

NATIVE NEWS

Gibson Woods Wild Ones

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

June, 2018

Volume 19, Issue 6

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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I went to Reavis Grade School in Lansing, IL last Thursday. It is a K through 6 grade school. They just started a credited science program called E.A.R.T.H. I apologize I don't know what the acronym stands for. However, the students, along with parent participation, have set up 10 planters outside and have vegetables growing along with some perennials. I have to applaud the teachers who organized this for doing such a great job. It is outside the regular class day. There are 24 kids signed up for the program.



The kids are very enthusiastic and already well learned in the art of native plants. They told me all about planning a butterfly garden, the life cycle of the monarch butterfly, the food pyramid, the water cycle, and photosynthesis. I felt like I was being tested in a program "are you smarter than a 5th grader". All I have to say that after the hour spent with the kids I feel like I worked with them; I was not really teaching them.

At the end of the session we planted some milkweed that I brought from home in their planter boxes. I volunteered to "teach" their parents the native plants 101 session. Maybe it's the adults (including me) that need teaching in this case.

I can see these kids as part of our future in a few years!

Warm regards,
Karl Ackerman

JUNE MEETING

Cathy Misch, Buckley Homestead - *Bringing Natives to Your Park*

Take a virtual tour through Buckley Homestead County Park. Their native garden bed will be highlighted along with how they incorporate native plantings throughout the park. Cathy will touch on how she got her start as well as how she maintains the gardens at Buckley Homestead. She will share with us what plants have worked or not worked, and why.

Cathy is an enthusiastic nature lover and gardener. These interests have led her to become a Master Gardener, Master Naturalist Intern, and a gardener at Buckley Homestead. In her home garden, she spends her time creating a bird/pollinator haven by combining her love of native plants and hostas.

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.

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!

September 8, 2018

Reflecting on our Summer Gardens
Symposium Preparations
Hosts:

September 29, 2018

7th BIENNIAL NATIVE PLANT SYMPOSIUM

October 6, 2018

Dolly Foster, WO Member & LCMG
Seed Collecting & Cleaning
Hosts:

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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>

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Plants

June meeting attendees can stick around after the meeting to purchase left over plants if you'd like.

Condolences

Heartfelt condolences to Joy Bower for the recent loss of her Mother. Our thoughts & prayers are with you & your family.

Summer Watering Schedule

Our Summer watering schedule has been set, but we could still use one more volunteer to act as a substitute on a day when the designated person can't make it. Please contact Mickey Taylor if you'd like to volunteer for that position at 219-742-2775. Thank you to all who have already volunteered. Our plants will be very happy!

Tri-Town Butterfly Garden

On June. 10th, the Butterfly Garden will be having an open to the public event from 1-4 pm: Meet Your Master Gardeners Fest. Wild Ones will have a table at this event. Come out to see us & the garden. It should be starting to show a lot of color by then!

Munster Garden Walk

The Munster Garden Club Garden Walk is Fri, June 22 from 4-8 p.m., and Sat, June 23 from noon-4 p.m. Karl's garden will be part of this event. Please let him know if you can hang out at his house during any of these times to help promote Wild Ones.

Symposium Update

You should have received our Symposium agenda & registration form last month. Some paper copies will be available at the meeting. Please let Kim Moor know if you need extras to pass out at an event or location.

We will be accepting sponsorships from individuals, so if you'd like to donate a few dollars, or you have a special artistic talent & want to create a silent auction item, or have something that could be used as a door prize, we will be happy to accept! (no donation is too large or too small). Your name will be mentioned in the program.

If you know of a business that you think would be interested in making a sponsorship donation, please let Kim know. She will send you a sponsorship letter to make it official. Advertisements are available at \$25, \$35, & \$50 – or more! Sponsorships can be monetary or a retail item, or a gift certificate.

A Symposium Meeting will follow our regular meeting. We will work on details such as sponsorships, information tables, ideas for participant giveaways. Committee members, please plan on attending - we will try to keep it short!!

2018 PLANT SALE

Well, another plant sale is behind us now. It was a beautiful day & we had great attendance. The first customer showed up over an hour early & by the time we opened the door, the line was really long. This was my 6th plant sale with Wild Ones, and I've never seen anything like it!!

