

LEXINGTON CHAPTER — July, 2015

<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.

President's Message...

On a trip in mid-May to the Brandywine River valley in northern Delaware and southeastern Pennsylvania, my husband and I visited several gardens that members of the Du Pont family had created and donated to the public. The grandest of these is Longwood. Here we admired a spectacular tropical greenhouse, an elaborate topiary garden and traditional display gardens where annual and perennial flowers were arranged to produce stunning color effects. I also liked the three water gardens with intriguing fountain displays. Visitors were invited to view a deep hole in the ground, about the size and configuration of Lexington's CentrePointe project, where yet another water garden was being reconstructed.

Longwood Gardens clearly wants to be all things "garden" to all people, or at least to all those who can afford its \$30 admission price. The huge water garden under reconstruction seemed to arise from a recognition that urban residents will seek their pleasures in an urban ambience that has little to do with the ecological benefits of plants.



I was, therefore, surprised to realize that the previous large-scale installation undertaken by Longwood had been a huge meadow, created on former farmland, with paths running through it so that visitors can immerse themselves in its habitats. The meadow growth was entirely green and only two feet high, but the large diversity of plants promised a beautiful color display in July, August and September.

While much of the meadow borders on an existing forest, hundreds of large shrubs and small trees had been planted in a strip between the meadow and the woods to create an "edge" habitat, partially shaded, but more open than the forest itself. Such edges tend to be particularly rich in diversity, both floral and faunal. In one corner the meadow sloped to a wetland and large pond which gave rise to yet another habitat with its characteristic plants and creatures.

It was good to wander around the meadow and reflect on the fact that Longwood's curators have seen fit to invest a large portion of the foundation's resources into creating a sustainable natural space that is truly an antidote to the pleasure gardens of city dwellers.

Beate Popkin

Tour the Wonders of Waystations

WHEN: Saturday, July 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WHERE: 6 private gardens, 3 public gardens and 1 business location

HOW: Check the list of gardens posted on *Wild Ones* website:
<http://lexington.wildones.org>.

Tickets for the whole tour may be purchased at any of the sites on the day of tour. Cost is \$10.



Photo compliments of Beate Popkin

ABOVE: Wild Ones garden in Wellington Park

Learn about different pollinator-friendly plants and see them incorporated in a variety of landscapes.



Photo compliments of Beate Popkin

ABOVE: The Cohn-Huffer garden


View many different garden arrangements designed to attract and nourish pollinators of all sorts, especially monarchs and other butterflies.



Photo compliments of Beate Popkin

ABOVE: Rain garden at St. Michael's Episcopal Church

 Garden-related items will be offered for sale at St. Michael's.

 At the end of the day, join other tour participants for an informal gathering starting at 4:30 p.m. at Michler's Kentucky Native Café, 417 E. Maxwell Street, with parking at 446 East High Street, next to Poage Engineers.

RIGHT: Summer beauty of Betty Hall's garden

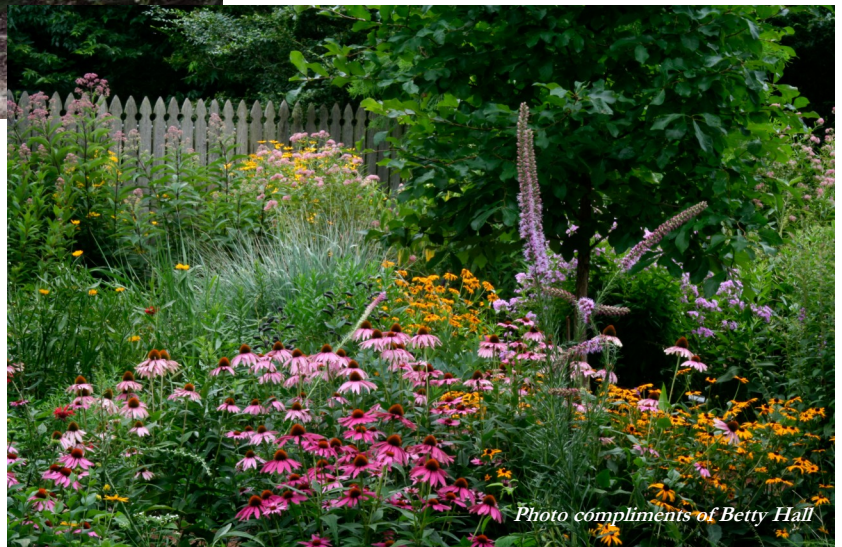


Photo compliments of Betty Hall

Be A Citizen Scientist

Wild Ones wants you to become a scientist – a **citizen scientist** that is. Joining with other monarch conservation groups, our organization is encouraging native plant gardeners and enthusiasts to help professional researchers collect data that can guide monarch scientific and conservation efforts. By doing such things as reporting monarch sightings, participating in monarch tagging programs and monitoring monarchs through their life cycle, you can make a difference.

