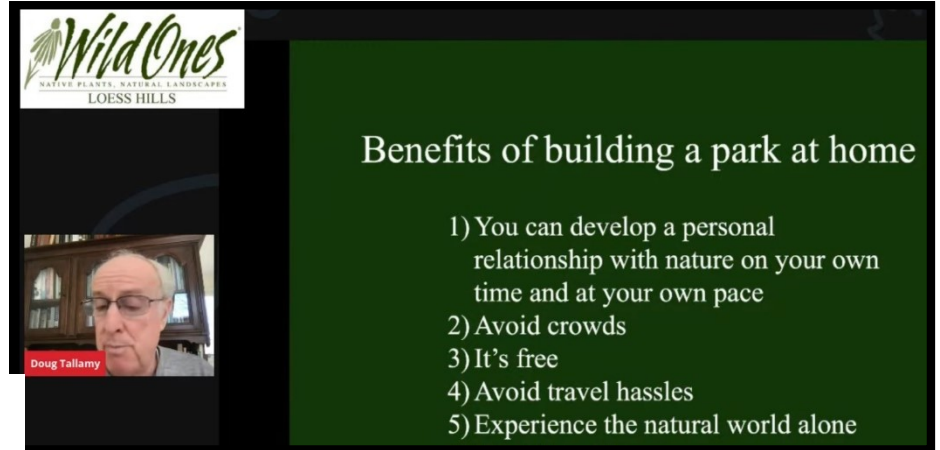


Weekly Wild Wednesday

March 31st, 2021

What a week of turning Dreams into Reality!

Doug Tallamy inspired us even further on the Homegrown National Park Concept—Right here in Siouxland at the Garden Show! Click photo for the presentation! Thanks, Doug! We cannot wait to show you our local interpretation of Homegrown National Park in a few years! Thank you Katelyn, Kevin, and the entire Garden Show crew for a wonderful, recorded set of resources for the upcoming years!



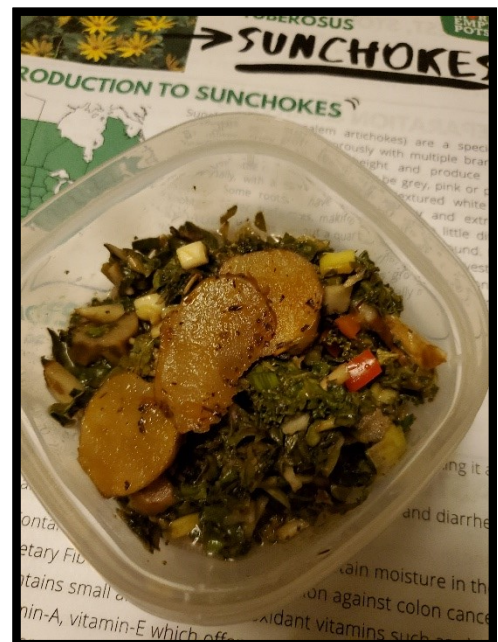
Benefits of building a park at home

- 1) You can develop a personal relationship with nature on your own time and at your own pace
- 2) Avoid crowds
- 3) It's free
- 4) Avoid travel hassles
- 5) Experience the natural world alone

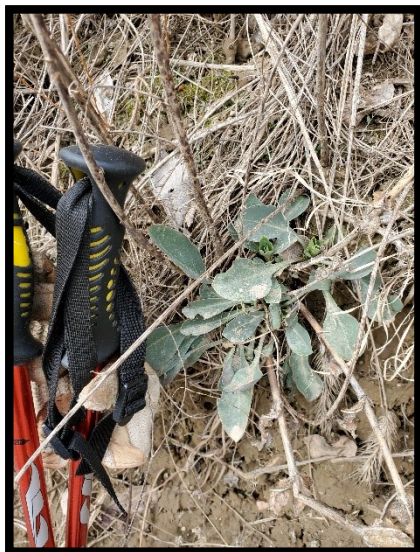


Also this week the Garden Show featured Kathleen Cue, who had an excellent Annual and Perennial Design presentation, which featured many Native plants!

We “Popped” on down to the Omaha Pop-Up on Leavenworth in the heart of The Old Market in Omaha this week to learn about a Nature and Nurture plant called “Sunchokes”—*Helianthus tuberosus*—also known as the Jerusalem Artichoke, this Native “Earth Apple” feeds People and the Planet in a very special way. It is stunning in bloom August and September, 6 feet tall, and supports pollinators, too! The stalks, cut to varying lengths from 8-20 inches, support overwintering bees. Thanks to Audrey for making us so welcomed, and to Nancy for the education and the delicious snack! Wow! We got this GREAT note from Audrey on our way home-----



"It was a pleasure to have your energetic spirit, helpful hands and engaging personality at the Pop-Up. It feels like you've always been a part of our group. We are so glad to have you join our crew. And now we have a new photo journalist! Kind Regards, Audrey"



Dawn and I "Took a Hike" along Talbot looking for blooming Pasque Flowers— Too Early—BUT we found the ←green base of a *Penstemon grandiflorus*—Which will become this gorgeous bloom-- much later this Spring!→



We headed South about an hour, stopping to see the Iowa State Monarch Garden of Research.





Then a stop at the Turin
←Prairie, where Dawn had
seen and sent this photo
of...drum roll...The FIRST
Pasque Flowers of Spring!

I found lots of interesting
things to see but...NO pasque
flowers...

So I kept heading South-->
And THEN I saw THIS! As many
of you know, I have missed
every single opportunity of seeing the
Pasque Flowers in bloom since 1991,
so you can imagine how I felt to see a
WHOLE HILLSIDE of blooms
stretching as far as the eye could see!
What an exciting adventure! We plan

to visit this spot as often as possible this year, to compare the
phenology (study of seasonal blooms and other natural phenomena) of
Nature-- one hour south to our location here in Siouxland!
Yaaaaaaayyy on Pasque Flowers!!

A Dream Come True!!!!-->



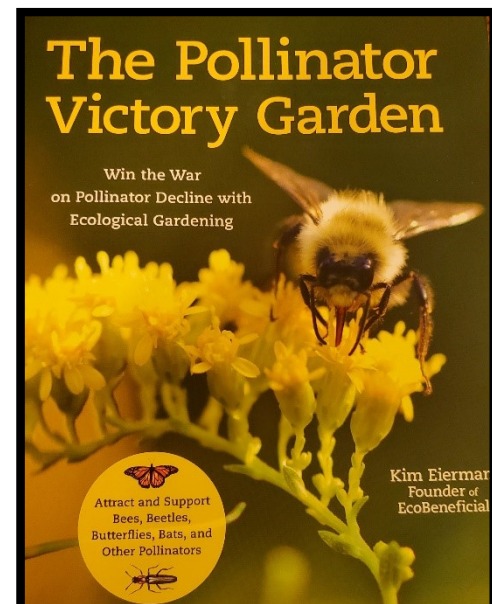
And then back at home in my own
garden, this new plant from last year
has its phenology all wrong! This
Prairie Smoke blooming by the horse
sculpture should be blooming much
later in the Spring! Come take a peek, it
is tiny but mighty!!

←

This new book was gifted to
the Lending Library and
looks wonderful! →



The Iowan Magazine features a
Spring Butterfly Guide—and as
Doug reminded us,
CATERPILLARS are the Butterfly of
the Future!! Without caterpillars, we
cannot have these flying flowers! *You can help!* Chemical Free
Spaces! Oak and other Keystone Trees! Native Blooms and grasses!



Wishing YOU a week of fulfilling *LIFELONG* Dreams and Goals!



Map underwritten by plantinseeds.org