

# NATIVE NEWS

## Gibson Woods Wild Ones

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

March, 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 THE PRESIDENT:

Hello Friends,

Spring is almost upon us. Are you ready yet? This last week has surely been a tease of what's to come. Do you have your spring & summer garden projects planned out yet? Are you starting a new bed, or expanding a new one? Are you thinking about taking out some grass to plant something more ecologically friendly? Maybe you are indecisive, or just don't know where to start. Check out our National Wild Ones website's new garden design page for some guidance at [www.nativegardendesigns.wildones.org](http://www.nativegardendesigns.wildones.org).

This year, we will have our Annual Native Plant Sale on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at Oak Ridge Prairie in Griffith, Indiana. The sale will be conducted outside and spread out so we can adhere to the CDC's recommended Covid-19 social distancing guidelines, which will most likely still be in place by then.

I know many of you are already asking for this year's plant sale list. Please just hold on a little while longer - - - it's almost ready for distribution - - - and you - - - our most loyal followers - - - will be the first to receive the information.

So, for now, please put us on your calendar for May 1<sup>st</sup>. Our sale will start at 9:00 a.m. And as usual, will be first-come-first served. We will keep you posted of all other details.

In April, we plan on releasing a sneak peek video of some of the plants that will be available. But for now, I'll leave you with this...

Look what's growing at the greenhouse!



Sincerely,  
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 typically held the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at Gibson Woods unless otherwise noted.

Links to register for all online presentations & meeting will be provided prior to the meeting.

Please email [kckim10@gmail.com](mailto:kckim10@gmail.com) or text/call 219-433-5731 with questions.

**March 6, 2021** - Zoom presentation  
*Secret Love Lives of Birds* -  
with Carol Harsh

**Zoom Business meeting** will be held on Saturday, March 13 - 10:00 a.m.  
(Zoom link will be sent to members)

**April 10, 2021** - Zoom Business meeting  
*Plant Sale Preparation & Preview of Plants*  
(Zoom link will be sent to members)

### May 1, 2021

#### Native Plant Sale

Oak Ridge Prairie  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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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

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Rima Binder**  
**Lisa Gelement**  
**Chuck Gardiner**

We look forward to getting to know you!

**MARCH MEETING****Zoom Presentation: Saturday, March 6th 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**  
**Secret Love Life of Birds**

Carol Harsh from Wild Birds Unlimited in Schererville will be discussing bonding strategies, courtship styles, and breeding fun facts of our beloved backyard birds.

Carol has always had a love for birds, nature & people. She and her husband both come from big box retail & wanted to start a business. They found the Wild Birds Unlimited franchise and it was a perfect fit to fulfill their passions! The store has now been open for over 5 years & they couldn't be happier!

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZUkceGorz8qE9WmoixA\\_pp-UEPwDIWKLO3U](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZUkceGorz8qE9WmoixA_pp-UEPwDIWKLO3U)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting (another link).

**Attention Members:**

The March business meeting will be held via Zoom on **Saturday, March 13 at 10 am**. A registration link will be sent to members via email. Please contact Kim Moor if you need assistance, or would like to try attending by telephone.

**WILD ONES MAY 2021 PLANT SALE**

Barring a major Covid-19 setback, we will forge ahead with our plant sale with a few changes.

**What we know**

**Date & Time: Saturday, May 1st from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Where: Oak Ridge Prairie, Griffith, IN**

Our Plant Sale list will be available soon. Copies will be sent to everyone on our mailing list, will be posted on our website, and on Facebook.

Members will be sent a list of volunteer positions: set-up before the sale, the sale itself, and clean-up after the sale. Please consider helping.

**We will follow safety protocols - including masks & social distancing.**

We will need help soon putting plant labels on our plant markers. Please contact Kim Moor if you are interested in helping with this. This is something that can be done in the comfort of your own home.

**WETLAND INDIANA SENATE BILL 389**

It's not too late to contact Your State Representative to Oppose Senate Bill 389. If passed, this would remove protections for state-regulated isolated wetlands in Indiana, threatening these invaluable ecosystems, the wildlife they support and our water quality. If you haven't already, you can call or email your legislators and ask them to oppose SB 389. Find your state legislators at <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/>.

