

LEXINGTON CHAPTER — November, 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 <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...

Our *Wild Ones* garden at Wellington Park has passed through its second year, ending the season with a bang. In mid-October visitors to the park were greeted by a stunning drift of pink muhligrass against a backdrop of the dark brown seedheads of smooth beardtongue. Around the perimeter of the triangular traffic island that houses our garden, huge clumps of lavender-flowering aromatic asters bloomed their hearts out and little bluestem grass graced two of the corners. In the center a tall clump of golden asters provided a pleasing contrast to all the reddish hues.



There have been other high points this year. During the weeks from June into July, the purple coneflowers were seen from very far away. On closer view, it turned out that they guided the eye toward a rich diversity of plants growing in their vicinity. The black-eyed susans around the perimeter held court at the height of summer and from late August through September the goldenrods and white-flowering eupatoriums made the show.

The garden contains predominantly forbs, that is perennial flowers, with only one species (an upright sedum) not native to eastern North America. There are five species of shrubs and two species of grasses. Since we aimed to make a pollinator garden and since grasses are wind pollinated, it seemed appropriate to keep their number low. We may add a few more shrubs for winter structure in the years to come.

Seven *Wild Ones* volunteers keep the garden weeded. We divided the space into seven sections with each volunteer weeding her (in all cases) section at her convenience. I like to think that the high standard for maintenance we set for ourselves goes a long way to explain the accolades that come our way. And I know that the officials at LFUCG who gave us permission to plant a garden at Wellington Park are watching our efforts with approval.

This year we designed and installed a sign that explains the purpose of a pollinator garden and identifies our chapter as the group who created this garden and maintains it. The sign has brought a sense of closure to the process of getting this project off the ground but, as everyone knows, gardens are never done. They always pose new challenges, point toward new possibilities and offer new delights. The challenge of a visually appealing native plant garden consists of keeping a balance between the plants that self-seed vigorously and those that need some encouragement to survive in a fiercely competitive environment.

Beate Popkin

President's Report

By Beate Popkin

The Lexington chapter of *Wild Ones* is nearing the end of another year of successful programs. The presentations at our monthly membership meetings have been stimulating and engaging. We have learned about invasion biology and have come to understand more clearly why invasives are such a threat to the biodiversity on which our lives depend. I myself felt particularly inspired by the speakers who helped us see how we can make Lexington's urban environment more nature-friendly by caring better about our trees and by changing the ordinances that govern the landscape aesthetic of our city.

Perhaps the high point of our first Thursday membership meetings was the picnic at Springhouse Gardens in August. Richard Weber and Tina Elliot mobilized their entire staff to set things up for us and we shared our picnic in a beautiful garden setting. The food was excellent and Richard's talk about the plants that grew right where we were sitting generated many questions. Springhouse Gardens is a business member of *Wild Ones*.

For the fifth time in five years we hosted (in one case co-hosted) a garden tour. This year's tour was the most ambitious ever. Ten Lexington gardens that also feature monarch waystations were open to the public on a beautiful Saturday in July. This effort required help from our entire chapter and many members stepped forth to offer their service. It was gratifying to realize that we have the resources to present ourselves to the Lexington community in such a well-organized fashion.

In October we partnered with the Kentucky Native Plant Society to help them organize their *Second Botanical Symposium: Conservation, Restoration and Landscape in the Bluegrass*. We suggested that the symposium include a segment of programs geared specifically to a non-professional audience and we organized that segment. It took place at the Arboretum and was very well received.

Our organization is also gaining greater visibility through the garden we created and maintain at Wellington Park. (Read my reflections on page 1).

At the end of October, 2015, our chapter has 106 members in the Bluegrass area. All of us look forward to another year of meetings and events that are instructive and give us an opportunity to socialize with people who share our interest in nature.



Last Regular Monthly Meeting for 2015...

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, November 5th

Where: St. Michael's Episcopal Church,
2025 Bellefonte Dr.

Event: Print-making project using native plants explained and guided by artist Jan Durham (Bring old towel and paper grocery bag)



You don't want to miss this hands-on experience!

