

LEXINGTON CHAPTER — August, 2015

<http://lexington.wildones.org>

Wild Ones Board of Directors

Officers

President Beate Popkin

Treasurer Tee Bergman

Secretary Caroline Johnson

Members Ann Bowe
Deborah Holloway
Beverly James
Karen Lanier
Josie Miller
Mary Turner

Committee Chairs

Finance Tee Bergman

Marketing & Communications
Ann Bowe

Membership Linda Porter

Programs Beverly James and
Mary Carol Cooper

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 <http://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...

The lovely tradition of opening private gardens to the public on a designated tour day originated in England where ornamental gardening has long been a cherished pastime. Visitors who participate in such a tour expect to enjoy the sight of beautiful plantings and to find inspiration to improve their own gardens.

In America, garden tours often include properties that shine with architectural features and elegant hardscaping like pergolas, patios, decks, walls, paved paths, terraces, swimming pools, grill stations and more. Such gardens suggest that their owners lead lives of elegant entertaining interspersed with artful leisure. Constructing and maintaining such outdoor spaces is not cheap and garden tour visitors often hope to get a glimpse of the lives of the well-to-do.

Our *Wild Ones* garden tours do not invite this kind of voyeurism. Our owners want, above all, to show off the plants that they have assembled and arranged in their gardens to create habitat not only for themselves but also for insects, birds and other wildlife. Still, our owners, like anyone who has ever opened a private garden for a public tour, anxiously weed, clip and mulch to make the best presentation possible on the important tour day. All of us who have participated in our chapter's tours are grateful for these efforts, for how will we find inspiration and pleasure if the gardens' beauty and order do not speak to us?

Of course, an ornamental garden is much more than what is visible on a particular day of a particular year. Its life span stretches over the entire period that it receives human care and that can be a matter of years, or decades, or even centuries in the case of some very large gardens. During the course of its life, such a garden will be in a continuous state of transformation due to the growth of plants as well as to human intervention often undertaken in response to plant growth. In the first year or two after planting, gardens are rarely interesting. They may show off the designer's skill, but they have not yet become a space where nature and human aspiration come together into the truly pleasing synthesis that we expect of an interesting garden.

The other element that cannot be represented on the actual day of a garden tour is ongoing seasonal change: the first green in early spring, the first flowers low to the ground, the gradual assumption of height, the coming and going of blooms, and finally the slow decline into dormancy with its spectacular color effects. Garden tours try to capture one season's high points, but in doing so they create the impression that a garden is a space fixed in time rather than a process that evolves forever.

None of this is to say that there should be no garden tours. To the contrary—a tour's very limitation to a specific time and a limited number of sites creates a wonderful opportunity for a garden-related community event and a weekend of pleasure and learning.

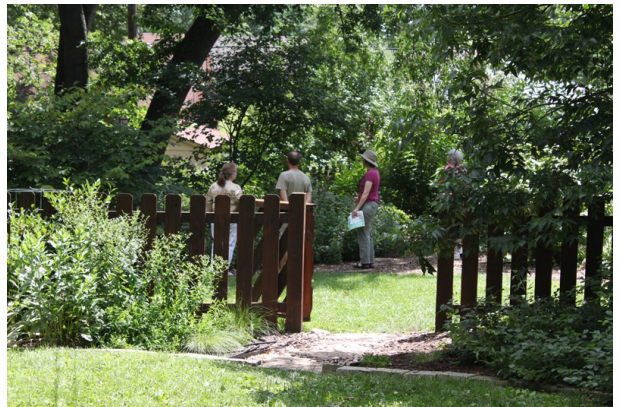


Photo courtesy of Beate Popkin

Beate Popkin

Celebration of a Successful Garden Tour

By Beate Popkin

If you joined us on July 11, you know that our garden tour was a great success. Wedged between two rainy days, we had perfect weather and the gardens looked luxuriant in the intermittent sunshine. We raised \$2500 through the sale of tickets and an additional \$367 through the sale of garden-related items. We also received donations in the amount of \$52.

The garden tour was the most ambitious project our chapter has undertaken so far, and it could not have been done without the dedicated help of many people. Above all, the owners of our tour gardens deserve our gratitude: Sara and Jesse Hesley, Susan Cohn and Eric Huffer, Deborah Holloway and Eric Engebretsen, Betty and Harry Hall, Neil and Helen Morrison, the Klausing Group and Dan Stever. A lot of weeding, mulching, pruning and last minute planting goes into preparing for a garden tour and, in the end, worries linger about all the remaining spots of barren ground or unsightly vegetation not yet transformed into beautiful plant vignettes. When you are about to show off your property, it is hard to embrace the idea that the perfect garden is probably not a truly beautiful garden.

