

# NATIVE NEWS

## Gibson Woods Wild Ones

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

November 2019

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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:

Fall is definitely here. Did you get all your outdoor projects done? Not me - yet. Are you enjoying the changing leaves? Um, I am until they all really start falling out of the trees!!

What do you do with all your fallen leaves? It's better to leave them, I know, but where do you put them all? We have a wooded lot with a trail, so most of ours get dumped there. Some go into the compost pile, some as mulch around new plants - but there's still are SO MANY!! I always wonder what others do.

Do you keep your plants standing? I think we all know that this is best for some insects that overwinter in hollow stems. Birds eat the seeds, other critters find shelter in and around the plant stands. Some find it too messy, but I for one think it's beautiful. It also gives me something to do looking out the window on a cold winter day - watching the birds come & go. I recently read that it also allows some soft organic debris to break down into the soil, and catches leaves and snow, which then insulates the crown of the plants. It makes sense to me!

I want to share a photo that I came across on facebook. It lead me to finding a website that is full of very good information about all aspects of your yard. I advise you to check it out! [www.healthyyards.org](http://www.healthyyards.org).

I can't stop until I share these photos that were recently sent to me. They both speak FALL for sure!

Hope to see you at the meeting. I hear our speaker this month is AWESOME!!

Kim Moor

HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!



Thank you for keeping your garden messy so I can find food and shelter in the cold

[www.healthyyards.org](http://www.healthyyards.org)

Some of our new plants waiting for us at the Greenhouse... (photo courtesy of Peg Foster)



Univ of Chgo Lab School. (photo courtesy of Sylvie Anglin)

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.

#### 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 4th, 2020

Greenhouse Orientation  
Bring your own snack

#### February 1, 2020

To be Announced  
Hosts: TBA

#### March 7, 2020

To be Announced  
Hosts: TBA

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**Join us on Facebook**

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS****NOVEMBER MEETING**

Join Nathanael Pilla as he takes us through stories of death and deceit in the plant world. He will highlight some of the most charismatic carnivorous and parasitic plants in the region, as well as some of the stories on how they evolved such incredible traits. If you thought plants were just passive creatures living under our feet, this presentation will make you think again!

Nathanael is a botanist for Orbis Environmental Consulting, and serves on the board of the Indiana Native Plant society-North Chapter. His research has led to the first series of publications on inventorying the macro-fungi of Indiana, as well as on the conservation status of pondweeds (Potamogeton). When he is not botanizing, Nathanael spends his pastime writing and singing ridiculous songs.

**2020 ELECTION**

At this moment, we have no new nominees for the election that will take place at our November meeting. Several were nominated, but we had no immediate takers. There were discussions that pave the way for some changes in 2021. Thank you to all who suggested nominees – and for those who were nominated, for taking the time to consider. Seeds have been planted, let's see where it takes us.

**PLANT TRANSPORT**

After our November meeting, we will be gathering & transporting all plants to the Greenhouse. Trays can be stacked, so all will be collected on that day. Plants in back of the Gibson Woods building will go into the South Greenhouse on the 1st table left of door. Plants & shrubs on the patio will go into the North Greenhouse. Anyone who can spare a little time is encouraged to help with this transport.

**WINDOW BLINDS/PLANT TAGS**

We're still looking for more volunteers to cut window blinds for plant tags. Please see Mickey for details or call 219-742-2775.

**SPECIAL REQUESTS**

At meetings, there are often talks about someone in need of some type of supplies for a project . . . Like cloth for quilting and yarn for yarning, etc. Our member, Edie Bukwa wonders if it would be beneficial to the group to have a space in the newsletter to 'discover' those options. Anyone looking for anything? How about for trying to give-up something to someone who REALLY wants or needs it? Recycling in action! Let's talk it over...

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

**DECEMBER MEETING**

Our December meeting will be the annual Tree Decorating & Potluck party. Supplies will be provided by the fine folks at Gibson Woods, but bring something cool from nature to use or share, to be transformed into unique ornaments for the Gibson Woods Christmas tree. Also bring your favorite cold dish. We will 'Eat, Drink & be Merry – and Crafty' together!! New books should be available for purchase at this meeting.

