

NATIVE NEWS

Gibson Woods Wild Ones

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

October 2019

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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.

EAST CHICAGO MONARCH FEST & CONTINUED INITIATIVE

With the help of the Gibson Woods Chapter of Wild Ones, The Nature Conservancy, and funding from NIPSCO, more than 400 nectaring native plants were given away at the East Chicago Monarch Festival held on September 21.

The plant giveaway was a strategy as part of TNC's and NIPSCO's Environmental Challenge Grant with Wild One as a partner in order to build support for monarchs in the area. The plants were given away to generate interest and because of the recognition that obtaining native plant material for gardens is not always easy in an urban environment. Plus there needs to be a greater understanding about the resources needed by monarchs to thrive - not just milkweeds.

A next step is to work with the City of East Chicago to grow native plants in their greenhouse, and to potentially attract volunteers who want to learn how to do that. Plants raised could be distributed at a workshop Wild Ones and TNC may jointly host next spring. A survey conducted at the table indicated strong support for a workshop with 88 percent of the respondents indicating high interest in attending.

This initiative will enrich the ability of monarchs to thrive before and after migrating over Lake Michigan and its Indiana shoreline. As the monarchs move onto Northern Lake County, they encounter an intensely urban landscape in the City of East Chicago. Fortunately, many East Chicago residents have cultural ties to Mexico, and, more specifically, the State of Mexico where the monarchs overwinter. In the State of Mexico, especially in areas near the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, the monarch is more than just an iconic species -- residents there have long-associated the butterfly's annual reappearance, around the Day of the Dead, with the souls of ancestors returning to their homes.

According to The Field Museum of Chicago, four out of five Americans live in large metropolitan areas, and these urban lands team with innovative and effective local-scale monarch recovery efforts. The role cities can play in monarch recovery—and in providing habitat for pollinators and other wildlife—is more important than previously recognized (<https://www.fieldmuseum.org/science/research/area/keller-science-action-center/science-action-chicago/monarchs-view-city>).

"Urban spaces are often overlooked during traditional conservation planning processes and offer great potential to connect 8 out of 10 U.S. residents to nature in their own backyards. The monarch butterfly's ability to thrive in small patches of habitat makes it especially suitable as a flagship species in cities and towns"

(https://www.fieldmuseum.org/sites/default/files/guidebook_rev_2018.pdf).

Thank you to the Wild Ones volunteers who helped - Steve & Mary Bender, Mary Hackett, Tonia Flowers, and Cheryl Tolbert.

Information & photos (pg 4) courtesy of The Nature Conservancy

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.

October 5, 2019

Deb Armstrong - Duneland Photo Club
How to Use Your Point & Shoot or Phone to Capture Nature Photos-Plants/Wildlife
Hosts: Mary & Steve Bender, Cathy Perrin

November 2, 2019

Nathaniel Pilla - Botanist, Orbis Enviro.
Nature is a Monster Movie: Parasitic and Carnivorous plants of the Indiana Dunes
Hosts: Edie Bukwa, Karen Folta, Linda Bulla

December 7, 2019

Tree Decorating Naturally
Pot Luck

January

Greenhouse Orientation
Bring your own snack

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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>

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

OCTOBER MEETING

Deb Armstrong, a member of the Duneland Photo Club, will teach us how to use our smart phones and point and shoot cameras to capture better photos of plants and wild-life.

Deb has been involved in several photo clubs over the past 20 years and has taught classes to many skill levels. She has been a judge for the Porter County Master Gardeners photography competition at their annual show. She recently completed the Indiana Master Naturalist course and enjoys teaching photography to anyone who will listen.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Officer Elections will take place at our November meeting. Now is the time to consider running for one of our Officer positions? Put your name in for the position you're interested in. Or, do you think a certain person would be good at one of the jobs? Nominate them. We will pass out nomination ballots at the October meeting, so your 'picks' can remain anonymous. All nominees will have the opportunity throughout this next month to accept or decline.



It would be great to have a real election with some competition. So PLEASE consider. New to Wild Ones? No problem. What better way to get acquainted with the group than to jump right in!! Nominations should be submitted either at the October meeting, or mailed/emailed/called in before our November meeting.

Positions that must be voted on are listed below with a short description of responsibilities. An in-depth description per National's guidelines is available upon request.

President - shall be in charge of business, provide leadership, and facilitate chapter affairs, including requirements to remain an active chapter. Is also responsible for completing the State of the Chapter Report by the required deadline.

Vice President - shall assist the President and assume the President's duties when necessary. Should be familiar and assist when needed with all aspects of chapter functions.

Secretary - shall maintain records of chapter business. Record minutes of business meetings, prepare correspondence as needed.

Treasurer - shall be the principal financial officer of the chapter. Maintain depository accounts and make disbursements as required for chapter business. Prepare and maintain accounting of all income and expenses. Prepare annual year-end Chapter Financial Report to National.

BOOKS & T-SHIRTS

Books & t-shirts are available for purchase at all of our regular meetings. We have a variety of t-shirts & a good selection of colors. Sizes range from adult small - 3X.

A new selection of books will become available in the coming months. These make great Christmas gifts for the native plant lover in your life.

