



Wild Ones

NATIVE PLANTS. NATURAL LANDSCAPES

SE MN Prairie Partners Chapter Newsletter June 2023 Volume 12 issue 2



John Arthur showing how to remove an insect from a net during our Dragonfly workshop. Photo by David Hendee



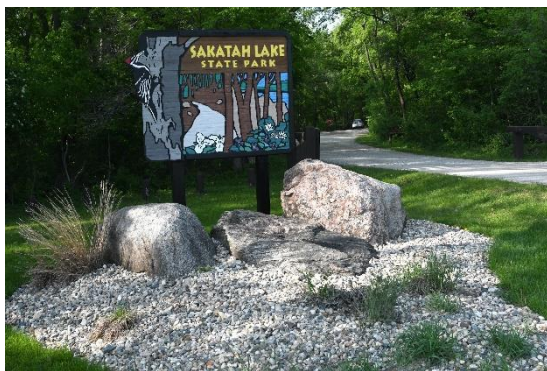
The damselfly is unharmed when handled by gently holding its wings. Photo by David Hendee



Pat Johnson getting plants ready for sale. Photo by Bruce Dybvik



Sandy, a plant sale customer says her only regret is not buying more plants! Photo by Bruce Dybvik



Sakatah State Park. Photo by Bruce Dybvik



Breanna and Laurie spread contractor paper and mulch in clearings, weeks ahead of the planting date to suppress weeds.



Wood Betony, Virginia Bluebells, Wild Geranium, and more were planted at Lashbrook.

Prairie Partners Chapter 2022 officers

President – Barb Bolan
Vice President – Nancy Schumacher
Secretary – Pat Johnson
Web Master – Jim Sipe
Treasurer – Jim Sipe
Membership Chair – Ann Dybvik
Newsletter Chair – Ann Dybvik

Wild Ones Mission: Native Plants, Natural Landscaping promote environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities. Wild Ones is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization.

Wild Ones National Address: 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Road, Neenah, WI 54956
www.wildones.org

Membership: Sign up/ renew online at www.wildoneones.org/membership.html or by mail at above address. Cost is \$40 per year for a household (family) membership. Student and other membership types also available.

SE MN Prairie Partners Mission Statement: To preserve, maintain and provide knowledge of native and restored plant communities in a way that fosters friendship.

SE MN Prairie Partners online:

<https://semnprairiepartners.wildones.org/>

[Wild Ones: SE MN Prairie Partners | Facebook](#)

Newsletter Committee: Lead: Ann Dybvik,
Chief Photographer: Bruce Dybvik, Committee:
Nancy Schumacher, Jim Sipe, Gary Bullemer,
Barb Bolan

Submitting articles for the newsletter – We welcome stories about natural areas, a native garden you have visited or designed, a nature-based vacation, a special flower, bird, butterfly, etc. Please contact Ann Dybvik at anndbvk@gmail.com to discuss your ideas.

Prairie Partners member local Services

(Please let us know if you have one to list)

Minnesota Native Landscapes (MNL), -
Dwayne Vosejka mnlcorp.com

Friends of Nerstrand State Park – Katy Gillispie [Friends of Nerstrand Big Woods](#)

Friends of Whitewater State Park – Joel Dunnette - [Friends of Whitewater](#)

River Bend Nature Center, www.rbnc.org
Packy Mader, Board of Directors

Halfpint Hollow Miniature Donkeys: Rod and Sue White halfpinthollow.com

CRP – Clean River Partnership: Bill Jokela
[Home - Clean River Partners](#)

Member-Sponsored-Native Garden program – Get paid to plant natives!

We are offering up to 5 native garden grants, for reimbursements of up to \$200@ for native plants purchased and installed in your yard or landscape project, in 2023. The gardener must either be a member or be sponsored by a member. There is still time to submit your application, but on a first come, first accepted, for valid applications case. Multiple folks are planning to submit for the remaining openings. Please contact Barb Bolan at bdbolan@hotmail.com for an application.

