

NATIVE NEWS

Gibson Woods Wild Ones

6201 Parish Ave. Hammond, IN * 219-844-3188

November/December, 2022

Volume 23, Issue 7

Wild Ones promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to encourage biodiversity through the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities. Wild Ones is a not-for-profit, environmental, educational, and advocacy organization.

GREETING FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Hello Wild Ones Friends!

At our October meeting, I proposed to changing our newsletter from a monthly publication to sending one out every-other month. I'll do my best to include two months worth of information about meeting and presentation news, and will send out reminder emails to our members each month about upcoming events. Cathy Perrin will be starting a new newsletter column that will feature a different member's yard each time. Please contact her if you are interested in sharing your native yard with us. Otherwise, you may just get called upon one day anyway! I'm looking forward to this!!

Our Officer Election is coming up next month. As usual, we are taking nominations for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Please consider nominating yourself or someone that you feel would be good at one of these positions. You can submit your nomination at our November Zoom meeting, or via email or a phone call to Kim or Mickey, or if you want to stay anonymous, you can mail it to Gibson Woods. We will take nominations until November 27th. After that time, ballots will be made and sent out to all members. Voting will take place during our December Open House. If we don't get any new nominations, our current officers will be voted in by acclamation.

I want to share with you our plans for our May 6, 2023 plant sale. We have made the decision to relocate to a really cool pavilion at Lake Etta, which is a Lake County Parks property located between Burr & Clark streets right off the expressway. The place is big enough that we can spread out, and not have to deal with tents & overcrowding. Stay tuned for more details as they develop. In the meantime, SAVE-THE-DATE: Saturday, May 6th! You won't want to miss it!!!



I hope to see you during the next two months, but in case I don't have a wonderful holiday season, and see you in two months! Kim Moor

WINTER PRAIRIE WONDERS - with Cindy Crosby

Saturday, November 5, 2022 - Online and in-person at Gibson Woods

Enjoy the delights of the tallgrass prairie in winter through this interactive program. Relax as you view lovely photography of the snow-covered prairie and hear stories of how animals, pollinators, and birds use the prairie for overwintering. Then, listen to prairie readings that will spark your creativity and warm your soul.

This Zoom presentation will be shown at Gibson Woods on the 'big screen'. A RSVP is required for in-person attendees. Please contact Mickey Taylor at micktec24@yahoo.com, or call/text 219-742-2775.

A REGISTRATION is required for Zoom attendees. Follow this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/mtg/join/tZUtcemqj8pHt3oxXg-ZPf2Mymr4IScf6>

Visit us online at:

<http://gw-wildones.org/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly Meetings will be held via Zoom on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm - unless stated otherwise.

All in-person meetings & presentations require an **RSVP** to Mickey Taylor (219-742-2775), micktec24@yahoo.com

Zoom meetings & presentations require an **online registration**. If you have questions, please contact Kim Moor (219)433-5731, kckim10@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER BUSINESS MEETING - via Zoom

Wed, November 2, 2022 7:00-8:30 PM

WINTER PRAIRIE WONDERS - with Cindy Crosby

Sat, November 5, 2022 10:00-11:30 AM

Online and in-person at Gibson Woods
Open to the Public

DECEMBER OPENHOUSE - Crafts, Book Sale, Seed-Swap

Sat. December 3, 2022 10:00-12:00 PM

In-person at Gibson Woods.
Open to the Public.

-----Date Change-----

DECEMBER BUSINESS MEETING - via Zoom

Tues, December 6, 2022 7:00-8:30 PM

Inside this Issue:

Greeting	1
Announcements	2
Plant Study - Sassafras	3
Member Garden	4
Symposium 2022	5
30/30	5
GW-Wild Ones Project	6
Upcoming Things To Do	6

ANNOUNCEMENTS**Join us on Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wild-Ones-Native-Plants-Natural-Landscapes-Gibson-Woods-Chapter-38/528949993858676>

2022 Officers**President / Newsletter Editor:**

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Welcome New Members

Marcia Carson	Kate Gibson	Diane Lund	LouAnn Unger
Adam Cooper	Lynn Haynes	Mary Palmer	Natalie Watrobka
Jane Gibson	Lee Holtzman	Andrew Shantz	

We look forward to getting to know you!

NOVEMBER BUSINESS MEETING Members only- via Zoom

Wednesday, November 2, 2022 from 7:00-8:30 PM

https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZlPf-ysqD4iGtIYV5Q94P2PlTrlg_o90lcE

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. A recording of the meeting will be sent to all active members.

