

**LEXINGTON CHAPTER — June, 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](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 Ann Bowe, chair of the Marketing and Communications Committee, at [annbowe@annbowedesigns.com](mailto:annbowe@annbowedesigns.com) or Judy Johnson, newsletter editor, at [judylex@twc.com](mailto:judylex@twc.com).

*President's Message...*



The Lexington chapter of *Wild Ones* is currently establishing its very own native plant garden and Monarch Waystation near the entrance of Wellington Park. This site was allocated to us by the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government with the expectation that we will maintain it. Wellington

ton Park attracts many visitors, especially people who bring their pets to the enclosed dog run that is located within its boundaries. So our garden will be very visible to the public.

Making a new garden bed on a site that used to be mowed is not for the faint of heart or body. What looked like a carpet of turf grass from a distance turned out to be, on closer inspection, a patchy growth of fescue interspersed with every imaginable weed, dandelions being the most conspicuous. Those weeds, which are now dead because we sprayed them, have already dropped their seeds into our garden bed for many years and created a formidable seed bed.

The mulch we are spreading will help keep the weeds suppressed for the next few months but many will eventually germinate in response to the soil disturbance we have created. We have to be ready with our weeding tools to demonstrate that we are serious about creating a beautiful native plant garden that gives visual pleasure to the public. Keeping our Wellington bed maintained is a promise our chapter has made to the city of Lexington and to the community the city serves. It is my hope that we will be able to keep that promise.

*Beate Popkin*

# Latest News about Monarchs

By Linda Porter

Monarch Waystations provide essential milkweeds and nectar for monarchs as well as habitats and shelter for other butterflies and pollinators. In the spring of 2013 the Lexington chapter of *Wild Ones* partnered with the Garden Club of Kentucky to increase the number of Monarch Waystations in Kentucky. A Joint Committee on Monarch Waystations was formed with members representing both organizations. Members of the committee are **Mary Carol Cooper, Betty Hall, Joanna Kirby, Tina Placek, Linda Porter, and Mary Turner**. The committee has appeared at meetings and special gardening events across the state to present information about monarchs and waystations.

Since last spring the number of waystations has tripled in Kentucky. Many of those waystations are in the Bluegrass area, with a growing number of *Wild Ones* members and Garden Club members planting and certifying waystations with Monarch Watch.

It is time to celebrate our success and welcome the monarchs back to Kentucky! We have declared August to be **Monarch Month**. If you know of an organization that has a waystation, ask the members to consider hosting at least one special event in August or later this fall at their waystation. Continue working with others in the community to plant another waystation in your neighborhood.

For more information on how you can help with the Monarch Waystation movement in Kentucky, contact **Linda Porter**, at [prairiegirl7@mac.com](mailto:prairiegirl7@mac.com) or 859-583-0604.



## Report Monarch Sightings

Did you know that you can help scientists who are studying the migration of monarchs each year? It is easy to report your sightings of monarch butterflies in the various life stages, including eggs, caterpillars, chrysalises and adult butterflies. You can even report milkweed sightings in the spring.



First register at [www.journeynorth.org](http://www.journeynorth.org). You will then be able submit a report. The data you report will be added to maps and other information posted on the website for scientists and monarch enthusiasts to review and use in monitoring the progress of the monarch this year and in the future.



**Monarch Watch**

**Registry of Certified Monarch Waystations**

<http://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/registry>

 <b>Worldwide 7770</b> <b>(May 2014)</b>	<b>Missouri 181</b> <b>Ohio 417</b> <b>Tennessee 108</b> <b>Indiana 276</b>	In Spring of 2013 there were 36 Waystations in Kentucky
 <b>Kentucky 110</b> <b>(at least)</b>	{ <b>Louisville area 11</b> <b>Frankfort 05</b> <b>Lexington area 35</b> <b>Other KY 59</b>	

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT!**

## Unseen Danger of Neonicotinoids

By Karen Lanier

This story is based on an article in the June 6, 2013 issue of Mother Earth News entitled “Consumers Urge Garden Store Giants to Stop Selling Neonicotinoid Pesticides.” Having only a vague awareness of neonics, I began to research them. Quickly I realized neonics pose a serious and complex problem.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines a neonicotinoid as “a systemic agricultural pesticide resembling nicotine.” *Systemic*, meaning that neonics are incorporated in the plant itself, residing throughout the stem, leaves, flower and even pollen. *Neo*, meaning new to the insecticide scene but they’ve already earned a bad reputation. I turned back to the online dictionary where the author used the word in a sentence: “Studies have found a link between neonicotinoids and declining bee populations.” Ominous.