Upcoming 2023 Chapter Programs – *We will always need some flexibility in schedules due to weather and health concerns. Inside, in-person events will typically be held in the Emmaus Church at 712 Linden St. North.*

July 13, 6:30 pm – Spring Lake Park Bison and Restored Prairie tour – Hastings, MN

August 10, 6pm – Tour Judith’s restored Prairie - Webster – Judith Bechtum

September 14, 6pm – Redwing Memorial Park tour led by Red Wing Park Naturalists

October 12, 7pm– church- **Ducks and Duck Decoys** by Gary Bullemer

November 9, 6pm – *Annual Meeting, appetizers, seed sharing event, and presentation* **7pm - Starting a prairie regeneration project** – Jake Froyum – Forester

December 7, 11am –Luncheon – St Olaf – loft at Buntrock commons

Prairie Partners Board meetings are open to all members and are planned be held on the second Monday of each quarter.

Prairie Partners Board Meeting April 10, 1pm
Minutes: In attendance: Barb Bolan (President), Nancy Schumacher (Vice President), Ann Dybvik (Membership and Newsletter), Jim Sipe (Treasurer and Webmaster), Pat Johnson (Secretary), and Breanna Wheeler

Secretaries Report: Minutes of January 9, 2023 were approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Beginning balance for Q1 2023 was \$14,978.73, ending balance was \$15,023.27. We had income of \$570.50 from membership fees from Wild Ones and memorial donations for Chuck Carlin. Expenses totaled \$593.14 and included a chapter donation to National Wild Ones, a donation to Emmaus Church, newsletter expenses, honorarium for the February program presentation, and payment for a booth at Northfield Earth Day.

Membership Update: Barb will send Ann information for renewal notices to send out.

2023 Plant Sale: Nancy shared the poster for the plant sale. She is working to finalize the order with South Cedar.

Member Sponsored Native Gardens: So far we have allocated one grant, to a group in Rochester. Board members are encouraged to contact people who might be interested.

Report from Breanna Wheeler:

Member Survey - Twenty-six out of 60 people responded to the survey. Responses were very positive with a desire and willingness to be involved. Time and health issues were major reasons for not being more involved. A couple people responded that they might be interested in taking a leadership role.

Lashbrook: Breanna also reported on the Friends of Lashbrook Park project. Planting sites are ready to have brown paper and mulch put in place. Planting is scheduled for June 3rd. She is still looking for people who will water the plants throughout the Summer.

Closing Issues: Earth Day is April 22. We will need a few people to work the table there. Because we needed to end the meeting, discussion of how to use the memorial money was put off for an additional meeting that Barb will call. Please send her possible suggestions. We also need to set aside an hour or more to discuss the State of the Chapter Report.

Dragonfly Workshop, led by John Arthur

“It depends on the species.” John Arthur did a fantastic job teaching us about dragonflies. During his presentation he highlighted several species of dragonflies and damselflies and taught us clues to look for to identify them and to distinguish more challenging ones from each other.



John Arthur. Photo by Bruce Dybvik

First, determine if it is a dragonfly or damselfly. Damselflies are smaller, have slimmer bodies, a space between their smaller eyes, and fold their wings up at rest. Dragonflies, on the other hand, have thicker bodies and stouter abdomens, large eyes that usually touch and wings that they hold outstretched and flat and at rest.



Male 12 spotted Dragonfly. Photo by David Hendee

An initial response to many questions is often: “It depends on the species.” Each species does its own variation of things, so it is hard to generalize for dragonflies. They are all insectivores and typically devour mosquitoes, but some larger ones eat deerflies or even moths. After the presentation we went to the Carleton Arboretum where Nancy Braker had arranged for us to hunt and catch dragonflies and damselflies. We found plenty! John first showed proper netting and insect handling techniques. They are safely handled by gently

holding the wings. Once photos or data gathering is done, they are released, unharmed. We had a great time learning about dragonflies and damselflies and seeing them up close.

Fun day!



Nancy Braker lets a damselfly rest on her nose after it was released. Photo by David Hendee



Polly shows Lynn what she netted. Photo by David Hendee



Chalk-fronted Corporal. Photo by David Hendee



Young participants having fun catching dragonflies (they were very successful). Photo by David Hendee



And we were on the lookout for native wildflowers too - Blue Flag Iris. Photo by Sue White



This Monarch mimic, a Viceroy, was also a hit. Photo by Bruce Dybvik

Fort Ridgely State Park, Fairfax, Minnesota

By Gary Bullemer

Established as a state park in 1911, Fort Ridgely is the fourth oldest of Minnesota's parks, and served a much different purpose before it became a park. First developed in 1853 by the United States military, the fort was built on a high, open bluff overlooking the Minnesota River and the small tributary stream named Fort Ridgely Creek. Following a rather short history as a military fort, it was abandoned by the US government in 1872. All that remains of the buildings of the fort are a rebuilt commissary and a small log structure used to store gun powder. The foundations of many of the structures remain and are described with signs provided by the Mn Historical Society (MHS). The fort was the site of a major battle during the US - Dakota War in 1862, and descriptions of those battles are provided by MHS.



