

NATIVE NEWS

Gibson Woods Wild Ones

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

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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:

I hope you all had a great Summer! Now it's back to the grind - and the inevitably looming return of cold weather!

First, I want to mention what we have coming up - because it's coming up FAST (just like the already stated inevitably looming cold weather)! Ha, ha.

After careful consideration of requests from many of our members & friends, and in collaboration with the folks at Gibson Woods, we've decided to start getting back to some in-person meetings & presentations. We are going to do it a little differently for the time being. We have found while some of us miss the in-person experience of meeting in person, others find the online way of doing things more convenient. So, we're going to try a little of both. It's going to be a little confusing, but we will do our best to post the schedule well in advance so you can see what we're doing when. We will kick this off with a presentation inside the Gibson Woods Nature Center on August 20th. Dolly Foster will show us her great methods for seed collecting & cleaning. We still need to have a limited audience to keep everyone safe, so a RSVP is required. We are also going to allow those who can't come to watch via a live Zoom link (wish me luck that I can pull this off). The presentation will also be recorded. You must register beforehand to watch via Zoom. Details for both in-person & Zoom are listed below.

I also want to mention that our Symposium is fast approaching. This event is taking place on September 24th, and the deadline for early registration is August 24th. Registration after that will be an additional \$5. Also remember that our attendance is limited, so if you are planning on coming, please don't delay getting your registration in either via mail or online. All the details you need are included as an attachment to this newsletter.

Make sure to see our Announcements on page 2 for a list of other upcoming activities, and turn to page 4 for a summary of our Summer activities, aka "The Summer of 2022".

I hope to see you, Kim Moor

IN-PERSON - AUGUST 20 PRESENTATION

Collecting & Cleaning Seeds from the Garden - with Dolly Foster

Gibson Woods Nature Center 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Open to the Public

Seed collecting is a fascinating skill to learn and can become quite addicting! This lost art is more important now due to the loss of natural lands all over the country. Why collect seeds from your garden? Collecting seeds helps you start new plants for free, protects diversity and affords you gifts for friends, family and community plantings. Some native plants can be difficult to find so collecting seeds from your garden or a trusted source can help save a species. Remember to never collect where you do not have permission. Seed Collecting Fun Fact: collecting seeds gets you outdoors on what could be the last good day of the year! Join us for a fun class full of tips, tricks and skill building.

This will be an in-person presentation in-doors at Gibson Woods. Space is limited, so RSVP is required. Please email Mickey Taylor at micktec24@yahoo.com.

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.

August 20, 2022 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Collecting and Cleaning Seeds from the Garden - with Dolly Foster.

In-person at Gibson Woods!
RSVP required

September 7, 2022 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Business Meeting—Members Only
(via Zoom - Registration required)

September 24, 2022

8th Biennial Native Plant Symposium

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

See page 2 for details

October 1, 2022 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Business Meeting - Open to the Public

In-person at Gibson Woods
RSVP required

Plant & Seed Swap after meeting

October 4, 2022 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Native Plants and Their Uses as Food and Medicines - with Ezekiel Flannery.
(via Zoom - Registration required)

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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:**

Kim Moor
219-433-5731
kckim10@gmail.com

Vice-President**Program Coordinator:**

Mickey Taylor
219-742-2775
micktec24@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Tonia Flowers
219-741-6392
butterflygardentf@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Karl Ackermann
708-790-1322
acks123@sbcglobal.net

Membership Chair**Corresponding Secretary:**

Pat Rosenwinkel
219-865-2679
patrosen@sbcglobal.net

Greenhouse Manager:

Peggy Foster
219-286-3262
omanigetwithit@comcast.net

Education Supervisor, Native Plant Consultant/Ordering:

Joy Bower
jbower1126@aol.com

Community Projects Chair:

Jake Cseke
219-214-7626
cseke.jake@yahoo.com

Administrative Assistant**Web Master**

Sashi Sekhar
219-781-2267
Sash.sekhar@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS**Welcome New Members**

Thomas Boesen
Gayle MacBride
Diane Puplava
James Seidler

We look forward to getting to know you!

SEPTEMBER BUSINESS MEETING

Zoom Meeting – registration is required
Wednesday September 7, 2022 6:30-8:00 PM

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZEpfu2hrTwtHdQY-SVverVajffHwaoXzPWn>

A recording of this meeting will be sent to all current Members.

