

LEXINGTON CHAPTER — May, 2014

<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 judydex@twc.com.

President's Message...

Spring is the season when our woodland wildflowers emerge from their dormancy spent under a thick blanket of decaying leaves. During a walk in the woods we can observe how they share space with each other. What appears to be a slope of blue-eyed Mary interspersed with monkshood turns out to be, on closer inspection, a habitat for dozens of plants, all engaged in a competitive struggle for soil, water and light. In the photo on the right, celandine poppy, rue anemone, trillium, ginger and possibly a dicentra grow very close together; the young trees and shrubs that also share the woodland floor have not even leafed out yet and aren't visible.



To the native plant gardener, a spring hike in the woods is both inspirational and daunting. The sheer abundance of nature and the way it creates balance from competition over and over again are truly awesome. But is this what we should aim to recreate in our gardens? Could we even do it if we tried?

We typically start to make our gardens on disturbed, even empty ground, and competition works very differently in this setting than it does in an established forest. If I had allowed competitive forces to reign in my woodland after the winter creeper was cleared out, my garden could easily have become colonized entirely by purple phacelia, a lovely plant that I cherish greatly, though not as a monoculture. Having kept the phacelias under control, the celandine poppies seem to assume the space is now theirs. Where is the woodland phlox whose lavender blossoms should lend pizzazz to their sea of green and yellow? Rather than mingling with the poppies, it has spread quietly at the edge of the garden in the very spot where I originally planted it.

I suppose my woodland will never look like the slopes at a Kentucky River Nature Preserve but the flowers in my garden still please me with their beauty and their determination to accommodate themselves gracefully to the urban spaces we provide.

Beate Popkin

Introducing More *Wild Ones* with Special Assignments

In last month's newsletter, we introduced you to our chapter's board members. There are some other people who contribute significantly to our chapter and who are not members of the board. We'd like you to get to know them, too. They offer their talents and experience to keep our membership on track, build and maintain a beautiful website (www.wildones.org—look for our chapter under *Contacts*), and make sure we have monthly events followed by refreshments. Much appreciation to them all!



Ann Blevins

Refreshment Coordinator

“I first learned about native plants in 2003 while volunteering at the Salato greenhouse. Living on a lake in a nature preserve, I face the double challenges of poor soil and abundant wildlife. I have learned to appreciate the ability of native plants to adapt and thrive under difficult conditions!

“It has been a pleasure to belong to an enthusiastic group of wonderful people who are dedicated to the preservation of indigenous plants and the biodiversity they support.”



Mary Carol Cooper

**Co-Chair
Programs Committee**

“I became interested in native plants when I started hiking our beautiful Kentucky trails. At that point I was a spring wildflower snob and knew nothing about any others. When I started working for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife's Native Plant Program, I fell in love with all native plants and learned the value of the spring, summer and fall blooming ones!

“During 13 years of working with native plants, they have become a huge part of my life and my yard.”

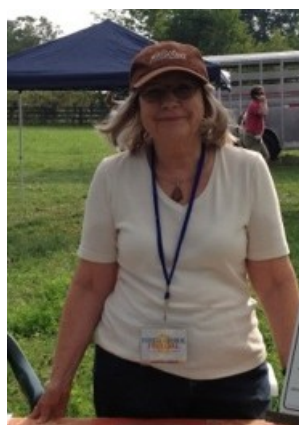


Ann McCarthy

Webmaster

“I learned organic gardening as a child on a small farm in western NY state but upon moving to Lexington in 2005 I discovered that gardening is different in Kentucky. My husband and I also enjoy the forests and natural environment in Kentucky. All of the above has led to an interest in native plants.”

In addition to her membership in *Wild Ones*, Ann is an active volunteer with Seedleaf where she enjoys working on the Seedleaf permaculture garden at 330 Georgetown Place. Most recently, Ann is a co-founder of the Lexington TimeBank.



Linda Porter

**Co-Chair
Membership Committee**

Linda Porter is a longtime butterfly gardening enthusiast and educator who moved back to Kentucky in 2006 from Illinois.

In addition to her *Wild Ones* membership work, Linda is Kentucky Special Butterfly Project Chair and Chair of the WO/GDKY Joint Committee on Monarch Waystations.

Linda says she is most proud of her school consulting on butterfly and pollinator gardening. She won the 2011 Youth Educator Award from the South Atlantic Region of Garden Clubs.

Important Opportunity for Members Seeking a New Challenge: Registration is now open for the KNPS Kentucky Native Plant Stewardship Certification Program. This program provides participants with: background information about Kentucky's native plant resources; knowledge about threats to native plant resources; experience managing for and restoring native plant resources in six one-day sessions beginning Sun., May 18, and continuing over the course of six months. Cost is \$110 (\$50 for student) for classes, class materials, and a one-year membership in the Kentucky Native Plant Society. Full information can be found at knps.org/stewardship.cert.html.

