



Twin Cities Chapter Quarterly Newsletter

November 2018 Volume 16, Issue 4

Upcoming Events/Monthly Meetings

SAVE THE DATE!! Saturday, February 16, 2018

DESIGN WITH NATURE CONFERENCE

Where: Anderson Student Center, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul Campus. *More details will be found in our February Newsletter or at designwithnatureconference.org*



Healing and Restoring our Relationship with Nature

To truly live in relationship with Nature we must first realize we are “a part of” Nature, not “apart from” Nature. Only when we acknowledge and celebrate our relationship with the rest of the living world, will we be able to fully understand the generous gifts we receive from the Earth can only be sustained by the giving our own gifts in return.

Featured Speakers:

Living in the Liberated Landscape: How our gardens and landscapes can be a source of environmental change. Presented by Larry Weaner, ASLA, Principal & Founder of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, Author of Gaeden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change. Native plants are increasingly accepted in landscape architecture and design; but knowing how to incorporate and work with the ecological patterns and processes associated with those plants is less well understood. All too often we think of our gardens and landscapes in terms of static compositions of carefully placed and managed plants. But our gardens and landscapes can be more dynamic—and arguably more rewarding—by taking advantage of plants’ natural abilities to reproduce and proliferate.



Learn how designer Larry Weaner combines design with the reproductive abilities of plants as well as ecological processes to create compelling, ever-evolving landscapes that bring new meaning to partnering with nature. Using examples from his own property as well as diverse client projects, Larry will share how this give-and-take approach can result in compelling, low-maintenance landscapes that free plants to perform according to their natural abilities and liberate people from having to cater to their landscapes' every need.

A Discussion with Michael Lynch, Botanist and Restoration Ecologist. Creator of the Facebook group Botanical Wanderings.

Social media are awash in pictures of kids, pets, selfies and photogenic meals. While the pro-con debate about social media continues, one thing is certain, it is here to stay as the go-to means of communication for a large and growing portion of the population. The members of one local Facebook group, Botanical Wanderings, stick to one subject: plants — native plants, rare plants, favorite plants, endangered plants and plants they need help identifying. It is one of number of social outlets that is being used to expand our connectivity to nature and each other, in an ever-broadening network. Botanist and restoration ecologist Michael Lynch, the founder of the group will share his thoughts on the upside of web-based social networks and websites like www.inaturalist.org and www.minnesotawildflowers.info; and the significant role they can play in sharing our stories and expanding our knowing of the natural world we live in.



The language of plants – How traditional indigenous teachings can help heal our relationship with Nature, Robin Wall Kimmerer, Ph.D. Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental Biology and Founding Director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment at SUNY Syracuse, Author of *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*, and *Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses* Plants, animals are our oldest teachers, though we have lost the ability to hear them. Long before western science arrived on these shores, the indigenous people were scientists in their own right. Our indigenous herbalists teach us to pay attention when plants come to you; they are bringing you something you need to learn; and those lessons are the source of knowledge that will enable a way of life in balance with natural law. To cultivate a deeper relationship with Nature, we must once again become fluent in the language of plants and animals, indeed of all living beings.



Kimmerer is a proponent of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), a field of anthropological study which describes the indigenous forms of traditional knowledge regarding the sustainability of local resources. Her presentation will draw heavily on her understanding of TEK as a cumulative body of knowledge, belief, and practice, handed down through generations, via traditional songs, stories and beliefs. It is concerned with the relationship between all living beings, including humans, with their environment.

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

November 13, 2017 Annual Member Meeting, Potluck & Seed Exchange! Note change to 2nd

Tuesday This is our Annual Member Meeting at which officers for the next year are elected. It also includes a potluck dinner and seed exchange. So bring a dish or if you are unable to, please come in any case – for it is the pleasure of your company that we most want. It has been requested that you provide the ingredients of any dish to make eating selection easier for people with food allergies, special diets, etc. For the seed exchange, label them with the common and scientific name and, if possible, the source of each plant, if known.

