



Twin Cities Chapter Quarterly Newsletter

February 2015 Volume 13, Issue 1

Upcoming Events/ Monthly Meetings

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

February - NO regular meeting. Instead, be sure to attend the Wild Ones 2015 Design with Nature conference at the Nicollet Island Pavilion. Download the registration form at www.designwithnatureconference.org

Register Today!!

Registration closes February 13, 2015.
Admission: \$60 per person

If you register by 4 February:

- \$50 Members
- \$55 Non-Members
- \$25 Students

The theme is “Changing Tactics”. As designing and managing our landscapes becomes more challenging, we become more creative.

Nationally recognized landscape architect and ecologist Travis Beck is our keynote speaker. He will explain how he designs successional plant communities that adapt to change and disruption. Travis is Director of Horticulture at Mt. Cuba Center in Delaware and author of Principles of Ecological Landscape Design.



Changing Tactics

An opportunity to rethink how we design and manage our landscapes.

Saturday February 21, 2015

Nicollet Island Pavilion
40 Power Street, Minneapolis, MN
(free parking)

Conference Speakers

Travis Beck

Designing Successional Plant Communities

Wiley Buck

Conservation Grazing in the Metro

Leslie Brandt

Urban Forests and Climate Change

More Information & Full Schedule
www.DesignWithNatureConference.org

Presented By



Conference Partners



FRESHWATER SOCIETY



Wiley Buck, Restoration Ecologist at Great River Greening in St. Paul, will discuss conservation grazing in metro areas to control invasives and promote landscape restoration.

Leslie Brandt, Climate Change Specialist at the U.S. Forest Service's Northern Research Station, St. Paul, will describe research and demonstration projects for adapting urban forest ecosystems to climate change.

Note that this conference qualifies for Master Gardener Education Credits

Conference Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in helping with the Conference, please contact Bill Blood (612-722-4172) or Roger Miller (651-275-0526).

MONTHLY MEETINGS *(Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at Wood Lake Nature Center: social at 6:30, meeting to start promptly at 7:00.) Free and open to the public*

Tuesday, March 17, 2015. Pollinator Revival: Impact of Harmful Pesticides, Managing our Landscapes to Provide Healthy Habitat for Pollinators. Pesticides have become the quick fix to address various farming and gardening problems. Pollinator Revival co-founders, Marilyn Jones and Julia Vanatta, will share a bit of the history of pesticides along with safer options for pest control. They will illustrate how we, as gardeners and landscape professionals, can change our maintenance practices to help populations of pollinators and other beneficial insects recover.



Tuesday, April 21, 2015. 3rd Annual Native Plant Landscaping Table Topics / Plant Sale Kickoff. Table topics is an opportunity for new and returning native plant gardeners to gather information and take part in discussions on a variety of topics. Tables are hosted by landscaping professionals or WO members with a depth of experience. Topics will include information on shady and sunny native plant gardens, landscaping for pollinators and beneficial insects, community boulevard corridors and rain gardens, native trees and shrubs.

Forms for this year's Plant Sale will be available as we kick-off our major fundraiser of the year! The plant pick-up date in May or June will be determined later as we know more about what kind of spring it will be.

Tuesday, May 19, 2015. Native Plant Management, Dr. Alan Roelfs. Dr. Alan Roelfs, retired plant pathologist and University of Minnesota professor emeritus, will talk about his techniques and practices for managing native prairie/savanna/shade gardens. Dr. Roelfs has been the active gardener and manager of the one-acre prairie garden located in front of the Crex Meadows Visitors Center in Grantsburg, WI. He began restoring the site in 2002, gathering and growing its seeds to plant as non-natives were weeded and burnt out. It has had ongoing changes and updates through these years of development and is a lovely site.

Co-Chair Message

“What ideas do you have to help Wild Ones grow in our community?”

That was the question posed to members of our board on a cold winter's day. Looking to the future of our chapter, we brainstormed ideas that would further our quest of making Wild Ones be synonymous with native plants just as Audubon is for birds, setting a goal for 200 members by year's end.

