



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

Wild Ones Front Range Chapter’s Mission

The way we landscape our yards really matters to the ecosystem. We are here to help! 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. And, any photos you have of your native plant garden or insects or birds on your native plants, please send us!



Foothills Garden at Gardens on Spring Creek, Fort Collins (photographer unknown)

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Favorite Native Plant Combinations

By Deborah Lebow Aal*

I bet you've made some design mistakes with your native plants. I certainly have. I've put a red flower next to another clashing red flower, a tall flower in front of a short, and much worse. So silly. So, I asked a few very active Wild Ones Front Range Chapter folks what their favorite native plant combinations are, and boy, did I get lots of responses. It seems this is a topic on which many have an opinion.

So, I'm sharing their responses here. Some are simple, some are complicated. I won't name names, but some of these folks are famous (at least in our circles) landscapers! When it's a direct quote from someone, I've put quotation marks around it.



Paintbrush and artemisia pair well together.

- *Artemisia frigida* (fringed sage) and *Castilleja integrifolia* (indian paintbrush). This is a classic combination, as indian paintbrush is hemiparasitic, meaning it attaches to the roots of host plants to siphon nutrients. I think paintbrush also looks good and survives with many native grasses.
- *Eriogonum umbellatum* (sulphur flower) and *Glandularia binnatifida* (prairie verbena)

- *Eriogonum umbellatum* (sulphur flower) and *Oenothera caespitosa* (tufted evening primrose)
- *Ratibida columnifera* (mexican hat) and *Coreopsis lanceolata* (lanceleaf coreopsis): This is a lovely combination but beware of lanceleaf coreopsis – my experience is that it spreads rapaciously! If that's what you want, great!
- *Penstemon eatonii* (firecracker penstemon) and *Berlandia lyrata* (chocolate flower)
- *Penstemon eatonii* (firecracker penstemon) and *Penstemon strictus* (Rocky Mountain penstemon)
- *Penstemon strictus* (Rocky Mountain penstemon) and *Linum lewisii* (wild blue flax): (This one is interesting as it is a blue and purple together, but yes, it works!)
- *Linum lewisii* (wild blue flax) and *Penstemon pinifolius* (pineleaf penstemon)
- *Anaphalis margaritacea* (pearly everlasting) and *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed)



Penstemon strictus (Rocky Mountain penstemon) *Penstemon eatonii* (firecracker penstemon)

"I do love the classic Colorado purple/blue and yellow contrast, so a mix like this makes me very happy:

- *Machaeranthera bigelovii* (Bigelow's tansyaster)
- *Linum lewisii* (blue flax)
- *Salvia azurea* var. *grandiflora* (giant blue sage / blue pitcher sage)
- *Liatris punctata* (dotted blazing star)
- *Ratibida columnifera* (prairie coneflower/Mexican hat)
- *Solidago rigida* (stiff goldenrod)
- *Berlandiera lyrata* (chocolate flower)
- *Artemisia frigida* (fringed sage)

This combo gives that beautiful blue/purple + yellow palette and also provides a long bloom window for pollinators. And this doesn't even cover the shrubs and grasses!"



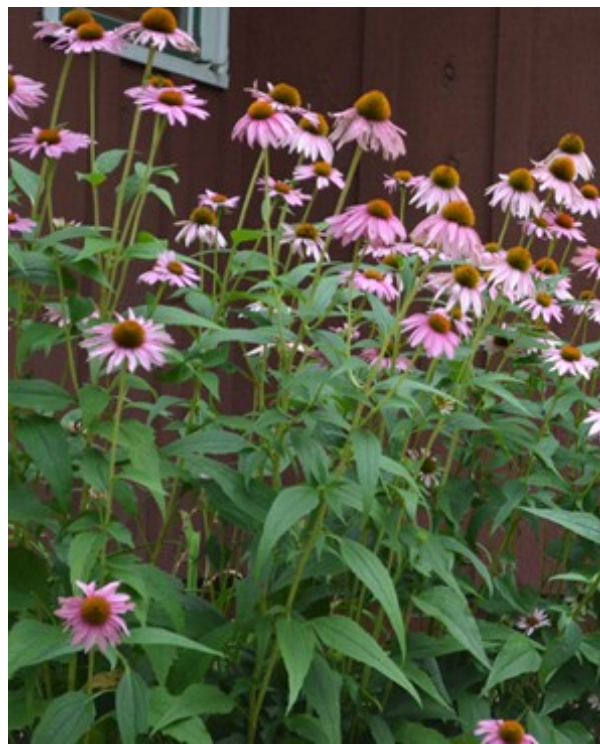
Berlandiera lyrata (chocolate flower)