Purdue University researchers studying the connection between neonics and beekills reported more disturbing findings. Within the powdery cocktail of pesticides and fungicides that coat corn kernels as they are broadcast into fields all over the Midwest, lies the neonic Clothianidin, a substance extremely toxic to honey bees. The researchers conceded, “Like all pesticides, they should be used judiciously – where there is a demonstrated need. This is a principle of pest management that has largely gone by the wayside in some large acreage cropping systems. The bee story is one indication that perhaps it is time to re-evaluate whether it is necessary to use up to 1.25 milligrams of neonicotinoids on virtually every single corn kernel that is planted in this country. Planting corn is the largest use of arable land in the US and each corn seed, theoretically, has enough pesticide to kill well over 100,000 bees.” At 95 million acres of corn, that is an astounding impact.



No wonder the European Commission restricts three neonicotinoids to use only on crops that do not attract pollinators and does not allow the general public to buy garden products containing these

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## Native Bees To Be Focus of June *Wild Ones* Meeting

On Thursday, June 5 *Wild Ones* will be honored to welcome Kentucky’s new State Apiarist, our good friend Dr. Tammy Horn. She and ECU graduate student Mary Sheldon will join us at



*Bees at mine site from lanereport.com*

**Floracliff Nature Preserve** (please note location change) to explain their work assessing native bee populations on surface mine sites in Eastern Kentucky.

Coal Country Beeworks, a joint effort of beekeepers and coal companies directed by Dr. Horn, will be discussed because of a Steele-Reese grant it has received to collect and identify native bees. However, the evening’s emphasis will be on the pollinators, not reclamation. Through Mary Sheldon’s presentation we will learn how to identify native bees, why they are essential, why we need to reduce pesticide use, and how to provide pollinator friendly habitats.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Floracliff is located at 8000-8110 County Road 2898. For directions call **859-351-7770** or email **floracliff@aol.com**. Members might want to carpool.

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chemicals! Neonicotinoids are the most widely used systemic pesticide in the world. But they aren’t the only bee killers. Colony collapse disorder (CCD) has been studied from more than sixty-one different perspectives. As with many other environmental problems, isolating one single toxin does not solve the multi-layered, multi-level barrage of stressors that organisms are facing in our chemical-laced agricultural system. So what can we do?

I urge every gardener to— first, shop local. See the *Wild Ones* list of recommended native plant suppliers on the chapter’s website, [lexington.wildones.org](http://lexington.wildones.org). Second, be a pest yourself and ask questions. Retailers need to know that we are informed and have the power to choose wisely. Third, educate yourself about native bees. Attend the *Wild Ones* meeting on June 5 to learn what Dr. Tammy Horn’s research is revealing about native plants and bees on reclaimed mining sites. This is an ongoing story, but we can take action **now** to help our pollinator friends.

# PLANT PUZZLE

Can you identify the Kentucky native in this lovely picture captured by our own Betty Hall? Extra credit if you know the Latin name—and it's not an easy one!

*(In case you are struggling with the challenge, check the bottom of the last page of this issue.)*



## Artist's Corner

*By Deborah Holloway*



*Above: Nature loving artist Patsy Corns with painting of coneflowers in the mist*

*Right: Patsy's interpretation of smooth sumac.*



Our artist this time is a delightful painter named Patsy Corns. Patsy lives in Lexington where I met her in early March at her home. She graciously showed me her lovely artwork and her studio. Patsy paints many objects and her style varies with her mood. Mindful of the *Wild Ones*' focus, we talked about her work featuring native plants.

Patsy became interested in painting Champion Trees (See the National Registry of Big Trees) in 2009 after a trip to Floracliff. Her first painting, seen to the left, was that of the old Chinquapin Oak she saw that day. The idea of painting champions so captured her imagination that she picked up her grandson and together they drove through the Lexington and Frankfort areas searching out as many as possible. (I was surprised to learn that there are even champion shrubs.)