DECEMBER OPENHOUSE - Crafts, Book Sale, Seed-Swap

Saturday, December 3, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
In-person at Gibson Woods. Open to the Public.

Book Sale - We have many educational books available - as well as t-shirts & even some jewelry. Come out on December 3rd to do some Holiday shopping for the nature lovers on your list. Or, pick up a book or two for yourself to help get you through the long winter! Most of our books are discounted, and Wild Ones members can take advantage of a discount off the discounted price!

Ornaments using natural materials - We invite you to collect & share items from nature that you've found. We will provide paper bags so you can take a little of this & that to create your own natural ornament at home. Or stay awhile & make your ornament at the open house.

Native Seed Swap - take some time this month collecting some of your native plant seeds to swap with others at our December meeting. Please label what you have. You don't need to clean & package what you have (unless you want to). We will supply bags & markers so we can all share! Winter sowing is a great way to get started on a new garden project!

You don't need to be a member to attend this event. **But we do require a RSVP.** Please contact Mickey Taylor at micktec24@yahoo.com, or call/text 219-742-2775.

DECEMBER BUSINESS MEETING Members only- via Zoom

DATE CHANGE - Tuesday, December 6, 2022 from 7:00-8:30 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZlOdOyrpzwjG9GwbjO05omKPh0xHN6ZsPog>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. A recording of the meeting will be sent to all active members.

PLANT STUDY- by Olimpia Gutierrez

Sassafras albidum - Sassafras

Lauraceae - Laurel family

Sassafras albidum is a medium-sized deciduous tree native to eastern North American forests. It can grow up to 15-20m, with a canopy that reaches up to 12m wide. The crown is composed of slender branches with alternate, green to green-yellow leaves that vary in shape from unlobed, elliptical to 2 or 3-lobed, and rarely, 4-lobed leaves. In the fall, these turn yellow with a tinge of red. The bark is thick, dark red-brown, and deeply furrowed. The trunk can reach up to 60cm in diameter. The wood is hard with a dull orange-brown color. Roots are thick and fleshy, frequently sprouting to create a new clonal tree. When left undisturbed large clonal colonies can form around a single tree.



In the spring, drooping racemes of yellow-green flowers bloom for about 2 weeks, before leaves appear as bright yellow-green shoots. Sassafras trees are dioecious with female and male flowers occurring in separate trees. Blooms are pollinated by insects, with female flowers producing a dark blue-black fruit composed of a single seed with a fleshy covering. These ripen in summer and are distributed by birds.

Seeds require 90-120 days of cold stratification to germinate. Seedlings can tolerate shade and have moderately fast growth. Adult trees require partial sun to full sun for proper growth. Trees can reach maturity and start fruiting in about 10 years. Sassafras is allelopathic, meaning it releases compounds that inhibit the growth of plants around it.

All parts of the Sassafras tree have been used by humans for centuries. Sassafras was used for culinary and medical purposes by many Native American tribes, and later by the colonizing Europeans becoming a primary export to the Old World. Notable uses today are in root beer and Louisiana Creole gumbo. However, large-scale use of Sassafras in manufacturing has been banned by FDA due to liver damage after long-term consumption. Other

uses include dye made from the bark, wood harvesting, and the steam distillation of Safrole Oil from the root bark. The oil makes the wood durable and water-repellent. On the other hand, it also makes the wood very flammable and was often used as a fire starter by Native Americans.



Habitat: deciduous forests, up to 1500m above sea level

Soil type: rich, well-drained sandy loam, loose moist soil

Moisture: medium to medium- dry

Sun: seedlings tolerate shade but older trees require partial to full sun

Height: 15-20m

Propagation: Seeds, root clonal offshoots

Disease and insect pressure: susceptible to Laurel Wilt, a fungal disease caused by *Raffaelea lauricola* which was introduced to North America by the invasive redbay ambrosia beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*).

Fauna: pollinated by insects, primarily bees and flies; Spicebush Swallowtail and Tiger Swallowtail caterpillars feed on the leaves, fruits eaten by birds and squirrels; deer and rabbits will feed on the leaves and twigs



Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sassafras_albidum

<https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/trees/plants/sassafras.htm>

https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/result.php?id_image=37393

HOW I REWILDED MY PARKWAY - By Cathy Perrin

I joined the Gibson Woods chapter of Wild Ones in January 2019. I had been going to their plant sales for years and buying one or two or three natives each time. I met such interesting and knowledgeable people. The meetings were fascinating, and I was eager to learn more.