How do you get involved? *Wild Ones*, in partnership with Monarch Joint Venture, has published an excellent brochure outlining the types of citizen science activities that can make a difference in monarch conservation. You can pick up a copy of the new brochure at our July 2 chapter meeting, or at our garden tour on July 11. Pre-printed copies can also be ordered at communications@wildones.org.

To find out more about nationwide monarch conservation and citizen science programs, go to www.monarchjointventure.org. Monarch Joint Venture is a partnership of numerous non-governmental organizations (such as *Wild Ones*), governmental agencies and academic programs, all dedicated to the health and future of the monarch butterfly. This website links you to a wealth of educational and gardening information.

And don't forget our local and state efforts. Let us know if you need more information on how to plant a monarch waystation or if you would like to learn more about our work.

Linda Porter, Chair

Wild Ones and Garden Club of Kentucky Joint Monarch Waystation Committee



The latest monarch waystation numbers from Monarch Watch for Kentucky and surrounding states. Since April, 2013, the number of waystations has grown from 36 to 250.

Thanks to all of you who planted a monarch waystation.

Come visit ten of the Lexington monarch waystations on Monarch Waystation Tour. See page 2 of this newsletter for details.

Monarch Watch

Registry of Certified Monarch Waystations

	Worldwide 10,671 (JUNE 2015)			
	Missouri 301			
	Ohio 556			
	Tennessee 146			
	Indiana 344			
	Illinois 698			
	Kentucky 250 June 2015	<table style="border: none;"> <tr> <td style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle;">}</td> <td style="padding-left: 10px;"> Louisville 14 Frankfort 11 Lexington area 80 Lexington only 64 Other KY 145 </td> </tr> </table>	}	Louisville 14 Frankfort 11 Lexington area 80 Lexington only 64 Other KY 145
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JOIN THE MOVEMENT!				

Controlling Creepy Wintercreeper

By Caroline Johnson



Hats off to anyone who can make *Euonymus fortunei* (better known as wintercreeper, an emotional topic for native plant lovers) an interesting and “not as depressing as we thought” presentation. At the June 4 *Wild Ones* gathering, UK Arboretum Curator of Native Plants Todd Rounsaville gave us the straight facts. Wintercreeper originated in Asia, where it is not particularly invasive. Why not invasive? What are the natural checks that control this plant in Asia? Todd said there is no single thing that keeps it in check in Asia, and most likely a wide variety of biotic and abiotic factors are present that keep all indigenous plants in control. However, he is not aware of any studies *in situ*.

He explained the Arboretum's previous efforts to study the plant and possible means to wound/kill it. He said the bottom line is that all treatments for wintercreeper were effective and removal led to an increase in native species diversity but, over time, species diversity decreased (the beast came back).

Todd's current research is related specifically to the seed ecology, which includes germination and dispersal, as well as seedling survival. He has also facilitated some herbicide research in the Arboretum's woods. The happy learning from all this concern about the plant's amazing resiliency, is that “it cannot withstand the application of certain systemic herbicides.” He said cutting wintercreeper before application is not necessary, because that actually reduces the leaf area for the chemical to act on. Todd personally recommended treating the plant in winter because “99% of native vegetation is dormant and will not be impacted.” He noted that preferably the temperature should be above 45 degrees Fahrenheit (depending on the herbicide) and, after a few sunny days in a row, that may have the plant actively metabolizing, although the effects of the herbicide may take several months to become visible.

There was an intriguing slide in his presentation showing natives growing over the wintercreeper and I asked Todd how that came to be. He speculated that honeysuckle facilitated the invasion and proliferation of wintercreeper. Honeysuckle is able to physically and chemically suppress natives in a number of ways, some of which may be neutral or even supportive to wintercreeper. After the honeysuckle removal, he thinks the natives are slowly reasserting themselves. In the patches where wintercreeper was removed, the natives came back thick and have “done a pretty good job holding their ground.”