Fort site at the Fort Ridgely State Park

As you can imagine, there has been a great deal of change over the years at this beautiful place, but one thing remains the same.... the park is a wonderful example of the natural resources to be found in south central Minnesota. The native prairies, oak savanna and riparian woodlands have attracted people and wildlife for thousands of years. Wild Ones members will enjoy the All-Seasons Nature Guide, the Bird Checklist, and much more information on the

park web site. Those lists will prepare you for some of the features you might see on your visit there, but there is so much more that must be experienced in person!

Most modern-day visitors go to Fort Ridgely State Park to learn about the history of the site, but many also do hiking, camping, bird watching, horseback riding, fishing, or enjoy a picnic. One activity that is no longer offered is golfing. Unfortunately, the nine-hole course, built in 1927 closed in 2017. The very difficult decision to close the golf course and convert that area to prairie and savanna was made by the DNR Division of Parks and Trails. If you go there now, you can see the early result of prairie reconstruction on former turf grass. I contacted Park Manager Joanne Svendsen recently, and she said there are some areas doing very well, considering the hot and dry weather in the past few years. They are striving to recreate a very diverse prairie community, as close as possible the original scene from 1853! A new hiking trail allows visitors to walk the former route of the golf course and see the reappearance of long absent native grasses and forbs.

Another new feature is a shower/restroom building in the modern campground that will be completed this year, which was designed to complement the beautiful stone buildings that were built in the 1930s. Campsites at the park are in the lovely Fort Ridgely Creek valley, and it is one of my favorite campgrounds in all of Minnesota! My hometown was about 10 miles from this park, so it is where I spent many days and nights with family and friends, learning about our great outdoors and state history. It is a very special place for many people and for

many reasons, and I hope you can find your way there and see why I love this place!



A fire pit was discovered during a recent archaeological study on this spot looking south toward the Minnesota River Valley at Fort Ridgely State Park. Estimate on the fire ring creation is between 10 and 13 thousand years ago!

My personal interest in parks and history led me to some neighboring states where military forts have been preserved. Fort Sisseton State Park in South Dakota, Fort Ransom State Park, and Fort Abraham Lincoln in North Dakota are somewhat similar to our Fort Ridgely. Each is unique and all are great places to learn about the past and see some wonderful examples of natural landscapes. If you enjoy prairie and wide-open spaces, add these destinations to your list!

2023 Plant Sale, led by Nancy Schumacher

Our 2023 Native plant sale was, once again, a huge success. We grossed \$5746 with a net of \$3966. Nancy did an amazing job of organizing, growing, selecting species to sell, and getting us all ready and on-task for sale day. Thank you so much to all who came and helped or came and shopped. It was good hearing from some customers that they wait for our sale each year now. A big thank you to Arlene also for taking the extra plants and selling them from her yard!

Native Plant Profile, Spicebush, by Pat Johnson

Lindera benzoin is commonly known as Northern Spicebush, Common Spicebush, and Wild Allspice. It was named by botanist Carl Peter Thunberg (1743–1828). Its genus name honors Johann Linder (1676-1723) who was a Swedish botanist and physician.

I first became familiar with Spicebushes when I lived in Dayton, Ohio. I volunteered for the Metroparks system there. We had invasive honeysuckle that we were working to eradicate. One of the plants we were using to restore understory growth was *Lindera benzoin*. I thought the plant was so beautiful that I planted several in my small backyard.

It belongs to the family Lauraceae and is a deciduous shrub that is native to Eastern and Central United States in zones 3–9. It grows in average, medium, and well-drained soil and prefers partial shade, but can tolerate full sun. It grows to a height and spread of 6-12' and is heavily branched. Leaves are thick, oblong-ovate, light green, and about 5" long. They turn a lovely yellow in the Fall and are aromatic when crushed. Bushes are deer resistant!

