

# Weekly Wild Wednesday

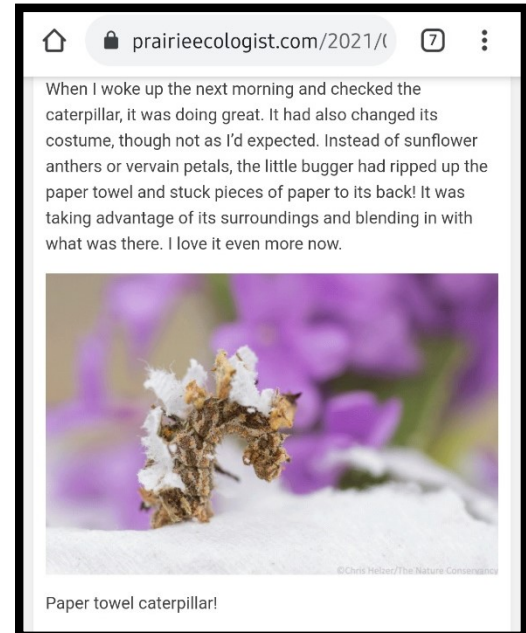
August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

*What a Week of Wild Wonder!*



Taking a stroll around the “Wild Mess In Progress” always yields interest! Mercedes and I found another Camouflaged Looper, this time decorating itself to resemble the Pale Purple Coneflower it was calling dinner and home. Our heartfelt “Thank You” to Chris Helzer for showing us this darling new treasure of a caterpillar! In case you missed it last week, click photo for link to his blogpost!

We found Monarch Caterpillars, Bumble and Native Bees, Goldenrod starting to bloom. But the “busy” plant in “Wild” gardens, and in my new friend Linda’s garden (Swallowtail) are the...drum roll... Anise Lavender Hyssop! (*Agastache foeniculum*)

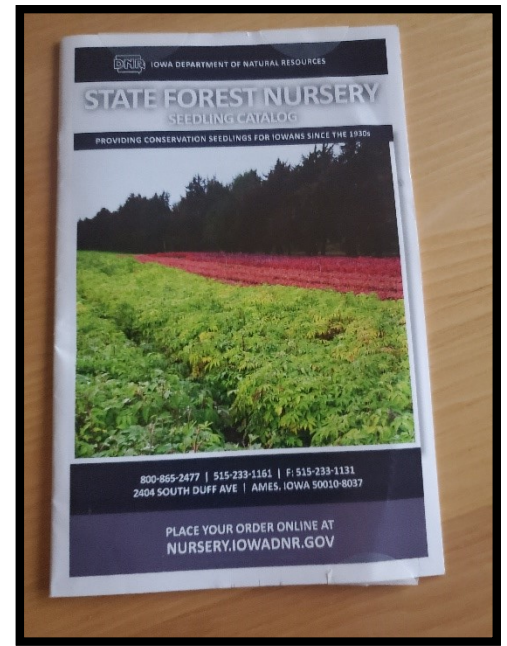






And if that gets you encouraged to start planning your gardens for the upcoming year, here are some excellent resources! Better Homes and Gardens has this excellent issue about Going Wild, and “Wild Mess” gardens have planted every plant on their cover! We liked it so much that we bought **THREE!** Yippeeeeeeeeeeee!

Our Iowa State Forest Nursery Fall Catalog came in our mail, click photo for their website! Outline your



order now for a September 1 order date, and order right away—they run out of seedling quickly!



And we loved this article in the Chicago Tribune! Grow Chicago!

HOME AND GARDEN LIFESTYLES


## Do the Prairie State proud by adding these native prairie plants to your garden

By BETH BOTTS, MORTON ARBORTUM  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

MULHALL'S

## 3 Reasons for Fall Plantings

Think you have to wait for spring to plant new trees, shrubs, and perennials? No way! For these hardy plants, everything from the weather to the soil to their own seasonal schedule makes fall the perfect time to get established in a new landscape. And planting now leads to some noticeable advantages next spring.



**FALL IS THE RIGHT TIME FOR ROOTS**

Shorter days and cooler temperatures give plants the signal that it's time to get ready for their long winter nap. Healthy root growth takes precedence over blooms now – and with summer's warmth lingering in the soil, new transplants have the support they need to build a solid foundation for the winter and

Mulhalls in Omaha has this excellent blogpost, and stocks so many straight Native Plants now, it is so exciting!

A shout out to the excellent Iowa Prairie Network Newsletter- Informative and stunning photos! Grow Iowa Prairie Network! Bloom On!!

Iowa Prairie Network Newsletter - Fall 2021

*We Stayed Busy*  
Submitted by Tasha Tame

Slowly but surely, step by step we are inching our way back to normal. After more than a year, we are emerging from the isolation of home, reuniting with family, going to movies and restaurants, and yes, visiting our favorite prairies with friends. We managed to work in a few prairie walks during the shutdown with limited attendance, according to CDC guidelines, of course. Needless to say we are eager to get back out to the prairies and events we have missed so much.