Here's a sampling of the ideas:

- Do you have a community native plant garden you planted or help maintain? It would be great to have signage at all our public spaces, including boulevard and rain gardens in front of businesses, inviting those who pass by to further appreciate the fine work we're doing as volunteers in our communities.
- Encourage more businesses to add native plant gardens to their boulevards, making corridors for monarchs and pollinators.
- Facilitate small, neighborhood based network groups, where newcomers could work together, learn from each other, share plants. Link each network with a more experienced member.
- Co-host a tour or program to nourish and expand our relationships with like-minded organizations such as Metro Blooms, Izaak Walton League, Audubon groups and Native Plant Society.
- Tap into high school service curriculum, introducing more young adults to native plants and career opportunities.
- Sponsor more schools for Seeds for Education grants, visit past recipients to see how their projects are progressing.
- Become more active as a sponsor and in the organization of the annual Monarch Festival.
- Combine our plant sale with Grow Monarch Habitat workshops.
- Continue our outreach activities to grow Wild Ones and educate the public.
- Develop/label our own packet of milkweed seeds for handing out at events



CoChairs: Julia Vanatta (left) & Marilyn Jones (right)
(Photo by Roz Johnson)

Add your idea/s by leaving a message for Julia or Marilyn at 612-293-3833.

All of these activities, of course, take time and commitment. Fortunately, our chapter has a great pool of volunteers who already give freely of their time. We encourage all Wild Ones members, old timers and newcomers, to volunteer and become ambassadors for landscaping with native plants in our home gardens, parks and communities.

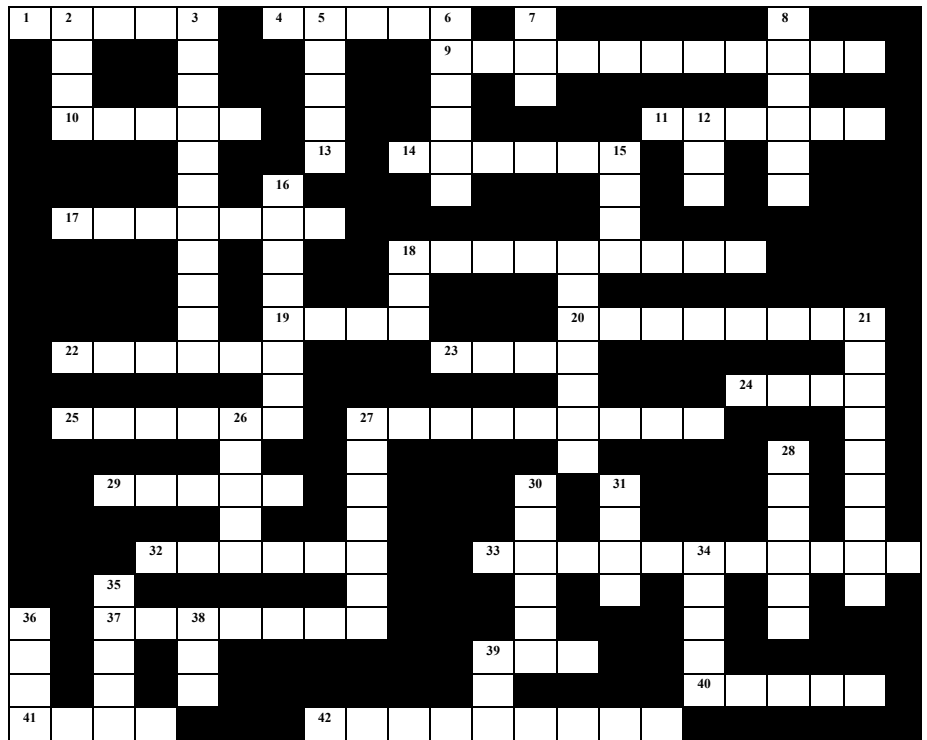
Looking ahead to 2016: Twin Cities Chapter is planning a special event to celebrate our 15th Anniversary in early summer 2016. If you would like to be a part of the planning committee, please contact Julia at juliakay@scc.net.

