

LEXINGTON CHAPTER — APRIL, 2012

<http://wildones.org/chapters/lexington/>

LOCAL CHAPTER EVENTS

- **Thurs., April 5, 7 p.m.**, “Introduction to Native Plant Field Guides and Reference Works” **in large meeting room at Beaumont Library, 3080 Fieldstone Way, near Harrodsburg Rd. and New Circle Rd.**
- **Sat., April 14, 10 to noon.** Wildflower walk at Sally Brown Nature Preserve led by Jim Alrich from the Nature Preserves Commission. Participants can carpool from Lexington by meeting under the central rotunda at entrance to Mall at Lexington Green or they can park at the home of Wild Ones members Ken and Vicki Brooks in Lancaster, 1596 Bowmans Bottom Rd, where the hike will start. Bring brown bag lunch. Drinks and dessert provided at the Brooks residence after the hike.
- **Sun., April 29,** Wildflower Hike at Anglin Falls south of Berea led by Tom Barnes. Bring lunch and water. Plan to leave Lexington at **10:30 a.m.** Carpool to be arranged—watch for email with more details..

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AREA CALENDAR

- **Sat., April 7, 1 p.m.**—Floracliff Wildflower Hike with Tara Littlefield
www.floracliff.org/events.html
- **Sat., April 14, 9:30 a.m.**—Floracliff Shades of Spring Hike with Nathan Strange
www.floracliff.org/events.html
- **Sat., April 14 and Sun, April 22, 1:00 p.m.**—Language of Spring Flowers Program at Raven Run
<http://www.lexingtonky.gov/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=8333>
- **Sat., April 21, 1:00 p.m.**—Pollinators and Wildflowers Hike with Dr. James Wagner and Preserve Manager Beverly James
www.floracliff.org/events.html
- **Sat., April 28, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**—Arbor Day at the Arboretum
www.ca.uky.edu/arboretum/
- **April 27 to 29**—32nd Annual Wildflower Weekend at Natural Bridge State Park
parks.ky.gov/calendar/details/32nd-annual-wildflower-weekend/16449/

Plant of the Month

STONE CROP – Sedum ternatum



Benefits – *Good nectar source for native bees and butterflies*

An adaptable, drought tolerant ground cover for shady spots

Deer resistant

Performs well in rocky, drought-prone soils

Look for this native wildflower on your next hike as it is one of the first to flower in the spring. This tiny wildflower is found widespread throughout this area. It is typically found in large mats covering rocks, trees and mossy areas on the ground and near streams. Although it would prefer shady woodland soil, it will tolerate other conditions if not too dry. Look for it in areas of full sun to full shade along bluff bases and stony ledges.

Sedum ternatum is a small, spreading, perennial wildflower. It grows 2” to 6” high and spreads by creeping stems which root at the nodes. Stems break away and die in the winter, leaving newly rooted plants separated from the mother plant. The leaves are rounded and succulent-like to 3/4 “ long which appear in whorls of three which give it the common name of Three-leaved or Whorled Sedum. Clusters of tiny white, star-like flowers with purplish stamens appear on erect stems above the foliage. Although it spreads slowly by creeping stems, any unwanted plants are easy to remove.

Critter of the Month

The Gray Catbird is found in dense areas of shrubs and vines and occasionally in residential thickets. They prefer areas of somewhat dense cover and rarely cross open spaces. During the winter they live in extreme southeastern United States, along the east coast of Mexico and in the Caribbean Islands. During the summer they can be found in our area of Kentucky.

They are medium sized birds, smaller than robins, with dark gray bodies, a black cap and black tail feathers. There is a chestnut patch underneath the tail coverts and eastern populations are generally darker gray than western birds. The breeding season is between April and early August and they usually raise two broods per season. The female makes a bulky nest from twigs, scraps and paper bits and it is usually found within 6 feet of the ground. She then generally lays 3 to 4 turquoise colored eggs and incubates them for 12 to 14 days. The male and female both feed the young whose diet usually consists only of



GRAY CATBIRD – Dumetella carolinensis

small invertebrates. The young leave the nest in about 10 days and the parents continue to feed them for approximately 12 more days.

