



Penstemon strictus in front of Penstemon grandiflora with Stanleya pinnata in the background in Jen Smith's garden. Photo by Suzie Muttel.

July 2023 Member Matters

In this member update...

- Chapter Updates: Plant Swaps and Regional Meet-ups (Success!), Wild Ones National vs. Wild Ones Front Range, Board and Committee Updates
- Ask CSU Extension Anything (About Native Plants): Erosion and Revegetation
- Get Involved: Volunteer With Us!
- Upcoming Events: Tour of Denver's Greenverein Garden

Gift a Wild Ones Membership today!

Member Matters is our members only e-news published on the off months in between our quarterly newsletter for the whole WOFR community.

Chapter Updates

Fort Collins & Denver Plant Swaps

The [Fort Collins Pollinator Plant Swap](#) and the [Denver Plant Swap & Giveaway](#) were huge successes (see blog posts linked to each swap for more photos and a full recap). Thanks to all who came out, volunteered, and donated plants!



Regional Member Meetups

A huge thanks to our Regional Coordinators for organizing the following Member Meetups along the Front Range (see blog posts linked to each meetup for more photos and a full recap):

June 11th: [Fort Collins Garden Crawl](#)

June 17th: [Jefferson County Garden Crawl](#)

June 25th: [Denver Member Meet & Greet at EKAR Farms](#)

June 27th: [Visit to Member Jan Midgley's Garden](#)



Fort Collins Garden Crawl



Denver Meet & Greet



Jefferson County Garden Crawl



Visit to Jan Midgely's Garden

Distinguishing Between Wild Ones National, Wild Ones Front Range Chapter & our Front Range Regions

We've recently updated the [About Us](#) section of our website to better distinguish between the roles of Wild Ones National, the Wild Ones Front Range Chapter & our Front Range Regions. Here's the summary:

Wild Ones National

- Provides infrastructure

Wild Ones Front Range Chapter (WOFR)

Regions within the Front Range Chapter

- for over 80 chapters nationwide
 - Manages membership purchases and renewals
 - Organizes native plant landscaping educational webinars
 - Publishes quarterly Wild Ones Journal
 - Runs campaigns that help fund national operations
 - Sends communications from email addresses ending in “wildones.org”
 - Manages the chapter operations local to the Front Range
 - Provides educational resources on the how-tos of native plant gardening
 - Publishes the public Newsletter & member-only Member Matters
 - Runs campaigns that help fund chapter operations
 - Sends communications from “fronrangewildones@gmail.com”
 - Hosts local Member Meetups so members may collaborate with and learn from each other
 - Regions include: Boulder County, Colorado Springs Metro, Denver Metro, Douglas & Elbert Counties, Jefferson County, Larimer & Weld Counties
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Board Member & Board Committee Updates

Kristine Johnson is now the Regional Coordinator for Boulder, but is looking for someone to partner with her.

We are also looking for a member from Colorado Springs to become the Regional Coordinator.

Please [email us](#) to learn more.

Ask CSU Extension Anything (About Native Plants)



QUESTION: In a drought with significant wind erosion, are there any strategies for introducing drought-tolerant native plants to barren slopes and flat areas to prevent further erosion and begin to rebuild the soil?

ANSWER: Mulch! If the area will be unwatered, gravel mulch will likely be the best option because it will improve water infiltration into the soil and help prevent further erosion. You can introduce plants either from seed or from small plants—the smaller the better, early in the spring, with hardened transplants.

With plants growing, their roots will over time exude organic matter into the soil and begin to rebuild it. You may want to start with early successional species that thrive on disturbance, including many *Penstemon* (*P. barbatus*, *P. eatonii*, and *P. strictus*, for example), *Mentzelia*, and *Dieteria* (*Machaeranthera*), to name a few. Sod-forming grasses can quickly cover an area—use drought tolerant natives like buffalo grass (*Bouteloua dactyloides*) or blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*). To get a good feel for local options, consider botanizing (studying plants, especially in their native habitat) an area roadcut or two, even if from the car.

If mulching is not feasible, consider using a cover crop like sterile sorghum. A drought

tolerant, sterile annual can help perennial plants to grow by increasing the organic matter, stabilizing against erosion, and the stubble (after the cover crop dies) can help with water infiltration.

Good sources for perennial seeds include local nurseries and mail-order seed companies—a few are listed in [this section of the Colorado Master Gardener training curriculum](#).

If you decide to try cover-crops, find them at farm stores or from mail-order vendors.

Answer developed by:

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Ask your native plant questions
here!



Get Involved

Volunteer With Us

The Wild Ones Front Range Chapter is run by volunteer committee and board members. Consider volunteering your time and talent with us to help deliver on our mission.

Below are some of our openings, but we are always looking for help in a variety of ways. No experience is required, and we will work around your availability - just bring your passion for native plant gardening.

[Email us](#) with your interest and to learn more.

Colorado Gives Day Campaign

Help us manage our campaign for Colorado Gives Day, including setting up our profile on the Colorado Gives Day platform, developing a series of promotional messages, and tracking results.

Newsletter

Help our current newsletter manager and editor manage our content, author content and further streamline how we produce our newsletters.

Plant & Seed Swaps

Help organize plant and seed swaps.

Regional Coordinators for Colorado Springs & Boulder

Organize local member meetups to learn from each other's native plant gardening journey.

Secretary - Board Member Position

Manage board meeting logistics, take board meeting minutes, and maintain chapter records.

Social Media Blog Writers

We need the help of multiple blog writers - no experience required! Posts will cover Wild Ones Front Range events, programs and resources.

Volunteer Coordinator

Identify ways to recruit, recognize and reward volunteers.

Upcoming Events

Check out our website's [Events](#) section for full event details!

Tour of Greenverein Garden at Turnverein

Saturday, July 8
9:00 - 11:00 am
Denver

[Register here](#)

*VIDEO: Introducing the Greenverein Garden:
A Haven for Nature in Downtown Denver*



Wild Ones Front Range Chapter | <https://frontrangewildones.org/>

