



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

MILWAUKEE SOUTHWEST/WEHR CHAPTER OF WILD ONES

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 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 or joannfritz36@gmail.com if you are interested.

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 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

Flooding in Wisconsin

Were you affected by the recent flooding in WI? If so, here's an opportunity to share your 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)*

November Chapter Meeting - How to enjoy your fall and provide for wildlife over the winter plus composting

Now that you have a native plant yard, do you wonder how to do fall cleanup?

Our November chapter meeting is Saturday, Nov. 8 and will be addressing just this topic - native plant yard cleanup plus composting and worm composting.

Hope to see you all there!

One last note:

Join Wild Ones for a free webinar, "Next Steps for Nature," featuring the renowned Doug Tallamy. In this talk, Tallamy addresses common concerns on biodiversity, invasive species, native plants, and conservation strategies, providing practical guidance and motivation to restore nature in everyday spaces.

Next Steps for Nature

Thursday, October 16, 2025 | 6:00 p.m. CT / 7 ET / 5 MT / 4 PT

Premiere + YouTube chat

Register: <https://wildones.org/next-steps-for-nature/>

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.