

# NATIVE NEWS

## Gibson Woods Wild Ones

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

March, 2018

Volume 19, 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.

### THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

Hello Friends,

During this last cold & snowy month, I've had some extra time to spend perusing through a lot of interesting articles, nature posts from some of my favorite Facebook pages, and playing with my new camera. The latter is in hopes that I can perfect some new photo taking skills before the world gets beautiful again (not that the snowy landscape of late hasn't been pretty at times). I have this nagging desire to finally figure out how to take nice detailed close-up photos of bugs, butterflies, and flowers, as well as figuring out how to take good scenery shots. These activities are my way of fighting the winter blues & to start getting excited for Spring!



Another thing that's been keeping me busy is Wild Ones at the greenhouse. Believe it or not, some of the plants are starting to bloom already! Check out this little baby Jacobs Ladder, and the Pennsylvania Sedge. It kind of fills a person's heart with joy when you come across these little discoveries.

Something else came up a week or so ago. First, I saw an article on Facebook about the sale of invasive plants in Indiana. It's still happening, even though the DNR works hard at trying to pass laws that prohibit the sale of the most invasive ones. But they need our help. Ellen Jacquart of the Nature Conservancy spoke at the Indiana Dunes visitor center recently about this problem and what we can do to help get the current bill passed. Several Wild Ones members attended this presentation, and I heard good feedback about the information that was provided. I've posted the Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society announcement about this same thing in it's entirety on page 5. Is it worth the effort to contact our Governor? Of course. Is there more that we can do? Lets have a discussion...

Kim Moor

### MARCH PRESENTATION: ACCESS TO GARDENING

Zully JF Alvarado has been an advocate for thirty-plus years in behalf of people with disabilities. A wheelchair-user herself, she has served as Board Member of numerous organizations, including Access Living of Chicago, Chicago Community Trust Disability Donors Fund, and Dunes Learning Center. In her current hometown of Gary she is active in civic affairs, and was responsible for the installation of an accessible boat launch in the Grand Calumet Lagoon in Gary.

Zully is also a certified Master Gardener. Using her knowledge of plants and landscaping, she has undertaken to create, along the bank of the aforementioned lagoon, an accessible garden in keeping with Universal Design Principles, that will make the joys and rewards of working and relaxing in nature available to one and all. Zully is a strong advocate for making services and spaces accessible to all.

Please join us in welcoming Zully as she shares her first-hand knowledge of gardening with disabilities. We will learn some helpful tips as she presents us with some of the opportunities her hard work & dedication have helped create - making this community a better place for all of us.

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 3, 2018

Zully Alvarado, Changes with Causes - *Access to Gardening*  
Host: Colleen Travis

### April 7, 2018

Mickey Taylor & Company -  
*New Plants for 2018*  
Hosts: John Ploof, Mickey Taylor

### May 5, 2018

**NATIVE PLANT SALE**  
Pot luck

### June 2, 2018

Cathy Misch, Buckley Homestead  
*Bringing Natives to Your Park*  
Hosts: Maria Azcona, Dawn Vanzo

### July & August, 2018

No meetings

Have a nice Summer!

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**Join us on Facebook**

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

***2018 Officers*****President:**

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

**Vice -President:**

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

**Secretary:**

Barb Hargrove/Tonia Flowers  
(219) 742-3936/ (219)741-6392  
barway22@aol.com /  
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:**

Marilynn Thompson  
219-227-8374

**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****MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Just a reminder that as of July 1, 2017 dues for membership is now \$40.00 per household. Fixed income or student is \$25.00.

We would prefer if you are renewing your membership to make your check out to **Wild Ones and mark your check 'renew-chapter 38' with your name, address, phone number and e-mail.**

**Please send to: Wild Ones, 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd. Neenah, WI 54956**

You will receive 3 notices from the National office via e-mail. If you don't have a computer, you can call me at 219-865-2679 and I can tell you when your dues are due. Thank you!  
Pat Rosenwinkel - Membership Chairperson

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Eric Bird      Paula Nevers      Craig Zandstra**

**NATIVE PLANTS - 101 PRESENTATION**

Please join Karl Ackermann at Wild Birds Unlimited in Schererville on Saturday, March 17th at 9:00 a.m. for his *Native Plants-101* presentation about "why" we should use Native Plants in our home landscaping.

