Wild Ones
NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

Twin Cities Chapter
Quarterly Newsletter

November 2016 Volume 14, 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*

Tuesday, November 15, 2016. Annual Membership Meeting, Potluck, and Officer Election. Hope you are able to join us for this final meeting of 2016. We meet to share food, participate in election of our new officers for 2017 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. In lieu of a presentation by one speaker we will be able to tour spectacular native landscapes from the Midwest to Hawaii as members share beautiful photographs and experiences from their recent travels.

Tuesday, January 17, 2017. Native Plant Winter Sowing and Seed Exchange. Join us for a workshop led by Carmen Simonet of Carmen Simonet Design, and learn how to start your own native plants over the winter.

Tuesday, March 21, 2017. Selecting Native Trees and Shrubs that Support Birds and Bees with Heather Holm

Tuesday, April 18, 2017. 5th Annual Table Topics with local experts on everything you want to know about gardening with native plants! **NOTE:** This will likely NOT be held at Woodlake Nature Center. Look for news of the location on the web or in subsequent newsletter!!

Tuesday, May 16, 2017. Phenology and Citizen Science in Minnesota with Rebecca Montgomery

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MARK THIS DATE DOWN!! SPRING DESIGN WITH NATURE ANNUAL CONFERENCE - PLANTING MATTERS This is a reminder that the 2017 Wild Ones Design with Nature Conference will be held Saturday, February 18, 2017 at the conference center at the Anderson Student Center University of St Thomas, St. Paul.

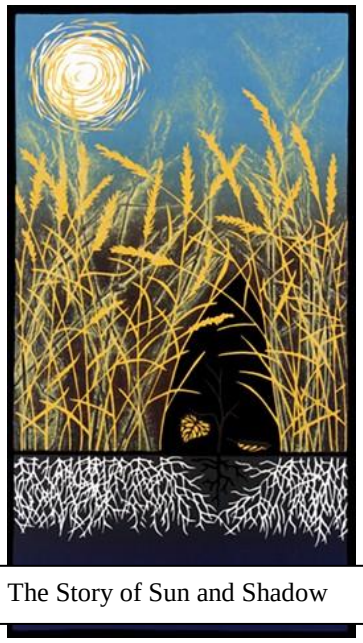
Meeting Notes

Summer Tours - 2016: We had a busy season of touring this past summer with 13 tours plus a trip to Crex Meadow in Wisconsin. With Jim and Jan Coleman doing a great job planning and organizing these tours, we also want to give a big thanks to those members who opened their gardens to us and shared their stories. This year's summer garden tours with identified garden owners are shown below.

June 11: Jeremy and Amy Maybergs garden Edina and Meleah Maynards Garden Minneapolis
June 15: Doug Owens Pike
June 12: South Minneapolis Gardens: Vicki Bonk's garden, Local Roots Client garden, Nokomis Gateway garden
July 6: Patty's garden at Business Energy Savor's Insulation
July 11: Revisit to Jeremy Mayberg's and Meleah Maynard's gardens
August 6: South Minneapolis. Seward, Longfellow , and Corcoran neighborhoods: Mon Petit Cheri, Marilyn Jones' yard, Common Ground Meditation, Liz and Bill Blood's yard, Julia Vanatta's yard
Mon Aug 8 Jeremy Maybergs Yard and Meleah Maynard revisit
Sat Aug 13 Guided tour of Crex Meadows Wildlife Area in Indianhead County, Wisconsin

September 2016, Walk Through a Trespasser's Garden, Emily Gray Koehler. A Walk Through the Trespasser's Garden is not only a uniquely-named presentation, it is a provocative look at the "roots" of many of the invasive plants we battle today — and reveals that their roots were established as the result of human actions, most of which were intentional. Artist Emily Gray Koehler brought her art works to the September 20 meeting of the Twin Cities Chapter of Wild Ones along with the stories of how many of the most damaging exotic plants in Minnesota were established in North America.

