



March 2018 Newsletter

THE YEAR OF THE CHAPTER!

Welcome Wild Ones and Friends!

Wild Ones National is dedicating 2018 as the “Year of the Chapter”. For the benefit of new members; Wild Ones is a national not-for-profit organization. The Menomonee River Area is one of many chapters nationwide. The headquarters of “National” is in our own back yard, Neenah, WI.



*Janice Hand,
Wild Ones National*

It has been a tumultuous year in the history of Wild Ones. In 2017, National had to confront and resolve an increasing debt. A consultant was hired to audit and evaluate the organization’s financials. Resolution began with cuts in paid staff at the headquarters’ office and cuts to chapters’ financial assistance from National. Chapters and Members were asked to make ad hoc donations. These measures were painful but in one year National recovered from an “in the red” financial status to back “in the black”! These were tough but necessary decisions. National recognizes the financial support from chapters and members as a crucial contribution to this recovery.

National made a commitment to improve its technology. An old and tired server was replaced. Processes have been updated to track membership renewals. The website has also been improved. I participated in a couple of interactive webinars to represent our chapter and express our concerns and suggestions. Moving forward, National’s support to local chapters will be a priority. National recognizes that we are the “boots on the ground” and of great importance for sustaining and growing Wild Ones!

And a few words from...

Jan Koel, Past President and Board Member Emeritus
Resolutions, New Year’s or anytime!



*Jan filling us in on our chapter history
in September, our chapter’s 25th
Anniversary!*

It isn't too late to make a New Year’s resolution for 2018! I truly believe that our Menomonee River Area Chapter of Wild Ones is an especially wonderful local organization. What makes it so special? Our members! When we gather, good things happen. It wouldn’t be so if it weren’t for all of you who contribute to our success, and we are so very grateful for you. We appreciate all WO members and look forward to seeing you at meetings and at our volunteer opportunities. We are in need of your talents, so please make it one of your resolutions for 2018 to chair or co-chair a position, or to share your yard for outdoor meetings. Ideas for meetings? We need those also. Please contact any board members if you’d like to get a taste of our casual board meetings. Before I forget (hmmm): Thank you to Lisa Oddis, President, for your outstanding leadership. You are an inspiration! ~ Hope to see you at all the events this year.

Naturally, Jan Koel

HAPPY 21TH ANNIVERSARY MENOMONEE RIVER AREA WILD ONES!!

From Greg Falk, Vice President

Check it out...



If you haven't read the New Member Handbook, please give some thought to doing so. It can be found on the Wild Ones website on your Wild Ones Member page *after* you set up your login to the site.

The New Member Handbook is a great little resource for new and existing members alike, whether you are looking to re-imagine the form of your home landscape, or simply interested in learning more about our organization. In its pages you will find information on topics such as natural landscaping styles, how to collect and handle seeds, book recommendations, and much more!

And from our Chapter Social Media and Web Master, Mary Roth

Facebook

Welcome to 2018, a new year full of new possibilities. I've been involved with posts and updates on our Facebook page – [Wild Ones – Menomonee River Area](#) (WOMRA). We have grown to 145 **Likes**! I hope that if you haven't **Liked** our page yet, you will soon. I post articles of interest concerning native plants and landscaping sources and information on WOMRA upcoming programs and activities. I read every article before posting to make sure it pertains to our interests. Every now and then I throw in local organization posts because I believe we should support their efforts. If you find these posts informative and something your friends might like, please share.

I would like to post your **garden/native landscape pictures**!! We are a public group, so all you need to do is upload your photos. In order for it to appear on our page the picture will need approval from the Admin (me) and *voila* there it is. Your picture/s will be seen by all 145 people who **Like** our page. Bring 'em on!

Wild Ones Website

I also update the Wild Ones – MRA Website - [WOMRA](#). If you haven't explored the website, please do. You'll always find the current event schedule plus other information that you might find invaluable. If there is something more you would like to see on that page, just email me at wildonesmra@gmail.com.

Oconomowoc Winter Farmer's Market

Last but not least, Lisa Oddis, Carolyn Larkin and I staffed a display at the [Oconomowoc Winter Farmer's Market](#)! It was a great time. We met so many wonderful people who are interested in native plants and landscaping. We have one more display in March at the market. I hope you will come out and say hello. They have great local vendors. Follow [OWFM](#) on Facebook to get up-to-date information.

We would love to have you volunteer at any of our events! Take some time out to support your Wild One's chapter!

Mary



Mary at Green Team Sustainability Fair

What WOMRA Was Up to in 2017...



We had some excellent programs and tours in 2017. Many of our programs were directly and indirectly related to creating “corridors”. We’ve heard Dr. Doug Tallamy talk about creating the corridors that can sustain our native flora and fauna. Did you know that Dr. Tallamy is now one of three Lifetime Honorary Directors of Wild Ones! He is in the company of Lorrie Otto and Neil Diboll.

Barb Agnew, Friends of the Monarch Trail, gave a presentation with information and background on the Monarch Trail preservation efforts on the Milwaukee County grounds in Wauwatosa. Our chapter had a wonderful, guided tour of the trail later in the year. It was an excellent follow-up to her indoor presentation.



