



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

MILWAUKEE SOUTHWEST/WEHR CHAPTER OF WILD ONES

Join us on September 13 for our last field trip of the season. We will be visiting a yard in Franklin with native plants that support bird & butterfly populations.

Meet at Jim's home at 7568 S 74th St at 10:30. In Jim's words: *Our yard is still evolving as we have gone from a play area for our girls, to small gardens with grandma's favorite flowers, to a hummingbird haven, and now toward a haven for everything that flies. This year we added another 100+ sq. feet of native garden and will be happy to share with everyone our nerdy bloom chart of almost 90 native shrubs and plants.*

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL! After the yard tour, we plan to head over to the Wehr Nature Center Amphitheater for a member social and a presentation from Halley Minser, Restoration Ecologist with the Milwaukee County Parks, on seed collection of native plants. September is a great time to collect seed and plan for your new plants in spring! Come and learn the best practices for collecting viable seed from your native plants. Then go home and collect some to share at our seed exchange in December!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR OCTOBER SPECIAL EVENT!

See the Information below for a link to pre-registration. We want to make sure that we have enough room for everyone.

Join our collaborative event with WI Metro Audubon and Milwaukee Southwest/Wehr chapter of Wild Ones

All are Welcome.

October 11 at 1:30 PM Wehr Nature Center

Mi Casa Es Su Casa – Plant for Birds with Steve Betchkal

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/nAV4PLCtgj6FHHkq8>



WMAS and the Milwaukee Southwest/Wehr chapter of Wild Ones are hosting a presentation by Steve Betchkal on October 11 at 1:30 pm at the Wehr Nature Center.

Learn about planting native plants to support birds and pollinators in our backyards. Birds need four basic natural resources to survive; food, water, cover, and nesting structure. You can ensure that they have a place to build a nest and a way to avoid predators by designing a yard rich in diverse native plants. Ornithologist Steve Betchkal offers a thoughtful blueprint.

Steve Betchkal (BETCH-cull) of Eau Claire has hiked/camped/backpacked/traveled all 50 U.S. states & Puerto Rico, 88 National Wildlife Refuges, 85 National Parks, 55 National Forests, & 4 Canadian provinces in pursuit of wild birds. In 2017 he worked in the Galápagos for Lindblad-National Geographic.

Steve is an ornithologist, ecologist, Eau Claire liaison for Welcome Back Bird Day, and co-editor of Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts. Over 37 years as a journalist, he has uniquely earned six Emmys, an Edward R. Murrow Award, and induction into the Upper Midwest Regional Emmy's Silver Circle in Chippewa Valley history.

OTHER NEWS OF NOTE:

Volunteer help needed:

We are still looking for someone to work on our chapter webpage, hosted on Wild Ones website. If anyone is familiar with using Word Press and would like to help, please

email wildones.wehr@gmail.com. There is support available from the national office to help chapters with this.

And we are looking for members to serve on the programming committee. Help us decide on programs that you want to see as a member of Wild Ones. We would like to meet this fall and get our spring programs set. Email brustpat@gmail.com if you are interested.

Chiwaukee Prairie in Kenosha has prairie tours on the 1st Saturday of the month:

<https://www.chiwaukeee.org/events/>

NEW MEMBERS: *Mentor Program:* Would you like experienced members to visit your yard to answer your questions? Contact Deb Ciszewski: DCiszewski1@gmail.com or [414-534-5059](tel:414-534-5059).

Deb Ciszewski is always willing to share native plants. Contact her at DCiszewski1@gmail.com

Native Plants for Pollinators

When: Saturday, September 20, 2025, Time: 3:30-4:45 PM

Where: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Sippel Hall
12700 Howard Avenue, New Berlin, WI 53151

Guest Speaker: Corrine (Corrie) Daniels,
Owner and Founder of Bombus, LLC

Participants will learn:

- pollinators that are native to Wisconsin
- types of plants best for various soil types
- Bombus can provide information to assist individuals to create the highest-quality ecological restoration, landscapes, and infrastructure retrofits

This is a free event, however, requires pre-registration. RSVP by September 15, 2025
Register by email to: ztips4@sbcglobal.net

Native bee workshop

Wehr chapter member Luka is running a native bee workshop at Eucalyptus & Co in Riverwest before the year ends with a hands-on aspect for participants that will involve filling and decorating wooden bee houses. They are in need of garden shears to borrow during the workshop, somewhere between 10-14 of them. The workshop's date will fall somewhere between mid-October to mid-November, and they will only need to borrow them for a few hours. If you can help, please email them at earthtoursa@gmail.com

Do you have a flood story?

Wild Ones National is interested in hearing stories from our recent regional flood events that would support the theory that native landscapes can help mitigate effects of such events. If you have a story to tell, please contact Lisa.

We hope you, your chapter members, and your surrounding community are safe from the torrential rains and the catastrophic flooding that have inundated and continue to drench the Milwaukee area. Please check in once you have had a chance to dry out (and once power has been restored) to let us know how you fared.

Lisa Olsen (she/her)
Wild Ones Chapter Liaison
lolsen@wildones.org

[720-248-0302](tel:720-248-0302)

AND ALWAYS REMEMBER:

You can reach us at wildones.wehr@gmail.com and on the web
at milwaukeesouthwestwehr.wildones.org

The chapter provides print copies of the Wild Ones Journal to the following libraries: Franklin, Hales Corners, Muskego, New Berlin, Greenfield, Oak Creek, Wauwatosa, & Cudahy.

You are always welcome at any Wild Ones programming, not just your chapter's. Go to the Wild Ones chapter webpage and check out our neighboring chapters: Menomonee River Area (https://menomoneeriverarea.wildones.org/2023-events/?wo_event_id=10136), Milwaukee North, and Kettle Moraine.