



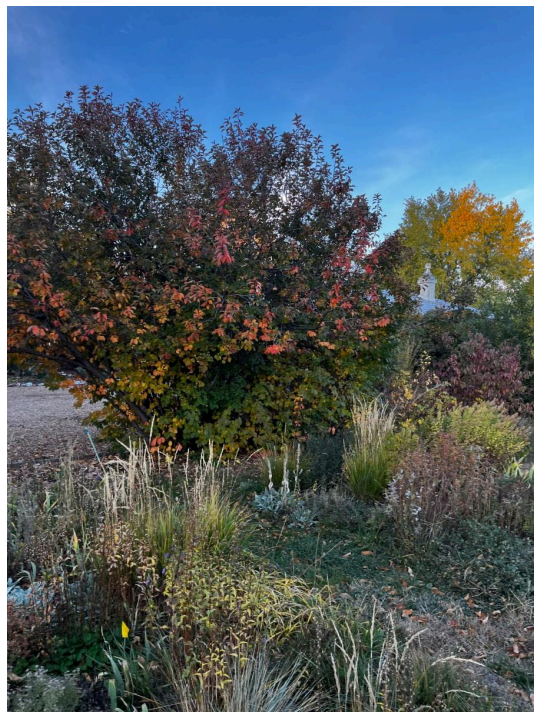
“We empower Front Range residents to plant and promote native Coloradoscapes for a climate-resilient future”

Wild Ones Front Range Chapter’s Mission

To further illuminate our mission: *“You can’t run a supermarket on just bread, and you can’t run an ecosystem on just lawn.” (Sara Stein, author of Noah’s Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Back Yards)*

The way we landscape our yards really matters to the ecosystem. We are here to help!





Fall Colors - Photos by R. Phillips

November/December 2025

In this newsletter...

- **Feature Article: Starting a Native Plant Garden From Scratch**
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- **Ask CSU Extension: Is there a list of Colorado keystone species?**
- **Chapter News**
- **Call for More Volunteers**
- **Upcoming Events: Seed Cleaning, Seed Swaps, Webinar and more!**

Become a member today!

Board Member Elections - Coming Soon!!

Watch for an email about casting your vote for our chapter's 2026 Board Members. Voting will take place from December 1 to December 15.

Starting a Native Garden From Scratch: One Colorado Newbie's Experience

Article and Photos by Karen Vanderwall

Note: This is the first in a series of articles focusing on the experiences of members creating a native plant garden from the beginning.

When we first moved to Fort Collins three years ago, we came with the knowledge that water was a precious resource here. We have family in Colorado so knew well before our move how dry the conditions are in the area. Our public radio station in North Carolina had reported about the drought in Colorado, the state of the Colorado River, its use—or more accurately overuse, shortages, and the search for long-term solutions. We came to the state aware of the situation and determined not to be part of the problem by not using irrigation water whenever possible.

Coming from an area with an average annual rainfall of 42 inches per year to an area with an average of 16 inches per year, I swallowed and was determined to learn about how to create a garden using very little water, with intense sun and extreme temperatures. I've always been a gardener who enjoys using the space and conditions I've got to work with and was up to the challenge!

In the Beginning...

The property was first developed in 1977 but there was an addition added to the side of the house (shown in the photo) in 2019, prior to our purchase of the property. It was clear there was some compaction of the lawn from the new construction as the grass was struggling. I considered incorporating native grass seed and aerating. But the area was just off the deck, a prime spot for a garden. I knew I wanted to have a wildflower garden and was reading about drought tolerant plants that required the amount of water that naturally came from mother nature. Using Colorado native plants was the answer.

It was an easy decision for both my husband and me to make – swapping out a high-labor and resource-intensive grass lawn for one that will foster higher biodiversity, require fewer resources like water and chemicals and contribute to the surrounding ecosystem as a whole. I should probably mention that my husband mows the grass and any reduction in the size of the lawn met with glowing approval, so I had that going for me too!