Spicebushes are dioecious, so it is often advisable to purchase several to ensure that you have both male and female plants. When we moved to Minnesota, I brought two second year bushes along and have been fortunate to have both a male and a female plant. The picture shows them right in front of our home. Bushes flower in the early Spring with small yellow/green flowers that are apetalous, aromatic, and attached to the branches. The male flowers are larger than the female flowers. The female plants produce bright red berries

which turn black with age. The berries attract many birds, including Wood Thrush and Veery. I have young robins feeding on the berries that have overwintered.

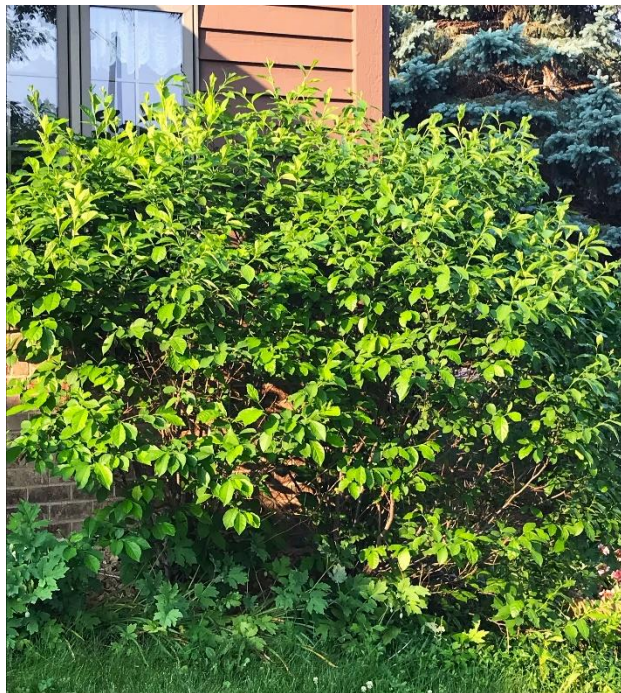
Plants are hosts to the Spicebush Swallowtail



Promethea Silk Moth

butterfly and to Promethea silk moths. In Dayton, I had the Swallowtails. Here, I have had the Promethea silk moths. I have learned that the cocoons can hang from the branches and overwinter. The moths come out in early Summer. I don't know if the moths prefer the male bushes, but all the cocoons that I have had here have been on the male plant.

I really recommend these for any size yard. Prairie Moon has them, recommending you purchase several to ensure that you get both sexes and grow some fruit.



Spicebushes alongside Pat's house

Planting for the bees at Lashbrook

Breanna Wheeler wrote a successful grant application for the Friends of Lashbrook Park organization, led by Laurie Olson, to apply for funds from the Minnesota Parks and Trails Council to put in additional native plants at Lashbrook to attract native bees such as the federally endangered Rusty-patched Bumblebee and to enhance the native diversity of the park. Basswood trees, native plums, and many ephemerals such as Spring Beauty, Wood Betony, Wild Geraniums, Virginia Bluebells, and Shooting stars were planted. Now help is needed to keep them watered during the summer. Though most of the ephemerals are melting away for the season, the roots still need water this year. If you have a bit of time, are nearby and willing to help, please sign up at: [Friends of Lashbrook Park Sign up to water plants](#). Water is on site.



Spring Beauty - Spring Beauties were planted at Lashbrook in early June.



Virginia Bluebells. Come see future bluebell flowers at Lashbrook next year! Photo by Breanna Wheeler



Ken Kirton and Fred Stanley helped with the Lashbrook planting project. Both are active members of the Friends of Lashbrook park and have done a lot of work over the years to improve the diversity and remove invasives.

Member Profile: Tom & Toni Englehardt

Toni and I have lived 68 years with around 44 years together. We have elected to speak to what we are, not where we came from nor how we got here.

By almost every metric that is important to us, we have succeeded. Both our children are tremendous people. Our daughter, Emily, is the strongest woman we've ever met. Our son, Roarke, is an unbelievably great father to our grandkids.

Grandkids, enough said really. We've two, Ruby is three years old and Owen is two. Wow, they are the icing on the cake, the achieved result of living good lives. They are the why of us, why we did and do what we do.

Toni reads and reads then reads some more. We both enjoy fantasy; I also like detective books and basic fiction.

We have a small dog named Lyric. She is such a joy, fun and loud. She stalks like a lion and dives into snow like a fox. We take her walking, good for all of us.

