

Weekly Wild Wednesday

June 25th, 2025

What a Week of "Hot Birthdays!"

"The Old House" received some COOL gifts on a HOT weekend! Temps over 100 and heat index 112 at one point! Hardy Wild Ones and Friends celebrated in the air conditioning and explored the gorgeous gardens in spite of the heat! Guests were thrilled!!



We found bunnies peeking through the native sedges...



We found native Lance Leaf Coreopsis and Purple Poppy Mallow with a globe...
← And Pale Purple Coneflowers surrounded by love...



A birdbath with blooming milkweed...



Live- And artistic dragonflies!



Elderberry in full bloom above...

← Bright orange Butterfly Milkweed in FULL bloom...

Common Milkweed scented the strong winds and warmth with such sweet fragrance!



Happy 100th!!!!



Mercedes found this awesome beetle at “The Flower House” and the immediate reaction was “I hope this doesn’t destroy my elderberries!” Our immediate reaction was “This Plant is DOING IT’S JOB!!”

We went down a rabbit hole and found out that not only does it show a healthy ecosystem, this is actually the complete OBLIGATE life host plant for this beetle, which is THREATENED on the Endangered Species List!

Grow Elderberry!!!



The Valley Elderberry
Longhorn Beetle
(Desmocerus californicus
dimorphus) relies on elder-
berry shrubs (*Sambucus



spp.*) as its host plant. Specifically, the beetle's life cycle is completely dependent on elderberry for feeding and habitat. [🔗](#)

The elderberry borer is native to eastern North America, ranging from Oklahoma to parts of the southern Appalachian Mountains. [🔗](#)

Habitat:

They are often found in moist areas like wetlands, river edges, and near streams where elderberry shrubs thrive. [🔗](#)

Appearance:

The elderberry borer is a beautiful beetle, characterized by its iridescent bluish wings and a vibrant yellow or yellow-orange band across the upper portion of its wings. [🔗](#)

Life Cycle:

The beetle's life cycle includes an egg stage, where the female lays eggs on elderberry bark and foliage. Larvae hatch and bore into the pithy center of branches, eventually pupating near the roots. [🔗](#)

Not a Major Pest:

The elderberry borer is not considered a major pest, and their presence is often associated with the healthy ecosystems where elderberry grows. [🔗](#)

Here's why elderberry is so important:

- **Obligate Host:** Elderberry is the only known host plant for the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle. This means the beetle cannot survive without it. [🔗](#)
- **Life Cycle Dependency:** The beetle's life cycle stages, including egg laying, larval development, pupation, and adult emergence, all occur within or in association with elderberry shrubs. [🔗](#)
- **Habitat:** The beetle is almost always found on or near elderberry shrubs. [🔗](#)
- **Threatened Species:** The beetle is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and is protected because of its dependence on elderberry habitat. [🔗](#)

We were so excited to learn about this insect!



← While we were diving deeply down the Rabbit Hole of the Elderberry Beetle, this shirt popped up! We LOVE this!! We get nothing from this link except a great deal of appreciation for the author!

WILDFLOWER WALKS
at Irvine Prairie
1174 55th St, Dysart, IA 52224
Join Dr. Laura Jackson from the Tallgrass Prairie Center and Cathy Irvine for evening strolls at Irvine Prairie. All ages are welcome to enjoy summer blooms, birds, butterflies and more!
Thursday, June 26, 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 24, 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 28, 6:00 p.m.
All walks will begin near the parking area located by the Irvine Prairie rock. Please bring your own water and sun protection. Closed-toe shoes and long pants are encouraged.
Tallgrass Prairie Center | UNI | University of Northern Iowa | GREEN IOWA

Above right, Tallgrass Prairie center are hosting [Wildflower Walks at Irvine Prairie in Dysart, Iowa](#). This is a casual opportunity to explore this high quality restoration with Dr. Laura Jackson and Cathy Irvine.

We hope you can join them!

NEXT on our calendar is the Bees and Blooms Garden Walk!
And mark your calendar for ALL the upcoming events!
Click for details! →

Upcoming Events

- [Bees & Blooms Garden Walk](#)
Jul 12th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- [Agape Community Garden Walk](#)
Jul 19th, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- [Morningside Garden Walk & Plant Sale](#)
Jul 26th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- [Sara's Garden Walk](#)
Aug 1st, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- [Metzger's Garden Walk](#)
Aug 16th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

[View All Events](#)

Saturday, July 12
10am - 1pm

Marc & Tracy's Home
901 46th St.,
Sioux City

Bees & Blooms
Garden
Walk

Free, open to the public,
open yard style.
Come & go as you please.

WILD ONES[®]
Loess Hills

<https://loesshills.wildones.org/>

Wishing you a week filled with "Cooler Days!"