**APRIL PRESENTATION - VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED**

A volunteer or two are needed to help 'show' plants for the April presentation of *New Plants for 2018*, presented by Mickey Taylor.

**TRI-TOWN BUTTERFLY GARDEN**

For those who are interested in volunteering for our sponsorship at the Tri-town Butterfly Garden - training/orientation is coming up. Stay tuned for details.

**TRI-TOWN BUTTERFLY GARDEN**

The Lake County Master Gardener committee for Habitat for Humanity is looking for gently used tools to give to new homeowners this year. There are 7 or 8 houses scheduled to be occupied this year. most of the homeowners have no idea or experiences with landscapes or plants. All donations are greatly appreciated & can be given to Wild Ones member, Tonia Flowers.

**PLANT SALE/SYMPOSIUM INFO. COMING SOON...**

\* May 5th Plant Sale lists will be available soon, as well as our Sept. 29th Symposium registration forms. These will be emailed or mailed to all interested parties. Please let Kim Moor know if you need extra printed copies of Plant Sale flyers or Symposium registrations for distribution to clubs or local businesses.\*

## PLANT STUDY: New Plants for 2018 - by Mickey Taylor

### Round-headed Bush Clover (*Lespedeza capitata*)

Family: Pea Family (Fabaceae)

Genus: *Lespedeza*

Round-headed Bush Clover is a native perennial. It stands 2-4 ft tall, has a slender stem covered with silvery hairs, is unbranched except where little stems hold the flowers at the upper end of the plant. The trifoliate leaves occur alternately along the stem on short petioles, and the clover-like greenish white flowers are grouped in clusters along the upper part of the stem.

*Lespedeza capitata* prefers full sun to medium to dry soil conditions. It is able to adapt to different types of soil containing significant amounts of sand, loam, clay, or rocky material. This plant adds nitrogen to the soil, it's easy to grow, and it has very good drought tolerance.

Round-headed Bush Clover can be found growing in most counties of Illinois except in the southeast section of the state. It can be observed growing in mesic to dry black soil prairies, sand prairies, gravel prairies, hill prairies, sandy savannas, loamy savannas, hill prairies, lime stone glades and sand dunes near Lake Michigan, and open areas along railroads and roadsides.



This is a strong, healthy beneficial plant. The flowers act like a magnet drawing long- and short-tongued bees to visit. Butterflies may suck nectar from the flowers but they are not effective pollinators. Caterpillars of several species of skippers (Southern Cloudywing, Northern Cloudywing) as well as several caterpillars of moths (Bella Moth, Black-Spotted Prominent) feed on the foliage. Other insects drawn to feed on Round-headed Bush Clover include Eastern-Tailed Blue and *Lespedeza* webworm. Deer, rabbits, groundhogs, and livestock are attracted to this plant for the protein it provides. And during the winter, the seeds are eaten by Slate-Colored Junco.

- Bloom Time: July-September
- Height: 2-4 ft
- Light conditions: Full sun-part shade
- Water: Medium-dry
- Soil: Loam, clay, sand, rocky material; well-drained soil
- Flower: Creamy white with a bit of purple at the throat; flowers lasts about a month
- Attracts: Long and short-tongued bees, Andrenid bees, butterflies, Birds. Seeds produce food for birds and other wildlife.

Note: Adds nitrogen to the soil, easy to grow. Has good drought resistance although some lower leaves may turn yellow and fall off.

Points of Interest: As the single headed fruits develop, the heads turn a distinctive tawny brown, making the plants an attractive winter feature.

Sources: [www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie); [www.wildflower.org/plants](http://www.wildflower.org/plants)

Doug Ladd and Frank Oberle, Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers: A Field Guide to Common Wildflowers and Plants of the Prairie Midwest (Guilford, Connecticut: Morris Book Publishing, LLC, 185.

Photo Credits: Hilty, Illinois Wildflowers, [www.illinoiswildflowers.info](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info)

## Maple Leaved Alum Root, Hairy Alum Root (*Huechera villosa*)

*Huechera villosa* is part of the Saxifragaceae family; the Genus is *Huechera*. The genus is named for Johann Heinrich von Heucher a physician, botanist, and medicinal plant expert at Wittenberg University, Germany. There are 32 species found in North America. It is native to Indiana.

