

**Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.**

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**Scan with your Smartphone for more information about Rock River Valley Wild Ones**



Articles for the November 2013 newsletter, must be submitted to the Newsletter Chair, at: Pambi@wildonesrrvc.org October 23, 2013.

*Plants in Winter: Surviving the Big Chill*  
*Thursday, October 17, 2013*

**Location: Burpee Museum of Natural History**

737 North Main Street, Rockford, IL

**Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm**



We've reached that time of year when our native plants start to die. What happens now? Will they survive the winter weather? Some people mow it all down, or burn the remains to make things look "neat and tidy." Or do you leave everything as-is, to provide winter food for birds and other critters looking for remnants of seed? Please come to the October 17 meeting to hear Dr. James Reinartz, Director of the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee Field Station talk about how native plants survive winter.

The plants of temperate and boreal regions have several morphological, anatomical, and physiological

adaptations that allow them to survive the extremely low temperatures and drought of winter. In this talk we will explore a wide variety of topics related to plant life in the winter, especially related to our woody plants that can't escape freezing and drought associated with extreme cold by living under the snow or soil. Getting living tissue through the freeze-drying of winter is an amazing accomplishment!

Dr. Jim Reinartz is a plant ecologist and Director of the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Field Station, where he has been working for over 30 years. Jim teaches courses on the vegetation of Wisconsin, wetland ecology, vegetation sampling methods, the ecology of plants in winter and several other topics. Jim's primary current area of research is wetland ecology. However he remains interested in the main topic of his formal training which was evolution and the genetics of ecological traits in plants. He has extensive practical experience in the preservation and management of natural areas.

Please join us October 17 to hear Jim Reinartz. Come early and browse the library, merchandise tables, chapter information booth, and refreshments table. This meeting is free and open to the public. For more information call 815-627-0344.

Submitted by Lynda and Lee Johnson, Co-Chairs/Program

## *Message from the Co-President* Bob Arevalo



**Bob Arevalo**

*photo by Jon McGinty*

Last month, Ginnie Watson wrote in our newsletter about our experiences attending the 2013 Wild Ones Annual Meeting and Workshop Weekend. Jerry Paulson, our chapter vice president, also attended as did chapter member Tim Lewis who is Wild Ones National President.

Attending meetings like this is valuable not only for the networking opportunities but

also for new ideas and programs that might be new to you. One such program that I admittedly was unaware of was Smaller American Lawns Today (SALT). This idea of reducing large expanses of turf and replacing it with native plants and shrubs so that your home landscape is in harmony with nature is central to our Wild Ones mission. I further researched SALT, and I came to find out that there was an article about SALT in the Sept/Oct 2008 Wild Ones Journal. Over the years of receiving the Journal, I have to admit that I haven't always read the Journal word for word, cover to cover and don't remember this article. Since I have been more involved with Wild Ones, I now do read the Journal cover to cover. What an incredible resource we have in the Journal. Besides our well written chapter newsletter, we also receive the Wild Ones Journal as a benefit of membership. If you are not already reading the Journal comprehensively, you should.

That said, I would like to return to the SALT initiative. SALT was announced by Dr. William Niering, Professor of Botany at Connecticut College at a Connecticut College Arboretum gathering. His reasons for this initiative included cutting back on the use of insecticides that can destroy species diversity and create monocultures and serious pollution problems. Also the expense, time, and energy required to maintain a lawn can be draining. He pointed out that planting native species would attract wildlife and encourage nature's own tendency toward biodiversity. His recommendations include setting aside an area to plant natives, or even converting a section of lawn to a meadow just by not mowing it. He says one would be surprised to see the species

that might emerge especially if weed killers or fertilizers had not been used. He also recommended keeping the front of the property and paths mowed so that your yard would not be considered simply unkempt.

Many of us who have attended Wild Ones meetings for several years are very familiar with these concepts, but it is interesting to hear and read about different ideas and approaches to the natural landscaping movement. Enjoy and take advantage of your member benefits by reading our local chapter newsletter and our national Wild Ones Journal!



