



Twin Cities Chapter Quarterly Newsletter

May 2017 Volume 15, Issue 2

ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE

Our 11th Annual Native Plant Sale has 5 collections and 16 individual favorites for pre-order. Additional native plants donated by members will be for sale on Pick-up day. Members, please keep this in mind as you divide your native plants this spring, and donate extras to help support your local Wild Ones Chapter! The deadline for ordering plants is Tuesday, 16 May with pickup on Sunday 21 May. The pick-up site is in South Minneapolis at 4009 Minnehaha Avenue South. Go to <http://www.wildonestwincities.org/p/2017-plant-sale.html> for detailed information on flats and individual plants and shrubs that are being offered and the order form to be used.

Collections (Each contains 48 Plants, 6 packs of 8 species. This can cover about 30 to 45 square feet, depending on flat selected. Plants should be spaced 12-18 inches apart as most will spread out as they mature.)

- Butterfly Host Plants Collection
- Butterfly Food Plants Collection
- Boulevard Garden Collection
- Pocket Prairie Collection
- Woodland Garden Collection

Individual Favorites:

- Forbs: Whorled Milkweed, Common Boneset, Great Blue Lobelia, Upright Coneflower
- Grasses & Sedges: Side Oats Grama, Porcupine Sedge, Indian Grass, Prairie Dropseed
- Woodland Areas: Wild Ginger, Maidenhair Ferns, Royal Fern, Large-flowered Trillium
- Shrubs: Lead Plant, Red-osier Dogwood
- Large Shrubs: Shadblow Serviceberry, American Hazelwood

If you cannot make the scheduled pickup or if you are mailing your completed Order Form on May 17, please call our message center at 612-293-3833 or send an email to our sales coordinator Marilyn Jones: marilyndjones@gmail.com



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

Tuesday, May 16, 2017: Phenology and Citizen Science in Minnesota with Rebecca Montgomery. Dr. Montgomery, professor in the University of Minnesota's Forest Resources Department, explores how nature's calendar tells us about alterations in the environment due to climate change. She will be sharing her field research on phenology of midwest trees and herbs, as well as inviting participation in observing phenology as part of a new art/science collaborative.

SUMMER TOURS There will be a number of summer tours starting in June. These are in the process of being finalized. Please check our website for location, dates, and times. For those without internet access please call the chapter message center (612-293-3883) for information on upcoming tours.

Design with Nature Conference Notes

(Editor's note) Write-ups of the 2017 monthly presentations to date will be in the next quarterly newsletter)

February 18, 2017 CONFERENCE: Planting Matters

Are "Alien" Plants Bad?, Doug Tallamy, University of Delaware. This presentation commenced by first tackling the choice of words in its title. "Alien" may be perceived as prejudicial, but here it should be thought of as referring to exotic, "out of towners", introduced by humans, mostly on purpose. "Bad" seems judgmental, but as will be evident throughout this talk it is really measureable and, therefore, can be characterized as bad.

The major premise on which this judgment is based is the fact that specialization in the world of food webs is the rule, not the exception. So as new "alien" species are introduced, these new species and native organisms are just meeting each other for the first time and, as a result, they haven't had time to develop specialized relationships. The question then is – does this matter? To analyze this one should look at the impact to ecosystem function. In adding species to an ecosystem does it function better and does this system contain as many species as before. Over 3300 non-native species have been added to our ecosystem in this country. Given this, it is better look more locally to analyze possible impacts. Tallamy's research focuses on measuring the impacts of introduced aliens on food webs. In particular concentrating on the most common type of specialized relationships – between insects that eat plants and the plants themselves. Remember that plants really don't want to be eaten – they just want to capture the sun's energy and use this for their growth and reproduction. So to avoid predation, over time plants have loaded their tissues with chemicals that make them either taste bitter or are toxic. This

Two examples given of species specialization:

1. The Bola spider. Here each species mimics the sex pheromones of one particular moth species and is, therefore, dependent upon it. In return it depends upon the host plant for the larva of that particular moth species.
2. Phlox *divericotta* – spring ephemeral – needs to be pollinated, but has very small corolla – so it needs an insect with very small mouth parts. Day flying sphinx moths such as the snowberry clearwing can do so and thereby spread the phlox's pollen. Coral honey suckle is the host plant for the larvae of this insect.

defense has kept most of the insects from eating most of the plants. However, each insect species has gotten past this by specializing. Over a long period of interaction an insect species picked one or two plants lineages with similar chemical make-ups and specialized by developing the ability to overcome that plant's physical defenses so they can eat them. They have not developed this ability to overcome the defenses of other plant species and have, therefore, grown dependent upon their specialization.