Karl will give us official numbers at the June meeting, but I heard they were better than last year. I can tell you that we counted 220 people walking through the door.

Thank you to everyone who helped & to those who came out & purchased plants from us!! I hope your new plants are happy in their new home!

Kim Moor



TRI-TOWN BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Great Teamwork with the Tri Town Butterfly Garden Team

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Marilyn Thompson | Sharon Surdy |
| Maria Azcona | Tonia Flowers |
| Paulette Olson | Rachel Olson |
| Steve Sulski | Karl Ackermann |

And thank you to Kelly Tripp & Dolly Foster for the wonderful work that you do!!

Good job everyone!



Before



After



Beautiful

PLANT STUDY - by Mickey Taylor**Sharp-lobed Hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba*)**

FAMILY: BUTTERCUP

GENUS: ANEMONE

Daisy-like flowers of Hepaticas are one of the first woodland flowers to bloom in the spring. It is a short plant growing to 3-6" tall. A group of basal leaves develop during the late spring and lasts through the winter. During summer the leaves are green, but become reddish brown during the winter. Each leaf is divided into three egg-shaped lobes with a pointed tip.

A single delicate flower grows on a hairy reddish green or reddish brown stem. The flower may be erect or it may nod on its stem. The flower color can be white, pink, or blue. The blooming period occurs from March through May and lasts about 2-3 weeks for a colony of plants; however, individual flowers are short-lived.

Anemone acutiloba prefers to grow in dappled sunlight during the spring and light shade during the summer. The basal leaves should be left undisturbed during the winter. The soil should be well drained, loamy, and can contain some rocky material; a thin layer of decaying leaves is also beneficial.

Sharp-lobed Hepatica is native to Indiana. It can be found growing in deciduous woodlands, rocky bluffs, the slopes of bluffs, and limestone cliffs where some shade occurs. As recently as May 13, 2018 it was observed growing at Indiana Dunes Lakeshore.

Another native variety of this species is *Hepatica nobilis obtusa* also known as Round-lobed Hepatica. The easiest way to distinguish Sharp-lobed from Round-lobed is by the round or pointed tips on the leaves. Another common name for Hepatica is Liverleaf, which refers to the shape of the leaves.

The flowers do not provide nectar; however, small bees collect pollen from the flowers, while flies feed on the pollen. Chipmunks will eat the seeds. The brownish-green leaves are poisonous.

Bloom Time: March-May

Height: 3-6" Tall

Light: Partial to light shade

Water: Medium moisture

Soil: Well drained, loamy, rocky soil

Maintenance: Do not disturb the basal leaves during the winter

Flower Color: White, pink, or blue

Attracts: small bees, flies, Chipmunks

Sources: www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/hepaticaPhoto Credits: Dziuk, Peter M., Minnesota Wildflowers, www.minnesotawildflowers.info

Permaculture: What the Heck Is It?

I recently went to an introduction to permaculture presentation at the Shirley Heinze office in Valpo. I've been pondering the information ever since, and then came across an article from the Modern Farmer, written by Brian Barth. I want to share some of this article with you. (a link to the article in its entirety is listed below) It's a quite fascinating concept...

Bill Mollison, who first coined the term in 1978, defined permaculture as: "The conscious design and maintenance of agricultural-ly productive systems which have the diversity, stability, and resilience of natural ecosystems. It is the harmonious integration of the landscape with people providing their food, energy, shelter and other material and non-material needs in a sustainable way."

In the words of the article's author, "permaculture is a holistic, living-in-harmony-with-nature, as well as a technical approach for how to do so. The word is intended as a contraction of *permanent* and *agriculture*, which has been expanded to include *culture* in addition to just agriculture. The root word 'permanent' is intended as a reference to sustainability—an unsustainable society would, by definition, eventually cease to exist; it would be impermanent".

Even though most of us aren't equipped to become true permaculturists, the concept is still intriguing. I feel that there are some things that could be easily incorporated into one's gardening practices that would make the whole 'gardening for biodiversity' experience more complete, as well as spiritually satisfying.

Here are five of its more well-known principles to help you understand what permaculture is all about. How can we take each one and embrace it in, at least, some small way? Lets get creative!!