*This?*



*Or this?*

## *The Library is Here to Help!*

Bob makes an excellent point in his Co-President's Message. Converting your grassy areas to native plants makes such a wonderful difference providing food and shelter to the other creatures with whom we share this world. May I suggest these titles found in our Lending Library to help you accomplish your goal:

**How to Get Your Lawn off Grass** by Carole Rubin

**The Landscaping Revolution** by Andy Wasowski & Sally Wasowski

**Requiem for a Lawnmower** by Sally Wasowski & Andy Wasowski

submitted by Ginnie Watson, Librarian

**Redesigning the American Lawn: a Search for Environmental Harmony** by Prof. F. Herbert Bowman

**Urban and Suburban Meadows: Bringing Meadows to Big and Small Spaces** by Catherine Zimmerman

Remember, only members may check out books from our lending library. If you are not a member you are missing out on a valuable member benefit! Join us today!

## *Board of Directors in Action* Shey Lowman, Secretary

Highlights of activities of the Board of Directors, as discussed at the August 8, 2013 meeting, include the following:

- Recruitment for the 2014 Board of Directors has begun.
- Barbara Flores reported the Woodland Plant Sale sold a total of 2,080 plants.
- Lenae Weichel reported the Prairie Plant Sale sold a total of 3,788 plants.
- Programs for 2014 are being finalized; topics include chemical free weed control, planting for pollinators, history of native plants and many more.
- Annual rental fee of \$1,200 was approved for payment to the Burpee Museum of Natural History.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, October 10, 2013, at Aunt Mary's, 4431 E. State Street in Rockford. The meeting officially starts at 6:00 p.m., but many come at 5:00 to purchase their dinner. **All chapter members** are welcome and invited to attend Board meetings.

