

NATIVE NEWS

Gibson Woods Wild Ones

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

November, 2018

Volume 19, Issue 9

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 OUR PRESIDENT

Seasonality affects our work, personal relationships, moods, and of course our gardens. As I get older and wiser, I feel I am more in tune with my garden and greater appreciate seasonality. In the fall, my body needs a rest from all the weeding, hoeing, and attention my garden demands in the spring and summer.

In the fall, I plant a couple of things to replace an alien, add a butterfly host plant, or a native food source. I cover my fish pond with a net in the fall to keep leaves out. I reflect on things gone right and things gone wrong in my garden this past year. I make plans for next year. I get ready for winter sowing. And now for the wiser adage, I am doing much less fall clean up as I learned the birds and the insects use the leaf litter as cover and food source in the winter.

Also, in the fall, I am finding the time to do some reading. I just read a couple of great articles. One from the Xerces Society about breeding and rearing monarch butterflies. The second article was from the Audubon Society about life in the leaf litter. Enjoy the seasons and go with the flow!

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!

Karl Ackermann



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 3, 2018

Keith Nowakowski, Landscaper/
Author - *Incorporating Native Plants Into Your Garden*
Hosts: Theresa Corriere, Kim Moor

December 1, 2018

Tree Decorating Naturally
Potluck

January 5, 2019

Greenhouse Orientation -
at the Greenhouse
Bring your own snack

February 2, 2019

Dolly Foster, WO Member & LCMG
Winter Sowing Workshop
Hosts: TBA

March 2, 2019

Daiva Gylys, Student Conservation Assoc. & Drew Hart, US Forest Service
Topic to be announced
Hosts: TBA

NOVEMBER MEETING

We've been long awaiting our November speaker, please help us welcome him...

Keith Nowakowski is the author of "Native Plants In The Home Landscape" by University of Illinois Extension. His book is written for the novice filled with everything you need to know about growing Native Plants. He also is a certified landscape architect through the state of Illinois.

Keith has been involved with growing native plants for many years. Presently he has focused on growing shade and woodland plants.

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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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*** Welcome New Members ***

**Edward Engelsen
Rosemary Osmulski
Susan Ring**

Officer Elections

Elections will take place at our November meeting. Do we have anyone interested in running for one of our Officer positions? Please let Kim Moor know a.s.a.p. so we can get you on the Ballot.

If you have questions about any of the positions, please feel free to contact Karl Ackermann, or Kim Moor. If you want to nominate someone who you feel would be a good candidate for a position, you can also contact Karl or Kim. We will discuss it with the individual before putting their name on the ballot.

Are you a new member of Wild Ones? No problem. What better way to get acquainted with the group than to jump right in!!

Positions that must be voted on are:

President - Vice President - Secretary - Treasurer.

Barb Hargrove & Tonia Flowers have been our interim secretaries for several months, and would like to pass the position on to someone who regularly comes to our meetings. The sole responsibility of this position is to take Minutes of our business meeting & to get your typed notes to Kim Moor in time for the next month's meeting. Easy, right??

It's time to move our plants!

We'll be moving plants back to the Greenhouse after the meeting. All help is welcome!! If we get enough people to volunteer their time & vehicle, we'll get it done in no time at all - in one trip!!

Thank you in advance.

Reminder:

While you're cleaning up your garden this Fall (not too much cleaning I hope), don't forget to pick out some interesting items to bring to our December tree decorating party. We will make ornaments using items from Nature. It's always so much fun seeing what kind of creativity we all come up with! Here's some samples from last year...

Bring your favorite dish for our Pot-Luck!!

We will also bring out the books, in case someone is looking for a Christmas gift for a special nature lover in your life.



