

# NATIVE NEWS

## Gibson Woods Wild Ones

6201 Parrish Ave. Hammond, IN \* 219-844-3188

April 2020

Volume 21, Issue 4

Wild Ones promotes environmental-ly sound landscaping practices to encourage biodiversity through the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities. Wild Ones is a not-for-profit, environmental, educational, and advocacy organization.

### GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR:

Hello Friends,

As always, but especially during this critical time, I hope this finds you healthy & safe - and still sane!! This is a crazy time, but together, I'm confident we can get through this, so hang in there!

You are probably wondering about our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Plant Sale...

We've decided to tentatively push the date back two weeks to **Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>** - if stay-at-home recommendations have relaxed by then. We will have the sale outside instead of in the building and will limit the number of people in the shopping area at one time. Instead of waiting in a long line, we will give out numbers at the Gibson Woods entrance gate. You'll probably be able to wait in your vehicle, or take a walk on the trails while waiting for your number to come up.

We will wait until the first of May to fine tune and solidify these plans, as CDC and State recommendations will undoubtedly change between now & then (hopefully for the better). Our first priority is to keep everyone safe!

**So, for now, mark your calendar for May 16<sup>th</sup> - and stay tuned for more details!**

Those details will be conveyed via email (in some cases-regular mail), our website, and Facebook. Please help us spread the word!!

Included with this newsletter is an updated plant sale list. Maybe you can take this time at home to prepare your wish list. Map out a new area in your yard, or expand on an existing one. Research some of the plants that intrigue you. Make sure to consider each plant's preferences for best success.

Something I can tell you for sure - our plants are being well taken care of and are doing just fine. They are eagerly waiting for their chance to find their forever homes!

Be Well,

Kim Moor

Visit us online at:

<http://gw-wildones.org/>

### New Membership & Renewals:

\$40 household - or - \$25 student, ltd income

### Send check to:

Wild Ones, 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd., Neenah, WI 54956  
Mark your check 'Chapter 38'

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly Meetings are held the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at Gibson Woods unless otherwise noted.

#### April 4, 2020

Plant Sale Preparation  
Plant 'Fashion Show'

Hosts: Mary Hackett, Shelley Fentress

**CANCELLED**

#### May 2, 2020

**\*\* PLANT SALE \*\***

**Pot Luck for workers**

**POSTPONED to May 16th**

#### June 6, 2020

Garden Walk at Tri-Town Safety Village Butterfly Garden  
*Details to be determined*  
Non-Members Welcome!

#### July - August, 2020

Enjoy your Summer  
*See you in September*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Join us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wild-Ones-Native-Plants-Natural-Landscapes-Gibson-Woods-Chapter-38/528949993858676>

### 2019 Officers

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### THANK YOU - SUSAN MIHALO

Susan, of The Nature Conservancy gave a very inciteful presentation about some of the primary invasive plants in our area and ideas on how to combat them. First & foremost, in your own yard, tackle those that you can handle - hopefully before they get out of control. Hand pulling and suffocating are two of the most eco-friendly methods, but sometimes pulling out the 'big guns' are in order. Assess your situation, do some research, and weigh your options before you make the decision to use herbicides, and if you do, use them sensibly.

If you want to learn about some of our most invasive species or how to report a sighting, please visit [www.eddmaps.org/indiana/](http://www.eddmaps.org/indiana/). This site contains a lot of helpful information, including real time tracking of invasive species occurrences, local and national distribution maps, electronic early detection reporting tools, library of identification and management information.

### PLANT SALE VOLUNTEERS

We will make final plans for our plant sale & preparations leading up to the sale during the first of May. Members & those who usually volunteer will have a chance to choose how & when you want to help after those plans have been made. Please expect an email outlining our needs around that time. There will definitely be some different positions this time to accommodate our new arrangement. I'm sure we'll have some 'roll with the punches' situations, but am confident we will persevere, as we always do!



### WHITE ELEPHANT

We will still try to hold a White Elephant sale during our Plant Sale. Proceeds go to the Gibson Woods Bird Fund. Please start looking for items that you'd like to donate: household, garden items, books, etc. are accepted. We will start accepting these items when we get closer to the plant sale.

