

**LEXINGTON CHAPTER — July, 2013**

<http://wildones.org/chapters/lexington/>

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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.wildones.org/chapters/lexington/](http://www.wildones.org/chapters/lexington/) 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.

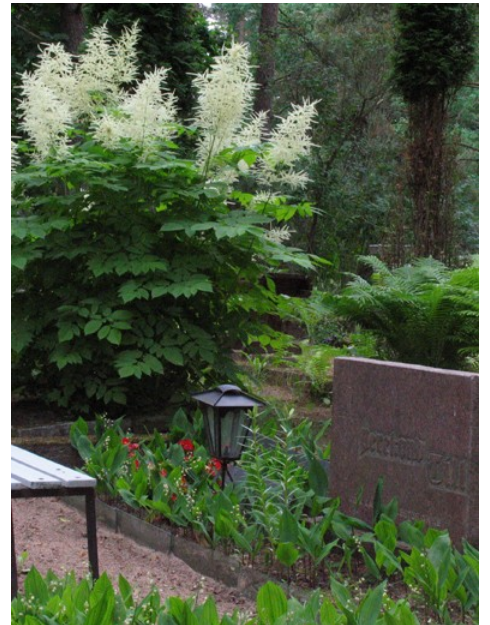
If you have any questions, suggestions, or information for future editions, contact Ann Bowe, chair of the Marketing and Communications Committee, at [annbowe@annbowedesigns.com](mailto:annbowe@annbowedesigns.com) or Judy Johnson, newsletter editor, at [judylex@insightbb.com](mailto:judylex@insightbb.com).

*President's Message...*

This summer, my husband and I traveled to the Baltic countries—a first for me. After arriving in Riga, the capital of Latvia, we took a brief rest at our hotel and then went out in search of a restaurant in the old city. We passed through a beautiful, well maintained park and there, along our path, stretched a hedge of ninebark shrubs in full bloom. I was floored. How did this North American native, barely known to gardeners in our own country, get to this remote corner of Europe?

During the following week, I saw many more ninebarks, both the green-leaved and the red-leaved varieties. One overgrown shrub graced an abandoned property in a sleepy village near the Russian border, indicating that ninebarks have been popular landscape shrubs in eastern Europe for a long time. I also saw other North American natives being used as landscape plants. Clumps of goat's beard, far more lush than I have ever seen in the U.S., thrived in many gardens. The photo above was taken in a lovely old cemetery along a country road in Estonia. At a bed-and-breakfast where we stayed, Virginia creeper peeked over the garden fence. Elsewhere Solomon's seal grew in the shade among other landscape plants and heuchera served as a filler in colorful flower beds.

I didn't quite know what to think about our native plants abroad. On one hand, I was proud of them and pleased to see them look so good and be so well appreciated. On the other hand, I am aware that the arguments we raise in favor of gardening with natives apply everywhere in the world, as well. Ideally, all ornamental gardens should be designed with native plants for they sustain the wildlife of the region where the garden grows and they curb the danger of natural areas being invaded by aliens that out compete the native flora. Who, after all, is to say that Virginia creeper will not become a thug penetrating into European forests and wreaking havoc.



*Goat's beard with gravestone—photo taken by Beate Popkin.*

*Beate Popkin*

## Reclamation and Renewal

By Deborah Hollaway



Russ Turpin is always smiling. This Tennessee native majored in environmental studies at the University of Tennessee before moving here in 1998 to work for a company that helped safely excavate underground petroleum tanks. He joined Ecogro in 2005, concentrating on native plant landscaping. In 2012 Ecogro secured a Keep America Beautiful grant from the U.S. Department of Environmental Policy. Nothing pleases Russ more than working in the community to foster healthier, more beautiful natural spaces so he was soon in his element, joining with other individuals to develop the Richmond Road Beautification Project in the Idle Hour area.

