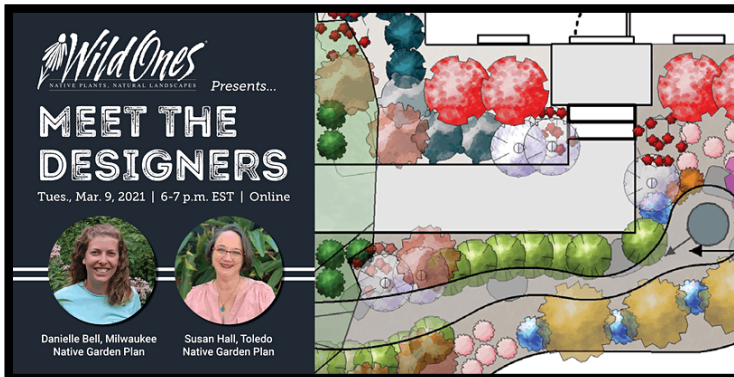


Weekly Wild Wednesday

For February 17th, 2021

It is slowly warming up, YAY, but for now here are a few indoor opportunities!



We received excellent news from National Wild Ones—and were sent the National Design Template to use—free of charge—from the designer Susan Hall!

Also, Danielle Bell has offered to be back up assistance for our...drum roll...
Loess Hills Wild Ones-
LOCAL Garden Designs! So exciting!

Please Join Danielle and Susan: **March 9th at 6pm CST!**

Here is the link for the webinar: [Meet The Designers](#)

And here is the link to all the designs Wild Ones has on the Wild Ones Design Website!
<https://nativegardendesigns.wildones.org/>



Tennessee Valley hosted “Catalog and Online Seed and Plant Resources” which you can find here:
[Seed and Plant Resources 1+ hour](#)

They also have a 3 day virtual symposium coming March 19-21st! [Tennessee Valley Symposium](#)



Siouxland Garden Show is coming! Here is ‘our’ Trailer showcasing Doug Tallamy and Benjamin Vogt.
[Loess Hills Sponsored Speakers](#) 1 minute.

Also highly recommended is Ed Spevac on Monarchs!
[All Siouxland Garden Show Speakers](#)



At “The Flower House” we got a glimpse of Garden Design by noticing exactly HOW certain areas get used in real life. Yay Snow! The design will need some kind of useable foot traffic and delivery cart options for this area along the driveway. All ideas are wanted and welcomed! ruthluis@evertek.net



And THIS area will need to be tolerant of large amounts of piled snow --and possibly salt-- from the adjoining driveway. What Native Plants do you recommend for this situation?



**At “The Yanney Gardens”,
Bunnies, Deer Signs, and SNOW! The side gardens will in particular need to be incredibly tolerant of Street Snow Piles!
Both gardens had lots of bird activity!**

From: Laura Fischer Walter <laura.walter@uni.edu>
Date: 2/10/21 11:06 AM (GMT-06:00)
To: ruthluis <ruthluis@evertek.net>
Subject: Re: Wild Wednesday!

I do have something for the next Wild:

Save yourself time and effort and feed the birds at the same time! Leave the old stalks of native plants standing over the winter to provide cover and food for resident wildlife. One of my favorite examples of this is shown in the picture of this roadside prairie, visible from my office window at the Tallgrass Prairie Center. Downy woodpeckers drill into stalks of Silphium species such as compass plant and cup plant to find insect larvae in the winter.



**Speaking of bird activity,
Laura at the Tallgrass Prairie
Center reminds us to leave our old stalks up for
Winter Interest and Food Sources!**



**Also, at “The Wild Mess In Progress” on the far right,
there is a Horseshoe bee to show “Why” those stalks
around the bee are cut in varying heights 1 foot to 18
inches high, in a Citizen Science test to see which
height of stalks get more use this year!**

Bill volunteered at Cook County, IL Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center for 4 years working with Floyd Swink before he was employed at the Morton Arboretum. Bill would push a cart w printed labels & stories that the two would walk the trails labeling plants. These were updated with seasonal changes. He learned so much about nature & was inspired by him to study botany. He has some amazing stories about Floyd to share someday. He was most certainly Bill's lifelong mentor.

Last week, [Feb 10 Wild!](#) we had this lovely Prairie Walk submitted by Dianne, which sparked THIS note <from Dotty



and THIS from Bill!

A Short Recollection of Floyd Swink

I first met Mr. Swink when he was a naturalist with the Cook County Forest Preserve District in Illinois. I was a grade school student eager to volunteer at The Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, a former one room country school converted into a learning center, now a National Historic Landmark. I would push a large two-wheel cart containing cards with names & stories that we would use to label the hiking trails. Just imagine a young kid getting personal field trips with northeastern Illinois' outstanding botanist! Floyd taught pharmacological botany at the University of Illinois School of Pharmacy & proceeded to become lead taxonomist at the well-known Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL. He published four edition of The Flora of the Chicago Region which covered portions of Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, & Michigan. The final monumental edition completed with Gerald Wilhelm & Laura Rericha includes botanical history, ecology, taxonomy, & animal associations, especially insects. My association continued as I followed Floyd on public field trips whenever possible. He was a master at botanical puns that required some knowledge to appreciate. I understood most of his puns & laughed or giggled & received disapproving looks from people who thought I was being disrespectful. Floyd winked at me. The experiences, education, & enthusiasm I received from Mr. Swink inspired me through high school & undergraduate college. Beginning my masters work studying bryophytes, Floyd told me that the Morton Arboretum library had two copies of the rare three volume edition Moss Flora of North America that I was lucky to purchase & reference throughout my PhD studies. He probably knew every book in that library, & his encyclopedia memory is legendary as well as his superhuman typing ability. He not only knew every plant intimately, but I think the name of every person he ever met. My last memory of Floyd is when I told him we had purchased land in the Loess Hills of Iowa. His immediate response was for me to look for Mentzelia decapetala. His knowledge obviously extended far beyond the Chicagoland region. Floyd is one of the few, well maybe many, people who have influenced my life for the better. Everyone should be so lucky.

Bill, WE are all so lucky to have YOU as one of OUR "Influencers of Life for the Better"!

Thank You so much for all you do for the Wild!

Warm Thoughts and Wishes For Your Week!



Map underwritten by plantinseeds.org

[Click to Get on the Map!](#)