First Steps

I had more available time after moving, allowing me the unique opportunity to create a large garden. I started designing the garden in March 2023 with the basics of site and design planning. We do not have a strict homeowners association, but my neighbors are a tidy bunch, so I knew I wanted to give some attention to design in terms of both shape and plants.

In May, we began to move the plan outside. I moved some garden hoses around to play with the shape of the garden. There is landscaping around the perimeter of the property with landscaped beds that are curved roughly following the topography of the land and demarcated by metal edging. I drew from the established landscaping in designing the native plant garden to keep the continuity. Once the shape was determined, the next step was figuring out how I wanted to remove the turf.

Because of the slope, I wanted to take advantage of the turf grass root system to provide soil stability, so I didn't want to remove the grass. I also wanted to let the dead grass break down slowly so it would act as a natural mulch.

Since it was to be a native plant garden, I didn't need to amend the soil. In addition, the area was pretty big – roughly 50 feet by 90 feet – so that ruled out the cardboard smothering option since that would be a lot of cardboard and mulch. After doing a lot of research, I decided to use a chemical herbicide to kill the grass. While it is admirable to not use chemical herbicides when doing turf removal, in large projects, *if you are very careful*, it seems safe to use.



The soil was compacted from a construction project and the grass by the deck was struggling. Time for a native plant garden!

From Lawn to Habitat

We waited a few days for the grass to die and then began developing the garden in earnest. The short dead grass and roots were left but the soil was somewhat compacted so, before planting anything, I loosened the soil with a gravel rake.

I then broadcasted Colorado native wildflower and grass seed. I had left a few areas for adding specific native plants and shrubs for focal points. We had some soil/sod from making raised beds so I used that to add some topography. I also found rocks around the property to add to the design.

Before long, it was June and things began to grow! I was thrilled! I worked on mulching around the nursery-sourced plants I had planted and decided on where I wanted a path. I used grass clippings for the first phase of the path. I also made a narrow stone creek bed where, from observation, rainwater naturally flowed.

Since the native plant seeds were just beginning to germinate, there was plenty of room for weed seeds to germinate as well. Using plant identification apps and my limited knowledge of some of the noxious weeds that grow in Colorado, I went to work weeding. I decided that it would be respectful of neighbors, local farmers as well as the environment as a whole, to pull as many exotic invasives I had time for. This was particularly important that first year, even with mulching. The garden would definitely benefit and pulling them before they went to seed would help me in the long run. July was spent identifying seedlings, which was a lot of fun and pulling weeds (not as much fun).



We added structural features with large rocks and a raised area.



Rain water naturally flowed through the garden so we defined it with rock.

Into August, the garden began maturing and blooming! Of course, with summer comes vacations, travel and visits with family and friends, so the garden only got weeded in-between those events.

By the end of August, it was clear that all the work really paid off. The sturdy plants that tolerate dry disturbed ground such as Mexican Hat dominated, for which I was grateful as they outcompeted weeds. I replaced the grass clippings on the path (too many weeds) with wood chip mulch.



By the end of August, the flowers were blooming!



August 2023



September of the first year (2023)

By the second year, the native plant garden (and now native plant gardener) felt much more established. In May of the second year, many of the perennials came back and all the weeding the year before seemed to make a difference. There was now time to do a lot more observing and watching the garden grow.



In the second year the weeds were under control.

By May of the second year (2024), the perennials were more established.

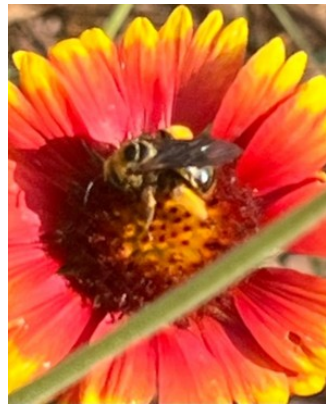


Since this is a *beginner garden* article, I will bring this to a close with a couple of comments about the second year.