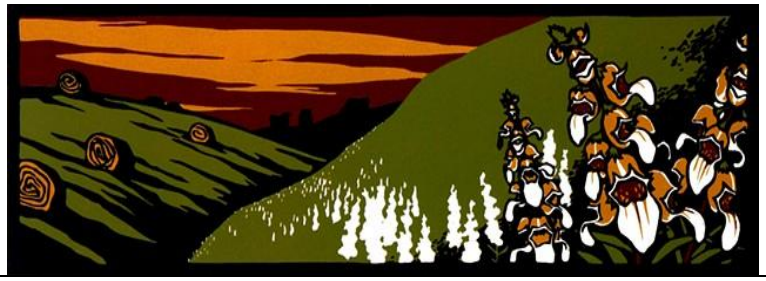
In the artist's own words: "For me, like so many gardeners, to plant a seed and watch it grow is to viscerally commune with nature. Unfortunately, we often confuse this intimacy with control. From this misconception a vast garden of trespassers has invaded this land tended, propagated and harvested by the one and only true invasive species: humanity."


The Story of Sun and Shadow

Each art work has a story to tell:

1. *A Story of Sun and Shadow* shows the effects of canary reed grass choking the edges of our rivers, shading out the seedlings of the cottonwood trees: no new cottonwoods have been established in the Mississippi River Valley for sixteen years though they remain vigorous in upland areas.
2. *Displacing Diversity* graphically illustrates the crowding out of woodland natives above the soil and below — due to the seed production rate and allelopathic roots of garlic mustard. Originally imported as a human food plant, garlic mustard is not eaten by native wildlife or insects.
3. While the foreground of *Virgin Soil* is a row of thickly-growing purple loosestrife, the ghostly profile of a 1800s European clipper ship passes in the background, carrying millions of loosestrife seeds in its ballast water.
4. Purple loosestrife was also one of the medicinal herbs known to Europeans: the *Frontier Apothecary* work shows that it continued to be cultivated and spread by frontier settlers as an aid to stop excessive bleeding with ulcers and flesh wounds.

5. Loosestrife also expanded its territory into the far West via rail and river traffic, as shown in the beautifully composed design of *Manifest Destiny.*
6. Perhaps the saddest story is told by *Sweet Charade*. Early American beekeepers sought to make use of nearby wetlands as a cheap resource and, given its striking blooms, extensively planted purple loosestrife as a source of nectar. Soon it was recognized that the resulting honey was poor and could not be marketed, but the damage has been irreversible.



Sweet Charade

There are more stories, simply and powerfully told in Emily's cleanly wrought woodcuts: Eurasian watermilfoil, amur maple, curlyleaf pondweed, Grecian foxglove, common buckthorn, sweet clover, ox-eye daisy and exotic yellow iris.

The artist brought not only a print of each story she tells in the series, but Emily (and her husband) carried in her original woodcut blocks. They are fascinating exhibits as the artist describes her specific color-reduction woodcut process. Another process she has incorporated into some of the works is collagraphy, using the plants themselves to print atop the woodcut.

If you missed this presentation, please visit Emily Gray Koehler's web page, Click on each picture to find the story it tells: http://studioegk.com/section/425068-The-Trespasser-s-Garden.html
What inspired the artist? Emily Gray Koehler grew up on the family farm in northern Lower Michigan and says she has always been tuned into the natural - and agricultural worlds - around her. Increasingly aware of man-made changes to the woodlands and waters, she began to investigate how invasive species came to be where they are, and realized their connections to human activities. Emily now lives and has a studio in White Bear Lake.

The web page of the Banfil-Locke Center for the Arts describes their 2015 exhibition of the 28 works in this series, and provides a brief background for the series: "This exhibition is the culmination of Emily's Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grant; this grant funded project allowed Emily to research and explore the invasive species that have made themselves part of the Minnesota landscape and then create new artwork based on her findings. … This new body of work explores the introduction, ecology and environmental impact of invasive plants on our delicate ecosystems."
(www.banfill-locke.org/2015/10/1991/)

Co Chairs' Message

Winter is coming and it's a good time to plan next year's garden and perhaps do some in-depth studying of a new topic. As Wild Ones, we diligently promote and maintain native plants and natural landscaping to maintain biodiversity and provide habitat for native flora and fauna. I hope you will join me in learning more about the invasive plants that are threatening to the diversity and habitat value of our forest and prairie ecosystems.

