


Weekly Wild Wednesday

October 4th, 2023

What a Week of "Bees and Seeds!"



We learned a LOT more about Helen's Flower-or Sneezeweed-- and it's many attributes since last week's seed harvest!

Laura Walter from Tallgrass Prairie Center really helped us out! Thanks Laura!

It is indeed "The Year of the Heath Aster" around here, too. I have three rows of plants in full flower, all started from seed collected over the previous two years in remnant prairies across approximately the north half of Iowa. It really does look like a different plant when grown without much competition!

By the way, I think your little purple aster is probably *Symphotrichum oblongifolium*, as you suggested.

To add to your thoughts about sneezeweed: I also thought it needed a "rebranding" until I read about its ethnobotanical uses a few years ago. Now I view the name "sneezeweed" as honoring traditional medicinal practices of Indigenous peoples. It has been used for a variety of treatments, including to induce sneezing to clear head colds or headaches. There's a fascinating resource on Native American Ethnobotany that includes a number of entries for this beautiful and amazing plant. Here's one that references its ability to induce sneezing when taken as snuff: <http://naeb.brit.org/uses/16531/>

Thank you for your enjoyable and interesting newsletter, as always!

"Creating and Managing Landscapes for Native Bees" with Heather Holm

October 12th at 6:00 PM (CDT)

Join Wild Ones Honorary Director Heather Holm as she explores the nesting habitats, life cycles, pollen collection, brood rearing, and general characteristics of some of the most common native bees in eastern North America, while highlighting the pollination of native plants and the mutualism between native plants and native bees.



If YOU want to learn more about making your personal spaces attractive to bees both rare and common, join Heather Holm for this LIVE event that will NOT be recorded!

October 12th at 6PM!

Click for link to Wild Ones and ATTEND this FREE webinar! →

They also found this super cool bee on their Helenia! Gorgeous! Click for species link! →

By the way, my assistant recently found a rare bee, *Bombus fraternus* or the Southern plains bumble bee, on flowers in our sneezeweed plot. We started a plot this spring from seed collected in remnant wet prairies. This bee species has also shown up on *Liatris ligulistylis*, *Liatris aspera*, and *Solidago speciosa* (showy goldenrod). These late season flowers are so important!

Helenium autumnale is an interesting species from a propagation standpoint, too. We found that the typical recommendations for germination don't include dormancy breaking treatments. However, some of our collections did not germinate well in the greenhouse this spring without stratification. We kept the germination trays, though, and set them outside in late spring. In the days following a heat wave (several days over 90F), we saw a flush of germination in the *Helenium* trays. We used those seedlings to fill out our production row and keep those genotypes in the population.

Prairie Seed Harvest

for
LH Wild Ones Members

Sunday, Oct. 8

2:00 - 4:00 pm

Flathers - Wetmore Prairie

1610 Lee Ave, Correctionville, IA
(Across from Rock Branch Church)

BRING YOUR
OWN BAGS

← Members Only event!

Join HERE!

Sunday October 8th 2-4PM

This private property is being generously opened to our members to collect seed for their own use or to share with others!!

No experience necessary, we can help identify seed pods and help you learn to harvest your own seeds!

Bring your own bags, please!

Limited parking, and look for the red flags near the church!



At the *Wild Mess in Progress* we are on year TWO of Chelsea Chop on Milkweed comparisons, and we will continue this Citizen Science Experiment!

Above, you can see the spot where we chopped, and the new sprouts that came soon after this chop! The milkweed bloomed and made seed heads but stayed about 2 feet tall vs the 6 foot stragglers in this ← photo! We say CHOP!



if you have space available in W W, would you please advertise our final Prairie Hills Seed Harvest: Saturday, October 7, 2:00 pm - ? followed by an Italian dinner, & a selection of beverages including Bill's home brews, for those picking seed. Rsvp to [712-540-0952](tel:712-540-0952). Thanks

← **Open to everyone-- Mark Your Calendars!**
Prairie Hills Feed N Seed RSVP 712-540-0952
October 7th 2PM-?
We had SO much fun at the last event!
Click HERE for recap!

Our own Sarah Nizzi had an article we missed this Spring that just came through on our newsfeed! Grow Sarah! Click for full article! →



The new and returning blooms of native flowers, including these fringed puccoons, are symbols of recovery for these prairie pockets. (Photo: Sarah Nizzi.)

Authors

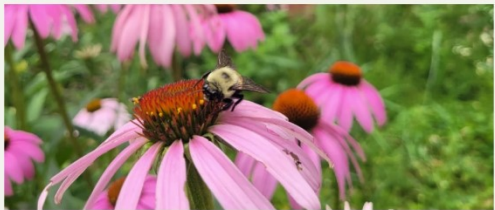
Sarah Nizzi



Farm Bill Pollinator
 Conservation Planner
 NRCS Partner Biologist
 Sarah Nizzi is originally from central Iowa and is a graduate from Drake University with a

bachelor's of science in environmental science. Her

Iowa Public Radio is getting into Nature and Native Plantings too!
Yippeeeee!
 ← **Click for article!**



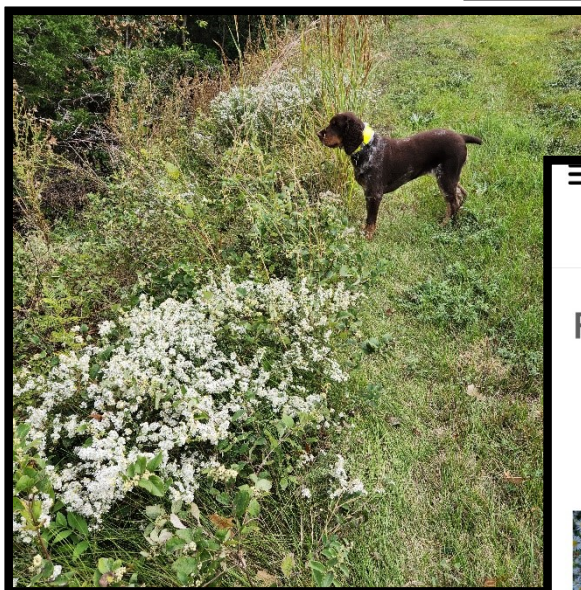
Katie & Andy James

Katie and Andy James have seen many native pollinators since planting a native lawn.

How to get started

Native plants are much more resilient than most garden plants people are familiar with, so anything goes in terms of where you start planting — even the strip between your sidewalk and the curb can make a great garden if your local ordinances allow it. Nordby recommends working with plants you can find in the garden center first: Purple coneflower, black-eyed susan and milkweed are often easy to find.

And the “Year of the Heath Aster”—or Frost Aster—noted in Laura’s comments continues to astonish us this year with it’s **SIZE!** That is a 65 pound Nelle and it is as tall as she is!



Click guide for everything you need to do this year to have your OWN blooms!
From Seed Harvest to growing your own plants-- a complete guide supplied by GrowItBuildIt!
Click for link! →

GROWIT BUILDIT
the blog

Frost Aster – A Complete Guide For Facts, ID, Growing

Frost Aster blooming at a local park

Wishing you a week filled with "Bees and Seeds!"