**PLANT STUDY, AVAILABLE 2021** - by Olimpia Gutierrez**Panicled Aster** (*Symphotrichum lanceolatum*)

Also known as Lance-leaved Aster, and White Panicled Aster.

Aster family *Asteraceae*, *Aster* comes from ancient Greek meaning star

The Panicled Aster is a herbaceous perennial plant occurring in 5 varieties with a native range extending from most of Canada, the United States and northwestern Mexico. It prefers moist open habitats often appearing in disturbed landscapes. The Panicled Aster was used for medical purposes by indigenous peoples to treat wounds, nosebleeds, and fever.

*Symphotrichum lanceolatum* has a central and lateral erect stems green to dull red in color, lined with white hairs. The mature stems become brownish, woody-looking and hairless with age. The leaves are lanceolate to elliptical tapering at the tip with entire margins. Leaves occur alternately and are larger at the base, sometimes with serrations, and become smaller in size as they ascend up the stem. Foliage can develop a purple color in cold fall weather. The stems produce panicles of daisy-like flowerheads, larger in size on the central stem than on lateral stems. The panicles are composed of composite flowers consisting of white, occasionally with a pink or purple tinge, ray florets surrounding a dense disk of numerous yellow to orange-red florets. Blooming occurs in late summer to autumn lasting 1-2 months. Cross-fertilization is required for viable seeds. Seeds are elongated, brown and very small, typically 1.5-2mm in length with tufts of white hairs that facilitate wind dispersal. Roots are fibrous and rhizomatous. Clonal propagation occurs from the rhizomes establishing large colonies in moist and open environments. The plant produces chemicals that can be detrimental to other plants facilitating clonal spread though the Panicled Aster often coexists with other native plants.



**Soil type:** Loam, clay, gravel or large rocks, poor draining soil

**Moisture:** Wet to medium-wet

**Sun:** Full to partial sun

**Height:** 1-5 feet

**Zones:** 3-9



**Propagation:** Wind dispersed seed and rhizomes. Rhizomatous spread can be aggressive in moist and open environments.

**Disease:** Can develop patches of rust or powdery mildew.

**Fauna:** Flowers produce nectar and pollen attracting many pollinators; including bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, skippers, and beetles. Some insects feed destructively on the foliage, including leaf beetles, leaf-miners, gall fly and larva of various species. The Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkey feed on the seeds and foliage, while the Tree Sparrow and White-footed Mouse feed only on the seeds. Many mammalian herbivores will feed on the foliage including deer, rabbits, groundhogs, and herd farm animals. Deer damage can be severe with only short stems above the ground remaining.



Sources & photos:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphotrichum\\_lanceolatum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphotrichum_lanceolatum), [https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/pan\\_asterx.htm](https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/pan_asterx.htm), [https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=SYLA6](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=SYLA6)

**Indigenous Landscaping for Practical Uses, with Billie Warren** - presentation review by Kim Moor

The profoundly deep, but simple message contained in this presentation was this: Respecting the Earth... Native plants are better stewards of the earth than we can ever be. Native or Indigenous plants know this land well. Their roots run deep, and they help detox our soil and regenerate the earth - Indigenous sunflowers are great at this task & should be a staple in our landscape. We know native plants help the earth in many ways and we know all sorts of wildlife depend on them, but remember that people have coexisted with these plants for thousands of years as well. These plants have been and are still used by humans for not only sustainability & medicinal purposes, but shelter, textile, etc. They each have a purpose in some way & have a reason for being here.

These are a few of the plants that were discussed:

- Milkweed, or Nenwesh was and is a staple indigenous plant. It has many medicinal purposes including healing burns. If you know your milkweed patch well & have the knowledge, it can be an edible plant.
- Amowesh, means bee plant. Monarda, commonly called Wild Bergamot, as the native name suggests is a great plant that attracts bees. The plant has many medicinal purposes, and the leaves & flowers are edible. They are used in salads, for baking, or for making tea.
- Native goldenrods can be used as dye, and can be made into a vinegar. Leaves can be used to make a tea, or salad dressing. They are good medicinally for ailments of the respiratory system, and fevers.