To help determine how plants introduced from outside the local food webs affect these interactions, a number of experiments have been and are being performed. One took observations within a 12 foot by 12 foot plot noting: the types of plants found therein; the number of each type of plant; and then counting the biodiversity (i.e. species diversity) present. Another recorded the numbers of caterpillars found at head level in a given area. Here native trees had numerous species and individual numbers as opposed to non-natives where few to none were present. Information from these and other counts were used to build a list of trees that was ranked according to the number of caterpillars found. The US Forest Service together with the National Wildlife Federation asked that this list be developed throughout the country. Under contract the University of Delaware built a limited list for each county in the country. It can be found by going to the following National Wildlife website: www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder. The table below shows the top trees for butterflies and moths for zip code 55406 (Hennepin County)

Tree Species	#	Tree Species	#
Salix (willow)	307	Populus (aspen, poplar, cottonwood)	252
Prunus (beach plum, cherry, chokecherry)	286	Vaccinium (cranberry, blueberry)	292
Betula (birch)	277	Acer (maple, boxelder)	196
Quercus (oak)	273	Alnus (alder)	186

Plants that serve as the key sources of food are called foraging hubs, because that is where the food is. Five percent of tree species support 73% of the available caterpillar species. Counts made to support this found that the following - oaks: 557 species of caterpillars; cherry – prunus: 456 species of caterpillars; as compared to Ginkgo where 4 caterpillars were found (and these 4 were not eaten). Plants chosen for landscaping do matter. Think of these plants that support large numbers of caterpillars as bird feeders and plant accordingly.

Another experiment looked at the number of caterpillars found in hedge rows. Here counts were made in a hedgerow in the East invaded with (to name a few) Oriental bittersweet, Japanese honey suckle, miscanthus and barberry pear (all escapees from gardens). This area was compared with a hedgerow that was made up of native plants. Five times the number of species were found in the un-invaded hedgerow and 22 times more caterpillars in total were counted. This means that these invaded hedgerows are very poor at supporting caterpillars. What is the consequence of this dearth of caterpillars found in non-native plants? It can lead to a significant reduction in bird biomass (by a predicted factor of 22 in this instance). Beyond birds, think of what happens to species at higher levels of the food chain as the number of birds is reduced due to lack of food. The conclusion was that if one reduces interaction biodiversity, the function of that ecosystem is reduced.

To further elucidate, 96% of our terrestrial bird species rear their young on insects – most of which are caterpillars. Why caterpillars? They are soft and large (it takes 220 aphids to equal 1 caterpillar); high in protein and lipids; and the best source of carotenoids (compounds made by plants). Anti-oxidants present stimulate immune system, improve color vision, improves sperm vitality, improves sexual attractiveness (brightly colored). It is clear the caterpillars are an essential part of most bird diets, so if they are not there the birds can't successfully reproduce. An example used to support the premise that breeding success is related to foraging success was Carolina chickadees. When looking at these birds it was found that they are foraging within 50 meters of their nest and they are not going to invasive species to get food. These chickadees bring caterpillars to the nest every 2 minutes. A chickadee takes



390 – 570 caterpillars to the nest each day. Babies are fed for 16 days before they fledge. Based on this, one clutch needs to feed on 6,000 – 9,000 caterpillars in order to fledge. This is not even taking into consideration the 30 days after they are able to leave the nest, but still must be fed. It is clear that if there are not enough native trees with high caterpillar counts, babies starve to death (real consequences). Now up this requirement to another bird the red-bellied woodpecker which weighs eight times more than chickadees – and continue with all the other birds that are feeding their young.

