

Weekly Wild Wednesday

October 2nd, 2024

What a Week of "Stalking Seeds!"



Fall is DEFINITELY showing up in the leaves at the "Wild Mess in Progress". The Sumac is gloriously red in the sunrise! Fall seeds are ripening everywhere, and we are collecting some each day to share at the November 9th Annual Meeting. Mark your calendars and join us from 11-1 at the Sioux City Museum! If YOU have Native seeds, consider packaging and sharing them with others at the Potluck. We will provide Sneaky's Chicken. Bring a side dish--- or just come! There will be plenty of food!

Join a FUN event at Dotty and Bill's—NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! Friendly experts will be on hand to help you if you wish-- or experienced seed collectors can stride out to gather on their own!

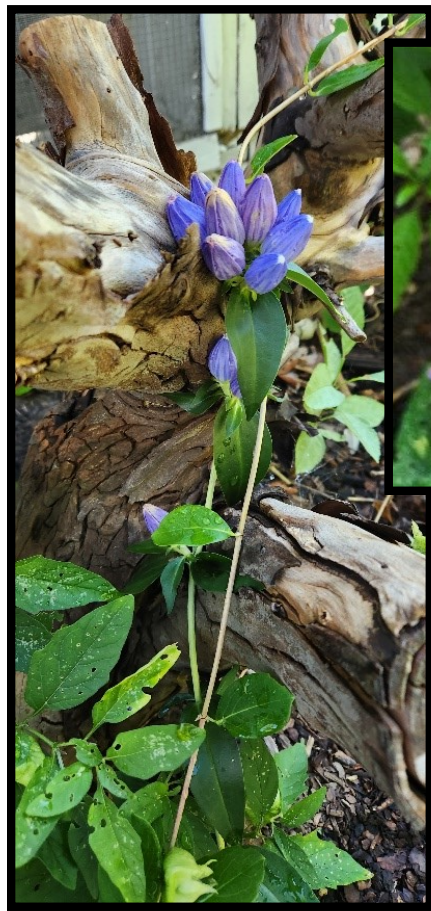
THIS SATURDAY!!

Come help collect local prairie seed for restoration projects! Meet at Bill & Dotty Zales' Prairie Hills, [Saturday, October 5, 2024 at 1:00 pm](#). We'll harvest until [4:00 pm](#), then serve refreshments to our volunteers. Wear appropriate long pants, sturdy shoes & bring clippers, gloves & water to [15384 N Ridge Rd., Westfield, IA 51062](#). There will be a great pumpkin near our gate. RSVP [712-540-0952](#) if you plan to attend.

We LOVE going to these events, and we ALWAYS learn something new---- while making new friends— whether plants or people!

The weather is predicted to be PERFECT!





← For the VERY FIRST TIME the Bottle Gentian is blooming at "The Flower House"!

We were SO excited to see this lovely plant in town!

Speaking of seeds, at Dawn's house we stole harvested several seed heads of Meadow Blazing Star that were starting to blow away in the wind!! (Don't try this with anyone else!)

And then she kindly granted permission for us to harvest some more! (We kind of, sort of, mostly knew she would be happy to share these seeds, based on past experiences)

Thanks, Dawn for your belated permission! You never know what will happen when you are on an adventure out of town! →



We are always impressed at the resilience of Native plants!

← This Heath Aster is in the middle of the road at Joy Hollow, with only heat and pavement on either side!

Wooooowwwww!!

Click any photo for more information on these plants!

Mercedes is looking up the details of the Riddell's Goldenrod at The Flower House, which is also blooming for the very first time! -->

There are SO MANY gorgeous blooms there right now, do a walk or a drive by at 3725 Jackson Street if you are in the area and check out the activity and color!

Feel free to harvest any of the seeds that are ripe! We are happy to share!



Even More Photos From The Same Square Meter of Prairie – Mid-Late September (Part 1 of 2)

By Chris Helzer on September 30, 2024

Hey, guess what? I'm still hanging out at my square meter photography plot.

September has been a month of big changes within the little bit of prairie I've been photographing all year. The month started with a flush of Maximilian sunflower blossoms and lots of bees, flies, beetles, and other pollinators. Then, I went to Illinois for a few days. When I got back, the sunflowers were pretty much done. Pitcher sage continues to bloom, but only a few flowers are open each day and it appears to be nearly finished.



Lincoln Creek Prairie, where my square meter photography plot is located. Photographed by drone.

I wanted to start this post by showing you where this little square meter plot is located. Lincoln Creek Prairie is about 14 acres on the eastern edge of Aurora, Nebraska. The park is bordered by crop land, housing developments, the local adopt-a-pet facility, and the city waste site. My little plot (circled in black on the two aerial photos shown here) is in a small strip of restored prairie nestled between a line of trees and some mowed grass leading to the waste site. I walk past the barking dogs at the pet adoption center whenever I visit my plot.

Chris Helzer is keeping us enthralled with his Square Meter Prairie Project, and we are following his example observing areas of our own!

This is such a fun thing to do in your own gardens, a spot along the road, a location in a park, or in a planter on a deck!

Pick an area, and join Chris in observing what comes into YOUR tiny spot of Wild!

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation →

has a bunch of Seed Harvests of their own, all over the state!

Click either photo and pick whatever appeals to you, or is in YOUR area!

There are so many volunteer opportunities, right here in our areas!

Loess Hills Prairie Seed Harvest (Pisgah)

Loess Hills Prairie Seed Harvest

You're invited to the Loess Hills at our Armstrong Property, for a fall prairie seed harvest!

Join us as we hand-harvest native seeds from the Loess Hills. The seeds collected will help diversify and expand the prairie ecosystem. We'll start the day with an introduction to the Loess Hills and our Armstrong property and its unique environment before venturing out into the prairie.

Harvesting seeds can be done using your hands or clippers, gathering them into buckets and/or bags. This activity is beloved by our volunteers for its tranquility and the chance to connect more deeply with the prairie. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn about and appreciate this special ecosystem.

HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER
27792 SKI HILL LOOP - HONEY CREEK, IA
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
[GOLDENHILLSRCCD.ORG/PRAIRIESEED](https://www.goldenhillsrccd.org/prairieseed)

Hello from INHF,

Just a quick note to say a huge thank you for all your help with previous year's seed harvests in the Loess Hills. Your efforts make a big difference in the stewardship of this and future prairies. We are so grateful for your support!

Check out all the upcoming seed harvest opportunities in the Loess Hills with INHF:

1. October 2, 5-7pm
2. October 14, 5-7pm (Partnered with Golden Hills RC&D)

If you want to join in the fun, just click the links below to learn more and register:

1. <https://www.inhf.org/events/eid/17a006db023819a8/volunteer/loess-hills-prairie-seed-harvest-pisgah/>
2. <https://www.inhf.org/events/eid/ed16f4cfad85d21d/volunteer/loess-hills-prairie-seed-harvest-w-golden-hills-moorhead/>

Looking forward to another great day on the prairie with you!

- **Prairie Seed Harvest-Members and guests!**

Oct 19th, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

- **"Matrix Landscape Design" with Benjamin Vogt**

Hosted by Wild Ones National

Oct 24th, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

- **Adopt a Street Cleanup**

Oct 26th, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

- **Annual Meeting and Potluck/Native Plant Seed Share**

Nov 9th, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

← Mark your calendar for our Loess Hills & National Wild Ones upcoming events!

Click the photo for a complete list of currently scheduled events!

There will be additional dates!

Wishing you a week filled with "Successful Seed Stalking!"

