



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

This Month's Garden Tip.....Save some of your leaves for spring mulching, or better yet, keep all your leaves - in place.

Email Us!



Sumac Beauty in the Fall (Photos by Richard Phillips)

September/October 2026

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Become a member today!



2026 Annual Member Appreciation Social

Please join us to celebrate YOU at our annual member appreciation social! We will have food, drinks, prizes, and a chance to tour the Rocky Mountain Botanic Gardens. This is a great opportunity to socialize with fellow members and volunteers, and learn more about the Front Range Chapter, but most of all, let us say thank you for being a member!

If you are able and willing, please bring a dish to share during the event. Sign-up to contribute for the potluck [HERE](#).

Bohn Park
199 2nd Ave, Lyons, CO 80540

Sunday, October 4, 2026
03:00pm - 06:00pm

Add to [Google](#) · [Outlook Web](#) · [Outlook Mobile](#) · [Yahoo](#) · [iCal](#)

Register
Free

Chapter News

New Beginner's Guide to Colorado Native Plants

We have [a new booklet](#), that includes everything you need to know to be a Colorado native plant gardener. It's awesome! It is available in print form, when you come to a Wild Ones Front Range Chapter event, or just download it from our website. We know that all this information is available in our toolkit, but wanted a stand-alone piece of information that makes it simpler for the beginner gardener to find all the information they need. So, have at it, plant some native plants, and enjoy the fruits of your labor!

Coloradoscape Garden Signs

Yes, we've been busy. Also available are our new garden signs, available in purple or white. We have these beautiful new signs that can be a Cue to Care (e.g., let people know



what you are doing). We're asking for a donation of \$20 for the smaller sign (shown here), \$25 for the larger sign. If you'd like one, please contact your regional coordinator and we'll get a sign to them, for you.

Would you like to write for us? If so, please reach out and contact us!

Our next Board Meetings are on September 16 and October 21, 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.

Habitat Gardening is for the Birds!

By Kristine Johnson



Chickadee with caterpillar. (Photo by Doug Tallamy)

A few years ago, I applied for and received a Terra Foundation Grant from the Landscaping with Colorado Native Plants Conference. This meant \$1000 toward native plants which supported birds, while also requiring turf removal and tracking biodiversity in some way in my yard. We removed the last of the lawn in our backyard, committed to tracking birds, and dove into planting all kinds of Colorado native plants - forbs, grasses, shrubs, and small trees. As anyone who's been to our yard has seen, we've definitely gone to the birds. While I love beautiful flowers and I am thrilled by our bees, butterflies, moths, and more; gardening for birds has become my absolute highest gardening priority. Read on for the explanation, with a few bird stories interspersed.

[To Read the Rest of the Article](#)

Top Autumn Native Plants

By Karen Vanderwall

Goldenrod and aster. (Photo ©Al Schneider, swcoloradowildflowers.com)

At the end of August, native plant gardeners sigh and can enjoy the fruits of their labor – beautiful blooms, numerous species of bees, hummingbirds, perhaps fluttering monarchs and feeling the joy, the pride of a successful gardening season. But wait – the season isn't over yet!



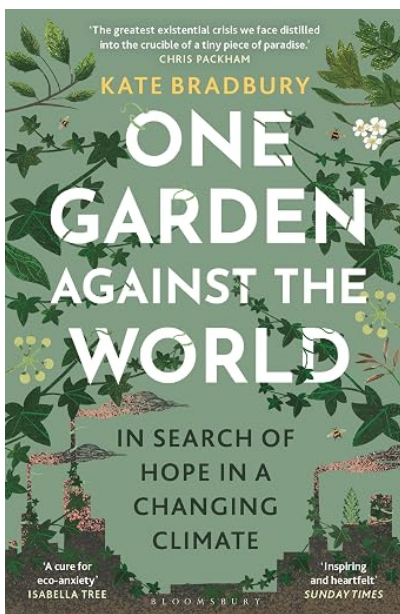
Native fall-blooming plants and shrubs are so important for Colorado gardens! They provide the essential late-season food for migrating and local pollinators when everything else has finished up. They basically bridge an important gap in ecosystems supporting all different wildlife in our region. We are talking nectar for bees and butterflies including migrating species that are preparing for winter. Luckily, native plants adapted for our region will hold up to the unpredictable frosts, moisture and soil temperatures of Colorado.

So, what are some of these important plants, the super stars of an autumn native plant garden? Check out the list below. You can plant starter plants in spring, more mature plants in late spring if given some water, or plants and seeds in fall.

[To Read the Rest of the Article](#)

Book Review

By Lani Rush



In author Kate Bradbury's own words, she specializes in practical wildlife gardening and her latest book *One Garden Against the World* is a memoir told over the course of a year in her 'modest' and 'relatable' garden in the United Kingdom. In it, she focuses on the power of small fixes like growing plants for insects (bees, caterpillars) and providing resources for birds. The subtitle, *In Search of Hope In a Changing Climate*, lets the reader know that Kate is also aware of the need for meaningful climate action at a global scale. The book is her attempt to knit our macroscopic problems with solutions that are accessible and feasible – and that do make a difference to wildlife.

To Read the Rest of the Article

Plant Spotlight

Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*)

By Karen Vanderwall and Kristine Johnson



Rhus glabra grows wide instead of tall, spreading by rhizomes. (Photo by USDA Plants Database, Herman, D.E., et al.)



Rhus glabra compound leaves turns bright red in the fall. (Photo ©Al Schneider, swcoloradowildflowers.com)

Smooth sumac is a multi-stemmed woody plant or shrub native to the Front Range of Colorado as well as southwestern Colorado. A special feature of this shrub is that the leaves turn bright red in the fall, often forming wide brilliant swaths of scarlet across the landscape. These shrubs are dioecious, meaning each shrub has either male or female flowers. Male shrubs have pollen producing flowers but not the well-known red fruit clusters, found only on the female shrubs.

To Read the Rest of the Article

Upcoming Events

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

Other Events/Partners of Interest to WOFR Members

The Colorado Native Plants Society (CONPS) is an important sister organization, dedicated to the preservation of native plants in Colorado. Their organization and website provide a wealth of information about native plants and their habitats, including gardening. They have many events around the state of interest to Wild Ones Members. [CONPS Events List](#)

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/>



Wild Ones Front Range | 6901 East Walsh Place | Denver, CO 80224 US

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