1. I proceeded to weed, but much less than the year before. In addition to noxious weeds, I found there are other kinds of weeds. The definition of a weed is a plant out of place. Since I created this garden, even though it was a native plant garden, it was up to me to decide if any plants were out of place. As the season began in full, first the Mexican Hat (*Ratibida columnifera*) then later in the season the pioneer species like Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), really took over. Although very natural and beautiful, in order to have the diversity I sought, I knew I needed to weed out some of these more aggressive plants to leave space and resources for other less-opportunistic species to have a chance. It worked like a charm, and I also found that the tough Mexican Hat and Black-eyed Susan type plants that I left, provided shade from the scorching sun and structure that was beneficial for species that require more shade and support.
2. The second comment is that although I still needed my plant app to verify and differentiate weeds from intentional plants, I also began to identify pollinators – many, many pollinators. Awesome!!



The established perennials were big enough in the second year to provide shade for the annuals to get started.



With the blooms came the insects!

Rain Gardening: Thinking About the Next Steps

By Kristine Johnson with assistance from Theodore Johnson Mencimer



Why Install a Rain Garden

Last year, I wrote about the [“why” of rainwater harvesting](#), and Pam Sherman reviewed Brad Lancaster’s [well-known books](#) on rainwater harvesting. Brad is very much the “how.” I also mentioned rain gardening in [my article](#) on multi-stem trees—which should entice you with habitat plants (the “what”) which might benefit from the extra water a rain garden can provide. I have promoted composting (and leaf mold) and the native plant garden, which are an essential component of rain gardens; they absorb and store precipitation (in my webinars last winter and [in this article](#)). So if all of this has you thinking about rain gardening, what are your next steps for actually making a rain garden in Colorado? I’m going to break this down into what that might look like from an individual level, using my own garden as an example, and next steps for us as a region and as a state—look for that in a future newsletter.



Why is rain gardening critical on an individual level? One reason is that it allows us to more easily support a wider range of beneficial plants. Many of the species featured in the native multi-stem article are among the most crucial in our region for supporting insects, birds and other wildlife. However, many are also riparian species, which means they are typically found along streams or in moister areas. They benefit from more regular water or increased moisture in the soil. If you’re interested in planting riparian habitat keystone plants, consider incorporating them into a rain garden, which can give them that extra water without increasing your irrigation.

Learning

I completed a weeklong precipitation harvesting certification course in Tucson in 2023. Last fall, I returned to audit the course again, peppering the instructors (including Brad Lancaster) with my accumulated questions, while my son, a new landscape architect specializing in native plant gardens, completed his own certification. Colorado is several decades behind Arizona and other arid regions that prioritize water conservation; Arizona is the cutting edge. Our lag is due in part to stringent Colorado water laws and the tendency of people here to focus on water storage solutions like barrels and cisterns, which can be costly and fussy and are subject to strict legal regulations. While Phoenix and its rockscapes exacerbate urban heat, Tucson stands as a beacon of novel water conservation practices centered on supporting more trees, native plants, and absorbent landscapes. I urge you to think like a Tucsonian. Use their resources and techniques, adapted for here.

My Rain Garden Projects (Or How I Installed my Rain Gardens)

At home, our most intriguing rain garden project is the former location of the kids' swingset. In 2004, when Theo, my eldest, was three, we excavated a large circular area to a depth of 12 inches and filled it with arborist mulch. We constructed a swingset and securely anchored it atop the mulch, ensuring no broken arms. As the mulch decomposed over the years, we annually topped it off. A few years ago, we donated the swingset through freecycle, as our children are now in college or the workforce. Because of our rain gardening, the "soil" in this rain garden is essentially 12 inches of moist, organic material resembling coffee grounds. It serves as our largest rain garden. We've planted a diverse range of plants that wouldn't thrive without the substantial sponge they live in. Among them are several Cutleaf Coneflowers, two Riverbank Grapes, a hops vine, a Blue Willow, a couple of raspberries, Rocky Mountain irises, prairie cordgrass, two elderberries, a thin-leafed Alder, Blue Vervain, Swamp Milkweed, Bee Balm, Ironweed, and more.

