



Twin Cities Chapter
Quarterly Newsletter

November 2019 Volume 17, Issue 4

Upcoming Events/Monthly Meetings

SAVE THE DATE!! Saturday, February 29, 2020

Where Have All the Fireflies Gone:

GARDENING IN CHALLENGING TIMES

2020 CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

NEIL DIBOLL

Genetic Diversity of Plant Breeding
Stock and Preserving Its Integrity

ALAN BRANHAGEN

Looking Forward to Livelier Landscapes

THELMA HEIDEL-BAKER

Diversifying Your Landscape:
Creating a Place for Beneficial Insects



February 29, 2020
University of St. Thomas
St. Paul, MN

www.DesignWithNatureConference.org | Questions? 612 293 3833

Monthly Meeting Wrap-up

In the fall the Mississippi is America's Serengeti with 40% of North American waterfowl using this flyway - coming out of Canada and northern Minnesota - some having summered as far north as the Arctic, others in nearer prairie potholes, lakes and rivers.

Global warming is affecting the habitat and timing of migrations. It is evidenced by temperature records such as the one in 2014 which was the hottest year globally in 5,000 years. Studying birds is useful as they are sensitive indicators of what is going on in our world. Currently 430 bird species enjoy a diverse habitat in Minnesota consisting of northern conifer forests; hardwood forests; tallgrass prairies; intersperse water of our wetlands, lakes, and rivers; and Lake Superior. It is predicted that some of these ecosystems will disappear. Birds are already moving further north as temperatures rise. The question is, will supporting vegetation move as quickly? Timing is also important – what happens when spring comes in March as it did in 2012 and caterpillars, a significant food source for birds when they are feeding their young, are already in their protective cocoons?

Per a National Audubon Society report, 314 of 588 bird species are climate endangered (126) or threatened (188). Among the projected losses are:

1. Common loons: 56% of their summer habitat.
2. Common golden eye: 61% of their breeding habitat.
3. Blue winged teal: 62% of their breeding habitat.
4. White breasted nuthatch: 79%
5. Golden-crowned kinglet: 70%
6. Hairy woodpecker: 78%
7. American redstart: 90%
8. Mallard duck: 75%
9. Wood duck 70%
10. White-throated sparrow: 74%
11. Brown creeper: 79%
12. Bald eagle: 74% of their breeding habitat and 58% of their wintering habitat
13. And the list goes on...



To determine what we can do to help save the world from this situation we need to look at a breakdown of our carbon footprint:

1. Electricity: 34%
2. Transportation: 27%
3. Our Things (snow blowers, boats, ATVs, material possessions, etc.): 21%
4. Our Homes: 11%
5. Our Food 7%

Some ways we personally could address this crisis include:

1. Having an energy audit done on our homes and then implementing the recommendations.
2. In the winter turning down one's heat to 66 in the winter - Remember that sweaters are our friends and can make that 66 degrees seem comfortable.
3. In the summer setting our air conditioners to 76.
4. Landscaping by planting trees in the right place which can also help keep houses cooler in the summer.
5. With regard to food our choices of products can matter. So shop your values: eat lower on the food chain; buy foods that are grown locally and are organic; and eat seasonally consuming what is freshly produced.

To consciously carry out these intentions, make a plan and follow it.

Editor's Message

Editor's note: My apologies for the lateness of this final addition. I had hoped to include more information on the changes taking place within the chapter which were discussed at the November meeting. These have not been finalized. So I invite you to visit the chapter web site, go to meetings, and volunteer as we all move forward.

As we turn out this fourth quarter Twin Cities Wild Ones Chapter newsletter, it will be the last edition to be published. As you may have noted above, our November meeting will be the start of a long planned effort by the board to move forward on many fronts. With the vast majority of our members having internet connections, we will be using our website to communicate with all of you. This is a wonderful website (which is more nimble and responsive) that is loaded with information and continues to get better in keeping everyone informed and educated. I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the newsletter over the years. Without this input this newsletter could not have been realized.

Editor: Mary Schommer

The Brown Thumb

As this newsletter puts out its final edition, I will also bid adieu to this column. I learned a lot as I experimented with my gardens and looked more closely at the world around me. Not quite a green thumb yet, but still working on it!



What my back yard was transformed into thanks to inspiration from Wild Ones

2017 Officers

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Secretary : Susan Tertell
Treasurer: Rita Ulrich

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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.