

Whimsical Wild Wednesday

July 8th, 2026

"Attend These in AUGUST!"

As always, for more than FIVE YEARS of Wild Wednesdays, [Click HERE!!](#)

VERMILLION GARDEN WALKS – SAT., AUG. 8

*Visit all 3 gardens 10am-1pm
Free!*

Anna Kantenbach – 513 Thomas St., Vermillion, SD

Tom & Sandi King – 109 S. Yale St., Vermillion, SD

Clark Christensen – 1140 Valley View Dr., Vermillion, SD



Saturday, August 8, 2026, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm (Central Time)

513 Thomas Street, Vermillion, SD 57069 When we moved to SD in 2020, I happened to see a little metallic green bee while out on a walk along the river. That bee sparked my curiosity and led me to native plants to support native bees of all kinds. The side garden began when we had to

remove a large maple tree and the mulch provided a perfect way to prepare the area for something other than grass and weeds. The next year, I expanded the garden across the driveway, making a border that would add color and interest but keep some lawn space for kids. This year, the front border was extended even more.

Host: Anna Kantenbach

Saturday, August 8, 2026, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm (Central Time)

109 S. Yale St., Vermillion, SD 57069

We have lived at this address for over 35 years, when what started out as a rental became our permanent home. The house was originally built in 1867 below the bluff near the former channel of the Missouri River and was moved to its present location following the 1881 flood. I have always envisioned it as our "little house on the prairie" so that style of garden is a perfect fit. One of my influences was my grandmother's Harvey Dunn print *The Prairie is My Garden*.

Out front to the north, you will see a mix of newly planted native species (with labels!) nestled in a deep bed of wood chips alongside canna lilies, vintage peonies, iris, hydrangeas, and a few daylilies. To the south is a recently reorganized bed with grandma's bleeding heart, sedum, peony and vinca vine as well as groupings of potted plants. This area will contain more native species next season. The backyard is surrounded by a privacy fence, deck, and screened area that were mostly created with reclaimed or salvaged lumber, plus a vintage brick patio and walkway, original to the property.

The back garden hosts our veggie patch interplanted with annual flowers, and surrounding the house is an eclectic mix of perennials and native species. Potted plants are placed throughout to add color and interest. Our plantings are designed to encourage birds and pollinators to visit and stay, and they tend to look a little "wild" toward the end of the season but that's part of the plan.

Hosts: Tom and Sandi King

Saturday, August 8, 2026, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm (Central Time)

1140 Valley View Dr., Vermillion, SD 57069

In my smallish backyard, the native plant garden is located next to the deck and screened-in porch. It is easily visible indoors from the kitchen window. It features a variety of forbs, grasses, and shrubs, along with a bird bath and bird feeder to attract wildlife. A curved brick path leads through a prominent garden gate to a raised bed vegetable garden, a small toolshed, and a three-bin composter. My front yard has a more conventional layout, featuring a Sugar Maple, a Northern Red Oak, and a Black Hills Spruce. Host: Clark Christensen



WILD ONES SUMMER
GARDEN WALKS



Metzger's Garden Walk

Sat., August 15



FREE
EVENT

1250 TUCKER HILL
DR., HINTON, IA

10AM - 1 PM

1250 Tucker Hill Dr, Hinton, IA, 51024
The Metzger native gardens were started in Spring of 2020 by Danielle & James and are ever-expanding with each passing year. Each garden has a name and was designed by Danielle using plants mostly from Loess Hills Wild Ones native plant sales.

Most of the rock borders for the gardens were transported from Danielle's father's farm located in Buena Vista County. Danielle has a love for grasses and sedges. Her favorite wildflowers are the varied species of Purple Coneflower (Echinacea) and Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa). Her love of the Monarch Butterfly is what sparked and ignited her joy of native gardening.

Refreshments and restrooms will be available. Hosts: Danielle, James & Lilly Metzger



WILD ONES SUMMER
GARDEN WALKS



A Garden Smorgasbord

Sat., August 15



FREE
EVENT

1088 PACHSAMA CT.,
SIOUX CITY, IA

10AM - 1 PM

1088 Pachsama Ct., Sioux City, IA 51108

Welcome! Our gardens began in 2002, soon after moving into our new home. Vegetable beds were first, flower bed followed and continued to evolve.