There will also be a presentation: *Tree Trimming Tips: What to Tackle in the Dormant Season*, by Jason Pruett, Arborist and President and Operator of Treehugger Tree Care, Inc. Young tree pruning is essential in the overall care and longevity of trees. It is an often overlooked process for both consciously planted and volunteer tree selections. It can be confusing to know what cuts to make. Yet, like a parent tenderly cares for a child, a tree needs ongoing care and guidance as it grows. Jason will guide you through the various pruning techniques for young and veteran trees alike. Pruning topics discussed will include crown cleaning, thinning, reductions, raising, subordinations, and retrenchments. Actual young tree pruning will be demonstrated in the presentation.

January 15, 2019 • Member Garden Showcases: Andy Scott – *Transforming Lawn to Habitat Over Five Growing Seasons*, and Jeremy Mayberg – *An Urban Oasis: Landscape Gardening with Native Plants*

March 19, 2019 • *Not Your Mother's Garden: Adding Native Diversity*, Bonnie Harper-Lore, Ecologist and Author

April 16, 2019 • 8th Annual Table Topics, featuring Local Native Plant and Landscaping Experts

May 21, 2019 • *Water in the Landscape: Design Considerations for Storage and Use*, Dan Peterson, Landscape Designer and Ecologist, Habadapt

Monthly Meeting Wrap-up/Summer Tours

Sep 2018 Endangered Pollinators. Scott Leddy, a environmentalist and habitat-restoration practitioner, is well known among naturalists in the region. He has spent much of his life restoring the bluffs and prairies surrounding Rushford, Minnesota, part of the Driftless Area of the Midwest. Scott's dream (and efforts) is to try and connect these areas so there is a corridor allowing the diversity that is present in each to intermingle. As he works and walks among the hills in this southeastern Minnesota area he has spent hours observing and photographing the world around him and in the process has discovered species new to the area and noted the ebb and flow within these natural areas.

Driftless Area, so called because drift is an old name for *till* and, where there were no glaciers, no till could be deposited. Over millions of years, erosion has sharply carved the exposed landscape of the Driftless Area into narrow valleys and thousands of bluffs. The flatter surrounding areas, covered with glacial deposits, remain geologically distinct.

Per his Meadowlark's blog (as reported in the November 2011 Twin Cities Chapter newsletter) "the bluff prairies of the Paleozoic plateau are possibly one of the most diverse places in the Midwest". There are about 12 super high quality prairie remnants left in southeast Minnesota and most of these are along the Root River valley. Also as stated in 2011, on any given summer day there were 35 to 40 species of butterfly on every bluff and 50 to 100 species of bees. The point being that the surviving remnants of prairie in the Root River valley sustain a huge number of species of plants and insects. Many of the

species the prairies support are no longer found anywhere else. However, throughout the time he has been working and living here, he has seen degradation of the remaining habitat. This 2018 message comes with a new sense of urgency concerning the substantial loss in species and individual numbers he has witnessed this past year. While his presentation showed photograph after gorgeous photograph of pollinators on flowers, his message throughout was many of these bees and butterflies were either no longer to be found or in vastly reduced numbers.

A few of those 2018 observations mentioned included:

1. Dusky Skipper which was a currently hard to find species.
2. Northern Golden Bumble bee which has not been seen this year where he usually sees 50 to 60.
3. Tawny-edged skipper, a classic prairie skipper, typically commonly found, which was not seen this year.
4. Leonard skipper, which has almost been eliminated in this area, with none found this year.
5. Gorgon Checker Spot butterfly which was found in upland prairies. The DNR burned a large area where this species was found and Scott believes since time 5 to 6 butterfly species have been lost – this among them. (Note this is a WI species of concern.)



*Great spangled fritillary butterfly on butterfly milkweed;
photo by Scott*

There is alarm about the decline and loss of these pollinators, but a definite explanation as to why this is occurring has not been scientifically proven. Scott believes that along with climate change and pesticide use, land burning is also very toxic to pollinators. He is trying to work with the DNR and local land owners as they proceed with their burning programs to restore and retain habitat areas or clear areas. If burning is really required, he is promoting the burning of smaller areas instead of the entire acreage in the hopes of retaining some species residing there. The message given that evening was sobering. His efforts to restore and retain these prime pollinator areas will continue.

Additionally, with regard to the plants themselves he noted two in decline or not seen::

- a. Western Butterfly milkweed: not a common vegetation any more.
- b. Sand Milkweed: brings in rare pollinators. Range is a strip from Wyoming/South Dakota to Texas

Bur Oak Blight

(Editor's note: This article was inspired by the appearance of this blight on my neighbor's Bur Oak. A glorious tree that likely is over 200 years old. It will be cut down this winter.)

