



April 2022 / Chapter Newsletter

WOTC MEMBER WILDFLOWER WALKS

Join us for two wildflower walks this spring! Each walk will be led by Nathalie Shanstrom, landscape designer and certified naturalist.

The first walk will take place on Sunday, May 1st from 2:00 to 3:30 PM at Mound Springs Park Trail.

The second walk will take place on Saturday, May 7th from 1:00 to 2:30 PM at Nine Mile Creek.

Limited space is available for current WOTC members. Please register online: [Wild Ones Twin Cities: Calendar](#).



Bloodroot flower emerges from leaf mulch. Photo Vicki Bonk.

CALLING ALL NOKOMIS NATURESCAPE GARDENEERS!

“Grow native habitat – Grow!” is the rallying cry for the Nokomis Naturescape gardeners!

This is the 25th year anniversary of this public habitat garden! WOTC became involved in the Naturescape in 2002,

thanks to our chapter founder Marty Rice. Long-time member Vicki Bonk has been at the helm for many years. The Naturescape was a cornerstone to the creation of the beloved Minneapolis Monarch Festival. It is entirely cared for by our volunteer gardeners!



New gardeners are welcome to join us this season starting May 3rd, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Our tasks in the garden will focus on careful spring clean-up chores with beneficial insects and bird habitat in mind.

We will also hold a Summer Solstice party to celebrate the magic of the fireflies! Join us on Saturday, June 18th, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Experienced gardeners will lead us through some garden care, and we will then celebrate with a pizza picnic. This event is limited to 30 attendees, so register on our website for this event! The full calendar of events and volunteer opportunities can be found online at: [Nokomis Naturescape Calendar 2022 \(wildones.org\)](#). Please direct any questions about getting more involved to ybonk@usiwireless.com.

DO YOU WISH YOU COULD ELIMINATE WOOD MULCH IN YOUR GARDEN?



Living mulch installation in Leslie Pilgrim's garden underneath white pine trees.

If so, come join us for our May 17th education program on living mulch. Our presenter will be Kaitlyn O'Connor, a plant ecologist at ISG, who previously worked with Prairie Moon Nursery and the University of Wisconsin Extension to share her extensive knowledge of conservation, horticulture, and landscape design. We are excited to welcome Kaitlyn as a speaker to our chapter on this timely issue as we all seek new ways to further diversify habitat, eliminate methods for jumping worms to enter our gardens, and provide soft landings for our



invertebrate friends! Kaitlyn will speak to how to design a garden with living mulch and how to care for these installations. [Register online HERE.](#)

So... Umh.....What is "living mulch" exactly?

Living mulch is using plants to fill spaces between other plants. Plants typically used for living mulch are short, spreading ground cover that occupies the lowest herbaceous niche in a garden, a niche that is often occupied by abiotic (wood, rock) mulches in more traditional garden design.



Living mulch plants from the 2022 plant sale collection called "Born to Mingle."

Spring 2022 Plant Sale Orders Due May 17th!

Our 16th Annual Native Plant Sale offers several themed collection flats, a variety of habitat garden favorites, and a selection of shrubs and trees with high wildlife value – including the Bur Oak! The "Born to Mingle" plant collection of living mulch plants is featured in the photo above. See all the plant collections online at: [Wild Ones Twin Cities Minnesota: Plant Sale 2022.](#)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you are looking to get more involved in our chapter, we have many opportunities that might match your interests and skillsets. Here are some examples:

- Member of the Education Committee to help with your hybrid programming technology. This involves some AV, PowerPoint, and Zoom use. Needed for our programs typically presented January to May and August to December.
- Members for our Membership Committee to welcome new members, coordinate volunteer opportunities, and plan member events. We are currently looking for someone who would like to coordinate volunteers.

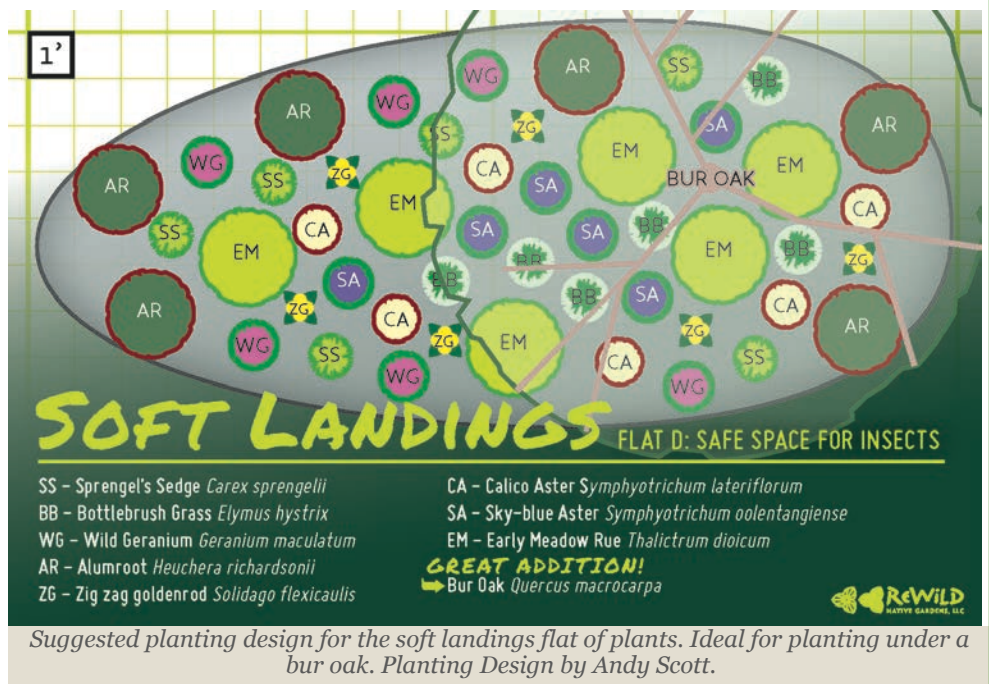
There are many more ways you could get more involved if you are interested.

Please reach out to info@wildonestwincities.org if you have any interest in one of the positions above. Or, we are happy brainstorm other ideas for getting involved!

This year we have several suggested garden designs for our plant sale provided by landscape designer and WOTC board member Andy Scott. You can find all of the designs online at our main page: [Wild Ones Twin Cities Minnesota](http://WildOnesTwinCitiesMinnesota.org).

A portion of each sale is a donation to our chapter and helps support our education programs and tours.

Pick up will be held at the Wood Lake Nature Center on June 3rd from 2:00 to 7:00 PM.



Maple syrup cauldron at Dodge Nature Center.

THANK YOU TO ALL MINNESOTA WILD ONES!

Thank you to all who joined us at the Dodge Nature Center for a guided tour of habitat restoration on March 26th. Wild Ones members from throughout the state joined us, including members from the St. Croix, Big River Big Woods, Prairie's Edge, SE MN Prairie Partners, and St. Cloud. We took a walk through a restoration woodland and wetland, saw maple syruping in action, and were inspired for a new year. We hope to see you again soon!

NEW MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in joining Wild Ones Twin Cities please register online at [Join Wild Ones Now](http://JoinWildOnesNow.org). Membership is \$40.00 per year and part of that fee is used to support our educational programming.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about chapter events or want to connect with chapter leadership for any reason, please contact info@wildonestwincities.org.

"To love a place is not enough. We must find ways to heal it."

– Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass



Pasque flower blooming on the spring prairie. Photo Vicki Bonk.