I admit to being a plant collector - I like most everything! I have been incorporating native plants into my established beds and have just started a native garden in front of my She-Shed (all are first year plantings). My efforts to get a few patches of natives started in the brome grass has been challenging. I keep sowing seeds each fall, hopefully some will take off. Enjoy!

Hosts: La Vone Sopher and Randy Bradley



WILD ONES SUMMER
GARDEN WALKS

Prairie Gardens

Sat., August 22



FREE
EVENT

3131 NORMAN DR.,
SIOUX CITY

9AM - NOON

garden started. There have been a lot of failures and a few successes in this process. But through it all I have learned year by year and have adjusted my methods.

I have four main gardens of prairie plants now, plus 3-4 mini-gardens. The top two gardens are easy to reach. The others in back have steps and steep slopes. Currently, I have no handrails there. I do not recommend these areas for people with balance issues or trouble climbing steep, uneven grassy areas. Enjoy the gardens and some refreshments at this stop. Hosts: Rex and Maria Rundquist

Dave Raymond's Garden Walk



WILD ONES SUMMER
GARDEN WALKS

Dave's Prairie Gardens

Sat., August 22



FREE
EVENT

2701 41ST ST.,
SIOUX CITY, IA

10AM - 1 PM

3131 Norman Dr., Sioux City, IA 51104

Rex was raised in Sloan, Iowa, a Missouri River floodplain farming community. As a child, he was always interested in the hills visible across the valley. The Rex & Maria's home is situated in the Loess Hills on the "Northside" of Sioux City, where they moved in August 1993. The home is built on a hill with the front door at street level. There is a triple-terraced yard in the back, and the lowest level abuts a powerline easement (no alley). This area was full of volunteer trees, shrubs, and a big weed patch. Rex cleared that space in the first couple of years that they lived there. Early attempts to reintroduce "prairie" to the yard began with tilling up the weeds and drilling some prairie grass seed (Little Bluestem, Side-oats Grama) in the lowest terrace. These seeds did not "take well," due to inconsistent moisture. A few of the "side-oats" sprouted and remain, however.

Through the encouragement of the Loess Hills Chapter of Wild Ones, I obtained my first tray of native plants in May 2019 and got my first prairie

2701 41st St., Sioux City, IA 51104

My native plant journey began in fall 2022, three years after we moved into this house. I had become frustrated with trying to maintain a traditional grass lawn in compacted clay soil without an irrigation system. I realized that I was wasting my time and money trying to keep grass alive on life support (water and chemicals) and that the traditional lawn serves no purpose other than to impress the neighbors and alienate nature.

I wanted a yard that is not just a big green carpet, that attracts, feeds, and shelters birds, butterflies, and other creatures and that does not pollute or poison the land and animals. I needed plants which had evolved to live in this region, with this climate, soil, and animals.

I made my first garden bed in the back yard and added some perennial "nativars" from the big box garden centers. I saw a Facebook post about the Wild Ones Fall Plant Sale and picked out a couple of goldenrods, blazing stars, and little bluestem. I

remember thinking that my parents would have thought I was crazy to buy "weeds" to plant in a flower bed. I bought more plants at the 2023 Spring and Fall Wild Ones plant sales. In 2024 I became a Wild Ones member and received a grant of plants at the Spring Plant Sale. Native plants became my new hobby. I enjoy learning about them through books, videos, websites, and organizations like Wild Ones. My yard is on the map with Homegrown National Park and is certified with National Wildlife Federation.

Since adding native plants, we see larger numbers and varieties of birds, butterflies, moths, bees, wasps, beetles, flies, spiders, frogs, and toads. A few native plants have shown up in my yard on their own. Last winter I was able to supply many varieties of seeds for the seed library.

