

# NATIVE NEWS

## Gibson Woods Wild Ones

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

December 2020

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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 THE EDITOR:

Hello Wild Ones friends,

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving & are staying healthy!

We conducted our first Zoom presentation & followed that up with a separate online business meeting. I know there are mixed reactions about this, but we really can't find ways around it. For those who may be apprehensive, or don't have the technology to join an online meeting, I would like to offer my assistance. If you own a computer, tablet, or a smart phone, I'm sure I can walk you through it. If you don't have any of those, I bet someone close to you (a son or daughter or one of your grandkids) do! I can send the link to them if they're willing to let you use their device. Or there is a phone-in option. You wouldn't be able to see who's talking, but you'd be able to hear and contribute to the conversation. Please consider the possibilities & let me know if you want my help! We'd love to 'see' you!!!!

As you probably know, we're holding an open-house in lieu of our traditional December meeting. If you're uncomfortable being around people, but would like to purchase a book or get some seeds, we can meet somewhere. I'm attaching a list of the books we have available. I don't have a list of seeds for swapping, but if you call me during the open-house, I'll tell you what we have.

And if you are interested in coming to the Greenhouse, we are going to do everything we can to make each individual feel as comfortable as possible so they can still enjoy the experience (members only). Please communicate what will make you comfortable!

Wishing you a happy & healthy Holiday Season, Kim Moor

### DECEMBER MEETING

**Open House from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** (masks & social distancing are required)

**Book Sale** - We have many educational books available - as well as t-shirts & even some jewelry. Come out on December 5th to do some Holiday shopping for the nature lovers on your list. Or, pick up a book or two for yourself to get you through the long winter! Most of our books are discounted, and Wild Ones members can take advantage of a discount off the discounted price!

**Ornaments using natural materials** - We invite you to collect & share items from nature that you've found. We will provide paper bags so you can take a little of this & that to create your own natural ornament at home.

**Seed Swap** - Bring in native plant seeds to swap with others at our December meeting. Please label what you have. You don't need to clean & package them (unless you want to). We will supply bags & markers so we can all share! Winter sowing is a great way to get started on a new garden project! We will supply information sheets about this.

**You don't need to be a member to attend this event. But we do require an RSVP. We don't anticipate the necessity, but we will assign appointment times if we reach the maximum allowed inside at one time.**

A business meeting for Members will be held via Zoom on December 12th at 10:00 a.m. **Please note: This meeting requires a RSVP.** Please contact Kim Moor at [kckim10@gmail.com](mailto:kckim10@gmail.com) or call/text 219-433-5731 for a link, or if you're not sure how to join a Zoom meeting.

Visit us online at:

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

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**

### 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

### December 5, 2020

Open House @ Gibson Woods 10-12  
Book Sale, Seed Swap,  
Natural Ornament Supplies

Zoom Business meeting will be held on Saturday, December 12th  
Contact Kim Moor to receive a link.

### January 9, 10, 15th 2021

Greenhouse Orientation  
Contact Peggy Foster to sign up.

Zoom Business meeting will be held on Saturday, January 16th .  
Contact Kim Moor to receive a link.

### February 6, 2021

To be Determined

### Inside this Issue:

Greeting from the Editor	1
December Meeting	1
Announcements	2
Plant Study - Actaea pachypoda	3
Review of Nov Presentation	4

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Join us on Facebook

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

### 2020 Officers

#### President:

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

#### Vice -President:

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

#### Secretary:

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Karl Ackermann

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#### Membership Chair:

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

#### Newsletter Editor:

Kim Moor  
*Please email or call in info.  
for the Newsletter by the 20th*

#### Corresponding Secretary:

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patrosen@sbcglobal.net

#### Greenhouse Manager:

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

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

Joy Bower, Gibson Woods  
219-844-3188  
Jbower1126@aol.com

### 2021 ELECTION

Our 2021 officers were voted in by acclamation at our November meeting.

**President - Kim Moor**

**Vice President - Mickey Taylor**

**Treasurer - Karl Ackermann**

**Secretary - Tonia Flowers**

### 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 in to Peggy Foster at [omanigetwithit@comcast.net](mailto:omanigetwithit@comcast.net), or call her at 219-286-3262. If your chosen date is filled up, she will work with you to figure out an alternate date.