Closed Loop Systems

Any system that provides for its own energy needs is inherently sustainable. For example, rather than buying fertilizer for a farm or garden, the system could be designed to provide for its own fertility needs—perhaps from livestock manure or cover crops. And if you're raising livestock, you should certainly aspire to provide all the food for your animals from on-site, whether raising grain, forage crops, or recycling kitchen waste as animal feed. Any permaculturist would remind you that a successful closed loop system "turns waste into resources" and "problems into solutions." – (notes: chickens come to mind here. Chicken poop for your compost pile, table scraps as part of their food and/or compost pile, chickens like to eat bugs, so they could be considered kind of an organic pesticide, plus you get eggs! - Chickens seem to be all the rage right not. I know they're allowed in Griffith at least.)

Perennial Crops

Tilling the ground once or twice a year isn't particularly good for the soil. Which is why permaculturists advocate using perennial crops that are planted just once, rather than annual crops which require constant tillage. Agroforestry, the cultivation of edible tree crops and associated understory plants, is emphasized—the only problem is that few crops that most of us eat are perennials; but there is no doubt that if we could replace all the monocultures of corn, soy, and wheat in the world with agroforestry systems, agriculture would be much more sustainable. Agroforestry shares principles with intercropping. Both place two or more plant species (such as nitrogen-fixing plants) in close proximity and both concepts provide multiple outputs. As a consequence, overall yields are higher and because a single application or input is shared, costs are reduced. (notes: we have native plants & trees that are nitrogen fixers. Can we plant them in amongst our veggies to help the soil??)

Multiple Functions

One of the more original ideas of permaculture is that every component of a structure or a landscape should fulfill more than one function. The idea is to create an integrated, self-sufficient system through the strategic design and placement of its components. For example, if you need a fence to contain animals, you might design it so that it also functions as a windbreak, a trellis, and a reflective surface to direct extra heat and light to nearby plants. A rain barrel might be used to raise aquatic food plants and edible fish, in addition to providing water for irrigation. Permaculturists call this "stacking functions." (notes: what a great idea to find a multi function for those rain barrels!! Or use our fence for our climbing natives or veggies.)

Eco-Earthworks

Water conservation is a major focus on permaculture farms and gardens, where the earth is often carefully sculpted to direct every last drop of rain toward some useful purpose. This may take the form of terraces on steep land; swales on moderately sloped land (which are broad, shallow ditches intended to capture runoff and cause it to soak into the ground around plantings); or a system of canals and planting berms on low swampy ground. The latter is modeled on the *chinampas* of the ancient Aztecs, an approach to growing food, fish, and other crops in an integrated system, often heralded by permaculturists as the most productive and sustainable form of agriculture ever devised. (notes: hmm, a raingarden comes to mind. Can we plant some veggies next to one??)

Let Nature Do the Work for You

The permaculture creed is perhaps best captured in the Mollisonian mantras of "working with, rather than against, nature" and of engaging in "protracted and thoughtful observation, rather than protracted and thoughtless labor." On a practical basis, these ideas are carried out with things like chicken tractors, where the natural scratching and bug-hunting behavior of hens is harnessed to clear an area of pests and weeds in preparation for planting—or simply planting a shade tolerant crop under your nitrogen fixing tree. Thus, the natural attributes of the tree eliminates the need to bother with fertilizer, while providing shade, serving as a nectar source for bees and looking pretty. By letting nature do the work of farming and gardening for you, one achieves another of Mollison's famous maxims: "maximizing hammock time." (notes: My friend owns a couple goats - natural lawn & weed mowers. Redbud, locust, & Kentucky coffee trees are all nitrogen producers. Indigo, lupine & clover, as well as beans & peas are other examples of nitrogen fixing plants.)

This stuff has really got me thinking!
Kim Moor—Editor

<https://modernfarmer.com/2016/04/permaculture/>

THINGS TO DO

GIBSON WOODS PROGRAMS & HIKES

6201 Parrish Ave, Hammond, IN
Call for details & to register 219-844-3188

Weekly Dragonfly and Butterfly Hike

Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. May 29-September 25

Gibson Woods is home to 23 documented species of dragonflies and many butterflies. Walk with a naturalist to find who is flitting about! This program is free, and designed for adults.

