



Twin Cities Chapter Quarterly Newsletter

November 2015 Volume 13, Issue 4

Upcoming Events/Monthly Meetings

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*

NOTES: (1) The meeting schedule for the entire fall 2015 through spring 2016 season can be found on page 9 for those who want to get a look at all of our offerings and plan accordingly. Below is greater detail on the two presentations occurring prior to publication of our February newsletter. (2) There is no meeting in December.

Tuesday, November 17, 2015. Annual Membership Meeting, Potluck, and Officer Election. Hope you are able to join us for this final meeting of 2015. We meet to share food, participate in election of our new officers for 2016 and listen to a presentation. As this is a potluck, please bring something to share with others. However, the pleasure of your company is quite enough, if this is not possible. There will be two presentations this evening. Kris Martinka our board chair for Youth Education will discuss some of the Seeds for Education efforts by our chapter. High school seniors who are members of a local Girl Scout troop will talk about their native plant renovation at an Isaac Walton League area.

Tuesday, January 20, 2015. Native Plant Winter Sowing and Seed Exchange, with Carmen Simonet of Carmen Simonet Design LLC). This is a very popular event that is becoming an annual occurrence. Although called a seed exchange this does not mean one needs to bring seeds in order to obtain some. Willing members contribute seeds for others to select from. You may want to bring something to bring seeds home in. However, it is not necessary as small envelopes and plastic bags are usually available.. Additionally you will be able to actually sow seeds on the spot. Carmen will give a lecture on the process for the uninitiated. Soil, seeds and a limited number of plastic containers for planting are supplied. Bring your own (such as 24 ounce yogurt containers) to be sure you have enough. So if you want to start getting ready for the coming spring be sure to attend this meeting.

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MARK THIS DATE DOWN!! SPRING DESIGN WITH NATURE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This is a reminder that the 2016 Wild Ones Design with Nature Conference will be held Saturday, February 20, 2016 at the conference center at the Anderson Student Center University of St Thomas, St. Paul.

“HELP MAKE MUDBALLS” VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY Wild Ones Twin Cities members will be helping children make milkweed-seed-mudballs at the DoItGreenMN Green Fair on November 21st from 10 am to 5 pm, at the Midtown Global Market, 920 E Lake Street in S Minneapolis. Organizers expect over 5000 visitors at the event. Call WOTC (612-293-3833) to volunteer for a 2 hour shift and leave a message with your phone number so Bill Blood, WO volunteer coordinator, can fit you in the schedule. Fun is guaranteed!

OPEN BOARD MEMBER POSITIONS NEED FILLING There are two Twin City chapter board positions that are currently open. Please consider volunteering for one of them. If interested, call the WO number given in the above article.

1. **Membership:** In this position one keeps an updated list of the current members; contacts those whose membership is about to expire or has recently lapsed; and welcomes new members to the organization. You would already have a willing and able helper in Jan Coleman who has taken on the job of calling all new members.
2. **Partner Liaison:** The major effort in this position is to build relationships with other like-minded organization such as The Native Plant Society, Audubon, and Blue Thumb to name a few. We are already working closely with many, so one is not starting from scratch. Actual efforts include working and coordinating with groups to be sure we are all aware of what each is doing and how we might better work together. Adding additional groups to this cooperative endeavor would also be f a goal.

Meeting Notes

September 2015, Cultivating Native Landscapes, presenter: Holley Wlodarczyk; panelists: Dave Hanson and Jim Vaughan. Holley Wlodarczyk is a suburban cultural historian who researches environmental history, visual culture and the built landscape. She is currently working on a project that traces increasing ecological awareness in new home construction, remodeling, and landscaping across the Twin Cities metro.