Yours truly ~ Julia and Marilyn

CROSSWORD (All answers can be found in 2014 chapter newsletters)

ACROSS

1. Plant with staggered anthers.
4. Fungus used to make tea.
9. Eloise Butler/library celebration.
10. Plant product used for bee nest building
11. Type of wasp.
14. Seed planting meeting attendees.
17. One of three shoreline zones.
18. Act of introducing endangered species into other habitats.
19. This use is 1 of 3 drivers of observed climate behavior.
20. Application of this product will need to be later in the year due to climate change.
22. Bee dance.
23. Best substance for mulch.
24. One of three soil classifications.
25. This adverse affect will increase in humans/livestock with climate change.
27. Name for flower head with many florets
29. Cutting tool used to help seeds sprout.
32. Male plant part.
33. Action to store/cool seeds in winter.
37. Tea made by the Daughters of Revolution.
39. Monthly presentation brew topic.
40. Plant recommended for under pine trees.
41. Layer used to build up woodland areas.



42. Study of seasonal and cyclic natural phenomena.

DOWN

2. Bee part used to determine if plant worth visiting.
3. Landscaping relying on natural rainfall, requiring minimal irrigation.
5. Animal grazing at Pilot Knob Hill.
6. Continent where it will be drier in the future.
7. Where Labrador Tea plant thrives.
8. First bee to appear in the spring.
12. Pollinator nest building material
15. Another of three soil classifications.
16. Collection point of dry pollen on insects.
18. Color not distinguished by bees.
21. Removed by shoreline buffer zones.
26. Bee that first appears in mid-summer.
27. Susan Tertell's mystery plant.
28. Percent of our food that depends on pollination
30. For this insect pollen and nectar are a secondary food source.
31. Good plant to grow under pine trees.
34. Alternative grazing animals to replace mowing..
35. Type of ancient dwelling high rises compared to present day ones.
36. A positive case was made at the conference for these unwelcome plants.
38. Pollinator machine.
39. # of bee visits per Hive Alive ___ thousand.

Meeting Notes

October 2014 Minnesota's Wildflower Movement, Bonnie Harper Lore. We were treated to a comprehensive albeit a very cursory history of Minnesota's natural heritage and events that resulted in its protection. Along with the presentation we were given a 2-page handout which traced this record from 1872 to the present. Of the many highlights in this chronicle, I will speak only of those that took place more locally. The start date was the establishment of the Bell Museum of Natural History by the state legislature which resulted in the Minnesota Herbarium. This is a collection of native plants from the Midwest. Just a few events of note occurred until the 1970's. In 1907 Eloise Butler successfully

petitioned the Minneapolis Park Board to create a natural botanic garden – now known as the Eloise Butler Wildflower Sanctuary.

In the 1970's

1974 – Roadsides for Wildlife begins in MnDNR

(<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/roadsidesforwildlife/index.html>)

1977 – Prairie Restorations, Inc. begins growing native seeds and plants in Minnesota

1977 – Moyle & Moyle publish Northland Wildflowers, a Guide for the Minnesota Region

1977 – Housewives Against Pollution in Northfield (HATPIN) – builds Outdoor Classroom

1979 – Natural Heritage Program becomes part of the MnDNR and Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA) are created (These actions provide information on Minnesota's rare plants, animals, native plant communities and other rare features. <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/nhrp/nhis.html>)

In the 1980's During this decade Twin Cities residential plantings by Douglas Owens-Pike, Fred Rozumalski, Jim Hagstrom, Diane Hilshire and more.

1981 – DNR begins roadside inventories of quality remnants

1982 – DNR starts active acquisition with Nature Conservancy of SNA's

1982 – Prairie Moon spins off Windrift Prairie Nursery near Winona

1982 – Minnesota Native Plant Society establishes and then saves Dwarf trout lilies

1984 – DNR's Roadsides for Wildlife Management Plan is written

1985 – Pheasants Forever instigates the Highway Reduced Rural Mowing Act

1986 – Roy Robison and Karl Ruser begin Landscape Alternatives in St. Paul

1986 – County Biological Surveys begin and informal roadside surveys are done

1987 – Minnesota Beautiful supports adopt-a-highway, recycling, wildflowers and tree plantings

1989 – MnDOT puts Wildflower Program into action



Art from MNDNR Roadside for Wildlife web site

In the 1990's During this decade the following books (as noted by Bonnie Harper-Lore) were published:

Photographing Wildflowers (Craig and Nadine Blacklock); *Prairie Communities* (Roy A. Robison and Don White); *The Wild Gardener, the Life and Selected Writings of Eloise Butler* (Martha E. Hellander);

Orchids of Minnesota (Welby R. Smith); *Minnesota's Natural Heritage, An Ecological Perspective*

