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<http://lexington.wildones.org>

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The Lexington chapter of *Wild Ones* meets the first Thursday of every month and at other times for special programs. Visitors welcome! Check our website www.lexington.wildones.org for details.

This newsletter is a publication of the Lexington chapter of *Wild Ones*. It is published nine times a year—March through 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@tvc.com.

President's Message...

Every year the Midwest Native Plant Conference held in Dayton (see p. 2) concludes with a Sunday morning field trip. Participants can choose between ten of Ohio's nature preserves and public gardens. This year I chose to visit Prairie Road Fen, located east of Springfield.

I had encountered the word "fen" only once before in my life when I taught *Beowulf* to undergraduate students as part of their Great Books curriculum. In this pre-Anglo-Saxon saga, the hero Beowulf establishes his reputation as a skilled and courageous fighter by slaying a semi-human monster, Grendel, who lives in a fen. The end notes of my text described the fen as a dark wetland covered with a thicket of nearly impenetrable vegetation and overlain with mists – just the sort of place where you would suspect evil creatures to live and lurk.

Evil also lurks at Prairie Road Fen. Here it takes the form of European buckthorn, the most troublesome invasive shrub of the Midwest. But here, too, heroic forces are doing battle: the preserve manager and her staff from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources have cleared a large area at the center of the 94 acre park, where a beautiful prairie has reemerged. *Liatris spicata* is the predominant flower blooming in early August, its purple spikes contrasting with swamp milkweed, several species of *Eupatorium*, as well as the gold of prairie dock, gray-headed coneflower and ox-eye sunflower. A great many sedges and rushes are intermingled with the forbs and the variety of plant species is astonishing.

My understanding of a fen became more concrete. Unlike a bog, which is a swamp of standing water, a fen is a wetland fed by continuously running streams that emerge from calcareous ground. The cold water, high in Ph, creates a special habitat for plants that are able to thrive under these conditions. The fine limey gravel deposited by the streams can form a thick layer of quicksand dangerous to unsuspecting humans who get caught in it. For this reason fens that are open to the public have board walks and visits tend to be restricted to guided tours.

Fens occur in the glaciated regions of the world which is why we don't have them in Kentucky. However, the glaciers of the last ice age ended just north of where we live and we can visit these unique natural areas on the far side of the Ohio River.

Beate Popkin



Rushes and *Liatris spicata* at Prairie Road Fen

Adventures at the Midwest Native Plant Conference

Article by Ann Bone with photos by Betty Hall



Gate at entrance to the Sacred Embrace Garden

The sixth annual Midwest Native Plant Conference was held August 1-3. This event keeps getting better and better!

The conference is held at the Marianist Environmental Education Center. This nature preserve was named an Ohio Natural Landmark in 1988, recognizing it as an outstanding environmental education area. There are woodland gardens, prairie and large native gardens in many locations—acres to walk around and enjoy!

There were four top notch keynote speakers. Rick Darke, co-author with Doug Tallamy of the recently released book, *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden*, inspired us on this very exciting topic. Dr. Elizabeth Farnsworth, Senior Research Ecologist with the New England

Wild Flower Society, presented a fantastic native plant identification site, [Go Botany](http://GoBotany.newenglandwild.org). We share many of the same plants, making this site useful for Kentucky. Take a look, it is impressive:

[gobotany.newenglandwild.org](http://GoBotany.newenglandwild.org). We also learned about gardening for bees and the amazingly complicated world of milkweed pollination. Now I have a new appreciation for milkweed pods!

On Saturday there were breakout sessions throughout the day. In each of four time periods there were four talks to choose from. Our chapter president, Beate Popkin, was one of the speakers. Her topic: “Applying Design Principles to Native Plant Gardens.” Sunday there were ten field trips to choose from, with sites ranging from wetland preserve to fen to prairie to a tour of native plant gardens.



Ann and Jannine compare notes on field trip.



Can you find the hummingbird?

I traveled to the conference with chapter members Betty Hall and Jannine Baker. On the drive home I asked them what they enjoyed most. “Hard to answer,” they both said, “because we enjoyed everything!”

Betty added, “I thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful setting, especially the Sacred Embrace Garden with all its summer blossoms and wildlife. I learned a lot from the excellent presentation on crickets and katydids and I am listening more closely to our evening insect concerts. Perhaps best of all was to mingle with others who enjoy nature and want to keep learning about it.”

Jannine chimed in with, “Learning about *Go Botany* was a highlight because I know what an amazing amount of work went into it. I also felt invigorated by the new knowledge I gained from so many different experts and I am excited to get back in the garden, seeing it with a slightly new perspective. I’m already looking forward to next year, especially with Bill Cullina being a speaker!”

Yes, next year promises to be another excellent event. Please mark your calendar for **July 24-26, 2015**. Keynote speakers are Kenn Kaufman, William Cullina, Don Leopold and John Magee. It would be great fun if more of our chapter members attended!



A very happy Widow Skimmer dragonfly

Woodpops, a Hit at Woodland Fair

Article and photos by Deborah Holloway



Roger Dale Scott with a colorful autumn leaf trimmed vase.

If you are like me, it is hard for you to refrain from touching any piece of art that catches your eye. Luckily, when you examine the gorgeous woodwork created by Roger Dale Scott, you have no worries. He encourages the picking up and close examination of his pieces. His was the first display I entered at the mid-August Woodland Art Fair and I was awed by the beauty of his handiwork.

What craftsmanship! These were not just nicely turned wood vessels. Every bowl, urn and vase actually glowed.

(I discovered the artist prefers to shine his works with all natural de-waxed shellac rather than petroleum products.) I was taken with his series called "Fault Lines" where he actually accentuated the checks or cracks in the wood. He explained, "I enjoy releasing the hidden treasure within the heart of the tree."

