

NATIVE NEWS

Gibson Woods Wild Ones

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

March 2020

Volume 21, Issue 3

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:

Even though the days are getting a little longer, it's still cold and we'll probably still get more snow. It could be quite a while before our winter is truly over - but can you feel Spring in the air? I felt it a couple weeks ago on a Sunday. It was one of our colder days, but the sun was shining and I just FELT it for some reason. And then I came across something that Amanda Smith from IN Nature wrote on Valentine's day that I thought was worth sharing. It explains this phenomenon ...

Did you feel it today; that feeling that spring is approaching? If you did, you aren't alone and you were feeling deep evolutionary reactions to our Star, the Sun. Light is a powerful force, creating hormonal changes deep inside animal pituitary glands and even causing reactions inside our native plants. These reactions occur due to photoperiodism, the responses of organisms to the amount of daylight, and one of the main drivers of seasonal changes. Photoperiodism impacts things from the migration of birds, the emergence of insects, and the budding of plants.

Mid-February is the traditional time when animals begin to respond to the approaching season in this latitude both consciously and subconsciously. The expanding length of daylight cues mating responses in several common species like cardinals, blue jays, bluebirds, and chickadees.

Birds that have gathered in larger winter flocks begin to break away as couples, and pair off in search of nesting sites. Look for bluebirds to start checking out nesting boxes, male cardinals will begin offering carefully selected seeds to female cardinals in hopes of reestablishing pair-bonds, birds begin dusting off their mating songs and can be heard practicing on sunny days, and many birds will begin their first of two molts in order to look fresh for spring.

Our earliest migrating songbirds are on their way to us or have already begun to arrive. Meadowlarks, red-wing blackbirds, swallows, cowbirds, and phoebes are or will be arriving in a few short weeks. The insect population is slowly responding, too which will be critical for these bird's subsistence. Pupating moths are stirring, adult butterflies that survived the winter will begin to take flight, and aquatic insects like midges will begin to emerge in mass.

Our plants are responding to the increase in daylight as well. The increased sunlight warms the bark of trees, spurring the transportation of sap from the roots toward the buds of trees like maples. A few inches below the leaf litter of the forest floor, wildflowers are aware of the seasonal cues of longer days and are beginning to respond. Skunk cabbage is already blooming and creating mini biospheres for spiders, beetles, and other insects through thermogenesis. Changes are happening even in our trees that leaf out in mid spring.

It's no coincidence that Valentine's Day is observed around the ides of February. Several cultures throughout history held celebrations around this time that centered on fertility, pair-bonding, and celebrating the very seasonal changes that we felt today. As was the Catholic way, it's believed Saint Valentine's Day was likely inserted as a celebration to provide a non-pagan alternative to these non-Christian traditions for their hopeful converts.

Spring was certainly in the chilly air today. For those of you that responded to it, that really "felt it," you were connecting with something deeper than just appreciating a lovely day. You were experiencing something cellular that we share with the other living creatures. I find that really amazing!

Thanks Amanda, for this insightful information!

Kim Moor

(click [here](#) to join the IN Nature Facebook group)

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.

March 7, 2020

Susan MiHalo, Nature Conservancy
Invasive and Exotic Species of Indiana
Hosts: Cheryl Tolbert, Cindy Pecor

April 4, 2020

Plant Sale Preparation
Plant 'Fashion Show'

Hosts: Karen Folta, Shelley Fentress

May 2, 2020

**** PLANT SALE ****

Pot Luck for workers

June 6, 2020

Garden Walk
Details to be determined
Non-Members Welcome!