Liatris punctata (dotted blazing star)

“Here's what I'm liking these days - attempting a Piet Oudolf style with a constrained color palette and mass plantings:

- Swaths of *Andropogon gerardii*, (big bluestem) for movement and fall color (if it's a big enough space as they can take over).
- Swaths of *Schizachryium scoparium* (little bluestem), for movement and fall color
- Tons of *Bouteloua gracilis* (blue grama grass) as matrix filler, like a river, throughout, and for fall seed heads.
- Tons of *Allium cernuum* (nodding onion), for mass planting in swaths or big clumps, for front of border interest and summer lilac flower clusters.
- Clumps of *Echinacea pallida* (purple coneflower) massed in between the taller and shorter grasses to add lavender flower heads in summer and punctuating black seed heads all winter.
- *Liatris pycnostachya* (prairie blazing star), as vertical interest with lavender flower stalks for summer interest in a few places in and among the grasses, which give it a little shade.
- Just a few of the *Eryngium yuccifolium* (rattlesnake master) for the surprising 4' tall white flower capsules in summer that persist as seed heads throughout the winter.



Echinacea purpurea (purple coneflower)



"I have really enjoyed the idea of having a combo of grasses and flora popping up through the grass meadow! Now that the corner of our property is nicely established with a *Bouteloua gracilis* (blue grama)/*Bouteloua dactyloides* (Buffalo grass) mix, I have enjoyed seeing various *Helianthus* species popping up. As I continue to direct sow more vertical flora seed, I'm hoping to see more of that grass/flora combo pop up!"

This commenter gave names to his combinations:

“Landscapey: *Nolina greenei* (Woodland beargrass) + *Zinnia grandiflora* (Prairie zinnia) + *Liatris punctata* (Dotted blazing star)

Big Forby: *Silphium terebinthinaceum* (Prairie dock)/*Ilaciniatum* (Compass plant, extirpated from Colorado!) plus *Sporobolus airoides* (Alkali sacaton) plus *Desmanthus illinoensis* (Prairie mimosa or Illinois bundleflower)

Xeric/winter: *Oryzopsis hymenoides* (Indian ricegrass) plus *Gutierrezia sarothrae* (Broom snakeweed) plus *Opuntia phaeacantha* (Desert prickly pear or tulip prickly pear)

Short and Sweet: *Bouteloua dactyloides* (Buffalograss) plus *Artemisia frigida* (Fringed sage) plus *Liatris punctata* (Dotted blazing star, borrowed from Lauren Springer)

Sexy Gothic: *Arctostaphylos patula* (Greenleaf manzanita) plus Burned and dead conifer trunks!"

"Some of my current favorites are *Stanleya pinnata* (prince's plume) and *Penstemon grandiflorus* (large flowered penstemon) in the spring; *Eragrostis spectabilis* (purple lovegrass) and *Melampodium leucanthum* (blackfoot daisy) in mid-summer; *Schizachyrium scoparium* (little bluestem) and *Agastache rupestris* (licorice mint hyssop) in the fall (admittedly, this last one I saw at DBG and I'm working to incorporate it).

Below are pictures of the first two combinations in my garden. In the first photo, the Stanleya (yellow spike) is pretty far along in its bloom, though."



"For a cooler spot, I love apple trees , elderberry, snowberry shrubs, rosa woodsii, alpine strawberries and columbine.

For a sunny spot, I love Pinon Pine, Silver Sage, Goldenrod, Rocky Mountain Penstemon and buffalo grass."

"I like color combinations of orange and purple or red and purple. *Sphaeralcea munroana* (Munro's globemallow) with *Penstemon glaber* var *alpinus* (alpine sawsepal penstemon) provides a striking contrast in color, as does *Penstemon eatonii* (firecracker penstemon) and *Penstemon grandiflora* (large-flowered beardtongue).

I love the look of the taller penstemons in the same garden: *Penstemons digitalis* (foxglove beardtongue), *clutei* (sunset crater beardtongue), *palmeri* (Palmer's penstemon) and *virgatus* (wandbloom penstemon). They are of the same genus, but the leaves and blooms vary in texture, color and shape.

I've come to appreciate how well *Carex brevior* (plains oval sedge) fills in space in the garden."

