



*Escobaria missouriensis*

Photo by Pam Schulz, our Volunteer Spotlight this month

## February 2024

### In this newsletter...

- **Feature Articles:** My Coloradoscape DIY Project; Give Your Colorado Native Plant Garden Winter Interest
- **Ask CSU Extension Anything (About Native Plants):** Drought Tolerant Plant Species for Wind Erosion
- **WOFR Chapter Updates:** Toolkit Spotlight (Attracting Butterflies); Volunteer Spotlight (Pam Schulz); Plant Spotlight (Common Juniper)

- **Help Our Chapter Thrive:** Volunteer Opportunities; Wild Ones Membership
- **Members' Corner:** WOFR Members Facebook Group
- **Upcoming Events:** Mountain Group Meet & Greet; Landscaping with Colorado Native Plants Conference

Become a member today!

## We are now the largest Wild Ones Chapter!

Reaching 430 members in January, WOFR became the largest of over 85 Wild Ones Chapters (we've been leapfrogging with [Wild Ones St. Louis](#) for the honor). We are also the most geographically disbursed chapter - many of the regional groups established within WOFR in 2023 have over 50 members each!



Our growth demonstrates how many Front Range residents are committed to creating native plant landscapes that support local ecosystems and provide climate resilience. Our growth is also the fruit of all the “behind the scenes” work at WOFR - while a labor of love, it currently has our leadership stretched thin.

**As a result, we need more people to help us either as board or committee members.** If you are an active chapter member who can volunteer for a few hours each month, please [email us](#) to learn more. We will work with you to find a position that suits your talents and schedule.

**Correction:** In January's newsletter we published an article on the Oasis Project, a project that focuses on taking out grass and putting in native plants, but we published the email address for connecting incorrectly. If you would like to get in touch with Avi on this article ([A Bold Project to Rewild Denver and Employ Refugees](#)), please email him at [Avi@plantanoasis.org](mailto:Avi@plantanoasis.org).

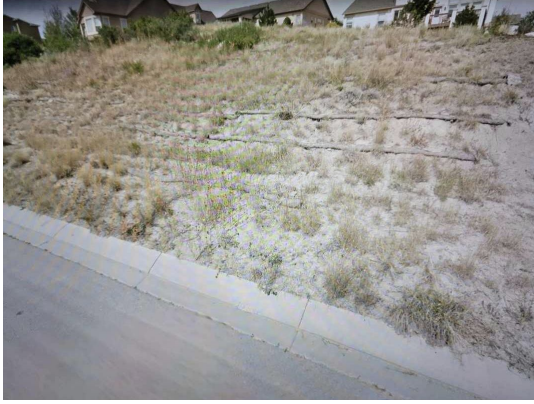
## My Coloradoscape DIY Project

*By Virginia Phillips*

A year or so ago, it struck me that I lived in one of the best places in the world, but my yard was full of plant species not from this place. Was I really saying Colorado is awesome, just not in my backyard?

About half of my yard was formally landscaped with non-native garden beds and manicured non-native lawns. The other half was a wild area covered mostly with invasives, which was awful. I had failed for years to convert this wild area to a thriving non-native grass and shrub space.

What I needed was a new approach and a Colorado landscape and ecosystem.



*Backyard December 2022*



*Backyard December 2023*

I bucked the norm and committed to a multi-year native landscape DIY project even though I had a real gap between know-how and a [Coloradoscape](#).

*Want to find out how Virginia created this beautifully beneficial landscape?*

*Read the full article!*

## Give Your Colorado Native Plant Garden Winter Interest

*By Deb Lebow Aal*

In these semi-arid parts, at least half the year your garden will not be green. It will be brown, and red, and maybe yellow, and it can be gorgeous. The beauty of a winter garden can be in its structure, but also in its color. You just have to pay a little attention to details.

Seedpods and standing grasses, berries, the silhouettes of trees, shrubs, and perennials, and the hardscape, can all be highlighted in the off season.