We both garden with some divisions of responsibilities. While Toni can name the flowers, I use the shovel. Toni weeds, I move rocks and stones and dirt. We've always planted flowers exclusively, mostly perennials, but have added corn this year. We have a number of gardens all over the yard, it takes about two hours to water them all. We've been using grow lights and milk jugs but shall not be using the jugs anymore. We've put down landscape fabric, regret that, and now use cardboard and leaves to aid in weed management. In the gardens you will also find three bird seed feeders, two suit feeders, two +

hummingbird feeders and one heated bird bath. An animal's den showed up the other day. We also support populations of at least 4 garter snakes, squirrels a plenty, monster sized chipmunks, and too many of the hated mice. We both love yet hate the rabbits we support. Whilst they eat our flowers, we let them...oh well. An opossum hung around last winter.

Toni is an artist. She's done sculptures and beading and cards and stained glass. She has applied her talents in many areas of our lives.

I am a singer/songwriter. Some of my older stuff can be found online at: "youtube.com/user/ThomasNEngelhardt". The last set of songs that I did so can be found at: "soundcloud.com/tom-engelhardt-3".

We fight the darkness we see in this world in a couple of ways. We fight Alzheimer's, see the Facebook group, "Florence's Alzheimer's Benefit Concert". We support the cops, see the FaceBroke group, "BLUE. we are with YOU".

We feel we've made it successfully to now.



Coneflowers in their yard



One of their beautiful flower gardens



Thomas (bottom right) paying attention to Breanna at her "Intergenerational Nature Connections" session. Photo by Bruce Dybvik

New Zealand Article and photos by Barb Bolan



New Zealand scene

New Zealand (NZ) is a wild and beautiful country of islands. Surrounded by oceans, filled with mountains, volcanos, forests, lakes, beaches, glaciers, fjords, and rugged wilderness lands, and dotted with cities, parks, and farms, there is a lot to explore and appreciate. While it is best known for the North and South islands, the country actually includes over 600 islands rising out of the submerged continent called Zealandia. Zealandia broke free from Antarctica and then Australia over 80 million years ago, allowing its indigenous species to evolve independently and uniquely. And it is beautiful.

Many of their native bird species are endemic (only native to NZ). Others migrate in and out or have been introduced. Birding and nature watching in NZ is amazing with so many unique species of birds, trees, and plants that can't found anywhere else in the world.



Black Tree Fern, Mamaku (endemic)

New Zealand is thought to be the last country to have been inhabited by humans. Unfortunately, many species have become extinct since people arrived. There were only three native land mammals, all bats, and one is now extinct. Many

endemic birds evolved to be flightless as they had no mammal predators. They are now gone.

New Zealand's natural balance began to dramatically change with the arrival of the Polynesians (the Maori) around 1300AD. The Maori brought in rats and dogs that quickly began killing defenseless birds. Europeans arrived about 400 years later, bringing rats; possums for fur trade; feral cats to control rats; rabbits for fur; stoats, weasels, and ferrets to control rats and cats; plus deer, pigs and goats and many other animals for farm or sport. Unfortunately, many of these critters have a taste for birds so about 60 native bird species have become extinct and many more, like the Kea, are perilously endangered.



Kea or Mountain Parrot Endemic, endangered

As more people arrived, they brought in plants and seeds for gardens, hedgerows, or farming. Pests and diseases came along for the ride too and rapidly spread, devastating species that had never evolved resistance to diseases.

Invasive predators kill about 25 million native birds per year. About 4000 native plants and animals are at risk of extinction. Today New Zealand has more introduced vascular plant species than indigenous ones. About half of the 400 plus birds are not native. The islands have changed.

The New Zealand Dept of Conservation is on a daunting mission to eradicate invasive predator species such as rats, stoats and possums by 2050. Progress can be seen on some islands and in the 'Zealandia Ecosanctuary' where pests are trapped and eliminated but the birds can come and go as they please and find sanctuary.



Sika Deer, introduced.

Seven species of deer have been introduced to New Zealand. Hunting and farming them is a huge business, but overgrazing by wild deer raises havoc in natural areas.

Plants and shrubs, such as pampas, bamboo, ginger, gorse and black wattle, have invaded forests after escaping from nearby urban gardens. The aggressive invaders push out native plants and reduce food suitable for native birds and pollinators.



Introduced, pretty but invasive, Pampas Grass by waterfall.

Red clover was introduced to feed deer and farm animals, but native pollinators didn't care for it. New Zealand had 28 species of native bees but had no bumblebees until the 1880s, when four species were introduced to save the clover. Honeybees were also brought in, but a bumblebee, with their "buzz pollination" can do about 50 times the work of a honeybee.