"My favorite combos are anything "low-moundy" with "tall-spikey." *Yucca*, *Agave* or *Nolina* surrounded by *Eriogonum*, spreading, low *Erigeron*, or even baby blue rabbitbrush. Like fireworks resting in puffy clouds!"



If you have other native plant favorite combinations you'd like to tell us about, we can do another article! Please send to: frontrangewildones@gmail.com

*Deb is President of the Colorado chapter of Wild Ones, the Front Range chapter, and is a passionate native plant gardener.

Ask CSU Extension Anything (About Native Plants)



Is Bare Root Planting worthwhile?

Question: I have been practicing bare root planting (removing potting soil before planting a potted plant) for several years. It seems like a good idea in that it puts the roots in direct contact with the new soil in which it will grow.

I am wondering if there are any scientific studies that show this method of planting is more successful than the traditional method of minimal disturbance of the potting soil and leaving it on the roots when planting?

Also, do you have any recommendations on its application? For example; would you use it when planting bushes and trees, should you retain some of the potting soil, etc.

Answer: Studies on washing roots of woody plants have been mixed and researchers seem to disagree; I suspect that the differences may be coming from species of trees or the nursery treatment prior to planting (that is, container-grown trees tend to better than many B&B trees, especially large B&B trees). James Urban, a renowned landscape designer and urban forester, recommends growing trees in gravel pits so that they can be planted bare-root with good root structure to get around this issue, and I think it's worth noting that every single old tree in Denver—the stately giants lining our parkways—were planted in this way. Container growing and B&B trees are a relatively recent horticultural phenomenon.

I am not aware of any studies about doing this to perennials, perhaps partly because of the difficulty of measuring some of the most interesting factors (when is a perennial established?) and partly because perennials just don't get as much attention as woody plants. However, similar to bare-root planting trees, the practice of bare-root planting (or "washed-root," if you prefer) for perennials is also an older horticultural practice that seems to somehow have been "memory-holed." Gardeners have been doing this for centuries (for example, from the 1889 Illustrated Dictionary of Gardening, excerpted from "transplanting": *"Lift the roots with the least possible injury, make the new holes sufficiently wide that all may be spread at full length; and, after regulating them with the hand, cover with soil that is in a good, workable condition."* Note that this presumes that the roots are able to be stretched and worked with the hand; i.e.-not nestled into a ball of potting mix. Wholesalers often ship plants bare-rooted; most herbaceous plants are quite tolerant of this practice. The only native plant I've run across that this doesn't work on is *Ipomoea leptophylla*, which so heartily resents root disturbance in my experience that I'm convinced that it can only be successfully grown if directly planted in place from seed. Even transplanting it without disturbing the potting mix is a challenge!

For practical application—I would (and do) wash the roots of any herbaceous perennial or woody plant grown in a container. (I don't bother with annuals). Only B&B trees give me some pause, since the process of harvesting removes so many of their roots to begin with; the risk of any additional loss by removing the soil of the ball is higher than for container grown plants. Still, some researchers (notably Linda Chalker-Scott) recommend washing B&B trees regardless, not least in order to find and correct root issues that developed at the nursery. Others, like Jeff Gilman, disagree and have conducted studies on some tree species that did not perform well after root washing. It may well be species-dependent and season-dependent for trees.

*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.

Book Review

Two Books I Wish I Had Read Twenty Years Ago

In reading the book, it became clear that Stein was a very intelligent, inquisitive person who was relentless in getting scientific answers to her questions. She delved deeply into plant and animal ecology to find out how the native plant and animal communities worked together to produce a healthy environment. She wanted to know how to plant a natural meadow and forest and also bring back the wildlife.

Then she and her husband started letting their lawn return to a wild meadow and planting (mostly) native plants in the gardens. The woodlot was left alone, except for the removal of some invasive species. For the pond; native riparian plants were added around the perimeter, water plants were added, and the shoreline was altered to accommodate wildlife.

Eventually she ended up with low-maintenance native plant gardens, natural meadows and the wildlife returned. One of the most exciting moments for her was when a bluebird nested in her yard. She had not seen one for forty years!

These are some of her quotes regarding lawn versus native plant meadows:

"That gifts were being offered was evident in the general hum and flutter of insect life. The meadow was audible with bees and crickets; the mowed grass was silent. The meadow waved and nodded in the wind; crowds of leaf hoppers leapt to the brush of a hand. The lawn was deadly still."

"Friends left with wildflowers; Who would ask for a bouquet of lawn?"