## Plant Study by Jake Cseke

### Wild Quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*)

Family: Aster (Asteraceae)

Genus: *Parthenium*

*Parthenium integrifolium*, commonly known as Wild Quinine and American or Eastern feverfew, is a hardy perennial that can grow up to 4 feet tall. The plant has a tuberous taproot and can spread by its rhizomes. The green leaves are bitter and feel like sand paper. Six to eight inch long basal leaves form a rosette in winter, and a few sturdy stems grow from the center in Spring. The white spherical flowers are abundant and appear in clusters at the top of each stem. Each is a half inch wide and lasts about two months. When the flower heads and the stem immediately underneath turn brown you can harvest the seeds, which are easily used to propagate the plant.



The flowers, being uniquely shaped, are not easily confused with other species. The plant thrives in sunny prairie and savannah habitats with moist to partially dry soils. It is easy to grow and maintain, and is not affected by disease. The plant and its flowers attract a large variety of insects.

The name comes from a chemical compound that the plant contains. Quinine has been used to treat fevers and is primarily used to treat malaria. The primary source is the bark of the Cinchona tree that grows in Central and South America; however, in World War I, Wild Quinine became a significant source. Another use of quinine is in tonic water where it adds a slightly bitter taste and glows silver under a black light. There are other purported health benefits, but the side effects negate the benefits.



**Garden Uses:** A sturdy plant that has abundant clusters of pearl-like flowers.

**Points of Interest:** Beneficial for insect diversity. Not preferred by herbivores, such as deer. Can tolerate drought conditions.

**Bloom Time:** Late Spring to Mid-Summer

**Flower Color:** White

**Scent:** Mild

**Height and Spread:** 2-4' tall and 2-3' wide

**Light:** Full Sun, can tolerate a small amount of shade

**Soil Moisture:** Mesic (moist) to slightly dry

**Soil:** Well drained

**Maintenance:** Low

**Attracts:** Bees, wasps, beetles and flies

**Companion Plants:** Nodding onion, Butterflyweed, Purple coneflower, Prairie blazing star and several native grasses like Big bluestem, Switchgrass, Indiangrass and Prairie dropseed

Sources: [www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx), [newmoonnursery](http://newmoonnursery) and [https://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/cs\\_pain3.pdf](https://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/cs_pain3.pdf).

Photo Credits: John Hilty ([www.illinoiswildflowers.info](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info))

## Taking Photos with our Phones, and Point & Shoot Cameras

I really loved our speaker, Deb Armstrong last month. She taught us ways to take better nature photos with our phones or point-and-shoot cameras. I know I learned a lot and want to share most of what we learned. It's a lot to digest, but I see improvements with my photo taking skills already! Thank you so much Deb!!

### Elements of Design

**Use Leading Lines** - in some photos, there's a line that draws the viewer's eye toward a certain part of the frame. Those are called leading lines. They can be straight or s-curved -- think building facades, train tracks, roads, or even a path through the woods. Leading lines create a sense of depth in an image.

**Shape** – the result of closed lines (triangle, circle, L-shape)

**Form** – highlights & shadow suggest volume of an object

**Texture** – light direction helps define the visual quality of the surface of an object. Consider variances in shape, tone and color depth.

**Color Composition** – Consider Hue, Intensity, Monochromatic, Analogous colors, Complementary colors, Warm colors, Cool colors.

**Rule of Thirds / Proportion** – Use the gridline feature of your camera. Put eyes, horizon, or main subject on intersecting lines. Try not to 'center' your subject.

**Unity, Rhythm, Symmetry, Chaos** – Repeating patterns or elements, similar parts facing or around each other. Or underlying patterns in chaos.

**Coherence** – how the elements relate to each other by color, shape, size, or texture.

**Balance** – Color & composition of subject: Elements have a sense of weight - Large/small objects, dark/light objects, position.

