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RIVER CITY CHAPTER - GRAND RAPIDS, MI

Wild Ones promotes environmentally-sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities and is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization.

For more information, please contact:

Sue – 616-450-9429 or membership@rivercitywildones.org

Amy – 616-308-8176 or president@rivercitywildones.org

July 19th Program: Explore Native Ferns at Sandhill Farms



Please join us Monday, July 21st for our monthly meeting. We will be at Sandhill Farms in Rockford.

Please note that we have an earlier meeting time: 6:30 pm.

Also, please carpool if at all possible as there will be limited parking available. Cheryl Tolley from Sandhill Farms will be helping us explore native ferns. It should be an exciting night!

Google directions to Sandhill Farms can be accessed by clicking on the link below.

Sandhill Farms

Michigan native forbs, ferns, and sedges

Woodland and wetland species

11250 10 Mile Road

Rockford, MI 49341

Tel: 616 691-8214

Remember to come prepared at these meetings for hiking, possible inclement weather and bring your water or sport drink. As always, some tempting goodies will be provided.

Officers

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V. President—**Rebecca Shilt**
Membership—**Sue Bouchard**
Outreach—**Carol Phelps**
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Secretary—**Betsy Ford**

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Julie Francke—Director of
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Frederik Meijer Gardens &
Sculpture Park

Steve Mueller—
Environmental Education
Consultant

Patricia Pennell —Director
of Rain Garden Program, West
Michigan Environmental Ac-
tion Council

In Memory of Lorrie Otto

Lorrie Otto, the founder of the natural landscapes movement in the United States, passed away on May 29th at the age of 90. She helped to found Wild-Ones and has been a driving force for people to turn their properties back to nature.

"If suburbia were landscaped with meadows, prairies, thickets or forests, or combinations of these, then the water would sparkle, fish would be good to eat again, birds would sing and human spirits would soar," Otto said.

Otto grew up on a farm in Wisconsin. She served as a pilot during WWI as part of the Women Airforce Service Pilots before she married and settled in Bayside, Wisconsin.

She first became involved in the environmental movement in the 1950s and 1960s when she noticed the negative affects that DDT spraying

was having on local birds and bats. She famously brought a basket of dead robins to a community meeting in protest. In 1970, Wisconsin became the first state in the nation to ban DDT. The US followed suit in 1972.

Otto converted her 1-acre property into a natural landscape, a move that was not embraced by the community at first. Later, her yard was recognized for its beauty and she began working tirelessly to help others do the same.

To learn more about Otto's work with Wild-Ones, please see <http://www.for-wild.org/people/otto.html>. Wild One's Seeds for Education (SFE) grant program is awarded annually on September 9th in honor of her birthday. If possible, consider donating to the program or applying for one of its grants. Lorrie would have wanted it that way.

RCWO News and Notes

June Meeting Recap: Wild Ones in Cedar Springs

The WILD ONES gathered for an exploratory walk at Ody Brook to view and discuss native plant landscaping. Forty-five people met for a two-hour walk on June 21st to enjoy the plants and animals in a yard maintained to maximize increased varieties of life. Graciously, VV Nursery permitted members of the WILD ONES native plant group to park vehicles at the nursery. From there we walked to Ody Brook where we were greeted by the sounds of Blue-winged Warblers, Field Sparrows, and Eastern Towhees among other birds.

Along the drive we viewed the large leaves of skunk cabbage surrounded by sensitive ferns in the understory of native hardwood wetland trees. Many species of trees, shrubs, and ground plants provide food and shelter for an abundance of surprising wildlife species. Those plants muffle the sounds emanating from the highway traffic and keep it quieter around the home.

The walk up the drive brought us to higher ground where butterflies flitted around a landscape mound. Mowed lawn, field area, shrub land, and forest blended into an appealing landscape. Each was claimed by different wildlife where each species works daily to make its living. Some move among the different habitats. Like members of our human community work duties are divided among specialists. Each species fills a different nature niche and some generalist have a variety of jobs.

The Common Yellowthroat seeks insects on floodplain shrubs to feed young birds. Kathy Bowler found Question Mark caterpillars eating American elm leaves. Ken Knight found a Viceroy Butterfly on willow. A House Wren announced its territory near birdhouses as the WILD ONES walked nearby. Quietly an Indigo Bunting stood watch in a treetop while an Eastern Phoebe vacated the open yard until the hoard of people passed.

