

May, 2019
Volume 9 Issue 5

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Wild Ones Oak Openings Region
Chapter

WildOnesOakOpeningsRegion@
gmail.com

Wild Ones®

NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

OAK OPENINGS REGION



“A Force of Nature: Lucy Braun” presented by Meg Hanrahan

Tuesday, May 14th

Location: *Ward Pavilion, Wildwood
Preserve Metropark, 4830 Central
Ave, Toledo, OH 43615*

Time: 6:45 pm

**** NOTE: the location and time is
different than usual ****

Pioneering Plant Ecologist, Dr. E. Lucy Braun was instrumental in documenting and inspiring preservation of the most significant natural areas in southern Ohio and Kentucky. Wild Ones has invited

video producer, Meg Hanrahan to introduce this new documentary, followed by Q & A.

This event is free and open to the public. Bring your friends. Light refreshments will be available.

President's Column: The First Question

by Hal Mann

I love it when the first question after presenting to a group unfamiliar with native plants is “Where can we get these plants.” That’s when I know for sure they want to bring the ecological benefits we’ve been talking about to their own landscapes.

And these past two months, it’s been a lot of fun to tell them “You are so

lucky. There are some outstanding native plant sales coming up real soon. But you better get there early because last year several of the sales sold out very quickly and we know the demand is increasing.”

To take advantage of these sales, I needed to make my own plant shopping list. As I headed outside to check on what we needed, the nasal sound of a White-breasted Nuthatch caught my attention. I imagined I could imitate its call if I pinched my nose and tried to say “hank.” As I spied the bird walking upside down on the Walnut tree, inspecting bark crevices for a nutritious meal, I decided to skip an attempt to sound like its brother. As I detoured to not disturb its foraging, a pair of Eastern Phoebes landed on some nearby branches. I stopped to watch them dart into the air, executing some incredible aerobic maneuvers to grab insects and return to their perches. How they can turn on a dime in midflight baffles my mind. After a few minutes they departed, allowing me to continue my yard inspection.

A rustle in the leaves distracted me. I didn’t believe it. A large garter snake was poking around the leaf litter seeking some nourishment. Since I was wearing a warm sweatshirt, I didn’t think it was warm enough for this reptile to be so active. After a few minutes of showing me how smoothly it moved, it found a small spot of sunshine and curled up to absorb the rays. Again, I moved away to avoid interrupting its siesta.

Wow, the Virginia Bluebells have burst into bloom and have spread out quite a bit from last years population. Note to self: transplant some of these to the eroded ravine hillside. A flutter in the light breeze

now made me look for the source. What was that? Then a leaf moved and revealed it wasn’t a leaf at all. A Red Admiral butterfly slowly opened its wings to disclose its red bands. Nice! My first butterfly of the year. Now I notice the Jacob’s Ladder are starting to bloom, and there are the Toadshade Trilliums with their crossing petals. The other day the shade garden hosted several patches of freshly sprouted seeds sporting only their embryonic leaves. I was stumped trying to figure out what they were. Today I



Mystery seedlings

see they’ve given up their secret. They are Virginia Waterleaf seedlings.

A small group of brown mushrooms draws me to them. They’ve emerged at the base of a tree. Is this where I saw the Morel mushroom at this time last year? A quick glance at my watch gives me a start. I’ve got to get back to work. I guess I’ll have to work on the plant list later.

As I look back on the distractions I experienced as I walked our yard, I’m humbled by all these exciting experiences. Relatively new to ecological awareness, I can’t help but marvel at those who have studied these matters their whole lives, and especially those who

Sunday, May 5

Goll Woods Garlic Mustard Pull

10:00 am -1:00 pm, 26093 County Rd F, Archbold OH 43502

Our May Stewardship event will be pulling garlic mustard at Goll Woods State Nature Preserve. We’ll be working with Ryan Schroeder of the ODNR.

We’ll meet on Sunday, May 5 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Please feel free to bring work gloves, a lunch, and a water bottle. We’ll meet at the preserve office at 26093 County Rd F, Archbold OH 43502. Please see the attached map for the office location. The meeting place is highlighted in yellow, and west of Township Road 26.

Please RSVP for this event to jonzabowski@gmail.com or call/text 419-260-6412. Also let Jon know if you wish to carpool for this event.

Tuesday, May 14

Blue Week Special Film Event: “A Force of Nature, Lucy Braun” presented by Meg Hanrahan

6:45 pm, Ward Pavilion, Wildwood Preserve Metropark, 4830 Central Ave, Toledo, OH 43615

Pioneering Plant Ecologist, Dr. E. Lucy Braun was instrumental in documenting and inspiring preservation of the most significant natural areas in southern Ohio and Kentucky. Wild Ones has invited video producer, Meg Hanrahan to introduce this new

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were pioneers in their fields. That’s why I’m particularly looking forward to our next meeting when Meg Hanrahan will screen her documentary on Lucy Braun, a native Ohioan and one of the foremost botanists and ecologists in American History. I hope to see you there.

Meet a Member: Marian Fisher

(all photos supplied by Marian Fisher)



It’s always a challenge to piece together a biographical quilt of someone, to give the most accurate portrait of whom they are. The most striking characteristic one walks away with after speaking to Marian Fisher is that she is a passionate believer and advocate in the power of nature. It can all be traced back to her Toledo heritage, the impact of being an only child, and the legacy left by her parents, especially her “nature loving” father. As a lineman at Toledo Edison in the 1950’s, Ed, her dad, would set electrical poles into the ground, and climb those same

poles to set the wires. This took long hours outdoors, in all kinds of inclement weather, and exposed to all kinds of critters when he happened to disrupt their habitat.

From his years living outside in World War 2, especially during his basic training in Mississippi, Ed learned to identify which snakes were poisonous, and which wild plants and foods were edible, out of sheer need for survival. Ed instilled his well-learned nature lessons, and love of being outdoors to his only child, and the foundation was set. In addition, both her parents exposed Marian to literature very early. By age 2, Ed read 2 pages of Classics every night, while her mother, Dorothy, taught Marian how to express herself in the written word. Her academic foundation had begun.

But her earliest memories are filled with the time she spent outside with her father. Because of her mother’s ill health, their escape was the outdoors, from identifying trees by their leaves, bird calls by their sound, weather by rings around the moon, and animals by their tracks. In addition, Marian’s dad loved to grow things, whether it be flowers, vegetables, or trees.

On their postage-sized West Toledo backyard, there was a mini orchard of pear, apple, and a cherry trees. Every night Marian would water the petunias, marigolds, and rose bushes, or pick tomatoes, rhubarb, and many other vegetables. From her earliest memory, Nature was always in her backyard.

Academically, Marian became the first one in her dad’s family to go to college and graduate from Graduate School. No surprise, she excelled academically graduating

(Continued from page 2)

documentary, followed by Questions & Answers.

Saturday, June 22

Ives Fen field trip

9:00 a.m. Ives Fen (4223 Sutton Rd, Britton, MI 49229)

Chuck Pearson will lead us on a hike through Ives Fen to help us explore and better understand the dynamics of the fen and the many plants that grow there. Stay tuned for more details.

July

Field trip - this event is in development. Details coming soon.

Sunday, Aug 11

Paul Russeau Garden Tour

1:00 pm

Tour this award-winning native garden in Monroe, Michigan. Watch for details.

Tuesday, Sep 10

Worms! Good for the Garden, What About Our Forests?

7:00 pm, Olander Park, 6930 W. Sylvania, Sylvania, OH 43560 Nederhouser Community Hall

13th out of a class of 534 from Central Catholic, and Magna Cum Laude with both her Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees. She was active in sports running the 440 and 880 relay, sang in many of Central Catholic’s Musical productions, and as part of Student Government, she sat alongside Common Pleas Court Judge Franklin during several court proceedings.

Once in college, and later in Graduate School, she always worked full time, or started her



family, so it took her 5 years to get her Bachelor's Degree and 5 years to finish her Graduate work. Her employment experience was myriad. She made pizzas, worked as a Bank Teller, worked In Loan Origination, Mortgage Processing, Corporate Planning, Corporate Budgeting, and as a Copywriter/Writer, and for the last 35 years, as a Teacher on the English Faculty at the University of Toledo where she still teaches today, although part time since her retirement in 2013.

If asked what was her proudest moment, (apart from having a family, and being married to her artist husband, Craig, for 42 years), I believe it would be imparting



Marian and husband, Craig, at Magee Marsh

knowledge to over 5,000 students she has taught since 1984. Her goal as a teacher has always been to get students "job ready". Teaching has always been more than just handing out a grade or making sure students pass. Marian spoke about her experience as a teacher in witnessing the many problems and

sometimes tragedies of her students. She has had students whose families were going through a breakup; some lives were endangered because of domestic violence; some were homeless; some had serious emotional problems; and there were those who were still children themselves, raising their own siblings without any other parental figure around. She made sure students who were called up for the Persian Gulf or Iraqi Wars, finished their classes with her, and consoled some who had to face the loss of their loved ones.

From all of this, perhaps one of the reasons Marian gets such high ratings from her students is because of her ability to treat each of them so personally. Marian says she learned early in her teaching career, how human everyone is, each having their own stresses, challenges, trials, and tribulations. In addition to teaching, Marian has been a Sylvania Tutor for both elementary and secondary students since 1995 tutoring in her home after school several days a week. She has had success working with students with Reading Disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Dyslexia, one severe case of Brain Stem Disorder and some with On the Spectrum Autism.

It comes as no surprise, Marian loves to write, whether it be philosophical, biographical, spiritual, or political. As an incessant reader, she reads several books simultaneously. Presently, she is joyfully reading Kenn Kaufman's new book, "A Season on the Wind: Inside the World of Spring Migration" and "In Pieces," Sally Field's autobiography. Marian says opening a new book is

like opening a wrapped gift.

Bringing the story back to Nature, in 2013, when her dad died at the age of 90, outliving her mother by 30 years, Marian had to cope with her loss. It was then that she went to Magee Marsh for the first time, and fell in love with migrating birds. She didn't know any of their names, she had no idea how to use a digital camera, she was as green as anyone starting out, but she has always been an avid student, with a desire to learn as strong as her desire to protect Nature so it lasts for the next generation. Her present photos exhibit that love.

After returning from Arizona last week to take nature photographs, Marian expanded her photo captures to include at least 15 new birds and other fauna. The last thing Marian spoke to me about was her recent delightful discovery of stopping at a local used bookstore and finding a 2nd Edition of Peterson's Field Guide to Birds for \$3. But the bargain price was



Marian and friend taking a break while birding in Arizona



dwarfed by the handwritten inscription on the first page which read: “With Best Regards...Roger Tory Peterson”. Marian felt someone had given that book to her from the “other side” as a confirmation that Nature was undeniably the path she was to pursue for the rest of her journey here.

We are so glad Marian and her husband, Craig, are enthusiastic members of Wild Ones Oak Openings Region Chapter. As you read the following article Marian wrote, you will learn in her own words, the joy and companionship her Native garden of plants has brought to her.

Enjoying the Companionship of My Native Garden

by *Marian Fisher*

(all photos by the author)

People have many reasons as to why they choose to grow a Native pollinating non-invasive garden. Some come to it from as a purposeful decision to help the ecological environment and habitat balance of the area in which they live. Some come to it because they love the beauty of the flora in its most natural state. Some come to growing Native, because they want to perpetrate the proliferation of pollinators whose numbers have been seriously declining worldwide. My reason was far more simplistic, and probably not as noble and pure as the many native gardeners who grace our Wild Ones community.