PLANT STUDY – by Mickey Taylor**Large-Flowered Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*)**

Family: was Lily, now Bunchflower (Melanthiaceae)
Genus: Trillium

Trillium grandiflorum is also known as Large-Flowered Trillium, Wood Lily, Great-White Trillium, and White Wake-robin. It is easy to recognize this showy white flower by its single 3-4" wide flower with 3 large wavy white petals, 3 sepals, blooming on a single stem above a whorl of 3 heart shaped dark green leaves. The flower also has 6 yellow stamens. As the plant ages, the white flower will turn pale pink.

Bloom time for this spring ephemeral is May thru June and lasts about 3 weeks. A seed capsule that darkens with age replaces each flower. In time, the capsule will split open and release the seeds. *Trillium grandiflorum* is easy to grow but difficult to propagate from seed. It will return year after year when grown in ideal conditions if left undisturbed.

Trillium will grow in dappled sunlight or light shade during the spring; later in the year, it is able to tolerate more shade. The soil should be moist, humus-rich, loamy, and rather loose. A mulch of rotted or shredded leaves is beneficial. This wildflower grows very slowly from seed and will take several years (possibly as long as 7 years) for it to reach maturity. *Trillium* grows from an underground rhizome and will slowly spread to form a colony. Deer are attracted to the larger plants and will eat the leaves and flowers from the rootstalk, killing the plant, since the rhizome is left without a way to produce food for future growth; insects rarely visit these eye-catching flowers.

Large-Flowered Trillium is native to Indiana and parts of Illinois. It can be found growing in rich deciduous woodlands, swamps, and shaded riverbanks. Wild collected plants should be avoided.

Points of Interest: Some Native Americans used the greens as medicine for arthritis, menstrual cramps, and earaches.

Warning: Poisonous Parts: Berries and roots-have a low toxicity if eaten. Large White Trillium is the largest of trillium species which can grow as tall as 15 inches. Leaves, petals, and sepals of all trillium come in groups of three. This species of trillium has larger petals than other trillium. At one time *Trillium* was in its own Trilliaceae family, then moved to the Liliaceae (Lily) family, and now back in its own family, renamed Melanthiaceae.

Bloom Time: May, June

Height: 1-3ft

Light: Part Shade, Shade

Water: Moist

Soil: Moist, humus-rich, sandy loam

Flower Color: White, Pink

Attracts: Deer

Companion Plants: Mayapple, Dutchman's breeches, wood and rue anemones, Jack-in-the pulpits, and shooting stars

Sources: www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants; www.chicagobotanic.org/plantinginfo/great_white_trillum

Photo Credits: Katy Chayka, Minnesota Wildflowers, www.minnesotawildflowers.org



© 2009 k. chayka

Clean up day at Gibson Woods – by Kim Moor

After last month's meeting, several Wild Ones members stayed to clean up the Gibson Woods garden. Armed with clippers, shovels & rakes, we made short order in getting the job done. We pulled & dug up the weeds, and made a couple discoveries along the way....

Maria found a salamander, which after posing for a photo shoot, was put back where he came from. He must be happy at his home in the garden because I've never seen one so fat!!

We found some little weird black balls on some of the plant stems, and after a little discussing & analyzing, I learned something new - we found Dodder! Have you ever heard of such a thing? I hadn't!! More about that later.

Here's the fruit of our labor. Isn't it beautiful? And, isn't our little friend cute?!



Now a little about Dodder...



Cuscuta - commonly known as Dodder is a close relative of the morning glory and can be identified by its thin stems appearing leafless, with the leaves reduced to minute scales. From mid-summer to early autumn, the vines can produce small fruit that take the same color as the vine, and are approximately the size of a common pea. It has little to no chlorophyll of its own & is dependent on the host plants for nutrition.

Dodder flowers range in color from white to pink to yellow to cream. Some flower in the early summer, others later, depending on the species. The seeds are minute and produced in large quantities. They have a hard coating, and typically can survive in the soil for 5–10 years, sometimes longer.

Dodder seeds sprout at or near the surface of the soil. Although dodder germination can occur without a host, it has to reach a green plant quickly and is adapted to grow towards its nearby host plant. If a plant is not reached within 5 to 10 days of germination, the dodder seedling will die.