Migrating birds are also affected. Typically they fly 300 miles/night as they migrate. If they land in essentially “desert” areas – turf lawns and non-native trees, they will not find enough food to fuel up for the next day of their journey

So how can this problem be rectified? By understanding that food webs are made of living plants and animals and as such we can rebuild them. Start by identifying the caterpillars and knowing what they eat. Then plant these species. Remember that 90% of the insects won’t be there if don’t plant the right species. Keeping in mind that insects (which have fat bodies loaded with lipids) are also part of food web for others – frogs, toads, amphibians, birds, bats, lizards, rodents, skunk, raccoons, and possum. Even species such as the red fox (25% of their diet is insects), black bear (23% of their diet is insects). The ecosystems supporting birds and other animals are the same ones that are supporting us. A world without insects is a world without biological diversity is a world without humans.

The current numbers of affected species is a call to action. As of 2016, 435 species of North American birds are threatened with extinction. There are 50% fewer songbirds than 40 years ago. The native bee species found in the Midwest have declined by 50 percent. This can be fixed by planting for bee species specialists. Examples of the support (in parenthesis) offered by plants include: Sunflower (13 species); asters (12 species), asters (11 species); willows (9 species); prairie clover (6 species); and false indigo (4 species).

One question from the audience was: Should birds be eating berries that aren’t good for them? Birds require different berries at different seasons. In the summer they need berries with high sugar content, in the fall migrating birds require high fat content and in the winter they need a higher sugar content berry as they go into their breeding season. Again this is a specialized relationship in that plants have made berries that birds can eat at the time of that plant’s seed dispersal. Natives are higher in fat content than the non-native berries which are producing high sugar content – that doesn’t fuel their migration.

Another question on cultivars: Do they have the same ecological value as their parent species? Having looked at the following traits: enhanced fall color, leaf variegation, change of habit, disease resistance, enhanced fruit, red or purple flowers. Only the last had a consistent affect. Antheyanids are present to get this color. Insects avoid this chemical and hence pass up flowers that are this color.

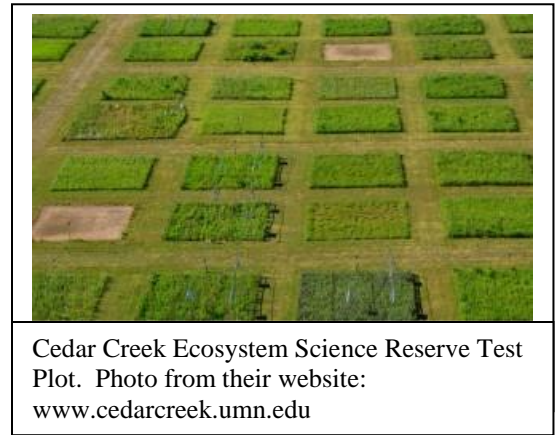
Words of Wisdom from Doug Tallamy

- a. Ten step program: Take 10 steps back and you can’t see damage in leaves done by insects.
- b. You don’t have to save native plants for a living but save them where you can.
- c. Need to stop thinking of plant’s function as just pretty decorations. Instead think of the functional value of native plants and about rebuilding ecosystems.

What is the Value of Biodiversity, Forest Isbell, University of Minnesota. (Associate director of Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve).

Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve began monitoring ecosystems in 1942. Their mission, to discover sustainable solutions for environmental challenges through research, education and conservation. (Per their

website, they are dedicated to understanding our planet's ecosystems and how they are changing under human pressures.) The Reserve is one of two dozen field research sites supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF). This particular research station is probably most famous for researching the causes of biodiversity on 30 x 30' plots. Here they delve into the drivers of plant diversity and the challenges diversity is up against.



Three things are driving plant diversity loss:

1. Habitat loss and fragmentation
2. Global warming. The global average temperature change remained close to zero between 1850 and 1900, but thereafter it has been spiraling upward. Plants have temperature optimums at which they grow best. Changes in precipitation (another result of global warming) also affect plants. As some areas are getting much drier, others are becoming much wetter. Generally the wettest parts of the world are much wetter; and the drier areas much drier
3. Nutrient pollution through the inadvertent fertilization of plants. If one wants to keep diversity, only a small number of plants do well under fertilization. As an example Rocky Mountain National Park is losing its plant diversity due to nutrient pollution. Nitrogen pollution is considered to be the primary cause. Smog also has excess of plant fertilizer in it which can affect plant diversity.

