

NATIVE NEWS

Gibson Woods Wild Ones

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

February, 2021

Volume 22, Issue 2

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.

GREETING FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Hello Friends,

Hope you are well & enjoying the winter that has finally arrived! Boy, what a difference a week makes!! I heard on the radio that a polar vortex is expected by the end of the week. Ugh. Is it Spring yet? I'm ready! Ha, ha.



Mostly, I'm hoping that by the time the weather warms, our lives will be on the way to getting back to normal. I miss seeing everyone!

We've been using Zoom to stay connected as best as we can recently. It's great that we can utilize this tool, but it has had some challenges. Slowly but surely, we are getting better with this. I've been through lots of tutorials & have read many how-to's to help me understand, and am still learning new things almost every day. Recently, it finally dawned on me why some of you can't be seen or heard when you join a meeting. Did you know that desktop computers don't come with a microphone or camera? If you're interested, there is a work-around for that. You can purchase a camera/microphone for a relatively small price at Best Buy, Office Depot, or Amazon.

Please know that if you ever have questions about how to do something specific, I am always happy to help if I can. Just email, text or call me!

Sincerely,
Kim Moor

Zoom Presentation: Saturday, February 6th 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Indigenous Landscapes for Practical Uses

This presentation will discuss planting landscapes that are beautiful, educational and practical for both wildlife and people. Certified as a Monarch Butterfly Expert from the University of Minnesota, Billie Warren will highlight the milkweed plant as it has cultural significance and tells a story about our relationship with nature.

Billie Warren, Educational and Environmental Consultant and Pokagon Potawatomi citizen, works on sharing her unique Indigenous perspective on History and Environmental Sustainability. Billie's work spans over a twenty-year period working with universities, municipalities, public schools, National Parks, Non-Profit organizations, Conservation Groups, Conservation Projects, Historical Societies and museums. In June 2019 she founded Jibek Mbwakawen Inc. to improve the community's environment by connecting people back to the land from an indigenous perspective. Billie earned a BA degree from Indiana University Northwest (IUN) and is pursuing a Graduate Degree in Public and Environmental Affairs at IUN. Billie identifies as Bear Clan, is a water protector, seed keeper, and steward of the land.

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 typically held the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at Gibson Woods unless otherwise noted.

Links to register for all online presentations & meeting will be provided prior to the meeting.

Please email kckim10@gmail.com or text/call 219-433-5731 with questions.

February 6, 2021 Zoom presentation

Indigenous Landscapes for Practical Uses—Billie Warren
(Registration required. See pg. 2 for Zoom link)

Zoom Business meeting will be held on Saturday, February 13 - 10:00 a.m. (Zoom link will be sent to members)

March 6, 2021 Zoom presentation
To be announced.

Zoom Business meeting will be held on Saturday, March 13 - 10:00 a.m. (Zoom link will be sent to members)

Inside this Issue:

Greeting	1
February Presentation	1
Announcements	2
Plant Study - Lizard's Tail	3
Book Review - Origin of Species	3
This One is For The Birds	4
Greenhouse Update	4

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 MEMBERS

Jennifer Dimitroff

Jodi Magalski

We look forward to getting to know you!

FEBRUARY MEETING

Zoom Presentation: Saturday, February 6th 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Indigenous Landscapes for Practical Uses

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrcu-srDMoGdCr1LNE96WOHvb7RbEV2uJj>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Attention Members:

The February business meeting will be held via Zoom on Saturday, February 13 at 10:00 a.m. **Directly following this meeting will be a Board Meeting.** We will be discussing goals for 2021. All Officers, Chairpersons, and Managers are encouraged to attend, but all members are welcome. A registration link will be sent to members.

WETLAND INDIANA SENATE BILL 389

Please Contact Your State Representative to Oppose Senate Bill 389. Senate Bill 389 is a bill that would remove protections for state-regulated isolated wetlands in Indiana, threatening these invaluable ecosystems, the wildlife they support and our water quality. On Monday, January 25th, SB 389 passed out of the Senate Environmental Affairs Committee and is now headed to the Senate floor. We urge you to contact your Senator today to oppose SB 389.

[Learn more about SB 389](#)

[Contact your State Senator](#)

[Learn more about wetlands](#)

[Recent news coverage](#)

WILD ONES NATIVE GARDEN DESIGNS

Wild Ones is proud to introduce seven beautiful, professional, ecoregion specific, free, native garden designs!

The designs were created with the premise that using native plants in landscaping can be beautiful and achievable for gardeners of all skillsets in terms of scope and budget as well as promote wildlife.

The designs also allow gardeners to take an incremental approach in developing their plan, adding new areas and native species as time and funds permit.

To learn more, visit Wild One's Guide to Creating Beautiful Home Landscapes:

<https://nativegardendesigns.wildones.org/>

PLANT STUDY, AVAILABLE 2021 - by Olimpia Gutierrez**Lizard's Tail** (*Saururus cernuus*)

Also known as Breastweed or Water Dragon
Lizard's Tail family - Saururaceae

Description:

Native perennial of wetlands and areas of shallow water in shade to part shade. It grows to 1-3 feet tall with medium to dark green foliage. Young leaves start out as lance-shaped and hairy, growing into a smooth heart or arrow shape as they mature. Leaves are palmate and alternate with a chordate base. The plant produces erect flower spikes with a nodding tip 4-7 inches long which is the source of the plant's name of Lizard's Tail. The tiny white flowers bloom from the bottom up in summer to late fall lasting about 1 month. The flowers are fragrant and the leaves release a sassafras aroma when crushed. Roots are rhizomatous with ***adventitious roots** that can form from non-root tissue allowing the plant to colonize large areas. After blooming the spike turns brown and small seeds are formed.