Barb Agnew, Friends of the Monarch Trail

We also heard from Dan Carter about remnant natural community types, the historical landscape in Wisconsin and how we can preserve native species by incorporating native plants, both common and especially endangered species in our gardens. He had maps that showed the changes in USDA zones. For me, the maps confirmed what many of us believe to be climate change, whatever the cause. The question now is, how do we adapt to the changes? There is a lot more discussion focused on moving forward with a plan. Dan has joined the team with the Waukesha County Land Conservancy. This is great news for that organization and us as well.



Dan Carter

We had a couple of other indoor programs to round out the year; “Going Batty” Christa Droste led an exploration of bats, habitat, and introducing bats to your landscape-in with the bats and out with mosquitos!

In October, we had a demonstration, no slide show for this one! We learned about medicinal uses for native plants with a hands-on demonstration by Jan Koel. She brought an array of items to demo using native plants.



Jan Koel, Master Herbalist

Our Saturday field trip took us to Chiwaukee Prairie in Kenosha. We enjoyed an early season tour and picnic lunch in the prairie. The restoration and preservation effort for this area along Lake Michigan is impressive and important.



In July, we were led on a very special tour of the restored prairie in Lapham Peak State Park. Our guide was Michael Fort who is very well known for his decades of work on this property. It is not to be missed as it is a truly spectacular prairie with a large array of native plants.



Michael Fort, Lapham Peak State



We were treated to an amazing member yard tour on a beautiful summer evening in Sept. It was very well attended and our Board noticed! We are planning more member yard tours for 2018. Our Membership Committee Chair, Geoffrey Seymour shared his boyhood home property which his Mom, Sandra Seymour and he continue to restore. On this evening we also celebrated 25 years as a Wild Ones chapter!



Our annual Seed & Treat exchange is always a popular program and for very good reason. It's a terrific opportunity to obtain native plant seeds from members' yards and they are free!

There is always an abundance and this year members really stepped up to the plate. There were even ice cream containers, neatly and accurately labeled. These were the trademark of our late friend and past treasurer, Amy Welch. Thank you to Amy's husband Jim and her sister Norma, for the seed contribution. Once again, Duane Mittag and Laura DeBoth welcomed us into their home. They continue to be the best host and hostess!



The Native Plant Sale with Johnson's Nursery was interesting this year. The format was completely different than previous years. The sale lasted through the whole month of June offering members 40% off native plants. These plants were large nursery stock plants that gave instant gratification. There were new and old members that took advantage of

this terrific opportunity to fill their yards and even to give native plants as gifts, a great concept! Special thanks to Rob, Ben and the rest of the Johnson's team for their continued support of landscaping with native plants! This is our chapter's biggest fund raiser, please show your support in 2018.



FAST FORWARD TO 2018...

Our plant sale will again be the entire month of June at Johnson's! We are confirming details. Already confirmed, Johnson's will again offer 40% off a select group of native plants to Wild Ones members!

Friends and family are always welcome at our programs! Please help to recruit new members and new native plant enthusiasts. Grab some of our membership trifolds and pass them out to friends and family. Also, ask if you can leave some when you visit your library, stores, restaurants, etc.



See our 2018 Program schedule on our chapter website, menomoneeriverarea.wildones.org and Facebook
...remember to "like" us, share, learn!



Our September program will be on Saturday, Sept. 15 Wehr Nature Center. This will be a combined event with the SW Wehr, Milwaukee North and Kettle Moraine Chapters.

Thank you to our Board members. I look forward to working with you all in 2018! There is always room for more ideas and help coordinating events and other activities. Please join in the fun!



Lisa Oddis, Chapter President
Greg Falk, Vice President
Jan Koel, Past President and Honorary Board Member Emeritus
Barb Wolter, Secretary
Geoffrey Seymour, Membership
Norm Grier, Treasurer
Mary Roth, Webmaster and Social Media Marketing
Michael Van Alstine, Editor, Webpage Assistant

Our chapter can merely exist, which is ok, or we can be more impactful! It all depends on us. We need members to get involved and help execute some great ideas that have been discussed. Here are a few of them; is there one that is of interest to you, or an idea that comes to mind?

- Member presence at Johnson's during June. Last year we had members at Johnsons on Saturday mornings.
- Welcome Committee for new members and members that may not have renewed their membership.
- Respond and organize requests for consults, such as with The Friends of the Ice Age Trail to view a new trailhead and Melissa's Farm to help establish native plantings for pollinators
- Updated and refreshed display for exhibiting
- Create a presentation to describe what Wild Ones is and to promote landscaping with natives
- Show me/Help me with member yards
- Create some sample yard designs to share
- Hands on project /program. In the past members created trellises, concrete stepping stones and bird baths.



Our Chapter continues to form relationships with other like-minded organizations. We exhibited at the Waukesha Green Team/Green Alliance Sustainability Fair at Lapham Peak, the Lac Lawrann Plant Sale, Menomonee Falls Storm Water Expo and the Oconomowoc Winter Farmers Market. *In partnership with National, we extended free business memberships to Johnson's Nursery, the Waukesha County Land Conservancy and the Waukesha Green Team. **THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE WILD ONES AND NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPING!***

Forever wild!

Lisa Oddis

Chapter President

Wild Ones - Menomonee River Area