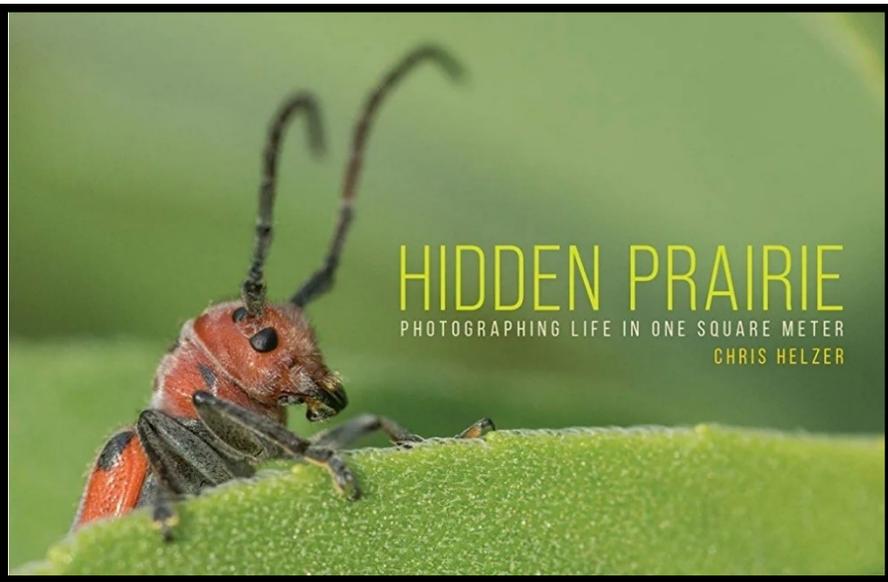


Weekly Wild Wednesday

March 8th, 2023

What a Week of "Citizen Science and Creative Activity!"



We have been eyeing a space and talking about starting a Citizen Science project based on Chris Helzer's Square Meter Hidden Prairie every since we read his book and saw Chris' incredible photos! Click photo for link! Chris had an exhibit in Lincoln at the Nebraska State Museum (Click [HERE](#) for blogpost) and you can order the book or borrow it from our Loess Hills Lending Library!

We are so excited about doing this in our OWN space, with our own size, and we will keep you posted on how it goes!

You can do this in YOUR space, any size you choose, in a spot YOU love to sit in and observe what grows and who comes into YOUR garden! Or start from scratch and plant a *new* Native Plant area and see what comes into YOUR space!

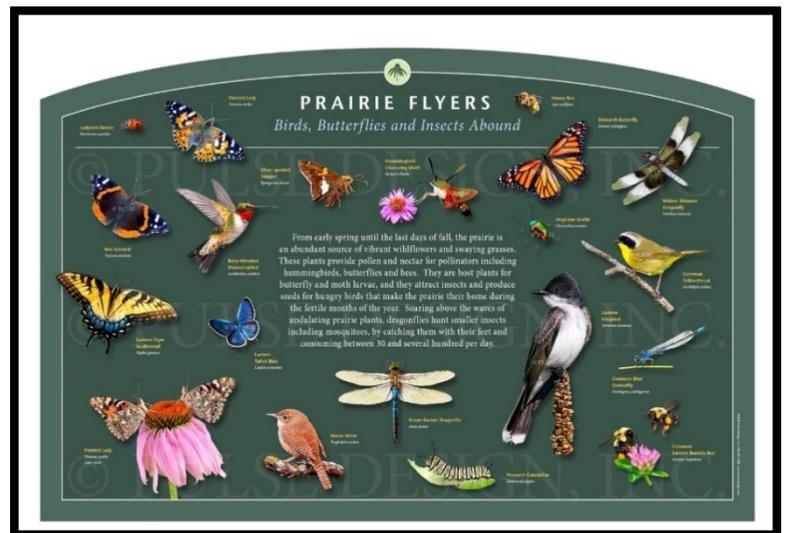
So what are we talking about? Picking a space, and then sitting in it whenever we have a chance for a half hour or so, and observing what blooms, what buzzes, what crawls, hops, walks, and what flies through our marked out plot of plants! Click this → video for a gorgeous overview of Chris project!

We measured our space, marked the edges with leftover older practice arrows from Dawn (see below), and we are ready to start keeping track of the plants and animals starting NOW! We found a native Yucca! (see below) Our 8X2 spot has 16 square meters! Maybe we will get a sign from *Pulse*!



We are planning to put a notebook in an old mailbox with pencils for notes, and a couple of old sling chairs so everything is right there and ready to go! We will take photos of everything we see there, and share these with you!