2015 Financial Report

By Tee Bergman

As we near the end of 2015 it is once again time to review our financial records to determine if our expenditures supported and advanced our goals of increasing the knowledge of native plants of our region and their habitats, promoting the use of native plants in private and public landscapes and encouraging the creation of gardens that sustain bees, butterflies, moths, birds and other wildlife.

Analysis of the past year's activities, which included providing informative monthly programs, hosting the monarch waystation tour, installation of an educational sign at our pollinator garden in Wellington Park, and growing membership, all increased the knowledge and promotion of the sustainability of native plants in our community and region. Partnering with the KY Native Plant Society to bring their symposium to Lexington along with donating to the KY Exotic Pest Plant Council and *Wild Ones* National provided opportunities to reach a wider audience and increase our influence.

Revenue from the Monarch Waystation Tour and annual dues will provide the major source of funds for our 2016 educational programs, partnership activities, and support of other organizations with like-minded goals. A budget for the 2016 fiscal year will be approved in January, 2016.

2015 Projected Expenditures by Categories:

Honoraria and materials for monthly speakers	\$400
Refreshments for meetings	\$125
Membership materials	\$ 50
Gifts to organizations with related missions	\$345
KY Native Plant Society Symposium	\$200
Education sign at Wellington garden	\$479
Monarch Waystation Tour costs	\$424
Contribution for board member's W/O national conference expenses	\$160
Miscellaneous (checks, etc)	<u>\$ 80</u>
Total	\$2135

2015 Projected Dues and Fundraising Revenue: *

Sales of Tom Barnes' book	\$ 95
2015 Dues	\$1260
May plant exchange fee	\$ 249
Profit on the Monarch Waystation Tour	\$2476
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 100</u>
Total	\$4180

**This revenue was not spent in the 2015 budget.*

Income generated in 2015 will be available for the 2016 and 2017 budgets.

Fall Clean Up...To Do or Not To Do

By Ann Bone

I want to do what is best for my little patch of local ecosystem. I know that there could be insect eggs or butterfly chrysalises attached to the dry, dead stems of my wildflowers. I know that many insects overwinter in leaf litter.

However, I also want to control the self seeding of some of the more aggressive plants. I cut the seed heads off these plants before they drop. Other than that, I leave the dead stems in place. Birds perch on them, snow looks pretty on them, and these stems remind me that there will be flowers there again soon enough.

I want to keep the leaf litter but I don't want to have mats of wet leaves on my little bit of grass. I run a mulching lawn mower over the leaves to chop them up, then I run the lawnmower over them again with the bag attached to collect the mulched leaves. I spread these finely chopped leaves on my garden beds to provide insect habitat and to break down and feed the soil.

There is a type of white mycelium that is toxic to grubs and this mycelium grows where leaf mulch is breaking down. So, I will leave a little bit of chopped leaf litter on the grass.

Fall clean up? For the most part, I will do mine in the spring!