My favorite picture was the painting of smooth sumac in the photo bottom left.

It was a pleasure meeting Patsy and viewing her work which is now exhibited at the Solaris Gallery on Bobcat Road in Versailles.

*Right: The artist decorated her studio with painting of a mighty tree that springs up from the floor and expands across the ceiling.*



## Wild Ones Plant Exchange A Success

By Deborah Holloway



As you can see from my illustration, the 2014 plant exchange held at St. Michael's on May 5 was a good time for plant seekers. Notice the happy smile and the interesting selection of plants.

This annual event always has the feel of a reunion with *Wild Ones* gathering after the long winter to catch up and talk about garden plans.

The evening was cool but with plenty of food and drink (yes—we are officially wine lovers!) no one minded the weather. Everyone ate, drank and talked while waiting for their turn to search through the many offerings looking for just the right plants to take home to their own gardens. It is always exciting when you see that the one you really, really want is still available. There were trees, shrubs, perennials and even neatly labeled seed packets to choose from—everything from dogwoods to horsetails!

Not only did we enjoy ourselves, it looks like the event brought in about \$280 for our *Wild Ones* chapter. Thanks to everyone who participated.

## June Events

### Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest

**Thurs., June 13 from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m.—Full “Strawberry” Moon Hike.** Program weaves together stories about night ecology, moon lore, history, and nature. Members \$10; non-members \$12. Registration and payment due by 4 p.m. day prior to the start of program. Call **502-955-8512** for information.

### Floracliff Nature Preserve

**Sat., June 7 at 9:30 a.m.—Intro to Kentucky’s Dragonflies and Damselflies.** Ellis Laudermilk, Invertebrate Biologist with the KY State Nature Preserves Commission will give a talk followed by an easy hike through the preserve. Bring a pair of close-focusing binoculars. Donation: \$5. Registration required. Call **859-351-7770** or email [floracliff@aol.com](mailto:floracliff@aol.com).

**Fri., June 20 at 7:30 p.m.—Moths and Bats of the Palisades.** Dr. Luke Dodd, UK researcher, will lead program. Stations will be set up to hear echolocating bats and see the diversity of moths in the region. Bring flashlight. Participants may arrive at 7:30, 8:30 or 9:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. Call **859-351-7770** or email [floracliff@aol.com](mailto:floracliff@aol.com) to register for a time.

### Pine Mountain Settlement School

**Wed., June 11 to Sun., June 15—In the Footsteps of Lucy Braun Forest Study Workshop.** The four day workshop combines presentations, field trips, and lectures in the study of forest types found in Eastern Kentucky. Cost for workshop, food, lodging is \$375. Register at: [www.pinemountainsettlementschool.com/registration.php?id=79](http://www.pinemountainsettlementschool.com/registration.php?id=79)

### UK Arboretum

**Returned to the Arboretum: Exhibit and Silent Auction Featuring Bluegrass Area Woodturners.** Exhibit June 16-July 18; Reception June 28, 10:00 a.m. to noon.

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**Midwest Native Plant Conference**  
**WHAT:** 6th annual conference—presentations by top naturalists, workshops, morning and evening field trips, vendors, new friends.  
**WHEN:** August 1, 2, and 3  
**WHERE:** Bergamo Conference Center located on the beautiful grounds of the 300 acre Mount St. John Preserve in Dayton, Ohio.  
**COST:** **Early Bird Registration until June 15—\$155!** (After June 15 cost will be \$175.) Register online at [midwestnativeplants.org](http://midwestnativeplants.org).  
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### **Plant Puzzle Answer**

**INDIAN PINK**, or *Spigelia marilandica*, is a lovely and versatile perennial. It grows in moist soil in anything from full sun to full shade. Plants generally reach 12-18 inches in height. Its brilliant red blooms are magnets for hummingbirds.

Native Americans used the roots, which contain alkaloids, to treat worms and other parasites. As a modern alternative medicine the properties of this plant are antibacterial, antidiarrheic, antioxidant, antiviral, and laxative. It is said to be narcotic in large doses, can cause dizziness, rapid heartbeat and dimmed vision if ingested.