

# NATIVE NEWS

## Gibson Woods Wild Ones

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

January, 2021

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*Wild Ones promotes environmentally 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.*

### **GREETING FROM OUR 2020 PRESIDENT:**

Hi Team.... Happy New Year! Whew....what a year 2020 was.

One of the things that the Chapter President does is to write up a State of the Chapter Report at the end of the year. Kim and I have been doing this together for the last several years. It is really beneficial for us to reflect on the past year looking at things gone right, and things gone wrong. It is amazing to see all that we have accomplished as a team with the many projects we lead and participate in. It may be a gut reaction to think we just survived 2020 considering all the obstacles thrown at us. I am very pleased to share we did not just survive, we killed it!

We led projects at churches, schools, community centers, and neighborhoods. We volunteered and partnered with land trusts and other like-minded organizations. We won awards for our native gardens and awards for volunteering. And we do all this in a highly efficient, organized, and fiscally responsible way. Our bank balance is sound, and we even made investments recently to maintain our greenhouse. In all the projects we are involved in, the one that brings us all together is our annual plant sale. It is the backbone of our fundraising and allows us to do all of our community outreach. As a matter of fact, last year we had two plant sales!

Please note on our agenda, that our new President, Kim Moor is publishing; there is a board meeting coming up that includes discussing 2021 goals. Please participate in this meeting. It is vital that we hear from you. The good news is that we do not lack for projects. All of us have a lot going on. One of our strengths, our "secret sauce" is teamwork. We pull together nicely when called upon! For this, for a rewarding 2020, and a great 2021 to come, I thank you!

Sincerely,  
Karl Ackermann

**Zoom Presentation: Saturday, February 6th 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

### **Indigenous Landscapes for Practical Uses**

This presentation will discuss planting landscapes that are beautiful, educational and practical for both wildlife and people. Certified as a Monarch Butterfly Expert from the University of Minnesota, Billie Warren will highlight the milkweed plant as it has cultural significance and tells a story about our relationship with nature.

Billie Warren, Educational and Environmental Consultant and Pokagon Potawatomi citizen, works on sharing her unique Indigenous perspective on History and Environmental Sustainability. Billie's work spans over a twenty-year period working with universities, municipalities, public schools, National Parks, Non-Profit organizations, Conservation Groups, Conservation Projects, Historical Societies and museums. In June 2019 she founded Jibek Mbwakawen Inc. to improve the community's environment by connecting people back to the land from an indigenous perspective. Billie earned a BA degree from Indiana University Northwest (IUN) and is pursuing a Graduate Degree in Public and Environmental Affairs at IUN. Billie identifies as Bear Clan, is a water protector, seed keeper, and steward of the land.

Please contact Kim Moor at [kckim10@gmail.com](mailto:kckim10@gmail.com) or call/text 219-433-5731 to RSVP for this Zoom Presentation. A link will be sent to you.

Visit us online at:

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

# Happy New Year!

### **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.

RSVPs are required for all future meetings. Please email [kckim10@gmail.com](mailto:kckim10@gmail.com) or text/call 219-433-5731

### **January 9, 10, 15, 27th 2021**

Greenhouse Orientation

See pg 2 Announcement for sign up info

**Zoom Business meeting** will be held on Saturday, January 16th - 10:00 a.m.  
*Contact Kim Moor to receive a link.*

### **February 6, 2021** Zoom presentation

***Indigenous Landscapes for Practical Uses***—Billie Warren (RSVP Required)

**Zoom Business meeting** will be held on Saturday, February 13 - 10:00 a.m.  
*Contact Kim Moor to receive a link.*

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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>

