

NATIVE NEWS

Gibson Woods Wild Ones

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

March/April 2023

Volume 24, Issue 2

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!

If you're on our email list, you already received a copy of our 2023 Native Plant Sale flyer. I will send it out again with this newsletter, and it can be found on our website. We are still tweaking the plant list, but we're getting really close to releasing that information. I will send that along as soon as it's ready. That will also be available on our website.

In the meantime - Don't forget to **SAVE THE DATE**
23rd Annual Native Plant Sale
Saturday, May 6th from 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
at Lake Etta County Park

Members, I will be sending out an online volunteer form as we get closer to our Plant Sale date. We will need lots of help on the Friday before the sale, and of course on Sale day! Please keep those dates open if you can!!!

We will be participating at two different Earth Day Events this year. One of them even involves a Weed Wrangle! Make sure to check out the information on Page 6 to register for that. I will also be sending out an online volunteer form for volunteers for our booths at both events.

As our summer progresses, there will be many opportunities involving some new public pollinator gardens. I will keep you informed as these come up.

See - our fun never ends! 😎

I hope to see you a lot in the coming months!
Kim Moor

MARCH 2023 PAINTING PARTY! - In person & open to the public

When: Saturday, March 4th 2023 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Where: Knights of Columbus, 1400 S Broad St.,
Griffith IN

We're going to try something a little different... Please join us for a painting party! There will be an instructor who will help us every step of the way & will supply everything needed to create this Beautiful Lake scene featuring a Crane.

Members: \$15, Non-members: \$20. This will help us pay for the cost of supplies.

We are limiting this to 20 people, so make sure to reserve your spot before they're all taken!

RSVP to Mickey Taylor at: micktec24@yahoo.com or call/text 219-742-2775
Snacks & hot beverages will not be served at this event.



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.

PAINTING PARTY! - in person
Sat, March 4th, 2023 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Open to the Public - RSVP required

MARCH BUSINESS MEETING

Members only - via Zoom
Wed, March 8th, 2023 7:00-8:30 pm

APRIL BUSINESS MEETING

Members only - via Zoom
Wed, April 5th, 2023 7:00-8:30 pm

NATIVE TREE & SHRUB PRUNING in

-person with Oakley Molinaro
Sat, April 15th 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
At the home of Kim Moor
Open to the Public - RSVP Required.

23RD ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE

Sat. May 6th from 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
At Lake Etta County Park

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ANNOUNCEMENTS**Join us on Facebook**

[https://www.facebook.com/
pages/Wild-Ones-Native-Plants-
Natural-Landscapes-Gibson-
Woods-Chapter-
38/528949993858676](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wild-Ones-Native-Plants-Natural-Landscapes-Gibson-Woods-Chapter-38/528949993858676)

2023 Officers**President / Newsletter Editor:**

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Community Projects Chair:

This position is open.
Please contact Kim Moor
in the meantime.

Administrative Assistant**Web Master**

Gayle Tokarz
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Welcome New Members

Jane Baldwin
Kathryn Hensley
Lynne Huntley
Mike Smith
Elizabeth Starewicz

We look forward to getting to know you!

MARCH BUSINESS MEETING – via Zoom MEMBERS ONLY
March 8th, 2023 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZ0oduygpj4qE9dp06rB6XA01en-2vRyYcvy>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email direct from Zoom containing information about joining the meeting.

A recording of the meeting will be sent to all active members.

APRIL BUSINESS MEETING – via Zoom MEMBERS ONLY
April 5th, 2023 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZctf-ihrTkiGNH6NTRUGP18Qbma1HqABzKt>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email direct from Zoom containing information about joining the meeting.

A recording of the meeting will be sent to all active members.

NATIVE TREE & SHRUB PRUNING - an in-person demonstration
with Oakley Molinaro - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

When: Saturday, April 15th 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Where: Griffith, IN

Oakley Molinaro, a master naturalist with tree care and orchard work experience, will be demonstrating the basics of tree and shrub pruning in person at the home of Kim Moor, member & current president of the Gibson Woods chapter of Wild Ones. We will cover some plant biology to understand the healing / growth process, and will be given examples of what to watch for in assessment. After tree assessment, we will be shown demonstrations on corrective pruning, shaping, and orchard pruning methods.