Weekly Bird Migration Hikes

Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

April 18-June 13 & August 15-October 3

Spring and Fall are great times to see migrating bird species. See visiting thrushes, warblers, sparrows, vireos and more on these guided walks.

This program is free, and designed for adults.

Monthly Family Nature Walks

3rd Saturday monthly at 9:30 a.m.

March through November

Bring the family to meet a naturalist and walk the trails as you learn about the plants and wildlife in the park. Join us monthly to experience nature's fascinating flora & fauna.

This program is free, and designed for all ages.

Specific dates are 5/19, 6/16, 7/21, 8/18, 9/15, 10/20, & 11/17.

Butterfly Basics

Thursday, May 24, 31, and June 7 | 9:30-11 a.m.

Is it a butterfly or a moth? How do you tell the difference? Learn this and more about some of the more common butterfly species in the area.

This program is free, and designed for adults.

Wildflower Walks

Friday, May 25 and June 8 at 9:30 a.m.

More than 300 species of native plants are found at Gibson Woods, including some rare species. Join a park naturalist on these interesting walks to learn about the unique flowers and plants on the preserve.

This program is free, and designed for ages 10+.

I Spy a Dragonfly Hunts

2nd & 4th Thursdays in June & July

2nd & 5th Thursday in August

\$2 fee per person, per field trip. Ages 15+.

This is a traveling program. Meet at designated area at 9 a.m. Call for locations 219.844.3188

Practice identifying dragonflies as you walk with a naturalist all around Lake County.

UPCOMING GARDEN WALKS

11th Annual Munster Garden Club Garden Walk

Friday June 23, 4pm –8pm & Saturday, June 24, noon-4pm

Tickets will sell for \$10 each and will be available at:

Dixon's Florist - Dean's Lawn & Landscaping - Brumm's Bloomin' Barn
Gus Bock Ace Hardware - Water's Edge Garden and Pond
At the homes on the days of the Garden Walk
Munster Garden Club members and Connie Eden.

Contact Connie for more info: connieseden@gmail.com

Miller Garden Club's 18th Annual

SECRET GARDEN WALK - *Petal Pushers*

Saturday and Sunday, July 21, & 22, 2018

Ticket price - \$10, children under 12 are free

Tour begins at the Marquette Park Aquatorium at 6918 Oak Avenue, Gary, IN 46403 on the southern shore of Lake Michigan. The tour will be open from 10 a.m. till 3 p.m. rain or shine and the bicycle tour of the gardens will depart at 10:30 am from the Aquatorium.

The garden walk features six unique and elaborate hidden gardens at different sites. Guests can also enjoy a box lunch plus other items for sale in the scenic courtyard at the historic Aquatorium Bathing Beach building. For further information, contact Joanne Stratton 312-543-1561 or jmstratt@sbcglobal.net or Miller Garden Club.org or on Facebook.

2018 Porter County MG Garden Walk

June 23, 2018 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. CDT

showcasing six select private gardens--in & around Valparaiso in Porter County Indiana. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and explain plantings at each garden. Door prize drawings at every garden! Save money by taking advantage of advance ticket sales – for \$6.

Chesterton Feed & Garden Center - Four Seasons Landscaping Nursery - Heinold & Feller Tire & Lawn - Horses Landscape, Inc. - Jake's Feed & Garden - Philips Ace Hardware - Porter County Extension Office - Reed's Nursery - Town & Country Market - WRF Nursery & Garden Center. Tickets may be purchased on day of Walk for \$8 at Strack & VanTil, 2168 US HWY 30, Valparaiso, Indiana

Dunes-Calumet Audubon Society at Gibson Woods

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

Field Trips

Sat, 6/23 8-11 a.m. - Kankakee Sands

Meet at the Kankakee Sands headquarters, located about 6.5 miles south of Lake Village on US-41 (look for the red barn on the right). Spend the morning exploring - looking for grassland birds, rare butterflies, & bison.

Field trips are free and open to the public, but please RSVP to mbeat-ty233@gmail.com

The Butterfly Garden at Tri Town Safety Village:

Master Gardener project and education

1350 Eagle Ridge Drive, Schererville, IN

Register at EventBFG@gmail.com, or call 219-755-3240

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 Dolly Foster & Kelly Tripp

Aug. 19- 1-4 pm: Public Hours

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