Bur Oak Blight (BOB) is one of two serious fungal diseases of oak trees that occur in Minnesota – the other one being oak wilt. BOB is caused by the organism *Tubakia iowensis*, and in the last decade has become fairly common in the state. It is characterized by leaves that develop dark veins and large wedge-shaped lesions. The disease often begins in the lower canopy and spreads to the top of the tree. A unique feature of the disease is that some of the killed leaves remain on the tree over the winter while a healthy bur



oak loses all its leaves in the fall. The disease becomes more prevalent in spring when there are frequent rains at the time the leaves are reaching their mature size, thus the increase in numbers of trees affected may be due in some part to climate change. *Quercus macrocarpa* var. *olivaeformis* appears to more susceptible to this infection than the more common variety *Quercus macrocarpa* var. *macrocarpa*.

Severely affected trees may die. Associated with blight over many years and secondary invaders are the two-lined chestnut borer and *Armillaria* root rot. There has been some luck with injections of fungicide in the spring prior to leaf symptoms – propiconazole has been used with some success and may be worth trying for high-value landscape trees.

Oak wilt shows some of the same effects on oak leaves as does BOB, but while BOB affects only bur oaks, oak wilt is most severe in species of the red oak group, including northern red oak and northern pin oak. The infectious agent in oak wilt is the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, and while BOB affects the tree from the bottom up, oak wilt spreads from the top down, and is characterized by bronze to reddish brown leaf discoloration. Complete wilting and leaf loss can occur within four weeks of infection. The spread of oak wilt appears to be primarily from root grafting (i.e. often trees within 30 feet of each other) and sap beetles.



Contributed by: Susan Tertell

Native Plant – Bur Oak

Common Name: Bur Oak (sometimes misspelled as Burr Oak)

Scientific Name: *Quercus macrocarpa* **Family:** *Bagaceae*

Habitat: Found in eastern and central United States and Canada

IDENTIFICATION:

Height: Dependent on the amount of sunlight, it typically grows up to 100 feet with a 2 to 3 foot diameter trunk.

Leaves: The alternate leaves are 4 to 10 inches long and 2 to 6 inches wide. They have a lobed margin usually with 5 to 9 lobes. Near the stem there are deep lobes and then not so toward the tip. The top of the leaf is a dark green and underneath gray-green.

Flowers: Greenish gray flowers appear in the spring (April to May). Male and female parts bloom separately on the same tree

Fruit: The acorns, which are very large: 1 to 2 inches long and $\frac{3}{4}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, have a sizeable cup that wraps much of the way around the nut and is fringed at the edge. Acorns drop from August to November.



Overall characteristics: The scientific name of the tree is Greek: Makros means large and Karpos means fruit. It is a member of the white oak group which produces acorns that grow and drop in a single season. The bark is gray, rough and deeply ridged. It is a slow growing tree at less than 12 inches/year. This is a great shade tree. Trees that are older than 12 years are fire tolerant because of their thick bark. It is this characteristic that made the oak common in the Midwest where fires were frequent. Without fires it is often succeeded by more shade tolerant trees and shrubs. .

GARDEN TIPS

Zone: 3-8

Sun/Shade Needs: Full sun

Soil Needs: Moist, well-drained soils

Propagation: It is difficult to transplant. Grows in open

Care: Drought tolerant

Friends & Foes: Black bears eat acorns as do squirrels, wild turkey, woodpeckers, blue jays and mice. Deer and porcupine eat the leaves, bark and twigs. Red tailed hawks, screech owls, and squirrels nest in the large trees. The trees have an evolutionary strategy where they drop a large seed crop (often called a “heavy mast year”), which overwhelms the ability of wildlife to eat all the acorns – thus allowing some of the seeds to survive

NOTES

Current Use/Interest: The wood is very hard and very heavy. Among its more well-known uses are for cabinetry and barrels (such as wine barrels).

Historic Use/Interest: Native Americans used the inner bark as an astringent to treat various maladies such as cramps, diarrhea, wounds and sores, heart and lung trouble.

Book Reviews, etc.

