

# NATIVE NEWS

## Gibson Woods Wild Ones

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

January/February, 2023

Volume 24, Issue 1

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!

Happy New Year! I hope enjoyed your holiday!! Now it's time for new beginnings—

This past year, we have been growing. We welcomed 26 new members, we finally had our Symposium after an extra two year hiatus, we donated plants to several new community projects, some of which we planned and helped with the plantings, we were involved in many community events, we hosted some great speakers, and we planned and executed another successful plant sale!

I want to keep reminding you about our plans for our May 6, 2023 plant sale. This year, we will be holding the sale at a really cool pavilion at Lake Etta, which is a Lake County Parks property located between Burr & Clark streets right off the expressway. No more tents, and the building is wide open with plenty of fresh air and lots of room. Stay tuned for our Flyer and Plant List. In the meantime, SAVE-THE-DATE: Saturday, May 6th! You won't want to miss it!!!



This coming weekend, members will be kicking off our Greenhouse work. Our plants are tucked in and are patiently waiting for us! Later this month, we will be participating at the Porter County Master Gardener Plant Show.

2023 here we come! I hope to see you around!!

Sincerely,  
Kim Moor

### JANUARY 2023 GREENHOUSE ORIENTATION - For Members Only

If you haven't already, please sign up. Sunday is full, but we still have two sessions open on Saturday, January 7th at 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. You can expect to be there for about 45 minutes. We will go over our basic Greenhouse operation, and will start making a work calendar.

We have a fine selection of plant stock for the 2023 sale, and ample supply of pots and trays for bumping up. We are off to a good start into the New Year!

Thank You for all you do!

Peggy Foster  
Greenhouse Manager, Trainer, Coordinator  
219 286-3262 Landline 219 617-1469 Cell

The plants are patiently waiting for us!!



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.

### GREENHOUSE ORIENTATION

Sat & Sun, Jan 7th & 8th 2023  
RSVP required

### JANUARY BUSINESS MEETING

Members only - via Zoom  
Wed, January 11th, 2023 7:00-8:30 pm  
Registration required.

### CRANES OVER INDIANA

With Katelyn Garrett, International Crane Foundation

Sat. February 4th, 2023 10:00-11:30 am  
Online and in-person at Gibson Woods

Open to the Public.  
Registration or RSVP Required.

### FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING - To be Determined

### Inside this Issue:

Greeting/Greenhouse Orientation	1
Announcements	2
Plant Study - Prairie Dropseed	3
Member Garden	4
December Open-house	5
New Year Resolution	5
Briar East Woods Update	6
Book Review, Seed Libraries	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:**

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

**Welcome New Member****Melisa Carter-Chenoweth**

We look forward to getting to know you!

**JANUARY BUSINESS MEETING** Members only- via Zoom

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 from 7:00-8:30 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZItde6hrjgoHNASLQgcMs4Z7smGOuBUAnXy>

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.

**PORTER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SHOW** - Porter County Expo Center

Saturday, January 21st from 8:00-4:00.

It's time to start thinking about signing up to help at the booth we will have at the Porter County Master Gardener's show. Please follow the link listed below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0948ACA628A7F4C70-porter>

If we get enough volunteers, we will split the shifts into three time-slots. Choose your time-slot, and make a comment if you are willing to be a Square cashier.

For more Garden Show info, visit: <https://www.pcgarden.info/gardening-show-2023/>

**CRANES OVER INDIANA** - with Katelyn Garrett, International Crane Foundation

Saturday, February 4th, 2023 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Join us at Gibson Woods to watch live on the 'big screen', or join us via Zoom

Indiana is home to the Sandhill Crane and the endangered Whooping Crane. Join Katelyn Garrett, Whooping Crane outreach program assistant for the International Crane Foundation, to learn about the cranes of Indiana. Following this presentation, you will be able to identify Sandhill Cranes and Whooping Cranes, know the history of both crane species, understand the current work crane conservation partners are doing to protect cranes in Indiana and throughout their flyways, and find out how you can be an ambassador for cranes in Indiana.

In-person attendees must **RSVP** to Mickey Taylor at [micktec24@yahoo.com](mailto:micktec24@yahoo.com) or call/text 219-742-2775.

**Zoom Registration Link:**<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0udeuspzgiHdLjlg2NZCnEY5E9O496gBqy>

A link to the presentation will be sent directly by Zoom as soon as you register.

This presentation will be recorded and will be sent to all who register online.

**FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING** To be Determined - Members only

We will discuss board member availability at the January Business Meeting. We can either choose a weekday evening via Zoom, or meet in person after the February 4th presentation. Officers & Chairs/Managers are encouraged to attend. All members are welcome.