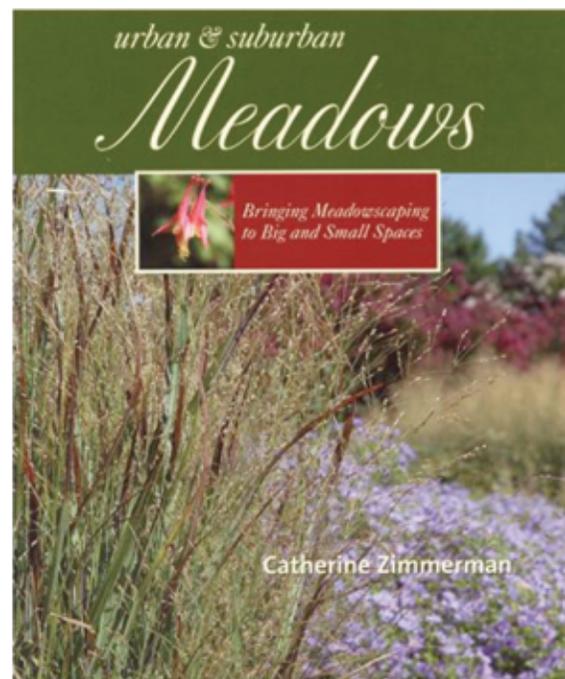
### **Merchandise Must Haves...**

Submitted by Shey Lowman,  
Merchandise Coordinator  
shey@wildonesrrvc.org

#### **Only one more shopping day left for 2013!**

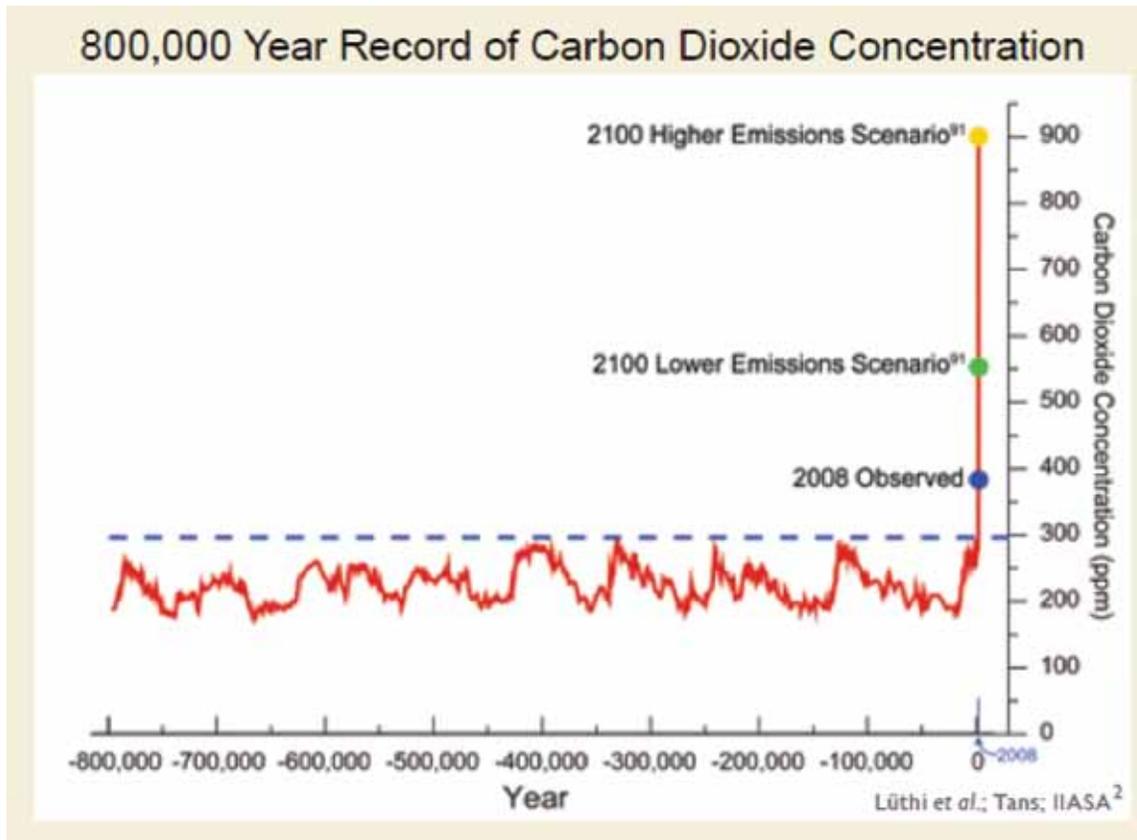
Come to the October 10 meeting to shop for your favorite Wild One and check out the great selection of **gift items**.

A book and DVD video that anyone would enjoy is **Catherine Zimmerman's *Urban & Suburban Meadows, Bringing Meadows to Big and Small Spaces***. She is an Honorary Director of Wild Ones and has written this enticing introduction to meadowscaping. This guide provides step-by-step instructions on organically creating and maintaining beautiful meadow gardens. Filled with beautiful photographs, the guide contains recommendations from experts such as **Doug Tallamy** and Prairie Nursery's **Neil Diboll**. Meadows can be big or small, short or tall; they sequester carbon, retain water, filter pollutants, eliminate the need for fertilizers or pesticides and provide habitat for wildlife. **\$25.00/book and \$16.00/DVD.**



## September Meeting Recap Cynthia Nelson

Photos by Tim Lewis



### US Global Change Research Program, 2009



#### Global Warming and Its Effect on Natives

Although by the standard convention of the geologic time scale we are in the Holocene epoch, an informal chronological term, the Anthropocene, has been used by some scientists to reflect the extent of the impact of human activities on our ecosystems.

Jessica Hellman spoke about the challenges that climate change poses and about possible responses to these challenges. In addition to documenting evidence of current changes in our natural world due to climate change, scientists engage in prediction of future trends and impacts. A graph showing the historical record of the concentration of carbon dioxide (one of the greenhouse gases) in the atmosphere shows a significant increase in recent years over its highest level in the previous 800,000 years. Over time, temperature

increases have been associated with increases in carbon dioxide concentration. Projections for continued increases vary according to assumptions about future activities that affect greenhouse gases. The lower emissions scenario would be associated with a temperature increase of two degrees Celsius on average in 2100; the higher emissions scenario would be associated with an increase of six degrees Celsius on average.