Wild and Woolly Caterpillar Fashions

By Karen Lanier

On Thursday, April 3, Tyler Morgan captivated the audience at St. Michael's Church by sharing how caterpillars had wiggled their way into his heart. Who wouldn't love furry, spiny, creepy-crawlies with names like monkey slug, hog sphinx, southern flannel, retarded dagger, and question mark? The diverse array of colorful, vivid images Tyler flashed on the screen kept folks guessing – what kind of creature *is* this? His stories of discovery at Natural Bridge State Resort Park and Nature Preserve revealed that there's still much to learn about this life stage of butterflies and moths.

If the event had been a fashion show, every color of the rainbow would have been represented and every far out designer would have been on the *cat*-walk! From the classic worm-shape with spikes, to a fluffed up tussock, to delicate spun glass, to the ever practical tree bark camouflage, the variety was amazing. Sizes ranged from barely visible to the size of a hot dog, as in the case of the Hickory Horned Devil.

When a park worker encountered it and called Tyler, his response to the inquiry of what it might be was simply, "We have no idea. It might be alien."



Hickory Horned Devil

Tyler emphasized that the rich diversity of caterpillars in the Red River Gorge area is due to the abundance and variety of food plants for the hungry, leaf-munching larvae. Without seeing images of what winged creatures these caterpillars will metamorphose into, the audience could appreciate them for their own unique larval beauty, which is often not recognizable in the adult butterfly or moth. We wondered at the survival of these caterpillars with so many predators ready to snatch them up.



Beautiful Wood Nymph

For the very hungry caterpillar learner, Tyler recommended David L. Wagner's, *Caterpillars of Eastern North America: A Guide to Identification and Natural History*. This book and a good macro lens on his camera led Tyler to understand some unexpectedly compelling characters of the natural world and we're so glad he shared them with us, too.



Wellington Volunteers—Dig In!

By Karen Lanier

As reported in the April newsletter, volunteers are invited to help transform the entrance of Wellington Park into the *Wild Ones'* Wellington Garden. Dates have been set for Saturday, May 10 and Saturday, May 17, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on both days. If it rains on either one of these days, the make-up day will be Sunday, May 18, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please bring shovels, trowels, buckets (to move around landscape mix and mulch), watering cans and gloves if you use them. We will dig planting holes, mix the existing soil with landscape mix and put our plants in the ground.

Additional work times will be held on a few week-day evenings in mid-May. Since we will be maintaining the garden, we also want to assemble a crew of people who take turns coming out to weed and water. Watering will be particularly important during the first year.

Email Beate Popkin for information or if you have any questions: beatepopkin@gx.net.



Registration Now Open for 2014 Midwest Native Plant Society Events

The 6th annual Midwest Native Plant Conference will be held August 1-3 at Bergamo Conference Center located on the beautiful grounds of the 300 acre Mount St. John Preserve in Dayton, Ohio. This conference has been very popular with Lexington *Wild Ones* members.

Featured keynote speakers this year include **Rick Darke**, author of *The American Woodland Garden: Capturing the Spirit of the Deciduous Forest*, **Eric Eaton**, co-author of Kaufman Field Guide *Field Guide to Insects of North America*, and **Elizabeth Farnsworth**, creator of *Go Botany*, an online website for discovering, identifying, sharing, exploring New England's native plants hosted by the New England Wildflower Society. Lexington *Wild Ones* president **Beate Popkin** will be speaking at one of the breakout sessions. The full agenda, which includes a variety of morning and evening hikes, can be found at the website midwestnativeplants.org.

A bonus event—a Butterfly Workshop—will be offered by the Society on July 12 at Caesar Creek near Lebanon, Ohio. This workshop will focus on butterfly identification through presentations and field work.

More information about the society and these events can be found at the website listed above.

The Midwest Native Plant Society is an organization of professionals and amateurs (naturalists, gardeners, birders, and others) whose mission is to promote awareness of the importance of native plants and the wildlife that depend on them, within biologically diverse ecosystems and in our own home landscapes.

Please let Ann Bowe (annbowe@annbowedesigns.com) know if you plan to attend the conference as we would like to carpool, if possible. The conference sells out quickly so book for conference and lodging soon. All meals are included. Check out the prices—this is a great value!