July - August, 2020

Enjoy your Summer
See you in September

Inside this Issue:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Greeting from the President | 1 |
| Announcements | 2 |
| Plant Study | 3 & 4 |
| February Review | 5 |
| Climate Corner | 5 |
| Greenhouse Beauty | 6 |
| Things to Do | 6 |

Join us on Facebook

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

2019 Officers**President:**

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

Vice -President:

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

Secretary:

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

Treasurer:

Karl Ackermann

Program Coordinator:

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

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:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Leslie Fahlsing
Deborah Kellenburger & Ken Whalen
Samantha & Justin Kowalski
Betty Luckett
Alan Shaw

MARCH 28TH @ WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

Karl Ackermann will be speaking at Wild Birds Unlimited in Schererville on Saturday, March 28th at 8:30 a.m. He will be presenting *Native Plants 101*. If you plan on attending or if you know someone who would benefit from this presentation, please contact Wild Birds Unlimited at (219) 319-0126. Seating is limited. Our upcoming Plant Sale will be promoted.

WEST COOK WILD ONES CONFERENCE - APRIL 4TH

The West Cook Wild Ones chapter is hosting '*Naturally Beautiful*' conference on Saturday 4/4/20 at Unity Temple, 875 Lake St, Oak Park, IL 60301. This is the same day as our meeting but doesn't start until 1:15. If you are interested in going, Wild Ones member price is \$15, non-member price is \$20. Prices at the door are \$20/\$30. Click here for more information or to register online at westcook.wildones.org/events/naturallybeautifulconference2020/. Let Kim Moor know if you would like to mail a check or call for more information.

12:45–Doors open

1:15-2:15 –“Building Neighborhood Ecosystems” Annamaria Leon & Ken Williams

2:30-4:00–“Nature’s Best Hope” by Doug Tallamy

4:00-4:30-Book signing

BOARD MEETING

Directly after our March 7th Business Meeting will be a Board Meeting for all officers, and any member who is interested in attending. The main goal of this meeting is to present and decide on some new Chair positions. A couple examples are Community Project Coordinator, and Event Coordinator. Please plan on staying for this meeting if you have any interest in helping to structure our chapter into the future. All thoughts & ideas are welcome, but please be prepared to help implement your idea. We will work on forming committees in the near future. Don't forget - Gibson Woods Wild Ones is OUR chapter & we need you!

EDIE’S CORNER - RECYCLE!

Edie Bukwa: is still in need of newspaper for her elderly dog.

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.

White Elephant: We will hold a White Elephant sale during our Plant Sale. All proceeds goes 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.

Plant Study—New for 2020 by Jake Cseke

Fringed Gentian - *Gentianopsis crinita*,

Family: Gentian (*Gentianaceae*)

Genus: *Lysimachia*

Gentianopsis crinita, commonly known as Fringed Gentian, is a biennial that can grow up to three feet tall. A rosette of leaves form near the ground during the first year, while in the second year it bolts sending leaved stems ending in flowers ranging 1-3" in height. The flowers are around 2 inches in length and contain four rounded lobes with fringed ends. The blooming period lasts 1.5 to 2 months and begins in early to mid-fall. Roots consisting of a branching taproot are found shallow in the ground. It reproduces by seed, which are tiny and contained within a long capsule.

Preferred habitat is moist to wet sandy prairie sites, edges of sandy swales and fens, open wooded swamps, wooded ravines, ditches, and open moist areas along sandy trails.

Garden Uses: An upright vivid purple flower. Plant near other plants of at least the same height to help support the stems, otherwise they will sprawl.

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Points of Interest: | Very showy unique flower. Long bloom time. |
| Bloom Time: | Early to Mid-Fall |
| Flower Color: | Medium to Dark Blue, some say Purple |
| Height and Spread: | 1-3' Tall |
| Light: | Full or Partial Sun |
| Soil Moisture: | Wet - Mesic (moist) |
| Soil: | Calcareous, sandy soils with a neutral pH |
| Maintenance: | Low |
| Attracts: | Primarily Bumblebees |



Photo Credit: John Hilty
(www.illinoiswildflowers.info)

Sources: www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx

Striped or Spotted Wintergreen - *Chimaphila maculata*

Family: Wintergreen (Pyrolaceae)

Genus: *Chimaphila*

Chimaphila maculata, commonly known as either Striped or Spotted Wintergreen, has evergreen leaves and a woody stem. Including the inflorescence, the total plant height varies from 6 to 10 inches, while without it the height varies from 3 to 5 inches. The attractive 1 to 3 inch dark green leaves are ovate and have white veins. Each plant has an upright flowering stalk containing 3 to 5 white flowers each facing toward the ground. The flowers are no larger than ¾ of an inch.