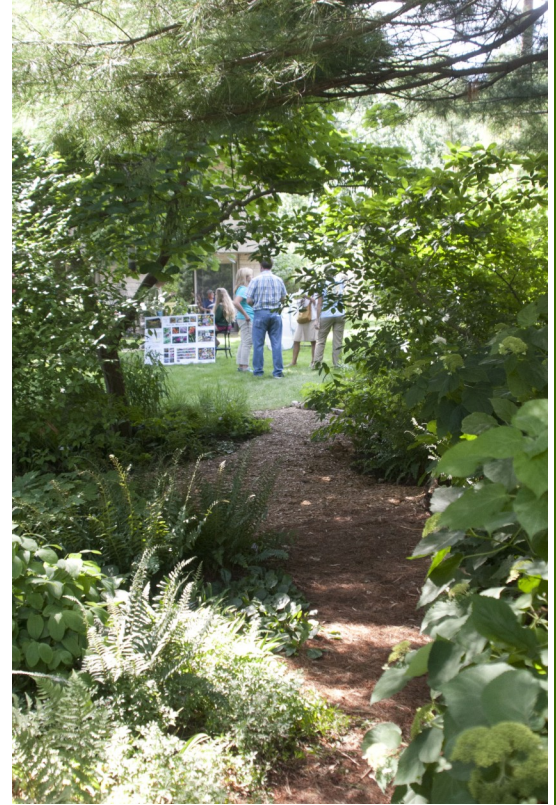
After all this work and worry, the day of the tour brings joy but also exhaustion to garden owners. The hosts at our public gardens put in two or three shifts of two and a half hours each: Mary Carol Cooper at St. Michael's, Betsy Adler at Cardinal Hill Hospital, and Caroline Johnson at Wellington Park. All three hosts had also helped prepare these gardens for presentation.

The fact that the tour encountered no glitches and attracted a large number of visitors is due, above all, to the work of the organizing committee. Mary Turner, Diana Clewett, Mickey Vincent, Deborah Holloway, Tee Bergman, Caroline Johnson and Beate Popkin met once a month, starting while it was still winter. All committee members participated in the discussions and decision-making about the tour and all stepped forward to complete the tasks necessary to make the tour a success: designing and printing fliers and ticket brochures, spreading the word through every imaginable media outlet, making signs and paper streamers to mark the tour gardens.

Special acknowledgment goes to Tee Bergman for recruiting and assigning tour day volunteers. Tee kept tweaking the schedule until its last empty time slots were adequately covered. With the help of Barbara Sternberger, she assembled a package of materials for each garden and distributed them to the owners. She put together a set of detailed instructions for the volunteers. She also counted and deposited the money and tabulated the final results. If the tour day went smoothly, the merit must go to Tee's behind-the-scenes coordination.



Drifts of wildflowers at Wellington Garden—photo by Frank Becker



Betty Hall's inviting pathways—photo by Karen Lanier

Last but by no means least, our many volunteers who stepped up on the tour day deserve recognition. They sold tickets, gave out information about habitat gardening and explained our mission to visitors. Not one missed his or her shift. Several new *Wild Ones* members offered their help. In addition to our chapter members, a number of non-members volunteered to sell tickets or act as garden hosts, and not all of them had been recruited by their spouses. It was gratifying to recognize that we have assembled a community that extends beyond our chapter.

For a last visit to the tour, check out the lovely photos on the next page taken by Frank Becker, Larry Grannis and Karen Lanier!



Green Infrastructure - Beauty and Function at Klausing Group

Article by Ann Bove and photos by Sue Beard

Klausing Group was our destination for the July *Wild Ones* event. While we knew the company was located near McConnell Springs, we were uncertain of the exact location, since neither my companion nor I had brought the address. Would we be able to find it? No worries! What an amazing native plant oasis – you can't miss it!

Our tour was led by Dan Stever, Director of Employee Education and Outreach. Dan has a Master of Science degree in environmental horticulture and lives his love of plants. He has visited public gardens in more than forty states, self-published a book about his own beautiful and extensive gardens and coordinated the installation of the five-pronged water quality project at Klausing Group. His enthusiasm was obvious.



In 2010, Klausing Group applied for a Lexington Fayette Urban County Government stormwater quality grant. Dan noted one of the possible reasons for their successful grant application was the water quality in their part of town is about the worst in Lexington.