Please **R.S.V.P.** to Mickey Taylor at micktec24@yahoo.com or call/text 219-742-2775. Mickey will give you the address at this time. This event will be rain or shine, so please dress accordingly. We will have shelter areas set up in case of rain, and indoor accommodations for warming & personal needs.

Snacks & hot beverages will be served at this event.

PLANT STUDY- by Olimpia Gutierrez * **NEW FOR 2023** ***Carex genus** - over 2,000 species of sedges**Cyperaceae** - Sedge family

Sedges encompass a vast family of perennial monocot, grass-like plants, with over 2000 species throughout the world. Native sedges grow in various environments, including marshes and other wetlands, woodlands, and even dry sand. They often grow in poor soils. The name *Carex* is Latin for "cutter" in reference to the sharp triangular stem edges found on most members of this genus. Unlike grass "sedges have edges" referring to the leaf edges that vary from hair-like to downright razor sharp. To help differentiate sedges from grass and rushes, remember "sedges have edges, rushes are round, and grasses have nodes from the top to the ground." The study of sedges is known as **caricology**. Identification of individual species is done mainly on differences in inflorescence and seed morphology.

Sedges have alternate leaf blades with parallel veins and a distinct midrib that extends from a sheath-enclosed stalk. The leaf blades are long and flat but some species may have folded, enrolled, or channeled blades. The blades can be arching, spiky, mounding, compact, or airy. The color of the foliage can be green, red, or brown and varies with the season. The flower-bearing stalk, or **culm**, is unbranched and triangular and produces spiked inflorescences. The fruit is a nut-like structure that contains a single seed and is wind dispersed. Root systems are usually rhizomes, stolons, or short rootstocks.

Uses: Rain garden, wet areas, landscape for poor soils**Habitat, soil type, and moisture:** Varies by species, most sedges prefer moist habitats and can grow in poor soils**Sun:** Full sun to part shade**Propagation:** Seed, some species can spread by rhizomes**Disease and insect pressure:** Generally none of concern**Fauna:** Attracts birds, insects. Bison and deer feed on the foliage

Carex crinita – **Fringed sedge** grows in leafy culms 2-4' tall, full sun to light shade, medium to wet including standing water, blooms May to June, spreads by rhizomes to form large colonies.

Sources: <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=279732&isprofile=1&basic=Carex%20crinita>
https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/grasses/plants/frg_sedge.html



Carex lurida - **Bottlebrush sedge**, also known as Sallow sedge, Shallow sedge, or Lurid sedge forms culms up to 3' tall, prefers wet to moist soils, full sun to light shade, produces either white, green or brown blooms from May to September, seeds resemble small sweetgum balls, does not die back in the summer heat. This plant has fibrous roots.

Sources: <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=279780&isprofile=1&basic=carex%20lurida>
https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/grasses/plants/sallow_sedge.htm



Carex prairea - **Fen panicled sedge**, also known as prairie sedge grows up to 40" tall, prefers moist to wet soil, has white, green or brown blooms from June to August, and has fibrous roots.

Sources: https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=CAPR6
<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/grass-sedge-rush/prairie-sedge>

**Other Sources:**

Carex. (2022, December 3). In *Wikipedia*. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carex>
<https://www.prairienursery.com/plants-seeds/native-plants/native-sedges.html>
<https://www.nybg.org/blogs/plant-talk/2011/11/tip-of-the-week/sedges-and-grasses/#:~:text=Sedges%20have%20edges%2C,are%20in%20the%20Juncaceae%20family.>

ALWAYS AN ENVIRONMENTALIST - By Cathy Perrin

Diane O'Connell grew up in Chicago, but it was visiting their lake house in Wisconsin that really taught her to enjoy the great outdoors. "I always loved nature and trees and birds and insects. I always was an environmentalist; I just didn't know the word for it then."

She went to a presentation by another Wild Ones group from the Illinois suburbs and it struck a chord with her. Diane then became one of the original members of the Gibson Woods Wild Ones chapter which was formed in 2000.

In 2004, she moved to Hobart to a newly constructed house on a golf course. The landscaping was just lawn. "I couldn't handle it. I decided I wanted to have birds and flowers and a birdbath." Diane started planting natives. Some plants were purchased at our plant sales; others were starts from friends. She has installed serviceberry, New England aster, rattlesnake master, yellow coneflower, purple coneflower, penstemon beardtongue, as well as obedient plant, lead plant, bergamot, and common milkweed. One of her favorites is spiderwort. She did have a design plan, but nature had other ideas. "A plan is fine, but natives grow where they want to. Birds planted my ironweed."

