

Weekly Wild Wednesday

May 25th, 2022

What a Week of "Spring Extremes!"

Loess Hills
Prairie Seminar
Monona County
Conservation

Loess Hills
Prairie Seminar:
Breaking
Dormancy

Come explore, learn, and relax
in the Heart of the Loess Hills in
Monona County, Iowa for the
45th Anniversary of the Loess
Hills Prairie Seminar!

Save The Date:
June 3rd-5th, 2022

There are many different break-out sessions scheduled on Saturday and Sunday with over 38 presenters that will share information about the Loess Hills, prairie, birds, bats, bugs, plants... There will be biking, hiking, writing and many hands-on activities for youth and adults during the seminar.

(Educators may earn continuing education credit – more information and registration for such is located on the AEA website.)

Detailed Information about the seminar and a registration link to pre-order meals for Saturday and Sunday (deadline May 25th) can be found at:

<https://www.loesshillsprairieseminar.com>

Pre-Seminar Activity - Great Race Against Shrubs and Shade

Friday, June 3, 2022: [9:00AM-12:00 PM](#), Help us on one of the largest land restoration days in the state, at the Reese Homestead – [22133 Larpenteur Memorial Road, Turin, IA 51040](#).

REGISTER NOW



Loess Hills Prairie Seminar! Register for meals TODAY! There is a detailed list of all activities for this three day event, click photos!

Our Meander Tours this week- Bird's Foot Violet (Note leaves), American cranberry, AND an answer to last week's fungus from Bill and Dotty! Click photos for more information if you so choose!



Fungus is *Cerioporus squamosus* or *Polyporus squamosus*. Either name works. Pheasant back fungus??? Common name maybe?





At the 'Wild Mess In Progress', and several other locations around Siouland, the Showy Orchis are blooming! These are dependent on an underground network, so please do NOT try to move them! The one you move and often ALL the others will not survive! Tread carefully and stay on trails in the woodlands to protect the tender Spring ephemerals! These are so tiny, the size of your little fingernail!



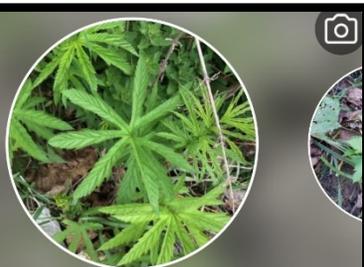
MMS

This one is an overachiever!

Linda shared her photos of her Wild Ginger, which we are also just installing at various shady locations! The blossom is UNDER the leaves, so lift them up and take a look! Woouooooowwww!!



Our Queen of the Prairie is just starting to emerge, we can hardly wait to see if it flowers this year!



Queen-of -the-prairie, a species of *Filipendula*

Botanical name: *Filipendula rubra*

←Elisa shared her Wild Lupine! Woow!!

And Dianne shared her gorgeous Hoary Puccoon! →



Wild Lupine blooming in the rain. 😊



Bill mows the prairie on the north side of the house once each late fall and each spring it greens up and we have dozens and dozens of hoary puccoon that bloom. At a glance, an unknowing person would think it is a weedy lawn with dandelions.



Do you use pesticides?

Only when absolutely necessary. In accordance with federal and state agricultural regulations, we are required to treat the soil when shipping to certain states. The soil will be treated with a non-systemic pesticide called Bifenthrin.

The following states require the soil treatment mentioned above:

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. **Refunds will not be processed on account of pesticide use- please make your purchase at your own precaution.**

Soft landings are diverse native plantings under keystone trees (or any other regionally appropriate native tree). These plantings provide critical shelter and habitat for one or more life cycle stages of moths, butterflies, and beneficial insects such as bumble bees, fireflies, lacewings, and beetles. In addition to plants, *soft landings* also include leaf litter, duff, and plant debris.

Oaks are universally the top keystone trees that support moths and butterflies. Across the United States, more than 700 types of caterpillars feed on oaks (Quercus).

Many of the moths and butterflies that feed on oak trees must complete their life cycles in the duff and leaf litter (i.e., soft landings*) near or beneath the tree, or below ground.