Our tour started in the parking lot – the first time a parking lot has been a feature in a native plant event! The area is constructed of permeable pavers which allow water to flow through the surface into the ground. The three foot deep gravel area beneath the pavers holds 32,000 gallons of water, diverting it from our overloaded streams. Any overflow is directed to the rain garden and what a rain garden it is! Constructed in a very large swale that used to be a stagnant retention basin, it is now highly functional, allowing up to 2,000 gallons of water to collect, then percolate. While the rain garden perks quickly, it may overflow in a large storm event. The overflow moves through a unit that traps debris and oil from the runoff before the water enters the stormwater system. The garden is very attractive with its curved edges swooshing through the swale and the native trees, shrubs and wildflowers lighting up the landscape. Milkweed plants identify its status as a certified monarch waystation.

Next we moved to the vegetated roof at the front of the building. This part of the tour included a ride on a lift so we—four at a time— could look at the plantings closely. The green roof system is a rather technical installation with various layers and installation requirements. Such planted roofs catch stormwater runoff, thus improving water quality. They can provide wildlife habitat, mitigate heat island effects and they are aesthetically pleasing.

Klausing Group also installed a rainwater harvesting system with a 4,200 gallon capacity, capturing the water they need for irrigation during hot summer months.

For members who could not join us in July—don't miss checking out this local attraction. A self-guided tour is a great option. There is a kiosk sign at the top of the rain garden to help explain the water diversion and processing systems.

A big thank you to the progressive Klausing Group for taking care of much more than their business. Their water quality projects are a hallmark of success and provide a vital asset to the community.



Come to the Annual Picnic

WHEN: **6:30 p.m.** Thursday, August 6

WHERE: Springhouse Gardens
185 Catnip Hill Rd.
(4 mi. south of Lexington out
Harrodsburg Rd.)

WHAT: Potluck picnic (so bring a
dish to share)

Presentation by Richard
Weber on "Integrating Native
Plants into the Traditional
Shade Garden"



Enjoy friends, food, and new gardening ideas!

August Calendar



Bernheim Arboretum

Sat., Aug. 15 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.—**ECO (Every Child Outdoors) Discovery Day—Looking at Leaves Tree ID**—Kids and families are invited to participate. Hands On discovery stations at the Visitors Center from 1:00-4:00 p.m.; Self-Guided Challenge at the Visitors Center from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Guided Hike of the Day 2:00-3:00 p.m. \$5 per car environmental impact fee.

Floracliff Nature Sanctuary

Wed., Aug. 5 from 1:00-3:30 p.m.—**Creek Walk**—Join Floracliff staff on this easy to moderate hike along a section of Elk Lick Creek to look for macroinvertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and more. Suggested donation of \$5. Required pre-registration (details at info@floracliff.org).

McConnell Springs

Sat., Aug. 15 at 10:00 a.m.—**Junior Naturalists— Butterflies and Dragonflies**—Kids K-5th grade can learn about the park's flying insects. Call the park to register—859-225-4073.

Sun., Aug. 23 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.—**Ice Cream Social**—Join the Friends of McConnell Springs for complimentary ice cream as well as nature games and activities for the whole family.

Raven Run Nature Sanctuary

Sat., Aug. 22 at 9:00 p.m.—**Creatures of the Night**—Learn about the habits and folklore of wildlife active at night. Call the park to register or to get more information. 859-272-6105.

Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill

Fri., Aug. 21 beginning at 8:30 p.m.—**Night Hike**—Explore the preserve just before sunset and learn about a variety of wildlife and habitats. Meet at the Trustees' Office. Included in After 5 Admission of \$5.

UK Arboretum

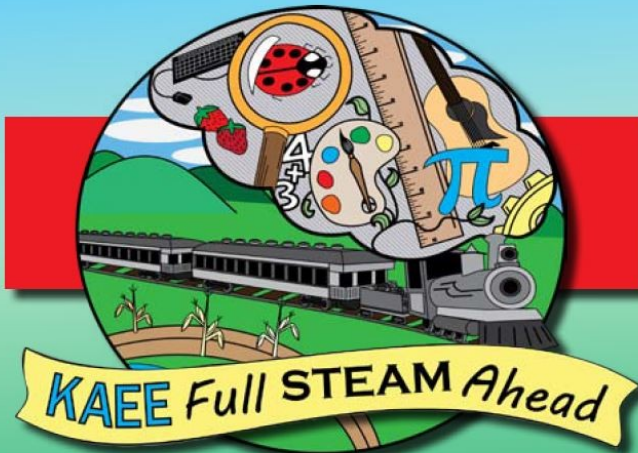
Sun., Aug. 9 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.—**Reception closing the *Glories of the Garden* Art Exhibit.**



SAVE THE DATE FOR...

Kentucky Association For Environmental Education

39th Annual Conference



KAEE Full STEAM Ahead

Jenny Wiley State Park, Prestonsburg, KY

September 11-12, 2015

Pre-Conference Workshops September 10

Register online at kaee.org/conference