Landsacping for Wildlife and Water Quality Written by Carrol L. Henderson, Carlyn J. Dindorf, and Fred J. Rozumalski, Published by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. This is the latest book acquired by the Twin Cities Wild Ones Chapter Library. For those members with lakeshore property this is an ideal book to refer to and use as you plan any landscaping along your shoreline. The book begins with background information on a lake’s ecosystem and problems that can be encountered in the buffer zone area – primarily erosion and sedimentation. This is followed by practical information on the typical steps to any garden project: landscape designing; site preparation; installation; and maintenance. There is additional detailed discussion on shoreline stabilization using bioengineering which is a soft-armor erosion control through the use of live vegetation. The final chapter is devoted to good stewardship practices for managing lakeshore property. Appendices consist of a comprehensive plant list (with regions where they are normally found included); a list of native plant nurseries and erosion control/bioengineering products; problems and control of invasive non-native plant species; and substitutes for these species.

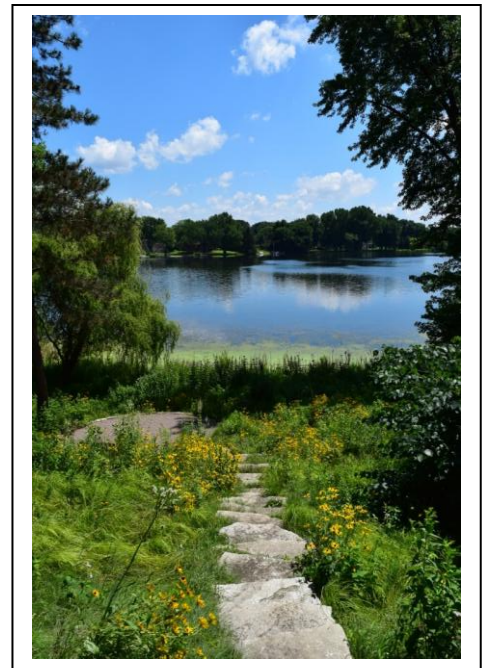
Reflections on a Lake

“Six years ago I decided to do my part to help ensure the health of the small lake I live on. I removed all the roses, daylilies, hydrangeas, and the rest of the plants I had been managing with TLC for years. I had

been reading about native plants—about their deep roots and their ability to survive in periods of drought. And as a bonus, they didn't need fertilizer or deadheading.

“I seeded the entire area from the house down to the lake with native grasses, sedges, and forbs. Today, I couldn't be happier with the outcome. During the past six years, I have not only grown a good buffer for the lake, I have discovered nature in my backyard. I feel like I have thrown out the welcome mat for species such as chorus frogs, who jump out of the way when I walk into the yard, and a pair of song sparrows, who nest deep in the grasses. And, of course, I am awed by the many butterflies whose delicate presence brings my prairie garden to life.” Photo credits: Holley Wlodarczyk.

--Sue Light, Rogers Lake, Mendota Heights



Longfellow Neighborhood Initiative – Looking for chapter members in the Longfellow neighborhood who might be interested in becoming part of the effort to achieve certification under the National Wildlife as a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat. For information on the program itself go to: <https://www.nwf.org/CommunityWildlifeHabitat>

To learn how you might assist contact Daniel Schultz of the Community Habitat team: dschults6@comcast.net

Co-Chair Message

Autumn Greetings, Wild Ones!

Leaves may be changing color and falling all around, but an array of asters are *still* blooming. I find their persistence inspiring—reminding us to keep going no matter what the calendar or thermometer says!

Our chapter has had a busy, productive year, and big thanks to everyone who participated in all things Wild Ones! As we look toward the beginning of a new year, we hope to build upon the great work and community spirit we enjoyed in the last. In addition to planting or tending a native plant garden, there are many ways to contribute to our mission of *healing the Earth one yard at a time*, from attending educational monthly programs, inspirational summer tours or our annual Design With Nature Conference, to volunteering for outreach events, service opportunities and leadership roles. Our organization's growth and sustainability depend on sharing our knowledge, experience and passion, as well as any questions or concerns. Please come to the **November 13th Member Meeting** to help shape Wild Ones priorities, improve processes and plan for the future. Like any thriving plant community, we need a diversity of members providing a wide variety of valuable ecosystem services!