Diane received the Shirley Heinze Bringing Nature Home award for her efforts in growing native plants. She doesn't remember what year she received that recognition, but said it was the same year that Karl Ackerman received that same honor.

Diane's latest project is rewilding the parkway in front of her house which is anchored by a single maple tree. Last November, she scrounged cardboard and covered the 10 x 40 area with newspaper, cardboard and mulch. Found rocks were used to hold everything in place. She worked hard to beat the oncoming bad weather. She had to explain to her neighbors what she was doing and that it would take a while before it looked good. Diane is working with a designer to plan the parkway.

We'll be checking back on the progress of Diane's parkway project as it goes along the native planting phases of plant growth: First year they sleep, Second year they creep, Third year they leap.

One of Diane's favorite plants is tickseed coreopsis. She purchased the plant at one of the Wild Ones plant sales. Diane has found that the tickseed coreopsis will rebloom if cut back, and it makes a wonderful bouquet.

Over the years, Diane has helped out at a lot of plant sales. "I transported plants, arranged them on tables, and added orders up for customers." Her advice for new and old Wild Ones members is to talk to people. "Tell them your plans and ask their opinions. You'll learn a lot."



Tickseed coreopsis, Beards tongue, Spiderwort, with Hydrangea bushes in background



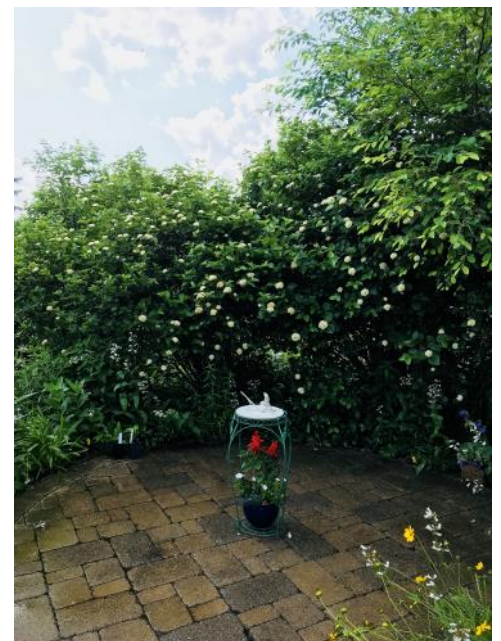
Monarch on Ironweed



Yellow coneflower, Purple coneflower, Wild bergamot



Serviceberry



Arrowwood viburnum

JANUARY GREENHOUSE ORIENTATION

We have many new members who were interested in our greenhouse, and a few who took a break the last couple years, so we broke our orientation into three sessions. This made the sessions more manageable, and gave everyone the attention that is needed for learning the 'ropes'. It was a great turnout, and we've gotten a ton of work done since then! Check out the plants...



PORTER COUNTY GARDEN SHOW

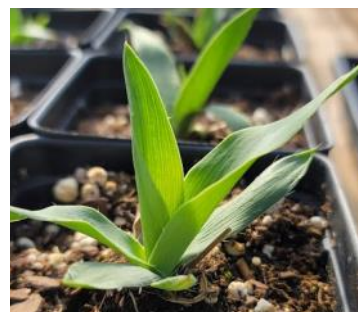
Then a couple weeks later, we were at the Porter County Master Gardener Show - after a two year hiatus. It was BUSY & people were enthusiastic! We gave out every Plant Sale flyer that we brought, almost as many brochures, & sold a bunch of books!!

We worked our butts off, but had a lot of fun too! Thank you to everyone who came out to help!!



LOOK WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE GREENHOUSE!

Take a guess at the plant names - there may or may not be a test at our next meeting. Just kidding! (See answers at the bottom of this page, but try to figure it out before peeking.)