Based on performed research, there were a number of instances that supported the need for plant diversity. For instance, following a severe drought that hit Minnesota in the 1980's farmed areas which had had greater diverse plant communities more fully recovered productivity shortly after the drought. In another research effort, when comparing areas with greater numbers of species present, there was three times the biomass produced versus areas with only one species. Additionally two times as many weeds were suppressed, and there was 1.3 times more yield stability.

Many species appear to be redundant, if one looks only at short term - which could lead to the assumption that the remaining species are not needed. However, as more years and environments are considered the conclusion from ongoing research is that a greater variety of species promotes ecosystem functionality. Because there can be as much as a 50% turnover in species in one year and the rest the next, it extremely challenging to decide which species did best over time. Diversity provides:

- a. Ecosystem stability: Looking at a common input such as irrigation, diversity can do half of the job of providing water to plants.
- b. Pest and weed suppression.
- c. Pollinator production: This is greater in diverse systems.
- d. Nutrient uptake and retention greater than if one used a diverse system of planting instead of fertilizers.

Challenges to be addressed in continued research:

- a. Identify an optimal set of species by looking at variations across space and time.
- b. Maintain this optimal set by periodically re-establishing it or by sowing a diverse mix and letting nature take its course.
- c. Determine if it is possible to generalize to other conditions or ecosystem services.
- d. Promote the scale of production of diverse systems. Here one is looking at the need for more diverse native seed mixes in the market place.

Recommendations:

- a. Enhance diversity when and where you can
- b. Use seeds from species grown in a mixture
- c. Mix native species with a long history of interaction and co-evolution.

The Nuts and Bolts of Selecting and Planting Trees, Nathalie Shanstrom, Kestrel Design Group

The benefits of trees include

1. Their presence adds \$8,800 to the value of a home. It also greatly benefits business districts with 11% more traffic, people are showing a willingness to walk further, and the overall quality is 30% higher.
2. Economic Benefits: The life span of surface on tree-lined streets is 60% higher.
3. Safer: People drive more slowly in areas where there are trees. People are calmer, the air is cleaner, and it provides wildlife habitat.
4. Cooler parking lots: Asphalt temperatures are 36 degrees Fahrenheit lower. Car interiors are 47 degrees Fahrenheit lower.
5. Storm water benefits: Trees can remove storm water runoff and can clean this runoff. (Note that there is greater growth and height when trees are watered with storm water. Given this it is good to direct storm water to trees.)
6. Energy Benefits: Cooling houses in the summer; lower heating bills in the winter.



Cornell University Structural Soil Model

When designing for tree locations one needs to consider soil volume, drainage, soil salt, and soil compaction.

This last is the biggest constraint. As it increases, pore space for water and air decreases. There are a number of systems that have been developed to protect trees from compaction and allow root and tree growth. Including (1) Cornell University structural soil (CU soil), (2) Sand based structural soil, or (3) Swedish structural soil.

Tree Selection. When purchasing a tree, get a quality tree. They have a higher survival rate and greater longevity. Get the maximum size as it takes less time and water to establish. These trees also compete better with weeds. Additionally look for a tree with one dominant trunk and branches that are less than 2/3rds the diameter of the trunk.

Trees can be purchased in the following condition:

1. Bare root: These have a higher mortality rate. One needs to protect them from the sun and it is more difficult to keep them level. There is a limited planting time in order help ensure success.
2. Container: These are (a) initially planted and grown in containers above ground; (b) in a container that is in ground; or (c) are field dug and placed in a container. There can be root defects that develop if they are kept in a container too long.
3. Ball in burlap: These have a high success rate. They typically transplant better because their roots are more fibrous. Tall root balls keep deeper roots moist. Shallow roots perform well in poorly drained and/or compacted soil sites

Note the condition of the roots when purchasing a tree.

1. If the roots are circling, the tree has been too long in the container. One can possibly cut out the smaller roots. The tree, however, may be unstable if the plant has circular roots.
2. If the roots are kinked, sugar can't get up the tree.
3. If roots are girdling the stems. Cut them out as this will strangle the stem. This defect could show up 10 to 12 years after the tree is planted. Indications of this condition are: if one sees leaf scorching and stunted leaf, twig, and stem growth.
4. Root bound problem if one sees lots of small roots with few around the outside edge.



