

WILD ONES MEMBER ANECDOTES ABOUT WHERE WE ARE WITH THE NATIVE LANDSCAPING MOVEMENT

Location	State	Author	Comments
Partner at Large	IN	Kathy Laugheed	<p>My lifelong obsession with Native cultures led me to write a novel called The Spirit Keeper, which tells the story of a 17-year-old girl's introduction to the Indigenous people of North America in 1747. Whenever I go to libraries or book fairs to hawk my book, I always take along packets of "free weed seeds" I've collected from my 20 wild acres. Thanks to the inspiration I've received from my membership in Wild Ones, I've given away hundreds of packets of indigenous seeds, particularly milkweed, black cohosh, and lobelia, and I've enlightened countless people about the importance of preserving native cultures of all kinds--humans, animals, and plants. Thank you, Wilds Ones, for assuring people like me that we aren't alone in our obsession with maintaining bio-diversity!</p>
PAL	OH	Barb Holtz	<p>I have been a naturalist/outdoor educator for over 30 years and Wild Ones has given me solid footing as I share the idea of natural landscaping with our visitors. To be able to point to a 30+ year national organization when planting the natural landscaping seed shows that this isn't some flash in the pan idea. //// I have particularly used resources available through Wild Ones regarding model ordinances. This has been priceless as I give folks resources to change the way their communities see lawn and stormwater issues. //// I remember attending a Wild Ones gathering, maybe it was a national conference, and someone said Wild Ones strives to be to the natural landscaping movement what Audubon is to birding. I have since described Wild Ones to groups in that way. Wild Ones is the go-to group! I have used other information from speakers at national conference over and over again in my presentations. //// The chapter I started in Cleveland didn't last for as long as I had hoped but I am grateful that my membership and relationship with Wild Ones continues. It does my heart good to share Wild Ones literature and see more and more hands raised when I ask a program audience, "Has anyone heard of Wild Ones?" //// Thank you for carrying the torch and sharing it's light with all of us out hear spreading the news. We will change the world one yard at a time.</p>

PAL NJ Nancy Sklavos-Gille

Having previously subscribed to Wild Ones (both as a former Wisconsinite and having a schoolyard garden in the 90's), I got to know Donna via email. At that time, there were fewer schoolyard gardens, and I met (online) was collaborating with a teacher in Illinois. In the 7 years my special education students worked on the garden and habitat we created from scratch, we earned Best Practice in the state of New Jersey. We were also one of 12 schools selected to be included in a book about schoolyard gardens, published by the National Gardening Association. All of the garden work was supported by cross-curriculum lesson plans, and the students looked forward to working in both sections every day. //// After 7 years, the school administration needed to renovate and add on to the existing building. Despite my pleas, but the large front garden and annexed habitat were scheduled to be razed. When I'd mentioned it to Donna, she put a small piece in the Wild Ones publication asking people to write to my principal. She did, as well as many others. Unfortunately, the letters made little difference and we lost both areas to construction. Yet I felt incredibly blessed to be so supported, not only by Donna and Wild Ones but so many other great people.

Milwaukee-North WI Ney Collier

A group of Wild Ones members designed a marvelous brochure to raise awareness about the plight of Monarch butterflies. I have been leaving Monarch brochures in Whitefish Bay and Shorewood libraries. Several other places like to have them on hand for their customers. When I am removing invasive plants in Big Bay Buckley and Doctor's Park, I hand them out to people who stop for a chat. I also hand out a list of sources for native plants. My fanny pack is bulging with information.