Ecological changes that have been observed due to increased average temperature include changes in life-cycle events in plants and animals. Citizen scientists have contributed to the phenological records of events including when lilacs bloom in their area, which has been occurring 1-2 days earlier per decade since the climate started warming. In addition, climate change has led to changes in where species live, as well as in extinction of populations and of species. To consider future changes under the higher emissions scenario, the example of Death Valley in California illustrates how a temperature increase would affect a natural area. Death Valley, now a desert, was a mesic forest at the end of the last ice age. An increase in average temperature of six degrees Celsius would bring about the transformation from forest to desert within 100 years.

The greater Chicago region provides little virgin habitat

## September Meeting Recap (cont'd)

at this time. There are barriers to species survival and movement because of development, agricultural practices, and geographical features including Lake Michigan. Under the lower emissions scenario, in the second half of this century Chicago would have a climate similar to Southern Illinois; under the higher emissions scenario it would have a climate similar to Alabama. The distribution of species would change, with some declining, some likely to disappear, some increasing, and the possibility of new species arriving. The USDA Forest Service has developed a climate change atlas that uses modeling to show the future abundance and distribution of common tree and bird species under two scenarios of climate change.

Such substantial changes in the environment on which we depend, including plant and animal communities, agriculture, recreational opportunities, and disease occurrence and prevalence will profoundly affect human life. Strategies that include adaptation to climate change in conservation and restoration activities can be important for protecting resources we value.

Conservation as we know it includes restoration efforts, fighting invasive species, and trying to make our conservation areas as robust as possible. One approach in the face of climate change is to increase these efforts.

Strategic resistance is doing whatever is possible to try to keep an ecosystem from changing, for example by implementing intensive supportive practices (such as a watering program for trees) in order to keep a species from going extinct in an area where it is threatened by climate change.

Managed relocation of a species could be carried out in order to prevent extinction. It is possible to identify areas in which natural dispersion is likely, as well as locations where survival would be possible, but would require assisted migration.

If you build it they will come. This approach refers to the fact that species cannot move through some environments, and require corridors to habitable environments.

Put it in the bank. Seed banks are a way to preserve plant species for the future.

Those involved with conservation and restoration efforts may find new (and perhaps surprising) partners, as businesses, insurance companies, agricultural organizations, and the military face problems brought about by climate



**Anne Meyer and others at the September meeting**

change and may put pressure on governments to implement policies to mitigate climate change. Considering adaptive strategies for protecting species may require rethinking practices and commitments, such as the planting of local ecotypes. We were asked to consider whether the land ethic expressed by Aldo Leopold in *A Sand County Almanac* (p. 262), "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community; it is wrong when it tends otherwise" should be replaced by the understanding that humans have profoundly affected our natural world and the proposal by Emma Marris in *Rambunctious Garden* that we seek a hybrid of nature and human management.

### Reference and Links

You can follow Professor Hellman on Twitter [@jessicahellman](#) or find more information and a link to her blog ([AdaptingNature.blogspot.com](#)) at <http://www.nd.edu/~hellmann>

US Global Change Research Program. *Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States* (2009). <http://www.globalchange.gov>

The USDA Climate Change Atlas <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/atlas/>

Hellmann, J. J. 2013. Finding our way through climate change adaptation. *Reilly Center Reports* 1: 13-16. [http://reilly.nd.edu/assets/101046/reillycenterreports\\_2013\\_issue\\_1\\_hellmann.pdf](http://reilly.nd.edu/assets/101046/reillycenterreports_2013_issue_1_hellmann.pdf)

Marris, Emma. (2011). *Rambunctious Garden: Saving Nature in a Post-Wild World*. Bloomsbury, USA.