The introduced Buff-tailed bumblebee

Some introduced species, like honeybees and deer, are now an important part of the economy, but others such as stoats, gorse, Australian Magpies, and diseases are destroying native species and the ecosystem.

Typically, only introduced species that spread out of control and upset the ecosystem are

considered invasives. We despise invasive species, but Islands, where they evolved their own contained ecosystems, are especially vulnerable to invasive species.

Though New Zealand suffers from so many damaging invasives, it is an amazingly beautiful country and so worth a visit. We loved it.



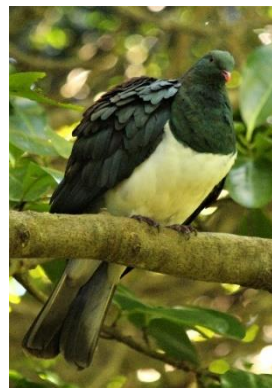
A little New Zealand Island



Pied Shag, Kāruhiruhi,



Gorse, introduced as hedgerow shrub, invasive



NZ endemic Wood pigeon.



Native Karaka tree and a Tui bird in the Zealandia



Mountain Holly, endemic to NZ

Intergenerational Nature Connections, by Breanna Wheeler



People are spending less time outside which means less connection with other people. Consequences range from individual to global: chronic health conditions, loneliness, not knowing our neighbors, political gridlock, and degraded ecosystems and climate change.

Breanna helped us reflect on our relationships with nature throughout our lives, remember our nature mentors, and consider how we can be good nature mentors for others. She led us through fun interactive activities and group discussions. By reconnecting ourselves and others with nature, we can hopefully improve our health and social lives and better enjoy our world.

Breanna Wheeler is a MN Master Naturalist Instructor and formerly served as Executive Director of River Bend Nature Center. Today, she works as an independent contractor focusing on projects that ensure opportunities for the health benefits of intergenerational



Everyone had a chance to share experiences with their groups.

nature connections as well as natural resource conservation projects.

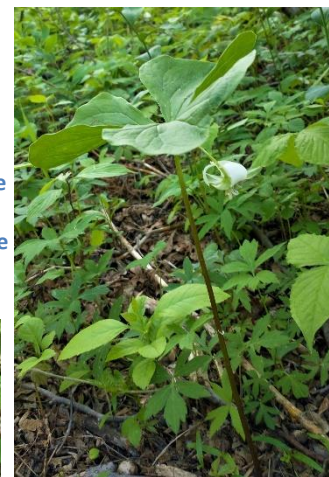
Sakatah Lake State Park Tour

On May 21st we headed to Sakatah Lake State Park to find spring ephemerals in bloom. Though we didn't see one of our main targets, the Showy Orchis, we did see plenty of other bloomers and some birds and had fun exploring.

Spring birds like redstarts and Tennessee Warblers were migrating through. There is an app from Cornell, 'Merlin' that can be very helpful for learning to identify birds by sound. You start recording and it suggests what bird is singing. It isn't error proof, but it is very good!

During our hike, we saw both Drooping and Nodding Trilliums, Upright Carrion Flower, Spring Beauty, Starry False Lily-of-the-valley, native Wild Honeysuckle shrubs, many Jack-in-the-Pulpits, Red Baneberry and more. Some queen bumblebees such as the two-spotted also showed up for us.

Nodding Trillium.
Note the flower is below the leaves. Anthers typically have pinkish purple on them also.
Photo by Sue White



Drooping Trillium.
Minor identification distinction between the two species - flower is above or out from the side of the leaves in drooping trillium. Photo by Barb Bolan

Return Address:

Barb Bolan

9700 Baldwin Ave Northfield, MN 55057

Address Label



Bluet damselfly pair. Photo by David Hendee



Judith and Jean having fun while managing our booth at the Rice County Master Gardener workshop.



Great Spangled Fritillary on milkweed. These butterflies need violets for their caterpillars. Photo by Judith Bechtum



Members enjoying each other's company and the food at our annual chapter dinner. This year it was held in Dennison at the Fireside Restaurant. Photo by Bruce Dybvik



Alice and Phyllis plant native wildflowers in a redone drainage pond. Native seeds were planted by the city, but most will take a year plus to flower and people want it to look pretty right away, so we donated plants, as selected by Nancy, that would bloom this season and added them to the planting.