It's hard to do what we do without person-to-person contact, but we have stayed busy. The newsletter has continued, uninterrupted, providing you with event information and prairie-related articles.

We worked on improving our new website. Now you can locate public prairies in all 99 Iowa counties. We added an IPN history page, and an introduction to each of our Board members with biographies and photos. We are adding recordings of virtual meetings, beginning with the 2021 Winter meeting so that you can watch them at your convenience. The Board Member Application is now available online which you can complete whether you are self-nominated or recommended by someone else.

We have also completed a number of administrative tasks to improve the function of our organization. We revised the IPN Region Map; compiled a list of media contacts by region for event announcements; developed an introductory packet for new board members; assisted with planning of the 2020 North America Prairie Conference (which was ultimately cancelled); and hosted the 2021 Iowa Prairie Conference.

We are excited by the prospect of seeing many of you at our upcoming events. Check out the new additions to our website and keep your eye on our calendar of events. We invite you to become a member, join our board, or one of our committees, but most of all... Come join us on the prairie!

[www.iowaprairienetwork.org](http://www.iowaprairienetwork.org)

*Getting to Know You*

Talitha Parson is originally from Omaha and graduated from UNO in 2018 with a degree in Environmental Science. She has always had a great appreciation and deep curiosity for nature – even when growing up in the city. After moving to North Omaha she found a welcomed escape into the quiet peace of a trail in a forest. Later as an intern with the Omaha Field, she was able to help with management, collecting her own seeds, and participating in her first prescribed burn. Last year she worked on a field crew with the Conservation Corps of Iowa, doing habitat restoration in the Loess Hills. Currently, Talitha is a Farm Hill Biologist with the Prairie Center, working out of Des Moines, IA. She helps landowners and producers achieve their habitat goals on private lands while working in partnership with the USDA and NRCS. Talitha does her job and is grateful to be where she is, to have time to do what she enjoys, hiking, kayaking, bird watching, cutting oysters, spending time with her “obnoxious” family, gardening, tending to her dogs and, her quilt, cooking, and spending time in service of nature.

Get to know all of the IPN Board members on our website [www.iowaprairienetwork.org](http://www.iowaprairienetwork.org)

*Prairie Highlight*

**Lawns, Leaves, Bees, and More**  
Submitted by Tasha Tame

IPN Board of Directors



## Ep. 328 - Behind the Scenes at Prairie Moon Nursery

Playing

In this episode, we explore how a small native seed company selling native plant seeds out of their living room grew into one of the biggest native plant nurseries in the United States. Joining us is Horticulture Educator Kaitlyn O'Connor to give us a deep dive into how Prairie Moon Nursery is able to provide over 700 species of native plants for use in everything from gardens to large-scale restoration projects. Enter IDOP at checkout over at [www.prairiemoon.com](http://www.prairiemoon.com) to receive 10% off your order and some free Prairie Moon swag (Offer ends September 30th, 2021 and is limited to those living in the continental United States). This episode was produced in part by Silas, Michael, Aristia, Felicidad, Lauren, Danielle, Allie, Jeffrey, Amanda, Tommy, Marcel, C Leigh, Karma, Shelby,

If you are ordering seeds, consider emailing Prairie Moon to ask for their Cultural Guide Issue. It has EVERYTHING you need to successfully start your seeds, with all the details you can imagine! Thanks Prairie Moon Nursery!

In case you missed it last week, this excellent podcast that you can listen to on your phone while doing other things is so interesting! Also Prairie Moon is currently taking orders for Fall delivery of seeds and plants!

I loved the Behind the Scenes at Prairie Moon! At the beginning it talks about Doug and Dot Wade whom I knew from the very early Loess Hills Prairie Seminars. Doug and Dot started Windrift Prairie Nursery in Illinois "way back when" and that is what led their son Alan and his hippie friends to start Prairie Moon in the 1970s. Really cool! Their educator sure did a great job with the interview. Thanks, Ruth!

Dianne



In case you missed the Behind the Scenes at Prairie Moon webinar, you can see the recording on youtube. It's nothing like I pictured it to be!

~carrie

Hello!

Thank you for attending our program on the Prairie Moon Nursery! You can now view the recording here: <https://youtu.be/FhiEvHG1RZU>. We're looking forward to seeing you in August for our program on collecting and sowing native seeds. You can register here: <https://balibrary.librarycalendar.com/events/how-collect-and-sow-your-native-seed>.

Thank you, and have a great evening!

Liz

Carrie sent this link to a past webinar, and the opportunity to sign up for the upcoming one August 26th as well! Thanks Carrie!

P.S. We receive nothing from Prairie Moon, we just like everything about them!

<https://youtu.be/FhiEvHG1RZU>

<https://balibrary.librarycalendar.com/events/how-collect-and-sow-your-native-seed>

*Wishing you a week filled with "Wild Fall Planning"!*



Map underwritten by [plantinseeds.org](http://plantinseeds.org)