Creating soft landings* under the drip-line of oaks (as well as any other tree) invites all kinds of beneficial insects to complete their life cycles in your yard.

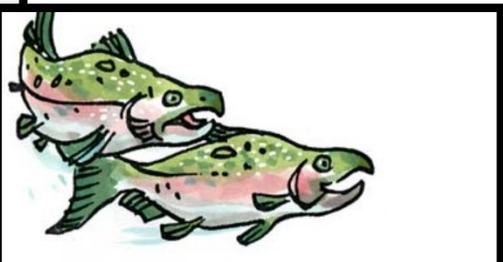
Planting intentional soft landings* under keystone trees builds healthy soil, provides food for songbirds and pollinators, sequesters more carbon than turf grass, and reduces time spent mowing.

A number of beneficial insects such as fireflies, bumble bees, beetles, and lacewings need soft landings to survive.

Other ways to support insects that spend a phase of their life cycle beneath trees include eliminating landscape fabric and increasing mowing to reduce soil compaction.

Developed in consultation with Denise Harangozo, Ph.D., Armonk by Eric Cavolin
*For more on creating soft landings under trees, visit: www.palmettoecosystemplanning.com/softlandings.html

WE had a bit of a shock when we were inquiring about the use of pesticides by nurseries, and specifically asking about systemic pesticides like Neonicotinoids. What we accidentally found out on making a deeper inquiry is that Federal and State regulations REQUIRE SOIL treatment before shipping to other states! If yours is one of these, it takes at least 90 days for this pesticide to stop killing your bees and your aquatics! Who knew? CHECK. We are opting for seeds, and bare root plants this year. Click photo!



bifenthrin affect birds, fish, or other wildlife?

Bifenthrin is low in toxicity to birds. There are potential risks for birds and mammals that eat aquatic organisms because bifenthrin can last a long time in the environment and it may accumulate in fish.

Bifenthrin is highly toxic to fish and small aquatic organisms. It's also very highly toxic to bees.

Where can I get more information?

For more detailed information about bifenthrin please visit the list of [referenced resources](#) or call the National Pesticide Information Center, Monday - Friday, between 8:00am - 12:00pm Pacific Time (11:00am - 3:00pm Eastern Time) at 1-800-858-7378 or visit us on the web at <http://npic.orst.edu>. NPIC provides objective, science-based answers to questions about pesticides.

Doug Tallamy's latest Homegrown National Park Newsletter hit a home run! Click below for full newsletter!

Start a new HABITAT[™]

HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK

Biodiversity Day - 22 May

Living with Biodiversity

In case you haven't heard, life on earth is in trouble. This is why I am asking you to get on the Homegrown National Park[®] MAP. Each and every one of us has the power to regenerate biodiversity and we don't have the luxury of time to do it.

Distressing statistics about declining biodiversity are being reported so fast now that they are running into each other. North America has lost 3 billion breeding birds in the last 50 years; earth has lost 50% of its insects with continuing declines being reported nearly everywhere; and the UN predicts 1 million species will go extinct in the next 20 years. Not only are we in the midst of the 6th great extinction event the earth has suffered, but massive defaunation of species not yet extinct is rampant. We hear much about the climate crisis, and rightly so, but what most people fail to appreciate is that our disregard for the well-being of biodiversity is as grave a threat to humans as climate change is, because

Elisa also shared Heather Holm's "Soft Landings" graphs! Far Left link!

←And we loved this Joe Gardener Podcast!

Heather is always busy as a bee, haha, but this week she was the Queen!

See What's New on the Podcast

Photo Credit: Heather Holm

All About Native Bees, with Heather Holm

To educate us on the diversity of native bees, pollinator expert and author Heather Holm returns to the podcast this week.

[LISTEN AND READ HERE](#)

MICRO PRAIRIE

FREE DETAILED GUIDE

W/ EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO START YOUR OWN!!

Wishing you a week filled with "Spring Extremes!"



Wild Ones[®]

NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

LOESS HILLS

HEALING THE EARTH ONE SPACE AT A TIME



NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES
LOESS HILLS

GROW WILD WITH US!



Map underwritten by plantinseeds.org