



Bouteloua curtipendula (Sideoats Grama) seedhead in Kestrel Fields Natural Area - hosting a little spider, or "[pavuchy](#)" in Ukrainian, a sign of good luck for Yuletide and the New Year.

Photo by Doug Swartz

January 2024

In this newsletter...

- Feature Articles: *How To Approach Designing Your Native Plant Landscape; A Bold Project to Rewild Denver and Employ Refugees*
- WOFR Native Plant of the Month: *Rocky Mountain Bristlecone Pine*
- Ask CSU Extension Anything (About Native Plants): *Windbreak Guilds*
- Chapter Updates: *Native Plants for Caterpillars and Birds (WOFR Toolkit Spotlight)*

- Help Our Chapter Thrive: *Colorado Gives Day Gratitude*; *Wild Ones Membership*
- Members Corner: *2024 Board of Directors Vote*; *WOFR Members Facebook Group*
- Upcoming Events: *Fostering Biology Underground*; *Cultivating Change*

Become a member today!

How To Approach Designing Your Colorado Native Plant Landscape

By Deb Lebow Aal



Gardens on Spring Creek, photo by Deb Lebow Aal

One of the biggest challenges we face as native plant gardeners is how to design a garden with native plants. After all, we are challenging the norm. We are not planting the default landscape of an expanse of turf with a few bushes around the foundation of the house, and a tree or two. You can choose to “wildscape,” planting a prairie, but if you don’t like the wildness of a prairie in your own yard, you have many other choices.

Read the full article!

A Bold Project to Rewild Denver and Employ Refugees

By Avi Stopper

In early 2022, Wild Ones Front Range Chapter board member Deb Lebow Aal and I launched Oasis West Wash Park, a volunteer project to help neighbors in West Washington Park, a central Denver neighborhood, replace unused grass with Colorado native plants. The vision is to turn the neighborhood into a gigantic botanic garden bursting with life.

Read the full article!



Native Plant of the Month

Pinus aristata
Rocky Mountain Bristlecone Pine

Why should we pay attention to this astounding tree?

Character, for one. The Colorado Tree Coalition advises landscapers: "Plant as a single species in a rock garden or other well-drained site. It is not a formal looking tree. It develops 'character.' Can be trained as a bonsai."



Write-up by Pam Sherman

Photo by Smith R. W. courtesy of the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center

*More reasons to pay attention to *Pinus aristata* here!*

Ask CSU Extension Anything (About Native Plants)



QUESTION: What native plants would work well both as a windbreak and shelter belt for native birds and insects?

Get the answer!

Answer developed by: John Murgel, Extension County Specialist, Horticulture and Natural Resources, Douglas County, Colorado State University Extension



Have a question about native plants? Ask us here.

Chapter Updates

Toolkit Spotlight



Colorado Native Plants for Caterpillars and Birds

Are you ready to design a native plant garden that attracts as many insects and feathered friends as possible? Using caterpillars (i.e. how many caterpillar species a native plant hosts) as a research-based measure of a plant's ecosystem benefits, this latest resource article in the WOFR Toolkit (primarily authored by Deb Lebow Aal) identifies native plants in our region that host more than 50 species of caterpillar. Spoiler alert: native trees and shrubs for the win!

[Read the article here in the WOFR Toolkit!](#)



Help Our Chapter Thrive

Give Where You Live - Colorado Gives Day Campaign

We want to extend heartfelt thanks to our supporters for helping us exceed our fundraising goal in the Colorado Gives Day campaign this year. We raised over \$8,000 from 108 donors! Your donations will help us increase our impact and spread the word about the benefits of native plants and Coloradoscaping. We look forward to sharing our progress with you throughout 2024.

Volunteer With Us

Our volunteers keep our chapter running smoothly. Check out some of our priority openings below. By joining us, you will make a high impact on our chapter while having fun working with other passionate native plant people! Email us to express your interest and learn more.

Facebook Group Expert (Members Only)

Do you enjoy reading and interacting on Colorado native plant landscaping-related Facebook groups/pages? In this role, you will monitor Facebook questions and comments and, as appropriate, post helpful Wild Ones Front Range events and resources.

Marketing Coordinator (Members Only)

Do you enjoy creating materials that are informative and eye-catching? In this role, you will help us improve our event tabling materials, including incorporating our new logo. You will also help us consider various merchandise that we should offer to our community.

Regional Coordinators for Northern Colorado & Denver Metro (Members Only)

We are looking for members in each of these regions to become Regional Coordinators. In this role you will organize 2 or more local member gatherings each year. At least one gathering will be a garden crawl, where members can learn from each other's successes and challenges.

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

Become a Member, if You're Not One Already!

We are a membership-based and member-led chapter. Please show your support for helping more Front Range residents convert their outdoor spaces into native plant Coloradoscapes by becoming a member today. Household memberships start at just \$40, with Limited Income/Student memberships available for \$25.

Join today!

Additional benefits of becoming a Wild Ones Front Range member include:

- Discounts on and early notification of educational programs
 - Invites to member-only local gatherings
 - Access to our member-only Facebook group
-

Members Corner

2024 Board of Directors Vote

Thanks to all the members who voted to approve our 2024 Board of Directors slate.

Join our Wild Ones Front Range Members Facebook Group

Connect online with other members through [this group](#). You will need to provide your Wild Ones member number to be accepted.

Upcoming Events

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

Pikes Peak Region 2024 Planning Meeting

Saturday, January 20
Members Only

Fostering Biology: Getting to Know the Underground Community

Wednesday, January 24
Cost: \$5 (Member); \$25 (Non-Member)

"Cultivating Change" with Lorraine Johnson
Thursday, January 25



Who's dreaming of where to plant their seeds from the swaps (and of the underground community that will one day nurture the seed's emerging roots)?

Photo of the 2023 NOCO Seed Swap by Kevin Lyles

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



Wild Ones Front Range | 6931 S Adams Way, Centennial, CO 80122

[Unsubscribe frontrangewildones@gmail.com](mailto:frontrangewildones@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by frontrangewildones@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!