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her."

VanBuecken agreed. "It was a pleasure to know her. I was always grateful for her help."

But Buslaff enjoyed Wild Ones members, too. That was obvious from the 1999 Wild Ones Handbook, where Joy wrote:

"The greatest benefit I get from Wild Ones is the sheer delight that comes from rubbing elbows with bright, inventive nature-loving women, men and children."

As she told her husband shortly after she started as editor of the Journal, "I think I have found my people."

Wild Ones was blessed that Joy found us.

Salman, expert in waterwise gardening, dies at age 65

By Diane Stahl

David Salman, a founding member of [Plant Select®](#), a regional plant introduction organization, and an expert in the field of waterwise gardening who concentrated his efforts on collecting native seeds, died June 5 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he lived most of his life.

Salman, 65, founded Santa Fe Greenhouses, [High Country Gardens](#) and [Waterwise Gardening](#), the later which was a wholesale business that specialized in growing and breeding native plants for the arid southwest and high plains regions. David was a recipient of the 2008 American Horticultural Society Great American Gardeners Award. For decades, he encouraged environmentally conscious gardening practices.

Of late, David had been concentrating his efforts toward seed collecting on native species.



A renowned propagator, David provided knowledge and access to waterwise plants that attract and support native pollinators. In March 2020, Wild Ones Front Range (Colorado) Chapter partnered with Salman on a highly successful program, and the chapter was in discussions with Salman on another program.

Kelly Grummons, owner of Cold Hardy Cactus and an expert of native

plant seed collecting, said, "The Front Range horticulture industry would not have been as prolific and come this far without David's expertise, passion and critical plant collection."

For more information on his life, read the article in the [Santa Fe Chronicle](#).

IN MEMORIAM

Ken Arnold, Oak Openings Region

Anne McKnitt, Milwaukee-North

Steven Mueller, River City-Grand Rapids

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<https://firstcirclesystems.wordpress.com>

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<http://www.kmsnativeplants.com>

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Some of the Wild Ones attendees at the Friday picnic show off their award plaque. Front row, from left, are Ivan Chester, Diane Scher, Jessica Park, Toby Koosman, Dean Turley, Linda Nelson, Bill Moll, Terri Barnes, Lucy Ellis and Linda Frasier. Back row, from left, are unidentified, Mike Berkeley, Adam Bigelow, Lyn Rutherford and Drew Lathin.

Wild Ones receives the Dodd award for native plant education

By Bill Moll

Wild Ones received the Tom Dodd Jr. Award of Excellence in July at the 2022 Cullowhee Native Plant Conference in Cullowhee, N.C.

This award has been given annually since 1987 to individuals or organizations for excellence in one or more categories: the conservation of native flora in situ; studying and promoting the understanding of our native flora; building expertise in the propagation/cultivation of native plants; or the use of native plants in a diversity of natural and designed landscapes.

Wild Ones was recognized for our efforts in the area of native plant education.

Prior recipients have included Lady Bird Johnson, Larry Melli-champ, Wild Ones Lifetime Hon-

orary Director Doug Tallamy, Wild Ones Front Range (Colorado) Chapter member Jan Midgley and Wild Ones Middle Tennessee Chapter members Mike Berkley and Terri Barnes.

Wild Ones Board President Sally Wencel said more than 20 Wild Ones Members attended this year's conference.

"When I first attended Cullowhee, there were only one or two!" Wencel said. "It goes to show how Wild Ones has grown over the years. We are proud that we now boast strong member representation at this distinguished conference and were very surprised and thrilled to receive the Tom Dodd Jr. Award of Excellence. We were especially pleased that a number of our members were there to celebrate the occasion."

Wild Ones Executive Director

Jen Ainsworth also expressed her enthusiasm at Wild Ones receiving this thoughtful recognition.

"We are honored to be the recipients of this meaningful award from the Cullowhee Conference and are humbled to be considered among so many other prominent individuals and organizations in the native plant movement who have received this award in the past," she said. "We remain as committed as ever to our important work of educating others about native plants."

The Cullowhee Native Plant Conference was initiated in 1984 with a grant from the Tennessee Valley Authority. It is held each year at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, N.C. Mostly centered in the southeast, the 2022 conference included 380 attendees from 15 states plus the District of Columbia.

Spotted lanternfly threat intensifies as exotic pest now in 11 states

By Barbara A. Schmitz

While the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is native to China, it could be the next big threat to the United States' grape, orchard and logging industries.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, spotted lanternfly, or SLF, was first detected in Pennsylvania in September 2014. Since then, SLF populations have been found in 11 states including Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

However, most states are considered at risk, including Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida,

Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and others. See the [Pest Tracker](#) for details.