Thank you! ~ Holley (and Julia)

Nokomis Naturescape & Monarch News

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

Wild Ones at the Gardens 2018

Another growing season blew by and the gardens thrived. The NN Gardeneers met a fair share of overzealous or invasive plants and the usual weather challenges. Yet we were encouraged by the beauty of what is working as beneficial habitat and that this is recognized by park visitors whether two - legged, four - legged or winged!

The NN Gardeneers are extraordinary company with dedicated volunteers from a variety of backgrounds. Wild Ones members are the backbone of the group. We are fortunate to have among us a number of Master Naturalists, Master Water Stewards and experienced Wild Ones with a wealth of native plant knowledge. We are grateful for those less experienced in native plant ways but ever ready to get their hands dirty. What seems to unite the volunteers is their capacity for giving and caring to help nature take a stand and grow habitat. Many of the NN Gardeneers are involved in additional projects in their community. For instance, Leslie Pilgrim started a quarterly journal entitled the Butterfly Effect, that is dedicated to “community environmental education and stewardship”. It’s inspiring!

<https://neighborhoodgreening.org/the-butterfly-effect/>

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 our Facebook site to keep you current with happenings

<https://www.facebook.com/NokomisNaturescape>.

Adopt a Naturescape Habitat Patch

Gardens of all types flourish with the consistent care of someone who is familiar with that special place. It’s a reciprocal relationship - a partnership with the nature . The gardeneer gives attention, creative assistance and work - in short, some love - and nature gives that love back in a myriad of ways. Consider adopting a Naturescape Habitat Patch. You can choose a section of the garden that speaks to you. Sleep on this thought for



[This photo taken at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum this year, inspired us to sow Partridge Pea seeds next to Meadow Blazing Star at the Naturescape.



A Lake Nokomis visitor collecting seeds for her garden - we have plenty to share.

the winter and dream about a warm, lively lakeside habitat. Our usual gardening session is Tuesday eve and this is inconvenient for some. This option opens you up to other times. Consider adopting a patch with a friend or family. A Gardeneer can meet beforehand with anyone who would like to donate their time and energy towards the Naturescape mission of “*encouraging people to connect with nature by growing native plant habitat gardens*”.

The 10th Minneapolis Monarch Festival

First of all - THANK YOU NN GARDENEERS for all the dirty work in getting our demo garden extra spectacular this year! It's always an extra push to show the gardens at their best so visitors can see habitat gardening.

Once again an estimated 10,000 people came to Lake Nokomis to celebrate the Minnesota Mexico Monarch Migration connection. Festival participants enjoyed a perfectly clear, sunny day full of wonder. This unique bilingual event (<http://www.monarchfestival.org/>) is dedicated to monarch conservation. Festival participants learned more about monarchs and habitat first-hand from the experts (U of M Monarch Lab, Monarch Joint Venture, Wild Ones, Monarch Joint Venture, US Fish and Wildlife, US Forest Service, native plant vendors and many more); shared their own monarch experiences; and enjoyed a day by the lake with music, dance, art, theater, nature activities and food. And importantly brought home native plants, including milkweeds, along with inspiration and knowledge. The Wild Ones and Nokomis Naturescape Habitat Tent offered a variety of milkweeds and liatris plants; Naturescape tours, a pollinator -- flower face photo op; Q&A; and native plant resources. Lakeside, we had three tents featuring the Naturescape Treasure Hunt (a festival favorite), Master Naturalists, and Monarch Education. We are GROWING HABITAT in a delightful, accessible way to thousands! Now that feels positive!

Wild One's Twin Cities members, Carmine, Jim and Moira at a Monarch Festival tent.



A unique print activity offered at the 2018 Minneapolis Monarch Festival. For the past 4 years, Sarah Nassif has created an archival quality print with the native plant message.



2017 Officers

Co-Presidents: Marilyn Jones/Julia Vanatta
Secretary/Phones: Joelyn Malone
Treasurer: Rita Ulrich

Board Members

DWN Conference Liaison: Karen Graham
Audio Visual: John Arthur
Youth Education: Leslie Pilgrim
Librarian: Barb Gibson
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Internet Inquiries: Laurie Bruno
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Partner Liaison: Holly Breymaier
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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 meeting, or
2. Call MEMBERSHIP at 612-293-3833, or
3. Access the national website at www.wildones.org



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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.