"When the meadow turned to gold and bronze set off by purple asters and yellow goldenrod, the lawn remained the tiresome green that it had been since May Day and would remain 'til Christmas."

Stein is an excellent writer with a lot of subtle sarcasm to make her points.

I, personally, learned of the importance of native plants versus lawn in the last seven years or so from Doug Tallamy's books and presentations. Sara Stein made the point just as eloquently, if not more so, 33 years ago. I wish I had known. Everything she said then is still current today.

I first saw *Weedless Gardening* in the Gift Shop at Denver Botanic Gardens. I figured it was just another book with a catchy title and not much content, although weedless gardening is certainly a nice goal. I ultimately borrowed the book from the library and one of the first things I read was that the author has a PhD in Soil Science. Now I thought, "maybe this is a legitimate gardening technique."

Yes, the book is mainly directed towards an audience of vegetable and flower gardeners, but the information is directly applicable to native plant gardens as well.

The basis for his system is to minimize soil disturbance. We all know that the more you disturb the soil, the more latent weed seeds you invigorate. And soil is packed full of weed seeds. One study found an average of 140 seeds per pound of soil. They are just waiting to get back to the surface to get some sunlight and water and then they are ready to grow.

He really does mean, "don't disturb the soil!" No digging whatsoever. The author thoroughly explains how in the natural world, nutrients start at the top of the soil and travel downward, aided by water and organisms such as microbes, worms and insects. For a vegetable garden, this would typically only call for a layer of compost and any amendments on top of the soil – no need to rake into the soil.

The key to really reaching the goal of weedless gardening (or at least minimal-weed gardening) is to start by killing the weeds or other plants covering your garden plot. Basically, to start with a clean slate. His recommended technique is simple. He lays down a double layer of newspaper over the new (or old) garden area and covers it with

the desired mulch, to both hold the paper down and to keep light from reaching the soil. The mulch can be seed-free compost or bark chips or other materials, depending on what you plan on planting. The mulch should be 1"- 3" deep. This is the method, with some variations, that I learned from Wild Ones just a few years ago.

The book includes a lot of information on laying out a garden from scratch. Once again, the main focus is vegetable gardening, but it also covers flower gardens.

The book includes information on ground covers, meadow planting from seed, vines, shrubs and trees (including fruiting trees). All of this in a small book.

The author is also a strong advocate for drip irrigation. He covers the basics on how it effectively waters the plants and how to design a layout for your garden. He believes it is best to only water during the day, because that is when the plants need water, and doing it several times a day for short intervals.

I was very surprised to learn that the book was first published in 2001. Overall, many of the techniques he presents are ones I have only heard about in the last five years. I wish I had found this book twenty years ago! I would have done a lot less tilling and pulled a lot fewer weeds! I recommend it to all gardeners, both native plant gardeners and vegetable gardeners. I suspect that a large percentage of Wild Ones members fall into both categories.

Plant Stories

Blue flax (*Linum lewisii*)

By Karen Vanderwall*



Profuse periwinkle blue flowers brighten the spring garden. (Photo by Karen Vanderwall)

I have read many times about and written the name of the species *lewisii* without a thought. Interestingly, the species is named after Meriwether Lewis of Lewis and Clark. Apparently, he came upon the species along the upper Missouri River as his expedition approached the Rocky Mountains in Montana. Lewis was interested in this newly found flax plant for its potential as a useful agricultural crop in the way the European flax *Linum usitatissimum* had become. The European flax was introduced from Europe and was fully cultivated by the 1600's for making linen textiles and linseed oil. Although, Native Americans used *Linum lewisii* for cordage, it is considered a low quality fiber compared to the European variety for the commercial market.

In Colorado, as written in a previous Wild Ones Front Range (WOFR) newsletter, prior to development, the high plains corridor that intersects with the Front Range of the Rockies was a short grass prairie ecosystem. Grasses dominated, but a few perennials were common including blue flax, (*Linum lewisii*). This is one of our WOFR president's personal

favorites. She cautions “once you have a few, you will have quite a few; it is a prolific re-seeder.” But adds, “its flowers are such a beautiful color – a luminous blue, and so happy in my garden.” It is also on the Wild Ones Front Range list of “Hardest of Hardy Plants for Colorado’s Front Range” by Deb Lebow, Kenton Seth and Bob Nold.