Plant Study by Kim Moor

Mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*) - Formerly classified as *Eupatorium coelestinum*

Family: Aster (Asteraceae)

Genus: *Conoclinium*

Conoclinium coelestinum is a compact rhizomatous perennial wildflower, growing 1-3 ft. tall. Leaves are bright green, ovate in shape, with a prominent network of veins somewhat like those of mint. The stems are light green, long & tapering, and appressed-pubescent. In mid to late summer, showy flat topped corymbs appear atop of the bright green leaves. Each flowerhead has about 40-50 disk florets that are pink, lavender, or blue. In full bloom, a mass of the flowers resembles a misty drift. The florets are replaced by achenes with small tufts of hair that are distributed by the wind. The root system is highly rhizomatous, and readily forms colonies in sunny or partly shaded sites with moist to average soil.



Mistflower with Blue-stemmed Goldenrod

This is an adaptable wildflower that grows in full sun if sufficient moisture is present. Established plants tolerate drought but in dry sites, plants may fare best in light shade. The plant tolerates, alkaline pH, heavy clay or in soils that are high in organic matter. Plants may be a bit rambunctious for small manicured gardens. This species is pest resistant and the bitter tasting foliage is unpalatable to deer and other herbivores. It will also tolerate being planted near black walnut.

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Bright green, ovate shaped, multi veined



Achenes with small tufts of hair

Eupatorium coelestinum is common in the eastern United States from New York to Florida and west to Nebraska and Texas. Natural habitats include river-bottom prairies, moist open woodlands, gravelly seeps, borders of lakes and rivers, moist meadows in wooded areas, bases of bluffs, and ditches. This plant usually occurs in poorly drained areas and near sources of water.



Mistflower with bumblebee

The unique flower color provides soothing relief during the season of yellow flowers. *Eupatorium coelestinum* is a good groundcover for a wildlife garden or moist meadow. Mistflower is a good late-season butterfly nectar plant. It can be used in a cut flower garden. This wildflower has showy blooms and provides erosion control. Plants can be used as a boarder, roadside or mass-planting. It does well in pollinator, cottage, and rain gardens – but can be aggressive and may have to be periodically thinned out.

The flowers attract long-tongued bees, butterflies, and skippers. Other occasional visitors include short-tongued bees, various flies, moths, and beetles. These insects seek nectar primarily, although the bees often collect pollen. Insects that feed on *Eupatorium* (Bonesets) may also feed on Mistflower. Insect feeders of this group of plants include the caterpillars of such moths as *Haploa clymene* (Clymene Moth), *Phragmatobia lineata* (Lined Ruby Tiger Moth), *Carmenta bassiformis* (Eupatorium Borer Moth), and *Schinia trifascia* (Three-Lined Flower Moth).

Height: 1-3 ft

Spread: 2 ft

USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-9

Bloom Color: Blue/purple

Exposure: Full Sun to Partial Shade

Flowering Months: September-October

Soil Moisture Preference: Moist to Dry

Sources:

<https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/wetland/plants/mistflower.htm>,

<http://www.newmoonnursery.com/plant/Eupatorium-coelestinum>

Photos courtesy of Kim Moor



Photo credits: ©The Nature Conservancy

THINGS TO DO

PROGRAMS & HIKES

Call for details & to register 219-844-3188

GIBSON WOODS

6201 Parrish Ave.
Hammond, IN

OAK RIDGE PRAIRIE

301 South Colfax Street
Griffith, IN 46323

Name That Toon

Wednesdays, November 6-20 2019, December 4-18 2019, and February 5-26 2020 from 9:30-11 AM
Gibson Woods

Increase your birding lists by enhancing your birding skills! Join us each week as we familiarize ourselves with the bird songs we hear in Northwest Indiana throughout the year. Pre-registration recommended, call 219-844-3188.

Southern Lake County Parks In Autumn/Winter

Thursday, November 14: Stony Run

Thursday, January 9: Lemon Lake

Thursday, February 13: Grand Kankakee

From 9:30-11 AM

Enjoy our local autumn and winter wonderlands with a park naturalist at the parks in the southern part of the county. Please dress for weather! Pre-registration required, call 219-844-3188.

Full Moon Stroll

January 10, 2020, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Gibson Woods

Join us for the first full moon of 2020. Please dress for the weather. Pre-registration required, call 219-844-3188. Program is designed for adults.

Geology Of The Dunes Region Of The Calumet

Sunday, January 23, 2020 from 1-2:30 PM
Gibson Woods

Calumet region native, Dave Dolak is a professor of Instruction at Columbia College of Chicago. As a graduate researcher at Indiana Dunes National Park, he will share his expertise on the geology of

Up Coming Miller Garden Club Events

“Beer, Brats, Bulbs” (and Bluegrass!)

Saturday, October 19, at the Aquatorium from 10A-3P.

\$6 Brat Lunches & cold beer from 18th Street Brewery
Over 3000 rare, wild, & unusual Bulbs!!

Music by: Colonel Busters 3-Piece Chicken Dinner
Chairpersons: Marie Englehart & Karin Crane

Craft Project “Bonsai for Beginners”

Saturday, November 16, at the Aquatorium from 11A-2P

\$15 includes all materials, Led by Deb Weiss

For more information please call 219.938.0574