Through photographs of publicly accessible sites where native landscapes have been cultivated by three suburban municipalities, Holley Wlodarczyk illustrated how greater use of native plants and restoration of native habitat in high traffic or high visibility locations are slowly changing suburban aesthetics. Rather than uninterrupted expanses of mowed, monoculture turf grass covering parkland and other city-maintained public spaces, residents and visitors are becoming more familiar with native plant communities, and their benefits in terms of beauty, pollinator and wildlife habitat, pollution control, and shoreline stabilization. Each example showed how the plantings are clearly marked as intentional landscaping (bordered by mowed edges and including informative signage that explains the various native plants and their purpose), and incorporated into park spaces (including right next to such well-used park amenities like ball fields, play structures, walking paths, picnic tables and gazebos). Sites highlighted in the presentation include:

- Mix of MN native plants with ornamentals, City Hall, St. Louis Park
- Native prairie plantings, Public Works, Bloomington
- Native prairie plantings, Civic Plaza, Bloomington
- Native prairie plantings, W 82nd & Highland, Bloomington
- Native prairie plantings, East Marsh Lake Park, Bloomington
- Native prairie plantings, Parker’s Picnic Grounds, Bloomington
- Native prairie plantings, Reynolds Park, Bloomington



St Louis Park, Twin Lakes Park

- Native prairie plantings, Running Park, Bloomington
- Native prairie plantings, Smith Park, Bloomington
- Native prairie plantings and bioswale behind Holy Emmanuel Church, Bloomington
- Bee safe park and restoration project at Bass Lake Preserve, St. Louis Park
- Bee safe, Pennsylvania Park, St. Louis Park
- Bee safe and native planting, Browndale Park, St. Louis Park
- Native planting and shoreline habitat restoration, Twin Lakes Park, St. Louis Park
- Civic Center Prairie Project, Burnsville

Following this presentation, panelists Dave Hanson and Jim Vaughan answered questions about their experiences installing, managing, and promoting these sites within their respective communities. Jim Vaughan is an arborist by trade, and has worked for the City of St. Louis Park for almost 28 years as city forester and parks manager, and head of the city’s natural resources division since its inception 13 years ago, overseeing the city’s grassroots “Bee Safe Parks” initiative. He is also the city’s weed inspector, which, he said, “makes him the good guy and the bad guy.” Dave Hanson has worked for Bloomington for 22 years, and is the city forester and park superintendent, and started out as a summer seasonal employee mowing grass, including some of the sites now covered by native plantings.

Both Jim and Dave addressed their cities’ landscape management practices, which include integrated pest management, and avoidance of neonicotinoid use, and explained the range of informational resources and guidelines available to Bloomington and St. Louis Park residents who want to add native plants to their own properties. They both see people in their communities adapting, and increasingly driving the change toward inclusion of more native plantings in the suburban landscape. There were numerous questions which led to very in depth responses. The questions are listed below with a few responses included.



Bloomington – Smith Park

- how they each balance conflicting demands from residents, such as feasible options for dealing with weeds without herbicide application
- how they prevent the spread of invasives by city mowers in turf grass areas
- whether they do prescribed burns in native prairie gardens. **Answer:** In Bloomington all the native prairie plantings have been burned successfully, including one in front of city hall, but it’s getting increasingly difficult to basically “set parks on fire” due to public concern at the sight and the smoke. The fire department in St. Louis Park is contracted to do prescribed burns in that city, and with their help a few residents with full prairie lawns have carried out controlled burns.
- what they are doing to attract and aid beneficial insects
- how they decide which areas and to what extent native plantings will be installed. **Answer:** Bloomington believes there’s a place for at least a little bit of this in every park. It’s a progression, begun by first changing the frequency of mowing in low-use areas and wetland buffers, leading to full-scale native landscape installations. In addition to the selection of "Bee Safe Parks" where no pesticides are used, St. Louis Park also has a canopy percentage goal, is working on setting a prairie percentage goal, and is always reconsidering plans for areas that are currently being “overmaintained.”
- if the cities are promoting native trees and species diversification for private properties as well as public plantings, like boulevards. **Answer:** Like many cities, St. Louis Park is losing a lot of biomass in trees lost to development, neglect, and Emerald Ash Borer, among other factors, and is actively trying to increase the number and biodiversity of trees planted on both public and private property. Annual citywide tree sales, like the one in Bloomington, offer a variety of native shade trees like Kentucky Coffee, but Maples are still the most popular choices with residents. One problem on the horizon is a new insect expected to come through that will affect Maple species.
- how they see the mindset of city management when it comes to decisions about mowing city property or installing native plantings