## August Show Me/ Help Me



### Julia Olsen shows us her front perennial beds

We had a great turn out of Wild Ones for our last Show Me/Help Me day of the year. Close to 30 people attended some part of the event in the DeKalb/Sycamore area. Our first stop was at Julia Olsen's of DeKalb. Julia had been inspired by Shey Lowman's talk at the local library about natural landscaping. She has been adding natives to her already varied collection of plants. Her yard has an "upland" in the front and then down for an exposed basement in the back that made for interesting microclimates. The front of Julia's home has a colorful perennial bed containing the non-native purple coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*. It was suggested that Julia add our native pale purple coneflower, *Echinacea pallida*, to extend bloom time and color. The group gave her ideas about native plants for a dry, shady spot next to the house. Wild columbine, zigzag goldenrod and elm leaf goldenrod were suggested. For the low portion of the property, Julia has been working on an area for moist soil plants. Some wetland plants in bloom were identified as sneezeweed, wingstem, rosinweed, angelica, vervain and joe-pye weed. Other additions could include cup plant, queen of the prairie, prairie dock, great St. John's wort, swamp milkweed and blue lobelia.



### Emmylou's olive oil bottle border

Emmylou Studier has a lovely, partly shady yard where she has incorporated some natives. Because of the con-

Submitted by Mary Anne Mathwich and Anita Johnson. Pictures by Mary Anne Mathwich

temporary style of her home, pagoda dogwood, with its layered branching, was an idea to replace the non-native burning bush. It was suggested that native grasses and sedges could be added, especially to an area with cardinal flower, blue lobelia and buttonbush. Along the side yard, non-native honeysuckles provide screening between yards. Emmylou received many suggestions of shrubs that would work well in their place. She wondered if it was best to "go naked" and pull out the honeysuckle before planting the native shrubs. To reduce competition for water, light and nutrients, the group thought "going naked" would be the best! Hopefully the native shrubs will grow faster that way and a new screening will be there in no time. Emmylou had a terrific border around one planting that looked like dark, glossy bricks but were in fact olive oil bottles planted open-end down and tilted. Great recycling idea!



### Karen's prairie and future prairie under black plastic

In visiting Karen Matz's yard, we were treated to great diversity, i.e., prairie, woodland and savanna. Karen describes the contents of her yard as Illinois natives, edible plants and non-natives of nostalgic value. She has a prairie planting in the front yard and was preparing another large area by covering it with black plastic. Wild bean and wild strawberry are two low growing ground covers in her prairie. Her existing prairie has no grass. The new prairie area will have sedges, but also, no grass. This is intentional and makes it easier for her to eliminate non-native grasses that are otherwise difficult to identify. For her woodland area, she put down several layers of newspaper followed by mulch and then planted into the mulch. The black plastic method used in the prairie area is not appropriate for woodland as it limits moisture to the trees and shrubs. Karen has adapted to deer and other wildlife in her yard by using protective wire fencing around young shrubs and trees. Some plants such as blue lobelia and swamp milkweed were not thriving because of a preference for wet soil so Karen moved them closer to a bird bath where they benefited from more watering. Karen's back yard is deep which has allowed her to have a variety

of plantings with many native shrubs and trees. A patch of bright yellow blooming Jerusalem artichoke drew our eyes to the center backyard. Karen has enough room in her yard to enjoy this aggressive plant.



**The front yard prairie at Janet's**

Janet Giesen's Sycamore yard is a revisit from 2008 and has "grown up" beautifully. Her philosophy when she

started naturally landscaping was to create the "bones" of the landscape first with the placement of shrubs and trees. Under the existing silver maples and around the yard are highbush cranberry viburnum, fragrant sumac, smooth sumac, pagoda dogwood, speckled alder, black chokeberry, spicebush, hazelnut and more. She also has a front yard prairie which she prepared by mowing the grass short, putting down layers of newspaper and covering with 4" of mulch. Prairie plants were then planted into the mulch. The prairie on this day was beginning to glow yellow with a number of goldenrod species. There was also room in the yard for a bubbling pond and a wetland that included buttonbush, turtlehead, blazing star and culvers root. The Show Me/Help Me Chairs were much surprised by what must be called a lunch that was provided by the four property owners. Cold drinks, sandwiches, fruits, cheeses, chips and humus were served and enjoyed in Janet's colorful and naturally inviting backyard. Thank you! Also, thank you to all of the folks who opened their yards to the Wild Ones and to everyone who came to a Show Me/Help Me this summer.

