



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

MILWAUKEE SOUTHWEST/WEHR CHAPTER OF WILD ONES

DECEMBER 13, 2025 PARTY AND ANNUAL MEETING

Join us at our annual Holiday Party at 1:15 at the Wehr Nature Center. We are planning a full slate of activities that you won't want to miss!

We will have our annual soup/chili buffet where some of our members show off their favorite cold weather recipes. We have a seed exchange, where you can share some seeds from your yard and take home some seeds to try. You do not have to bring in seed to take seed, so newer members are encouraged to help themselves.

But what to do with your seed? Jennifer Lazewski will present a short demo of how to do winter sowing, also known as milk jug planting, one of the easiest ways to handle your native seeds that need a cold treatment.

We will have our annual meeting, with a short wrap up of the year and the election of the slate of nominees for the chapter board. (Details will come via a separate email).

And to top things off, we will have a selection of door prizes to give away, including a free 1 year Wild Ones membership.

All this and a chance to chat and network with your fellow native plant lovers while celebrating the joy of the holiday season. Come join us, bring a holiday treat if you would like, and spend a wonderful afternoon with friends new and old.

If you signed up for food or wine, you will get an email to remind you. If you would like to bring food or wine, contact Jo Ann at joannfritz36@gmail.com.

If possible, bring your own bowls & utensils to the chili/soup party. We're attempting to eliminate plastic and one-use cardboard from entering landfills. So, if possible, bring your own bowl & utensils, but we will have bowls & utensils on hand also.

You will see less plastic at our meetings to limit waste. We all know to reduce plastic, but sometimes we need a reminder. Use re-useable grocery bags, non-plastic water bottles and don't use single-use plastic.

A 5 minute video reminder of the horror plastic, which never decomposes, can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6Ta-eljcMQ>

Might Be Chilly: The building is having heat issues; consider wearing a light jacket.

National Wild Ones Annual Report

For inspiration and encouragement, read the national's annual report <https://Wildones.org/wp-content/images/sites/93/2025/05/Wild-Ones-Annual-Report-2024-FINAL.pdf>

You'll be pleased to know that Wisconsin is one of 5 states with the most growth.



Once you put salt down...

Salt Wise Sal says: "Shovel More, Salt Less"

Salt harms soil and plant health and corrodes our roads, bridges, and vehicles.

Salt washes into our waters, putting aquatic life and freshwater at risk.

It only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute 5 gallons of water.

Every year we use about ... 600,000 tons of salt on Wisconsin roads.

Plus, even more on sidewalks and parking lots!

...it doesn't go away.

Smart Salting Tips

- Shovel** Quick! Shovel early and often so snow doesn't turn into ice.
- Scatter** Use salt sparingly. A coffee mug of salt is enough for 10 sidewalk squares!
- Switch** Below 15°F, salt (NaCl) isn't effective. Switch to sand for traction.

Are you Salt Wise?

Follow WI Salt Wise on social media
Join a Salt Wise Wednesday Webinar
Learn more about the impacts of salt pollution on lakes, streams, and drinking water.

QR code: 

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1st Friday of month, Milw Co WALK IN THE PARK: <https://mkeparksfoundation.org>

12/13/25 at noon: Webinar: **Waukesha Green Team: Native Planting in Parks and Greenspace.** <https://www.waukeshacountygreenteam.org/post/recording-available-native-planting-in-municipal-parks-and-greenspace>

1/24/26: **WO Annual Conference:** <https://FoxValleyArea.WildOnes.org/THWN>

2026 Landscape Pesticide Registry

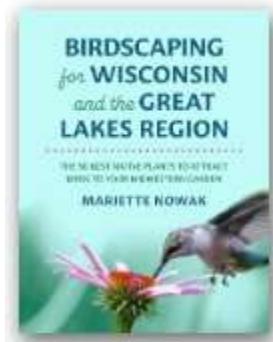
Homeowners and renters have through 2/1/26 to sign up for notices from commercial lawn care companies that apply pesticides to lawns, or to control mosquitos on nearby property for 2026. No cost to register, and you must re-register every year.

To register, use either of the following methods:

- Online: visit <https://mydatcp.wi.gov> and click on "Registries/Lists" and select "Landscape Registry."
- Paper: Download, fill out, and mail a paper form available at https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/LandPestReg.aspx.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION:

This newly published book is being added to our Chapter Library:



Birdscaping for Wisconsin and the Great Lakes Region: The 50 Best Native Plants to Attract Birds to Your Midwestern Garden

Mariette Nowak