

NATIVE NEWS

Gibson Woods Wild Ones

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

June 2020

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

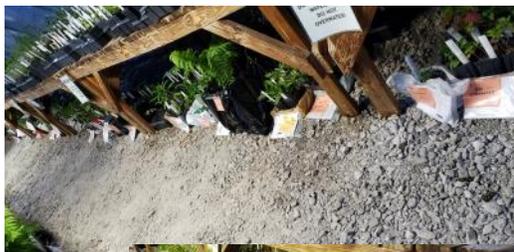
THANK YOU!

We at Wild Ones want to send a huge THANK YOU to everyone who placed pre-orders and came to our curbside Native Plant Sale on Saturday, May 16th. The weather cooperated & things went very smoothly.

We appreciate your patronage & your understanding about the way we chose to do it this year. Our volunteers worked extra hard (even into the evening at times) to pull this off. We appreciate the extra effort!!

We also want to thank Oak Ridge Prairie for hosting us, and Gibson Woods for everything that they do for us!

On behalf of all of us at Wild Ones - Sincerely, Kim Moor



Plant Sale 2020



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.

Please note change of date for our June meeting

June 13, 2020

Garden Walk at Tri-Town Safety Village Butterfly Garden

Bring your own snack & lawn chair
Non-Members Welcome!

July - August, 2020

Enjoy your Summer
See you in September

September, 12 2020 (2nd Saturday)

To be Determined

October 3, 2020

To be Determined

November 7, 2020

To be Determined

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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>

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WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Linda Fisher

JUNE 13th MEETING

Our June meeting will be held one week later than originally scheduled. This meeting will be held at the Tri-Town Safety Village Butterfly Garden. The address is 1350 Eagle Ridge Drive, Schererville, IN (Behind Menards in Schererville).

We should bring our own snacks & beverage, and please bring a lawn chair. We will have a short business meeting under our new Wild Ones canopies, and then will enjoy the beauty of the Butterfly Garden. We will be able to drive into the 'Village', so don't worry about a far walk from the parking lot to the garden, which is located behind the Safety Village.

Volunteer opportunities at the Butterfly Garden will be available this Summer, so please consider spending some time assisting with the up-keep of this garden.

You do not need to be a member to attend. Social distancing & masks are encouraged

OUR PLANTS

Due to continuing social distancing recommendations, a decision has been made to keep our plants at the Greenhouse this Summer. A shade cloth will be installed to help keep the temperature and sun intensity down. Keeping them there will eliminate the need for a coordinated effort to move them now, and then again this Fall.

A schedule has been set for Summer watering of our plants. During the heat of the summer, and considering that our plants will stay in the Greenhouse, there are still opportunities to volunteer. If you are interested in watering & weeding, please contact Mickey Taylor at micktec24@yahoo.com or call her at 219-742-2775.

At our June meeting, we will discuss options for selling some our plants during the Summer. Bring your ideas with you!

SYMPOSIUM

We regret to inform you that we will be cancelling our 2020 Symposium scheduled for September 26th of this year. We will do our best (if things get back to normal) to reschedule for next year. Taking this 1 year hiatus will give us an opportunity to plan our best Symposium ever!

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.

Think Habitat, Not Grass

Lower Maintenance Costs

Non-native plants (lawn grass) generally require a great deal of water, fertilizer and human labor to maintain. Native plants have evolved in our area so they are better adapted to our soils and weather. In addition, their deep root systems allow them to grow well on poor soils and do not require fertilizers or watering. Therefore, native plants provide significant long-term cost savings.

- Cost to Mow/Maintain Turf Grass: Four acres pre-conversion cost \$6,200/year.
- Actual Ongoing Maintenance Costs (weed control, periodic disturbance, additional species plantings) and Savings (compared to pre-conversion costs of 4 acres):

2017: \$465	Savings: \$5,735	2016: \$1,919	Savings: \$4,281
2015: \$575	Savings: \$5,625	2014: \$1,287	Savings: \$4,913
2013: \$1,250	Savings: \$4,950	2012: \$920	Savings: \$5,280
2011: \$1,670	Savings: \$4,530	2010: \$970	Savings: \$5,230
2009: \$320	Savings: \$5,880	2008: \$690	Savings: \$5,510
2007: \$920	Savings: \$5,280	2006: \$420	Savings: \$5,780

12 - Year Cost Savings = \$62,994

Filter Pollutants: Unlike the shallow root systems of non-native turf grass, the extensive, deep root systems of the native plants filter out chemicals and pollutants before reaching our retention pond.