Spotted lanternflies feed on a wide range of fruit and ornamental trees, with the Chinese native tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) being one of the preferred host. Most at risk are almonds, apples, apricots, cherries, grapes, hops, nectarines, peaches, plums and maple, oak, pine, poplar, sycamore, walnut and willow trees.

Sources of the threat

SLFs are invasive and can be spread long distances by people who move infested material or items containing egg masses. In other words, spotted lanternflies are hitchhikers. Starting

in the fall, SLFs seek out outdoor surfaces and lay mud-like egg masses on tree bark, outdoor gear (such as lawnmowers, bikes and grills), vehicles and more.

Spotted lanternfly egg masses are about an inch long and resemble a smear of mud. If found in an area known to have an SLF population, residents should crush them and scrape them off. Travelers passing through SLF quarantine areas should thoroughly check their vehicles, trailers and even the clothes they are wearing to avoid accidentally moving the spotted lanternfly from a quarantine area to somewhere new.

If you find this pest outside of a spotted lanternfly quarantine area, take a picture of it and note the location to report it to your State Department of Agriculture before killing it.

Signs and symptoms of SFE

- Plants that ooze or weep and have a fermented odor
- Buildup of sticky fluid (honeydew) on plants and on the ground underneath infested plants
- Sooty mold on infested plants

What you can do

- When preparing for winter, check outdoor items for SLF egg masses, including those items you may bring indoors. Scrape any egg masses into a plastic zippered bag filled with hand sanitizer, then zip the bag shut and dispose of it properly.
- Inspect your trees and plants for signs of this pest, particularly at dusk and at night when the insects tend to gather in large groups on the trunks or stems of plants.
- Inspect trees, bricks, stone and other smooth surfaces for egg masses.

State-specific SLF reporting information

Connecticut: If you suspect you have found SLF in Connecticut, snap a picture of it and fill out the [SLF Reporting Form](#).

Delaware: To report SLF sightings, follow [these instructions](#) and email HitchHikerBug@delaware.gov.

Indiana: Report sightings to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources at 866-NO EXOTIC (866-663-9684) or DEPP@dnr.IN.gov.

Maryland: Report sightings to DontBug.MD@maryland.gov.

Massachusetts: Sightings should be reported to <https://massnrc.org/pests/slfreport.aspx>.

New Jersey: Report online at <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/pests-diseases/spotted-lanternfly/#reporting-tool>.

New York: Report SLF sightings at <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/a08d60f6522043f5bd04229e00acdd63>.

Ohio: Report SLF sightings to plantpest@agri.ohio.gov.

Pennsylvania: Sightings should be reported to <https://services.agriculture.pa.gov/SLFReport/>.

Virginia: Report SLF sightings in Virginia to <https://ext.vt.edu/agriculture/commercial-horticulture/spotted-lanternfly.html>.

West Virginia: Report SLF sightings in West Virginia by collecting a specimen or taking a high-quality image and contacting the West Virginia Department of Agriculture at bugbusters@wvda.us.

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Adult
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you see

**Contact your
State Department of
Agriculture**

**Report
any sightings**



Get more information at aphis.usda.gov/hungrypests/slfbiz



United States Department of Agriculture

Tips for planting in fall



By Mary Evans

Whether supplementing an existing planting or installing an entire garden, the soil and air temperatures during autumn present the perfect conditions for root establishment. If you're accustomed to only planting in spring, here are a few important tips to keep in mind as you plan an autumn plant installation.


- 1. Take stock at the end of summer.** At the end of summer, it's easy to note the garden's progress. Your observations of the past season are still visible: where to add tall spiky plants, which areas need more ground cover, spots that could use more early season blooms, and so on. Plan ahead. Determine which plants you need, and order early.
- 2. When to plant.** Plant roots need time to become established. Ideally, plants should be installed at least six weeks before the ground freezes. The further North you live, the earlier you should plant.
- 3. Plant spring ephemerals in early fall.** Spring-blooming perennials are best planted early in the fall. Planting in the fall while the soil is still warm will give the roots enough time to establish properly. This allows the plants to emerge from well-established roots, with a stronger start, the following spring.
- 4. Soil temperature.** The soil temperature is warmer in the fall than it is in spring, and this encourages root growth. Since the plants are usually not producing flowers, they'll have more energy for root establishment.
- 5. What about frost?** Frost will stop the growth of the plant above ground, but it will not kill the plant. The roots will continue to grow until the soil freezes solid.
- 6. Plant condition and dormancy.** At the end of the growing season many native perennials have finished their growth cycles and may not be looking their best. Spring ephemerals are completely dormant in the fall, with no growth showing above the roots. Because of this complete die-back, ephemerals are often shipped as bareroot stock. Plants that bloomed earlier in the summer will also be well past their prime and may look very tired as they head toward winter dormancy. Simply plant them with the same care that you would give a thriving green plant in the spring.
- 7. Watering.** Before planting, water the plants thoroughly and let the roots completely soak up the water. With the lower temperatures, the lower sun angle, and the shorter days, plants generally need less watering in the fall. Water them once per week until the soil freezes.
- 8. Mulching.** Fall transplants do not need to be mulched immediately. The new growth will benefit from the sun warming the soil, even in October. The transplants should be mulched when the cold weather sets in – apply mulch when the night temperatures are hitting 32 degrees F or lower and the soil is just beginning to freeze. Mulch material can be a thick cover of leaves, or other spent plant material, or