Main topic: 2023 Goals



**PLANT STUDY** - by Olimpia Gutierrez***Sporobolus heterolepis* - Prairie Dropseed****Poaceae - Grass family**

Prairie dropseed is a native perennial, warm-season grass that grows in prairies, glades, and other open areas. The leaves curve outwardly from the center forming clumps about 1-2ft tall and 2-3ft across. The green, hair-like leaves are alternate, measuring about 1/16" wide and up to 20" long. Prairie dropseed blooms in late summer from August to October. Branched panicles of pink and brown tinted flowers form on slender stems that grow up to 36" tall. The flowers are fragrant with hints of coriander. They are wind pollinated and later replaced by small rounded grains that drop to the ground. In the fall, the leaves turn golden with orange hues and fade to bronze in winter. Prairie dropseed is not flattened by snow. The root system is fibrous and somewhat rhizomatous.

**Uses:** Ground cover in hot, dry areas, winter interest, helps with erosion.

**Habitat:** Prairies, glades, open areas, hot and dry grounds

**Zones:** 3 to 9

**Height:** 2-3ft

**Sun:** Full

**Soil type:** Grows in well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerates a wide range of soils but prefers dry, rocky soil.

**Moisture:** Dry to medium, drought tolerant

**Propagation:** Seed and to a lesser extent through rhizomes. Tufts of grass can be dug up and divided by hand to produce more plants.

**Disease and insect pressure:** None of note

**Fauna:** It is the obligate host plant of 2 species of leafhoppers. Seeds are eaten by birds including several Sparrow species. Deer tolerant. Small rodents may nest inside the tufts of grass.



Landscaping photos taken by Teresa Lekan, TL Designs [www.tldesignnwi.com](http://www.tldesignnwi.com)

**Sources:**

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=f680>

[https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/grasses/plants/pr\\_dropseed.htm](https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/grasses/plants/pr_dropseed.htm)

[https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=SPHE](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=SPHE)



## A PEEK INSIDE THE PRESIDENT'S BACKYARD - By Cathy Perrin

"My yard is why I joined Wild Ones", according to Gibson Woods Wild Ones Chapter President Kim Moor. "11 years ago, we had just bought a house with a big back yard that looked like a nature preserve, and it intrigued me. There were so many pine trees, you couldn't even walk through it. The first thing we did was limb up the trees. Then I saw a newspaper article about a native plant sale at Gibson Woods and I went and bought a few plants." Since then, Kim has bought many more native plants. Her yard is mostly shade and part sun. Some of the first plants she purchased were Wild Ginger and Jack in the Pulpit. They are still thriving in her backyard.

"Later, I went back to Gibson Woods to look for a plant book. Gibson Woods Nature Preserve didn't have any to sell, but they suggested that I contact the Gibson Woods Wild Ones chapter for information on native plants and books on native plants." Kim joined Wild Ones right away and promptly volunteered to be the editor of the newsletter. "I like to do that kind of thing," Kim explained. She also liked to learn new things. There was a lot to learn about native plants.

One of the tenets of the Wild Ones philosophy is removing invasive plants and replacing them with natives. Kim had no problems removing a burning bush from her yard. However, she is having a much harder time deciding to take down a large invasive mulberry tree because she and her husband were married underneath it. Kim admitted that the tree is not looking so healthy, so they will probably take it down.

Kim's favorite spot in her garden is her pond. Her son built and installed it 3 years ago. Most of the plants in and around the water are native. Sweet flag, palm sedges, native ferns, sweet grass, cardinal flower, beebalm, and swamp milkweed surround the pond. Kim added the goldfish, but said the frogs just came. "Birds visit and put their little faces in the water. Raccoons come to the pond to drink and wash their hands," according to Kim. She installed a camera so she can see who is coming to visit. So far, the raccoons have left the fish alone. And she caught a glimpse of a fox coming for a drink just last week!

Kim's favorite shrub is the Red Chokeberry. She explained why. "Birds love it, it's well-behaved, it's not too tall, it takes up a nice space, and there's not too many suckers." Kim would not commit to her favorite native forb. "It's hard to pick one, but I do love the Swamp Milkweed" she said.

If you are even remotely interested in learning about native plants, Kim recommends you join Wild Ones and get involved in our activities. You will learn a lot and meet some very interesting and knowledgeable people. So far, Kim has been newsletter editor, vice president, and now president for a third year. Check out membership opportunities at: <https://members.wildones.org/join/>. You won't be sorry!

2012 Clean Slate



2022 Fall Revamp



Pond



Swamp Milkweed



Brown-eyed Susan, Flowering Spurge, Purple Coneflower, Meadowsweet, Burr Sedge, Northern Sea oats



Red Chokeberry



## DECEMBER 2022 OPEN HOUSE - by Kim Moor, Photos by Mickey Taylor

We had fun! Books for sale, native seeds to swap, nature ornament crafts to make... all with the benefit of good company! It was a very festive atmosphere, and was most enjoyable. Thank you to everyone who came out!!!



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NATIVE PLANT GARDENER

(Note from Editor: I stole this from the South Bend Wild Ones' newsletter. Actually, I did ask permission to share)

"Gardening more" is itself a good New Year's resolution. It ties in nicely with some other common resolutions like slowing down, living a simpler life, getting a farmer's tan, and exercising. If gardening is already a common practice in your life, you may want to consider some of the following resolutions to make 2023 your best year.

