



Wild Ones Louisville Metro Chapter
Native Plants, Natural Landscapes
P.O. Box 4593, Louisville, KY 40204
<http://www.for-wild.org>

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Publicity

2008 looks like a much better year for gardening than 2007 was! The air has warmed up slowly, but steadily, and we have had PLENTY of rain! Let's hope we haven't already received our full year's allotment. But the signs are still looking pretty good, and everything is as green as it can be.

Summer 2008 Chapter Meetings

Tuesday, June 10, 2008 - Louisville Nature Center
Anne Meyers Bobigian
Kentucky Chapter, American Chestnut Foundation
"Restoring Kentucky's Chestnuts"
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Saturday, August 9, 2008
"Show Me - Help Me" Garden Visit
Home of Larry & Teri West
9105 Danby Court, Louisville 40291
3:00 - 4:30 pm

Call 502-897-2485 to confirm your plans to attend!

We have an exciting meeting scheduled for June 10. As I wrote in the last issue, I think the effort to breed an American Chestnut tree that carries immunity to the Chestnut Blight hugely important. The chestnut was a dominant tree in eastern American forests until the middle of the last century, an essential food source for many animal species, a source of excellent timber, and a beautiful tree in its own right! There is still much work to do, but the effort is very close to producing a blight-resistant tree. Anne Meyers Bobigian will bring us a full report on the project - and how Louisville Metro Wild Ones can, and some already have, helped! Be sure to come to the Louisville Nature Center, **3745 Illinois Avenue**, to get all the news.

Teri West, a new member of Wild Ones, has asked for our help on August 9. She and her husband Larry want to create a backyard environment that would attract birds and also be low maintenance. Their first approach was to let it go "natural" - but they didn't count on the bush honeysuckle and euonymus that started to take over! What's more, they encountered some objections from neighbors. Their yard is fairly shaded, but has mostly clay soils. What can we suggest to help them create an attractive natural location? Here's a chance to share your experience with a neighbor who would appreciate ideas! For directions to their home, please call Rick Harned at 502-897-2485.

National Wildlife recommends ideas for drought-resistant gardening - which are second-nature to Wild Ones! The June/July issue of the publication of the National Wildlife Federation says droughts like last summer's may become more frequent, and suggested 10 practices to reduce outdoor water needs, starting with the use of native plants with long taproots which need less moisture. Mulching and composting are recommended, as well as cutting down on mowing and fertilizing. Shrinking the size of the lawn or replacing it with a rock garden or native wildflower meadow are also on the list. If you must water, water early in the morning, and do it less frequently but more deeply, which will encourage roots to grow deeper.

Mystery plant quiz



This plant has appeared in a corner of my yard this spring - I assume it's not native, but I have no idea what it is. The leaves are quite large - the bottom ones are about 1½ feet in length by 10 inches wide, spade-shaped, with ruffled edges. The plant is about 2 feet tall at this point, and is not really bad-looking, but I would really like to know what it is! If you have an identification for it, please email r.harned@insightbb.com, and I'll publish the answer next issue!

Suggestions, please! What native wildflowers would make good ingredients for a potpourri? Are there some that you like to dry, but keep a pleasant or interesting aroma? A new gardener would like to hear some ideas!

Know of any fungus specialists? I have had a request to schedule a mushroom expert for an upcoming meeting. I like the idea, especially since I have had several coming up in my yard, and I don't know whether they are harming my flowers or just consuming the roots of trees that had once been on site. I was given, but lost, the name of a U of L mycologist who had been recommended. Do you know a possible speaker on the topic? Please share!

Thanks to Lucy and Gary Lee for helping with the Wild Ones booth at the Nature Center plant sale on May 10. We have another booth opportunity coming up on June 14 at Bernheim Forest, at their **Audubon in Kentucky Bicentennial** celebration on June 14. The work involves talking to visitors about Wild Ones, handing out some of our literature, visiting with other exhibitors, and generally enjoying the outdoors together with others who care about our environment! The hours are noon to 4 pm; please call 502-897-2485 and let me know if you can come out for an hour or so!

Thanks also to Phyllis Fitzgerald for again offering free native plants from her garden (in exchange for a donation to the Nature Center), and for advising of the plant rescue opportunity at her neighbor's home!

My Rain Garden is off to a great start! As I reported in the spring newsletter, I already had my downspouts emptying out into my sloping front yard. After building a berm to allow me to level out a reasonable area, and checking my water absorption rate, I added some topsoil from *The Plant Kingdom* and got most of my plants at the LNC plant sale May 10. I needed plants that could handle part shade, so I got some blue lobelia, orange and pale purple coneflowers, some royal catchfly, and a few others. I laid down a layer of newspaper, covered it with shredded hardwood bark mulch, and watered it by draining my water feature (which needed a good cleaning anyway)! So far everything looks healthy, although only the fire pinks have started blooming! I hope to have more to report in the September issue of the newsletter (see below)!

Target publication date for the next issue of the Newsletter is September 12!

Do you have something you'd like to see in our newsletter? An article, question, announcement, picture, or comment? Please submit it to r.harned@insightbb.com by Saturday, September 5 to have it included!

Have you become a member of Wild Ones? Or renewed your membership?

Your dues are essential for sustaining chapter activities,
plus getting you access to the resources of national!

See the last page for a handy new member/renewal form! Send it in today!

Amy Akin reports that the Sunnyside Master Gardeners, for which she is an intern, has established an email question-and-answer service that is available 24/7. And it's **free!** If you have a gardening question that cannot wait until our June 10 meeting, try emailing gardenconnection@purdue.edu. Please let the club know of your experience.

Another useful web site is <http://www.freecycle.com>. Here you can make an offer or let someone know you are in need of an item - to prevent unwanted items from ending up in a landfill! This is a great way to swap plants, garden accessories, and anything else you have that needs a new home!

It's now easier than ever to communicate with our Chapter membership, or with just a few members!

Webmaster Amy Akin has organized a Yahoo! group open only to MetroWild Chapter members, that will allow you to publicize gardening-related events, upcoming chapter activities and announcements, or just keep up with what's going on! Information about your home business can be added to the FILES section of the group site, so that members can find you (and follow up on any announcements you may want to put in the newsletter!) Point your browser to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Louisville_MetroWild_Chapter/ and check it out! Contact Amy at aravdez1@yahoo.com if you have any difficulty joining!

A couple of notes:

You will need to create a Yahoo account, if you don't already have one, to use the group website. This costs nothing, but it's a good idea to be sure to opt out of receiving Yahoo promotional materials. They say they do not sell your address, but they will share it with related companies if you do not specifically decline to receive the mail. You can of course opt out later, but it's easiest to do it right from the start. While joining, you can create a free Yahoo! email address if you want to; you can use your regular address for group postings if you prefer.

You can control the way you receive group emails - you can get all the messages, or a daily digest, or none if you prefer. This setting, too, can be changed any time you decide your current setting is not working.

We do ask that you use this group only for Louisville MetroWild Chapter business and questions, or for gardening-related announcements only! Please, no advertisements, no forwards of mass emails, no amusing videos! All members will thank you! Oh, and if you do reply to a posting, please remember that your message will go to everyone, unless you specifically select only the sender's address. The rest of the membership probably doesn't want to receive your personal response to the sender!

Photos of your garden, announcements of plant rescue opportunities, or of gardening events of interest to the club, are welcome! If you have any difficulties or questions, please contact aravdez1@yahoo.com! Remember - to join the group, your Wild Ones membership must be current! (There's a convenient coupon on the back page...)

Are you composting? If you don't have room outside to recycle your garden waste into mulch for next year's plantings, you might be happy to know that you can do it indoors as well! Amy Akin has reported very satisfactory experience with the Nature Mill Indoor composter - available at <http://www.naturemill.com>. For about 50 cents a day in electricity, you can get a binfull of fresh compost every 2 weeks! Amy says that you can use a coupon - code xcjbl87 - for 50.00 off on the purchase, and if you put her name in the box that asks how you learned about the product, she'll get six months' worth of free sawdust! (to add brown matter to the compost mix!)