In recent months I have encountered forces espousing acceptance of invasive terrestrial species. First, I had a teacher (not a degreed Naturalist) in a Master Naturalist course who advised us to forget about invasive plants as nature will eventually balance out – I say, what? – in thousands of years! Second, a speaker at an Arboretum event pretty much said the same thing. I was not there but I heard there was some serious rebuttal. And third, some groups are innocently and avidly recommending planting invasive species to support honey bees.

Invasive terrestrial species reduce biodiversity and ruin habitat. Consider glossy buckthorn, when it becomes established, it forms a dense monoculture and outcompetes native shrubs, thus disrupting ecosystem processes. In an oak forest understory, for example, a buckthorn monoculture prohibits acorns from self-sowing. Everything gets out of balance, and species extinction ultimately results. In MN, we all know buckthorn is prohibited.

Dutch White Clover

And Dutch White clover (Triflorum repens), which is considered an invasive species in US National Parks in Maryland, Washington DC, West Virginia, Arizona, California, Hawaii, North Dakota and Wyoming, has moved into all states after being introduced from Europe for agriculture. It is an Invasive Species in Wisconsin. In Minnesota it has not been deemed an immediate threat but it clearly competes with more desirable species and reproduces aggressively. Being extremely difficult to remove, use of glyphosate in yard treatments has kept it out of lawns. To plant it on purpose is to court another contributor to native insect species extinction. I understand it is not a host plant to native insects, probably because the plants were introduced in the US from Europe. And the European honeybees are nonselective feeders who do not need this species of clover to survive; and they are perfectly happy to feed on the native plants alongside native insects.

Species that do not pose an immediate threat to natural areas, do compete with more desirable native species. Once established, many can reproduce aggressively and become difficult to eradicate.
So rather than just promote native plants, we also need to become informed about invasive species, recognize invzsive plants in all of their growth stages, and advocate against their use.

U.S. National Parks where Dutch white clover is reportedly becoming invasive:

Antietam National Battlefield (Maryland)
Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park (Maryland, Washington, D.C., and West Virginia)
Chiricahua National Monument (Arizona)
Death Valley National Park (California)
Haleakala National Park (Hawaii)
Theodore Roosevelt National Park (North Dakota)
Yellowstone National Park (Wyoming)

Written by Co-Chair Marilyn Jones

Member Input

Our Urban Forest and its Ghosts, by Susan Tertell

The event that got me especially interested in the topic of our urban forest was the replacement of a tree on my boulevard. In place of my American basswood (which I had nourished and loved as a baby) I received a Kentucky coffeetree. I had never seen them before planted in Minneapolis, although I know a bit about them from a friend in South Dakota. He has a few in some low land that he owns, and told me that they are less common in the wild now, because the seeds were spread by giant ground sloths that are now extinct. And being even more bookish than me, he recommended a title which I did not start reading until I had a more personal interest in the tree's history. The book is by Connie Barlow, and is called "The Ghosts of Evolution: nonsensical fruit, missing partners, and other ecological anachronisms" Basic Books, 2000.

Kentucky Coffeetree leaves

As it turns out, there are many species of plants (mostly trees) whose seeds were not only spread, but prepared for germination, by passing through the teeth and digestive tracts of now-extinct megafauna. These megafauna are now represented primarily by animals such as the elephant and rhinoceros, but in the past included the giant ground sloth (Megatherium), gomphotheres (about the size of an elephant but postulated to have four tusks), mastodons, and mammoths.