Blue flax grows in a vase-like shape. This one survived an April snow and still maintains its shape. (Photo by Linda Hellow)

Blue flax is known by several names such as Lewis flax, prairie flax, Western blue flax and wild blue flax. This lovely garden addition reaches 2 to 3 feet high and 1 foot wide. It is native to Western North America from Alaska south to northern Mexico and east to the Mississippi River. Blue flax blooms from late spring to mid-summer. Alas, the beautiful rotate, or wheel-shaped, blue flowers only last one day each, opening typically at sunrise and losing its petals by afternoon. But there are many more blossoms opening each day, continuously blooming from spring into summer. Its flowers have 5 petals reaching 1 to 1 1/2 inches in size.

Blue flax is pollinated by flies, native bees, butterflies and other insects in Colorado. As a Colorado native flax, it supports native pollinators, which are crucial for the local ecosystem, including birds and wildlife, and biodiversity. An interesting note, when in your garden you can tell which insects are pollinators because they visit the same species whereas visitors will land on different plants possibly feeding on nectar but not assisting in pollination.

Direct sowing of the seeds of blue flax in late fall is the recommended method for growing success. They generate a deep tap root which is great for accessing moisture deep down in the soil but they do not tolerate transplanting well. Taproots are basically a single deep root on which they depend and they cannot easily or quickly grow another one. Lewis blue flax thrives in USDA hardiness zones 3-9. Seeds can be harvested from July-August and each seed head produces up to 10 seeds each! Conveniently, when allowed to dry well, seeds retain viability for several years.



Linum lewisii often blooms a second time in the fall with Rudbeckia. (Photo by Karen Vanderwall)

There are roughly 200 species in the flax genera *Linum*. If purchasing a flax from your local nursery, be sure to buy the species *lewisii* as that is our native species here in Colorado. *Linum perenne*, also known as perennial flax, is sold in nurseries as well. Perennial flax was introduced from Europe as an ornamental plant. It is closely related to Lewis flax and looks very similar.

References

Colorado State University Extension, Jefferson County Colorado, Colorado Plant Data Base, Wild Blue Flax, *Linum lewisii*, 2026.

National Park Service, Cedar Breaks National Monument Utah, Blue Flax.

University of Texas at Austin, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Plant Database, *Linum lewisii*.

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Plant Fact Sheet, *Linum lewisii*.

USDA, US Forest Service, Fire Effects Information System, *Linum lewisii*.

*Karen Vanderwall is on the Wild Ones Front Range Chapter Board of Directors. She gardens in Fort Collins, CO.

Advocacy

How to Spark a Native Plant Revolution

By Deborah Lebow Aal*, interviewing Danna Liebert*

Many of you have asked how we can drive change where we live to make our cities more sustainable— Specifically, how we can get our cities to create ecologically restorative green spaces, plant more native plants, adopt habitat-friendly maintenance practices, and reduce the use of pesticides. Given all the opportunities to build more ecological resilience in urban and suburban landscapes, change is not happening fast enough for most (all?) of us Wild Ones members. So, I spoke to Danna Liebert, who has worked for change where she lives on a number of fronts —from working with her parks department to convert a conventional turfgrass park to native plant pollinator habitat and serving on her city's Sustainability Commission, to repeatedly organizing residents to speak at City Council

meetings about the need for more native plant landscaping. Most recently she has worked to get Englewood's weed ordinance updated to exempt native plants. She gave me the following insights.

The big picture, she says, is getting cities to see the stewardship of nature as their responsibility because traditionally that has not been anyone's job. And yet, virtually every department has opportunities for ecological restoration. Danna sees progress in her city — albeit slower than she'd like. She attributes this to community activism by a relatively small group of residents who have consistently shown up to let Englewood's City Council know the changes they want. She has observed that not many people participate in local politics, so those who do, can have a disproportionate influence.

We all know that we will have the most impact by acting locally. That means we have to pay attention locally and get involved. So, to be a local change-maker, here are ways for you to plug in:

- **Get informed:** Sign up for updates and newsletters from municipal departments; track upcoming city council meeting agendas; learn what your Sustainability or Climate Resilience Department is up to. Find out your city's stated sustainability goals.
- **Identify advocacy opportunities:** Find out about upcoming projects that your municipality is working on. From a new park to a new apartment complex, there are always opportunities to influence the project to be more sustainable, or regenerative, e.g., reduce turf, build in swales and berms for water retention, plant native plants instead of exotics in flower beds. Are updates being planned for building codes that you can move in a greener direction?
- **Mobilize:** Spread the word and bring other people with you. Build a mailing list of interested people in your community. The more people that come to committee meetings on your issue, the more your issue will be listened to.
- **Find allies within your local government:** Get to know people who are sympathetic to your cause — ask to meet with a city council member, your mayor, the chair of the Sustainability Commission.
- **Join a local commission** where you can impact your city's landscaping policy — such as your city's Sustainability, Parks, or Development Commissions. If you can't serve full time, track their agendas and attend relevant meetings.