The blooming period begins in late spring to early summer and lasts around two weeks.

It reproduces primarily by the white stolons on its fibrous roots. Seed germination is difficult, so it is best to use the roots, making sure you have stolons.

Preferred habitat ranges from sandy to rocky upland forests where oak is a dominant canopy tree.

Garden Uses: Attractive leaves year round. Leaves do not smell like mint.

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Points of Interest: | Fragrant and attractive flowers. |
| Bloom Time: | Late Spring to Early Summer |
| Flower Color: | White |
| Height and Spread: | 6-10 Inches Tall |
| Light: | Partial Sun to Medium Shade |
| Soil Moisture: | Dry to Moist |
| Soil: | Acidic with some Rocks or Sand |
| Maintenance: | Low |
| Attracts: | Bumblebees and Honeybees |



Photo Credits: Paul Showers
(Copyright © 2016)

Sources: www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx

Plant Study—New for 2020 by Kim Moor

Yellow Trout-lily - *Erythronium americanum*

Family: Liliaceae (Lily)

Genus: *Erythronium* (Fawn lily)

Also known as American Trout-lily, Eastern Trout-lily, Yellow Dogtooth Violet, Adder's Tongue. A pair of brownish-mottled leaves sheath the base of a stalk that bears a solitary, nodding flower, yellow inside, bronzy outside. This colony-forming perennial sends up two, 3-6 in., elliptic, maroon-mottled leaves and a slightly taller stalk bearing a single, nodding, yellow flower. Petals and sepals are bent backwards exposing six brown stamens. Single-leaved, non-flowering plants also occur, either too young or too crowded to flower.

Recognized by its brown-mottled leaves, this is one of our most common spring ephemeral wildflowers, and it is found in sizable colonies. The common name (Dogtooth Violet) refers to the toothlike shape of the white underground bulb. The name Trout Lily (a more suitable name since the flower is not a Violet) refers to the similarity between the leaf markings and those of the brown or brook trout.

Trout lily must be planted where it will receive ample sun in early spring. It makes an attractive seasonal ground cover. A leafy wintercover, left in place in spring, is desirable. Clumps of plants that include many leaves and few flowers should be divided.

Native Habitat: Moist, deciduous woodlands & openings

Light Requirement: Part Shade

Size: 4-10 inches

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: Mar, Apr, May

Soil Moisture: Moist

Soil pH: Acidic (pH<6.8)

Soil Description: Moist, rich soils.



Photo credit: [Sherman, Doug](#)

Source: https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=ERAM5

Prairie Lily - *Lilium philadelphicum*

Family: Liliaceae (Lily Family)

Genus: *Lilium* (Lily)

The Prairie or Wood Lily's stalk rises 1-3 ft. and is topped by upright, cup-shaped, purple-spotted, red-orange flowers. 1-5 funnel-shaped flowers, mostly red to orange with purplish-brown spots, on an erect stem with whorled leaves. There are usually one to four flowers per plant. The leaves of this perennial are long and narrow and arranged in whorls. The fruit is a pod. A variety of this species, found in the Midwest, has leaves scattered along the stem. Since there are different regional varieties of this species, it is important to use a reputable supplier as close to home as possible. Cross-pollination is necessary for wood lilies to produce seed, so if seed is desired, plant several bulbs. Bulbs may require protection from rodents.