The trees in our current urban landscape that evolved with these animals as propagators are the Kentucky coffeetree, the honey locust, and the gingko. The characteristics that make the fruits of these trees dependent on large animals are several. First, the fruits or seed pods usually stay on the trees after they are ripe. Only an animal tall enough – or with a long enough trunk – to reach these seeds can benefit from the nutrition they offer. Also, the seeds are enclosed in a nutritious and sweet pulp, but the outer covering or husk cannot be penetrated by a smaller animal with smaller teeth. So a mammoth, for instance, would pluck the seed pod from the coffeetree, chew up the outer shell, perhaps scarifying the seeds a bit but not crushing them completely, and then eliminate them in a pile of dung a distance away, encased in their own fertilizer, ready to sprout and produce a new tree. The pile of dung would discourage most small seed scavengers from getting the seeds and chewing them up.

So that is how the trees were spread in the past, but now that we do not have mammoths roaming the landscape, how are these trees still around? Some trees may be able to spread by the seeds washing downstream, perhaps being scarified a bit in the process, and lying in moist ground until they are able to germinate. Otherwise, they must be helped by humans providing the same assistance the megafauna used to provide. But why do humans want to do this?

Think of some of the urban trees you are familiar with – maples, hackberries, American basswood, etc. As many of you know, many of these are very capable of reproducing wherever they can find a space.

The maple seed will blow around and end up facing down in an opportune spot and germinate. Hackberries are a favorite food of birds in the late summer and early fall, and the birds eliminate the seeds in many locations – and some of the seeds germinate where they land. And the basswood seeds are on little "kites" that can propel themselves a distance from the parent tree. This is great for continuation of the species, but not always especially convenient for the homeowner or gardener.

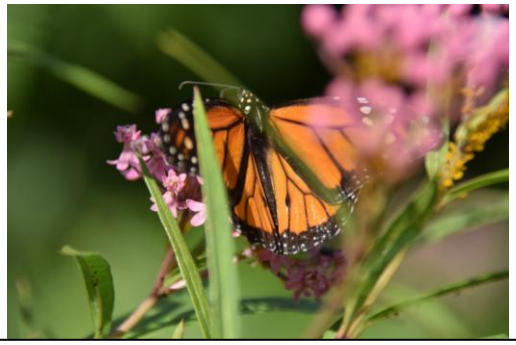
So enter these trees which are missing their "partners" for reproduction. Using the Kentucky coffee tree as an example, not only do they refrain from putting out seedlings all over the landscape, they are fairly impervious to many urban hazards such as road salt, and can flourish in heat, cold, alkaline soils, drought, insect infestation, and ice. Since the leaves emerge late and drop early, they also allow more solar gain in the shorter days of spring and fall.

The gingko has many of these same characteristics, although now for the most part only male gingkos are planted because of the foul odor of the fruit. Gingkos are widely cultivated, and have been found in fossils dating back 270 million years. The honey locust is also widely cultivated because its tolerance of poor conditions and fast growth make it useful in areas such as housing developments where those characteristics are beneficial.

Basically, living things (including ourselves) are adapted not for our current environment, but for the environment in which in our ancestors evolved. Barlow's book gives many other examples and is a delight to read.

Here you go.

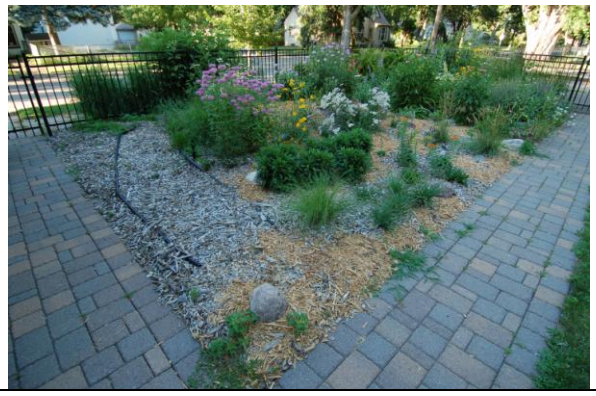
Photos from a Butterfly Magnet Garden, By Randy Klauk (All Photographs by Randy Klauk)



Male monarch

About nine years ago I learned of the Monarch butterfly's plight and decide to make my backyard a small 'prairie' using mostly natives to Minnesota. My house is in North Minneapolis and is your typical small yard, divided in half by a walkway to the garage.