(John R. Tester); *Landscaping for Wildlife and Water Quality* (Henderon, Dindorf & Rozumalski);

Roadside Use of Native Plants (Bonnie Harper-Lore)

1990 – National Wildflower Research Center opens a Regional Office here

1991 – Minnetonka, Bloomington and Edina pass natural lawn ordinances

21st Century. During this decade of the many books published the following were cited: *Landscaping with Native Plants of Minnesota* (Lynn Steiner); *Vegetation Management, An Ecological Approach* (Co-edited by Bonnie Harper-Lore); *Beautifully Sustainable* (Douglas Owens Pike); *Pollinators of Native Plants* (Heather Holm)

2001 – Wild Ones Twin Cities Chapter becomes Minnesota's first WO chapter (Others followed: Arrowhead, Brainerd, Northfield, Prairie Edge, St Cloud, St. Croix)

2014 – "Pollinator Revival" is begun by Marilyn Jones and Julia Vanetta

2014 – "Make Way for Monarchs" Karen Oberhauser, University of Minnesota's monarch expert is among 50 activists who motivated a Presidential Memorandum on pollinator protection

November 2014 Establishing, Working for Water, presenter: Peggy Knapp

Dr. Peggy Knapp is the Director of Programs at the Freshwater Society, where she oversees civic engagement initiatives, including the new Master Water Stewards program.



Peggy began with the state of water use and waste in Minnesota - both of which are unsustainably high. “We have re-plumbed our state”, she said, describing the agricultural practice of using drain tile to lower ground water levels for earlier spring planting while also using wells to remove *more* ground water for summer irrigation. “Non-point source pollution is the single greatest threat to the health of Minnesota’s waters” she continued. Urban populations contribute hugely to this non-point source pollution through polluted runoff from streets and yards. Reducing urban runoff is a watershed-scale problem that requires a whole-community effort. The Master Water Steward program is designed to provide this type of cooperative endeavor.

Under the Clean Water Act, all cities are required to focus on actions their residents and businesses can take to:

- manage pet, yard, and de-icer waste,
- participate in lake water quality associations,
- use Best Management Practices to retain ground water

The Master Water Stewards work to help fulfill these Clean Water Act responsibilities. The program trains volunteers to educate their neighbors on clean water issues and to lead actions to reduce runoff. After training, Stewards design and complete their Capstone Project in which each one:

- evaluates their neighborhood’s water and runoff issues
- identifies what practices they want to influence
- plans how to carry it out
- does it !



Over the past two years, certified Stewards have worked with neighborhood residents to install rain gardens, rain barrels, cisterns and water permeable walkways that catch polluted rainwater before it makes it to a nearby lake or stream. The last year of this program is limited to residents of cities within the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District <http://www.minnehahacreek.org>.

Per Peggy the deadline for participating in this program was December 20, 2014. However, if you feel strongly about the future of Minnesota waters and are interested in this program, visit this site:

<http://masterwaterstewards.org>

NATIVE PLANT: New England Aster

Scientific Name: *Symphotrichum novae-angliae* (formerly: *Aster novae-anglia*) Per wikipedia the genus Aster once contained nearly 600 species in Eurasia and North America. But after morphologic and molecular research on the genus during the 1990's, it was decided that the North American species are better treated in a series of other related genera.

IDENTIFICATION

Habitat: In Minnesota, common in moist, open places, except in the northeast

Height: 3-7 feet

Leaves: Alternate, smooth typically lance-shaped leaves that can be up to 5" long and 1" wide. They are large at the base and small near the flowers.

Flowers: The composite purple flowers each have a head that is about 1 to 2", with 35 to 45 petal-like ray flowers surrounding a yellow central disk. There is one flower per stalk which blooms later in the season from August to October.

Fruit: Seeds are small, light to medium brown.

Overall characteristics: The stems are usually clumped with many branches. "Aster" is the Greek word for star - a reference to the starry shape of the flowerhead.

GARDEN TIPS

Plant Hardiness: Zone: 3-7

Sun/Shade Needs: Full sun to partial shade.

Soil Needs: Well-drained, humus-rich soil

Planting: Plant 2 to 3 feet apart. Spread 1 - 2 feet.