This project included removing trash and improving water quality in the small stream bed that runs along Richmond Road just inside New Circle Road. On Sunday, October 20, 2012, 49 volunteers and 18 city employees worked to remove the debris. They collected 1.5 tons of waste, 440 pounds of recyclables, four shopping carts, several tires and a couch! Volunteers came from the Idle Hour Neighbors Alliance, Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (UK), the Beta Theta Pi service fraternity (UK), students from Henry Clay High School and Morton Middle School and nearby houses and apartments. Fifth District council-member Bill Farmer also helped plant new trees. “It really came down to a well developed network,” Russ explained.



Councilmember Bill Farmer joined the tree planting effort.

After the area was cleared and the stream uncovered, the planting could start. Nine different species of plants—most of which came from Shooting Star Nursery—were planted to create privacy screening for the apartment buildings while not interfering with the electrical lines. To the existing willows and silky dogwoods Russ added native shrubs and trees that will thrive in a moist environment—basswood, chokeberry, multiple dogwood species, holly and ninebark. In all, more than 100 trees and shrubs were planted.

Now the area is a neighborhood attraction that also provides a natural pathway for small birds and mammals. The Lexington city government, Kentucky American Water Company and maintenance staff from nearby apartment complexes are cooperating in the maintenance of the area. Next time you drive out of town along Richmond Road, look to the right and appreciate the results of the volunteer work and the expertise of *Wild Ones* member Russ Turpin. Thanks, Russ!

### How to Find and Photograph Kentucky Wildflowers...



In this publication (Acclaim Press, 2011) noted UK forestry professor, author and photographer Thomas Barnes shares the results of 30 years studying and photographing wildflowers. He covers the technical aspects of taking landscape and close up shots as well as explaining how to achieve a variety of tones and images.

If you want to learn more about wildflowers and how to capture their beauty, this is a great resource.

List price is \$29.95.

### Websites for *Wild Ones*

[thebutterflysite.com](http://thebutterflysite.com)

This website is packed with information about butterflies. Activities for children include craft suggestions and 25 free printable pages to color.

Click on “Gardening” and then on “Butterfly Gardening for Your Area” and up will pop a map. Click on KY to access a list of our butterflies. Explore this site and gain a lot of knowledge about our flighty friends.

#### Beesmart app

For your phone—a guide to help you select plants that attract pollinators in your area. If you add **Catch app** you can add text, pictures and voice recordings to your plant notes.



## Counting Our Street Trees

By Karen Lanier

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) wants to find out how many trees are framing our streets, improving air and water quality, shading and beautifying neighborhoods and providing food and shelter for wildlife. Generally defined, street trees are planted in right-of-way areas between sidewalks and curbs.

Tim Queary, Lexington's urban forester, and Wells Lawless, urban forestry intern, are heading up a new effort to count, identify and assess the condition of all street trees within the 86 square mile urban service area boundary. It's a huge job for the few staff members of the Division of Environmental Policy, therefore, volunteers are essential. Completion of the count is expected to take several years.

With the survey Queary and Lawless are trying to answer several questions: Is the number of trees increasing with the city's growth? Which species are lining the streets? Where are trees posing potential dangers? Knowing how many trees the city owns and maintains is a necessity in writing budgets and requesting funding for programs.



Wells Lawless uses a Biltmore stick to estimate the size of a large magnolia tree.

A survey conducted in the 1980s recorded around 18,000 trees in Lexington. In 2005, current *Wild Ones* member and then LFUCG employee Heather Wilson conducted a quick driving survey that resulted in a count of 53,000 street trees. While both pear trees and pin oaks are now banned from the acceptable species list that LFUCG provides to the public, the 2005 survey revealed the three most prolific trees were pear (various cultivars), red maple and pin oak.

The city's ordinance states that street trees are the responsibility of the homeowner(s) in closest proximity. However, the city does regulate trees that affect the public. Wells said that maintenance and removal issues are currently addressed based on citizen complaints. With a database of trees in place, the

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division would like to set up a regular review schedule in order to be more proactive in ensuring that street trees are properly maintained.

To facilitate the street tree survey, volunteers receive a brief training and materials which include a list of trees, identification aids and a Biltmore stick. Anyone can help, no experience with tree identification is necessary. For more information, contact Tim Queary at [tqueary@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:tqueary@lexingtonky.gov) or call 859-258-3404.