We will go over greenhouse procedures at this orientation & work on sign-ups for workdays. We can also start 'digging' in!

Saturday, January 9th - 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 10th - 10:00 a.m.

Friday, January 15th - 10:30 a.m.

In order to work in our Greenhouse, you must be a member. If you are interested in joining, you can go to [wildones.org](http://wildones.org) to sign up online, or contact Karl Ackermann at [acks123@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto:kckim10@gmail.com) or call/text 219-433-5731 to receive a link.

### JANUARY 2021 PORTER COUNTY GARDEN SHOW HAS BEEN CANCELED

For your information, the January 2021 Porter County Master Gardener's Garden Show has been canceled due to Covid-19. They plan on resuming in 2022.

### EDIE'S CORNER - RECYCLE!

This is the place to post things that you are in need of or would like to share. Let's take advantage of this space and help each other out. Recycling in Action!

Need some pots? Scott Corriere donated some at our October meeting. There are a bunch of hanging pots & many others. Please contact Kim Moor if you're interested.



## PLANT STUDY - NEW FOR 2021

### Doll's Eyes (*Actaea pachypoda*)

Buttercup family (Ranunculaceae)

Pronounced - ak-TEE-uh pak-ee-PO-duh

In the buttercup family, *Actaea* spp. are perennial plants grown from a thick rhizome that emerges in the spring. They will produce one or more branching stems. Depending on the variety, each stem will have either three leaves that branch towards the top or three compound leaves and one flower stalk from the central stem. Their leaves are spreading, pinnately divided with toothed leaflets. The flowers are small and white in a terminal, erect raceme. The fruit is white, red, or purplish-black berries with a black dot and often on thick, red stalks. The black dot's on the berries lead to the common name, Doll's Eyes.

The small white flowers resemble black cohosh but are in a shorter, cylindrical cluster on a short, terminal, erect raceme. The flowers have very small petals. The sepals fall as the flower opens. There is one pistil per flower. There are 10 to 28 flowers on each raceme. Flowers bloom from March to May.



It can be grown in an area with partial to full shade but will produce more flowers when placed in sunlight. When grown in deep shade, the stalks will bend toward bright light.

This self-seeding perennial can be propagated by sowing the seed collected from the berries. Each berry contains less than 10 seeds. The seeds will germinate the year after sowing and will bloom in the following year. Division can be another means of propagation, the optimum period being in early spring or fall.

The flowers provide pollen but lack nectar. The pollen is collected by short-tongued bees. The berries are eaten by a variety of birds, thereby spreading the seed to other areas. The birds are immune to the toxic effects of the berries.

All parts of this plant are poisonous, mainly the berries and roots. Use caution when planting in an area where children and pets have access. It is toxic only if eaten in large quantities. It causes severe pain in the mouth if eaten. The poison does not affect birds, they will eat the fruit. Small mammals will not eat the pulp but will consume the seeds.

**Height:** 1 ft. 0 in. - 3 ft. 0 in.

**Width:** 2 ft. 0 in. - 3 ft. 0 in.

**Habit/Form:** Clumping, Erect

**Light:** Dappled Sunlight, Shade to Partial Shade.

**Soil:** Clay, High Organic Matter, Loam (Silt), Sand

**Soil pH:** Acid (<6.0)

**Soil Drainage:** Good Drainage, Moist

**Flower:** White, Fragrant, Showy

**Flower Bloom Time:** Spring, Summer

**Leaf Type:** Compound, Pinnate

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Leaf Shape:** Ovate

**Leaf Margin:** Lobed, Serrate

**Hairs Present:** No

**Leaf Length:** 3-6 inches

**Leaf Width:** 1-3 inches

**Stem Color:** Red/Burgundy

**Resistance To Challenges:** Deer, Heavy Shade, Rabbits

**Recommended Propagation Strategy:** Division, Seed

**Wildlife Value:** Birds eat the berries. Bees collect the pollen. Seeds are eaten by small mammals



Source: <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/actaea-pachypoda/>

Photos: [http://illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/doll\\_eyes.htm](http://illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/doll_eyes.htm)