- how they evaluate the cost inputs of native plants versus traditional turf grass
- what sources of budget support or grant money do they get for native landscaping projects
- where did the change come from in their respective communities (citizens public works crew, city council, mayor). **Answer:** A lot of the acceptance came from the public advocating for these changes in land management, but many times it begins with the crews charged with maintaining these areas. They first question the need and desirability of continued mowing, like in Reynolds Park in Bloomington, which now boasts a locally popular native landscape that further seeds public and civic enthusiasm for similar areas
- how they deal with buckthorn
- whether or not they see new developments incorporating native landscapes in their plans

Book Reviews, etc.

Wild Ones Twin Cities Library (by Kris Martinka): With the end of the growing season, focus shifts from individual plants and ecosystems to broader topics such as why we do what we do and how we are progressing with it. Our library has several good books for off-season reading that explore these topics.

Most of our longer-term members have read Doug Tallamy’s *Bringing Nature Home*, but if you haven’t read this book, it more than reaffirms the necessity of using native plants in your landscape, and it has great pictures, too. The library also has his CD “Toward Harmony with Nature 2014”, a wonderful way to sit back and take in his critical message of using native plants to provide food for the millions of insects that our world needs to survive.

Another read, *The Sixth Extinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert, takes us back in history to review the five mass extinctions our earth has experienced and then proceeds to show the devastating impact that humans have exerted on our world. The book is well-researched and written in a style that is very readable. Being a part of the sixth mass distinction is not what most people intend, but far more people need to wake up to what we are doing to our world.

Social media, websites of interest, and smartphone apps by Susan Tertell:

On Facebook? Not yet? Let us give you a reason to try it!

Wild Ones Twin Cities has a Facebook page, and it has lots of exciting information! By following Wild Ones Twin Cities on Facebook, you can get information on upcoming meetings and events, see photos, find links to other organizations – and best of all, if you have information you would like to share you can do that, too.

If you are not yet on Facebook, it is simple. Just go to facebook.com to get an account. You need to answer a few quick questions – your name, e-mail address, birth date and sex. There are privacy settings so that you can share your posts with only people who are your friends on Facebook. Then comes the fun part. In the search bar at the top of the page, enter Wild Ones Twin Cities and hit search. You will go to the Wild Ones Twin Cities page and can see what is on there. And many organizations now have a presence on Facebook, and it is a great way to follow the ones you are interested in.

If you are already a Facebook aficionado, you can either search for Wild Ones Twin Cities as explained above, or you can go to the Wild Ones Twin Cities website (wildonestwincities.org) and click on:



When you click on “Like” you will be following Wild Ones Twin Cities! And on the left side of the page, you can see a list of other organizations that are “liked” by Wild Ones Twin Cities. Plus in Facebook, the “find friends” option will show you people from your contact list who are on Facebook – so you can ask them to be fb friends with you. A great way to get your fix of cute baby, kitten and puppy videos.

Twitter is similar in its sign up process. If you are on Twitter, you can search under #nativeplants, or #monarchbutterfly (or whatever # you would like to try) to find photos, videos, and other information people are sharing.

If you would like to share a link to something on the Internet, especially if the url is a very long one, a nice way to do it is to get a tinyurl assigned. Those are the things you see that are a combination of letters, numbers and symbols that are short enough to easily insert into a post. If you go to tinyurl.com, you can type in your url and they will automatically assign you a tinyurl you can use for that page. Fun!