Remarkably, this rain garden has received almost no supplemental water, yet the soil remains consistently moist. Every drop of rain that falls into this bed is absorbed. These plants thrive in soil with higher organic matter content and more readily available water. The same principle applies to my two mature River Birches, which have deep leaf mulching around them to retain moisture while allowing air to reach their roots. Despite being in the lowest tier for services from our water utility, our yard is surprisingly lush and teeming with birds and insects.

Another home example: Our patio is composed of pavers that slope gently to a swale just south of the patio. We've planted a variety of native grasses in the swale, including June Grass, Big Blue Stem, Little Blue Stem, Switch Grass, Prairie Dropseed, and Indian Grass. There's a decent layer of arborist mulch and compost in the swale; probably 6" at the bottom. While these grasses don't necessarily require extra water, they're thriving in the environment. On the other side of the swale, with blazing southern exposure, is a garden bed that is not a rain garden (it is a bit higher and doesn't accumulate rain). There's an inch of mulch or compost, but otherwise, it's filled with penstemons, sages, Gumweed, Baby Blue Rabbitbrush, and other xeric plants that require less water. These plants prefer well-drained soil, don't need a lot of supplemental water, and don't require a lot of organic matter in their soil. It's a case of choosing the right plant for the right place.

To underscore: We gave our yard ONE supplemental watering this year, in mid-August. Our soil type is a sandy loam (quick draining), and it was a hot summer.

Backyard Rain Garden Basin 2-6-25

This mulch area used to have a wooden play structure. The mulch has been continuously topped off for over 20 years, resulting in a 1 foot layer of 'coffee ground' soil that retains moisture for mesic/riparian plants like willows, elderberries, raspberries, and native maples

Foreground: flagstone pavers for continuing the contour berm pathway



East Contour Berm Flagstone Pathway 9-16-24

Foreground: the last few plants **Right:** East downspout basin

Background: we ringed established/mature trees with wood and added compost, leaves, and/or mulch inside the ring for support and moisture retention



East Downspout Basin Overflow (rough draft) 2-6-25

To mitigate future flood damages to the house, we directed overflow from this basin towards the carport by using a dirt/log berm that gradually tapers off. The carport's ground surface is higher closer to the building. We want to direct this overflow through the carport and connect it to the spruce tree swale in the front yard.



East Downspout Basin 9-16-24

Foreground: flagstone pathway built with free pavers sourced off of Craigslist that will serve as a contour berm

Background: cardboard marking the future flagstone pathway

East Downspout Basin 8-14-24

Foreground: plants ready to be planted

Downspout: the prior downspout was directed straight into a buried black flexi-pipe that was clogged with soil. The current downspout directs water directly to a Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)



East Downspout Basin 2-6-25

Foreground: ~6" wooden retaining wall and dirt/log berm to prevent water from flowing onto the patio. Chicken wire fence to dissuade dogs.

Plantings: plants with higher water needs are closer to the downspout



Elements to consider in installing a rain garden

A few crucial elements must be considered when designing a rain garden, and many of these are lacking in rain gardening projects I've seen or read about here in Colorado. One of the most important factors is understanding and measuring the rate of infiltration of water into your soil; the size of the rain garden you can support depends on it. To determine the infiltration rate, you need to dig a hole at least a foot deep and fill it with water multiple times. Then, you should time the rate of infiltration repeatedly until you get the same rate at least twice in a row. (Why is this important? A soil with faster infiltration will absorb more water more quickly. Standing water or excess water is not great.) This [video](#) shows you how to do a percolation test.

Another important factor is calculating the area of the roof, patio, or driveway that you are draining; the size of the rain garden you can support also depends on this area. (This is super easy math!) Check out [this document](#), or check out Appendix 3 of Brad Lancaster's Guiding Principles for Rainwater Harvesting volume or Appendix 2 of Brad Lancaster's Water Harvesting Earthworks volume.

It's also important to have some familiarity with your local weather patterns and know what your typical storm size is as well as the size of a bigger storm, say a "20 year" storm. This will help you determine the volume of water you need to be able to hold in your rain garden basin in case of a large storm. (If you want to nerd out, go to NOAA's [precipitation frequency estimates](#) and look at the tabular information, otherwise, trust me in my saying that for most of us, being able to deal with a 2" rain event gets you through most of the largest, hardest storms.)