A Challenge to Create Living Landscapes

By Karen Lanier

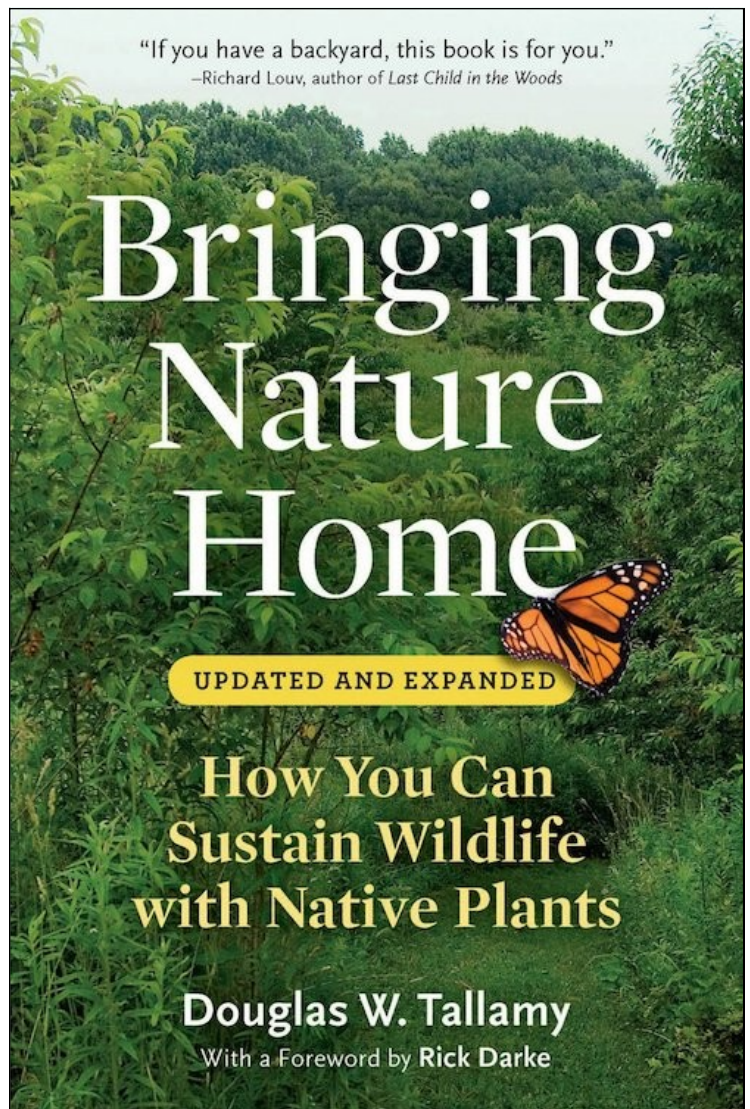
On September 30, the greater gardening community in Lexington was treated to a special presentation by Dr. Doug Tallamy, noted author, researcher and lecturer on the importance of biodiversity in backyards. While he holds the title of Professor and Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, his popular and oft-quoted book *Bringing Nature Home* has made Tallamy a familiar name for native plant lovers everywhere. His presentation was made possible by the Urban Forestry Initiative, a project explained in the article about Dr. Mary Arthur on page 5 of this newsletter.

Dr. Tallamy's talk, entitled "Creating Living Landscapes," illustrated how much more life depends on the landscape than we first notice in the environment around us. He displayed a nearly encyclopedic array of caterpillars, the overlooked and underappreciated foundation of the food web for birds and other beasts. Some of us listeners were surprised to learn that putting out birdseed is not really keeping bird populations healthy. Insects play a much more crucial role in the diets of all birds, especially young hatchlings that like the squishy, soft food parents bring to them by the beakful.

Another insight was that specialization is the rule in nature, rather than exception. The problem, Tallamy said, is that "specialization is a curse in today's world." Every photo was coupled with a quick identification of each bird or caterpillar and its associated food source. White-eyed vireo eating a blinded sphinx caterpillar, eight-spotted forester on a native grape vine, tufted bird dropping caterpillar on black walnut, fritillary on violets. The list went on and on.

Without overwhelming his audience, Tallamy shared his dream to reverse the lawn-to-tree ratio in typical suburban yards, creating the world's largest park and corridor of living landscapes. If you can plant only one tree, he advised, make it an oak. Black walnuts and black cherry trees are also top foraging attractions. Tallamy likes to use a biodiversity activity anyone can try at home: count the caterpillars found on two different trees on the same day. When he tried this on an oak tree he planted 14 years ago, he discovered 410 individual caterpillars and a total of 19 species. When he counted the caterpillars on his neighbor's Bradford pear tree, he found only two species.

To help us all decide what to plant and where, Tallamy is heading up an exciting project with the support of the National Wildlife Federation. This project will provide easily accessible lists of the top host plants in every county across the US. Look for the lists on the NWF website in early 2016. Currently, some lists are available on the website, bringingnaturehome.net.



Urban Forestry Initiative

By Ann Bove

Wild Ones October guest speaker, Dr. Mary Arthur, is a professor of Forest Ecology at UK. Her concern about forests includes our urban forest. And, as you'll see, she is translating that concern into action.

Dr. Arthur started her talk by reminding us of the tremendous importance of trees. More than half the world's population lives in urban centers and trees are a vital component of the health of these urban ecosystems. Downtown areas are much hotter than rural areas; trees provide cooling shade. Trees store carbon, helping to moderate warming trends. Their canopies and root systems reduce storm water runoff and mitigate pollution. And native trees support caterpillars and insects that birds use to feed their young. In short, trees aren't just a nicety. They are an essential element.