## Information from November Presentation:

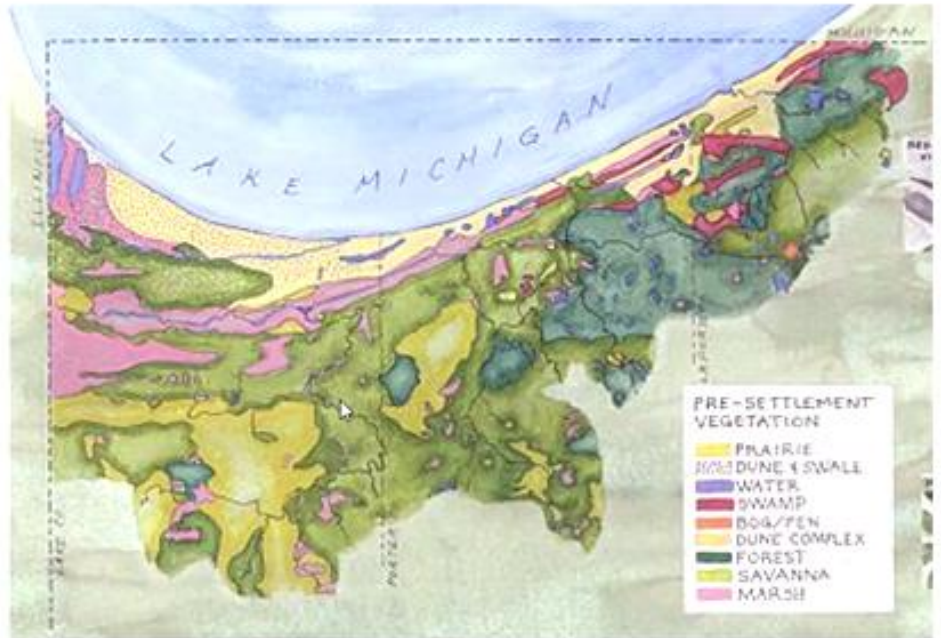
### Ecological Gem of the Greater Chicagoland Area, Including NW Indiana

by Dr. Spencer Cortwright, IUN

Ecological Gem? How does one define the ecological quality of a region? The number and production of native vascular plant species. Also, the annual production of those plants.

Did you know that the combined protected natural areas within a narrow 50-mile radius of downtown Chicago ranks 25th in acreage - greater than 35 of our national parks? The expanded Chicago region is defined by a 75-mile radius of downtown Chicago. **It ranks 1st in the number of species, totaling 1867!** That's 323 more than the most prolific national park—the Grand Canyon, which comes in with a total of 1544. The book *Flora of the Chicago Region* was the major source for conducting the study of plants found in our area.

In addition to these numbers, we live in a crazy quilt of diverse habitats! Much more diverse than the Grand Canyon referenced above!!



How to find preserves:

Shirley Heinze Land Trust: [www.heinzetrust.org](http://www.heinzetrust.org)

Acres Land Trust: [www.acreslandtrust.org](http://www.acreslandtrust.org)

Niches Land Trust: [www.nicheslandtrust.org](http://www.nicheslandtrust.org)

Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy: [www.swmlc.org](http://www.swmlc.org)

The Nature Conservancy: [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)

IN DNR Div. of Nature Preserves: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/naturepreserve/>

Every County Parks/Forest Preserve

IN DNR State Parks: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/>

Indiana Dunes NP: <https://www.nps.gov/indu/index.htm>

Great Description of habitat types: <https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/communities/list>

(From the Editor: Sorry, I made a screenshot of Dr. Cortwright's presentation, so the links can't be followed directly. You'll have to type them out in your browser)

Dr. Cortwright referenced a great 'coffee table book'. It can be purchased here for \$75.

<https://www.chicagonature.com/product/my-journey-into-the-wilds-of-chicago-book/>

Link to a blog by Mike MacDonald at *Chicago Nature Now*: <https://chicagonaturenow.com/blog/chicago-ranks-number-1-in-plant-biodiversity/>

*Flora of the Chicago Region* can be purchased here for \$125. <https://www.indianaacademyofscience.org/publications/item-detail?id=134&nodeid=302>