Many tribes gathered the bulbs of wood lily for food and medicine. The bulbs are said to have an excellent flavor. As well, the abundant, nutritious pollen can be dusted on various dishes. Medicinally, the bulbs were once cooked and then applied to sores, bruises, swellings or wounds. They were also used to make a medicinal tea for treating stomach problems, coughs and fevers.

Native Habitat: Deciduous forest openings; prairies

Light Requirement: Sun, Part Shade, Shade

Size: 1-3 ft.

Bloom Color: Red, Orange

Bloom Time: Jul, Aug

Soil Moisture: Dry

Soil Description: Well-drained, humus-rich soils

Attracts: Birds, Hummingbirds



Photo credit: [Wasowski, Sally and Andy](#)

Source: https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=LIPH

REVIEW OF FEBRUARY PRESENTATION

Aaron Stump from the Indiana Wildlife Federation gave us a presentation about wild-life friendly habitats. Some important things to keep in mind while homeowners are planning their landscaping:

Native plants are the foundation of conservation. Wildlife has coevolved with native plants, and in many ways depend on them. A good example is a certain species of bees (*Andrena erigeniae*) is a specialist pollinator that seeks only Spring Beauty. Did you know that this plant produces pink pollen?

Biodiversity is key. 70% of our insects are plant specific. A diverse selection of plants, trees, shrubs will help all of our beneficial insects survive.

To have a healthy habitat yard, you need four basic things -

- Food - berries, fruit, and nuts, and native plants that will attract and feed insects, which will feed birds, small mammals & amphibians. Some of these creatures will help control pesky insects like mosquitoes.
- Water - birdbaths, ponds, an artificial wetland or rain garden are all good choices.
- Shelter - trees, shrubs, rock piles, brush piles, hollow logs, tall grasses, or bird houses provides protection from weather and predators. A good wildlife habitat will contain a variety of these shelters.
- Nesting Place - ensure future generations of wildlife by providing good habitat for courtship and nesting. Natural sites include snags, dense shrubs, evergreens, rock piles, brush piles, ponds, and trees. Supplement these with birdhouses and nesting shelves in areas inaccessible to predators.

Invasive plants must also be avoided or controlled if they are already on your property. Remember when callary pear trees were first introduced? They were supposed to be sterile trees. Well, guess what? Taking a line from Jurassic Park, 'life finds a way'. Those trees are now multiplying faster than can be controlled in our natural areas. Invasives crowd our natives. Many bloom and leaf out earlier than our natives, which not only crowd them out, but shades out the natives when it's their time to naturally wake up in Spring.

Learn more, become a member, or certify your wildlife habitat by visiting <https://www.indianawildlife.org/>

BOOK NOTE -

At last month's meeting, everyone's attention was arrested by the jumping carp. Knowing pieces of the story, some of you would be intrigued by the whole, sad, decades-long saga. Andrew Reeves describes it for us in *Overrun* (2019).

He tells it from several angles. Of course he has plenty to say on the biology of these animals. And he lays out the history of their conquest of waterways through the Central South and Midwest. He portrays a fascinating mix of characters who figure in this history--from fish farmers to bargemen, from salvage fishermen to fisheries biologists. Among the biologists are groundbreaking geneticists at Notre Dame.

And Reeves does an exceptional job of tracking policies and plans developed for protecting the public waters. Did you know the carp highway to Lake Erie stops (for now) at Ft. Wayne? This epic tour of resource management decision-making has all the attendant uncertainty, halting progress, hopes, and dread entailed in steering the future of a vast ecological network. Read the book for a region-wide view of a gravely distorted biological system and human's place in it. This is more than a fish story. Here we're reminded how Man is an element in Nature.

--Steve Bender

CLIMATE CORNER - by Jake Cseke

Below are three things that each of us can do to mediate the effects of climate change. These actions support local native plant populations that will, in turn, support native insects, birds and other wildlife and increase their resiliency to climate change impacts.

