

LEXINGTON CHAPTER — November, 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 judylex@twc.com.

Remembering Tom Barnes

Thomas G. Barnes, PhD, was the Kentucky State Extension Wildlife Specialist and a full professor in the Department of Forestry at UK. He is listed in Who's Who publications including 2000 Intellectuals of the 21st Century, 500 Leaders of Influence, 2000 Leaders of Science, Technology and Engineering, and 2000 Outstanding Scientists of the 20th Century.

This impressive man was a friend and local hero for me and so many others. It's hard to use the past tense when describing someone who was so intensely devoted to Kentucky's natural areas. His work lives on, forever in the present, teaching us, inspiring us, calling us to care for this place we call home.

Tom was a prolific author and photographer. I first met him in 2002 when we were speaking at the same conference. He was introducing his new book, *Kentucky's Last Great Places*. I can tell you that he was a tough act to follow! After hearing his passionate presentation illustrated with his award-winning photography, I read that book from cover to cover. What a wonderful celebration of the beauty of our state and a commentary on all that we stand to lose.

Tom wrote at least eight books. He was encouraging us to use native plants in our gardens 20 years ago when he wrote *Gardening for the Birds*. His photography pops up everywhere, in magazines, calendars, and on websites. Take a look at his weekly blog at kentuckynativeplantandwildlife.blogspot.com. The last post was several months ago but the archives go back to 2011.

Our chapter was proud to have Tom representing Kentucky as an Honorary National Director of *Wild Ones*. He was a keynote speaker at the National Conference this past August. He spoke to our chapter last year about using woodland plants in our gardens.

I have great memories of Tom's generous spirit. Several years ago, I told him that I was growing a cool vine, *Centrosema virginianum*, in my garden. He came over for lunch, took pictures in my garden and then offered to show me this plant in the wild. The next day, off we went!

Some of you will remember the *Wild Ones* hike Tom led in 2009. We drove down to the Laurel Lake area and explored roadsides and a powerline easement. This guy who'd had hip replacements, knee and back issues and a long list of other health challenges, raced us over hill and dale! We saw at least 75 species, including the rare white fringeless orchid that lives only in acid seeps. His knowledge of native plants was truly encyclopedic.

Two years ago he invited anyone who was interested to join him to see Indian paintbrush in bloom. I hopped into his truck on a very chilly spring morning, we met others at a designated spot close to the site, and arrived to see a slope full of colorful blooms. The rest of us wore cold weather clothes but Tom had forgotten his jacket. Out he went in a tee-shirt – nothing stopped him where wildflowers were concerned!

Thank you, Tom. You gave so much. We can't help but wish for more.

Ann Bowe



Wild Ones Budget Report for Fiscal Year 2014

Reported by Tee Bergman, Treasurer

Each January the *Wild Ones* board of directors approves a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The budgeting process includes reviewing available revenue, projecting costs of recurring and new expenses, setting priorities, working to have expenditures equal available revenue and finally adopting a budget. The budgeting process is made easier by the fact that the income generated in one year is not spent until the following year. For example, funds raised in 2013 are spent in 2014. This enables the board to adopt a budget based on actual revenue instead of estimated revenue. It is the belief of the board that funds are to be spent to promote the mission of the organization and not held in reserve for undesignated purposes.

This year the chapter was fortunate to receive additional revenue from a grant and from several generous donors. The Wellington waystation and the project to increase the number of monarch waystations across the state were partially paid for with these funds. Grant providers and donors are acknowledged below.

<u>Income raised in 2013 for the 2014 fiscal year budget</u>		<u>2014 Expenditures by categories</u>	
Membership dues	\$ 952.00	Honorarium for monthly speakers	\$ 425.00
Contributions direct from donors	\$ 35.00	Refreshments for meetings	\$ 100.00
Fundraising events		Membership materials	\$ 80.00
Plant sales (milkweeds)	\$ 158.00	Portable display board for chapter	\$ 237.00
Plant exchange fee	\$ 281.00	Wellington Park Garden	\$ 1235.00
Garden tour in July 2013	\$ 610.00	Marketing	\$ 81.00
Sale of WO calendars	\$ 50.00	Miscellaneous	\$ 31.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 37.00	Gifts to organizations with related mission	
Total Chapter Income	\$ 2123.00	National <i>Wild Ones</i>	\$ 200.00
		Friends of Arboretum	\$ 50.00
		Cove Spring Park	\$ 50.00
		Joint sponsorship projects	
<u>Income received in 2014 from grants and donations</u>		Wings of Life Program	\$ 150.00
Grant from Lexington Council Garden Clubs	\$ 450.00	Statewide Monarch Waystations	\$ 289.00
Nature's Thyme Herb Organization	\$ 100.00		
Ann Longworth's native plant sale	\$ 50.00		
Anonymous donor	\$ 100.00		
Total Income from Grants/Donors	\$ 700.00	Total Expenditures for 2014	\$ 2280.00

Donations Accepted!