Lizard's Tail was used medicinally by the Cherokee, Choctaw, and Semionles to treat swelling, aches and fever. The common name of Breastweed comes from the use of the plant as treatment for inflammation of the breasts.

Cultivation:

Soil type: Wet soils, mud

Moisture: wet - obligate wetland plant, can tolerate slightly brackish water

Sun: shade to partial shade

Height: 1-3 ft, up to 4 ft

Zones: 3 to 9

Propagation by root division and seed.

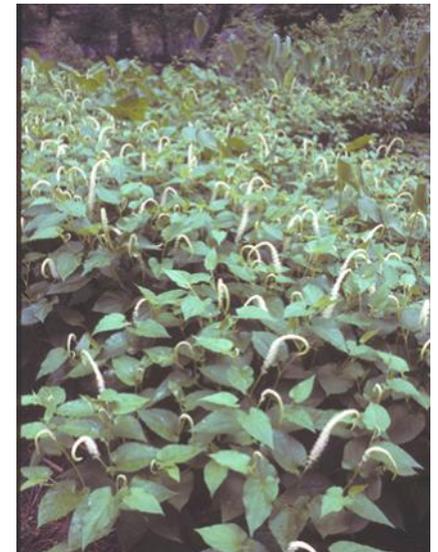
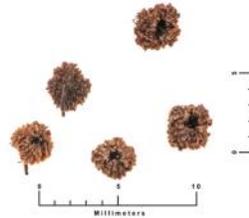
Little disease and insect pressure; occasionally attacked by a wetland form of Dodder.

Fauna:

Lizard's Tail serves as food sources for many wetland animals including beavers and wood ducks. It is toxic to mammalian herbivores if eaten in large amounts, thus it is highly deer resistant. Larvae of the Buffalo Moth, *Parapamea buffaloensis*, feed on the roots.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saururus_cernuus
https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=sace
https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/wetland/plants/lizard_tail.htm
<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a649>

Word of the day:

***Adventitious roots** arise out-of-sequence from the more usual root formation of branches of a primary root, and instead originate from the stem, branches, leaves, or old woody roots.

BOOK REVIEW— by Karl Ackermann

I want to share with you that I just got done reading Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species; The Illustrated Edition* edited by David Quamen. In this book, Darwin develops his theory that the mechanism by which evolution takes place is by natural selection. I want to start out by saying it is written in layman's language with a conversational writing style. There are many excerpts from his diary and samples of letters he has written and received with his contemporaries. I found these letters very inciteful to the times of when this book was written. Darwin uses examples of introduced non native species taking over the local natural biological economy which of course we all know of. There are times when he uses several layers of inferences to draw his conclusions which I found tedious and hard to follow. At the end of the book he points out that he wrote the book not necessarily to change the minds of people whose minds are already filled with facts and have their minds made up. He wrote the book for people who were open to consider his ideas and especially the young people who will further research to dispute, or further develop his theories. After all, Darwin thinks the theory of Natural Selection will make the field of Natural History much more interesting to study. Reading this book was a small project for me, however it made me reflect on how Darwin was a contemporary with Abraham Lincoln and Gregor Mendel. These great people are luminaries who helped shape how we view the world.

This One is for the Birds – by Jake Cseke

All of us live in neighborhoods where productive habitats once flourished. The need for more habitat is urgent, and what we decide to plant in our yards will directly affect the fates of the plants, insects and birds that we all love. If you're wondering what plants will have the largest impact, Doug Tallamy, a Lifetime Honorary Director of Wild Ones, recommends plants that support the most insect biodiversity. He suggests focusing on those that harbor an abundant diversity of butterfly larvae or caterpillars, which is especially relevant because they are an important food source for birds. Many birds feed caterpillars to their young because they are soft and will not damage the throat tissue. Therefore, the more caterpillars you can attract to your yards the better off our avian friends will be.

Tallamy lists several native trees as the best plants for supporting the most species of caterpillars in his book *Bringing Nature Home*. Oak, willow, Black cherry, birch, poplar, plum and crabapple trees provide nourishment for 300-530 species individually. He lists blueberry, maple, elm (including Hackberry), alder, basswood, hickory, hazelnut, beech, pine and walnut trees as other good choices where each supports at least 100-300 species. Tallamy mentions that these trees will also benefit many other insect species. I'll take this moment to add that it is probably best to plant the species that are locally native so that we can, in a sense, 'extend' nearby habitats into our neighborhoods. The more they reflect the composition of native plants in our surrounding natural areas the better our yards serve as suitable habitat to the life around us.

Greenhouse Update - by Kim Moor

Orientations of our Greenhouse were conducted last month. We had several new to the Greenhouse members join us, as well as those who have been with us before. Now, we're digging in & taking care of our plants for the 2021 season. Plans are still being made for this year's sale, but don't worry. We will keep you updated!

Lots of work has been done so far, and the plants are starting to wake up from their winter slumber...