*Want to find out what native plants could add more detail and pizzazz to your garden next winter?*

*Read the full article!*



## Ask CSU Extension Anything (About Native Plants)



**QUESTION:** *What drought tolerant plant species can help prevent wind erosion and rebuild the soil?*

*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



#### *Attracting Butterflies with Colorado Native Plants*

If you want to attract butterflies (and who doesn't?), you will need to plant the right native plants to attract them. The challenge is to support all life stages of the butterfly, from the egg, through the larval and pupal stages, and then the adult. Many plants labeled as butterfly friendly only support the adult butterfly, as you will see in this article.

*Read the article here in the WOFR Toolkit!*



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## **Volunteer Spotlight**

### ***Pam Schulz***



This month we'd like to highlight WOFR member Pam Schulz for her leadership, commitment to the mission, and volunteer efforts. Pam has contributed in so many ways toward our thriving chapter:

- She formed, developed and chaired the chapter's Propagation Committee
- Lead wonderful hike programs up and down the Front Range
- Contributes amazing botanical photographs to the chapter albums for the chapter's use
- Serves as co-chair for the Douglas & Elbert Counties WOFR region

Pam has recently stepped down from her role as Chair of the Propagation Committee for other pursuits including travel to exotic places and we thought it a perfect time to give her a shout out of appreciation.

For many years we received member comments and survey responses requesting more propagation training. In 2021, Pam answered the call to lead and help form the new Propagation Committee. Pam brought amazing energy, organizational skills and technical knowledge (native plants and computer savvy) to the task. The committee members benefited greatly. Pam provided templates for folks to record and share species propagation information on a master list—spreading the wisdom learned through experience. She painstakingly sorted Jan Midgley's propagation manual by season (Winter/Spring) to help committee members easily identify what species to propagate when. In partnership with Jan Midgley, she facilitated many virtual propagation workshops and facilitated three very successful in-person workshops. In partnership with member Brian Rasmussen, she coordinated a committee plant swap and committee seed collection events. Finally, she provided two years of support to the Plant Swap Committee to ensure a robust inventory to open the event. And all those little seedlings that weren't ready for the swap? She babysat hundreds of them in 2022 as they matured over the summer to distribute to members, demonstration gardens and other community gardens.

Thankfully, Pam will continue on in her role as regional co-coordinator for Douglas and Elbert Counties along with WOFR members Diane Cribley and Fran Tate. Her expertise, passion and amazing photographs will continue to draw people to understand the importance and love of landscaping with native plants.

*NOTE: We are still seeking a volunteer to serve as facilitator/leader of the Propagation Committee. No need to be an expert; Pam has left a scaled down model and this is a wonderful group of earnest members with whom to enjoy learning about propagating natives.*

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## **Native Plant Spotlight**

### ***Juniper communis* (Common Juniper)**

By Pam Sherman

You've seen it – those long, low prickly bushes that are such great hiding places for birds, chipmunks and hardy kids. Cold-weather plants, they grow all around the world in northern regions and at high altitudes in more southern latitudes, such as where we live here in the Colorado Rocky Mountains. Common juniper and its other conifer relatives grow strong and do well in tough conditions as vital members of a dryland community.

Image courtesy of [Southwest Colorado Wildflowers](#)



First we'll look at Common Juniper's role in its ecosystem – its community of plants, animals, soil, sun, rocks, wind, wildfire, weather and people - and take a look at how to grow it. Then we'll explore some of the many gifts (or poisons) it has continued to offer humans for thousands of years: food, medicine and inspiration to be as hardy and persistent as the juniper itself.

*Dive deep into the wonders of *Juniper communis* here!*

*Full article hosted on the Mountain Resilience blog*

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**Help Our Chapter Thrive**

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## 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.

### *Regional Coordinators (Members Only)*

Do you want to help build community among members who live near you? If so, consider becoming a Regional Coordinator. In this role, you will organize 2+ in-person gatherings each year to connect with and learn from other members in your region. You will receive training and support for this role and may choose to partner with another member (or two) to share the Regional Coordinator position in your region. Our current needs:

- *Northern Colorado Coordinator*
- *Denver Metro Coordinator*

### *Treasurer Board Member (Members Only)*

Do you love native plants and appreciate the need to manage funds? Our chapter needs your talents! In the Treasurer role, you will serve on the board of directors as an officer, helping other committed members to determine the organization's strategy to meet our mission goals. The Treasurer manages our finances, annually reports to Wild Ones' National and facilitates the annual budgeting process with input from chapter leaders. Attendance at our monthly board meetings on the third Wednesday of the month from 6-8 pm is required. Our current Treasurer will spend the year mentoring her replacement for a smooth transition. This is a great opportunity to see the workings of the largest Wild Ones chapter and contribute toward its future. Please consider it. Accounting or bookkeeping experience is beneficial, but not required.