After a dodder attaches itself to a plant, it wraps itself around it. If the host contains food beneficial to dodder, the dodder produces roots (*haustoria*) that insert themselves into the vascular system of the host in order to absorb nutrients from it. The original root of the dodder in the soil then dies. The dodder can grow and attach itself to multiple plants.

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuscuta>

October Presentation - by Kim Moor

Dolly Foster was our guest speaker at our October meeting. Her presentation was on seed collecting & cleaning. I'm sure she told us pretty much every single thing she's learned over the years about best methods for both!! Her hand-outs were outstanding, packed with a lot of useful information. If you didn't get them there will be extra copies at the next meeting - including the one that outlines her entire presentation.

I'm going to tell you a couple extra things that I learned from Dolly that wasn't directly related to seed collecting & cleaning...

- Did you know that bees love the color blue? Dolly suggested that we plant Blue Vervain - a bee magnet!
- Save your Milkweed floss for humming birds in the Spring. The floss is hydrophobic, which means it repels water! Perfect nesting material!
- I Naturalist is a smartphone app that can help you identify plants, bugs, & birds. I'm still trying it out, but I've heard good things about this app.
- Dolly talked about mason bees being better pollinators than honey bees & suggested putting out nest boxes to encourage them to stick around, so I did a little research and found a nice article about this very thing...

What is a Mason Bee?

And how is it different than the European honey bee? First, mason bees don't make honey, but they are very good pollinators. They are said to be more efficient than honey bees. Of the roughly 150 mason bee types in North America, most are native, so it's possible you have some flitting around your backyard already. With only a few supplies and some basic knowledge, you could easily start increasing population of these native pollinators.

Before luring mason bees into your garden, it's helpful to understand some basics. They are tunnel-nesting, solitary bees, which means that every female lays eggs and raises offspring on her own, without forming a colony. They are non-aggressive and rarely sting. These bees lay their eggs inside tunnels, left by wood-boring beetles or the hollow stems of plants. They will also nest in man-made tunnels – if the tunnel meets certain criteria

After mating and finding an appropriate tunnel for her nest, the female bee gathers mud and uses it to build a wall at the back of the tunnel – which gives this bee its common name “mason bee.” Next, she makes dozens of visits to garden flowers to collect pollen and nectar, which she heaps at the end of the tunnel and will be her egg's first meal when it hatches. Finally, she backs into the tunnel and deposits an egg on top of the food source. Once the egg is laid, the female bee collects more mud and uses it to build a wall that seals off the egg inside its own chamber. She repeats this process until the tunnel is filled with well-provisioned eggs, each in its own cell partition. She then protects her eggs by closing the tunnel with a mud plug. A mason bee will fill as many nesting tunnels as she can during her roughly 4-week life span – pollinating flowers profusely as she forages for food to supply her nest. Then she dies.

When the egg hatches into a larva, it consumes its pollen-nectar sack. After a rest period, the larva spins a cocoon, and around September becomes an adult bee. The bee now waits through the winter months until the spring air temperature rises to a consistent 55-degree range, at which point it emerges from the tunnel to mate and repeat the egg-laying, pollen-gathering cycle.

How to Start Attracting Bees

During the early spring months, you can try attracting mason bees by providing nesting tunnels, plenty of bee food, and a mud source. Mason bee houses are made from wood, thick paper straws, or hollow reeds. You can make your own by drilling holes into a *non-treated* block of wood about 5/16" in diameter, the size preferred by mason bees. Make sure the holes are free of splinters, and do not drill all the way through to the end. You should drill your holes about six-inches deep. Here's why: the mason bee controls the gender of each egg she lays. Female eggs are deposited in the back of the tunnel, tucked away from rummaging predators. Males are in the front. Since mason bees normally lay more male eggs than females, a 6-inch tunnel insures more female bees, which in turn will increase the potential for a bigger bee population the following year.