Girdling roots

Tree Planting:

- Make sure there is room for the tree to grow.
- Find the top-most root.
- Remove circling/girdling roots – cut 1” off the outside and the bottom of these roots.
- Dig a shallow, wide hole that is 90-95% the depth of root ball after the soil has been removed and 3 times the width of the root ball/
- Don’t lift the tree up by the trunk.
- Straighten the tree before adding soil back into the hole.
- Remove any synthetic material.
- Irrigate within about an hour after planting or the tree could die.
- Water with at least 20 gallons of water which eliminates air pockets and minimizes settling).
- Put 3inches of mulch over the area. Don’t put down a volcano, but spread it out in an even layer.
- Stake the tree with flexible material. This can be removed after 2 years.
- Don’t fertilize.

Tree Maintenance:

- Water and mulch. If watering is done properly it will establish more quickly.
- Protect the trunk bark.
- Clean the root collar.
- Check for girdling.
- Generally check tree health periodically.
- Check tree safety after storms.

Nokomis Naturescape

A four-acre native planting at Lake Nokomis,
50th Street and Nokomis Parkway,
Minneapolis MN 55417

Naturescape Gardener Receives Minneapolis Park Board

VOLUNTEER of the YEAR AWARD CONGRATULATIONS to Marilyn Jones, Wild Ones TC co-chair and NN gardener co-coordinator extraordinaire! This award recognizes her generous volunteer nature and native plant gardening skills. Marilyn readily shares her knowledge to fellow gardeners, volunteer groups, and park visitors. Her talents, humor and ongoing enthusiasm transmit the charm and benefits of native plan habitat gardening to others easily. During one of our weekly gardening sessions, you can often find her talking (and laughing) to park visitors at length and in caring detail. We are very lucky and grateful to be gardening alongside such a force of nature. The award brings \$500 to the Naturescape which will go to educational signage. The Gardeners won MPRB’s Group Volunteer Award last year with award money also going to signage. We’re on a roll!



Lauri Bruno & Marilyn Jones

Wild One’s Naturescape Gardening. *Interested in hands-on native plant gardening experience?* Consider gardening alongside volunteers who have been at it for twenty years! *Value native plant landscapes and want to bring the beautiful benefits to others?* Join Wild One’s members gardening at the popular Lake Nokomis park. The NN Gardeners meet Tuesday evenings, between 5/6 to 7/8pm from May through the end of the growing season (September/October). Since 2002 Wild Ones Twin Cities chapter has helped maintain the three prairie gardens located at the 4-acre Nokomis Naturescape. These demonstration gardens are designed to encourage people to plant native



Bluebell close-up at the Naturescape

species to liven up their own yard. Get on our email list for current updates on Naturescape volunteering, garden bloom's and wildlife, native plant gardening tips and more. Find our 2017 calendar at Wild One's Twin Cities <http://www.wildonestwincities.org/p/volunteer>. For more information contact Vicki at ybonk@usiwireless.com or call 612-232-8196. Also check out our facebook site to keep you current with happenings <https://www.facebook.com/NokomisNaturescape>