**Positive/Negative Space** – empty space balances object

**Simplify** – Limit or isolate subject from background. Use portrait mode, which blurs background.

**Perspective** – Move around try different angles. Get down on the ground, or look straight up in the sky.

**Lighting** – rim lighting, back lighting, soften light with reflector to bounce the light, diffuse flash with tissue or use a diffuser, avoid direct sunlight. Pay attention to shadows. They can help or hurt an image. Early morning or late evening, cloudy or foggy conditions create mood, overcast skies give best color saturation.

**Shutter Speed** – slow can blur, fast is good for action shots.

**Keep Horizon Straight** – don't 'drain the lake'. Put horizon on 'rule of thirds'.

**Include Foreground** – it helps draw attention to background & will help frame the subject.

**Converging parallels** – (building, road, fence)

### Other Tips & Techniques

**Kids & animals** – get low!

**Don't crop** just below a joint

**Candid pictures** – use zoom lens to capture subject (Keep subject busy)

**Macro** – for close ups (flower parts, sand, insects). But don't get closer than minimum focus. Soften Lighting with cone or milk jug, Disable or diffuse flash – the flash washes out closest objects.

**Night Shots** – use tripod or stabilizer, try shooting at dusk (leaves some detail in the sky)

**Shoot Elements** – and edit later on computer or with phone app.

**Black & White, Sepia, or Monochromatic** – play with these exposures on computer or app after photo is taken.

**GIVE YOURSELF PERMISSION TO PLAY!**

Photo clubs in our area & a great photo printing site - recommended by Deb Armstrong



**Duneland**  
PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Meetings 7-9 PM  
1st Tuesday  
of Every Month

**Sunset Hill Farm County Park**  
Program Center  
755 Meridian Road, Valparaiso, IN 46383

DunelandPhotoClub@gmail.com  
Facebook.com/DunelandPhotoClub  
219-213-9081



**LAKE COUNTY PARKS**  
PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Meetings the second Wednesday of each month  
Deep River County Park  
9410 Old Lincoln Highway  
Hobart, IN 46342  
219-947-1958



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## Jumping Worms, *Amyntas* spp.

We discussed this at our September meeting, so I felt like a follow-up was in order. I swear I think I have these in my yard!! Yuck. – Kim Moor

**Jumping worms**, known also as Asian jumping worms, crazy worms, Alabama jumpers and snake worms, are invasive earthworms first found in the Midwest around 2013. The worms are native to eastern Asia, and present challenges to homeowners, gardeners and forest managers. Jumping worms get their name from their behavior. When handled, they violently thrash, spring into the air and can even shed their tails to escape.

**History** - Jumping worms were first recorded in North America in the late 1800's, and were most likely imported with plants and other materials. Since then, jumping worms have become widespread across much of the northeast, southeast and midwestern U.S. In 2013, jumping worms were confirmed for the first time in the upper Midwest. Surprising to some, all earthworms in this area are non-native. There have been no native earthworms in the Midwest since the glaciers arrived thousands of years ago. The familiar earthworms you see in your garden and in bait stores originated in Europe, brought here by settlers. Although all earthworms can harm landscapes and forests, jumping worms may pose a bigger threat than European worms.

**Why jumping worms are a problem** - Jumping worms grow more rapidly, reproduce more quickly and consume more nutrients than European earthworms. Once jumping worms become established, they quickly transform soil into dry, granular pellets with a texture like discarded coffee grounds. This altered soil structure is often unaccommodating to many garden plants, and are inhospitable to many native plant species. It appears that some invasive plants thrive where jumping worms live.

### Identification and biology - Where to look for jumping worms:

Jumping worms do not burrow far into soil – they live on the soil surface in debris and leaf litter.

Look for them in your yard, garden, forest, in mulch, compost, potted plants and other suitable places. In fact, they seem to thrive in mulch and compost.