### *Propagation Committee Chair (Members Only)*

Do you love propagating native plants and sharing that interest with other propagating enthusiasts? Are you interested in working with a leading expert in propagating with Colorado native plants? Our popular Propagation Committee of 35 members is searching for someone to facilitate 1-2 in-person events and a few spring virtual workshops annually (in conjunction with resident expert and WOFR member, Jan Midgley). Amateur propagators welcome! Technical knowledge of Zoom and some experience with Google Drive is helpful, but not necessary. We'll train! Great models and templates exist; assistance will be provided as necessary to get up the learning curve.

### *Board/Committee Members (Members Only)*

Are you interested in working with other passionate board and/or committee members to determine how our chapter can best deliver on its mission? Do you enjoy managing small projects to help our chapter thrive and increase our impact in the community? By joining one of our committees and/or as a board member, you will help us make impactful positive change while bonding with other passionate native plant people.

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## **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

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## Members' Corner

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### 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.

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## Upcoming Events

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

### Mountain Group Meet & Greet

Tuesday, February 13

*Virtual*

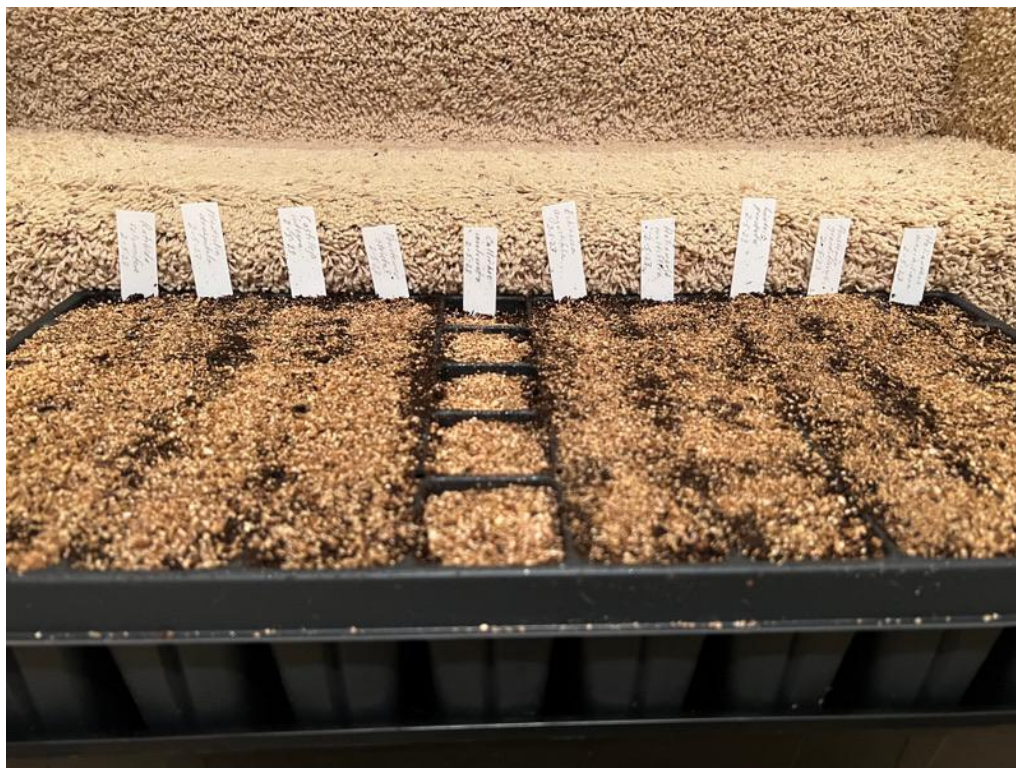
### WOFR February Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 21

*Members only*

### Landscaping with Colorado Native Plants Conference

Saturday, February 24



*Photo by Pam Schulz*





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