Mr. Scott uses wood from downed trees in the area where he lives—Mallard Point in Georgetown. Walnut, elm, sycamore, camphor tree, mulberry, hickory and maple are among his favorite woods but he has also crafted beautiful items from hackberry, magnolia, red cedar, sapwood and chestnut.. He makes the wood the focus,

sometimes polishing it and sometimes leaving it rough, often in the same piece. Beautiful calcite inlays, touches of gold leaf, or colored animal or leaf carvings are often added for contrast.

Now a member of the American Association of Woodturners, Roger Dale Scott began working with wood in 2009 upon retirement from a career in the business world. He was drawn to experiment in woodworking after watching a show on PBS. Once he got going, he quickly grew to love the craft and that love is as evident in his work. To learn more about him, visit his website Woodpops.com. Check out the photographs of his marvelous array of vases, bowls, platters, boxes, candlesticks and other vessels. You can also follow "Woodpops" on Facebook.



This vase features a bright cardinal against a forest background.



Display shelves hold pieces representative of the variety in his work.

Great News!

First, we are seeing monarchs in Kentucky in greater numbers than last year. Let's hope this bodes well for this years migration. Journey North, a nonprofit that tracks migrations, says that they have received from the South many reports of August eggs and caterpillars. This is a 5th generation of monarchs that will be heading out in a few weeks to join their cousins in Mexico. Don't forget to report your sightings of butterflies, eggs and caterpillars to www.journeynorth.org.

There are now at least **160** Certified Monarch Waystations scattered around Kentucky-- many right here in the Bluegrass. To the right is a new announcement with waystation numbers and comparisons.

Thanks to all *Wild Ones* members who have planted and certified a waystation in 2013-14. You are making a difference!

Monarch Watch Registry of Certified Monarch Waystations



**Worldwide 8704
(August 2014)**

Missouri 220
Ohio 466
Tennessee 122
Indiana 294
Illinois 575



**Kentucky 160
(at least)**

Louisville 11
Frankfort 06
Lexington area 54
Other Kentucky 89

JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

Linda Porter
Monarch Waystation Committee Chair

What's Happening in Our Wellington Garden...

On August 5th Betty Hall visited the *Wild Ones* Pollinator Garden and witnessed quite a bit of activity. We thought a good way to update members who might not have dropped by Wellington Park would be to present the lovely images she captured with her very smart phone.



Butterfly milkweed



Bee and skipper on cone flower



POLLINATOR GARDEN

Planted and maintained by



www.lexington.wildones.org



Brown -eyed Susans



Bee on swamp milkweed



Coreopsis



Ladybug on common milkweed

Wild Ones Picnic at Arboretum

By Judy Johnson



Molly Davis shares her vision of Arboretum

The annual *Wild Ones* picnic on Thursday, August 7, was held as usual at the Arboretum. The cool breeze blew the mosquitoes away and members enjoyed good food, fellowship and the opportunity to get acquainted with the new Arboretum Director, Molly Davis, who has, incidentally, just

been named an adjunct professor in the department of landscape architecture at UK. Molly set forth her three top priorities for Arboretum fundraising—renovation of the Visitors' Center, the expansion of the Mississippi Embayment and the development of the Shawnee Hills native prairie.

When finished, the Visitors' Center will feature more efficient and attractive work and education spaces. The Mississippi Embayment area has been made more accessible by mulched pathways leading from the foot of the bridge stairs through the various plantings. And the Shawnee Hills meadowland now features sandstone boulders brought from McLean County, the area being replicated. Native seeds from Dropseed Native Plant Nursery have been drilled into the soil of the meadow leaving poke and John-

son grass removal the remaining challenge.

Members lingered over a fine choice of desserts, reluctant to end such a pleasant evening.



Wild Ones members and guests settled in for a perfect summer evening.



Roberta Burns To Speak Sept. 4th

At St. Michael's Church, 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 4, *Wild Ones* will hear Roberta Burns, whose presentation will be “*Buds, Blooms, & Birds: Phenology and the Earth's Changing Climate*. ” When do the first holly fruits appear or the first white-throated sparrow return in the autumn? The timing of such “first appearances” is the science of phenology—a science that can reveal important clues about earth’s climate, past and present. Come explore how citizen science phenology programs like Project Budburst are painting a clearer picture of nature’s response to a changing climate.

Roberta is an Environmental Education Specialist with the Kentucky Division of Air Quality.



September Calendar

Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest

Fri., Sept. 12 from 7:45 to 10:15 p.m.—Twilight Tour—Join a trained naturalist with your flashlight, camera, binoculars for a small hike through easy terrain. Members \$20; nonmembers \$25.

Fri., Sept. 26 from 8 to 10:30 p.m.—Laser Guided Star Tour: Explore the Heavens—Members \$10; nonmembers \$12. For both events, registrations must be paid by 4 p.m. the day before. **Call 502-955-8512** for details on both events.

Floracliff Nature Sanctuary

Sat., Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.—Caterpillar Hunt—Easy to moderate hike of less than 1 mile. \$5 donation. Call **859-351-7770** for reservation.

Raven Run Nature Sanctuary

Sun., Sept. 14 at 1 p.m.—Raven Run Butterflies
Sat., Sept. 20 at 8:00 p.m.—Stargazing—For information on both programs call **859-272-6105**.

UK Arboretum

Thurs., Sept. 18 from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.—Urban Forests to Improve Water Control, Part II, Ecological Engineering—Todd Rounsaville will guide through the roles trees play in urban forests using the Arboretum Woods as a living example. **FREE** but pre-registration required. Call **859-257-6955**.