

Weekly Wild Wednesday

July 20th, 2022

What a Week of "Nature in the NEWS"

By Amber Salas

Published: Jul. 17, 2022 at 4:10 PM CDT |

Updated: 15 hours ago



SIOUX CITY (KTIV) - A local Siouxlander with a passion for plants and gardening has transformed an open space into an impressive garden.

Her name is Cheri Stewart and her goal is to inform others about the conservation opportunities a native garden offers.

It all started just two years ago. Her entire garden area was full of brome, but now has blossomed into a garden full of native plants.

Stewart has come to love gardening, but the passion came when she realized the importance of growing native plants. Native plants and insects have evolved together, causing the two to rely on each other.

"Most of our plants, including the plants that we eat, are pollinated by insects. About 90% of them are. Without the insects, we won't survive. So it's so important to raise these plants," said Cheri Stewart, Loess Hills Wild Ones Co-Vice President.

Her love of gardening was inspired by a local garden group called the Loess Hills Iowa Chapter of Wild Ones. The group promotes planting native landscapes in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

"It's so gratifying, because these native plants, this is their home. You don't have to coax them to grow. They're gonna do their job," said Stewart.

Most native plants don't even need watering because their root systems extend deep into the ground once they're established.

The goal of the Loess Hills Wild Ones? To share their gardening passion with others by offering programs to gardeners of all abilities, beginner or expert.

"They start listening to the bird sounds, they start listening to the bees buzzing around, they start looking at all the colors and the sights, and I just see their eyes light up. And they get excited about having entertainment in their own space, in their own yards," said Ruth Rose, Loess Hills Wild Ones Co-President.

They hope the passion will blossom for everyone.

The Loess Hills Wild Ones is hosting their 3rd annual Garden Walk Series next week on July 23 in the Sioux City Morningside area. Garden Walk events are planned for July 23, July 30, August 20 and September 10.

Local Siouxlander shares her gardening passion and stresses the importance of growing native plants



And where were you?

MMS 9:03 AM

Camera Shy!!

Cheri and Amber were awesome on the video!

Click photos for full story and links to video and more information! Adding to the excitement, Tom and Cheri also won Yard of the Month!

Wooow!!



Local Siouxlander shares

A local Siouxlander has a passion f...

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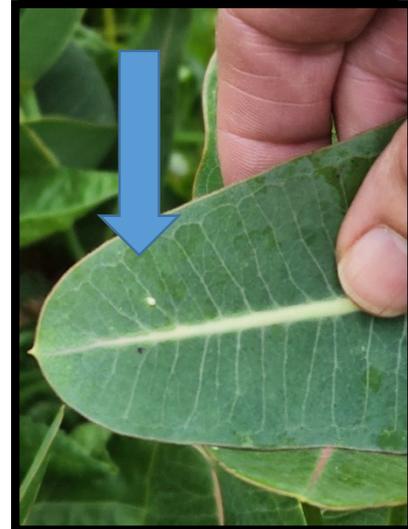
By Amber Salas

We won Yard of the Month for July!
That's a big ole collective we, because had we not met such fun, knowledgeable, and generous people in this group that area would still be brome!
LHWO has given us friendship and purpose and I can't thank you enough!!

Cheri and Tom



A monarch enjoying the Rattlesnake Master.





Loess Hills Chapter

Loess Hills Wild Ones is pleased to announce our Third Annual Native Garden Walk Series!

Our goal is to share and learn about the beauty and conservation opportunities a native garden offers. What's special about native plants? They're adapted to our soil and climate, naturally water-conserving, and easy to care for. Native plants are better than non-native plants when it comes to supporting birds, butterflies, bees, and other forms of wildlife.

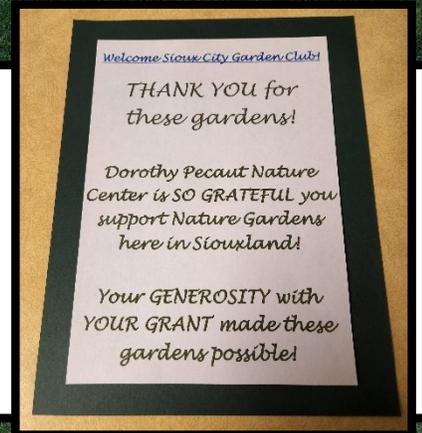
Here's the schedule for July:

- July 23: Morningside area (Sioux City)
 - 9 - 10 a.m. - Jenny Jorgenson, 4158 Sherwood Terrace
 - 10 - 11 a.m. - Marcie Ponder, 3301 Walden Avenue
 - 11 a.m. - noon - Cheri and Tom Stewart, 2801 S. Cecelia Street
- After touring the gardens, stay to enjoy delicious treats and social time!