Replace your grass lawn using many species of native plants. Plant long-lived trees, flowering/fruited shrubs and both native grasses and forbs. These absorb and sequester far more Carbon than your lawn; require less artificial inputs (mowing, pesticides and herbicides); and provide much needed habitat.

Grow native plants containing the most local genes you can get. Local plants have adapted to the specific conditions in our area through unique sets of genes. As our climate continues to change it will be important to have as many locally adapted plants as possible to increase their chance of success.

Advocate for both of the above and support local conservation efforts. The more of us that spread the word, the bigger the impact we can have. Additionally, you can donate your time or your money to local non-profits or government agencies that aim to protect the remaining natural areas in our highly developed region.

GREENHOUSE BEAUTY



Left to right - 1. Sensitive Fern (Onoclea sensibilis) 2. Partridgeberry (Mitchella repens) 3. Jacobs Ladder (Polemonium reptans) 4. Plains Coreopsis (Coreopsis palmata) 5. Sharp-lobed Hepatica (Hepatica actiloba)

THINGS TO DO

PROGRAMS & HIKES

GIBSON WOODS
6201 Parrish Ave.
Hammond, IN

OAK RIDGE PRAIRIE
301 South Colfax Street
Griffith, IN 46323

Name That Tune: Frogs and Toads

Gibson Woods Nature Preserve
Wednesdays, March 4, 11, and 18 from 9:30 -11 AM

Frogs and toads make all sorts of unusual sounds. Learn the peeps, croaks, grumbles and groans of the Calumet Region's amphibian crooners. Pre-registration required, call 219-844-3188. Program is designed for adults.

Bird Migration Presentation

Gibson Woods Nature Preserve - 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Friday March 6 –Raptors
Friday, March 20- Sparrows and Finches
Friday, April 3 – Warblers and Vireos

The excitement of spring migration will soon be upon us. Join a park naturalist and fellow bird enthusiasts to learn more about what birds will be moving through our area. At each program, a video and slide show on a specific group of birds will be offered. The presentations will feature many tips on identifications. Ages 12 + Pre-registrations required; please call 219-844-3188.

Woodcock Watch

Wednesday, March 25 at 7:15 PM
Oak Ridge Praire

Known for their spectacular flight and distinctive call, the American Woodcock is recognized as one of the earliest signs of spring! Join us at dusk at Oak Ridge Praire and usher in spring with American Woodcock. Pre-registration required; please call 219-844-3188. Homeschool, scout and other groups are welcome to attend, but families must register individually. (Rain Date Wednesday, April 1)

Spring Weekly Bird Migration Hike
Gibson Woods Nature Preserve
Wednesdays April 15, 22, 29

May 6, 13, 20, 27 from 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Spring time is the perfect time of the year to see a variety of migrating bird species including thrushers, warblers, sparrows and vireos. Walk with a park naturalist to see who is visiting the Woods. Program designed for adults.

Spring Perennial Swap

Deep River County Park
Saturday, April 25, 2020, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Spring is the perfect time to spice and change up your garden. At our plant swap happening Saturday, April 25 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!

I Spy A Dragonfly

Gibson Woods Nature Preserve
Tuesday, April 28 from 9:30-11:30 AM

Come and learn about the structure and behavior of the dragonfly as well as the various species of dragonflies common to Northwest Indiana. Pre-registrations required; please call 219-844-3188.

2020



GARDEN SHOW

Presented by the La Porte County Master Gardeners

SATURDAY, MARCH 21st, 8AM-4PM, CDT
KEYNOTE SPEAKER-BETH BOTTS
SPEAKERS, KIDS FUN ZONE,
VENDORS, FOOD
Adults \$10

www.lpmastergardener.com
Children under 12 FREE

Michigan City High School
8466 W. Pains Rd
Michigan City, IN

For more information: Tina at Purdue Extension (219) 324-9407