What does your *Wild Ones* chapter do for you? Monthly events with refreshments. Speaker honorariums. Hikes. Newsletters. Garden tours.

We are also proud to give back to our community with our Monarch Waystation and Pollinator Garden at Wellington Park. Gifts will be used to fund the installation of a permanent informational sign explaining the importance of this kind of garden for all butterflies and pollinators.

If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation to this project, complete the Donation Form attached to the email with this newsletter. Your donation can be made "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone special to you. Donors will be recognized in the March issue of the newsletter. Please indicate if you wish your donation to remain anonymous.

Checks should be made out to **Wild Ones, Lexington Chapter** and mailed to: Tee Bergman, Treasurer, 640 Mitchell Ave, Lexington, KY 40504. Thank you!



Rain Garden Tour

Karen Lanier

On September 14, *Wild Ones* and Bluegrass Green-source held the 8th annual Rain Garden Tour in the Meadowthorpe neighborhood. The Meadowthorpe Community Center hosted a one-stop shop for rain garden goods and services. Experts ranging from

water engineers to plant nurseries to community gardeners were on hand to guide visitors through a presentation, share information, and lead a tour of the neighborhood's lovely rain gardens.



Shelby Jett demonstrates different types of pervious and impervious surfaces and their varying effects on water runoff.

Water engineer Shelby Jett's presentation explained reasons we need rain gardens, and provided information about the health of the city's streams as well as the LFUCG Stormwater Quality Incentive Grant process. At various organizations' tables new gardeners could learn more about rain gardens, native plants, Town Branch Creek and water quality in general. Nearby homeowners graciously invited all comers to view their individual rain gardens.



Resident Terry Terry explained her rain garden to *Wild Ones* member Victoria Ligenza.

Participants left with new ideas about the possibilities of rain gardens and one lucky visitor went home prepared to improve storm water quality with a rain barrel won in the event's raffle.

Note: Basic information about rain gardens can be found at

tappwater.org/raingardens.aspx



From the Membership Chair

Linda Porter

Your support of *Wild Ones* is so important. Your membership allows the Lexington chapter to continue the quality programming we have offered in the past and it supports our educational efforts in the community. To better understand some of the aspects of membership here are answers to some **Frequently Asked Questions:**

How many members are in the Lexington chapter of *Wild Ones*? The Lexington chapter has experienced a growth spurt in the past few years. As of October 2014, we have **110 members!** Members receive our monthly newsletter and discounts or free access at special chapter events.

Does the Lexington chapter receive any funds from the dues members pay? The Lexington chapter receives **30%** of the dues collected at the national level.

Why are there so many different levels when you join *Wild Ones*? The basic level (or *Wild Level*) of *Wild Ones* is for families and individuals who want the benefits of membership, including the *Journal*, *Handbook* and access to *Wild Ones*' web member information. If you would like to support *Wild Ones* at a higher level you can join at a *Wilder* or *Wildest Level*. All levels have the same benefits. You can also elect to become a lifetime member with a payment of \$1500 (over three years). See wildones.org for benefits offered to those who elect lifetime membership.

I am a full time student or on limited income and cannot afford the family level of dues. Is there a way I can still belong to *Wild Ones*? There is a special level for you that allows you to join *Wild Ones* for \$20 per year.

What are the professional levels of membership? *Wild Ones* offers a level of membership for individual members who work in fields that align with *Wild Ones*' mission. These members can elect to be recognized in the *Journal* and in *Wild Ones* Yellow Pages.

What are the benefits of a Business Membership in *Wild Ones*? We take our business partners very seriously. We invite them to join us in our projects. We also support them in special projects and provide recognition for the work they do supporting the mission of *Wild Ones*. On a national level, business partners receive recognition in the Yellow Pages and online.

It Is Not Too Early to Think about Gifts for Gardeners



Felco Pruners

A pair of Felco Pruners is a gift to be appreciated. I have the classic F-2 model but there are several others. The F-6 model is for smaller hands, F-8 has a more ergonomic design, allowing fingers to move more naturally. F-7 has rotating handles and F-9 is for the left-handed among us.

All Felco pruners have bright red plasticized handle covers and Swiss-made steel blades. I've had my pair for over 30 years and have never had to replace the blades, however, replacement blades are available and the blades can also be sharpened. These pruners cut through any stem, stalk, or branch up to an inch in diameter.

This tool is expensive—\$50-\$60 for most models, although I did see the F-5 Classic on Amazon for \$25, but they are oh so worth the investment!

Deborah Holloway

The Hori-Hori Soil Knife

My favorite trowel was the Gel-e Trowel made by OXO. I used it for light digging and weeding until a client gave me her hori-hori knife.

I was skeptical. How could it possibly beat my trowel? But I tried it and (though I still like my trowel) the hori-hori knife wins when it comes to weeding. The narrow, serrated blade just pops the weeds out.

Various brands range between \$30 and \$60. This blog post may help you choose the brand for you: www.gardentoolreview.com/hori-hori-soil-knife-review/.