Organic matter helps absorb and hold precipitation and will also break down over time, increasing the water holding capacity of the soil. Soil sponge, people. Rock is absolutely not an acceptable substitute and does nothing to improve drainage or absorption of water, and that's what I see in a lot of "rain gardens" here. The only utility that rock has is for reducing erosion on steep slopes. Think of it as an "optional" feature, not a mandatory one.

Obviously, you need to plan for where overflow from a really big storm can safely flow. (What volume does your basin hold? What amount of rain would fill it and cause it to overflow? Where are you sending that overflow?)

Finally, you need to consider the needs of the plants you want to plant in the rain garden. Riparian plants are best suited for rain garden basin bottoms, while very xeric plants are not. Since most riparian plants benefit from a consistent source of water, you may need to utilize greywater to ensure daily irrigation. Other riparian-adjacent plants can withstand dry periods and may be better suited for areas irrigated by downspouts. Again, a soil sponge (copious organic matter) also helps store soil moisture.

For More Information

Brad Lancaster's books and many YouTube videos, as well as articles and videos at the Watershed Management Group's website, provide excellent information on rain garden design and plant selection. (The Watershed Management Group in Tucson was where I received my certification. The certification course is currently the most comprehensive course in the U.S. and is very solid and practical.) I recommend you peruse [this page](#) at the Watershed Management Group. Information pages about several Colorado cities and their climate patterns can be found at [Brad's website](#). Instructions for making your own "one page assessment" for your location which incorporate a lot of the ideas above are [here](#).

Stay tuned for another article by Kristine Johnson in the January/February Newsletter and an upcoming WOFR webinar in February on rainwater harvesting presented by Theodore Johnson Mencimer of Meadow Pro.

Ask CSU Extension Anything (About Native Plants)



Is there a list of Colorado keystone species?

Question: Is there a list of Colorado keystone species? And, what do you think of the concept of Keystone species?



A young Boxelder tree (Acer negundo) supports 78 caterpillar species. (Photo by Linda Hellow)

Answer: Many organizations have developed lists of keystone species for Colorado and the wider region. Perhaps one of the most thorough (and most flexible, because it is focused on the genus level) is from the National Wildlife Federation, for Colorado's wider eco-region. It can be found online [here](#). Caution! Not all these genera are hardy here, and it is a *regionally native* list, so if local nativity is particularly important to you, you'll need to do more homework. (I'm looking at you, *Parkinsonia*).

Now to the "meat and potatoes," though. "Keystone species" as a concept has suffered from its own success and has become, through common parlance, rather poorly defined. If you search online for "keystone species," you'll likely find a number of definitions that appeal to "the balance of nature." This concept of balance is not ecological nor supported by evidence. Most ecological publications consider a keystone species to be one that exerts an "outsized" influence on an ecosystem toward the stability of the status quo species assemblage. (What exactly constitutes "outsized" remains a bit nebulous).

Rubber Rabbitbrush (Ericameria nauseosa) is food for the rabbit brush beetle larvae (Trirhabda nitidicollis), which is one of 17 caterpillar species that visit this common Colorado shrub. Rabbitbrush also provides pollen for 29 bee species. (Photo by Linda Hellow)



While this is a fairly functional definition, as gardeners we need to be aware of at least two philosophical traps:

1. Is the status quo desirable and according to whom? We can fall into the idea that whatever is growing in an undisturbed state represents some sort of pinnacle of ecological development but this is not necessarily true. Moreover, ecosystems

change over time and judging what is “best” requires a subjective judgement of value—particularly in the face of global climate change or in highly disturbed areas (like urban and suburban gardens).

2. Ecosystems in general are poorly understood because of their complexity. It is extremely difficult to judge which species are exerting influences on others and how strong those influences might be (and in what direction). We tend to identify visually dominant species of approximately our own size as keystone species but “there are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.” *Ecology isn’t rocket science, it’s harder.* A 2019 review article by Dee et al., [When Do Ecosystem Services Depend on Rare Species?](#), outlines some of the difficulty in determining keystone-ness.