EAST CHICAGO MONARCH FEST - SATURDAY SEPT 17TH

We have committed ourselves to helping The Nature Conservancy at a booth at this event. We will be helping to pass out free plants to attendees, as well as helping to educate about the benefits of Native Plants. This event will take place at Kosciuszko Park on Saturday, September 17 from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Please consider volunteering to help during this festival. If we get enough volunteers, we can split the day up into a couple of shifts. Contact Kim Moor at 219-433-5731 or kckim10@gmail.com if you are interested in helping. See page 6 for more details.

SYMPOSIUM - SEPT 24TH**3 Speakers, Boxed Lunch, Silent Auction, Book Sale, Door Prizes & More**

Please see the attached flyer, or visit us online for more information & to register
<http://www.gw-wildones.org/symposium---shows.html>

OCTOBER BUSINESS MEETING & PLANT/SEED SWAP

Saturday, October 1, 2022 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

We will have a business meeting indoors at Gibson Woods, followed by a native plant & seed swap outdoors. This event is open to the public. If you are not a member, and just want to attend the swap, please arrive at 11:00 a.m.

NATIVE PLANTS AND THEIR USES AS FOOD & MEDICINE – with Ezekiel Flannery

Zoom Presentation – registration required
Tuesday, October 4, 2022 from 7:00-8:30 PM

An introduction to some of the native wild edible plants of Northwest Indiana. We will explore how these native plants form a central part of the local Native American cultures, including the Potawatomi and the Miami. Participants will learn some of the beliefs and best practices that indigenous peoples use when harvesting wild edibles and medicinals to ensure the sustainability of our ecosystems for future generations.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZwpf-qtrTkqGtdQmD5aSvfyUPgNyICxZUhx>

A recording of this meeting will be sent to all who registered.

PLANT STUDY - by Olimpia Gutierrez

Blazing Star (*Liatris* genus) also known as Gayfeather

Rough Blazing Star (*Liatris aspera*)

Dwarf Blazing Star (*Liatris cylindracea*)

Prairie Blazing Star (*Liatris pycnostachya*)

Marsh Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*)

Aster family - *Eupatorieae* tribe in the *Asteraceae*



Rough Blazing Star - 2 to 5 ft tall



Dwarf Blazing Star - 1 to 1.5 ft tall

Plants in the *Liatris* genus are herbaceous perennials native to North America. The plant is composed of grass-like alternate leaves growing on a single stem, becoming progressively smaller up the stalk. Leaves may appear whorled when densely packed together. Blooming occurs in late summer to early fall producing a bottlebrush spike of purple flowers. Flowerheads are buttons of disc florets which bloom top to bottom lasting about 3-4 weeks. The root system is corms with fibrous roots which can be divided to produce new plants in the spring. Flowers are replaced by seeds with large tufts of hair to facilitate wind distribution. Seeds germinate in 20-45 days and is improved by cold moist stratification for 4-6 weeks. New plants will not bloom until their second year.

Each species has its own preferred growing habitat but all *Liatris* grow in poor, well drained soil.

- Rough Blazing Star grows in dry, sandy environments and has larger flowers.
- Dwarf Blazing Star grows on hills or slopes, is shorter than the other species, and has cylindrical bracts supporting the flowers.
- Prairie Blazing Star prefers meadows and tall grass prairie with medium moisture and has flowers with sharply recurved bracts.
- Marsh Blazing Star, as the name suggests, likes marshy areas and wet meadows.

Moisture: Dry to moist, very drought tolerant

Sun: Full

Height: 1-5 ft, depending on species

Propagation: Seed or corm division.

Disease and insect pressure: *Liatris* is susceptible to several fungal infections although they are rarely of concern. Planting in full sun and allowing for sufficient air circulation between plants minimizes these diseases.

Liatris species attract many insect species including butterflies and bees. They are the host plants for many Lepidoptera larvae and are used exclusively by several of the flower moths in the genus *Schinia*.

Sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liatris>, <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/liatris/>, https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/wetland/plants/msh_blazingstar.htm, https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/rgh_blazingstarx.htm, https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/cyl_blazingstarx.htm, https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/pr_blazingstarx.htm



Prairie Blazing Star - up to 4 ft tall



Marsh Blazing Star - 2 to 5 ft tall

SUMMER OF 2022 - continued

We participated in an event at Izaak Walton in Griffith IN. They celebrated their 75th anniversary by throwing an open house that was open to the public. One thing requested from the folks at Izaak Walton was to come equipped with something that would be fun for the kids. Sooo, what would be a better outdoor summer project for Wild Ones than making butterflies?! We & I 'm pretty sure the kids had a ton of fun, and we sold a few more plants, and shared a lot of educational information. Big thanks to Sharon Surdy, Olimpia Gutierrez, and Kim Moor.



