

LEXINGTON CHAPTER — September, 2015

<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 <http://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 judydex@twc.com.

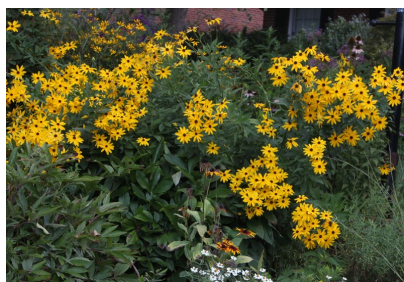
President's Message...

To tie up or to let flop – that is the question. By mid-summer most of our native flowers have gained some height and they are getting ready to bloom on 5 to 6 foot stems. In the case of silphiums and some sunflowers, even 8 or 10 foot stems. When the blossoms open they add weight to what had seemed a stable structure and, quite often, the stems bend over. When this happens in a natural non-landscaped setting, nobody minds. But when it happens in a garden, we may feel inclined to step in with stakes and twine to make our flowers stand up to their proper height despite their weak stems.

Some tall perennials stand admirably straight on their own and none more so than giant hyssop. Its tall pinnales produce many tiny off-white flowers that attract bees and butterflies for months. Those pinnacles are a focal point in the native plant garden and add a touch of order to the wild assembly of plants. Garden phlox also stays straight and dependably displays its blooms at considerable height. Tall liatris beguiles with its upright spikes that lean into each other just enough to create the impression of natural posture.



Blazing star (*Liatris spicata*)



Orange coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*)

Among the plants that bend with the weight of their flowers is the oddly named orange cone-flower which is neither orange nor a coneflower, but a rudbeckia. Its lovely, long lasting, clear yellow blooms are a graceful addition to any garden, but they will bend toward the ground if they are not supported by stakes and ties.

Many gardeners attempt to control plant height by cutting the stalks back by half while they are still growing rapidly. New shoots emerge along the remaining stems and when the plant finally blooms it is not only shorter

but also bushier. However, this works only for perennials that flower in late summer and fall, since they need time to recover from the setback inflicted upon them. The cuts should be made in late May or early June before the summer has turned dry. Asters and goldenrods, as well as Joe Pye, ironweed, sneeze-weed, golden aster and some others can be trained toward a neater garden appearance by this method.

It used to be a rule in ornamental gardening that tall weak-stemmed perennials should be supported by stakes. Now that a wilder look is “in”, or at least acceptable, that rule, like so many others, has given way to case-by-case decisions. Some leaning of flower stalks adds to the natural look of a garden.



Giant hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)

Photos courtesy of Beate Popkin

Beate Popkin

My Journey North

Article and photos by Karen Lanier

On the afternoon of Saturday, August 15, I was thirsty, hot, hungry, tired and grateful to arrive at my destination, the Wild Center, Wild Ones National Headquarters. I had made my way north several days earlier to attend two environmental education conferences in Wisconsin which overlapped by a few days—the Aldo Leopold Foundation Conference and the Wild Ones National Conference. Although I missed two full days of what must have been excellent learning opportunities, I settled in to hear the last 45 minutes of Wild Ones Honorary Director Karen Oberhauser's presentation on citizen science and monarchs.

Road weary and sweating in the prairie tent in a Wisconsin heat wave, I was still deeply interested and paid close attention to the monarch facts Oberhauser shared:

- Monarchs find milkweed first by using their sight, then through scent when they are close enough, and then through touch, with the highly sensitive organs all over their bodies that send signals to taste receptors.
- When you see monarchs that seem to be chasing each other off plants, they probably aren't being territorial. The males will chase anything that they think is a female, just for a chance to mate.
- Mating can be a marathon. The act can last up to 14 hours! The male will continue up to 21 days and then he usually dies.
- At some sites in Texas females have been observed laying eggs all winter.

As I gazed at small plastic containers holding monarch eggs, caterpillars and milkweed, I listened to Oberhauser's message. Gradually, the previous four days of workshops, field trips and panel discussions at the Leopold Conference began to make more sense. Among the things that Aldo Leopold is famous for are his regular recordings of nature observation, his attention to the timing of seasonal changes (or phenology) and his participation in restoring native prairie habitat. The Leopold conference title was "Building a Land Ethic: Teaching and Learning Across Boundaries." I was grateful to be in the company of leaders who emphasized the *why* first, the *what* and *how* coming second.

Citizen science could be our key to finding both facts and feelings. It can be a personal ritual, a type of meditation, that leads to becoming a whole person and having a better understanding of nature. As Oberhauser stated in her talk, "People who engage in citizen science have increased concern and they are changing their behavior. They are more likely to volunteer, reduce pesticide use and educate others."

I can vouch for that. I left the Wild Center the next day, loaded with publications, information, ideas, and one tiny life in my hands, my first little monarch egg to raise and release. I decided to name it Rover since it will be roving on in just a few weeks.

My experience at the Wild Ones National Conference was a sort of homecoming, finding the source of our chapter's beginnings and leadership. I got to know some of the leaders from other chapters and attended sessions on board development. After the conference concluded, I lingered to visit with Donna Van Buecken about her retirement and resources for more of my writing projects.

When I left, I met a friend for a campout and a relaxing day at the beach on Lake Geneva. My friend had never heard about the monarch's migration or plight and gave me odd looks when I showed her Rover, my traveling companion. I explained what I could and she was amazed. By the end of our visit, she was grateful to take home milkweed seeds and a *Wild for Monarchs* brochure for her mother, an avid gardener, to help her start a monarch way station.

Final note: Rover hatched out into a tiny caterpillar somewhere along the drive back to Kentucky and is now munching away on the milkweed leaves I'm bringing home daily. For the good of scientists and nature-loving humans everywhere, I reported Rover's beginning on Journey North at https://www.learner.org/jnorth/sightings/query_result.html?record_id=1440267467.

Rover from egg to caterpillar. Go, Rover!



A Lovely Evening at Springhouse Gardens

By Deborah Holloway with photos courtesy of Sue Beard



Beate welcomed group.

What a perfect evening for a picnic! *Wild Ones* members gathered at Springhouse Gardens off Harrodsburg Road in Jessamine County. To begin the evening, there were recognition awards from The Garden Club of Kentucky. Representatives from the Joint Committee on Monarch Waystations, Joanna Kirby and Linda Porter, presented a certificate of appreciation and a gift certificate to our organization for our work promoting monarch waystations in Kentucky. The Joint Committee is a partnership of The Garden Club of Kentucky and the Lexington chapter of *Wild Ones*. Joanna and Linda also presented individual certificates of appreciation to *Wild Ones* members of the Joint Committee: Mary Carol Cooper, Tina Elliott, Betty Hall, and Mary Turner. What better way to begin such an evening than celebrating monarchs?



Linda Porter and Joanna Kirby



Food and more food!

After a delightful pot luck meal, Richard Weber, proprietor and *Wild Ones* member, focused on his topic—integrating native plants into shade gardens. From where we sat, we could see a lovely shade area with specimens that Richard used as examples during his presentation.

Richard talked about shade tolerant flowers and grasses—everything from bugbane to wild bleeding heart. Some of his favorites are native to southeastern U.S. rather than specifically Kentucky natives, but all can thrive here. He explained which plants liked dry soil and which preferred moisture. He pointed out plants that were tidy and stayed in place and which plants were likely to spread, which were compact and which could grow quite tall. He was especially enthusiastic about blue wood aster and slender goldenrod, both of which tolerate dry shade, and woodland phlox, which he said is vigorous and comes back easily.



So many lovely plantings to check out.

After his talk, he invited members to inspect the shade plants displayed and enjoy the winding paths that now lead to a charmingly repurposed old barn.



The “new” old barn.

Richard Weber’s Recommendations for Shade Gardens

Actaea (Cimicifuga) simplex “Black Negligee”/ **Bugbane**
Aster cordifolius/ **Blue Wood Aster**
Carex appalachica/ **Appalachian Carex**
Carex glauca “Blue Zinger”/ **Blue Sedge**
Dicentra eximia/ **Wild Bleeding Heart**
Fothergilla gardenia/ **Dwarf Fothergilla**
Heuchera americana/ **Coral Bells**
Iris cristata/ **Dwarf Crested Iris**
 Jeffersonia diphylla*/ **Twinleaf
 Mertensia virginica*/ **Virginia Bluebells
 Phlox divaricata* “Blue Moon”/ **Woodland Phlox

Phlox glaberrima “Triple Play”/ **Smooth Phlox**
 Polymonium caeruleum*/ **Jacob’s Ladder
Polystichum acrostichoides/ **Christmas Fern**
 Sanguinaria canadensis*/ **Bloodroot
Sedum ternatum/ **Stonecrop**
Senecio obovatum/ **Round-leaved Ragwort**
Solidago erecta/ **Slender Goldenrod**
 Trillium cuneatum*/ **Little Sweet Betsy
Vaccinium species/ **Blueberry**
Viola walteri “Silver Gem”/ **Appalachian Blue Violet**
 *Goes summer dormant

Butterfly and Native Plant Weekend Jenny Wiley State Resort Park

September 25-27, 2015

Join us for a Monarch weekend filled with seminars, workshops, and opportunities to have one-on-one time with garden specialists, native plant experts, and pollinator enthusiasts.

\$30
Registration Fee

Seminars

Monarch Waystation by Joanna Kirby,
The Garden Club of Kentucky

Native Plants by Tina Elliott, Native Plant
Specialist at Springhouse Gardens in Nicholasville,
KY

Native Trees and Shrubs by Mary Carol Cooper,
Retired, KY Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Herbs for Pollinators by Linda Porter, Wild Ones
Also, Monarch Tagging, Field Trips, Native Plant Sales

\$250
Overnight Package

Overnight Packages Option

Package Includes:
based on single occupancy

- Lodging (Friday & Saturday)
- Two Dinners, Two Lunches,
Two Breakfasts
- Registration Fee



Jenny Wiley State Resort Park • 75 Theatre Court • Prestonsburg, KY 41653 • 800-325-0142
Park information at parks.ky.gov.



DO YOU WANT TO...

...learn new
things, make
new friends,
see other parts
of the state?

How about
one of these
events?



The 39th Annual Conference of the KY Association for Environmental Education



Sept. 11-12

**Jenny Wiley State Park
Prestonsburg, KY**

**Register online
at kaee.org/conference**



What about a Caterpillar Weekend?

DATES & TIMES

7 p.m. Fri., Sept. 11 to 9:30 p.m. Sat., Sept. 12

LOCATION

Natural Bridge State Resort Park
2135 Natural Bridge Road
Slade, KY 40376

Email: Andrew.stevens@ky.gov

Join park naturalists Friday evening and all day Saturday to discover the amazing diversity of caterpillars at Natural Bridge State Resort Park! These overlooked animals are intriguing and often have vivid colors, patterns, and behaviors. There will be plenty of opportunity to photograph these small natural wonders during the event, so bring your camera or smart phone!

Walks and presentations are suitable for adults and children ages 6 and up. Check <http://parks.ky.gov/calendar/details/caterpillar-weekend/64906/> for schedule of events and more information.

Wild Ones To Hear Pest Expert



On Thursday, Sept. 3 at 7 p.m., Dr. Joshua Adkins will address issues related to the invasive pests that threaten biodiversity in Kentucky. Dr. Adkins is a biologist at Pennsylvania University who identifies himself as

“biology instructor, lab coordinator, trail hiker, invasive species fighter and insect wrangler.” He is featured in Episode 14 of the blog Anthro-Pod where he is introduced as “aquatic entomologist and all round cool guy.” It sounds like we are in for a lively evening!

Unless otherwise noted, *Wild Ones* meetings are held at St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr.

Note: Please check out page 6 of this newsletter for an additional learning opportunity.

Kentucky State Parks Now Creating Waystations

Did you know that more than a dozen Kentucky state parks are now creating waystations for migrating monarch butterflies?

Five state parks – Cumberland Falls State Resort Park, Lake Barkley State Resort Park, Waveland State Historic Site, Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site and John James Audubon State Park – have become certified monarch waystations. Ten other parks are in the process of getting certified or have planted milkweed plants.

The partnership of *Wild Ones* and the Garden Club of Kentucky has helped to increase the number of certified monarch waystations from 36 in Kentucky in 2013 to more than 200 as of earlier this year.



September Calendar

Bernheim Arboretum

Sat., Sept. 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Smart Gardens and Landscapes: Fall Plant Sale**—Trees, shrubs, perennials will be featured. **Registration and \$5 fee due by 4 p.m. the day before.** For more information call (502) 955-8512.

Floracliff Nature Sanctuary

Sat., Sept. 12 at 3 p.m. **Caterpillar Hike**—Join naturalists for easy hike (less than 1 mi.) to look for caterpillars and discuss their connections to our native plants. All programs limited to 15 participants. **\$5 per person or \$12 per family.** Email info@floracliff.org to register. (Name, phone number, and number of people.)

Sat., Sept. 19 at 8 a.m. **Fall Birding Hike**—Join ECU grad student Dustin Brewer for moderate hike by Elk Lick Falls and Elk Lick Creek. Bring binoculars. **Registration as above.**

Sat., Sept. 26 at 11 a.m. **Fall Wildflower Hike**—Join UK Herbarium Curator Rob Paratley on a hike covering the identification and natural history of our Aster family members and other late blooming wildflowers. **Registration as above.**

Raven Run Nature Sanctuary

Sun., Sept. 6 at 1 p.m. **Butterflies of Raven Run**—Learn about the life cycles of butterflies and do “on the wing” identification of butterflies common to Raven Run. **Please call the park (859 272-6105 to register for the event or to get more information).**



Kentucky Native Plant Society

presents the

2nd Annual Kentucky Botanical Symposium: Conservation, Restoration, and Landscape in the Bluegrass

- **Starting time both days: 8:30 a.m.**
- **Fri., Oct. 9 at E.S. Good Barn**—series of speakers sharing research and field experiences
- **Sat., Oct. 10 at UK Arboretum**—field trips and demonstrations
- **\$25 registration fee covers both days. Lunch is provided on Friday.**
- **Information and registration at www.knps.org.**


IMPORTANT

ANNOUNCEMENT




Wild Ones members! Mark your calendar now for this event that you will not want to miss.

Dr. Doug Tallamy Presents a Free Public Lecture:
"Creating Living Landscapes"



Professor of Entomology, University of Delaware
Author of the bestselling:
Bringing Nature Home:
How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants
The Living Landscape:
Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden

7 pm, Wednesday, September 30, 2015
at the Fayette County Extension Office
1140 Red Mile Pl., Lexington, KY 40504
1 Specific CEU for Categories 2, 3, 10, 12, 14, 18, 20



Urban Forest Initiative UKAg UKAg ENTOMOLOGY ISE