Other websites of interest:

- **Biota of North America Program: bonap.org** This includes the North American Plant Atlas. You can search plants in many different ways on this website.
- **Blue Thumb: bluethumb.org** Blue Thumb focuses on planting for clean water. They have a section on native plants, rain gardens, and shoreline stabilization.
- **Bug Guide: bugguide.net** Of course, no discussion of plants would be complete without information about insects.
- **Minnesota Extension Service: extension.umn.edu** Information on yard and garden, weeds, insects and plant diseases.
- **Minnesota Native Trees and Shrubs: dnr.mn.state.us**
- **Minnesota Wildflowers: a field guide to the flora of Minnesota: minnesotawildflowers.info** What’s blooming now, plants by name, flowers by color, and much more.
- **Plants Database: plants.usda.gov** The USDA provides a huge database of plants throughout the U. S. You can get images, factsheets, plant distributions, introduced, invasive and noxious plants, and much more. Well worth a look.

Smart phone users: There are many apps you can get on your cell phone to help with identification while you are in the field. Many are low-cost, and some will have a free version (often labeled “lite”) which you can try to find out if you want to buy the app. For instance, “Wildflowers of the Great Plains” is \$3.99 but has a free version. Warning – some of the apps are fairly large and will take up storage space on your smart phone, and for some you need a wi-fi connection to download, so you can’t wait until you are in the middle of the prairie to download a prairie plant identification guide!

Here are some suggestions to get you started: Audubon has several guides - you can choose birds, butterflies, trees and wildflowers for starters. Peterson’s Backyard Birds of North America is free, as is Merlin Bird ID by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. MN Wildflowers is also available as an app. Actually, whatever you are interested in can be searched with “identification” as a modifier to come up with possible suggestions.

Happy hunting!

Nokomis Naturescape/Monarch News

The 2015 Naturescape Gardeneering Season *THANKS to the Wild Ones volunteers* who helped showcase our native plant demonstration gardens (50th Street and Lake Nokomis Parkway, Minneapolis). Our work encourages people to plant native and liven up their own place. Earlier this year, the Minneapolis Park Board passed the **Nokomis-Hiawatha Master Plan** https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/_asset/1dglfv/nok_hia_masterplan.pdf , following a community input process. The public weighed in strongly for a natural landscape including native

species rather than a traditional tree and turf campus style. The Nokomis Naturescape (NN) has become a familiar lakeside highlight, leading the way for further native plantings. No doubt, maintaining our gardens was crucial for success. Consider gardening in 2016. Our season begins in April. We will have all winter to celebrate the 2015 season and plan for 2016. Interested? Email Vicki at vbok@usiwireless.com

Monarchs Soared at the 7th Annual Minneapolis Monarch Festival About 10,000 people flew to the shores of Lake Nokomis for this popular event (<http://www.monarchfestival.org/>) dedicated to monarch conservation and celebrating the Minnesota/Mexico migration connection. Nearly a decade ago, the NN volunteers chose the monarch as an ambassador for native plant habitat gardening, developing the Grow Monarch Habitat Workshops, a catalyst to this event.

Monarch Fest goers learned more about monarchs and habitat first-hand from the experts (U of M Monarch Lab, Wild Ones, Monarch Joint Venture, US Fish and Wildlife, Pollinator Press, Pollinator Revival, native plant vendors and more), while enjoying a day by the lake with music, dance, art, nature activities and food. Wild Ones members were interviewed for a Longfellow Nokomis Messenger article.

<http://www.longfellownokomismessenger.com/monarchs-get-royal-treatment-at-7th-annual-monarch-festival/>



Naturescape Garden



Monarch Festival Volunteers

Milkweed for Monarchs Workshop

Wild Ones efforts to help monarchs and share the benefits of native plant habitat gardening continued with this how-to workshop held on October 10th at the Nokomis Community Center. Additional support was given by the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association and the Minneapolis Park Board.