### 2021 Officers

#### President

#### Newsletter Editor:

Kim Moor  
219-433-5731  
kckim10@gmail.com

#### Vice-President

#### Program Coordinator:

Mickey Taylor  
219-742-2775  
micktec24@yahoo.com

#### Secretary:

Tonia Flowers  
219-741-6392  
butterflygardentf@gmail.com

#### Treasurer:

Karl Ackermann  
708-790-1322  
acks123@sbcglobal.net

#### Membership Chair

#### Corresponding Secretary:

Pat Rosenwinkel  
219-865-2679  
patrosen@sbcglobal.net

#### Greenhouse Manager:

Peggy Foster  
219-286-3262  
omanigetwithit@comcast.net

#### Education Supervisor, Native Plant Consultant/Ordering:

Joy Bower  
219-844-3188  
jbower1126@aol.com

#### Community Projects Chair:

Jake Cseke  
219-214-7626  
cseke.jake@yahoo.com

## JANUARY MEETING

Our January Orientation will look a little different this year...

We will conduct a few mini-orientations so that we can keep attendance low. Please choose from the dates listed below and send your RSVP to either Peggy Foster, Kim Moor, Mickey Taylor, or Tonia Flowers (see the side-list for contact info).

We will go over greenhouse procedures at this orientation & work on sign-ups for workdays. We can also start 'digging' in! Masks are required. Social distancing & limited attendance will in practice.

Peggy Foster:	Saturday, January 9th - 10:00 a.m. (filled up)
Kim Moor:	Sunday, January 10th - 10:00 a.m.
Mickey Taylor:	Friday, January 15th - 10:00 a.m, 11:15 a.m, 12:20 p.m.
Tonia Flowers:	Wednesday, January 27th - 10:00 a.m.

**In order to work in our Greenhouse, you must be a member. If you're new to the Greenhouse, you will benefit tremendously by attending an Orientation session, so if you haven't already, please sign up for one of these sessions! For those who have worked there before, a refresher course is always a good thing!!**

If you are not a member yet, but are interested in joining, you can go to wildones.org to sign up online. Or contact Karl Ackermann at acks123@sbcglobal.net or call him at 708-790-1322.

During a long dreary winter, it is very refreshing working in our heated Greenhouse. It smells like Spring, and when the sun is shining it feels like it too!!

**The January business meeting will be held via Zoom on Saturday, January 16th at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Kim Moor at kckim10@gmail.com or call/text 219-433-5731 to receive a link.**

## PORTER COUNTY GARDEN SPECIAL ONLINE INVITATION

*'When we rescheduled our 17th Annual Gardening Show, we promised an exclusive loyalty bonus for fans of this perennially-popular annual event.'*

**Here is your invitation to a special live online seminar:**

***"Foodscaping in Containers"***  
***with Brie Arthur, celebrated speaker and best-selling author.***

**SAVE THIS DATE: January 23, 2021**  
at 10:00 a.m. CST (Chicago time) to attend

This event is free, but advanced registration is required.

To reserve your spot, please click [here](#)

## DOLLY FOSTER – WINTER SOWING WORKSHOP

Join me for a virtual workshop on Winter Sowing. This lecture is through the Purdue University Extension Lake County, Indiana. Zone 5b - January 9, 2021 10:00 am

Please follow the link below to register for this **Free Lecture**, and to receive the link for the webinar.

[Click Here](#)

**PLANT STUDY, AVAILABLE 2021** - by Olympia Gutierrez**Marsh Phlox or Smooth Phlox** (*Phlox glaberrima interior*)

Phlox family - Polemoniaceae

Phlox is from Greek meaning flame

Description:

Native perennial of wet prairies and open woodlands growing 2-4 feet tall. It has an unbranched single stem that is green, slender, and hairless. If the central stem is broken, 2-3 lateral stems will develop. Leaves are green, opposite, with smooth margins with a prominent central vein. It has a taproot system. Flowers develop at the apex of the stem in clusters of 3-20 in pink to lavender color in a dome-like shape. Individual flowers have five petals with a narrow tubular center. Blooming occurs from late spring into late summer lasting 1-2 months. Flowers are fragrant. After fertilization, narrow seed capsules replace the flowers with many small seeds. Plant spreads by reseeding.