← If you are in the Siouxland area, come see Tom and Cheri's gardens yourself, along with two OTHER wonderful gardens this Saturday July 23rd! We can hardly wait!!



Sioux City Garden Club visited TWO Wild Sites this week! The **Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center**, and the **Sioux City Railroad Museum!**



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← And we had membership activity from the news spot! Yippee!!!!!! Click to join!



Below and Right---Thanks, Dotty, for the pictures of the caterpillars at the RR Museum and at your home!!

Look who likes *Asclepias verticillata* on the brick patch next to our house!

MMS 10:12 AM

Wooooooowww!!!!!! Yippee!!!!!!



At "The Wild Mess in Progress" and "The Flower House, the Royal Catchfly is blooming!

Click for links!



R R Museum



← The Hairy Aster we planted last year is *really* hairy this year, with the addition of some cottonwood seeds as well!

We found this plant at the Wild Plant Party last year, so if you are in the Omaha area and cannot come to the Garden Walks, go to the Wild Plant Party! Chris Helzer and Michelle Biodrowski will be there!

Wish we could be TWO places at once!! That's a Good Life!! Click for details! →



And the Member Newsletter is out with LOTS of GREAT information and several opportunities! These are some of the MANY benefits of membership! [Join now](#) to unlock YOUR opportunities! →

Annual Photo Contest

Wild Ones' Annual Photo Contest is now open!

The Wild Ones Annual Photo Contest is the perfect opportunity for you to show off your creativity and photographic talents and invite others to appreciate your unique view of native plants and natural landscaping.

You don't have to be a professional photographer, you don't have to have a fancy camera, and you don't have to be an expert on native plants. **Entries must be submitted by August 31st.**

This year's categories include Fauna with Flora, Flora, Home Landscaping, It's Alive, Pollinators, Public Landscaping and Scenery.

Read the 2022 Photo Contest Rules & Guidelines on our [website](#).

[Submit a Photo!](#)

Seeds for Education Grant Application Now Open

The Wild Ones' Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education (SFE) grant program is accepting online applications now through **October 15th, 2022** for the 2023 planting season!

Grants up to \$500 are awarded for acquiring native plants and seeds for outdoor learning areas that engage youth (preschool to high school) directly in planning, planting and caring for native plant gardens throughout the United States.

Do you know of a local school, nature center, after school care program, community center or youth group in need of funding for a native garden or habitat for hands-on learning? If so, please invite them to apply!

In 2022 alone, Wild Ones awarded \$9,500 in Seeds for Education Grant Funds to 24 nationwide youth-serving organizations. We look forward to funding more projects across the country this coming year!

Learn more at: <https://wildones.org/seeds-for-education/>

Awards will be communicated to recipients in February of 2023 – ahead of planting season.

[Apply Now!](#)

Annual Member Meeting

Calling all Wild Ones members! You are invited to attend the online Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, August 6th, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. CT!

Meet the Wild Ones National Board of Directors and

Annual

Treehugger
Sustainability for All.

Home & Garden • Garden

15 Types of Wildflowers to Plant in Your Garden

Grow them in their native ranges, and beautiful pollinators will come in droves.

By [Olivia Young](#)
Published July 11, 2022

← Tree Hugger has an **AWESOME** article with 15 plants that are easy and really reliable to grow!

And for those of you **NEW** to Wild Wednesday, **WELCOME!**

To long term 'WILD' readers, **THANK YOU!**

Click **ANY** of the logos on the **LAST** page to access even more information

from Wild Wednesday, Wild Ones, and Homegrown National Park!!

Wishing you a week filled with "Nature and NEWS!"



Wild Ones[®]

NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

LOESS HILLS



Map underwritten by plantinseeds.org