The Lexington city council recently funded an urban canopy study. American Forests recommends a canopy coverage of 40%. Our tree canopy coverage stands at just under 25% and, due to insects and disease, it is decreasing annually. The UK campus has a canopy coverage of just 14%! Many other cities are doing better: Louisville 27%, Minneapolis 32%, Cincinnati 38% and Nashville 47%.

So how can we improve this situation? This is where Mary turns her concern into action. She and several others at UK started the Urban Forestry Initiative (UFI) with the goal of engaging tree ambassadors to support our urban tree canopy. The UFI will provide a framework for opportunities to partner across organization and community boundaries.

Already this group is sponsoring excellent speakers and it has started a successful adopt-a-tree program. It is involved in education and outreach. The UFI website <http://ukntrees.ca.uky.edu/> offers *Tree Talk*, a seasonally-relevant series of articles on various topics that are all connected to the urban forest. In addition, it offers *Tree Stories*, short vignettes about noteworthy trees.

In addition, UFI is working on an interactive campus tree map that will help protect trees from damage when construction work is begun.

There were a lot of comments and questions throughout Dr. Arthur's talk. Many listeners expressed concern about how we are treating our trees. We can do better and groups such as the Urban Forestry Initiative are here to lead the way.

November Calendar



Bernheim Arboretum

Wed., Nov. 25, 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. SONIC Bernheim: Frost Moon—site-specific lecture/performance featuring a short lecture by Kathy Kennedy, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, and a performance by regionally acclaimed musical artists. Call 502-955-8512 to register and pay before 4 p.m. on Nov. 24.

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Fri., Nov. 13, 7 to 9:30 p.m. and Sat., Nov. 14, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.—First CZBG Native Plant Symposium (See page 7 for details.)

Floracliff Nature Sanctuary

Sat., Nov. 14, start time is 11 a.m.—**Long Hike**— Annual long hike is moderate to strenuous covering about 4 mi. Check out Kentucky River, Elk Lick Falls, and Elk Lick Creek with preserve naturalists. Suggested donation is \$5. More information at floracliff.org.

UK Urban Forestry Series

Wed., Nov. 11, Downtown Arts Center—**Socializing in the 2nd floor Lobby 5 to 6:30 p.m. Tree Canopy Report Card Unveiling in Rehearsal Room 6:30 to 7 p.m.** followed by “To Your Good Health! Trees and Nature for Wellness”—**Dr. Kathleen Wolf, Projects Director for Human Dimensions of Urban Forestry and Urban Greening at the University of Washington. Free! Public welcome!** (See page 6 for details.)

McConnell Springs

Sat., Nov. 7 at 11 a.m.—**Guided Hike of the Spring** Bring the whole family for a guided hike of the Springs and discussion of the history of this unique park.

Raven Run Nature Sanctuary

Sat., Nov. 14 at 1 p.m.—**Bluegrass History**—Learn about the cultural and natural history of the Bluegrass area. For more information call 859-272-6105.

Two Important Announcements



The *Wild Ones* annual holiday gathering will be held in **JANUARY** rather than **DECEMBER**. Watch email for details.



This is the last issue of the newsletter for 2015. The first issue of 2016 will arrive the first week of March.

• FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC •



To Your Good Health! Trees & Nature for Wellness

Dr. Kathleen Wolf, University of Washington

Wednesday, November 11th



Location:

Downtown Arts Center - 141 E Main St,
Lexington, KY 40507

Reception:

5:00-6:30pm - 2nd Floor Lobby

Tree Canopy Report Card Unveiling

6:30-7:00pm - Rehearsal Room

Main Talk:

