

# Weekly Wild Wednesday

October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

What a Week of "Seed Season!"

## Flathers - Wetmore Pioneer Memorial Prairie

When this community was homesteaded in 1867, the land was a sea of grass and wildflowers, a landscape gradually established after the retreat of the glaciers began 14,000 years ago. Rebounding from the Civil War, with faith, intelligence, bravery, grit, and an enormous amount of work, the men and women who settled here made better lives for their families and for the generations following them. The tallgrass prairie became some of the best farm land on earth.

To honor their efforts, remind us of what was here before them, and re-establish a tiny bit of that lost habitat, these eighty acres are being permanently restored as closely as possible to what the original prairie was. The site is dedicated to our ancestors, the tallgrass pioneers.

Seeded with 90 flower species, plus 24 grasses and sedges, beginning in early 2016, it will take several years to regain a true prairie appearance.

Visitors are welcome to walk through it, enjoy the flowers, birds, butterflies, and all the diverse nature of this unique habitat.



### Prairie History

Benjamin L. Flathers' daughter, Dolly, wrote about her father coming west from Maquoketa, Iowa:

*About April 1st, he in company with his wife's father, Thomas Frazier and family, J.J. Woods, wife and baby (Mrs. O. A. Sadler), Mr. & Mrs. A. Hatfield, and Mr. John Wetmore (H. A. Wetmore's grandfather) and family, started for the new country that was to mean so much to them all. My father drove two teams of oxen, the trip taking about three weeks.*

He worked with only the two yoke of oxen for about six years, and broke much of the sod in the community, besides his own. He earned \$3 per acre for the work, and could plow two and one half or three acres a day.

Away from the rivers, the land was all grass and flowers. Only one tree could be seen from the Flathers' home one-half mile north of here. Ben told his grandchildren about clouds of butterflies flying up ahead of the oxen as he plowed.

John Wetmore homesteaded about two and one-half miles south of here. His grandson, Harry (H. A.) Wetmore married Ben Flathers' daughter, Lena.

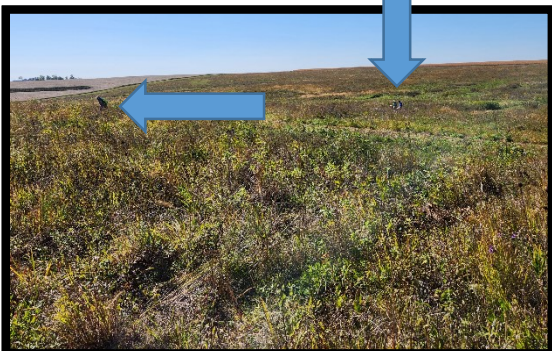
Owned today by their grandson, Mark Wetmore, the eighty acres being permanently restored to prairie is part of the original Flathers homestead. The project honors all of the Rock Branch community's tallgrass pioneers.

Jon Judson, Dedham, Iowa, did the seeding. Lewis Byers, Pierson, Iowa, helps with on-going maintenance.



**A small but  
mighty group  
harvested so  
MANY different  
kinds of seeds  
at the Annual  
Flathers-  
Wetmore  
Prairie Seed  
Harvest!  
FUN event!**

**YES-Those are our Seed Harvesters!**







**Bill and Dotty's "Feed 'N' Seed" was a HUGE success!  
Over 30 people harvested so many seeds!  
The food and fun were AMAZING!  
Thank you Bill and Dotty!**

**We are in our yards harvesting seeds as well! And admiring all the late Fall blooms-- still bright and beautiful- in spite of the two frosts!**



**At The Flower House, we cut  
Prairie Coreopsis and Meadow  
Blazing Star seed heads!**

**At Dawn's, below, we saw this  
ENORMOUS Meadow Blazing  
Star, but we are waiting for  
permission to harvest this  
beauty!**

**The Prairie Coreopsis seed  
head is a work of art when  
you enlarge the photo!  
Woowooow!**





## Upcoming Events

- **"Creating and Managing Landscapes for Native Bees" with Heather Holm**  
Hosted by Wild Ones National  
Oct 12th, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- **Annual Meeting, Potluck, and Seed Share!**  
Nov 12th, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- **"The Gardener's Guide to Prairie Plants" with Neil Diboll and Hilary Cox**  
Hosted by Wild Ones National  
Nov 16th, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
- **Hand's On Winter Sowing Plant and Take**  
Jan 13th, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

[View All Events](#)

**Our Annual Meeting, Potluck, and Seed Share is coming up! November 12<sup>th</sup> from 2-4PM,**

**Located at the  
Sioux City Museum**

**607 4<sup>th</sup> Street Sioux City, Iowa**  
Please send your Native Garden or Wild photos to:

[LoessHillsWildOnes@gmail.com](mailto:LoessHillsWildOnes@gmail.com)  
So we can have a slide show during the event!

**Sneaky's Chicken and Lyonnaise Potatoes Provided! Yuummm!!**

← Click for link and FULL DETAILS of the upcoming events from National Wild Ones ---and from our local Loess Hills Wild Ones!

One DATE and LOCATION change for the January Make n Take!

It will be at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center on SATURDAY JAN 13<sup>th</sup>!

Thanks Nature Center!  
We can hardly wait!



**Prairie Restorations, Inc. :** They are shipping live plants through orders placed by October 16. After that date, orders for live plants will be held as pre-orders for Spring. You can still order seeds, etc., however. Prairie Restorations, Inc. offers our followers **10% OFF** your orders. Head to the home page on our website to get the information on accessing that discount.

**PATREON:** To support our work on upcoming projects, join us as a patron. We thank you for your ongoing support! Other ways to support are to engage with our content on social media channels by liking, commenting, & sharing our post.

**RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS:** To find items seen in our articles & videos, head to our Recommended Products pages.

Thank you for being part of our [Growit Buildit](#) community. Enjoy your weekend!

Sincerely,

Tara

**GrowItBuildIt gives us 6 MORE reasons to be a (lazy and) Wildlife Friendly gardener this Fall!**

**We LOVE this concept!**

**Click for full blogpost! →**

*Wishing you a week filled with "Seasonal Seed Harvest!"*

