

Wild Ones-Gibson Woods 9th Biennial Native Plant Symposium
Cultivating Change: Sustainable Landscape Practices

Saturday, September 21, 2024
St. John Township Community Center
1515 W. Lincoln Highway, Schererville, IN 46375

Program Agenda

9:00-10:00 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast

10:00-11:00 a.m. Healthy Soil, Native Plants, and Backyard Carbon Sequestration
Adrian Ayres Fisher

Gardeners have long known that soil is not simply the stuff that props up plants. But not everyone knows that regenerative organic and native plant gardening practices can help mitigate climate change. How is that? It all has to do with gardening in ways that help build and protect soil health. This presentation will review the characteristics of healthy soil, how plants and soil life work together to store carbon below ground, and how gardeners can make a difference in the fight against climate change.

11:15-12:15 p.m. Native Insects Need Native Plants -- and We Need Them
Martin Lucas

Open your mind, your heart, and your landscape, to the tiny insects that depend on our native plants. Bees? Yes, but bees are just the beginning. Join us for an illustrated macro-mystery tour of the astonishing diversity of northwestern Indiana plants and the insects that depend on them. It's a jungle out there -- colorful, lively, and often mysterious. Martin will share photos and talk about his experiences using macrophotography to get a glimpse of this fascinating lilliputian world. And we'll discuss how you can help these marvelous creatures thrive in your garden, woods, streamside, or prairie patch.

12:15-1:00 p.m. Lunch, Socializing, and Shopping!

1:00-1:15 p.m. Wild Ones Testimonials

1:15-2:30 p.m. Ecologically Responsible Trees and Shrubs
Steve Sass & Amanda Smith

Woody plants often form the basis of our landscapes, but aside from "native" what criteria are we using to evaluate the ecological contributions of our landscape choices? This program will go "beyond native" by diving deeper into factors like genetic diversity and microhabitats that factor into ecologically responsible woody plant selection.

2:30-3:00 p.m. Silent Auction Results

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!

Attendance is limited, so get your registration in!

Registration fee includes: 3 Speakers, Continental Breakfast, Boxed Lunch, Silent Auction, Book Sale, Door Prizes & More

Need more information? Contact us on our website <https://gibsonwoods.wildones.org/>, or call Kim (219) 433-5731

Want to register & pay online? Go to our website and click on the symposium link.

**** Wild Ones is a 501(c) not-for-profit organization ****