Educational power point presentations and handouts, along with Common Milkweed, Butterfly Weed and Rose Milkweed seed packets, provided people with what they needed to plant this fall. The presentation covered monarch habitat and the role of milkweed, why monarchs need our help, Minnesota milkweeds and what’s best for your yard, and how to collect, disperse, and plant seeds. The workshop was presented by Wild Ones members, Vicki Joy Bonk (Naturescape Stewardship Leader) and Nancy Schumacher (owner of the Vagary Nursery). A number of Wild Ones members assisted on the day of the event. Thanks again to volunteers!

Common Milkweed

Genus: *Asclepias*
 Species: *syriaca*
 Sun: full sun – part shade
 Soil: wet-mesic to dry
 Height: 2-5 ft
 Bloom: June - August
 Root: rhizomatous

The Extraordinary Common Milkweed

“There are few plants in our garden that contribute so much and require so little.”
 ~ Richard Darke, author

The Milkweed Monarch Connection

The monarch butterfly floating through a Minnesota blue sky often conjures warm summer memories. For me, holding another singular seasonal space, is common milkweed, with the flossy seed parachute capturing the iridescence of sunlight, drifting in the air on a windy fall day. As a child, I sought out milkweed pods and the opportunity to send seeds flying. At that time, there was no realization that without milkweed, there would be no monarchs. That understanding would come years later but the connection to the wonder of both was made quietly

in childhood.

Half a century later and the North American monarch is under consideration as an endangered species. Their 90% decline is largely due to habitat loss connected with genetically modified crops and the use of agricultural herbicides. Milkweed, particularly common milkweed (CMW) has been almost obliterated in areas it once thrived. The virtues of the monarch butterfly are remarkably easy to extol, not so with the common milkweed. Yet, it is this humble species that has supported the largest Minnesota monarch numbers over the centuries since it has the ability to grow in a wide variety of soil conditions and tends to form dense clusters that are most suitable for monarch larvae. In order to save the monarch, we must additionally restore native, local milkweed populations including the once oh-so common milkweed. How can we welcome this particular species to the landscape and to our yard?



Common Milkweed Virtues and Potential

There are approximately 110 milkweed species in North America, so named for their milky sap found in the leaves. Milkweeds belong to the family Asclepiadaceae, after Asklepios, the Greek god of medicine and healing. This should give you a clue to its long history as a plant of utility in human cultures. Volumes have been written on the plant's unique herbivory defense systems, the cardenolide connection to the monarch butterfly and research continues. As for CMW, it has been used as food, medicine, paper, a rubber substitute, rope, stuffing for floatation devices and pillows or comforters and more. With remarkable wildlife value, it attracts a wide variety of pollinators including bees, butterflies, beetles and hummingbirds. Beekeepers have long noted the high quality honey produced from milkweeds. Additionally, farmers could benefit from the beneficial insects attracted that reduce crop pests! Another attractive feature of CMW is its intoxicating floral scent; described as sweet, spicy with an overtone of honey. Perfume possibilities for a weed? In short, larger scale growing of common milkweed would provide seed to increase monarch habitat and could develop into additional enterprises.



Above: Milkweed flower
Below: Milkweed pod/seeds

Traditional Habitat

Common milkweed Latin species was unfortunately misnamed by Linnaeus as *syriaca* – of Syria. In reality common milkweed was found nowhere near Syria and was a common sight throughout the region that was to become the US cornbelt and is found in 39 states and 7 of the southern Canadian provinces. Of all the milkweeds, it is the most successful at colonizing (spreading by roots) in disturbed areas such as croplands, roadsides, old fields and “wastelands”. This ability has made it a tenacious adversary to farmers and unwieldy for gardeners. The rhizomatous roots could plunge well beneath a plow's reach (over 6 deep). CMW initially spread when US forests and prairies were cleared for agriculture.