1. Clean out that God-forsaken pit of chaos you call the "potting shed."
2. Reduce your lawn area.
3. Do some garden volunteering. (I know of a group that can provide you with opportunities!)
4. Become a member of Wild Ones South Bend (or Gibson Woods).
5. Plant something with a child. Preferably a child you know. Don't steal children.
6. Start something from seed.
7. Make a native plant budget. Stick to it. It should not be >40% of your income.
8. Invite people over to spend time in your garden this year.
9. Document your garden.
10. Start a compost bin or pile.
11. Point out EVERY. SINGLE. native or invasive plant to anyone within earshot of you, even if they are strangers. This is particularly appreciated on long road trips.
12. Only plant native plants (duh).
13. Replace peat moss with something sustainable, like coconut coir.
14. Ensure you have a water source in your garden, such as a bird bath.
15. Forgive your co-worker who cut down the "really, like, big, huge, overgrown oak tree," in her back yard.
16. You don't really have to forgive that girl. She's an idiot.
17. Plant a tree. (To make up for the one that chick cut down).
18. Tell your friends, family, and co-workers about the importance of native plants.
19. Read the book, *Nature's Best Hope* by Douglas Tallamy
20. If you qualify, register your property on [Homegrown National Park](https://www.homegrownnationalpark.org/)

If you'd like to subscribe to the South Bend chapter's newsletter, you can contact [southbendwildones@gmail.com](mailto:southbendwildones@gmail.com)

## NATURE'S NIGHT OUT TO SAVE BRIAR EAST WOODS - By Cathy Perrin

Would you like to save a small urban forest in Hessville? Come to Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott's Mayor's Night Out on January 4, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Jean Shepherd Community Center located at 3031 J.F. Mahoney Drive in Hammond and speak out to save Briar East Woods. .

Briar East Woods is located at 169th and Parrish Avenue in Hessville. It is part of the ancient shoreline of Lake Michigan that somehow has managed to avoid development. Until now. That is about to change if Mayor McDermott has his way. McDermott is trying to solve the perennial problem of stopped trains frustrating Hessville residents and has sought funding that would lift a bridge over most of the woods, destroying this 32 acre habitat in the process. There are other alternatives to solve the problem that do not involve bulldozing these woods.

The more people who come and speak for the trees, the better our chances to save this ecologically important site. We will also save all the wildlife that calls this oasis home.

For more information, follow Hessville Dune Dusters on Facebook and savebriareastdunes on Instagram.

---

## BOOK NOTE - by Steve Bender

### Planting in a Post-Wild World - Rainer T and West C, Timber Press, Portland, [2015]

What can home gardeners learn from the professional landscape designers who work on large public spaces? The method of designer Claudia West is adaptable to gardens of any scale. She offers a comprehensive set of principles and practices for thinking about landscaping goals and getting the job done--from creating the scene to selecting the species, from planting to maintenance, from artistic composition to plants' ecological functions.

It is clear that people recognize beauty in wild places. West wants to know why—what characteristics are they seeing that evoke their immediate, intuitive, pleasurable responses? Then the question becomes: How can these characteristics of landscapes be extracted to facilitate designing small spaces, such as gardens?

Her solution is four principles for planning gardens that achieve high visual appeal while incorporating high diversity of plant species. For example, Legibility at a distance, diversity close up: Tall elements (trees) frame the garden, offering a recognizable and simple space; meanwhile, the lower and lowest levels present a high number of plants (and species), revealed only on close approach, without jumbling and cluttering the long view.

The attractiveness of these projects is crucial for building the public's appetite for native plants. And planting natives in cities and suburbs is vital for offsetting diversity losses in the surrounding countryside. Wild and neat is the objective.

In other studies, West found that natural plantings for storm water management are often dismal failures. Conventional analysis for choosing plant species was determined to be wholly inadequate, and an alternative method was introduced. Her plant choices have proven to be more durable and require less maintenance. Here, too, her principles translate to planning native gardens.

It's notable that her influences range from contemporary landscape architects to forestry/horticulture/parkland planners writing early in the last century.

---

## SEED LIBRARIES

There are 4 Lake County Library branches that are starting Seed Libraries with the focus of sustainability and food security. If you have any seeds of native plants, fruits or vegetables, or herbs, please either drop them off or mail them to any of the participating branches below. They need to be labeled, but not necessarily packaged.

Cedar Lake Branch, Lake County Public Library  
10010 W. 133rd Ave.  
Cedar Lake, IN 46303

Highland Branch, Lake County Public Library  
2841 Jewett St  
Highland, IN 46322

Hobart Branch, Lake County Public Library  
100 N. Main St.  
Hobart, IN 46342

Lake Station-New Chicago Branch, Lake County Public Library  
2007 Central Ave.  
Lake Station, IN 46405