## Wild Ones and Bees, a Great Match

By Judy Johnson

Thursday, June 6, about 30 members of the Lexington chapter of *Wild Ones* gathered at the London Ferrill Community Garden on Third Street to meet with Grant and Jess Clouser, owners of the Fifth Street Apiary. The Clousers talked with us about their business, begun in 2010, which now totals 12 to 15 hives. They gave an overview of the whole field of beekeeping, explained the workings of a single hive, debunked some myths and encouraged us to continue to plant and care for native plants necessary for healthy bees to carry on their work of pollination and honey production. Members left with a handy list of bee-friendly native plants to cultivate.

Grant and Jess are very enthusiastic about promoting beekeeping in an urban environment, always searching for new locations for urban hives. Their latest experimental placement consists of five hives on the roof of the Breadbox, home of West Sixth Brewing Company and several other enterprises. As for their honey production—according to their Facebook page, they just delivered the last of the 2012 honey crop to Stella's Deli.

Pesticides and disease are seriously decreasing the U.S. bee population. This decrease, in turn, is beginning to have alarming effects on crops and fruit-bearing trees that depend upon bees to provide necessary pollination. We can play an important role supporting the work of bee yards like Fifth Street Apiary as we add to the native plants in our yards. Easy rules to remember: choose a variety of blossom colors; plant flowers in drifts; include blooms of different shapes; plant a variety of flowers and bushes that bloom at different times from spring through fall.



## Foe and Friend

By Vicki Ligenza



Orange Jewelweed—*Impatiens capensis*



Poison Ivy—*Toxicodendron radicans*

Contact with poison ivy is the bane of almost any hiker walking in a wooded area. However, jewelweed is generally found growing in close proximity to poison ivy. How convenient that nature has provided relief for poison ivy's itchy rash so close at hand in the form of this pretty flower called orange jewelweed. (There is a yellow form but it is said to be less effective as a remedy.)

Orange jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) is an orange and yellow flower with reddish spotting that blooms throughout the summer. It is a two to five foot annual on weak watery stems that prefers wet humus

soils in partial to full shade. Rain will bead on the leaves of the plant creating sparkling droplets that give it its common name of jewelweed.

A 2012 study cited in the August 2012 *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* found that while jewelweed extract made from orange jewelweed was not effective in reducing the effects of contact dermatitis, application of jewelweed mash (made by chopping freshly harvested plants in a blender) was effective in decreasing the development of the itchy rash.

So, when you are exposed to poison ivy, poison oak, or stinging nettle and orange jewelweed is available, slice open the plant's stem and rub it directly on the exposed skin. If done promptly there may at least be a lessening of the symptoms.

Orange jewelweed blooms attract butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. The plant makes a colorful addition to any shade or bog garden and quickly forms large colonies as mature seed capsules burst open, spreading seeds in all directions.

## A Surprising Look at Lady Beetles

By Vicki Ligenza

We're all pretty good at identifying what flies or crawls around in our gardens and what we see on hikes. But many insects go through a nymph stage you might not recognize. These nymph or larval forms look nothing like the future adult insects.

When you first notice the larval stage of the lady beetle, for example, it looks like something you should be afraid of and maybe avoid touching. In fact, this stage is also called the "alligator" form due to the ferocious appearance of the sickle shaped mandibles. The body is approximately 1/2 inch long with several rows of spines and six legs. Appearances can vary—red, orange or white markings and differing length of spines. But fear not, it is just the larva of the lady beetle (or as you may remember from childhood, the ladybug). The larval lady beetle is a predator that feasts on aphids, mealybugs, spider mites and other soft bodied insects. After feeding for about three weeks the larva pupates and then, in seven to ten days, an adult lady bug (which can be either male or female, by the way) emerges.

So if you come across a bug that looks like this in your garden—



welcome it as a friend who will help destroy the plant eating pests you don't want.



## Shrubs Add Contrast to the Garden

By Deborah Hollaway

*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus* is quite a mouthful so let's just say coralberry. Other common names for this member of the honeysuckle family are Indian currant and buckbrush.