We will also need boxes capable of carrying plant purchases. These can be dropped off during the week of the sale.

### EDIE'S CORNER - RECYCLE!

**Edie Bukwa:** is still in need of newspaper for her elderly dog. If you've been saving them for her, please call her at 773-646-2444 . She will arrange a pick-up with you.

**Gibson Woods:** is happy to take donations of craft & program supplies. Please call 219-844-3188 to make sure they can use what you have. Please save what you have until after the Gibson Woods building reopens.

## Plant Study—New for 2020 by Jake Cseke

### Partridge Berry (*Mitchella repens*)

Family: Madder (Rubiaceae)

Genus: *Mitchella*

*Mitchella repens*, commonly known as Partridge Berry, is a perennial that can grow 4 inches tall and about a foot wide. The plant is a short vine that forms a carpet of evergreen leaves. One-inch long leaves are dark green and glossy. White paired flowers appear starting in late spring to the middle of summer. Surprisingly the paired flowers are replaced by a single small, bright red berry, which is due to the union of the paired flowers' ovaries. The berries can last through winter and contain around 8 seeds. It is very difficult to propagate by seed.

Preferred habitats are rocky upland woods, sandy savannas, wooded slopes of dunes, rocky stream edges, mossy boulders and edges of swamps and bogs. Its presence can indicate high quality habitats. In a garden it mostly prefers shady areas that get some morning sun.

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Garden Uses:        | Evergreen Ground Cover with Red Berries   |
| Points of Interest: | Fragrant Flowers, Evergreen Leaves, Small Vine  |
| Bloom Time:         | Late Spring to Mid-Summer   |
| Flower Color:       | White   |
| Height and Spread:  | 4" Tall and 1' Wide   |
| Light:              | Light Shade – Partial Sun   |
| Soil Moisture:      | Moist – Dry Mesic   |
| Soil:               | Acidic Soils that are Sandy or Rocky  |
| Maintenance:        | Low, but can be Difficult to Establish  |
| Attracts:           | Bumblebees. Birds (such as Quail, Turkey and Grouse),<br>Fox, Skunk, Chipmunks and Mice Eat the Berries |



Sources: [www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/partr\\_berry.html](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/partr_berry.html) and [www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/mitchella\\_repens.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/mitchella_repens.shtml)

Photo Credits: John Hilty ([www.illinoiswildflowers.info](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info))

### Prairie Trillium (*Trillium recurvatum*)

Family: Lily (Liliaceae)

Genus: *Trillium*

*Trillium recurvatum*, commonly known as Prairie trillium, is a single-stemmed perennial that can reach over a foot tall. The unbranched stem ranges from light green to reddish purple. Three 3-6" long mottled leaves span from the top of the stem. A single flower appears at the center, and each flower is composed of 3 maroon petals, 3 green sepals and 6 black anthers. The petals are one inch long and the sepals are slightly smaller. Flowering begins mid- to late spring and lasts 3-4 weeks. One small greenish purple berry replaces the flower. Colonies are formed via rhizomes.

Preferred habitats are open woodlands and savannas, although it does occur in prairie habitats, which conjures thoughts of a misleading common name.

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Garden Uses:        | Colony Forming  |
| Points of Interest: | Mottled Leaves and Maroon Flower  |
| Bloom Time:         | Mid- to Late Spring   |
| Flower Color:       | Maroon  |
| Height and Spread:  | 1' Tall   |
| Light:              | Medium Shade – Light Sun  |
| Soil Moisture:      | Moist – Dry Mesic   |
| Soil:               | Loam to Clay Loam   |
| Maintenance:        | Low, but Slowly Develops and May Take Years to Flower                           |
| Attracts:           | Carrion Beetles and Flesh Flies, White-tailed Deer, Host<br>plant for Two Moths |



Sources: [https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/pr\\_trillium.htm](https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/pr_trillium.htm)

Photo Credits: John Hilty ([www.illinoiswildflowers.info](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info))

## Plant Study—New for 2020 by Kim Moor

### Canadian White Violet - *Viola canadensis*

Genus: *Viola L.* – violet

Family: Violaceae

Canadian white violet is a leafy-stemmed perennial, 8-16 in. tall. The white flowers, sometimes tinged with purple, have yellow centers. Leaves are long-petioled, heart-shaped, and deep-green. Fragrant, white, bilaterally symmetrical flowers hang and face outward at tips of short, slender, purplish stalks that grow from axils of heart-shaped, fine-toothed leaves.