Migwetch --- means Thank You!

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

A lot of us enjoy feeding our avian friends. They return the favor by visiting the land we inhabit; making us happy by hearing their sounds; showing off their beauty; and keeping us calm in the present moment. I think everyone agrees the same is true for native plants. Typically, we have bird feeders hanging from metal poles or from a tree that we have to refill and maintain to keep clean so that we do not unknowingly spread bird diseases.

Well, there's another way to feed birds and you don't ever have to refill. Planting native plants in your yard nourishes birds in the warmer months by attracting insects that birds love to eat. Some plants like Sand coreopsis, blueberry, and Service berry provide seeds and berries during these months. The winter birds also need food sources when the insects are no longer around. Plants, including bushes and trees, are there again to save the day, and not just because they provide shelter. Birds enjoy the seed heads, fruits, nuts and buds of plants during the coldest months. The more variety of plants you have in your yard, the more options there are for picky birds. This year during the snowiest weeks, I've observed birds eating seeds from Liatris, Black-eye susan, Purple coneflower and sunflowers to name a few. They've also consumed most of the shriveled berries that remain on the branches of Chokeberry shrubs.

The take home message is this. Please do not cut the stems of your plants until late Spring, not only to retain the seeds for the birds, but also for the insects that overwinter in their stems. It's okay to trim them once the temperatures are between 50F-60F. To diversify food choices for birds you may also want to add a few berry, fruit or nut bearing shrubs and trees. Please keep this in mind every time you place a plant in the ground, you are not just putting a plant in your yard, you are creating a mini ecosystem that benefits all of the beings that encompass your home.

**BOOK REVIEW** – by Steve Bender

"A movement has been born. And despite all the obstacles, all the sure limitations on success, it has raised hopes that restoration can be a powerful strategy for preserving biodiversity and the natural functioning of the biosphere." This was the outlook of William Stevens 30 years ago when he wrote *Miracle Under the Oaks: The Revival of Nature in America* [1]. It illustrates how the Chicago area was the origin of science and methods that drove the movement. The author cautioned that these are decades-long projects, with results coming far in the future. Well, here we are. Right now, right nearby, we can look over the results. Then we can read about the land as it was at the start, admiring the wearisome labor of native plant proponents and the intricate natural system they pieced together.

Do you remember when you first began hearing about prairie restoration? Maybe late in the 70's, when this book opens. Can you recall the local prairie champions Robert Betz and Ron Panzer (Northeastern Illinois University), Floyd Swink and Ray Schulenberg (Morton Arboretum), and Steve Packard (The Nature Conservancy)? They, and a host of volunteers (whom you may have met), figure heavily in the book. We see them inching forward as they cleared mountains of buckthorn, searched for remnant populations, negotiated with the Forest Preserve District, and contested the received wisdom of university professors. We get a close look at their plodding, steady progress.

Plants you will recognize are named, too--some appearing spontaneously after clearing, some reintroduced, and some revealed in early accounts of the prairie before agriculture intruded. In one case, an all-but-forgotten plant community, the black oak savanna, was identified, and the controversial plan to restore an authentic population relied on an obscure plant list published in 1846.

For many readers, the ambitions and strains endured by ambitious organizations of any size--a local volunteer group, The Nature Conservancy, academic science--will carry the story. One leader who was alternately a visionary and a disturbance prompted the assessment:

*It's hard for an organization to have its change agents out front contradicting its accustomed values. But you've got to do it. Otherwise, you don't get breakthroughs.* [2]

In fact, telling this important history by recounting the work at a particular place and its influence on people near and far is the strength in this writing.

[1] Stevens William K, *Miracle Under the Oaks: the Revival of Nature in America*, New York: Pocket Books 1995, page 155 ISBN: 067178045X 9780671780456 OCLC Number: 7613964

[2] Stevens, page 292