August Cleaning of Pat Thompson's shed - I promised Pat earlier this season that we would find some people to help clean out her garden shed one weekend when the weather was going to be pleasant. Well, as it usually goes, summer crept by, and finally on one of the hottest days of this year, we got a group together & got it done! We accomplished our goal & had a lot of fun during the time we all spent together helping a fellow member. I sure hope we can continue with this idea & make it a new, or maybe I should say a renewed tradition! Mickey Taylor, Pat Rosenwinkel, Edith Bukwa, Cathy Perrin, Kim Moor & Philip Matsikas make a great team! I thank you, and I know Pat thanks you too! I failed to take pictures, but I know Pat's son did, so hopefully I will have some to share next time.

And, last, but certainly not least – not by a long shot – our summer crew has kept up with the care of our plants in the Greenhouse. We've had a pretty hot summer, and I'm sure you can imagine if it's hot outside, it is super-hot in the Greenhouse. Sometimes 100 degrees or more. Thank goodness for the huge fans in both Greenhouses!!!! We all owe a super big thank you to Peggy Foster for her endless work & worry over everything involved, and still another big thank you for those who have stayed diligent. I hope I don't miss someone – Cindy Pecor, Barb Hargrove, Kathy Tallman, Tonia Flowers, John Ploof, Mary Hackett, Cathy Perrin, Jeff Gettemans, Oakley Molinaro, and Kim Moor. Our plants are ever so grateful as well. Now, please take a bow, and pat yourself on the back. It is much deserved!!!

Now for the rest of this warm-weather season... we have two more projects coming up - - - -

We have donated some plants to a project taking place on September 10 in the Miller area of Gary. The project aims to educate about the value of native plants in the dunes ecosystem. A series of community-organized events have resulted in the removal of nonnative invasive species on thoroughfares and residential properties in the Warren-Vigo Block Club area. Residents have subsequently introduced native trees and shrubs into these locations. The primary objective of this next stage is to introduce native plants along the bootleg trail that connects Warren St and Vigo St in Gary, Indiana. **Please contact John Ploof if you'd like to volunteer for this project.** Email: jploof@saic.edu or call/text 773-203-9295.



We have donated some plants to a project taking place on September 18th at the Humane Indiana Wildlife Center in Valparaiso, IN. Jake Cseke has been assisting an Eagle Scout troop with preparation of the property, and could use a couple of volunteers to help the boys with placement of the plants. Sounds like they'll be there to do all the dirty & heavy work!! **Please contact Jake if you'd like to help.**

Email: cseke.jake@yahoo.com or call/text 219-214-7626.



Stay tuned for pictures of these projects!!!

UPCOMING THINGS TO DO:



Sunday, August 21 12-4 PM
Wicker Park Social Center,
8554 Indpls. Blvd. Highland
\$5,000 in Prizes!

Join us as participants scurry through Wicker Park hunting 25 special butterflies. Each hand-crafted butterfly will have a gift/cash value of \$50-1000 (one per family). Food, games, music and activities will be provided. Tickets are limited. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to win some incredible prizes and raise money to support Hospice of the Calumet Area's mission to provide expert compassionate care for our hospice patients and families.

To purchase tickets or for more information:
<https://www.hospicecalumet.org/butterflies>
Or call 219-922-2732



Click here to register for this event:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/region-neighbors-for-sustainability-tickets-384180864307?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>



Festival de la Monarca

EAST CHICAGO

Kosciuszko Park
Saturday, September 17
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Bring your family and friends on Saturday, September 17 to the fifth annual Festival de la Monarca and help welcome the monarch butterflies as they journey across northwest Indiana on their way to Michoacán.

This FREE festival invites you to celebrate the beautiful monarch butterfly with your East Chicago community members by enjoying fun activities, music, art, dance and food. Visit facebook.com/ECMonarchfestival often to get the latest details.



Classic Chrysanthemum Concerto

Sunday, September 18

1pm-4pm Before you put away those seersucker suits and sundresses, join us for a lovely day of live classical performances, food and of course flowers.



Beer, Brats & Bulbs Saturday, October 8

10am-3pm FAMILY FUN FALL FESTIVAL featuring over 4000 rare and unusual bulbs of 80 different varieties. Over 25 brands of regional craft beers, ciders and brats with all the trimmings. Includes bake sale, beer garden (with band) and a nature hike with Geo-caching.

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