Propagation: Can grow easily from seed. If planting in the spring damp-stratify in the refrigerator 4 to 6 weeks. Divide in the spring every third year to promote growth & keep centers from dying. Dig up the stems and pull apart into small divisions. Can also propagate by root division in the late fall.

Care: Likes consistent soil moisture (grows best where soil moisture is ample throughout the summer), but is drought tolerant (suitable for xeriscaping). Pinch stems back in late May to promote bushier plants. Self seeds so deadhead if don't want volunteer growth

Companion plants: Goldenrods, grasses, oxeye, obedient plant, bottle gentian, black-eyed Susan, Culver's root and wild bergamot.

Friends & Foes: Attracts butterflies and bees. Stem rot (fungal disease) is possible if watered too much. Powdery mildew affects the leaves during the cool moist weather of fall.

NOTES

Current Use/Interest: None known

Historic Use/Interest: Some Native Americans used it as a fumigating agent



Help keep local rivers and lakes clean with your own raingarden

Learn how at Feb. 14 Metro Blooms workshop in Bloomington

What? Help keep our lakes and rivers clean while creating a beautiful and bee/butterfly-friendly habitat in your yard! This workshop, *Raingardens*

and Beyond: Clean Water, Healthy Habitats from [Metro Blooms](#) will first give you an overview of raingardens and native plants. Then, you'll receive recommendations for your property with one-on-one assistance from Metro Blooms landscape designers and Hennepin County Master Gardeners.

When? Saturday, Feb. 14; 8:30-11:30am
Where? Oak Grove Presbyterian Church
2200 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, MN



How/Register? Visit metroblooms.org or call 651-699-2426 Cost: \$15

Why? In a healthy forest, only about 10 percent of the rain that falls each year leaves the forest as surface runoff. In a developed urban area, more than 50 percent runs off, carrying pollution to our local water bodies. Raingardens help runoff soak into the soil to be cleaned naturally, and provides excellent homes for bees and butterflies.

Who? Workshop presented by Metro Blooms and sponsored by the City of Bloomington, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, and Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization. The City of Bloomington and Nine Mile Creek Watershed District have presented raingarden workshops for the last nine years and helped countless homeowners install raingardens throughout the city.

*You can also mail your registration and \$15 payment to Raingarden Workshop Registration, P.O. Box 17099, Minneapolis, MN 55417. Enclose a check, payable to Metro Blooms, and include the workshop location, your name, address, zip code, phone number and your email address.