### What jumping worms look like:

- Smooth, glossy dark gray/brown color, bodies are firm and not coated in “slime”
- Clitellum\*, the lighter colored band, is cloudy-white to gray; completely encircles the body. Its surface is flush with rest of body
- Snake-like movement
- They tend to occur in large numbers; Where there's one, there are always more

**The real problem: cocoons** - Unlike most other kinds of earthworms, jumping worms are parthenogenic - they self-fertilize and do not need mates to reproduce. Each new generation begins with the production of hardened egg capsules, known as cocoons, that overwinter in the soil to hatch the following spring. Jumping worm cocoons are resistant to cold and drought and are as tiny as mustard seeds. Since they greatly resemble small bits of dirt, they are hard to see and so are often unknowingly moved in soil, mulch, potted plants, etc.

**Effects - What jumping worms do to the soil** - Jumping worms feed ravenously on organic matter in soil, leaf litter and mulch and excrete grainy-looking, hard little pellets that alter the texture and composition of soil. Besides consuming nutrients that plants, animals, fungi and bacteria need to survive, the resulting soil, which resembles large coffee grounds, provides poor structure and support for many understory plants. Invasive species will move in when native plants die.

**Management** - There is no “magic bullet” to control jumping worms, at least not yet. Management mainly consists of taking precautions to not move them onto your property. If they are already there, you will need to adapt and adjust until there are better control options available. Research is moving forward to find ways to control jumping worms.

**Prevention** - Prevention is by far the best approach to jumping worms. Even if jumping worms are on part of your property, take care not to introduce them to uninfested areas. The following simple steps will reduce the spread of jumping worms:  
 Educate yourself and others to recognize jumping worms & and then watch for jumping worms and signs of their presence  
 Arrive clean, leave clean. Clean soil and debris from vehicles, equipment and personal gear before moving to and from a work or recreational area – they might contain jumping worms or their cocoons  
 Use, sell, plant, purchase or trade only landscape and gardening materials and plants that appear to be free of jumping worms  
 Sell, purchase, trade only compost and mulch that was heated to appropriate temperatures and duration, which reduces pathogens.

### What to do if jumping worms are already on your property

**Don't panic.** Just because you have jumping worms in one part of your property doesn't mean that they are everywhere. Take precautions to avoid spreading them.

**Remove and destroy.** Simply seal them in a bag and throw it in the trash – they will not survive long. Reducing the adult population will eventually reduce the number of egg-carrying cocoons in the landscape.

**Experiment.** If necessary, try a variety of plants or consider alternative landscaping in heavily infested parts of your property. Keep a log and share your successes with fellow gardeners.



Source & photo: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/fact/jumpingworm/index.html>

## DECORATING WITH PINECONES

Found this on the internet & thought it looked pretty cool. I think I'll try it!!

*Soak pine cones in 4 liters of water mixed with an ounce of red food coloring. Let sit over night and then dry on a paper towel. Gorgeous colored cones for Christmas decor!*



## 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

### Bird Feeder Visitors

Friday, November 1 from 1:30-2:30 PM  
Gibson Woods

Many species of birds stick around for our cold Northwest Indiana winters. Learn some of the common birds and make a recycled feeder to take home. Pre-registration required, call 219-844-3188.

### 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: Stoney 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.

### Bird Feeding Fun

Thursday, January 2, 2020 from 10-11:15 AM  
Gibson Woods

Many species of birds stick around for our cold Northwest Indiana winters. We will learn about some of them, take a short outdoor walk to see who's around and then make some treats for them to enjoy at the feeder station (and one for you to take home too). Pre-registration required, please call 219-844-3188.



Photo courtesy of Gayle Tokarz' daughter, Lisa Wells

### Wild About Turtles

Friday, January 3 2020 from 10-11 AM  
Gibson Woods

Turtles are terrific! Discover some of their cool traits and maybe even see some up-close! Pre-registration required, please 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 the Dunes Region. Pre-registration recommended, call 219-844-3188. Ages 13 +

### Up Coming Miller Garden Club Events

#### Craft Project "Bonsai for Beginners"

Saturday, November 16, at the Aquatorium from 10am-12:30pm

\$15 includes all materials, Led by Deb Weiss

For more information please call 219.938.0574