I picked up *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy and devoured it. Then I surveyed my property. Nearly everything in my yard was from Asia. My oldest son lived in Japan for years, so I had a Japanese Maple, Japanese Painted Fern and Japanese Toad Lilies, as well as Japanese Yews and Japanese Porcupine Grass. My evergreens and peonies were from China.

All my American insects were starving. They wanted a big cheeseburger with fries and I was offering them sushi (I don't even like sushi!).

My suburban lot in Highland was a standard parkway with two maple trees surrounded by grass. Now, more than 40 different native plants thrive under the maple trees.

Before starting, I checked with the Highland Public Works Department and was given their blessing. In March 2019, I covered my parkway with sheets of cardboard and lots of mulch. I transplanted wild ginger from my backyard around the base of the trees. I received many plant starts and seeds from Wild Ones members. I bought lots of shade tolerant plants from our plant sale.



I did receive one rude, anonymous post card that declared my yard was ugly and would bring down property values. I do admit that the garden was not terribly attractive when I first installed it. I planted some non-native violas and forget-me-nots the first year just because it was looking so sparse.

Now, the parkway is filled to overflowing with 3 kinds of goldenrods, 2 kinds of violets, and many kinds of asters as well as spring ephemerals, geraniums, packera aurea, golden alexanders, nodding wild onion and columbines. There are plants growing there that I didn't even plant. I suppose the birds planted the common milkweed, Jerusalem artichoke, garden phlox and fringed loosestrife. I have a sign from the National Wildlife Association that declares the parkway is a Certified Wildlife Habitat. People

now routinely make positive remark on the garden as they walk down the street. One woman announced that she bought milkweed for her own yard after I explained they were necessary food for Monarch butterflies.

Every time I visit the parkway, I am astonished by the number of bees, wasps, moths and insects that I cannot identify happily foraging among the blooms. It is indeed true that if you plant native, they will come.

In addition to the pollinator parkway, I still have my faux Japanese Garden (as I call it). I did not want to remove the evergreens and the Japanese Maple, but have supplemented them with natives like Pagoda Dogwood, Red Osier Dogwood, Spicebush, Elderberry, Northern Sea Oats, Little Bluestem, New Jersey Tea and Butterfly Weed.

My future plans include removing the hostas and daylilies from the east side of my house and planting shade tolerant natives like Joe Pye Weed, Canadian Anemone and Asters.



SYMPOSIUM 2022 - by Kim Moor, Photos by Christi Bushby

Our long awaited symposium was a great success. Thank you to everyone who helped put this together, and helped at the event. AND a big THANK YOU to everyone who attended our event!



We had wonderful speakers - Aaron Stump, from the Indiana Wildlife Federation, our good friend Keith Nowakowski, and Denise Sandoval from Good Nutured Landscapes. Our food was catered by Green Witch Café, and had three choices of delicious cookies made by Daren James. We were sponsored by many great organizations who either donated items or funds to support our Silent Auction, which included a great variety of items. Many of our members donated items to give away as door prizes.

A special thank you goes out to three individuals who provided us with valuable information - Rebecca Koetz from Purdue Extension, Susan MiHalo from The Nature Conservancy, and Dolly Foster - who we can't thank enough for sharing her pollinator gardening information AND for the wonderful job she did as this year's Emcee! Thanks Dolly, you did an AWESOME job!!!

I'm pretty sure everyone enjoyed themselves. I know I did, and can't wait to do this again in two years. The wheels are already spinning!



30/30 - This is relevant for those living in Lake County, Indiana. - by Jake Cseke

In February of this year, Connie Wachala and I presented and submitted a resolution to Lake County Common Council that proposes that they follow an international and national effort to preserve 30% of all US lands by 2030. This is a push to protect more habitat and to mitigate for climate change. Our resolution urges them to start stepping up efforts to protect more land in Lake County and suggests that the county partners with local land trusts to achieve this goal. According to my analysis, only around 4-6% of wildlands are preserved in Lake County. Presently, Lake County Council doesn't seem to lean either way and they have not planned a vote on it yet. The good news is that both Lake County Parks staff and the Lake County Parks Board have expressed support for this effort!

To help us deliver the strongest message possible to the Lake County Council, please call or email each member in the next week (contact info below) to ask them to pass the attached 30x30 resolution we presented to them in February of 2022. If you email them, don't forget to attach the resolution, which is attached in the Newsletter email.