Formerly known as the “Catbird,” the name has now been changed officially to Gray Catbird because there is an all-black species, the Black Catbird, in southern Mexico.

Photos and articles on this page provided by member Victoria Ligenza.

Why Use Native Plants?

Did you know that of the 20,000 native plant species in North America, 25% are in danger of extinction? Using native plants to restore the landscape or as a substitute for exotic ornamental plantings can help to reverse this trend of species loss.

On its website the National Park System lists the following advantages of native plants:

- add beauty to the landscape and preserve our natural heritage
- provide food and habitat for native wildlife
- serve as an important genetic resource for future food crops or other plant-derived products
- help slow down the spread of fire by staying greener longer
- decrease the amount of water needed for landscape maintenance
- require very little long-term maintenance if they are properly planted and established
- produce long root systems to hold soil in place
- protect water quality by controlling soil erosion and moderating floods and droughts

So why would we NOT plant native??



Engaging Lecturer Sets Sights on Feeding the Honey Bees

By Carolyn Holmes

Dr. Tammy Horn told an appreciative audience at the Arboretum's Founders Lecture last week that, as we plan our gardens, we can help address the serious loss of bee pollinators this country is experiencing.

She made the following points. 1) Bees' poor eyesight is best met with flowers of bright colors planted in masses – yellow, purple, red. Among her suggestions for plantings were partridge pea (a nitrogen fixer), maximilian sunflower, black-eyed susan, coneflower, lance-leaf coreopsis, and golden rod. 2) Bees need a continuous source of nectar throughout the day. Therefore, she plants buckwheat on one hill and sunflowers on an adjacent hill. Why? Buckwheat provides nectar in the morning; when that source closes, sunflower nectar is opening and available afternoons. 3) Bees need a source of nectar throughout the season. She specifically, encouraged an increase in fall blooming, bee loving plants, as the fall supply of nectar cannot meet the current demand. Horn recommended the New England aster as a particularly good source of autumn nectar.

Gardeners' tip: add a mason bee hive to the garden to attract this non-stinging pollinator. This bee does not produce honey but will cross pollinate trees, flowers, and vegetables close to home.



A Trusty Resource

According to the publisher, Acclaim Press, this volume “on finding, appreciating, and photographing wildflowers, is the perfect book for those who want to elevate their photography from taking documentary snapshots to making artistic flower portraits. In fact it is the only book of its kind dedicated solely to Kentucky wildlife photography, covering the technical aspects of taking both landscape and close up shots, processing images and creating a range of professional images and tones.”

The book costs \$29.95 and can be purchased online from acclaimpress.com.

Local Sources for Native Plants

By Ann Bowe

We are very fortunate to have many nearby sources of native plants. It is so important to support these folks by purchasing your native plants close to home.

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Springhouse Gardens



.....is a Business Member of *Wild Ones* – the larger dues amount offers much needed support to our organization. I had a tour of Richard’s “Native Plant Island” recently

and already there are so many exciting plants to choose from. And more to come! Springhouse is germinating plants from locally collected seed.

A few highlights: lots of native trees, including black gum, willow oak, Carolina silverbell, and hard-to-locate sassafras. And the shrubs! Gorgeous chokeberries, azaleas, spicebushes. Many beautiful spring ephemerals. More wildflowers will be coming in soon.

185 W. Catnip Hill Rd, Nicholasville, KY
Phone: 859-224-1417

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Shooting Star Nursery



This place is so much fun to visit! All of the plants offered--trees, shrubs, and wildflowers--are native. Plants are nursery-

propagated, not dug in the wild.

They are open for retail sales on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and other days by appointment only. Great online catalogue at

www.shootingstarnursery.com .