The flowers growing from axils of upper leaves, and the yellow petal bases, help distinguish this lovely Violet from other white-flowered species. This violet prefers dappled sunlight to light shade during the spring, but tolerates greater shade during the summer. Other cultural requirements include more or less mesic conditions, a rich soil containing loam and decaying organic matter, and cool summer temperatures.

Nectar and pollen attract primarily bees, in particular, the Andrenid bee is a specialized visitor of violet flowers. Other floral visitors include bee flies and occasional skippers and butterflies. The larvae of many moths and butterflies feed on the foliage of violets. These larvae often hide during the day, but come out at night to feed.

**Size:** 1-3 ft.

**Bloom Color:** White , Orange

**Bloom Time:** May , Jun , Jul

**Native Habitat:** Moist, open wooded areas

**Light Requirement:** Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Moist

**Soil Description:** Rich, moist soils.

**Use Food:** Edible flowers.



Source: [https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=vica4](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=vica4), [https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/cn\\_violet.htm](https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/cn_violet.htm) Photographer: [Cressler, Alan](#)

### Plantain-Leaved Sedge - *Carex plantaginea*

Genus: *Carex*

Family: Cyperaceae

Plantain-Leaved Sedge is a member of a small group of sedges that have unusually broad leaves.. Their foliage is quite attractive in appearance. A 1-2 ft. sedge; the plant is strongly tinged with red-purple at the base and on the sheaths. The evergreen leaves are broad, up to an inch across, and have puckered ribs. This perennial sedge consists of rosettes of basal leaves, from which flowering stalks (culms) about 1-2' long occasionally develop.

The blooming period occurs during mid-spring. Pollination is by wind. This sedge has fibrous roots and short rhizomes, and often forms clumps of vegetative shoots. The preference is light to medium shade and consistently damp soil with some organic matter. This sedge is typically found in protected areas where the temperature is cool and the humidity is high. Habitats include rich deciduous woodlands, wooded slopes and ravines, and canyon-like gorges in wooded mountainous areas. This sedge and many ferns prefer the same kinds of habitat and can be found growing in proximity to each other.

Various insects feed on the foliage of sedges (*Carex spp.*), including the caterpillars of the woodland butterfly, *Satyroides appalachia* (Appalachian Brown). The seeds of sedges are an attractive source of food to various kinds of birds – for woodland sedges, this would include Wild Turkey and the chicks of Ruffed Grouse.

**Breeding System:** Flowers Unisexual , Monoecious

**Inflorescence:** Spike

**Size:** 1-3 ft.

**Fruiting Period:** Mar , Apr , May

**Native Habitat:** Moist, rich woods

**Light Requirement:** Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Moist

**Soil Description:** Moist, rich soils.



Sources: [https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/grasses/plants/plantain\\_sedge.htm](https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/grasses/plants/plantain_sedge.htm), [https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=capl4](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=capl4) Photo: [Wasowski, Sally and Andy](#)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 25, 2020

For more information or an interview contact:

Elaine Krizenesky, National Office Director

920-730-3986

[elaine@wildones.org](mailto:elaine@wildones.org)

**Wild Ones is Awarded \$19,000 Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust Grant  
for “Practical Garden Designs for Native Beauty” Project**

NEENAH, WI – Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, Ltd., an environmental nonprofit, has received a \$19,000 grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust for a “Practical Garden Designs for Native Beauty” project. Wild Ones will work with regional Wild Ones chapter experts and contract with professional landscape designers to develop strong localized and customizable native landscaping plans for six target eco-regions: Chattanooga, Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Toledo, and St. Louis.

Wild Ones President, Rita Ulrich, explained, “The grant gives us a chance to help more property owners install beautiful landscapes using native plants. We know that many people would like to use native plants in their yards but aren’t sure what to buy and how to place the plants in a way that is visually appealing as well as beneficial to wildlife. This project will provide a straight-forward guide for selecting, laying out, and installing appropriate native plants in their yards. They can start digging knowing that they will end up with a landscape they, and their neighbors, love.”