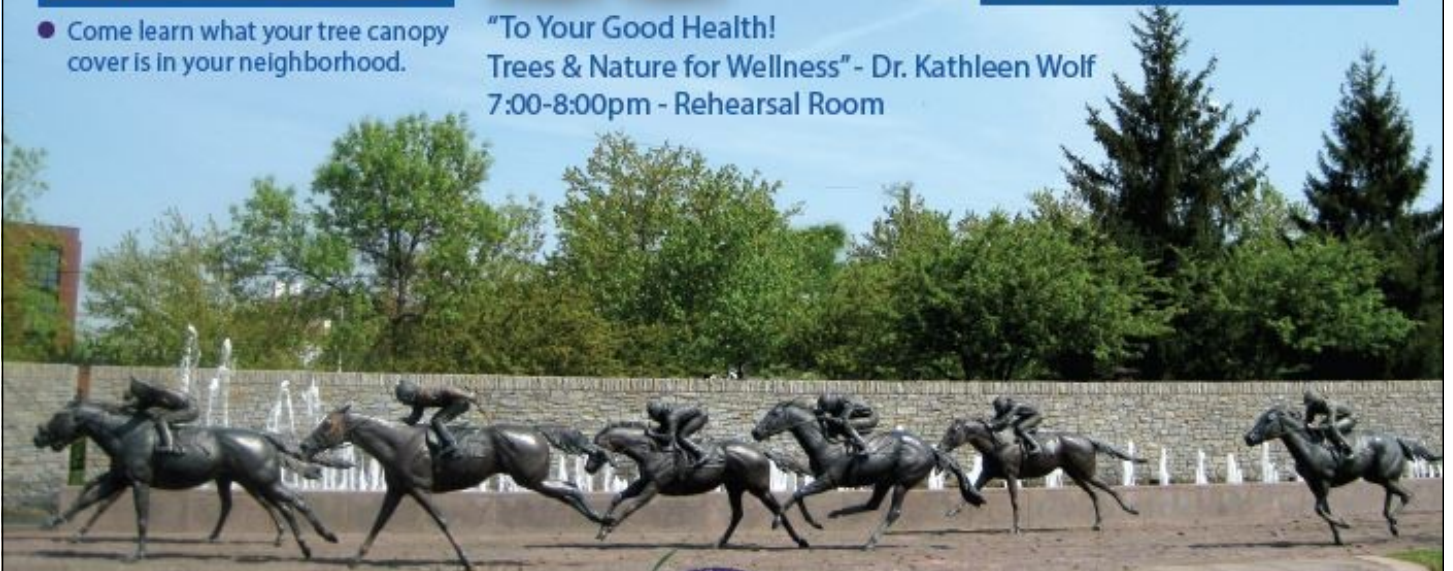
"To Your Good Health!

Trees & Nature for Wellness" - Dr. Kathleen Wolf

7:00-8:00pm - Rehearsal Room



- Come learn what your tree canopy cover is in your neighborhood.



Urban
Forest
Initiative



The TRACY FARMER
ISE
INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABILITY & THE ENVIRONMENT



Native Plant Symposium

November 13 & 14,



Nationally Recognized Top Experts Inspire Us With Talks on Native Plants in the Garden and in the

**The Invisible Forest: The Great Eastern N.A. Biodome, 10AM-1045AM
Nancy Stranahan**

Trillium: Keen Field Observation Results in Successful Culture, 1045AM-1130AM, Mark Rose

**Botanical Tourism—Newfoundland Revealed, 1150AM-1235PM
Hardy Eshbaugh**

The Native Plant Journey , 135PM-220PM, Brian Jorg

Plant a Seed and a Bird Will Grow, 220PM-305PM, Tom Hissong

Native American Ground Orchids, 305PM-350PM, Mark Rose

Twenty Years of Native Plants at the CZBG, 410PM-5PM, Steve Foltz

**Bog Garden Construction and Associated Plants, 5PM-530PM
Brian Jorg**

Social Hour 5P-6P

Join us Friday November 13th, for our first ever CZBG Native Plant Fundraiser! Enjoy wine and refreshments while rubbing elbows with our symposium speakers, Zoo staff, and other guests. Presentation by Hardy Eshbaugh. 7PM-9:30PM

Native Plant Symposium \$49.00

Includes program, parking, Zoo entry, lunch, snacks, tours, social hour, & plant sale

ISA(6), ASLA (5.5), APLD, NALP (5.5) ONLA, PGMS (1.5) CEU Approved

Doors Open 9AM, Program Starts 10AM. Social Hour 5PM-6PM

Student Discount: \$25.00, Call 513-559-7767 to Register

Sponsorships: Call Ali Kremchek at 513-487-3329

Native Plant Program Fundraiser, November 13, 7:00PM-9:30PM, \$75.00

Native Plant Symposium & Fundraiser Combined Ticket, \$110.00

Registration Ends November 10, 2015