160 Soards Road, Georgetown, KY
Phone: 502 867-7979

Dropseed Nursery



All of Dropseed Nursery’s plants are Kentucky genotypes. The operation offers local seeds as well.

There will be an “Open House” celebration at Dropseed Nursery **noon**

to 7 p.m. on Fri., April 27 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sat., April 28. You can contact the owner, Margaret Shea, for more information at **www.dropseednursery.com**. (This website also provides links to other interesting and informative resource sites.)

1205 S. Buckeye Lane in Goshen, KY
Phone: 502-439-9033.

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Roundstone Native Seed



Roundstone Native Seed is located in the “Big Barrens” of the KY prairie region. Randy and John Seymour started to produce native seed 16 years ago to help The Nature Conservancy in their quest for ecotype seed to use

on their preserves. It has grown to be one of the largest producers of native seeds in the Eastern U.S.

The company offers seed for native grasses and wildflowers and also a native pollinator mix. Check out **www.roundstoneseed.com**.

9764 Raider Hollow Rd, Upton, KY
Phone: 888-531-2353 (toll free).



Blogs and Websites

Recommendations from Ann Bowe and Victoria Ligenza:

- kentuckynativeplantandwildlife.blogspot.com/
Tom Barnes writes a 'Plant of the Week' blog. At the above web address you can see the current and all previous posts. You can sign up for this blog and receive it via email.
- www.bettyhallphotography.com/blog/
You can sign up to receive email notifications of Betty Hall's new weekly blog posts. All posts are highlighted by Betty's beautiful photographs. The last post is Betty's 25 favorite native garden plants that are "attractive and hardy, supply a source of nectar and pollen throughout the growing season, attract birds, butterflies and other pollinators, and are host plants for butterflies and moths.
- www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/index.html
Our January event, held at the arboretum, was about scientific names for plants. Pronunciation was also discussed. This website not only lets you look up plants by their scientific or their common names, but it also has a pronunciation feature.
- hummingbirds.net/map.html
This site allows you to follow northward migration of ruby throated hummingbirds as it occurs this year.
- <http://midwestnativeplants.org/>
Midwest Native Plant Conference site. Conference will be held July 27, 28, 29. Excellent learning opportunity!
- <http://www.floracliff.org/events.html>
Hikes and other events at Floracliff Nature Sanctuary.
- http://www.roadsscholar.org/programs/pd_printFull.asp?Did=1-5QRHOH
Shaker Village events.
- <http://www.lexingtonky.gov/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=8333>
Raven Run calendar of events.
- <http://kentuckynativeplantandwildlife.blogspot.com/> UK Forestry Extension

Native Plants at the UK Arboretum

A walk through the UK Arboretum can provide information about and examples of native plants. There is a useful map of the grounds and plantings at <http://www.ca.uky.edu/arboretum/publications.php>. The native grasses brochure and the native wildflower brochure among the publications list the plantings for each section of the gardens. These are handy take-along documents.

April at the Arboretum

- **Sun., April 15, 2 p.m.**—Native Tree Walk with docent Karen Miner and LFUCG Urban Forester Tim Queary. **FREE**
- **Wed., April 18, 5:30 p.m.**—Tree Pruning Workshop with Dave Leonard and Todd Rounsaville. **FREE**
- **Sat., April 21, 9-11 a.m.**—Spring Plant Sale. Selections donated, divided or selected for our area. **FREE**
- **Sat., April 28, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**—Arbor Day at the Arboretum
www.ca.uky.edu/arboretum/ **FREE**

This newsletter is a publication of the Lexington Chapter of The Wild Ones organization. It is published nine times a year: March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November as an electronic newsletter.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or information for future editions, contact Ann Bowe, chair of the Marketing and Communications Committee, at annbowe@annbowedesigns.com or Judy Johnson, newsletter editor, at judylex@insightbb.com.