Maple Leaved Alum root is a showy plant. The leaf is large, green and feels velvety to the touch, hairy, and sharply toothed having a similar shape to that of a maple tree leaf. The 5" wide leaves form a round basal clump that will grow to be 18-24" tall and as wide. Bloom time is July through September, when small (¼") whitish to pinkish flowers appear on tall wiry, rusty brown stems that rise above the mound of basal leaves reaching a height of 36".

It is best grown in organically rich, humusy, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. This species has good drought tolerance and seems to do better in hot, humid summers than most *Huechera*, although there may be some foliage decline if the plant is allowed to totally dry out. If this plant is to be grown in full sun, consistent moisture is a necessary. Removing the stems of faded flowers will give Maple Leaved Alum Root an opportunity to rebloom. In cold winter climates, the amount of retained leaf color will depend on the severity of the temperatures. Mulch applied after the ground freezes may help prevent root heaving. It is recommended to divide clumps in the spring every 3-4 years.

- Zone: 3-8
- Bloom Time: July-September
- Bloom Color: White or pink
- Height: 1.5-2.5 ft
- Width: 1.5-2.5 ft
- Light conditions: Full sun to part shade
- Water: Medium
- Soil Conditions: Organically rich, humusy, well-drained
- Maintenance: Low
- Attracts: Humming birds



Sources: [www.missouribotanicalgarden.org](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org);  
[www.prairienursery.com](http://www.prairienursery.com) Photo Credits: Missouri Botanical Garden

### SPRING EPHEMERALS - Reviewed by Kim Moor

Victoria Jostes spoke with us at our February meeting about Spring ephemerals. She went through a multitude of them, making me wonder where I can get my hands on some that I've not really been aware of before. She also shared some interesting information that I will pass onto you using my own interpretation - I did a little googling to check that I got it right ...

Some of the best places to see Spring ephemerals in our area are – Deep River, Chicago Botanic Garden, Bloom Preserve, & Taltree. - Gibson Woods have them too!

Myrmecochory - many species of ephemerals rely on ants to move their seeds from place to place. They encourage the ants to do this by attaching appendages to their seeds called elaiosomes. Elaiosomes are little fleshy structures that are packed full of lipids and proteins. Foraging ants take these seeds back to their colonies where the elaiosome is eaten and the seed is then discarded. Ants have special chambers in their colonies for trash. They are basically little underground compost heaps. Many of our ephemerals have ultraviolet lines going up through their flower petals. Bees and other insects can see ultraviolet colors that we can see only with the help of special equipment. These ultraviolet 'landing strips' provide flowers with an evolutionary advantage, increasing the chance that insects will pollinate the flowers successfully.

There are many ephemerals that have 'stinky' flowers, such as wild ginger, spring cress, skunk cabbage. Mammals don't bother them much, but since they smell so much like something else, flies are attracted to them. They walk around checking the flowers out, and inadvertently have pollinated the plant.

## Notice from Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society - follow the link to their Facebook page

Invasive plants are still for sale in Indiana, and you can do something simple to help stop this. We're spending millions of dollars to control invasive plants in Indiana every year, but most of those invasive plants are still for sale at your local garden shop. Good news – the DNR has drafted a rule that would make it illegal to sell all the highly invasive plants in Indiana! Bad news – that rule is now stuck in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Want to suggest to Governor Holcomb that this rule should move forward? Here's how you can do that in just a few minutes!

- Go to <http://www.in.gov/gov/2752.htm>
- Select the topic 'Natural Resources, Department of'
- Enter your contact information
- Add the message that you would like to see the draft Terrestrial Plant Rule that makes it illegal to sell highly invasive plants in Indiana move forward. Add your reasons why. Suggestions:
  - ◊ Invasive plants cost money. A 2012 survey of 120 agencies and landowners in Indiana found we spent \$5.7 million to manage these species and protect our natural areas. Nationally, agricultural and control costs due to invasive plants are estimated at \$15 billion per year. Each year the cost grows. And yet we continue to allow the sale of these damaging species.
  - ◊ Invasive plants hurt wildlife by crowding out the plants our native animals need for food and cover.
  - ◊ Most invasive shrubs and trees are little used by native insects. This reduces habitat for beneficial pollinators and predatory insects, as well as reducing the amount of food available for birds to feed their nestlings.
  - ◊ Invasive plants destroy habitat for rare wildflowers and animals, threatening two-thirds of all endangered species.
  - ◊ Invasive plants can become weedy in a home garden, crowding out other landscaping.
  - ◊ Invasive plants can also decrease your ability to enjoy hunting, fishing, mushroom collecting, bird-watching, and many other recreational pursuits by crowding forest floors and choking waterways.
  - ◊ Tell your story of the invasive plants you are fighting to control, and why it is important to you that invasive plants not be sold in Indiana.
- Hit Submit. You're done!