I began with a Rain Garden next to my garage, I have the gutters from both sides feed the garden. The other side is my prairie garden. My original plan had Cardinal Flower, Swampweed, Butterfly Weed, Blue Flag Iris and Big and Little Bluestem grasses. I have since added other varieties.



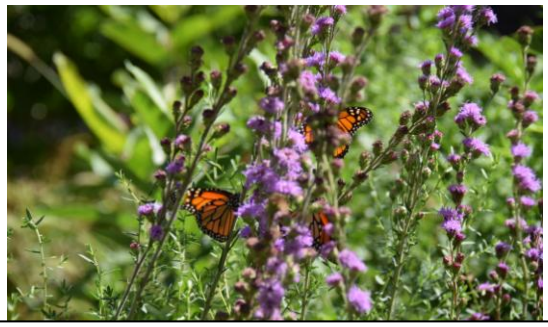
Randy's Backyard Prairie Garden

It took a few years for the gardens to mature but I finally began seeing the fruits of my labor. Monarchs, yes, but butterflies I had never seen nor heard of as well..

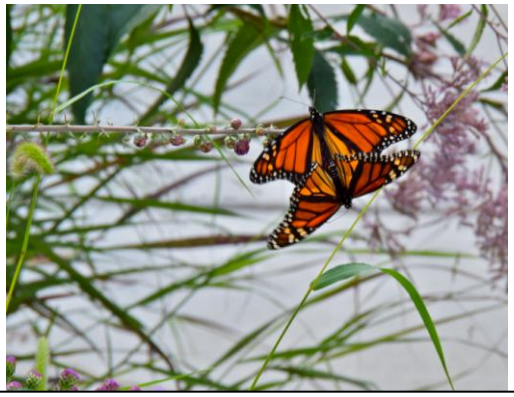
The Monarchs began showing up in 2009. By migration time, mid-August to September, I'd come home from work and see double digit numbers on the Meadow Blazing Star. In 2014, I reported 35 on September 6, last year the most

I saw was 20. This year was very disappointing with four being the most observed at one sighting. I was able to capture a photo of three of them.

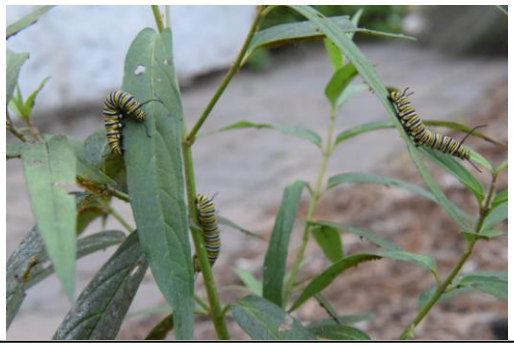
The exciting part of this summer however, was seeing the other stages. I had four large caterpillars on two plants, one on Common Milkweed and the other three on a beat-up Swampweed plant, see photo. I was also able to capture two couples mating. Although most of my observations were of males, there were obviously females around. I can only hope that the numbers increase as more people become aware of what is needed to help the Monarch to recover from its very low numbers.



Three monarchs on Blazing Star



Monarchs Mating



Monarch Caterpillars

Also from Randy: If you want to know why the numbers were down, here's a portion from Chip Taylor's Blog on May 4, 2016

"Due to an unprecedented rain/sleet storm at the overwintering sites on 8-9 March, the status of the monarch population is uncertain at this time. The storm was accompanied by strong winds that knocked down many trees and buried large numbers of monarchs beneath several inches of sleet. Many froze in place in the trees. There are no firm estimates of the numbers of monarchs that either died or survived this storm. Observers with various backgrounds and experiences visiting different colonies have estimated the losses at 3-50%."