*Membership Update* Marilyn Heneghan, Membership Chair

**175 memberships on September 1, 2013**

**Welcome New Members**  
 Molly Lovelock & Joyce Beaulieu  
 Ellwyn Englof  
 Christopher Wrate  
 Dalia Israel  
 Gail Snyder

56 attended the September program

Thank you to Kirby Doyle and Janet Giesen for greeting members.

**Note: It is preferred that renewal donations be sent directly to the Chapter's Membership Chair, Marilyn Heneghan, Wild Ones Rock River Valley 5411 E. State Street PMB340 Rockford, IL 61108 rather than to the national office.** Processing goes quicker this way for the chapter. Your expiration date is on your newsletter and your Journal address label. Thank you.

Please send email address changes to Marilyn Heneghan at [Marilyn@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:Marilyn@wildonesrrvc.org)

Dues payments can be sent either directly to the National Office or to the Chapter Membership Chair, Marilyn Heneghan, Wild Ones Rock River Valley, 5411 E. State Street PMB340, Rockford, IL 61108. Forty percent of the dues paid, regardless of the amount, are shared with Rock River Valley Chapter. Members wishing to make donations specifically for the local chapter, should make a separate payment or so note on their membership application under "Chapter Contribution" and mail to the Chapter Membership Chair. Dues payments, regardless of amount, are considered a donation and are tax deductible.

*2013 Chapter Programs and Events*

- |                                    |  |  |                                     |
|------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>October 17</b><br>7:00-9:00 pm  | Native Plants in Winter  | <b>Dr. James Reinartz,</b><br>Director Univ. of Wisc.-Field<br>Station | Burpee Museum of<br>Natural History |
| <b>November 21</b><br>7:00-9:00 pm | Pot Luck and Seed Exchange<br>Members only: All members welcome with or without seeds.<br>Bring a dish to share. |  | Burpee Museum of<br>Natural History |
| <b>December</b>                    | No Meeting-Happy Holidays!   |  |                                     |

Unless noted, programs are free and open to the public. Programs are subject to change. Please contact Lynda and Lee Johnson at (815) 629-2781 for more information.



NATIVE PLANTS. NATURAL LANDSCAPES

## ROCK RIVER VALLEY

ROCK RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

c/o Pambi Camacho  
6680 Hartwig Drive  
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

### *Don't become extinct!*

If the expiration date on the mailing label is **10/1/2013**, this is your last chapter newsletter and you have received your last *Wild Ones Journal* until you activate your membership

You may receive a renewal notice from both the National organization and your chapter. Your membership information will be updated quicker if you renew through your chapter so you won't miss an issue of the chapter newsletter.

Mail your renewal to Marilyn Heneghan  
**Wild Ones Rock River Valley**  
**5411 E. State Street PMB340**  
**Rockford, IL 61108**

## Wild Ones - Rock River Valley Chapter

### *Board of Directors and Chairs*

**Co-Presidents:** Bob Arevalo 815-332-3343  
Bob@wildonesrrvc.org

Ginnie Watson 815-398-0138  
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**Past President:** Constance McCarthy  
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**Newsletter Chair:** Pambi Camacho  
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**Plant Rescues/Seed Collection Chair:**  
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**Lending Library Coordinator:** Ginnie Watson  
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**Mentor Coordinator:** Barb Kuminowski  
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**Merchandise/Website Coordinator:**  
Shey Lowman 815-757-4456  
Shey@wildonesrrvc.org

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Cynthia Nelson  
815-758-8978 Cynthia@wildonesrrvc.org

Regular meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at the  
Burpee Museum of Natural History, 737 North Main St., Rockford, IL

*Special meetings, outings, and events are scheduled periodically and sometimes replace the regular meeting time/place. Contact any officer to confirm information about our next meeting.*

Wild ones Annual Membership: Family \$37, Limited Income/Full-Time Student \$20, Business \$250  
Entire membership contribution is tax deductible. Contact Membership Chair for additional information or to join.

815-627-0344 • Visit our Web site at [www.WildOnesRRVC.org](http://www.WildOnesRRVC.org)

### *Wild Ones Mission*

Wild ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restorations and establishment of native plant communities. Wild Ones is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization.