

Weekly Wild Wednesday

For September 23rd, 2020

Hi everyone, another wonderful week! I learned so much, with about 12 hours of “Plan It Native” online landscapes conferencing while helping a friend, and also hours looking at Native Gardening and plant books together. It was both fun and productive! The classes at *Native* are available for a year.



Tom and Cheri came over and brought a gorgeous gift of handmade yard art. This art creation might be an excellent on line Winter class?



They went home with a hopeful rescue of a Bur oak tree from an awkward and potentially hazardous spot at our cabin, but this poor little tree has some challenges and may not survive the trauma of my shovel...fingers crossed! New home on right.



They also looked over one of the new sites for planting the future ‘Test’ Gardens at Talbot Road “Wild Mess In Progress”. This easy, no dig method uses cardboard, mulch, water and time—preferably overwintering. On lawns, wait until the Spring planting season for the grass to smother and turn to soil. When you get your plants, just pull back the mulch and plant right through the cardboard.



I was very interested in the growing procedures at Blooming Prairie. They use big recycled supply bins cut in half to grow their seeds. Then they transplant the seedlings into appropriate containers for retail sales on tables throughout the growing seasons. Below right are some of the Native plants from Blooming Prairie Nursery in Carlisle, Iowa.



Developing Sign: 8 people who had never seen the signage before in Des Moines reviewed and commented on the signage. Also the Homegrown National Park at the base of this sign will be enlarged-- and connector words added. Suggestions from Homegrown are:

'Partner with, We joined,

On the Homegrown National Park Map, Member' or ?ideas from all of you?

Homegrown National Park™ Website may soft launch as soon as next week!

Elisa, Dawn, Sara, and I are welcoming any comments or ideas on the sign as we are getting much closer to a finished project. Easy to fix now, not so easy when it is in ALUMINUM! (hahaha)



• Friends Prairie: Native Plant Sign Placed by Jeff, president of Friends of Stone Park. Someone cut hay, as you can see in photo at right. It is so far a mystery to be solved but possibly this haying might

be the pocket prairie's best friend. During the Plan It Native conference, I joined two separate office hours to discuss the project, and both recommended a late Summer or early Fall haying if we could not burn yet this Fall. I believe Dotty and Bill are haying one of their prairies this year as well.



The big news: This project took on a very different and serious significance when it was named yesterday at the “Friends” meeting. It is now:

“The Veterans Memorial Prairie”

and will honor the WWI veterans -on a plaque- that historically were listed on Memorial Drive.

- The Flower House: Mercedes hosted a Customer Appreciation Party -- outdoors with Social Distancing--on the 3725 Jackson Property. This means more people are aware of our budding “Grow Wild With Us” project. I was at the Friends Meeting, so I will have updates on this for the next Wednesday Wild report.
- Doug Tallamy gave a fabulous, compelling, and really touching closing presentation at the Plan It Native Conference. His Office Hours after this presentation were informative, and many tough and challenging questions were answered --or are being pursued for future studies.

Please keep in touch-- with any comments, opinions, concerns, observations, and thoughts any and all of you might have, and I look forward to the next Wild Wednesday!