

# Weekly Wild Wednesday

October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

*What A Week of FUN Winter Preparation!*

**Getting Ready for Winter!!**

So What do we DO with all the seeds we are collecting or purchasing? Winter Sowing will happen in January for us—but what if you have no indoor space to stratify and start seeds???

Or you just do not want the mess indoors?

Here's ONE no lights, no shelves, no mess, outdoor raised bed idea! There are SO many ways to get your seeds to turn into a Nature Garden over the next few years! Luckily we will have all Winter to explore and test out so many of these seed starting options so each one of us can "Find Our Style"! Here is a Straw/Hay Bale set-up we are trying at the "Wild Mess In Progress!" You can do this with as few as 4 bales! You can use this for Winter Sowing plants that need stratification (a freeze/thaw period to break their dormancy) or for tender annuals that will need to be kept from freezing in Spring! So easy. You will need:

Hay or straw, cardboard, some kind of protective glass or plastic cover for tender annuals (if you want those). *This can be used this Fall for your 'cool' food crops before turning into your Winter Sowing Spring Raised Beds-- or protected beds-- for your seeds—Just add soil to the center covered part--OR you can use them as Spring Raised Beds as well! We had excellent luck last year with all the options!*

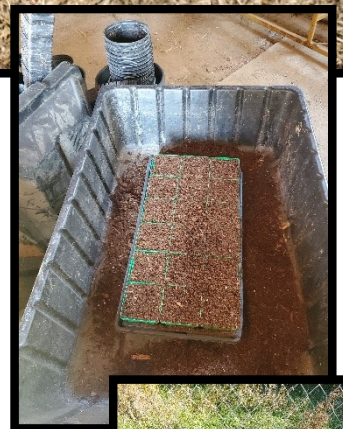
Find untreated (No herbicide) hay or straw bales (Many times you can find old moldy hay/straw for free from a local stable or from a Fall display from a neighbor who is now decorating for another holiday)

2. Get some kind of clear plastic or glass cover for the center (Only if you want tender annuals or Spring/Fall food crops to minimize your footprint)

3. Set up the bales in the shape you would like.

4. Place cardboard in the center of the shape to smother grass or weeds if needed-- or a plastic sheet if placing directly on concrete for easy clean up.

5. Place the clear cover over the center, or use a board to screw hinges to support old kitchen cabinet doors. (we used both, my friend Linda is using a recycled glass door) The example of the flat to be planted in January can actually stay right where it is → until we sow our Native collected seeds in it—probably January or February!







Dawn's Yard is sporting some new plants from Mulhalls in Omaha, and a lovely new ephemeral puddle next to her downspout! Grow Dawn!!




←The Lending Library received FOUR new books from a generous donor! These are all on foraging! We will be looking for an experienced guide to take us foraging after we study these books all Winter long!

Several experienced Prescribed Burn Crewspersons ---and one complete newbie-- learned about Fall burns at the Zales! The non-native Cattails (which are edible) were nicely roasted!

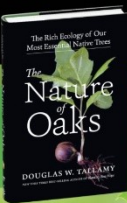


Thanks Photographer Jeanne--  
And Grow Burn Team!






**Nature of Oaks Webinar with Dr. Doug Tallamy**




The Nature of Oaks will inspire you to treasure these trees and to act to nurture and protect them.



We hope you enjoyed "Wild Ones Presents 'The Nature of Oaks: The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees'" by Wild Ones Lifetime Honorary Director Dr. Doug Tallamy

We were thrilled to offer this presentation at no charge to inspire you to use beautiful native plants in your landscaping.

Please share the recorded presentation with your colleagues, friends and family!