Instead of chasing a hypothetical (and perhaps mythical) ecosystem ideal, try to identify your own landscape objectives, both for your own enjoyment and for wider ecological support, and choose plants that can meet those goals while growing in the site with minimal inputs.

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 News

Our next Board Meeting is on November 19, from 6-8 pm. If you have any interest in joining our board, consider attending our meeting this month to see how we operate. [Email us](#) to get an invitation.

How We Work as an Organization

By Deborah Lebow Aal, Vice President, WOFR

It has come to our attention that there is some confusion about how we operate as a Chapter, and you no doubt get emails from a variety of sources that further complicate the matter. So, I will attempt to demystify it for you.

Wild Ones is a national organization, with 98 current chapters, and 37 seedlings (groups wanting to become chapters). You no doubt get emails from Wild Ones National, such as their monthly newsletter. Wild Ones Front Range Chapter is one of those 98 chapters, and is currently the only chapter in Colorado. You no doubt get emails from the chapter, like the invitation to the upcoming webinar, [Designing Beautiful and Diverse Plant Communities From Seed](#).

And since we are the only chapter in Colorado, in 2023 we divided into 6 regions. The purpose of this move is to have more localized events and true neighbor-to-neighbor

interactions. No doubt you are now getting emails from your Regional Coordinators for the more localized events. The six regions are: Pikes Peak; Douglas/Elbert Counties; Jeffco; Denver Metro; Boulder Area and Northern. If you do not know which region you are in, or who your Regional Coordinators are, please email us [HERE](#).

The Front Range Chapter has a working Board of Directors, currently with 9 members, providing support to the Regions, but also providing other chapter-wide services, such as fundraising, chapter-wide programs, treasury duties, newsletter, web page design and support, interaction with Wild Ones National staff, advocacy, partnership with other organizations, and more.

As a member of the chapter, you can attend events in any of the six regions. If you look at our [Events page](#), and you see something not in your region that you'd like to attend, just register for it. Most of our events are open to any chapter members. And, you can attend events posted on the national webpage by any chapter, if they are open and virtual. There are many, many interesting programs all around the country. Check the [Wild Ones national website](#) for listings. As an example, I just attended, virtually, a webinar put on by the Keweenaw Chapter (Michigan) titled "Be A Better Gardener: Dig Into The Science of Soils."

- I hope that clarifies how we operate, but if not, please [ASK](#).
-

Call for More Volunteers

Our Wild Ones Chapter is growing so fast, our small volunteer board can't keep up! With 786 members, we are by far the largest of the 98 chapters across the nation, and while we love having this explosive growth, we need more help and active engagement from more of our members. Here are a few areas we want to highlight:

Seed Swap Lead: We need someone to take the lead for the seed swaps in the fall. Each of our regions will likely hold its own swap. We need someone to serve as the coordinator for the swap activities, from designing the flyers to assisting the regions and managing distribution of the seed inventories and ensuring that the seeds distributed by Wild Ones are accurately identified. You'll gain expertise in accurately identifying native plant seeds and collecting and preparing them for the swap, and meet like-minded wonderful people! Training will be provided.

Newsletter Lead: Deb has been leading the newsletter work for over 7 years and we would love to find relief for her. This position is responsible for providing (although not always writing) the content of the newsletter, which is published every two months. We need someone to generate ideas for articles, find writers, tickle those writers when an article is due, edit articles, keep the newsletter schedule up to date, and review the newsletter once it is put together in Constant Contact. Familiarity with Constant Contact is a plus, but training will be provided. You'll contribute to one of the Chapter's signature information resources and gain visibility with our members. If you like behind the scenes work, this is for you!

Grant Writer: We need someone to write a grant guidance document for us for giving out and receiving money. You would be helping the chapter give and receive grants in the future.