### Here is the list of invasive plant species currently included in the rule:

- *Carduus acanthoides* ( spiny plumeless thistle).
- *Polygonum perfoliatum* (mile-a-minute vine).
- *Vincetoxicum rossicum* (pale swallow-wort).
- *Ailanthus altissima* (tree of heaven).
- *Alnus glutinosa* (black alder).
- *Arthraxon hispidus* (small carpgrass).
- *Carduus nutans* (musk thistle).
- *Centaurea stoebe* (spotted knapweed).
- *Conium maculatum* (poison hemlock).
- *Coronilla varia* (crown vetch).
- *Dipsacus fullonum* (common teasel).
- *Elaeagnus umbellata* (autumn olive).
- *Euphorbia esula* (leafy spurge).
- *Humulus japonicus* (Japanese hops).
- *Lespedeza cuneata* (sericea lespedeza).
- *Ligustrum obtusifolium* (blunt leaved privet).
- *Lonicera maackii* (Amur honeysuckle).
- *Lonicera tatarica* (Tatarian honeysuckle).
- *Microstegium vimineum* (Japanese stiltgrass).
- *Phalaris arundinacea* (reed canarygrass).
- *Reynoutria japonica* (Japanese knotweed).
- *Reynoutria x bohemica* (Bohemian knotweed).
- *Phellodendron amurense* (Amur cork tree).
- *Vincetoxicum nigrum* (black swallow-wort).
- *Achyranthes japonica* (Japanese chaff flower).
- *Alliaria petiolata* (garlic mustard).
- *Artemisia vulgaris* (mugwort).
- *Berberis thunbergii* (Japanese barberry).
- *Celastrus orbiculatus* (Asian bittersweet).
- *Cirsium vulgare* (bull thistle).
- *Convolvulus arvensis* (field bindweed).
- *Dioscorea polystachya* (*oppositifolia*) (Chinese yam).
- *Dipsacus laciniatus* (cut-leaved teasel).
- *Euonymus fortunei* (wintercreeper).
- *Frangula alnus* (glossy buckthorn).
- *Hesperis matronalis* (dame's rocket).
- *Lepidium latifolium* (pepperweed).
- *Lonicera japonica* (Japanese honeysuckle).
- *Lonicera morrowii* (Morrow's honeysuckle).
- *Lonicera x bella* (Bell's honeysuckle).
- *Morus alba* (white mulberry).
- *Phragmites australis* subspecies *australis* (common reed)
- *Reynoutria sachalinensis* (giant knotweed).
- *Rhamnus cathartica* (common buckthorn).

Thank you for your help.

## THINGS TO DO

### Name That Toon

Gibson Woods

Every Wed at 9:30 a.m. - through March

In order to meet the needs of our new birders here at Gibson Woods, we have a new series entitled NAME THAT TOON. Throughout the winter we will be working on understanding bird songs so that come Spring we hope to be able to identify birds by song that we don't get a chance to see. Registration is required, so call us at 844-3188, and say NAME THAT TOON!!

### LaPorte County Master Gardeners Spring Garden Show

Michigan City High School

Sat. March 24th 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CDT

\$10 at the door, \$8 at [www.laportemastergardener.com](http://www.laportemastergardener.com)  
children under 12 free.

Keynote speaker, Carol Michel presenting 'A Perpetual Spring in the Garden...', and 'The twelve Secrets to Happiness in Your Garden'. Other speakers - Katie Burnett, 'Companion Growing & Integrative Pest Management for the Home Gardener. Damien Appel, 'Small-Scale Market Farming: CSAs, Diversification, and Value-Added Food Products'.