I initially grew my Native garden to fill a lot of empty spaces in my front garden, and because of the creatures I hoped would be attracted to it that I



Garden at Fisher Residence

could photograph. It's a selfish notion I agree, but in all honesty, there it is. But from starting my Native Garden, my passion and respect for “growing Native” has grown exponentially. My Native Garden has humbled me, and made me aware how its purpose and rewards would outpace anything I could have imagined.

What really started as a “fill the space quickly with plants” initiative in 2013, (after we had killed by pure ignorance a tree by raising the soil around its base in the hope of getting more plants to grow there), left a huge vacant area in our front yard directly in front of our living room window. Over the next 2 years, we planted two birch trees to replace the tree we lost, adding several bushes and flowering plants, but it never seemed complete. Some plants survived, some did not, and spaces remained until the Fall of 2016, when I had the great fortune to be introduced to Rick Barricklow, and I eagerly purchased and planted a myriad of

Native Plants such as Cardinal Plant, Bee Balm, New England Aster, Swamp and Butterfly Milkweed, and many others, without the slightest clue of the treasure that would unfold the following year.

The first thing I noticed in my Native Garden in the Summer of 2017 was the appearance of the Clearwing Hummingbird Moth that went to each and every pink petalled Bee Balm plant. It would arrive in late afternoon just as the sun hit the tops of the plants.



Clearwing Hummingbird Moth





Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Then came the barrage of Ruby Throated Hummingbirds on their hourly jaunt to my Cardinal Plants, Bee Balm and flowering Milkweed. After my surgery in July 2017, I would just sit on my stool while convalescing with camera in hand every afternoon photographing these particular flying creatures manifesting on cue, in addition to almost a dozen different moths, butterflies, the most beautiful of which was the Painted Lady.

This onslaught of life that was attracted to my Native garden only increased my now insatiable thirst to plant more Native plants in every spare space I had. Thank you, Kate Mason-Wolf, who so unselfishly, not once but several times, dug up Cardinal Plant saplings on the spot from her front yard Native garden, which I hurried home immediately to plant. Thank you Rick Barricklow for the plants and education you gave me every time you let me



Eastern Bluebird harvesting Serviceberry fruit

visit your home to acquire and purchase more plants.

By the Fall of 2017, I started receiving visits of remigrating Warblers in my Native Garden. The first was a Female Black Throated Green Warbler, and a few days later I had a Bay Breasted Warbler in much muted Fall plumage. In the following Summer of 2018, I had my first Fritillary and Giant Swallowtail butterflies, the return of 6 other varieties, and 6 visits from Snowberry and Clearwing



Female Black-throated Green Warbler

Hummingbird Moths, but to a greater degree, I started getting massive amounts of Monarchs, so many that I had to purchase two aquariums to house the Monarch caterpillars until they metamorphosed into adult butterflies.

We released over 2 dozen Monarchs last year, and if anyone knows where I can get more Butterfly Milkweed, I would be much obliged since that seems to have been the caterpillar perch and food of choice in my Native garden. The caterpillars were cultivated far into September when we brought the aquariums inside because of the nightly cold. We put the containers



Monarch Butterflies on Swamp Milkweed

right on our dinner table, so not to miss should the butterfly erupt from its chrysalis while we were eating, and several did! It's hard to not to forget when a beautiful creature delivers itself while you and your family are eating egg rolls a few feet away!

In Fall 2018, I began to notice remigrating Ruby Throated Hummingbirds visit the garden on their trek back south from areas North. They would rush to the remaining cardinal plants. I was sitting in front of one of the plants one late September afternoon and one buzzed by my left ear and danced around each and every flower, first 180 degrees one direction, then 180 degrees the other direction. Finally, after scoping each flower, in pure exhaustion, it rested atop a flower stem in complete stillness. I sat with my camera and captured something I had never witnessed before, a silent and still hummingbird resting.