November Twin Cities Chapter Election Results

Co-Chairs: Marilyn Jones/Julia Vanatta

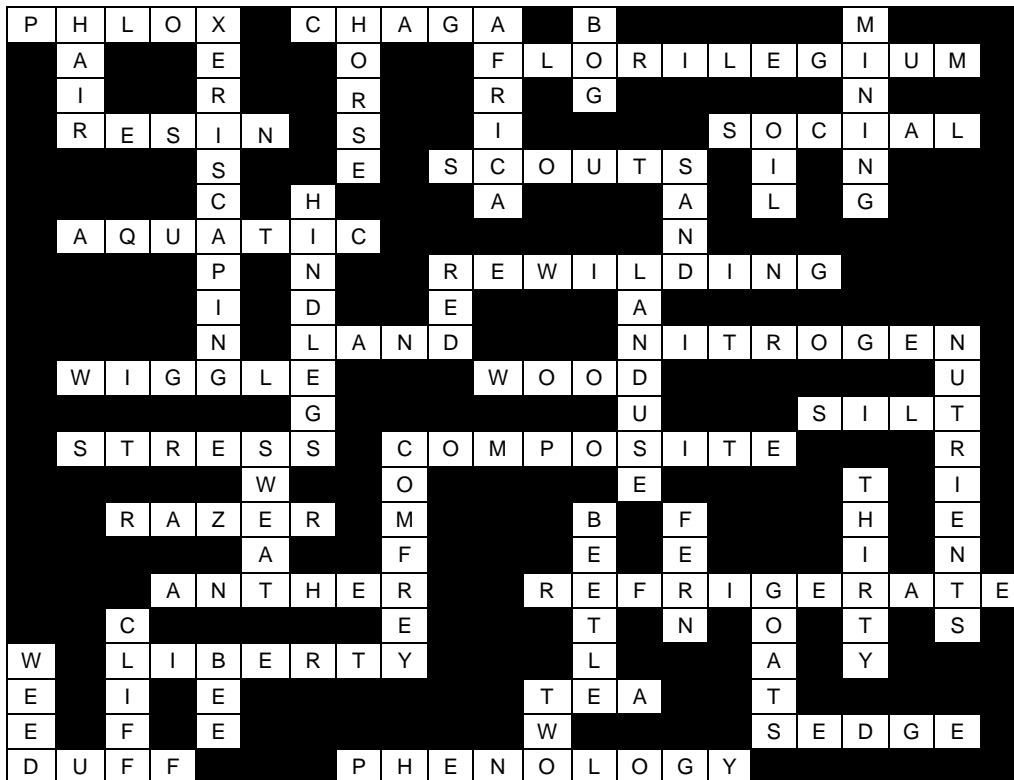
Treasurer: Joelyn Malone

Secretary: Trudi Poquette

See page 10 for all the current board members. We wish to thank Carmon Simonet (Programs) and Elaine Larson (Treasurer) for their dedicated service these past few years.

Gardener's To-Do List (February, March, April)

- * Prune trees and shrubs of dead or damaged limbs, shoots or waterspouts while they are still dormant; also shrubs that need shaping and rejuvenation. Best to trim up to 1/3 of the branches all the way back than to shorten all the branches.
- * February/March is a great time to start winter sowing hardy plant seed.
- * Start a compost pile in March/April.
- * Prevent soil damage by using coarse sand to provide traction and make sidewalks and driveways less slick. If that doesn't do the trick, try de-icing products from calcium chloride or calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) - salt-free melting agents.
- * Finalize your garden plans for this year. Order seeds or make a list of plants to pick up at garden nurseries.
- * As the weather warms up, put away suet bird feeders; the suet doesn't keep and birds are switching to their warmer weather diets. Also clean up birdseed shells, as build-up can hinder plant growth and become moldy.
- * Pull off mulch as it thaws (but be ready to put it back on if there's another deep freeze)!
- * Apply corn gluten meal to hinder weed seed germination in late April/early May. Spread it at a rate of 20 pounds per 1,000 SF. Water it lightly to activate it. It will remain effective for 5-6 weeks. (Note: will affect any seed it contacts)
- * Sort your seeds by the date each needs to be planted, if starting indoors. We're fast coming up on the time to start them, especially ones that need cold, moist stratification.



2015 Officers

Co-Presidents: Marilyn Jones/Julia Vanatta
Secretary/Phones: Joelyn Malone
Treasurer: Trudy Poquette

Board Members

DWN Conference Liaison: Roxanne Stuhr
Audio Visual: John Arthur
Hospitality: Rose Meyer
Internet Inquiries: **OPEN**
Membership: Marty Rice
Merchandise: Erik Rotto
Newsletter: Mary Schommer
Monarch Joint Venture/Nokomis Naturescape:
Vicki Bonk
Outreach: Marty Rice/Laurie Bruno
Partner Liaison: Mike Lynch
Programs: Roz Johnson/Holley Wlodarczyk
Public Relations: Holly Breymaier
Tours: Jim & Jan Coleman
Volunteer Coordinator: Bill Blood
Website: Doug Benson
Education/Librarian: Kris Martinka

Chapter Message Center: 612-293-3833

MEMBERSHIP: Benefits To You

- Monthly meetings featuring excellent presentation on a wide array of native landscaping topics.
- Receive the new member packet.
- Receive the bi-monthly Wild Ones Journal, with articles and information to inspire and educate you about natural landscaping.
- Free admission to most Wild Ones' events, such as our garden tours, native plant walks and sales/swaps.
- Reciprocity with other chapters' meetings.
- Share experiences and expertise with other like-minded native gardeners.
- Access to the Wild Ones library of native landscaping books.
- Support for the Wild One's Mission.
- Membership dues and donations are tax deductible

Join or Renew

1. Sign up at a meetings, or
2. Call Marty Rice at 952-927-6531, or
3. Access the national website at www.wildones.org



Twin Cities Chapter
c/o Marty Rice
4730 Park Commons Dr. #321
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
Chapter Website: www.wildonestwincities.org

OUR MISSION

Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities. Wild Ones is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization.