

## LEXINGTON CHAPTER — October, 2017

<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](http://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 Judy Johnson, newsletter editor, at [judylex@twc.com](mailto:judylex@twc.com).

### *President's Message...*

Driving through the monotony of Ohio corn and soybean fields, one might assume that environmental concerns are not well supported in this state. And one would be entirely wrong.

The workshop "On the Trail of E. Lucy Braun," organized by the Midwest Native Plant Society and held at the Shawnee State Park Lodge near Portsmouth in late August, revealed state naturalists in action. Ostensibly offered to provide publicity for a



*Six volunteer helpers from the Dayton Arboretum enjoyed the Lucy Braun workshop.*

forthcoming documentary about the life and work of Lucy and her sister, the entomologist Annette Braun, the conference provided a forum for a lively and numerous group of Ohio nature buffs to get together, socialize, learn and spread the environmental message to others who attended.

There were a few plenary talks but at the center of the conference were two long field trips undertaken in small groups (participants had ten choices to pick from). The field trips explored the flora and fauna in prairie patches and in the woods of the Shawnee State Forest. Led by experts who cared deeply about communicating with their group, these trips were fun and instructive.

In previous years I have attended the Midwest Native Plant Society conference in Dayton, which also consists of indoor power point presentations, field trips and evening walks at the conference location to observe the singing insects of the night. Most of the speakers and field trip leaders are naturalists who work for the Ohio state government or for private environmental groups. The Dayton conference is held at the Marianist Environmental Education Center which – though located in the city of Dayton – is surrounded by restored woods and constructed prairies, which make this an ideal conference location. The registration closes within a week of opening because the number of potential participants has far outgrown the space available at the hosting institution.

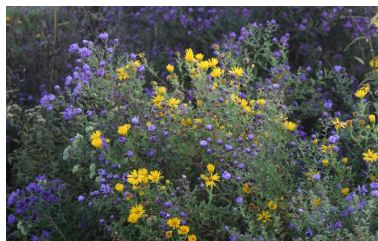
Workshops I have attended at the Cincinnati Zoo on native plant landscaping draw several hundred participants, both professionals and gardeners. In fact, whenever I observe the tremendous energy that Ohioans bring to learning about their natural environment and about ways to preserve and restore it, I become envious. I ask myself: what would it take to assemble a network of Kentucky naturalists and environmentalists that works effectively at generating public enthusiasm for knowing our rocks and plants and animals and for wanting to protect them?

*Beate Popkin*

## A Rewarding Visit to Wellington Park

*Information and photos provided by Victoria Meyer, Lee Meyer, Beate Popkin and Judy Johnson*

*Wild Ones* members met on Thursday, September 7, at Wellington Park which lies between Wellington Way and New Circle Road. Our purpose there was to inspect four different sites within the 38 acre park beginning with *Wild Ones* pollinator garden.



Our *Wild Ones* garden is coming to the end of its fourth year providing four-season interest. This fall, one area requires restoration. The originally planted swamp milkweed was destroyed by a weevil and golden asters, which are tall and very pretty, have turned out to be too aggressive and threaten to choke out less competitive plants. Their replacement demonstrates clearly that an urban garden space always needs attention and may require human intervention if it is to remain beautiful and fulfill its ecological function.

Beyond our *Wild Ones* pollinator garden lies the Women's Recognition Garden, planned seven years ago to honor women who build our community through their contributions. *Wild Ones* member Victoria Meyer is chairperson for this garden and she welcomes volunteers to help maintain the lovely space. After a year of deliberating how best to answer the call of the Kentucky Human Rights Commission for more statues of women on public property, the Women's Recognition Garden board chose Amanda Matthews, a local sculptor and one of the few female owners of a bronze foundry, to create a statue for the garden. The form, derived from traditional Hopi carved wooden dolls, is named *Katsina*, meaning "messenger between humans and the spirit world." Installation is planned for May, 2018. More information about the garden and the statue can be obtained from Victoria Meyer at [Vmeyer53@gmail.com](mailto:Vmeyer53@gmail.com).



The third stop on our tour was a wetland area that stretches through the heart of the park. *Wild Ones* member Russ Turpin explained the city's efforts that have resulted in a lush basin with contours that follow a winding stream. A thick growth of trees is bordered by areas of reeds and other marsh plants. Here is a habitat for several groundhogs (or woodchucks depending on where one grew up) that entertain walkers on the nearby paths. Currently, the woodland is threatened by honeysuckle bushes and ornamental pear trees. The city of Lexington plans to address this issue and is seeking volunteer input. Russ suggested that our *Wild Ones* chapter could form an invasives removal task force to help the community address this issue in Wellington Park and elsewhere. If you are inter-

ested in helping with such an effort, please contact Beate Popkin at [beatepopkin@qx.net](mailto:beatepopkin@qx.net).

Finally we arrived at the 1 1/2 acre "demonstration prairie" that runs along the Clays Mill Rd. side of the park. UK professor and *Wild Ones* member Lee Meyer recapped the action plan—the city parks department would burn off existing grass with glysophate; UK forage specialists would provide a non-till seeder to plant seeds provided by the Stonewall Neighborhood Association. A first try was met with a drought and a very poor stand resulted. The second try in 2011 was successful using a four species mix of little and big bluestem, Indian grass and switchgrass. Management is simple—the parks department mows in late winter. Lee acknowledges the lack of forbs and flowers but, as he said, "That only gives us another opportunity to enhance the prairie. Suggestions are welcome!"

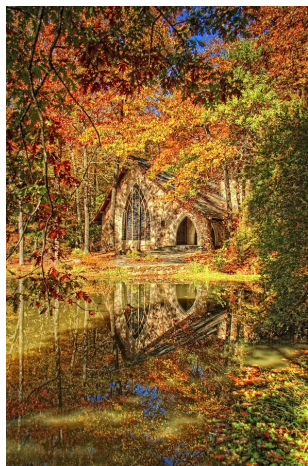
Although additions are planned in the near future, Wellington Park is already a complex nature center. Its spacious area honors achievement, offers new learnings about our environment and provides beauty to lift our spirits as well as space in which to exercise and play. *Wild Ones* is proud to be part of such a strong community effort.





# Garden Tourism

By Vicki Reed



*Chapel at Callaway Gardens*

If you are a plant enthusiast you might want to consider becoming a garden tourist. We are lucky to have several well-known public gardens within a day's drive of Lexington. I began visiting gardens several decades ago when most focused on roses, annuals, Japanese horticulture and other more formal non-natives. By contrast, most public gardens today have areas dedicated to native plantings, some of which are quite extensive.

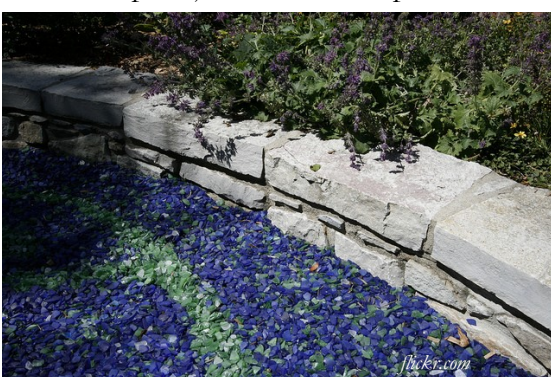
One of my favorite destinations is Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, GA [www.callawaygardens.com/](http://www.callawaygardens.com/), located six to seven hours south of us. This garden complex holds a trademark show in the spring when the thousands of azaleas and rhododendrons bloom. That particular show is still on my bucket list but I can vouch that fall and winter are also good times to visit. The foliage is beautiful and the crowds have gone home. Callaway Gardens feature many walking trails that border beautiful lakes. The horticulture is perfect for us native enthusiasts with colorful foliage of sweetgums, sourwoods, maples and fothergilla, berries of

deciduous holly trees and American beautyberry shrubs and a profusion of muhli-grass that looks like cotton candy.

Six or seven hours from Lexington in a northerly direction is the Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, MI [www.meijergardens.org/](http://www.meijergardens.org/). Grab lunch in the cafe and take the tram ride to get a good overview but it takes a full day



*Our reporter with Meijer Garden sculpture*



*Recycled glass mulch at DeHaan Tiergarten in Indianapolis*

to do the park justice. The sculptures are always surprising, sited in complementary natural habitat ranging from a gently rolling meadow for a giant garden trowel (shown in the picture to the right) to a shady woodland for three happy frogs.

If you are looking for a one day outing check out the White River Gardens [www.indianapoliszoo.com/plan-your-visit/white-river-gardens](http://www.indianapoliszoo.com/plan-your-visit/white-river-gardens) in Indianapolis, IN, a mere three hours from Lexington. These gardens, a part of the Indianapolis Zoo, include a family nature center and a conservatory as well as the outdoor DeHaan Tiergarten, "teirgarten" meaning animal park. The zoo is connected to the nine mile Indianapolis Cultural Trail, excellent for walking or cycling. This trail connects five of the city's distinct cultural districts, areas full of museums, restaurants, shops and parks.

Other gardens to consider for a naturalist's holiday might be the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens [www.lewisginter.org/](http://www.lewisginter.org/) in Richmond, VA (seven hours drive time) and the Missouri Botanical Garden [www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/), one of the oldest public gardens in the U.S., located in St. Louis, MO (five to six hours).

Finally, well worth a trip, is the U.S. Botanic Gardens <https://www.usbg.gov/> in Washington, DC (8 hours driving time) which is recognized as a plant museum and, as such, is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

Next time we think of taking a "garden tour," let's expand the list of possibilities a bit.



*Fall color at the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis*

## Opportunities for Classes and Composting

*By Suzanne Bhatt*

Seedleaf, a local non-profit organization committed to building community gardens and fostering composting, is offering a “Master Composting” program on Wednesday evenings from October 4 through October 25 at the Plantory, 501 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 250. Each session will last two hours. The course will explain all the reasons to compost and provide detailed instruction for creating a composting system. Cost of the program is \$50, but scholarships are available based upon need. Participants will be given tips on how to build community compost networks and they will be encouraged to share their knowledge with others. (Seedleaf also offers a one hour “Compost 101” class approximately 10 times per year which has a less comprehensive format.)

For those who may be unable to compost due to time or space constraints, Seedleaf operates an organic waste pick-up service. They supply five gallon buckets that are picked up at your door as needed (typically 1-2 times per month) at a rate of \$7 per pick-up plus a one-time \$5 activation fee. The material collected is combined with organic waste that Seedleaf volunteers collect from many area restaurants. All collections are then turned into compost used in Seedleaf’s community gardens and made available for private use. Seedleaf will also deliver compost to your home at a cost of \$1 per gallon, with a requested minimum order of 5 gallons.

The Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that food waste makes up 21.6%, of materials entering our landfills. Such waste is a major source of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Composting is a simple, natural and sustainable way to reduce solid waste and protect the environment while at the same time adding a rich nutrient source to your soil. For more information about enrolling in the composting class or any of Seedleaf’s other services, visit the website at [seedleaf.org](http://seedleaf.org) or contact Ryan Koch at [ryan@seedleaf.org](mailto:ryan@seedleaf.org).

## Now Is the Time to Plant and UK Club Has the Plants for Sale

The UK Horticulture Club is now offering for sale native perennial plants, all products of their greenhouse. According to their literature they have some plants that are seldom found in stores. The plant list includes 113 native perennials, 19 native shrubs, trees and vines, and 15 grasses, sedges, rush and cane. Prices are \$4.00 for a 2” nursery pot and \$7.00 for a quart size woody plant.

The sale takes place only on **Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.** at **greenhouse #12**. This greenhouse is located just off Cooper Dr. There is limited parking right in front of the greenhouse and in parking lots close by so carpooling is a great idea.

Here is a link to a good map to the greenhouse location:

**<http://maps.uky.edu/campusmap/?Bldg=0164&Map=Perspective>**

Check out the UK Horticulture Club’s Facebook page and open up “Photos.” There you will find a catalog including pictures along with pertinent information for all the plants for sale. Here’s the link:

**[https://www.facebook.com/pg/UKHorticultureClub/photos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/UKHorticultureClub/photos/?ref=page_internal)**

*Payment is by cash or check only.*





## Solar Home Tour and Open House

Join us **Sunday, October 15 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.** for a tour of a 100% solar home in Lexington. Learn the steps that were taken to transform a typical neighborhood house into a zero net energy home. We will offer tours of the solar equipment, show how energy-saving changes were made to maximize energy efficiency prior to the installation of solar panels and discuss net metering programs. Learn about local resources for solar energy options and about the substantial rebates available that make solar energy affordable.

Matt Partymiller of Solar Energy Solutions will be there to answer questions about solar installation. Members of the Kentucky Ready for 100 team will also be present to talk about the campaign to work with local mayors in transitioning Kentucky cities to renewable energy. Please come by to enjoy food and refreshments and to learn more about solar energy.

The address is 1000 Rain Court, Lexington KY. For more information, call Suzanne or Ramesh at 859-245-6254 or [bhattlex@yahoo.com](mailto:bhattlex@yahoo.com).

## Wild Ones Meeting Oct. 5th



The next meeting of the Lexington chapter of *Wild Ones* is scheduled for **Thursday, October 5**, at **St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Drive, Lexington**. Beverly James, the director of Floracliff Nature Preserve, will present "Know Your Palisades

Region," highlighting the importance of the Palisades for biodiversity. Our social hour starts at **6:30 p.m.** and the program will begin at **7:00**.

We will hold our annual fall plant exchange prior to the program. Participants can begin to line up their plants at the back entrance of the church (in the parking lot on the Bellefonte side) at **6:00 p.m.**, and we will exchange plants at **6:30**. **All plants must be native and labeled. They may be potted or wrapped in moist paper and plas-**

## October Calendar

### Bernheim

**Sun., Oct. 1 through Tues., Oct. 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Beneficial Insects Exhibit.** The relief engravings of Joanne Price encourage new thinking about bugs. Exhibit is **FREE**. Weekend environmental impact **\$5 fee** for non-members.

**Sat., Oct. 21 and Sun., Oct. 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.—ColorFest.** Slingshot pumpkins, hay maze, hayrides, live music, hands-on nature activities and more. Event is **FREE**. **\$10** per car environmental impact fee for non-members. Select activities do have a small fee. More information at **502-955-8512**.

### Lexington

**Sat., Oct. 28 at 1:00 p.m.—Vintage Baseball Game at Wave-land.** Enjoy an afternoon of history, food and the American pastime. Bring chairs. **Fee is \$5**. More information at **859-272-3611**.

**Mon., Oct. 30 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.—Haunts and History Downtown Walking Tour.** Meet in the rotunda of the downtown branch of Lexington Public Library. Local history expert Jonathan Coleman will lead a family-friendly walking tour. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. **Registration required. Call 800-845-3959.**

### McConnell Springs

**Tues., Oct. 10 at 6:00 p.m.—History To Chew On "Notice: Preventatives of Cholera! Lexington's Cholera Epidemic"** presentation by author Terry Foody. Event is **FREE** and open to the public. McConnell Springs, 416 Rebman Lane. More information at **859-225-4073**.

### Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill

**Sat., Oct. 21 at 12:00 noon, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00 p.m.—Boo! Cruise on the Kentucky River.** Onboard stories, games and refreshments. **Cost is \$15 for age 13 and over; \$10 for ages 6-12; \$5 for age 5 and under.** Fee includes complimentary admission to the Village. More information at **859-734-5411**.

### UK Arboretum

**Sat., Oct. 14 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.—Party for the Pumpkins Fall Family Festival**—a showcase of all things Fall at the Arboretum. Crafts, activities including a straw maze, refreshments, **FREE** pumpkins for children, admission to the Children's Garden. **\$7 admission. Children under 2 are FREE.** Parking: **FREE** shuttles from UK's Orange Lot to the Arboretum. **Call 859-257-6955** for more information