Todd cautioned there is still very much to learn through research and observation. My thanks go to people like him for educating us about native plants and helping us (slowly but surely) to know our enemies!

PLANT PUZZLE July challenge from Deborah Holloway

Cool blue in the middle of summer... That's a pretty good clue right there! I also have a touch of white on my flowers. I must admit that I have a somewhat scary name. I belong to the mint family and, like my cousins, I can tolerate most soils. I also grow in most light conditions—all except full shade. Bees visit me more than any other pollinator and when you look at my “hood” you may see why that is. My flower looks a little like a puppet! My height is usually about 24-36 inches. Sometimes people use the word “hoary” when referring to me because of the grayish, slightly fuzzy covering on the undersides of my leaves and on my square stem. The tops of my leaves are dark green, serrated and very attractive. I bloom over a long period (4 to 6 weeks) and I play well with others in the garden. I think I look especially nice when planted with the red cardinal flower. I really can't imagine why more people don't invite me into their gardens! Can you guess who I am now? Extra credit if you remember my Latin name!

(Answer on page 5)



Are You a Butterflier?

By Karen Lanier

Like birders, butterflies take the winged insects seriously. Enthusiasts track, identify, keep life lists and participate in annual butterfly counts. Dave Svetich is a butterflyer. His large Fayette County property, planted entirely in natives, attracts the beautiful and strange, the bright and the camouflaged. All levels of butterflies flock there for the annual butterfly count, coordinated by the North American Butterfly Association (NABA).

Over the years, Dave has seen butterfly numbers fluctuate dramatically without obvious explanations. On his property he has photographed 85 species of butterflies or caterpillars. The highest one day count identified 47 species.

I asked Dave what his favorite butterfly is, and he quickly replied, "The one I haven't seen yet." The thrill of the hunt keeps him interested, but it's easy to stay intrigued in his 12-acres of forest and open areas. As we meandered along his path, we watched a tree swallow feeding her young and sphinx moth caterpillars littering the driveway with frass (insect excrement).

Come To The Butterfly Count!

To join this year's count, meet at the Arboretum Visitors Center at 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 4. Rain date is Sunday, July 5. Dave will arrive a little after 9 and he hopes everyone will be looking at butterflies when he gets there. The count will visit two other sites before heading to Dave's property at about 12:30 p.m. Feel free to go straight to Dave's place if you can't participate in the morning activities. His address is 3809 Brier East Rd. in Lexington.

Beginners are welcome. More eyes find more butterflies even if you can't identify them quickly. (A great resource is the website, Project Butterfly Wings, www.flmnh.ufl.edu/wings, which introduces beginners by starting with the 50 most common species in your area. Shadowing butterflies at a count event is also a great way to learn how to see and to begin your own life list. So plan to join Dave this year!



Meadow Fritillary on Dogbane

July Calendar



Butterfly Sat., July 11 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.—Native Plant Sale to Benefit MonarchWatch—sponsored by *Wild Ones* member Ann Longworth. Location is Memorial Park, Jefferson Street in Berea. Most plants will be \$3-\$5.

Butterfly Mon. to Fri., July 6-10 from 1 to 4 p.m.—*Wild Ones* member Karen Lanier will be teaching a pollinator class for children grades 3-5 at the Living Arts and Science Center, 362 N. MLK Blvd in Lexington, Information and registration at <http://www.lasclex.org/>.

Floracliff Nature Sanctuary

Wed., July 15 from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.—Sunprint and Tree Identification. Program at Nature Center and easy hike with Preserve Manager Beverly James for naturalists of all ages to make sunprints of leaves and other natural objects. Preregistration required—email info@floracliff.org.

McConnell Springs

Sat., July 11 at 9 p.m.—Night Hike. Join Park Naturalist to search for nocturnal creatures of the Springs. Call 859-225-4073 to register.

UK Arboretum

Tues., July 21—Submission deadline for 25th anniversary photo calendar. Email: janet.cabanis.uky.edu.

Mon.-Fri., July 23-August 9, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.—Glories of the Garden Art Exhibit. Reception Sun., August 9 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Wild Ones July Event

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, July 2, at 7 p.m., at 1356 Cahill Drive (off Manchester Street)**. We will visit the business site of the Klausung Group, a Lexington landscaping firm and see their sophisticated rain garden with a monarch waystation, their vegetated roof, rainwater harvesting system and pervious pavement.

PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

PLANT PUZZLE SOLUTION:

The mystery plant is downy skullcap (*Scutellaria incana*).