Pikes Peak Regional Co-Coordinator: As you probably know, the Front Range Chapter of Wild Ones has six regions. One of our six is the Pikes Peak Region, which includes Colorado Springs and neighboring towns. The Pikes Peak Region is looking for an enthusiastic and energetic Regional Co-coordinator, starting in January. Our outgoing Co-Coordinator, Sue Wright, and existing Co-Coordinator, Louise Conner, will help with the transition. The Front Range Chapter is organized by geography to increase local member engagement and connection. Each region hosts at least 2 member gatherings each year, with at least one of these being a Member Garden Crawl, a plant swap and/or a seed swap.

Responsibilities include:

- Collaborating with Co-coordinator Louise Conner.
- Organizing meetings and planning committees.
- Delegating event responsibilities.
- Sending out email information to Pikes Peak Region members.
- Coordinating and documenting event happenings in the Pikes Peak Region for the Wild Ones Front Range Chapter.
- Attending monthly chapter board meetings (via Zoom).

This is a fun and rewarding volunteer position and a great way to connect with the Pikes Peak native plant community.

To apply for any of the positions please contact fronrangewildones@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

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

**Denver Metro Region: Seed Collection Aurora Reservoir
November 2**

**Pikes Peak Region Native Seed Cleaning Workshop
November 3**

**WOFR Webinar: "Got Seed? Ready to Sow! Sowing Resilience: Designing Beautiful
and Diverse Plant Communities from Seed" with Michael Guidi
November 6**

**Pikes Peak Region Native Seed Share/Seed Swap
November 8**

**Denver Metro Region: Seed Collection at Plains Conservation Center
November 8**

**Denver Metro Region - Seed Cleaning
November 10**

**Boulder County Region Seed Cleaning
November 15**

**Denver Metro + Jeffco Region Native Seed Swap
November 16**

**Northern Colorado Native Seed Swap and Seed Giveaway
November 16**

**WOFR Board Meeting
November 19**

**Boulder County Region Seed Cleaning
November 22**

**Boulder County Regional Seed Swap
December 14**

Don't Miss !! Coming Soon! WOFR Webinar

November 6th, 6:30pm – 8:00pm MT

Sowing Resilience: Designing Beautiful and Diverse Plant Communities from Seed

Guest Speaker - Michael Guidi,

Manager of Horticulture Research Programs at Denver Botanic Gardens

Michael will share experiments testing the feasibility of direct seeding in urban contexts. He'll explore seed mix design, site preparation, and soil conditions that influence both ecological outcomes and aesthetic performance. [Click here](#) to learn more on the Wild Ones Front Range Website Events Page and register. Registration will close on November 3 at midnight.

COLORADO GIVES DAY!



Give Where You Live - Colorado Gives Day!

Thanks to your incredible donations each year, we are able to empower more Front Range residents to transform their outdoor spaces into *Coloradoscapes* with native plants. Donations enable us to educate and motivate people to take action to heal the earth, right where we live. In 2025 so far, we've already hosted several webinars, numerous plant swaps and numerous seed collection/cleaning events, and have plans to give away free seeds at our five November/December seed swaps.

As a volunteer-run chapter of Wild Ones National, Wild Ones Front Range greatly appreciates your generous donations during our annual Colorado Gives campaign between now and December 9.

Click [here](#) to donate.

Zero-Cost Donation!

There's a simple way you can contribute financially to WOFR, without spending any money! *A free donation!* Link WOFR (Wild Ones Front Range Chapter) with your King Soopers Card. Their [Community Rewards Program](#) will then make a contribution to WOFR at the end of the year, based on the total number of purchases made by the people who have linked their card to our organization. **Do it today!**



Pollinator License Plate



You can show your true colors on your car as you drive around. The Protect Our Pollinators license plate was created by our sister organization, PPAN (People and Pollinators Action Network). The image on the plate is a Hunt's Bumblebee on a Blanket Flower, both Colorado natives species. For a one-time contribution to PPAN, you can support pollinators and get others interested as well. For more information, visit their website [PPAN License Plate](#).

We love hearing from you!

If you would like to comment on anything in this newsletter or write an article, please [email us](#) your comments or ideas.

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



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