Two sugar maple trees keep the home cool in summer by standing year round on the south and west sides of the home. In the winter they allow sunlight warmth through their naked branches. The dense stand of wetland trees and shrubs between the road and open yard prevent strong winds from taking heat away from around the house and reduce heating bills. In winter strong winds are not noticed in the yard until we venture away from Ody Brook where chilling winds are raising heating bills for neighbors who keep open wildlife sterile yards to south and north or us.

East of the house two ash trees were planted to

provide light shade. Ash trees branches permit filtered light through so we get some morning sun warmth. This is where the phoebe often spends much of its day flying out from tree branches in search of tasty insect morsels. A nest is annually built or remolded in the carport.

Close to the house, it is mowed so we can sit enjoying the sunlight light on the back porch without mosquitoes disturbing us during sunny weather. At mid June, most of the backyard still has not received its first mowing or the year. The WILD ONES were able to experience a carpet of nearly solid pink and yellow flowers where mowing will occur after plants set seed. Many inquiries about plant names erupted from the group. Butterflies, birds, an American toad among others find the yard a most pleasing home full of abundant life to meet individual needs. An Eastern Comma butterfly flitted back and forth above our heads as we compared the two planted 30-year-old ash trees. One tree is six feet tall and the other about 30 feet tall. The tall one has been allowed to grow freely. The shorter one is pruned 'Bonsai' style to six feet each year. It has a full dense green ball of foliage and is next to a butterfly garden. It appears like a large beautifully dense leaved shade tree in miniature.

Prairie Smoke is a Michigan Threatened plant thriving on the sandy soils in the back yard along with Cut-leaved Grape Fern and Ebony Spleenwort. Seven Ferns enrich the landscape. Thirty-one species of trees, about 25 species of shrubs, many forbs and grasses host hundreds of animals species needs. Thanks to native plants, we have birds, mammals, and amphibians, reptiles, and a wonderful array of beautiful insects to enjoy. Non-native ornamental plants are beautiful and I grow a few but they do not support many wildlife so we keep them to a minimum. Prior to our purchase of the property, the yard was mowed to the neighbors home and to the creek where fewer species could survive. Sun warmed the brook trout stream. By reducing the yard to the vicinity of the home, septic field and some selected clearings for wildlife, the yard is now haven for life and a wonderful place for wildlife.

I am always hopeful neighbors to the north and south will spend less time on mowers, save money by consuming less fuel mowing, and allow yards to replenish America's native plant and wildlife diversity.

By Ranger Steve Mueller



Ranger Steve with Wild Ones members.



One of the many native forbes on Ranger Steve's property.



Educating the younger generation on the importance of native plants!

Natives to Know: A Tale of Two Poppies



Rarely do you find two plants that look so much alike, with similar names, but have such different management concerns....

The **Celandine Poppy** (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), also known as the **Wood Poppy**, is one of our showiest native woodland wildflowers. It is the only member of the Papaveraceae Family that is native to the U.S. Unfortunately, the Celandine Poppy

is on the endangered species list in **Canada** and classified as "imperiled" or "rare" in several U.S. states. Typically found in moist, high quality forests, it is threatened by the invasion of Garlic Mustard.

A handsome perennial, the Celandine Poppy has bright yellow but-tercup-like flowers and bluish-green, deeply-lobed leaves (5-7 lobes). The leaves grow in pairs, up to 6" long and 2½" across, with a silvery bloom on the underside. The stem is conspicuously hairy. The plant grows 12"-24" tall.

The showy flowers, either solitary or a few clustered in terminal inflorescence, are 1-2" across, with 4 petals and numerous stamens. The blooming period occurs mid- to late spring and lasts about 2-3 weeks. The flower matures into a nodding, light green, hairy capsule, about 1" long, and divided into 4 segments. Numerous seeds are released after the capsule splits. Interestingly, these seeds are often dispersed by ants which are attracted to the fleshy, oily appendages on the seeds.

Like other members of this family, the Celandine Poppy contains a yellowish-orange sap which was used by Native Americans for dye and war paint. Be careful though, the sap can be irritating to the skin and eyes; and is toxic to mammals, making this plant deer resistant. The seeds, however, are eaten by snails, slugs, mice, chipmunks, woodchucks and even deer.

The Celandine Poppy is among the easiest woodland spring wild-

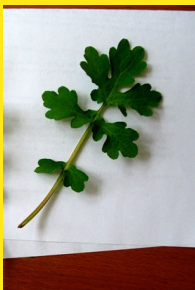





flowers to cultivate. It is self-sowing and forms natural drifts if the site is right. Sufficient moisture can encourage intermittent blooming throughout the summer. Otherwise, the plant goes dormant during hot dry weather, but will return in spring.

Be sure not to confuse our native Celandine poppy with the vegetatively similar, but more widespread and invasive **Chelidonium majus**. Most confusedly, this invasive can be found in field books also under the name of "**Celandine,**" but without the "poppy." Like our native *Stylophorum diphyllum*, *Chelidonium majus* has yellow flowers with 4 petals that bloom in late spring, very similar lobed leaves, yellow sap, and a height of 12"-24". Its seeds are also dispersed by ants.

It can be tricky to tell these two species apart. The easiest way is by the seed pod. The native *Stylophorum* has the hanging oval, furry seedpod; while that of the *Chelidonium* is long and skinny. Other characteristics to note: The flowers of the native (*Stylophorum*) are bigger (1-2" across), shinier and decidedly more poppy-like. The flowers of *Chelidonium majus* are smaller: ¾" across. The leaves of the native plant are a darker blue-green, have fewer but deeper lobes, and grow in opposite pairs. The leaves of the *Chelidonium* are a lighter yellow-green and attach singly. The buds of the native plant are larger and fewer in a cluster (2-3). The invasive species has smaller buds with more in a cluster (5-6). *Stylophorum diphyllum* is a perennial; *Chelidonium majus* is a biennial.

Chelidonium majus was most likely introduced into **New England** as an herbal remedy for skin diseases. Reported as early as 1672, the plant has since become naturalized and spread across the continent. *Chelidonium majus* is often found in disturbed areas especially with moist soil. Very aggressive, it becomes abundant in minimally managed situations, out-competing other plants. Control is mainly via pulling or spraying the plant before seed dispersal.

- By Joyce Tuharsky

	Leaves	Buds	Seed Pod
Celandine Poppy Native (<i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>)			
Celandine Non-Native (<i>Chelidonium majus</i>)			

More Celandine Poppies:

Photos and more information :

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=STDI3>

<http://www.gpc.edu/~decbt/articles/celandine.html>

http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/cel_poppy.htm

RCWO Member Gallery: Gail Snow



Yellow Trout Lily



Baneberry



Spring Beauty

THE PEACE OF WILD THINGS

When despair for the world grows
 in me and | wake in the night
 at the least sound
 in fear of what my life and
 my children's lives may be,
 | go and lie down where the wood drake
 rests in his beauty on the water,
 and the great heron feeds.
 | come into
 the peace of wild things
 who do not tax their lives with forethought
 of grief. | come into the presence of
 still water. And | feel above me
 the day-blind stars
 waiting with their light.
 For a time | rest in the grace of the world,
 and am free.
 - Wendell Berry



Grand Rapids Chapter
 River City Wild Ones

rivercitywildones.org

www.for-wild.org
 (National Headquarters)

2010 River City Wild Ones Calendar

All programs (unless otherwise specified) will begin at 7 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month, March – November. Non-members are always welcome! Find more information for each event on our website.

Date	Speaker/Topic	Location
Jul 19* (6:30 start)	Cheryl Tolley/Native Ferns	Sandhill Farm 11250 10 Mile Road, Rockford, MI 49341
Aug 16	Ruth Oldenburg /Native Meadow and Rain Garden Tour	7485 Cloudberry Lane NE Belmont, MI 49306
Sep 20	Rebecca Shilt/Rain Gardens	TBD Carpooling Suggested!
Oct 18	Nancy Hoovler/Plant Rescue	Bunker Interpretive Center 1750 East Beltline Ave. SE Calvin College, Grand Rapids
Nov 15	River City Wild Ones Fourth An- nual Auction	Bunker Interpretive Center 1750 East Beltline Ave. SE Calvin College, Grand Rapids