Membership
as of April 30th
142
Welcome to New Members:
Ronald Boudouris
Frank Butwin
James Case
Claire Herrel
Carol Wymer
3/312019 Bank Balance: \$5,798



I can hardly wait to see what sprouts itself in my Native garden in 2019. I planted Blue-Eyed Grass, Rattlesnake Master, Closed Bottle Gentian and Golden Alexanders and even more Cardinal Flowers. But one thing I must mention, I left a few non-natives, (about 20% of the entire garden), and my garden is a beautiful blend because of them. I continue to learn by the resilience and endurance of Native Plants, and my respect for them never ceases to continue with each passing year. They have truly added to the quality of my life, while we share this space together.

Native Plant of the Month: Large-flowered Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*)

By Rick Barricklow

(reprint from May 2014 issue)



photo by Suzanne Nelson

Certainly one of my favorite Oak Openings Region spring ephemerals, is the Large-flowered Trillium. It will flower, produce seeds and store nutrients for the following spring within a short time. Then it returns underground for the remainder of the year leaving only a bare stalk with seeds into the summer.

A member of the Lily Family (Liliaceae), the name trillium comes from the Latin word for

three (tres). All parts of the plant appear in threes: the sepals, petals and even the whorl of leaves.

Although our Oak Openings Region has two other species of trilliums, Drooping (*Trillium flexipes*) and Sessile (*Trillium sessile*), the Large-flowered is most abundant and readily identified in our area. Designated the State of Ohio Wildflower in 1987, the Large-flowered Trillium grows in all 88 counties. Goll Woods State Nature preserve located near Archbold, Ohio, is one location where the three species can be seen together.

The Large-flowered Trillium can be found growing in moist, shady, high quality, rich-soiled woodlands. Finding them in the wild indicates a healthy local ecosystem, one without extensive human encroachment, not overgrazed by deer and one where they haven't been crowded out by invasive species.

Spreading by underground rhizomes to form spectacular colonies, their upright flowers seem to mostly face in one direction and can make you smile. Green leaves cradle the green sepals below the white petals. The center of the flower, being yellow, helps in identification. Petals fade to a delicate pinkish-purple with age after pollination.

When it comes to pollination they are considered generalists, meaning more than one type of insect is suitable to perform pollination duties. This increases the plant's chances of cross pollination since it blooms early when it can still be colder outside and insect activity is low. The flowers contain no nectar, and unlike other early blooming

spring ephemerals that lose their flowers quickly, the Large-flowered Trilliums strategy is a rather long floral life of 17-21 days. This long flowering period increases the chance of attracting a bumble or other native pollen foraging bee to do the necessary work.

Seeds that are lucky enough to be produced are contained within a fleshy capsule on top of the flower stalk. This capsule falls apart dropping the 12 or more seeds when ripe. Because the seeds have a fat-rich structure attached to them called an *eliasome* they are picked up by native ants and taken to their nests. The *eliasome* is then eaten, leaving only the seed to be carried out of the nest and deposited in the ants' garbage dump known as the *midden*, a great place to germinate. The trillium and native ants have developed a mutualistic relationship in that both species benefit from one another. Ecologists call this specific ant system of seed dispersal *myrmecochory*.

A very slow growing plant, the seeds require double-dormancy, meaning they take at least 2 years to fully germinate. A slender cotyledon appears above ground the second spring and provides nutrients to the germinating plant. A single oval true leaf appears the third spring and from the fourth spring onward there will be three

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All articles should be submitted to wildonesoakopeningsregion@gmail.com

Editor: Hal Mann

Editorial assistance: Denise Gehring





Field of Large-flowered Trillium

leaves. The underground rhizome continues to develop and store nutrients until it has enough storage capacity to initiate flowering, usually 7-10 years. A large colony blanketing a forest floor is like the wildflower equivalent of an old growth forest. White-tailed deer choose to eat the larger plants, leaving the shorter ones behind. This provides evidence that can be used to assess deer density and its effect on understory growth in general.

Having been a fan of trilliums for many years starting on my springtime visits to The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, I really enjoyed discovering them growing in our Oak Openings Region and still do. After attending the Goll Woods garlic mustard pull stewardship event last spring, I was

excited to show Denise Gehring one of the “special” places I knew of in Sylvania to see a colony of trillium. This ultimately led me to become a member of the Wild Ones.

