



Berlandiera lyrata/ Chocolate flower with ripened seeds. Photo by Peggy Hanson.

Want to help collect and clean native seeds? Check out our Volunteer Opportunities below.

September 2023 Newsletter

In this issue...

- Feature Article: Colorado Native Shrubs for Bird Habitat
- Get Involved: 2024 Board of Directors Applications; Volunteer Opportunities
- Chapter Updates: Propagation Committee; Garden Tour Recaps; Board of Directors
- Upcoming Events: September Board Meeting; Plant and Seed Swaps

Join or Gift a Wild Ones Membership
today!

As a WOFR member benefit, we now have Member Matters newsletters (on the off-months between our quarterly newsletters), which features "Ask CSU, Extension" - a new column where amazing horticulturists at CSU answer any native plant questions you may have. Yet another reason to become a member of our chapter! If you are a member, please [send us an email](#) with the questions you would like CSU to answer.

Colorado Native Shrubs for Bird Habitat

By Jenifer Heath

I have spent several years transforming my yard and specifically building low-water (xeric) and mostly native plant habitat for pollinating insects, and only incidentally for birds and other creatures. This winter I decided that I'd like to make a bigger effort to support birds specifically. Bird habitat should provide water, food, shelter and a place to reproduce and raise young. An adjacent neighbor has a pond (water source) and most of my neighbors have mature evergreens (as old as 60 years) and I've been told that many of these are native.

This article focuses on food and cover/shelter. As we know, native plants are the best way to improve habitat, so I've been reading about native shrubs. I felt that what was really missing in my yard for birds is shrubs to serve as an understory where I have taller trees, and to provide fruit and shelter and safety from the neighborhood outdoor cats and other predators. So over recent months I've done some research and reading and planning and replanning and ordering (too many) shrubs.

Click here to read more!



Prunus beseyii (Pawnee Buttes sand cherry)

Photo courtesy of Colorado Springs Utilities / Water Wise Plants

Get Involved

Apply to Join our 2024 Board of Directors!

Are you interested in...

- Empowering people to plant and promote native plant landscapes?

- Driving change locally?
- Guiding our chapter's success?
- Helping to protect the environment?

If so, consider applying to join the Wild Ones Front Range (WOFR) board of directors for 2024! With WOFR membership steadily growing, and interest in native plant gardening intensifying, it's an exciting time to join the board. While no prior board experience is required, we do value candidates who are passionate about our environmental mission and have strong organizational/management skills. Native plant knowledge is helpful, but not required.

Our board members all serve on a volunteer basis for a term of one year. Our board is considered a "working board", since board members manage projects, committees, and/or operational functions that ensure the chapter runs smoothly.

All members of the board:

- Advocate for the Wild Ones mission and Chapter goals
- Are Wild Ones members in good standing
- Abide by the Chapter Bylaws
- Chair at least 1 chapter committee, including managing projects and committee members to achieve the committee's goals
- Assist in the recruiting of new members, committee members, and board members
- Contribute to the member and subscriber newsletters
- Attend programs and events
- Prepare for, attend and participate in monthly Board meetings on the third Wednesday of the month from 6 - 8 pm via Zoom

Interested candidates, please submit [this application](#) by September 25th. Also feel free to [email us](#) with any questions - we'd love to chat.

The WOFR Nomination Committee will interview candidates and then put forward their slate of candidates for approval at the October 18th board meeting. WOFR members will vote on the new slate in November and the new board term will begin January 1, 2024.

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.

Communications

Partner with the newsletter, social media, and website chairs to communicate about our chapter's events and resources.

Greenverein Demonstration Garden Maintenance

Greenverein is a 100' long primarily native plant garden on the north side of the Denver Turnverein Dance Center @ 1570 Clarkson Street, Denver 80218. Volunteers weed, prune, and collect seeds.

Newsletter

Help to create our content calendar, identify authors for articles, and coordinate content submissions.

Publicity

Increase awareness of Wild Ones Front Range in the community via a variety of approaches, such as newspaper articles, podcasts, event sponsorships, and educational presentations.

Regional Coordinator for Boulder

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

Seed Collecting & Cleaning

Native seeds are ripening at a fast pace and the Seed Swap committee needs volunteers to help with seed harvesting and cleaning at discreet, 1-2 hour events through October. Various locations, no experience necessary. Email [Peggy Hanson](#) if interested.

Volunteer Coordinator

Track interested volunteers and help match them to the right chapter committee.

Chapter Updates

Propagation Committee Gathering

The Wild Ones Front Range Committee got together to bond, hike, and swap extra plant seedlings. [Read more about the meetup in this post.](#)





Jefferson County Public Gardens Tour

We had 25 people come out to get inspired by Jefferson County xeriscape, native, and Plant Select demonstration gardens. [Read more about the tour and see additional photos in this post.](#)

Southeast Denver Garden Crawl

A huge thanks to Wild Ones Front Range members Deb, Vicki, Rick, Donna, and Kristin, for hosting our Denver garden crawl. [Read more about the event in this post.](#)



Board Member & Board Committee Updates

Kristin Laux has joined the WOFR board as Secretary.



Kristin moved to Denver in 1999. The arid climate here was a bit of a shock coming from Oregon, but she quickly realized that the landscape just has a different kind of beauty in dry climates. When she and her husband bought their house in 2012, they landscaped the front and back yards with xeric practices in mind to save water but had no awareness of the benefits of native plants. Attending the 2022 WOFR Plant and Seed Swaps opened her eyes to the magic of creating native plant habitats in her own yard. The backyard grass was smothered and replaced with native plants in 2023 and plans for the front yard are in development. Kristin enjoys watching and learning about the many different plants, birds, and bugs that call her yard home now. Kristin's other passion is animal welfare and she volunteers at a large animal shelter, where she has fostered hundreds of kittens, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, and dogs. She enjoys scuba diving in warm water all over the world when she's able to take a break from her career as an accountant working for a Colorado nonprofit.

Sue Wright is now the Regional Coordinator for Colorado Springs. Sue is a Colorado Master Gardener who began focusing on native plants two years ago after reading Douglas Tallamy's book *Nature's Best Hope*.

Rob Greer has stepped down from his board position. However, we are fortunate that Rob will continue as an active volunteer for our chapter. Rob will be the Propagation Lead for the Denver region and will champion policy changes as part of our Advocacy Committee.

We are looking for members from Boulder to join the Regional Coordinator team. Please [email us](#) to learn more.

Upcoming Events

Check out our website's [Events List](#) for more info and to register for events!

Important notice: We announce many of our events to members first, as our events are popular and sell out fast. So, if you are not a member, please consider becoming one!

WOFR September Board Meeting

Members Only

Wednesday, September 20

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Online/Virtual

Northern Colorado Member Native Plant Swap & Season Recap

Members Only

Friday, September 22

5:30 - 7:00 pm

Fort Collins

Denver Native Seed Swap - FREE
Saturday, November 4
10:00 am - 1:00 pm
The Table Public House, Denver, CO

We love to hear from you! If you would like to comment on anything in this newsletter or write an article, please send your comments or ideas to FrontRangeWildOnes@gmail.com.

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