Perennials Plus - an informal garden visitation group - was one of the very interesting contacts at the Louisville Nature Center plant sale. Once a month, this group visits the garden of a group member. Upcoming events are scheduled for Wednesday, June 4 (in Bardstown) and Wednesday, July 2 (in eastern Jefferson County), both at 6:30 pm. To join the group, or go get more information on these visits (everyone is welcome, I was told!), please contact Mary Schindler (schindlerm@bellsouth.net).

Save the date - Saturday, October 4 - Seed-gathering workshop with Margaret Shea, Dropseed Nursery!

UPCOMING EVENTS: June - August, 2008

Metro Parks – Olmsted Conservancy Workdays - every Saturday, 9:00 am - noon

First and Third Saturday of every month – Cherokee Park; Second Saturday - Iroquois; Fourth Saturday - Shawnee Park. Write to sarah.wolff@olmstedparks.org for details about the meeting locations. The sessions focus on rooting out invasive plants, rebuilding trails and restoring native plants.

Saturday, June 7, 2008 – starting at 9 am - Invasive Species Volunteer Workshop at Natural Bridge SPNP

– sponsored by the State Park and the Kentucky Native Plant Society. Pre-register at Noelle.grunwald@ky.gov.

Tuesday, June 10, 2008 – 7:00 - 8:30 pm – Wild Ones Chapter Meeting.

Louisville Nature Center, 3745 Illinois Ave. Anne Meyers Bobigian, Louisville area representative of the Kentucky chapter, American Chestnut Foundation, will review the decades-long effort to restore this once-dominant forest giant and critical food source to its former glory in our state – and what we can do going forward!

June 14-15, 2008 (Sat-Sun) – Audubon in Kentucky Bicentennial Festival, Bernheim Forest, Claremont, KY.

Meet historical figures and current-day environmental organizations! Call (502) 955-8512 for information.

Saturday, June 28, 2008 – 9 am – noon - Wildflower Woods Work Session (weather permitting) Location:

Wildflower Woods is in Cherokee Park between Cherokee Parkway, Barney Avenue and the Scenic Loop. **For**

Information: Contact Ward Wilson at (502) 299-0331.

Saturday, July 5, 2008 – starting at 9 am - Invasive Species Volunteer Workshop at Natural Bridge SPNP –

sponsored by the State Park and the Kentucky Native Plant Society. Pre-register at Noelle.grunwald@ky.gov.

Saturday, July 26, 2008 – 9 am – noon - Wildflower Woods Work Session (weather permitting) Location:

Wildflower Woods is in Cherokee Park between Cherokee Parkway, Barney Avenue and the Scenic Loop. **For**

Information: Contact Ward Wilson at (502) 299-0331.

Saturday, August 23, 2008 – 9 am – noon - Wildflower Woods Work Session (weather permitting) Location:

Wildflower Woods is in Cherokee Park between Cherokee Parkway, Barney Avenue and the Scenic Loop. **For**

Information: Contact Ward Wilson at (502) 299-0331.



Mailing Instructions:

- Straight dues & SFE gifts go to the national office at:
P.O. Box 1274, Appleton, WI 54912-1274
- Chapter gifts (with or without dues) go to the chapter at:
P.O. Box 4593, Louisville, KY 40204

Louisville Metro Wild Ones Chapter Native Plants, Natural Landscapes

Louisville Metro Wild Ones Chapter DONATION / MEMBERSHIP	
Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____ New _____ Renewal _____ Paying for: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 yr <input type="checkbox"/> 2 yrs <input type="checkbox"/> ___ years <i>Membership and Donations are Fully Tax Deductible</i>	\$30 – Basic Wild Annual Membership \$50 – Wilder Donation! \$75+ - <i>Wildest Donation!!</i> \$200/\$500/\$1,000+ - Wild Businesses (\$20 - Full-time Student/Limited Income) _____ Annual Membership Dues _____ Local Chapter Gift _____ Eco Center Capital Campaign Gift _____ Seeds for Education (SFE) Gift _____ Total Amount Enclosed Please make check payable to: Wild Ones See mailing instructions above