Chip TaylorProfessor Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.

Joe Pye Weed

Common Names: Spotted Joe Pye Weed
Scientific Name: *Eupatorium maculatum*
Family: Aster/Sunflower family (**Asteraceae**)

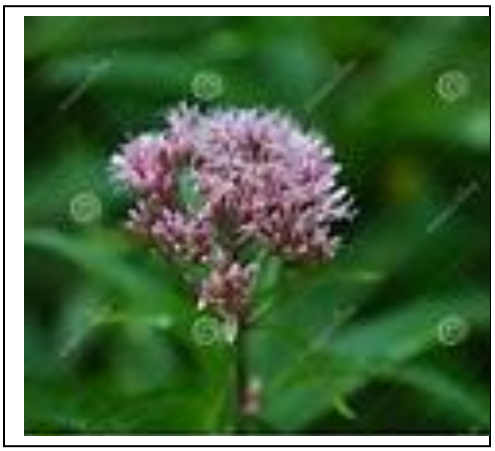
IDENTIFICATION

Habitat: Found in open meadows and marshes, thickets river banks and shores throughout Minnesota
Height: 4-7 feet
Leaves: Leaves are present in widely-spaced whorls with 3 - 6 in a whorl. Each leaf is hairless, lance-shaped, coarsely toothed that is broadest near the middle. It is up to 12" long and 2½ to 3½" wide and has a single main vein.
Flowers: There are pink to purple compound flowers present. The numerous flower heads found on each plant are in a flat to shallowly rounded cluster. They typically are 4 to 10 inches wide) and are found on

numerous branches near the top of the plant. It blooms from late summer to early autumn (July - September)

Fruit: Bullet shaped achene's with a tuft of hair are wind dispersed.

Overall characteristics: This native often grows in thick stands. The stems are unbranched, usually with purple spots or are purplish throughout. It smells like vanilla when crushed. The common name of this native comes from a medicine man named "Joe Pye" who was said to have cured typhus with this plant. Its genus name is derived from the Greek words "eu" meaning well and "troche" meaning wheel-like in reference to the whorled leaves. Species name means purple.



GARDEN TIPS

Plant Hardiness: Zone: 2/3 – 7/8

Sun/Shade Needs: Full sun to partial shade.

Soil Needs: Moist.

Planting: Plant 2 to 3 feet apart. Spreads 1 to 3 feet.

Propagation: Can be grown from seed but is better propagated by division. Divide to keep the plant vigorous or when its center dies out or. For the latter condition dig up the entire plant discarding the dead center. Then replant the remainder.

Care: Enjoys regular, deep watering and withstands heat and drought fairly well. Plants grown in shade tend to be tall and leggy and those grown in droughty soils are not as robust and attractive. Cut back plants to 6 inches in early June to reduce the height by several feet and to encourage bushy plants. Leave the seedheads and plants for winter interest.

Companion Plants: Combines well with other large flowers such as goldenrod, wild bergamot, asters, purple coneflower, and Black-eyed Susan.

Friends & Foes: You may occasionally see leaf spot disease or powdery mildew. Good cleanup and better weather are usually sufficient to control these diseases. Attractive to many species of butterflies (especially Monarchs and Swallowtails), as well as bees, skippers, and moths.

NOTES

Current Use/Interest: Go to http://www.naturalmedicinalherbs.net/herbs/e/eupatorium-maculatum=joe-pye-weed.php to see current uses of this plant. Here it states that teas can be made from the roots is used in the treatment of fevers, colds and to relieve kidney and liver problems. Tea is also used to induce sweating and break a high fever.

Historic Use/Interest: Native Americans used to cure fevers and early American colonists used it to treat an outbreak of typhus.