Mount your 'bee house' securely on the side of a building, tree or fence where it will receive the warm morning sun and protection from wind and rain. Try to have a clay-like mud source nearby – within about 50 feet, if possible. Place your house close to spring-blossoming plants and trees, so the bees don't waste energy or time foraging for food.



commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mason_block.jpg
commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Red58bill



en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Orchmason.jpg



en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honey_bee

Source: www.ecolandscaping.org/03/beneficialspollinators/attract-mason-bees-no-protective-gear-needed/

Monarchs

After being stalled by rain and cold for over a week, the weather finally cleared and the monarchs set sail. The action began quite suddenly on Saturday afternoon, October 20th.

The migration's leading edge will now be moving along the Sierra Madre Oriental Mountains on the final 500 miles of the journey. The first monarchs are expected to reach their winter home any day! Traditionally they arrive by November 1st, Mexico's Day of the Dead. Will they make it?

So far, estimates are that this is a banner year, and migration might be the strongest since 2008! Check out Journey North & Monarch Watch websites for exciting details & awesome photos!!

THINGS TO DO

GIBSON WOODS PROGRAMS & HIKES

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

Winter Bird ID

November 2 from 10-11:30 AM

Many species of birds stick around for our cold Northwest Indiana winters. Join a park naturalist to find out what birds you still see and where to look for them. A short outdoor hike will conclude the program, weather permitting. This program is designed for adults.

Name that Tune

Wednesdays, Nov 7 - Mar 27

Increase your birding lists by enhancing your birding skills! Join us for this free program Wednesdays from November 7 through March 27 at 9:30 AM as we familiarize ourselves with the bird songs we hear in Northwest Indiana throughout the year. No program December 19, 26 or January 2. This program is designed for adults. Please register by calling 219-844-3188.

Rocks on the Beach: A History of Great Lakes Geology

Sunday, November 18 at 1 PM

Beachcombing for rocks along the beaches of Lake Michigan is not only fun, but also serves as a textbook study into geologic story of Great Lakes region. Join us at as Dave Dolak, senior lecturer at the Science and Mathematics department of Columbia College Chicago, Calumet region native and graduate researcher at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, helps add new dimension of geologic appreciation to your next stroll along the beaches of the Calumet Region.

#OptOutside Gibson Woods Hike

Friday, November 23, 2018

Started in 2015 by outdoor retailer REI, #OptOutside is not just about Black Friday. It's about choosing life outdoors and living a little more simply, even just for a day. You can join us for this hike Friday, November 23 at Gibson Woods from 10-11:30 AM. What better way to work off some of those Thanksgiving calories and enjoy some outdoors time! Please register by calling 219-844-3188. No organized groups, please.

BYO Snowshoe Hike

Saturday, January 12 from 10-11:30 AM

Enjoy the Gibson Woods in winter with a guided snowshoe hike Saturday January 12 from 10-11:30 AM. Must bring own snowshoes. If there is not enough snow for snowshoeing, we will offer a traditional hike instead.

Digging into the Past

Sunday, January 20 at 1 PM

Have you ever wondered what the Calumet region was like before it was settled by Europeans? How did traders and settlers impact the Native Americans? Les Marzalek, President Archeo Survey Corp., will be our guide on an exploration of the past. Join us to learn how Native Americans lived and how their influence is still seen today.

Amphibians and Reptiles of the Calumet Region

Sunday, February 10 at 1 PM

The Calumet Region is where the eastern deciduous forest and the Midwestern prairie meet making the number of amphibians and reptiles living in here quite large. Alan Resetar, Field Museum manager of the collections, staff, and volunteers in Amphibians and Reptiles, will share his love and knowledge of this amazing group of animals.

SAVE THE DATE

February 23, 2019
8:00 - 4:30 PM

**Michiana Master Gardeners
Present the first annual
Elkhart County Garden Expo**

Elkhart County Fairgrounds
117746 County Road 34
Goshen, IN

Sponsored by:
Michiana Master Gardeners' Association in
Cooperation with Purdue Extension of Elkhart County