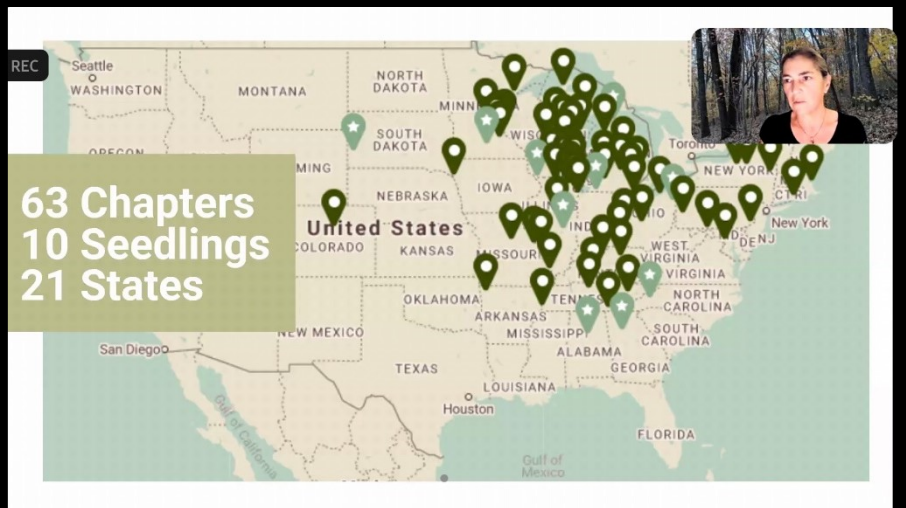


**Hurry, register TODAY!**

We would appreciate learning your opinion on this Wild Ones program. Please take a moment to complete a short survey.

[Take the Survey!](#)

**And below, this hybrid event is TOMORROW, October 14<sup>th</sup>! Sign up quickly!**



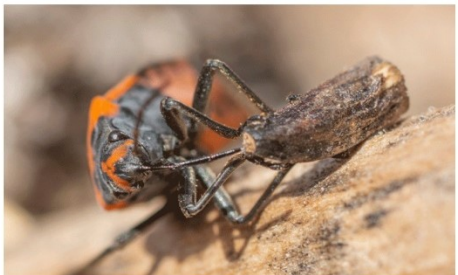
**63 Chapters  
10 Seedlings  
21 States**

**Doug Tallamy's Wild Ones Presentation on "The Nature of Oaks" is simply astounding! If you have not yet heard this new presentation, it is well worth your time! And thank you to President Sally Wencel, for your Q&A savvy, and for showing us all the progress that Wild Ones is making Nation Wide!**

accidentally, but we've been our own worst enemy in other cases. Asian ladybugs and Chinese praying mantises, for example, were both introduced as 'beneficial insects' before becoming established as invasive species. Not only do we insist upon categorizing our insects as either 'beneficial' or 'pests', we go looking abroad for new species to tip the scales against those pesky insects that dare eat our plants.

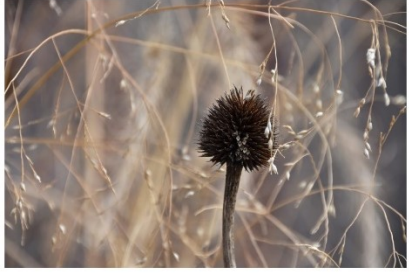
The vast majority of insects in our yards, though, are native species with important contributions to the world around us. If you're fortunate enough to have a house with yard and/or garden, please consider your options carefully. Why do you enjoy having that yard? If the answer is that you just want it to look good for the neighbors, you're missing out on a tremendous source of potential joy.

Watching and admiring the intricate relationships between insects, plants, and other animals is endlessly fascinating. In addition, you can make significant contributions to conservation in your yard, simply by aiming your efforts toward providing resources for nature. Seeing birds at feeders or bees on flowers are only two examples of ways in which you can feel good about your yard's impact. In addition, while your plot of land might be small, collections of yards quickly add up to areas of habitat that matter in a very real sense.



**←Chris Helzer gave a shout out in his Prairie Ecologist Blog to Gardens and Yards! Grow Chris!!!! Click for link!**

**Meaningful Maintenance: Fall Clean-up with Positive Impact**



We've all done it...prepared the garden for winter. Cut down, hauled off, raked clean or burned every shred of dead plant material in site. Applying a rigorous cleaning at the end of the season is still commonplace, but it's important to know that scraping the yard clean to make it

**Above— a link from The Native Plant Herald!**

October 14 2021 Ames Public Library 9:00-1:30

**Children's Environmental Health Day**

- 9:00-9:30 Welcome Breakfast networking
- 9:30-10:00 Why Natural Lawn Care Management?
- 10:00-11:15 Seven Essential Steps to Natural Lawn Care
- 11:15-12:00 Lunch & Networking
- 12:15-1:15 Site Assessment Demonstration
- 1:15-1:30 Closing remarks

**Natural Lawn Management Workshop**



Register today!

<https://forms.gle/kVywJ5PjJ91u3cGj9>

**GOOD NEIGHBOR** **MIDWEST GROWS GREEN** **UNI** University of Northern Iowa

*Wishing you a week filled with "Fall Wonder"*



NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

LOESS HILLS



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