Wild ones will develop materials for distribution including a pamphlet, website, and a new web app that allows for easy information access. Wild Ones members will also provide advice and encouragement as people replace boring bushes and turf with these designs featuring art through nature.

Wild Ones’ mission is to promote environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities. Established in 1977, Wild Ones is a widely recognized voice for native plants and sustainable landscaping. It has 60 chapters representing 4,500 members in 18 states. Its members are known for their local efforts Its over 4500 members including 60 chapters in 18 states. Chapters use the extensive knowledge of their members to provide personalized support and free educational events for the public.

**CLIMATE CORNER** - by Jake Cseke

As we are all currently restricted to the relative safety of our homes, I believe that it’s a good time to contemplate on how each of us can make positive changes in our communities. While nurses, doctors and other medical staff are fighting on the front lines of the virus, Wild Ones members can contribute by assisting or financially supporting organizations that provide critical social services. Additionally, we can take this time to identify ourselves as people on the front lines of battling habitat loss and reducing the impacts of climate change.

Since human activities are the root cause of our changing climate, one can easily see that altering how we go about our activities can be a part of the solution. Thus, we are not powerless when it comes to combating a changing climate. Each of us holds a key to solutions that we can implement in our own backyards. Easy things can be accomplished under our own power, like applying no chemicals in our yards; buying electric mowers and weed wackers; converting our grass lawns to native plants; and planting long-lived native trees and shrubs. These activities reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, increase our yard’s ability to absorb more CO<sub>2</sub> and create more habitat.

Together, we are already having a positive impact in the human dominated landscape. More plants are being sold by Wild Ones each year and native plant sales are growing across organizations. The momentum is building, and we can thank ourselves and the other organizations with whom we partner. Wild Ones members are converting their yards from desert-like landscapes to pollinator havens, one yard at a time.

a Haiku (5-7-5) by Edie Bukwa  
3/6/20 3:30 p.m. at Washington Park

Fickle breezes blow  
herds of leaves up, around, down - - -  
here, there, everywhere!!

The Lawn is dancing!  
Fall's celebrating Spring's thaw - - -  
leap and twirl with them!!

We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

Aldo Leopold



## THINGS TO DO

*Due to Covid-19 restrictions, some events may be cancelled or postponed. Please check before you go!*

### 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Indiana Dunes Native Plant Sale - pre-orders only

In response to federal and state recommendations to stay at home to slow the spread of Coronavirus, the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Plant Sale as a pre-order only sale. There will be NO open shopping of plant material this year.

Order forms are available for printing at the Friends of Indiana Dunes website ([dunefriends.org](http://dunefriends.org)). A link to the order form can also be found on the Facebook page. If you need a hard copy mailed, have questions or need assistance, please contact Angel Gochee-Goins, by calling t 219-707-3617 or by email [angel@dunefriends.org](mailto:angel@dunefriends.org).

The deadline for submitting a completed native plant sale pre-order form has been extended until April 18. Please be sure to include your phone and email on the pre-order form in case they need to make additional changes. They fill the orders in the sequence in which they are received so please mail early.

The pick-up location for orders has been changed to the Friends new office located on the northwest corner of Mineral Springs and Oak Hill roads in Porter, Indiana. You will be assigned a specific pick-up time for Saturday, May 2 so social distancing can be maintained in accordance with CDC guidelines

### Spring Perennial Swap Deep River County Park

**Postponed to Saturday May 9th 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Spring is the perfect time to spice and change up your garden. At our plant swap happening Saturday, May 9th at 10 am you can exchange your current plants for something new without costing you anything. Just separate and pot some of your perennials and bring them to the swap, and leave with something new! Arrive early, plants go fast! Deep River's General Store in the Visitors center will be open throughout the plant swap. MEET in the back of the parking lot near trail head for swap!

Please check the Lake County Parks website or Deep River's Facebook page for updates, or call the park at 219-947-1958.

Please visit <https://www.millergardenclub.org/> for updates.

### Friends of the Lowell Library GardenFest

A celebration of all things Garden!  
Saturday, May 30th 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

At the Lowell Public Library

For more information, call 219-696-7704

Or visit <http://www.lowellpl.lib.in.us/0library/friends2.html>