Ann Bowe



As Deborah Holloway's cartoon reminds us, the season of gift giving is approaching. We asked some members who are experienced gardeners to each recommend a favorite item. Check ideas for gifts for friends and family...or just treat yourself!



Nitrile Touch Garden Gloves

Garden gloves serve to protect your hands while allowing for maximum tactile sensation when working with soil, plants and tools. For decades, my gloves were either thick and clumsy, or so thin that holes appeared with their first use. None of my searching turned up good options. So, when Ann Bowe declared her garden gloves to be perfect I was skeptical. But a single work session made me a convert. Now, as I go about my tasks, I am hardly aware of wearing gloves, and when I take them off, my hands are always clean.

These wonder gloves can be purchased for about \$7 at garden centers. Choose a size that fits snugly.

Beate Popkin



Butterfly Terrarium

Wild Ones member Betty Hall got me interested in raising caterpillars and releasing butterflies. At first, I kept the caterpillars in a plastic shoe box covered with nylon mesh that was held in place by a length of elastic. Then I lost some little caterpillars to a spider that got into the box. The butterfly terrarium pictured here won't allow that to happen again. The sides are fine mesh and there is a large zippered opening. This year I raised 25 monarchs in it!



The terrarium costs \$25 and can be ordered from Educational Science at www.educationalscience.com.

Ann Bowe

Rare Plant Conservation in KY

By Deborah Holloway

Deborah White, a well-known and respected botanist, was the guest speaker for *Wild Ones* on Oct. 2. Deb is the executive director for the Woods and Waters Land Trust, which protects land in the lower Kentucky River watershed.

It was surprising to many of us to learn that even though Kentucky has a rare plant program, a Nature Preserves Commission, and a Rare Plant Recognition Act (legislation developed by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission) there is actually no legal protection for our rare plants. Their future depends on us, as concerned land-owners, educators and citizens.

Deb offered some things to think about when planting native species, especially our rare plants:

- Be sure the plant is going in an appropriate site. If we are gathering seeds or pollinating by hand, are we planting them within a few miles?
- Cultivars of native plants can cause problems. Consider cross pollination. Pollen of the cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), for example, can travel up to a half mile.
- She offered invasive garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) as an example of how a plant can have a negative impact on insect life. The Virginia white butterfly may use the plant (*Alliaria petiolata*) to host its eggs but the resulting caterpillars will not thrive.

Our guest recommended two books as good resources: *Rare Wildflowers of Kentucky* by Tom Barnes and *Kentucky's Natural Heritage: An Illustrated Guide to Biodiversity*, which she co-authored with Greg Abernathy, Ellis L. Loudermilk and Marc Evans.

Other sources of information about endangered plants are the KY State Nature Preserves Commission at naturepreserves.ky.gov, the Nature Conservancy at nature.org/kentucky and the Kentucky Native Plant Society at knps.org.

A list of our threatened and endangered species of plants is available at <http://fw.ky.gov/More/Pages/Kentucky%27s-Threatened-and-Endangered-Species.aspx>

Deb White reminded us that we gardeners can learn more about our endangered plants and aid their survival by educating others, working for protective legislation for rare plants, and practicing careful plant management in our own gardens.

Plant Origins Topic of Nov. 6 Event



On Thursday, Nov. 6 at 7 p.m., Dr. Renee Bonzani will join the *Wild Ones* chapter at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., to present "Historic Domestication of Wild Plants." Dr. Bonzani will discuss theories pertaining to the origins of agriculture and provide information about the plants of the Eastern Agricultural Complex.

November Calendar



Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest

Thurs., Nov. 6 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.—full "Frost" Moon Hike—The program weaves stories about the night ecology, moon lore, history and nature. Night hikes keep to open terrain and roads for easy travel. Members \$10; nonmembers \$12.

Sat., Nov. 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon—Smart Gardens and Landscapes: The Winter Landscape—Design skills to develop a dynamic yard all year round. Members \$10; nonmembers \$15.

For both events, registrations must be paid by 4 p.m. the day before. Call 502-955-8512 for details on both events.

Floracliff Nature Sanctuary

Sat., Nov. 8 at 10:00 a.m.—Long Hike—Moderate to difficult hike of 4 mi. featuring the Kentucky River, Elk Lick Falls and Elk Lick Creek. \$5 donation per person, \$12 per family. Preregistration required. Call 859-351-7770.

Natural Bridge Trail Trek

Sat., Nov. 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.—8 mi. naturalist-led hike. Pack water, snacks, lunch. Preregistration required. Call 606-663-2214. Check <http://parks.ky.gov/calendar/details/natural-bridge-trail-trek-series/20939/> for details.

Raven Run Nature Sanctuary

Sun., Nov. 9 at 1:00 p.m.—Environmental History—Explore an 18th century homestead and learn about the Bluegrass landscape as it appeared over 200 years ago. Register at ravenrun.org.