straw. Remove the winter mulch in the spring, after freeze-thaw cycles have passed.


- 9. Preventing frost heave.** Once the plants are in the ground, freezing and thawing of the soil can result in "frost heave" – wherein the thawing soil causes plants that aren't fully anchored to rise up out of the soil. This puts the plant in danger of being killed by cold. Installing the plants early reduces the chances of frost heave. After the soil has frozen hard a good layer of straw will keep the ground from thawing around the plants.


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Growing a chapter in a changing world



Members of the Columbus (Ohio) Chapter of Wild Ones, which chartered 28 years ago.

By Holly Latteman

The Columbus chapter of Wild Ones has been a chartered chapter for more than 28 years. Through the years, the chapter has seen its fair share of challenges and successes. The successes have all been attributed to the involvement of our community, whether as members or board officers and their willingness to educate, learn and accept others. I hope to inspire you, whether a chapter member, chapter officer or partner-at-large, to become more involved in the work of Wild Ones.

Our chapter has seen steady growth in interest, participation and membership over the past few years thanks to the dedication of our board and involvement of our chapter members. Our board created a plan to reach diverse audi-

ences and update our programs and processes which we felt would increase our reach in a growing city. Our chapter's core values of spreading knowledge and appreciation of native plants, sharing a conservation mindset and friendship are at the heart of our chapter's work.

As social media is ever-changing, our chapter looked at ways to reach all audiences and comfort levels with technology and social media. In 2020, our chapter added a Facebook group. Our goals for this group were to have all members and prospective members share knowledge about native plants, offer advice and identification information, and to introduce the mission of Wild Ones to a larger audience. Our chapter has seen great success with offering this resource. In particular, it has been helpful to engage those who may

be just getting started on their native plant journey.

Our chapter also created an Instagram account and integrated it with our current Facebook page. Instagram tends to reach a different demographic and by integrating it with Facebook, we have increased our reach. Our chapter uses Instagram to inform the public on Wild Ones, native plants and upcoming programs our chapter is hosting. We have found that combining our social media has increased our presence in the community and created an inclusive group of friends.

As our country sees housing and land prices rise, our chapter has sought ways to be more inclusive. Whether renting an apartment with no yard, owning a home or living in an area with limited freedoms to plant, everyone can be involved in



Above: A fritillary nectars on New England aster. Bottom right: The Columbus (Ohio) Chapter hosts mostly free and open access programming, meaning anyone can attend, regardless if they are a Wild Ones member.

the native plant movement. It just takes creativity. Several native plants can be grown in containers with success.

There may also be opportunities to partner with someone who owns land, but may not be able to care for it. Offering assistance to help maintain native plantings or helping to convert an area to feature native landscaping not only spreads the joy and appreciation of native plants, but also builds friendships around common interests.

Some of the most common questions or comments I hear is, "How do I get started?" or "I am so overwhelmed with my backyard." The Wild Ones Native Garden Design Program is a very helpful resource. The designs are an easy way to involve those at any stage of native plant gardening. They provide a place to start, as well as plant ideas and design inspiration for the seasoned native plant gardener. Combining these designs with interactive programming can really benefit a chapter.

With a longstanding presence in the community, creating innovative programming has been important for

our chapter in keeping the community engaged. I enjoy hearing ideas that other members have or contacts they share for programs they would like to see. Creating programs and coordinating schedules is not easy and I am so thankful for our program chair and past program chairs for sharing their guidance. Our chapter hosts mostly free and open access programming, meaning anyone can participate, regardless if they are a Wild Ones member. We find that those that take part in our programs quickly become members and also bring a friend (and even better, buy that friend a membership for a special holiday or birthday gift).