We hope YOU are inspired to start a square meter, square foot, or just a quiet hang out place for YOUR observations!



Upcoming Events

- **"Meet the Plants and Rollout of the Grants"**

Mar 12th, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

- **"Rain Gardens" with Julie Perrault**

Apr 16th, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

- **"Wildflowers of Fowler Forest Hike" with Dawn Snyder**

May 6th, 10:00 am - 1:10 pm

- **Spring Native Plant Sale**

May 19th, 3:00 pm to May 21st, 12:00 pm

March 12th, this coming Sunday at 2PM you can join us **LIVE** at the **Sioux City Library 529 Pierce Street** or ZOOM for our next program. **For Zoom only, Register HERE.**

"Meet the Plants & Rollout of the Grants!"

We will be using lots of Dianne's slides- like the one below, and we will share an informal discussion of the Native plants that will be available at the--

Spring Plant Sale, May 19th (Members only and a discount, Join [HERE](#))

May 20th and 21st will be open to everyone!



My Garden Butterfly Milkweed
photo taken at night

Brings a host of butterflies to your yard -- but not deer. A tough perennial, it bursts forth with clusters of orange flowers in summer. Heat and drought resistant. Depend on it to look good, even with little care.



The Artisans worked together this weekend starting the creation of "Art with Intention"-- recycling glass to make future Flower Faces!

This kind of artwork in a Wild Garden really helps to show that a space is planned and has a caretaker! The wildest spaces show "Cues of Care" when you add a fence, an

edging, some art work, or anything that gives your Wild space a focal point that draws you and others to look more closely at your Native plants!

We will have a booth at the Siouxland Garden Show (Click logo) to chat with people about Nature Gardening and we will have some art work to sell! Those proceeds go directly towards the Grants we are rolling out this coming Sunday!



We had so much fun, and are so excited about the Grants!

Prairie Strips and Other Practices for Landowners

Finding opportunities to plant more prairie

Tabitha Panas
Pheasants Forever
Farm Bill Biologist

Tim Youngquist
STRIPS Project
Iowa State University



Image: Iowa State University



The [Iowa Prairie Network](#) sent out their entire edited seminar recorded on YouTube! Click photo for link!

What a wonderful event!

4 hours 43 minutes total, pop in and out at your own speed and in your own time frame!

Thanks IPN for hosting this wonderful event!

And below, Prairie Moon gave some excellent tips on Fireflies and how you can make a difference! This is an excellent guide!

Here's a link to [BONAP](#) to make sure these plants suit YOUR spaces!

Iowa Prairie Network Winter Seminar Feb 2023



PRAIRIE MOON NURSERY®

SEEDS | PLANTS | SEED MIXES | TOOLS

FIREFLIES: AT RISK



Whether you call them fireflies or lightning bugs, over 150 different species of these mystical beetles make their home in North America - and every single one of them is declining. Things you can do to assist these whimsical creatures:

- 1. Create a Space** – Fireflies thrive in secluded, moist, organically rich environments. Set aside a portion of your land for a little bit of wilderness; allow a diverse mixture of native grasses and flowers to grow taller than the manicured lawn. Most female fireflies send their signals from perches, blinking like little lighthouse beacons.
- 2. Don't Use Insecticides** – need we say more?
- 3. Turn Off the Lights** – light pollution is easy to fix and instantly reversible. Keep outdoor lights to a minimum to allow lightning bugs optimal communications with each other. No love language? No new lightning bugs.
- 4. Talk to the Neighbors** – the efforts you make on your property are important - but fireflies are not limited to a single plot. Together, we can bring these nostalgic little beetles back from the brink and enjoy their dazzling performances again!

BUILD FIREFLY HABITAT

NEW! PRE-ORDER NOW!

Designed with the eastern deciduous forest in mind; this garden kit will create understory tree groundcover that insects need.



50 plant Eastern Shade Kit

GRASSES

Tall native grasses often thrive in wetter soils; the grass blades provide narrow hiding places and long launch pads for fireflies to take flight.



River Oats



Indian Grass



Switch Grass

FORBS

Fireflies like moisture. Add natives suited to wet soil such as those near streams and lakes, woodland edges, and even ditches.



New England Aster



Cardinal Flower



Lance-leaf Fog Fruit

TREES & SHRUBS

From a short, broad-leaved native wildflower to the canopy of a tall native tree, fireflies need this diversity of height to take shelter and safely lay their eggs.



Buttonbush



Red Osier Dogwood



Elderberry

Wishing you a week filled with "Citizen Science & Creative Activity!"



Wild Ones[®]

NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

LOESS HILLS