Important to note is that CMW is rarely found in undisturbed prairies, finding it hard to compete with other species. This is an indication, that CMW can be held in check (not take over) with other natives. Essentially, CMW is an early succession species. Being a good colonizer does not mean it is a good competitor for resources such as nutrients, light and space.

A Place on the Home Front

In the past few years, there is a notable uptake in yards allowing CMW that “shows up” to stay. I have noticed that yards tidily landscaped with hosta and pruned shrubs now permit the drifting milkweed to find a home. People are rallying behind the monarch butterfly and reconsidering the CMW's place. CMW may open up the general view of acceptable yard and garden practices. More people are willing to take a walk on the wild side.

Managing CMW:

- Find an isolated spot such as an alley, border of woods, basically a “wilder” section of your lot to allow CMW to form a nice dense clump that is preferable to monarchs.
- In a more traditional garden, limit its growth by “editing”. Pull unwanted plants after an inspection for monarch eggs or larvae (can either wait for cycle to play out, deposit caterpillars on another clump, or take in to home rear into butterflies).
- Plant among native grasses and competitive forbs.
- Trim back mature plants to allow lower, new fresh growth and a bushier plant.
- Eliminate any plants showing signs of fungus and spots.
- In the fall, let the stems stand for a number of reasons, (can cut back a bit to tidy, if you like). First, milkweeds emerge later in the spring and by leaving the stems, you have a marker for next year. Second, The plant stems provide a fiber birds can use as nest material. Third, insects can overwinter in stem stalks. This also provides winter food for birds. Fourth, I simply like the winter pod interest.
- IMPORTANTLY: a residential yard should make extra effort to maintain “cues of care”. Do not allow weeds to grow, tidy judiciously, maintain borders plant species in groups.



Garden with milkweed

Milkweed Choices

No denying Common Milkweed may require more reigning in than some gardeners may like or that they may prefer a different structure or color. The good news is – there are a number of suitable native milkweeds to choose from. That said, common milkweed can contribute unique liveliness, aroma, colorful texture and utility to almost any landscape and it need not shout out “WEED” anymore. This plant choice may instead say “land steward” lives here.

Co Chairs’ Message

An almost perfect native plant growing season is coming to an end, you may be wondering if there is more you should do this year. I just happen to know one thing that hundreds of us need to do. Join with Wild Ones and Xerces Society and many others in the Pollinator Partnership to document the number of native plant poll garden (and upload a picture or video) in the MILLION

POLLINATOR GARDEN CHALLENGE at www.share.pollinator.org. So far about 184,000 gardens are registered in the US and only 32 in the Twin Cities. My garden is registered because it is already in the Wild Ones Native Garden/Habitat database. Gardens registered with Wild Ones are automatically in the MILLION POLLINATOR GARDEN CHALLENGE. By now you know why I can deduce that hundreds of WOTC members have not yet registered: close to 200 Wild Ones in Twin Cities and only 32 registered. Like a proud parent, you can include a photograph of the garden you love and baby for all the world to see. Does it get better than this?



Co-Chairs: Marilyn Jones/Julia Vanatta

Twin Cities Chapter of Wild Ones ♦ Fall 2015 ♦ Spring 2016 Calendar

All meetings are free and open to the public. Social 6:30-7:00 pm, Program 7:00-8:45 pm

Wood Lake Nature Center, 6710 Lake Shore Drive, Richfield, MN

For more detailed information, visit WildOnesTwinCities.org

Tuesday, September 15, 2015: COMMUNITIES GONE WILD: CULTIVATING NATIVE LANDSCAPES ACROSS THE TWIN CITIES METRO. Our fall programming begins with a virtual tour of community initiatives that help install, manage, fund or generally encourage native plantings in boulevards, yards, parks and public spaces. A panel discussion addressing community support, strategies, and challenges will include representatives from local municipalities, watershed districts, and community organizations involved in sample programs. Please join us for a tour of Wood Lake Nature Center at 6:00, before the program. Karen will describe the amazing biology of migratory monarch populations, and the work of citizens and scientists in documenting monarch numbers at all stages of their migratory cycle. She'll then discuss threats to monarchs, and potential responses to these threats. Because conservation biology must be, at its essence, a science of hope, her focus is on positive changes as well as on the challenges.