Cultivation:

Soil type: clay, loam, sand

Moisture: medium to moist

Sun: full to partial shade

Height: 2-4'

Zones: 4,5,6,7,8

Young plants can succumb from summer heat and drought. Tendency to sprawl if not supported. No significant disease problems. Indicator of high quality prairie.

Resembles other Phlox species. Prairie Phlox (*Phlox pilosa*) has hairy stems, is shorter and blooms earlier. Sangamon Phlox (*Phlox pilosa sangamonensis*) has more angular petals with a more narrow and wedge-shaped base. Meadow Phlox (*Phlox maculata*) has stems with purple spots or streaks and wider leaves. Phlox species can hybridize resulting in variable morphologies.

Fauna:

The colorful and fragrant flowers attract butterflies, skippers, moths and hummingbirds, most notably Monarchs, Swallowtails, and Sulfurs. Moth caterpillars of the *Heliothis turbatus* (Spotted Straw) and *Lacinipolia olivacea* (Olive Arches) species eat the plant. *Lopidea davisi* (Phlox Scarlet Plant Bug) and *Poecilocapsus lineatus* (Four-Lined Plant Bug) feed on the plant juices. Larvae of a long-horned beetle, *Oberea flavipes*, will bore through the stem. Many mammalian herbivores will feed on the plant including rabbits, groundhogs, and deer.



## Sources:

[https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/sm\\_phloxx.htm](https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/sm_phloxx.htm)

<https://www.prairienursery.com/marsh-phlox-phlox-glaberrima.html>

## *This One is for the Birds* – by Jake Cseke

Birds, and the insects they depend on are declining significantly. According to a recent study published in the peer-reviewed journal *Science*, some three billion birds have been lost in North America since 1970, which is due to a combination of factors including pesticide use, insect declines, window impacts, climate change, outdoor cats, and habitat loss. This amounts to a reduction of over 25% of all birds that were alive 50 years ago. While this can be overwhelming, there are actions we can take to have an immediate positive impact on our local bird populations. We can keep cats indoors; eliminate chemical use in our yards; install UV decals on windows; support local land trusts; use less fuel and home energy; and advocate for converting more lawns to native plants.

Throughout 2021 in this section of our newsletter, I aim to focus our attention on the native plants that strongly support both bird and insect populations. Native plants, including trees and shrubs, serve two main functions that benefit avian wildlife. One is to offer sources of nourishment such as insects, seeds, and berries, and the other is to provide habitat structure for shelter and nesting sites. Therefore, the more plant species we have in our yards of differing sizes, the more variety of food sources and habitat types there will be for birds.

## *December Open House Fun at Gibson Woods* - by Kim Moor

Our December Open House was great. In fact, I was having such a wonderful time that I forgot to take pictures. I am truly disappointed about that because we had many who stopped by, two tables worth of seeds to share, as well as some awesome natural decorations for attendees to take home. A couple people sent me photos of ornaments they made, and I decorated a small tree with some of the left-overs. So at least I can share those with you. Edie brought in some ornaments from past years, so we will save those to put on the 2021 tree.



I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season!! Happy New Year!

## *Your Support Makes a Critical Impact at Wild Ones!*

For over 20 years, Wild Ones' "Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education" program has engaged thousands of youth in the important work of preserving our environment by providing grant funding to local schools, nature centers and youth groups throughout the United States for natural landscape projects.

**Seeds for Education grants are just one of the many ways your support helps educate and spread the word about Wild Ones' time-sensitive mission to establish and restore native plant communities.**

### **Because of YOU Wild Ones also:**

- provides free, educational resources and learning opportunities that are open to the public from respected experts like Doug Tallamy, Neil Diboll and Heather Holm
- supports the efforts of over 60 local Wild Ones chapters in 20 states
- publishes a quarterly, award-winning journal for members featuring current native plant information and resources
- and is about to release free, professionally designed native garden templates for multiple regions in the United States.

**To continue offering these important tools and resources to help save our environment, we need your support!**

*Thank you for helping us heal the earth, one yard at a time.*

[Give Now](#)