



## Annual Chapter Membership Meeting November 16, 2017

Thursday, November 16 from 6:30-8:30pm we will hold our annual chapter potluck and membership meeting at FamilyMeans in Stillwater. During dinner we'll have a chance to socialize. A short membership meeting will follow and include election of St. Croix Oak Savanna (SCOS) Board Officers for 2018.

SCOS Chapter Officer List for Election for 2018:

Co-Presidents: Roger Miller and Howard Markus

Vice-President: no candidate

Treasurer: Howard Markus

Secretary: Elaine Larson

Current President Kathy Widin (2015-2017) will be stepping down as President, but will remain on the SCOS Board for a year and also participate in Outreach, the Program Committee, represent Wild Ones SCOS by giving talks to groups about native plants, and lead the Carpenter Nature Center service project of maintaining the native plant garden there.

Our speaker at the membership meeting this year will be [Julie Drennen](#), East Metro Regional Manager for Conservation Minnesota.

Chris Johnson will be joining our board in 2018 as a member-at-large. Welcome, Chris!

**If you plan to join us, and you haven't had a chance to let us know, please RSVP to Roger at [st.croix.wild.ones@mac.com](mailto:st.croix.wild.ones@mac.com), or call (651)-275-0526 .**



## President's 2017 Chapter Update

The following is a brief summary of our 2017 programs, projects and events. Through our chapter activities, we learn more about native plants in home gardens and natural areas, and share ideas on design and effective methods for restoration and land management.

### Field Trips and Outdoor Events

In May we enjoyed a spring wildflower hike at Interstate State Park with tour guide Dave Crawford, former naturalist at Wild River State Park. (15 attendees).

In June our chapter participated again in the **Landscape Revival Native Plant Expo and Market** in Roseville on June 3rd. Landscape Revival provides an opportunity for persons seeking locally-grown native plants to connect with native plant growers. Attendance grows each year and was estimated at over 1100 for 2017. There were educational exhibitors and 10 native plant vendors. It is the largest volunteer led expo and native plant market in the State. SCOS Board member, Howard Markus, was again Chair of the event. Wild Ones SCOS Business members Landscape Alternatives and Prairie Restorations were at Landscape Revival as was Twin Cities Wild Ones Business Member, Out Back Nursery.



A woodland Phlox

Sponsors of the Landscape Revival this year included St. Paul Audubon Society, the Ramsey-Washington Metro and Capitol Region Watershed Districts, metro-area Wild Ones chapters, and Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water.

Wild Ones Chapters had an information table, where SCOS Membership Chair, Anne Eckhardt, as well as several other SCOS chapter members, talked with a number of visitors interested in Wild Ones and many of those people signed up to receive our chapter program information and news via email.

In July we took an evening hike to view native plants at Fish Creek Preserve, a natural area along the bluffs of the Mississippi River, which is part of Maplewood Nature Center. Our trip leader from MNC was Oakley Biesanz, who did an excellent job of telling us about Fish Creek Preserve and the work, research and education which is happening there. (19 attendees)

Maplewood Nature Center is one of our nature center partners this year.

We have 5 complimentary memberships to Wild Ones, which our chapter can give to various organizations. This year we chose to give them to educational partners: Wild River State Park, Oakdale Discovery Center, Maplewood Nature Center, Carpenter St. Croix Nature Center and Warner Nature Center.

In August SCOS board member Tom Dickhudt organized a photo workshop with Dave Crawford, former DNR Naturalist at Wild River State Park. They showed people how to photograph pollinators. The workshop was held at Wm. O'Brien State Park. (5 attendees)

## Service Project

### Management of Native Plant Garden at Carpenter Nature Center

SCOS Members Miriam Simmons and Sheila Maybanks helped pull weeds in the native plant garden at Carpenter Nature Center on a gorgeous summer day.

The native plant garden at Carpenter St. Croix Nature Center is located between the Visitor's Center and the Interpretive Center. This garden and the central re-circulating water feature of several connected ponds was designed by former SCOS President and ecological landscape architect, Diane Hilscher, of Hilscher Design and Ecology.

The garden was 10 years old this year and the nature center staff requested help to maintain the garden as it was becoming invaded with non-native weeds and also needed some editing and pruning of native plantings. Since they particularly



needed help identifying the native plants which were in the garden, they asked our Wild Ones chapter if we were interested in assisting.

SCOS members, Jyneen Thatcher, retired landscape architect and botanist, Washington Conservation District, and current President Kathy Widin, retired consulting plant pathologist and arborist, first compiled an inventory of native species still present in the garden and assessed which areas most needed maintenance.

More than 50 native plant species were identified this season as being part of the native plant garden. Several other species, which had originally been on the planting list, but were not seen currently in the garden, were also planted this year.

Several additional volunteers, either from the chapter or friends of chapter members, came out over the summer to help Kathy with several scheduled maintenance times to remove invasives, thin aggressive natives, clear plant growth extending into paths to make walking through the garden easier, and also prune woodies to expose several stone garden benches which had been hidden in plant growth over the years. It is estimated that volunteers spent over 30 hours this season to improve this lovely garden. Next year the chapter plans to continue this service project and will need more volunteers to help. The work our chapter members and friends have done at Carpenter is much appreciated by staff, volunteers, and visitors, many of whom thank us for our work as they walk by the garden.

## Programs and Speakers

**January** – Local author Phyllis Root discussed and read from two of her children’s books which feature native plants and animals. (26 attendees)

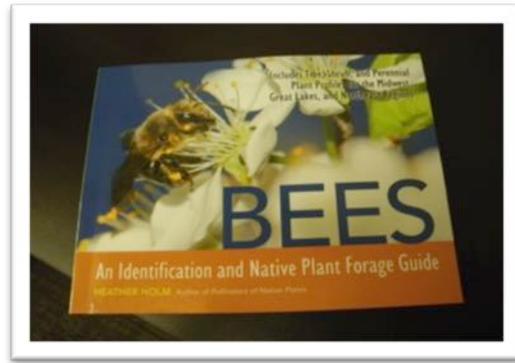
**February** – Many of our chapter members were involved in the Design with Nature Conference “Good Planting Matters” held this year at the Univ. of St. Thomas in St. Paul. This year’s conference was carried out with help from volunteers from St. Croix Oak Savanna, Twin Cities, and other Wild Ones chapters in Minnesota. (250 attendees)

**March** – Ecological Landscape Designer, Douglas Owens-Pike, gave a talk on his

latest book *Beautifully Sustainable* and discussed sustainable alternatives to a bluegrass lawn. (46 attendees)

**April** – Lynn Steiner, author of a number of books about gardening with native plants gave a presentation on her latest book, “Grow Native”. (23 attendees). Lynn is a member of SCOS chapter and is also an Honorary Director of National Wild Ones.

**May** – Heather Holm, a Wild Ones member, designer of native landscapes, garden photographer and expert on native bees, gave a presentation on her latest book, *Bees – An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide*. (29 attendees).



**Author Heather Holm and her new book**

**September** – Malcolm and Rosemary MacFarland, native plant enthusiasts, photographers and experts on some of Minnesota’s rarest species, gave a presentation on “Native Northern Orchids” and also discussed some of their work on locating, identifying and submitting samples of various Botrychium ferns in Minnesota to the Univ. of Minn. Herbarium. (25 attendees).

**October** – Arborist and plant pathologist Kathy Widin gave a presentation on “Management of Native Woodlands for Health, Habitat and Sustainability” in which she discussed native tree species, insects, diseases, invasive plants, cultural problems, forest fragmentation and ways to improve the health and sustainability of native woodlands in Minnesota. (36 attendees).

## Outreach

**April** – SCOS had an information table at Carpenter St. Croix Nature Center for the Hastings Birding Festival. People stopped by to talk with Kathy W. and find out about Wild Ones.



**Wild Ones table at Carpenter St. Croix Nature Center, Hastings Birding Festival**

Our new chapter banner, seen on the right in the photo above, has been a great addition to our outreach events and meetings. We'd like to thank former SCOS Board member Karen Richtman for her help with this project.

**April** – SCOS also had an info table at the Mahtomedi “Rite of Spring”. 40 people stopped by the table to learn about Wild Ones from Kathy W.

**April** – SCOS volunteers took the info. table to the Sustainable Stillwater event along the south end of Brown’s Creek Trail. Many people stopped to talk with Anne E. and Chase D. about Wild Ones.

**June** – Info table at Landscape Revival. Lots of people stopped by to chat with Anne E., Steve E., Roger M. and others about native plants and Wild Ones.

**Sept.** – Anne E., Sheila Maybanks and Elaine Larson took our info table to the Polli-Nation event organized by SCOS Partner, Pollinator Friendly Alliance. An estimated 150 people stopped by the table to find out more about Wild Ones.

**Sept.** – Anne E. and Steve E. had the SCOS info table at an event for Brown’s Creek Watershed

**Sept.** – Anne E. took the SCOS info table to a meeting of Naturalists at Warner Nature Center

**Oct.** – Anne E. and Steve E. had the SCOS table at the Fall Fling and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event at Warner Nature Center.