Occasionally there are trilliums to be found affected by a pathogen causing altered structures. Double sepals and petals, green petals or

variegated green and white petals are some of the results. Denise was able to locate a plate by Edwin L. Moseley 1869-1948 (the famed local botanist who studied and reported on the flora of our Oak Openings Region) remarking on the “freak” trilliums he had discovered in Sylvania. The location where I took Denise happens to be one where these individuals are growing.

A fascinating life cycle with ant partners, their subtle beauty and the special places they inhabit make trilliums very attractive to me and I look forward to spring every year in anticipation of their arrival.



Edwin L. Moseley Trillium plate
courtesy BGSU



TIDBITS

Other Events of Interest

Olander Park System Workdays (TOPS)

Olander supports us with use of the room and presentation equipment for our monthly meetings. Help us give back by helping them in their conservation efforts. Register in advance for each workday at 419-882-8313, extension 1003.

Sunday - last Sunday of every month

1 pm to 4 pm. Meet at the Olander Park Maintenance Building. Join the Natural Resources Team to restore wildlife habitat in Sylvania. All necessary tools provided.

Monday, May 13 - Sunday, May 19, 2019

Blue Week A week-long series of events sponsored by the Oak Openings Green Ribbon Initiative and it partners to give the public a chance to experience the natural wonders of the Oak Openings Region firsthand. Over 20 activities, events, workshops and hikes May 13-19, 2019. The goal is to showcase the beauty of the Oak Openings Region and inspire home-based and collaborative conservation by businesses, organizations and individual landowners. See attached factsheet and full calendar of events. Native plant sales and list of sources attached.

Saturday, May 18, 2019

Oak Openings Woodlots 8:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Curious how to restore an Oak Openings woodlot? The Green Ribbon Initiative and WildOnes Oak Openings Chapter would like to you to attend a member-only, BLUE WEEK event.

Visit two distinctly different properties for an up-close look at management techniques and habitat potential for Oak Openings woodlots. As we explore these properties in their various stages of restoration, you will hear about the successes and pitfalls experienced by your Oak Openings neighbors, have an opportunity to develop a management plan, and learn about resources that will help you on your journey.

No pets please. We will carpool from Mallard Lake. Both properties are within five miles of Oak Openings Metropark.

This tour is exclusively for Wild Ones members and GRI landowner members. REGISTRATION REQUIRED

[Register Today!](#)

- **New Members** - Make sure you register on the national website (www.WildOnes.org) for exclusive member content. Once registered you can join the national Facebook group, and will have access to the [New Member Handbook](#), and other information exclusive for members.
- **Facebook** – While our Chapter Facebook page is open to the public, our Facebook group is only open to members. To access the group, you just have to be a Wild Ones member.
- **New Chapter website** - <https://wildonesoakopenings.org/>
- **Council ends herbicides** – uses goats - <http://bit.ly/2GQkFlp>
- **Buzz Pollination** - 3 1/2 min video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=SZrTndD1H10
- **Reminder to Current Members:** If you have moved or changed your email address since you joined Wild Ones, please email to let us know your new address and we will forward to the national office.
- **Board meetings – Members are always welcome to attend** the Chapter board meetings. See the Chapter events page at our website for times and locations.

Contact Information:

President: Hal Mann
hfmann@buckeye-express.com (419)-874 6965

Vice President: Kate Mason-Wolf
kmasonwolf@gmail.com

Secretary: Penny Niday
copperpaws1222@aol.com

Treasurer: Elsa Nadler
elsa.nadler@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor Hal Mann
hfmann@buckeye-express.com (419)-874-6965

National Director Denise Gehring
dhgehring@gmail.com 419-705-1017

Wild Ones Oak Openings Chapter:
Web: <http://WildOnesOakOpenings.org> (NEW)
Email: WildOnesOakOpeningsRegion@gmail.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wildonesoakopenings/>
Twitter: https://twitter.com/WildOnes_Oaks

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

Healing the Earth – One Yard at a Time

