

Welcome Autumn!

October 2020



**“Come little leaves said the wind
one day one day, Come over
the meadows with me and play,
Put on your dresses of red and
gold, For Summer is gone and
the days grow cold...”**



As a child, my mom would recite this little poem to us as we raked leaves into piles. She passed three years ago and I always think of her and this little poem when the autumn leaves start to fall.

—Roz Johnson



WOTC Board at Hyland Lake Park Reserve in Bloomington, collecting prairie seed for restoration projects in Three Rivers Park District.

HELLO WOTC MEMBERS,

Last week several members of our Board got together for the first time since March at Hyland Lake Park Reserve for a fun, socially distanced community service project. We collected aster, goldenrod and mountain mint seeds from one of the prairies. The collected seed will be used to expand existing prairie areas within the [Three Rivers Parks District](#). We had a beautiful sunny afternoon working in the prairie, surrounded by rolling hills and trees ablaze with color.

Connecting with nature and each other is so important in these challenging times. For me, Hyland Lake Park has become my refuge. Where do you go to seek solace, relief and comfort?

Holley and I appreciate how our Board and volunteers have adapted to doing our meetings, programs, communications and even fundraising differently. We assume the majority of our activities will continue to be conducted in a safe, socially distanced way, probably into Spring.

We would love to get more members involved as we work toward furthering our mission in 2021!

We are looking for [volunteers for all our Committees](#): Development, Communications, Membership and Education. Please let [Holley or I](#) know of your interest or contact the Committee Chairs below.

We would also like to find new safe ways to connect during the winter, such as organizing a WOTC Book Read, arranging a time to go snowshoeing, or something else that enriches our understanding and experience of the natural world. We look forward to hearing your ideas!

— Roz Johnson, Co-President

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Summer may be past, and while we bask in sunny memories of native blooms and encounters with the wildlife they support, we can also keep busy learning, sharing, and planning next season's habitat gardens. Here are a few ways we are trying to stay connected and further our mission...

WOTC ONLINE PRESENTATIONS

REGISTER NOW for our October 20th program:

The Natural Gardening Method

by Karl Kloos of Northern Natural Gardens

Please [email Holley](#) if you are interested in participating.

Our September program is on WOTC's YouTube channel:

Lessons Learned from 40 Years of Repairing the Earth by Restoring with Native Vegetation

by Ron Bowen of Prairie Restorations

Throughout decades, Ron has helped restore thousands of acres of prairies, woodlands, shorelines, wetlands, home landscapes, and solar sites—always with an eye to providing habitat for wildlife. Watch this photographic journey of Ron's projects over the years; hear his stories and learn about his experiences striving to create habitat that welcomes a diversity of insect life and other wildlife.

And you can also watch Wild Ones National's September program by Heather Holm here:

The Bombus Among Us – Bumble Bee Basics

Please take the time to share the link to this webinar featuring Wild Ones Honorary Director, biologist and author Heather Holm, and inspire others to help our bumble bees thrive!

WOTC FALL & WINTER PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Most programs* will be [viewable on YouTube](#) afterward. Please [check our website](#) for more details.

October 20	Karl Kloos of Northern Natural Gardens — <i>"The Natural Gardening Method"</i>
November 17	<i>Art & Nature</i> — <i>Naturally</i> , a sampling of garden art made by Wild Ones members
January 19*	Heather Holm — <i>"Restoring Ecosystem Functionality and Biodiversity"</i> (*this program will not be recorded)

We are sorry to announce that the **2021 Design With Nature Conference** has been cancelled due to COVID-19, but we are planning to resume again in 2022. Please check <http://www.designwithnatureconference.org> for updates, and [email Holley](#) if you are interested in volunteering on the planning committee. Thank you!



OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Online programs in line with our mission:

Xerces Webinar—November 5th, 12pm:

Building Pollinator Habitat in Towns and Cities: Great Lakes Region, with Karin Jokela, Farm Bill Pollinator Conservation Planner ([register here](#))

See more on [Xerces' YouTube channel](#)!



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