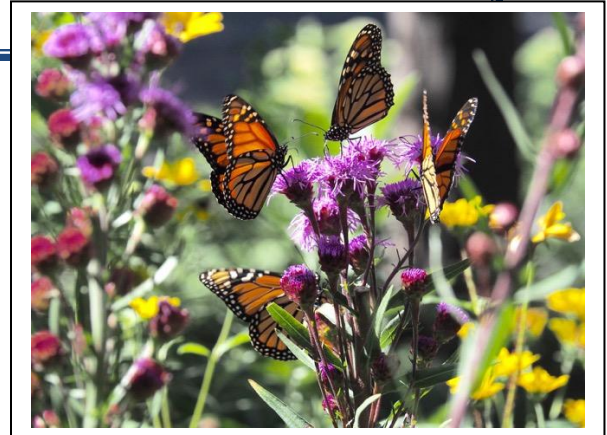
Monarch News

GROW MONARCH HABITAT WORKSHOP

Saturday, May 20, 2017, 10am to 12:00noon

Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Parkway,
Mpls., MN 55417

In 2005 the Nokomis Naturescape Gardeneers created the *Grow Monarch Habitat* project to connect monarch conservation to the importance of native plant habitat. This is a positive vision to see monarch habitat grow rather than diminish - every yard making a difference! We know planting the monarch host plant, milkweed is crucial but also critical is providing the preferred nectar plants especially important fuel for the monarch migration. An educational powerpoint featuring the Nokomis Naturescape is presented alongside a wealth of current educational materials including *Wild for Monarchs*. The workshop features the Monarch Garden-to-Go, a native plant kit including milkweed and a variety of nectar plants including the monarch magnets in the liatris family. Workshop admission is free, but registration is required for the kits. The Monarch Garden-to-Go kits are \$32 (\$37 value). Two different kits are available, each including 12 plants in 3.5" pots: one for dry to medium soils and one for medium to wet soils. Additional native plants will also be available and pollinator plants will be highlighted. The exceptional plants are supplied by the Vagary <http://www.thevagary.com>. Registration and more information available at <http://nokomiseast.org/grow-monarch-habitat-workshop/>



Twin Cities Happenings

Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District – WATERFEST Join Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District for a free, family celebration of our clean lakes at:

WaterFest 2017,

Saturday, June 3

11 AM - 4 PM (rain or shine)

Lake Phalen Park, 1600 Phalen Dr, St. Paul, MN 55106

Experience activities on and around the lake with landscaping and watershed exhibits including native plant give-away, boating, fishing, music and dance, lakeside yoga, food for purchase and lots more! For more information: www.rwmwd.org.

Landscape Revival: Native Plant Expo and Market

Date/Time

Sat, Jun 3, 2017

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Location

Roseville Cub Foods (Community Pavilion)

1201 Larpenteur Ave W, Roseville, MN 55113



Sponsors: St. Paul Audubon Society, Blue Thumb, Wild Ones, and Neighborhood Greening

Purchase pollinator-safe native plants at Landscape Revival. Native growers participating in the sale do not use systemic pesticides.

The Landscape Revival — Native Plant Expo and Market offers gardeners one convenient location to shop for Minnesota native plants from 12 local native growers and learn how to use the plants from conservation organizations. The goal of Landscape Revival is to promote the use of native plants by educating about their benefits for wildlife habitat, pollinators and water quality.

Why Natives?

Many of us don't think about choosing plants that are native to Minnesota when we plan our gardens. Instead, we pick plants for their color, their hardiness or how quickly they grow. But by choosing Minnesota native plants, plant species that have grown in this area for hundreds of years and are thus well adapted to our conditions, we can create spectacular gardens that are a haven for wildlife and protect our lakes and the Mississippi River.

In Minnesota, there are trends that threaten wildlife. Bees, butterflies, birds and other animals are quickly losing their habitat as our growing population creates the need for more land development. These developments also change how water moves over the landscape and create more runoff where water would naturally soak into the soil. Also, the spread of invasive plants is degrading and fragmenting the habitat that remains. You can help by growing native plant species that sustain wildlife in a way that nonnative plants do not.

Begin creating your wildlife oasis by talking to professionals at the Landscape Revival. You can start small. The beauty and rewards you discover will make you want to do more!

Naturally WILD

Native Minnesota Wildflowers
3539 West 44th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55410
612-922-9279
naturallywildflowers.com
naturallywild001@yahoo.com

- Opening day Saturday, April 29; also open all Saturdays in May, and June 10, 17, 24, 10:00-2:00.
- At Landscape Revival in Roseville June 3 and Minnetonka Pollinator Field Day July 12.
- Plants also available weekday afternoons beginning May 1 by contacting us to schedule a pick-up.
- Several varieties of milkweed available!
- For current plant list, see minneapolis.craigslist.org. Under **Services**, click on **Farm + Garden** and search for **Native Wildflowers**.

2017 Officers

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Newsletter: Mary Schommer
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Programs: Roz Johnson/Holley Wlodarczyk
Public Relations: Holly Breymaier
Tours: Jim & Jan Coleman
Volunteer Coordinator: **OPEN**
Website : Julia Vanatta/Holley Wlodarczyk

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 Leslie Modrack at 612-293-3833, 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.