Wild Ones is truly a special organization with many passionate voices leading at all levels, whether it is staff, board of directors, chapter officers or members. I invite you to reach out to your local chapter and board, ask how you can become involved. The talents you have might be just what they are looking for or need. Together, we can welcome everyone to share in the love of native plants and natural landscapes.

Holly Latteman, science and conservation manager at The Dawes Arboretum, serves as president of the Wild Ones Columbus Chapter and director on the Wild Ones National Board of Directors.



Mark Your Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 6

Voting Opens for Wild Ones Board of Directors
Members may cast their ballot online for candidates to fill open positions on the Wild Ones Board of Directors for the 2023-2026 term. Voting will close on Sept. 27. Stay tuned for more information.

Sept. 22

First Day of Fall / Autumnal Equinox

Week of Sept. 26

2022 Photo Contest

People's Choice Award online voting opens. Stay tuned for details.

OCTOBER

Oct. 7

Deadline to register for Monarch Joint Venture's 27th annual Symbolic Migration Project. Learn more and register [here](#).

Oct. 15

SFE Grant Application Deadline

Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education grant application submission deadline is Oct. 15 at 11:59 p.m. CT.

Week of Oct. 17

2022 Photo Contest

Winners will be announced via email and on social media.

Oct. 24, 5 p.m. CT

Wild Ones National Board of Directors Meeting
All Wild Ones members are invited to attend virtual national board meetings. Click here for the Zoom meeting link.

Click [here](#) for the Zoom meeting link.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 17

National Take a Hike Day

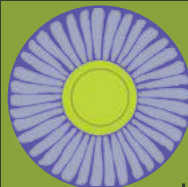
Enjoy the fresh air and take in the last of the fall colors along the trail.

Nov. 29

Giving Tuesday

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NEW AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Includes affiliate members who joined between May-July.

Sustainable Backyard Network
www.sustainablebackyard.org
Terry Winkelmann
St. Louis

Midland Recyclers
www.midlandrecyclers.org
Mid-Mitten

Friends of Tuscola County Parks & Recreation
<https://www.facebook.com/tusco-laparks/>
Terri Eden
Green Thumb

Deborah Hart
Front Range

Garden Club of Monroeville
Helen Naimark
Western Pennsylvania Area

Scientists Cliff Association
David & Judy Bonior
Chesapeake

Seno Kenosha Racine Land Trust Conservancy
<https://Senokrlt.org>
Mark Lesko
Kettle Moraine

Sherrard High School
<https://www.sherrard.us/>
Thomas Thompson
Quad Cities

Pamela Reich
Southeastern Pennsylvania

Sherrie Bush
Oak Openings Region

Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Tonyehn Verkitus
Southeastern Pennsylvania

Maia Simon
Southeastern Pennsylvania

Michelle Billmaier
Oak Openings Region

Ann Young
Front Range

WebbedFoot Designs, Inc.
Raymond Stewart
<https://www.webbedfootdesigns.com/>
Partner-at-Large

Cary Tree Archive
<https://www.carytreearchive.org/index.php>
Richard Carroll
Carolina Triangle

Haines Sale Corporation
Eric Haines
Habitat Gardening in Central New York

RENEWING AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Includes affiliate members who renewed between May-July.

Trent Creative
Marilyn Trent
<https://trentcreative.com/>
North Oakland

Richard Webb
Southeastern Pennsylvania

Acadiana Native Plant Project
<https://greauxnative.org/>
Partner-at-Large

River Bend Gardens
Wayne Oliver
<https://riverbendgardens.org/>
Ann Arbor

Megan Lankford
Ozark

Michelle Kutz
Mountain Laurel

Saline Landscape and Design
Mike Saline
<https://www.salinelandscape.com/>
Arrowhead

Bridget Center, Inc.
Peggy Kober
<https://www.bridgetcenter.org/>
Menomonee River Area

Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary
Susan Duvenhage
<https://www.owlshill.org/>
Middle Tennessee

The Montessori School
Jessica Hagen
Kalamazoo Area

Landscaping with Native Plants
Louise Engelstad
Partner-at-Large

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Includes new and current members who upgraded their membership level to lifetime between May-July

Barb Wolter, Menomonee River Area

Amara Edin, Twin Cities

Bruce VanEnkevort, Fox Valley Area

CHAPTER ANNIVERSARIES

Includes chapter anniversaries that occurred between May-July.

Chapter	Years
Milwaukee-North	43
Rock River Valley	28
Columbus	28
Ann Arbor	26
Gibson Woods	22
Door Peninsula	21
Habitat Gardening in Central New York	18
Mountain Laurel	16
Tennessee Valley	10
Blue Ridge	9
St. Charles Area	3