There will also be children's classes, vendors, gift bags, door prizes, and food. This is an event for the entire family! For more information, or to purchase discounted tickets, go online at [www.laportemastergardener.com](http://www.laportemastergardener.com), or call Tina DeWitt at (219)324-9407.

### Woodcock Walk @ Oak Ridge Prairie

Wed, Mar. 28th (rain date Apr. 4) 7:15 p.m. Ages 10+

Known for their spectacular flight and distinctive call, the American Woodcock is recognized as one of the earliest signs of Spring!

### Big May Day Bird Count (BMDBC)

Saturday, May 12 - countywide/all day

Pre-count meeting - Tues, May 8th 6 p.m.

The BMDBC provides a data snapshot of the bird populations across Indiana on International Migratory Bird Day. Beginner and experienced birders may participate. Attend the pre-count meeting at Gibson Woods for locations and assignments.

### The Butterfly Garden at Tri Town Safety Village:

Master Gardener project and education

1350 Eagle Ridge Drive, Schererville, IN

Register at [EventBFG@gmail.com](mailto:EventBFG@gmail.com), or call 219-755-3240

Mar. 4- 1-4 pm: Butterfly Gardening Workshop: Dolly Foster & Kelly Tripp

Apr. 15- 1-3 pm: Volunteer Orientation

Apr. 29- 1-4 pm: Your Own Pollinator Garden Workshop: Kelly Tripp & Dolly Foster

Jun. 10-1-4 pm: EVENT: Meet Your Master Gardeners Fest/ garden is open to the public

Jul. 22- 1-4 pm: Public hours

Aug. 16- 6-8 pm: Seed Collecting Class: Dolly Foster & Kelly Tripp

Aug. 19- 1-4 pm: Public Hours

Sep. 9- 12-4 pm: EVENT: Monarch Fest

### Shirley Heinze Workshops and Citizen Science Training

Workshops are free to attend, but space is limited. For more information and to register for a workshop, please email Sarah at [sbarnes@heinzetrust.org](mailto:sbarnes@heinzetrust.org) or call us at (219) 242-8558. [Full Details here.](#)

### Hoosier Riverwatch - Citizen Science Workshop Saturday, April 28th 10am-noon

Learn about water quality and gain hands-on experience and skills to become a volunteer for [Hoosier Riverwatch](#) with Nicole Messacar, Education Coordinator with the LaPorte County Soil & Water Conservation District.

### Dunes-Calumet Audubon Society

at Gibson Woods

Programs - held on the 3rd Thursday of the month 7-8 p.m.

3/15 - RADAR Ornithology with Brad Baumgardner.

4/19 - Spring Bird Migration in the Dunes-Calumet Region.

May - No meeting due to Indiana Birding Festival 5/17-20.

Go to <https://indunesbirdingfestival.com/> for details

6/21 - I Spy a Dragonfly with Loyce Fandrei

#### Field Trips

Sat. 3/17 8-10 a.m. - Cowels Bog

Walk the trails that border this unique wetland habitat in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, looking for early songbird migrants and wetland birds. Meet at the Cowles Bog trailhead at the end of Mineral Springs Road by the Dune Acres gate-house.

Sat. 4/21 8-10 a.m. - Highland Rookery

Famous for its nesting herons, this property is also a great place to look for migrating birds in the wetlands and surrounding vegetation. Meet at the parking lot off Liable Road, near the power station a few blocks north of Hwy Ave.

"GROW WILD" AT THE  
**18th Annual Native Plant Sale**  
True Native Plants  
No Cultivars

Sponsored by: Gibson Woods Wild Ones

**Saturday,  
May 5, 2018  
9 A.M. to 2 P.M.**

**Gibson Woods Nature Center  
6201 Parrish Ave.  
Hammond, IN**

Over 100 species of flowers, grasses, sedges and shrubs including prairie, wetland, shade and woodland.  
For a complete list of plants visit [www.gw-wildones.org](http://www.gw-wildones.org) or [www.lakecountyparks.com](http://www.lakecountyparks.com).

Arrive early for best selection and visit our White Elephant Sale.

For More Info. Call 219-844-3188 or 219-865-2679

Directions: Take 166<sup>th</sup> or 165<sup>th</sup> to Parrish Ave. Go North on Parrish to end of street.