## Fund-Raising

The SCOS Board approved several small fund-raising events in 2017 to generate some funds for our chapter treasury, which mainly supports our programs and other events. The chapter normally receives about 25% of each dues payment by members, but these dues payment reimbursements were largely eliminated this year as part of cost-saving measures initiated by Natl. Wild Ones to help eliminate debt accrued over the years by the organization as a whole.

The current National Board and staff are to be commended for all the cost-saving changes they have made on behalf of the organization and chapter membership dues reimbursements also needed to be part of the process to arrive at zero debt. This goal has been accomplished and chapter membership dues reimbursements will resume on a quarterly basis in 2018. In the mean time, the SCOS Board went ahead with several fund-raising events which will add to the monies available to the chapter for programs and events (honoraria for speakers, honorary memberships for those speakers or leaders of field trips and walks who do not request an honorarium, and monies to provide some support to multi-chapter initiatives such as Landscape Revival and the Design With Nature conference.

2017 fund-raising events:

A portion of the proceeds from sales of books by March and May speakers Douglas Owens Pike and Heather Holm brought several hundred dollars.

Sale of used gardening and natural history books from the library of Kathy Widin brought in \$46 at our October meeting.

Kathy will be making a presentation on managing native woodlands to staff and volunteers at Warner Nature Center in November and will donate the honorarium for that presentation to SCOS Chapter.

The chapter has also received several donations for which we are grateful.

## Web Activities

**Webmaster:** – Holley Wlodarczyk, Twin Cities Wild Ones, has been our Webmaster in the past year, but will be stepping down to help lead Twin Cities Chapter. Thanks to Holley for all her work on our chapter website and for her workshop for SCOS Board members who are interested in posting items to the website. Her volunteer contributions to our chapter are much appreciated.

**St. Croix Oak Savanna Website:** Our SCOS chapter website, which both Program Director Roger Miller and Webmaster Holley Wlodarczyk have been working on, can be found at [www.stcoixoaksavanna.wildones.org](http://www.stcoixoaksavanna.wildones.org).

**Email Notification System:** SCOS Board Member and Program Director Roger Miller has been composing and sending out our program and other chapter information to members and friends via MailChimp. Thanks for doing this, Roger. Nice job.

**Publicity:** Roger has also been sending our meeting and activity information to a number of different outlets in the St. Croix River Valley and also shared this info with other metro area Wild Ones chapters.

**Social Media:** SCOS member Karen Schultz is now posting SCOS activities and info on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/WildOnesStCroixOakSavanna](http://www.facebook.com/WildOnesStCroixOakSavanna). Thanks, Karen.

**Membership Directory (print version only):** We have a SCOS Membership Directory, which will be updated in 2018. This directory is available to members of the chapter as a printed document. Lynn Steiner, a long-time SCOS member, presenter, and native plant/garden author, put this directory together for us for the first time in 2015.

Our St. Croix Oak Savanna currently has 65 members – Yay!

**“Wild for Monarchs” and Pollinator Activities: Coordinator Lynne Markus**

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities with monarchs, or other pollinators, contact Lynne (see the chapter website for her contact info.)

## **VOLUNTEERS !!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Our organization relies on volunteers to provide leadership, programming, information to members, refreshments at meetings, and coordination of field trips and events. If you are interested in helping our chapter, working on the Design With Nature Conference, or at specific field trips or events, please contact a member of our SCOS Board for more information as to how you can help.

***THANKS to all our volunteers. You make our chapter activities possible!***

**Programs for 2018:** The Program Committee is working on programs and field trips for 2018. Program Chair, Roger Miller, will discuss programs in more detail

at the meeting on 11/16. Information will be included on the chapter website as the schedule is confirmed. We have ideas for some great speakers and interesting topics. Contact Roger (contact info. on the website) if you have ideas for programs or field trips, or would like to join the Program Committee.

**The Wild Ones 2018 Design With Nature Conference** will be Saturday, February 17, 2018, at the Anderson Student Center on the St. Paul Campus of the University of St. Thomas, 2115 Summit Ave, St Paul, MN 55105. If you would like to get involved with planning or volunteering at the conference, please contact SCOS Pres. Kathy Widin, or SCOS Secretary Elaine Larson.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
**Kathy Widin**  
*President, Wild Ones St. Croix Oak Savanna ([kdwidin@comcast.net](mailto:kdwidin@comcast.net))*



**2017 SCOS Wild Ones Chapter Board**  
Anne Eckhardt, Tom Dickhudt, Roger Miller,  
Elaine Larson, Howard Markus and Kathy Widin