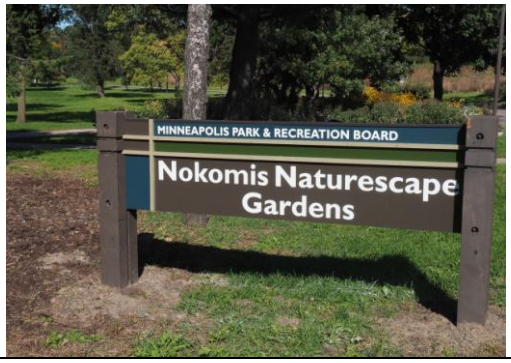
Nokomis Naturescape/Monarch News

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

WILD ONE'S NATURESCAPE GARDENING. The Naturescape had a lovely 2016 growing season from spring's Virginia Bluebells, to summer's Meadow Blazing Star to fall's Showy Goldenrod. **THANKS** to all the Wild One's Twin Cities members who keep the blooms coming! We'll meet again next year beginning in April. Get on our email list for current updates on Naturescape volunteering,

garden bloom's and wildlife, native plant gardening tips and more. For more information contact Vicki at vbonk@usiwireless.com or call 612-232-8196. Also check out the our facebook site to keep you current with happenings https://www.facebook.com/NokomisNaturescape.

NEW SIGNAGE
STEP 1: In 1998, the Nokomis Naturescape Gardens were planted at Lake Nokomis. This fall we had an official Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Grand Rounds sign installed. Yippee!
STEP 2: We need new interpretive signage at the Naturescape. The park board does not have funding for this so a group of NN Gardeneers are working to raise money and work on content. Interested in helping or have suggestions? Contact Vicki (info above). We will be meeting in November to explore further.



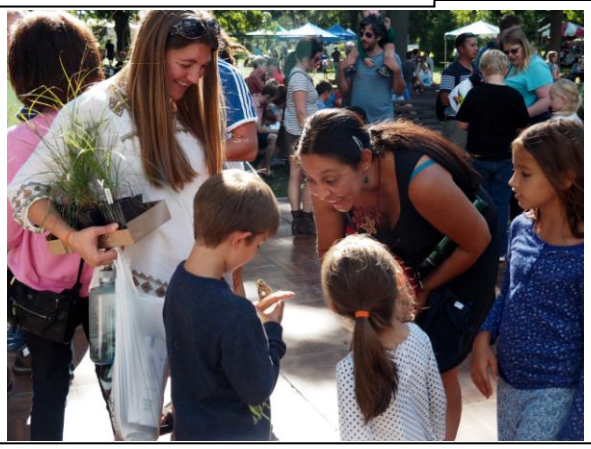
Signage at the Naturescape

9th Annual MINNEAPOLIS MONARCH FESTIVAL. The 2016 celebration (http://www.monarchfestival.org/) drew thousands to the Naturescape. We tagged and released over 200 monarchs. Festival participants learned more about monarchs and were given habitat advice from the experts (U of M Monarch Lab, Wild Ones, Monarch Joint Venture, Izaac Walton, US Fish and Wildlife, Landscape Alternatives, the Vagary and more).

The festival is dedicated to monarch conservation while underscoring the Minnesota/Mexico migration connection. In 2006, the NN gardeneers chose the monarch as an ambassador for native plant gardening with the Grow Monarch Habitat project. Now, more than ever, the monarch needs the dedication of native plant advocates, such as Wild Ones, to promote creating and conserving habitat for pollinators. The monarch butterfly is threatened with quasi-extinction. The latest population projection (taken from migrating roost numbers this October) is a third of 2015. It is an all hands-on-deck critical situation to restore populations to a sustainable level.


Marty Rice spreading the word about native plants at the festival

REMINDER: fall is a great time to plant. The plants establish roots over winter and are ready to go in the spring. Think milkweeds and nectar plants - especially those providing fuel for the the fall monarch migration. At the Naturescape we have upped our September - October blooms with a variety of asters, goldenrods, liatris, lobelias, sunflowers, hyssop and more.


Festival goers enjoying the wonder of a Monarch

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- 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

Wild Ones
NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

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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.