And here are some things we think you should be vocal about (and that WOFR is working on developing advocacy resources for) :

- **Regenerative Cities Proclamations:** encourage planting of trees to reduce the urban heat-island effect, encourage the use of electric vehicles.
- **Weed Ordinances:** Research your town's weed ordinance and find out if it needs to be amended to exempt native plants. Chances are it does. (Here is [more information](#) on weed ordinances from Wild Ones National).
- **Habitat Friendly Firescaping (HFF):** Advocate for HFF so that your city considers ecological benefits as they develop their firescaping code.
- **Pesticide Policy:** Get involved in pesticide policy; learn how to make cities accountable and reduce their dependence on pesticides. Perhaps the best way here in Colorado is to reach out to PPAN ([People and Pollinators Action Network](#).)

Passionate about effecting changing? If you are interested in getting involved with WOFR advocacy efforts on a broader policy level, contact Danna.liebert@icloud.com, If you want to work on advocacy locally in your city, please contact one of your Regional Coordinators. Their contact information is [here](#).

* Danna Liebert is a Wild Ones Front Range Board member and owner of Grounded Growth Landscape Design.

*Deb Lebow Aal is President of Wild Ones Front Range

Chapter News

Our next Board Meetings are on May 20 and June 17, 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.

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:

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.

Denver/Aurora Region Communications Coordinator: The Denver/Aurora Region of WOFR currently has three regional coordinators. We are looking for a fourth who will take care of our communications needs. These needs include: welcoming new members (via email); maintaining our contact lists; tracking attendance records; writing newsletter posts summarizing events; building relationships. For more information, contact denvermetrowofr@gmail.com

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

Upcoming Events

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

Events/Partners of Interest to WOFR Members

FeatherFolk — a neighborhood bird program coming to Denver this spring

FeatherFolk is a neighborhood bird program launching this spring in the **Globeville neighborhood of Denver**. It's a community-led collaboration between conservation biologist Jessie Sushinsky, **Hope Tank**, and a coalition of neighborhood partners. Our five-week program brings Globeville residents of all ages together to explore what birds can tell us about the environment, the land, and each other with community education sessions lead by naturalist Damián García, artist Danielle SeeWalker, community leader and elder Stephanie Salazar-Rodriguez, and community health and environmental justice expert Aracely Navarro.

You can see what FeatherFolk is all about here: <https://vimeo.com/1163064084>

Naturalistic, Water Wise Garden with Native Species to be Featured on GardenTour

The Friends of El Paso County Extension's (FOX) [2026 Garden Tour in Colorado Springs](#), June 27th and 28th, will feature a memorable garden. The garden was designed by horticulturists to balance ecological function, a natural aesthetic, and the practical needs of kids and a dog. Hand-built rock gardens create diverse micro-habitats, and dense planting was used to enhance appearance, increase species diversity, and suppress weeds. Firewise principles were carefully observed due to the location of the garden within the wildland–urban interface. Native grasses stabilize the slope and remain green with minimal irrigation, while a buffalo grass front lawn provides a traditional appearance consistent with water wise goals.

Wildlife has been an integral part of the landscape from the outset. Deer, rabbits, coyotes, and the occasional bear pass through, informing plant selections and reinforcing a pragmatic acceptance of minor browsing. Over time, the garden has become a refuge for birds and pollinators, supported by abundant flowers, seed heads, water, feeders, and layers of dense habitat. It continues to evolve toward greater use of native and distinctive species, offering a natural, resilient, and subtly wild foothills setting.

FOX is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that was organized in 2009 with the mission of raising money for the Colorado State University Extension in El Paso County. The primary fundraising activity for FOX is the annual Colorado Springs Garden Tour.

The Colorado Springs Garden Tour committee plans for future tours one year in advance so they are always seeking potential feature home gardens with an educational benefit to attendees in the areas of water conservation, xeriscaping, deer-resistant techniques, urban homesteading, and native plantings to increase biodiversity. If you'd like your garden to be considered in the next years, please forward your address and contact information to: jemnusbbaum@gmail.com.

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!**



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://frontrange.wildones.org/>



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