Artist's Corner

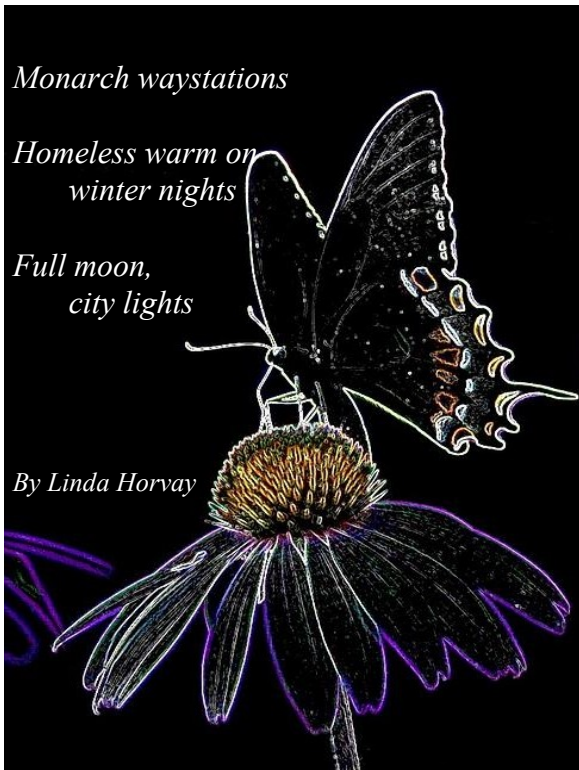
By Ann Bowe

Monarch waystations

*Homeless warm on
winter nights*

*Full moon,
city lights*

By Linda Horvay



The very talented Linda Horvay

While Linda has a PhD in Comparative Literature and has taught college for 21 years, many would first think of her as an artist. For 30 years she has worked in various media. She creates very unique and beautiful note cards, available at Good Foods Market and Third Street Stuff.

Linda loves to garden, finding that getting her hands into the soil is immensely healing. She planted a pollinator garden in her backyard in memory of her son who loved being out in nature. She learned about monarch waystations, too.

Inspired by one of her Japanese ESL students, she decided to give haiku a try. Her first attempt at this written art form, reprinted here, won her third prize in Lexington's "Under Main" haiku contest. Her lovely poem links monarch waystations to the plight of the homeless in our city.

Wild Ones Annual Plant Exchange



Come to St. Michael's Episcopal Church **Thursday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m.** for our annual native plant exchange. We will meet on the lower parking lot which can be accessed from Libby Lane.

Items to bring—perennials, grasses and sedges, shrubs, trees, vines and even seeds that are native to the Eastern U.S. Cultivars of a native plant are acceptable.

Plants should be potted up more than a few days before the exchange. If dug on the day of the exchange, the roots may be kept moist in wet newspaper contained in a plastic bag. **EACH PLANT MUST BE LABELED.**

Participants who have no plants to offer may contribute finger foods or beer, wine, juices.

This event is also a fund raiser that supports our programs. We ask *Wild Ones* members to pay \$5 for a ticket to select multiple plants (non-member guests pay \$7). The evening is always great fun and everybody goes home with new plants.

See you there!

Beate Popkin

More Native Plant Sales

Down to Earth Garden Club

Sat., May 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Woodland Christian Church, 530 E. High Street. Plants are transplants from members' own gardens. Funds are used to support the club's project at the Waveland perennial garden.

Native Plant Sale at PL Dunbar HS

Sat., May 17 from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. under the canopy in front of the school at 1600 Man 'O War Blvd. Plants priced \$2 to \$15. **CASH ONLY.** Proceeds support the school's memorial garden and the Jesse Higginbotham Technology Trust.

May Events

Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest

- **Sat., May 3, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.—Wildflower Hike.** Registration and payment (\$5 for members; \$10 for non-members) due by 4:00 p.m. May 2.
- **Sat., May 17, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.—BloomFest and Opening of the Edible Garden (Plant Sale begins at 9:00 a.m.)** Many activities for the whole family. Non-members' environmental impact fee \$5. More information on all events at bernheim.org.

Floracliff Nature Sanctuary

Sat., May 24 at 9:00 a.m.—Herpetology Program with Zeb Weese. Moderate level hike for all ages to find frogs, toads, snakes and salamanders. Donation: \$5. Pre-registration required. Call 859-351-7770.

Lexington Parks and Recreation and Wild Birds Unlimited

Sat., May 10 and Sun., May 11—Bluegrass Birding Festival and Craft Fair at Jacobson Park. Morning field trips to Floracliff led by David Lang. More details at info@bluegrassbirdingfestival.com or 859-268-0114.

UK Arboretum

Thurs., May 29 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.—Dusk Bird Adventure with former KY State Naturalist Cary Tichenor. Learn the evening rituals of our birds. \$4/\$3 for Friends and children. Call 859-257-6955.

Centre College Students Plant First Monarch Waystation...with a Little Help from *WO* Mentor

These photos of Centre students planting the school's first monarch waystation were taken Fri., April 25 on the Danville campus. The project was funded by the Student Council. Student Becky Barefield worked with Linda and Dr. Anne Lubbers (another *WO* member) to plan the garden.



Above: Linda Porter and Becky Barefield with monarch caterpillar tee shirt



Left: student work crew ready to plant