Tuesday, October 20, 2015: DWINDLING NUMBERS FOR AN ICONIC INSECT: A CONSERVATION BIOLOGIST PONDERING MOVING BEYOND THE DOCUMENTATION OF DECLINES, Karen S. Oberhauser, Ph.D. Professor in the Dept. of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota. Karen will describe the amazing biology of migratory monarch populations, and the work of citizens and scientists in documenting monarch numbers at all stages of their migratory cycle. She'll then discuss threats to monarchs, and potential responses to these threats. Because conservation biology must be, at its essence, a science of hope, her focus is on positive changes as well as on the challenges.

Tuesday, November 17, 2015: Annual Board Meeting & Potluck. YOUTH AND NATIVE GARDENING PROJECTS. Kris Martinka, Seed for Change grant coordinator, a parent, and students from Clara Barton Open School will share their experience working on a S4C project. Also, Erin and Faith Devery and Madison List from Girl Scout Troop 12974 will present their work installing a native garden habitat at the Minnesota River Valley Izaak Walton League property as part of their Pollinator Silver Award Project.

Tuesday, January 19, 2016: NATIVE PLANT WINTER SOWING AND SEED EXCHANGE. Carmen Simonet, of Carmen Simonet Design, LLC, will lead our Third Annual Native Winter Sowing and Seed Exchange. Come learn how to sow a variety of seeds and get a head start growing native plants for next spring!

Saturday, February 20, 2016: DESIGN WITH NATURE CONFERENCE: GOOD DESIGN MATTERS, Anderson Student Center, on the St. Paul campus of The University of St. Thomas, 2115 Summit Ave, 55105. Morning presenters are Heather Holm, author of *Pollinators of Native Plants*, sharing her latest research, and Benjamin Vogt, eastern Nebraska prairie garden designer and owner of Monarch Gardens. The afternoon presents co-speakers Chris Behringer, Behringer Designs, and Arlys Freeman, Midwest Floating Islands, who introduce their designs for creating innovative floating natural island landscapes. Visit <http://www.designwithnatureconference.org>

Tuesday, March 15, 2016: HOME IS WHERE THE HABITAT IS: ESTABLISHING NATIVE PLANTS AND GARDENS IN YOUR YARD, Hannah Texler, MN DNR Plant Ecologist, and Vera Ming Wong, Artist. Hannah will describe how she converted the turf grass in her St. Paul yard to a diverse mix of gardens that include native prairie and woodland gardens, rain gardens, and fruit and vegetable gardens. Vera will talk about creating watercolor paintings of those gardens and her work as a botanical artist.

Tuesday, April 19, 2016: 4th ANNUAL NATIVE LANDSCAPING TABLE TOPICS and 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.

Tuesday, May 17, 2016: GROWING AND GATHERING NATIVE EDIBLE PLANTS, Wesley Nugteren, Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden Naturalist. Come learn all about edible native plants you can grow, gather, and enjoy!

2015 Officers

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

Board Members

DWN Conference Liaison: Roxanne Stuhr
Audio Visual: John Arthur
Hospitality: Rose Meyer
Internet Inquiries: **OPEN**
Membership: **OPEN**
Merchandise: Erik Rotto
Newsletter: Mary Schommer
Nokomis Naturescape: Wild for Monarchs
Vicki Bonk
Outreach: Marty Rice/Laurie Bruno
Partner Liaison: **OPEN**
Programs: Roz Johnson/Holley Wlodarczyk
Public Relations: Holly Breymaier
Tours: Jim & Jan Coleman
Volunteer Coordinator: Bill Blood
Website: Julia Vanatta
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.