Botanical names are in the order of the photos from left to right. Common names are mixed up. **Can you match them?**

Viburnum dentatum (check out the wasp)
 Hepatica nobilis Schreb. Acuta
 Delphinium exaltatum
 Geranium maculatum
 Lobelia siphilitica
 Pycnanthemum tenuifolium
 Eryngium yuccifolium
 Physostegia virginiana

Slender Mountain Mint
 Blue Lobelia
 Rattlesnake Master
 Obedient Plant
 Arrow-Wood
 Tall Blue Larkspur
 Sharp-Lobed Hepatica
 Wild Geranium

Now, can you pronounce these names? Lets try this at our March meeting - so I guess that does mean there's gonna sorta be a test!

GOOD READS & VIDEOS, and THINGS TO DO... (Thank you to everyone who passed this info on for us to share)

Wood Wide Web... Trees talk and share resources right under our feet using a fungal network nicknamed the Wood Wide Web. Some plants use the system to support their offspring, while others hijack it to sabotage their rivals. To find out more about this, and fascinating facts about fungi, you can visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWOqeyPIVRo>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-59473960>

Want to Live Longer? Consider planting a tree. The more trees planted in a neighborhood, the longer people live, according to a recent study led by U.S. Forest Service researchers out of Portland, Ore... In urban areas, trees shade sidewalks, suck up air pollution, soften traffic noise — and are just plain nice to look at. And by taking climate-warming carbon out of the atmosphere, trees are good for the planet, too. Here's a link to the article: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/2023/02/12/planting-tree-health-live-longer/>

Asian Jumping Worms: Recently, the Lake County Master Gardeners offered a presentation of the invasive Asian Jumping Worm, as well as links to publications put out by Purdue Extension and the extension services of other universities. Information on this invader is still developing, but the good news is that the folks at the Lake County Purdue Extension have not seen anything indicating that they have been found in Lake County - yet.

Recording link to Asian jumping worm presentation by Bob Bruner, Exotic Forest Pest Educator, Purdue University: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIIdNqIDbkbk> Publication from Purdue: <https://www.purdue landscapereport.org/article/asian-jumping-worms-id-impact-and-prevention/>

Spotted Lantern Fly: There have been reports about the spotted lanternfly, which has been found in northern Indiana and spreads on anything that moves—cars, luggage, etc. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources asks all residents to search for and report spotted lanternfly sightings. Anyone spotting the insect should photograph it and send the image and location to DEPP@dnr.in.gov, or call 1-866-No-Exotic.

See a publication from Purdue about these invasive pests: <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2022/Q3/invasive-spotted-lanternfly-now-in-northern-indiana.html>

Spring Plant Swap

Deep River County Park
9410 Old Lincoln Highway, Hobart, IN
Saturday, April 15th 10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Spring is the perfect time to change up your garden. At our plant swap you can exchange your current plants for something new without costing you anything. Just separate and pot some of your perennials and bring them to the swap, and leave with something new!

If you have no plants to swap, you are still welcome to come. There are always some extra plants that need a home. Arrive early, for best selection!

Meet in the back of the parking lot on the historic side of the park.

Munster Earth Day

Heritage Park
Ridge Road & Columbia Ave. Munster, IN 46321
Saturday, April 22nd

The public is invited to help improve our new Monarch Waystation with a hands-on Expert led **WEED WRANGLE®/Clean Up** from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Please register if you will be attending the clean-up. A lite lunch will be served to all who register & participate.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/earth-day-at-heritage-park-tickets-541181627817>

Family friendly activities 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
The centerpiece will be a speaker and entertainment series, plus information booths & young visitor focused activities.

Wild Ones will have a booth at this event



Invest in our Planet!

Porter County Expo Center
215 E. Division Rd, Valparaiso IN
Saturday, April 22nd 9am - 1pm

The NWI Earth Day Celebration will feature:

- Reuse fair · Area schools rain barrel design contest ·
- Live music with steel drums · Raffle giveaway ·
- Wildlife show with Humane Indiana ·
- Recycle cycle show · Working bikes ·
- Alternative fuel equipment on display · Smokey bear ·
- Children's activities · Guest speakers and interactive vendors/ exhibitors

Wild Ones will have a booth at this event



Plant Sale

Saturday, May 13th 10 am - 3 pm.
Aquatorium, 6918 Oak Ave, Gary IN

Featuring over 8,000 varieties of plants, native trees & shrubs, along with herbs & veggies from local family farms.

Explore Mother's Day hanging baskets, a gourmet grilled cheese food truck, cooking demos and more!

Master Gardener Gurus are available.