My yard is still very much a work in progress, but I hope that people will see some beauty in it and want to add at least some native plants to their own yards. I would love to see the City of Sioux City support native plantings. Host: Dave Raymond

WILD ONES SUMMER GARDEN WALKS

Naturelady's Gardens

Mon., Aug. 24



FREE
EVENT

4007 GLEN OAKS BLVD
SIOUX CITY, IA

5:30 - 8:00 PM

4007 Glen Oaks Blvd., Sioux City, IA 51104

Having worked in conservation for more than four decades, it is only natural that I try to bring a little nature to my own yard. I grew up on a farm in northeast Iowa, and my mother was my mentor and role model. She initiated the Master Gardener program in my home county and was integral in establishing a local herb club. My official native gardens began in 2021, when I planted the narrow strip on south side of my house, just adjacent to my neighbor. I was tired of mowing that small area and dodging the air conditioning unit. The dozen small wild strawberry plants quickly took root, as did the sedges and wild onions. I am happy to say I have not mowed that area for five years! I expanded my native beds to surround my back deck. Each year I add new species from the LHWO plant sales. The steep slope that was difficult to mow is now covered with sun-loving native plants. I retain my non-native favorites like iris, bleeding heart, daisies, and peonies to remind me of my grandma and mom, but I strive to have 75-80% native plants. My yard is on the map with Homegrown National Park, and I keep expanding my beds so that I have more pollinator habitat and less lawn. I do not use any herbicides or pesticide—diversity is key in my mind—but I will hand dig dandelions to keep my neighbors happy.

My front yard includes a magnolia tree with a native shade garden underneath to create a soft landing for insect larvae and wildlife. In 2025 Glen Oaks Boulevard was torn up and resurfaced. I took that opportunity to plant native buffalo grass in the hell strip between the sidewalk and the curb. The buffalo grass takes time to establish, so I must be patient (and so do my neighbors)!

I enjoy being part of Loess Hills Wild Ones and the Sioux City Garden Club and advocate for native plants and pollinator gardens as much as possible. The Sioux City Garden Club celebrated its 100th anniversary this year and I proudly have one of their bur oak trees planted in my front yard.

I am happy to host this garden walk, and I hope members from both clubs and any interested people will get some ideas and inspiration from my yard while enjoying some camaraderie and refreshments.

This garden walk is co-sponsored by the Sioux City Garden Club. Host: Dawn Snyder



WILD ONES SUMMER GARDEN WALKS



Sioux City Railroad Museum

Sat., August 29



FREE
EVENT

3400 SIOUX RIVER
RD., SIOUX CITY, IA

10AM - 1 PM

Sioux City Railroad Museum, 3400 Sioux River Rd, Sioux City, IA, 51109 La Vone and Dotty welcome you to the native plantings at the Sioux City Railroad Museum. We are in our sixth year, so we still have some sleeping, creeping & leaping going on!

This 31-acre site was previously an industrial area of the Milwaukee Road "Shops" where steam and later diesel engines, and train cars were maintained and repaired from 1920-1965.

The Siouxland Historical Railroad Association attained the site in 1995 (which had been a junkyard for 15-20 years) and began the lengthy process of restoring historic buildings and developing educational displays. It is now on the National Register of Historic Places, earning the honor in 2016.

Our seven gardens are named for buildings on site such as Engineer's Tool Shed or Car Shops Garden, or a feature of significance such as the

Wig Wag Garden or the Grand Scale Train Platform. They each contain a large variety of native plants for partial shade, shade, partial sun, full sun.

Hosts La Vone Sopher & Dotty Zales, who designed and installed the gardens, will be available to answer your questions. Light refreshments will be served.



WILD ONES SUMMER GARDEN WALKS



Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center

Sat., August 29



FREE
EVENT

4500 SIOUX RIVER
RD., SIOUX CITY, IA

10AM - NOON

Saturday, August 29, 2026, 10:00 am to Noon (Central Time) 4500 Sioux River Rd., Sioux City, IA 51109 The Nature Center turned 30 in 2025, and the gardens have undergone many changes over the years. New native plants were added in 2021 with the help of Loess Hills Wild Ones (LHWO) and Sioux City Garden Club grants and many volunteers. It has been exciting to see the transformation of our three-tiered gardens over time. The nature center and LHWO volunteers assisted with the planning, planting, and maintenance of our garden beds. The rear of the Nature Center houses a water feature and native plants. This area has been under repair for a few years, and the staff will share future plans for the renovation of this popular area. Take time to stroll our trails and visit our indoor exhibits while you are here! Host: Kari Sandage, Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center

Wishing you a week filled with "Attending THESE in August!"