The more people we have showing interest in this action, the more likely they will take notice. We think it is best to send an email to each of them individually. It's okay and helpful to contact council members outside of your district. Council Members Menchaca and Bilski do not have email addresses, so please call them and leave a voicemail.

Here are a couple of links on 30x30.

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/fact-sheet-president-biden-take-action-uphold-commitment-restore-balance-public-lands> See the bottom of the page
<https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/report-conserving-and-restoring-america-the-beautiful-2021.pdf> This is the 2021 summary report.

Lake County Council contact info:

David Hamm (Hammond) 219 755-3280, hammdx@lakecountyin.org; also 219 712-2421, dhamm171@comcast.net

Alfredo Menchaca (Gary) 219 484-6813, no email

Charlie Brown (Gary) 219 938-0988, charlie.b@sbcglobal.net

Daniel Dernulc (Highland) 219 755-3280, dd2927@sbcglobal.net

Christine Cid (East Chicago) 219 218-3126, cidx@lakecountyin.org also cid_christine@yahoo.com

Ted Bilski (Hobart) 219 313-1011, no email

Christian Jorgensen (St. John) 219 365-4430, jorgensen@dresslerpeters.com

A Successful Gibson Woods Wild Ones Project - By Cathy Perrin

Gibson Woods Wild Ones collaborated with the Highland Neighbors for Sustainability and the Highland Park Department to install a Rain Garden in the space between the Highland Town Hall and the Highland Police Department on Ridge Road.

Mary Hackett and Cathy Perrin, being both members of Highland Neighbors for Sustainability and Wild Ones, were happy to coordinate with Connie Wachala who initiated the project with the Park Department. A project proposal was written, submitted and accepted. The Highland Park Department prepared the site and placed a river of rocks on the diagonal. The design was challenging as it slopes downward to a brick memorial honoring fallen police officers. An already established large tree provides mostly shade.

Gibson Woods provided 2 Red Osier Dogwoods and 3 Black Chokeberries. One of the dogwoods provided us with some blooms in the middle of the summer. One can only conclude that it is happy in its new home.

June 4 was the big planting day. Many members dug up plants from their yards and planted seeds to fill in the Rain Garden. Wild Geraniums, Goldenrods, Golden Alexanders, Columbine, and Wild Ginger are thriving in the rain garden.

By the end of the summer, the Sneezeweed and Coreopsis were blooming, and the annuals Cosmos Diablo and Purple Salvia were loaded with pollinators. By next year, we are confident that the Butterfly Weed will bloom, and the other perennials will fill in.

We are hoping that by installing this garden in such a prominent position that more Highland residents will be inspired to add more native plants in their own landscapes.



UPCOMING THINGS TO DO:



Plants of the Indiana Dunes
Wednesday, November 9, 2022 6:00 p.m.
Purdue Cooperative Extension
2291 N. Main St.
Crown Point, IN 46307

Nathanael Pilla will be discussing the spectacular flora of the Indiana Dunes. Get to know a few of your floral neighbors!

Click here to register:

https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e2QSgsuzwvF3PX8



Birdseed Ornament Craft Event

Sat Nov 12 10am to 2pm at the Aquatorium west wing

Children will enjoy this easy crafting event -- simple ingredients, teaches ecology!

Bring your own cookie cutters or use ours! Seed, string, etc. provided. Make as many ornaments as you like! Birds love to eat them all...

Fee: \$5 per family payable at the door cash or check

Register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-craft-project-tickets-441949953207>

For more information, contact
MillerGardenClub@gmail.com • (219) 200-4082

The Lake to Prairie Chapter of Wild Ones 2022 Native Landscaping Conference

The Foundation for Healthy Ecosystems: Healthy Living Soil

Village of Round Lake Beach Cultural and Civic Center

2007 N. Civic Center Way

Round Lake Beach, IL 60073

Saturday, November 12, 2022

8:15 AM - 12:30 PM

This year we will learn more about the "below ground system" and its capacity to support productive ecosystems. All plants interact with animals, fungi and other plants in diverse ways. After learning about the soil, we will go above ground and learn how the prairie and our own gardens are impacted by soil health. Through native landscaping, we can build a healthier environment and support the web of life in our own backyards.

Click here for [EventBrite Online Registration](#)

Use this link for [Mail in Registration](#)

Visit our website laketoprairie.wildones.org

Questions? Call Sandy Miller at 847-812-8105 or email sanran2@aol.com