Water test results comparing vegetated pond to standard pond (2 blocks away).

- Nitrogen / Nitrates: 59% lower
- Phosphates: 17% lower
- Dissolved Oxygen: 49% higher
- Water Clarity/Turbidity (Secchi): 57% better

The retention pond with native plant buffer is much healthier, and does not become stagnant as in the past.

Prevent Erosion: The extensive root system of native plants allows them to absorb and store great amounts of water which plays an important function in preventing flooding and erosion.

Erosion is no longer an issue at the retention pond.

Algae Control: The native plants do not need to be fertilized and absorb many of the chemicals that encourage algae growth.

Algae does not grow on the pond as in the past which has reduced the need for chemical treatments. (Further cost savings of \$400 a year).

Nuisance Geese Control: Buffer strips around retention ponds are effective in reducing nuisance geese.

Geese are no longer an issue around the vegetated retention pond.

Native Plants Attract Wildlife:

The native plants provide needed habitat which attracts a significant amount of wildlife to the community. Maximize the number of species of native plants that are different in terms of timing of blooms and fruit, height, and structure.

A wide variety of wildlife is now found in and around the nature park

Shirley Heinze - Bringing Nature Home (excerpt from an article written by Sarah Barnes)

“We invited one of our recent Bringing Nature Home program awardees, Karl Ackermann, to share his thoughts and his path to gardening with native plants. Karl’s home garden in suburban Munster, Indiana is an exceptional one. From the front curb to the backyard, Karl’s garden is lush with plants, trees, and shrubs that are native to the area, as well as the birds, bees, and butterflies that are drawn to them.

Karl is not your average home gardener. He is the president and treasurer of the Gibson Woods Wild Ones chapter in Northwest Indiana. In case you aren’t familiar with the organization, Wild Ones is a not-for-profit, environmental, educational, and advocacy organization. It has over 4,000 members in 18 states. The group promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to encourage biodiversity through the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities. Karl was introduced to Shirley Heinze Land Trust through his affiliation with the Wild Ones. The two groups work on projects together, aligned with a common mission.”

For the full article: <https://heinzetrust.org/2020/04/06/how-backyard-native-plant-gardening-can-help-save-the-natural-world/>

For more information about applying for the Bringing Nature Home Award: <https://heinzetrust.org/bringingnaturehome/>

THINGS TO DO

It seems like just about every event has been canceled this Summer. However, many online educational talks are taking place. Please click the links listed below to see some that have come our way...

The Central Wisconsin chapter of Wild Ones’ chapter meeting scheduled for **June 9th at 5:30pm** will be done virtually through Zoom. A few chapter updates will be covered, and then will have a butterfly-focused meeting with two presentations:

Best practices for raising monarchs indoors - Paul Skawinski, CW Wild Ones Chapter President

Karner blue butterfly conservation in Wisconsin - Chelsea Weinzinger, DNR Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery Coordinator

This meeting will be open to the public, so you are welcome to share the meeting registration link with your friends and family that may be interested in learning more about monarchs and karner blue butterflies in Wisconsin.

To register: <https://uwsp.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJUpeivqTorHNDvGKQebPwV0WL8-pxfkpBZ>

Wild Ones is co-sponsoring a national webinar series in conjunction with New Directions in American Landscape. There are ten live, interactive webinars featuring a renowned group of instructors including Doug Tallamy, Wild Ones Lifetime Honorary Director, and Larry Weaner, founder of New Directions in American Landscape.

The instructors will illustrate landscaping techniques that make our little corners of the world more ecologically sound and enjoyable to experience. Whether you choose to learn how pollinators, people, and plant communities interact; how to share concepts of ecoliteracy with your children; or how to collect your own seeds, this series will cover an eclectic variety of topics while generally emphasizing the importance of place-based ecological landscapes.

This is a great opportunity to learn about ecologically sound landscaping right from your own home!

To learn more about the webinars and to register go to:
<https://ndal.org/webinars-for-home-gardeners-educators>

30-minute webinars - FREE

60-minute webinars - \$25.00