Coralberry photo from wildflowers.com

Coralberry is not a showstopper but it is attractive, with purplish (sometimes coral pink) berries clustering all along its skinny arching branches in midsummer.

This small shrub has a roundish shape and is suitable for a woodland garden or a stream bank. It spreads, although not extensively in Kentucky, by rooting at the nodes where branches touch the ground. If you want a more presentable bush it can be cut back to the ground to encourage fuller growth.

Coralberry blooms attract moths and bees and its branching stems provide shelter for small birds and mammals. Although it is a deciduous plant, the berries remain all winter if they are not eaten and provide a touch of color against the grays and browns of woodland gardens.



Snowberry bush photo from ebay.com

Snowberry (*S. albus*), a cousin of coralberry, is more striking with clusters of larger white berries. However, these lovely berries are considered poisonous to humans. Its leaves are large, opposite, and toothed or irregularly lobed. They are a food source for a variety of interesting insects like the snowberry clearwing moth.

Snowberry will grow in sun or shade and in almost any soil. Please note that the native Kentucky variety of snowberry is listed as endangered on the USDA website.

**Special Announcement**—Friday, July 12 at 9:00 a.m.—Members interested in participating in a butterfly count can meet David Svetich at the Arboretum. Bring binoculars, cameras or books. The count will continue after lunch (BYO) at his house. To get details and preregister contact Tina Placek at [golden-solidago@hotmail.com](mailto:golden-solidago@hotmail.com).

## Wild Ones to Meet at Shaker Village

The July gathering of *Wild Ones* will convene at the Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill on **Saturday, July 13 from 9:30 a.m. to noon** (instead of meeting at St. Michael's on the first Thursday). One of the land managers will meet us at the Welcome Center and take us on a tour of the 1,000 acres now devoted to native warm season grasses and wildflowers. (The Village now owns over 3,000 acres!)

This tour was arranged by *Wild Ones* member Mary Carol Cooper who encourages us to stay and tour the Shaker Village monarch waystation. Her advice—bring a sack lunch and take time to enjoy the beautiful scenery.

For newcomers not familiar with the Village, directions and other information can be found on the website <http://www.shakervillageky.org/>.

## AREA CALENDAR FOR JULY

### Springhouse Gardens

**Sat., July 6—10:00-10:45 a.m.**—Creating a Monarch Waystation Workshop with Betty Hall and Linda Porter. Preregistration required at [golden-solidago@hotmail.com](mailto:golden-solidago@hotmail.com) or 859-224-0033. **11:00-11:45 a.m.**—Dedication of Springhouse Gardens' Monarch Waystation; **12:00-12:45 p.m.**—Tour of native plants.

### Floracliff Nature Sanctuary

**Wed., July 19 at 1:00 p.m.**—Sunprints and Tree Identification—easy hike for naturalists of all ages. Cost \$5 per person or \$12 per family.  
**Fri., July 26 at 10:00 a.m. to Sat., July 27 at 2:00 p.m.**—Nature Journaling Workshop with Betty Beshoar and Heather Housman—hiking level moderate. Cost \$50.  
**Wed., July 31 at 11:00 a.m.**—Creek Walk with Floracliff staff—hiking level moderate. Cost \$5 per person or \$12 per family. For information/registration call 895-351-7770.

### UK Arboretum

**Tues., July 16 at 10:00 a.m.**—Trees and Water Quality with Todd Rousaville. Learn the benefits of trees in maintaining water quality, best species, how to plant and maintain. **FREE** class.  
**Wed., July 24 at 10:00 a.m.**—Raingarden Tour led by Jesse Dahl, Arboretum horticulturist. Plants in the various Arboretum raingardens will be discussed—what works and what doesn't, how to manage and maintain them. **FREE** class. Preregistration required for all classes. Call 859-257-6955.

### Bernheim Arboretum

**Wed., July 3 at 10:30 a.m.**—O.W.L.S.: Our Green Heritage. Discover the history, lore and use of some commonly found plants that many consider weeds. Dress for outdoors activity. COST \$5 members and \$10 non-members. Registration and payment are due by 4:00 p.m. afternoon prior to program. Call 502-955-8512.