



Fall blooming Closed or Bottle Gentian

The Benefits of Planting Natives

Native plants have adapted over thousands of years to local climate, soils and other conditions, and co-evolved with local wildlife and ecosystems. Hence,

- they flourish without fertilizers or pesticides, and rarely need watering once established.
- they provide food and habitat for wildlife.
- they contribute to biodiversity, and
- since they are deep rooted, they tend to be drought tolerant, help to control stormwater and improve water quality

WILD ONES MISSION

Promote environmentally sound landscaping practices & conserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities



Healthy Habitat Certification



Broomsedge in early fall



Great Spangled Fritillary nectaring on Wild Bergamot



IN HARMONY WITH NATURE



Gray Tree Frog on Common Milkweed

To Help You Get Started

Have an ambassador visit you and your property no matter where you are in the process of learning about native plants



Carpenter Bee on Obedient plant

- Fill out the application that you can find at southbend.wildones.org
- When the application is received, the Healthy Habitat Coordinator will assign an ambassador and they will contact you to arrange a visit free of charge.
- The Ambassador will send a report after the visit with helpful advice and resources.

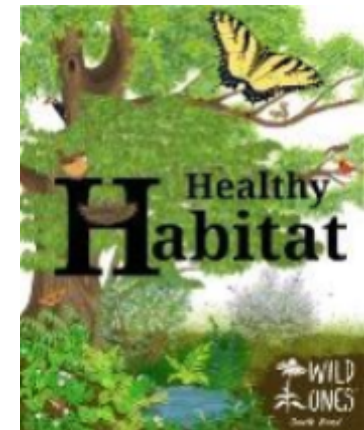
“When we see the land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with Love and Respect” - Aldo Leopold from A Sand County Almanac

Criteria for Certification

You will need:

- To have two habitat features
- A signed Healthy Habitat pledge
- To have observed in your landscape and habitat 10 wildlife species from the list

You know that a landscape filled with diverse native species is good for the environment. Let others know with your sign (below)



Consider

Starting Small - experiment with ideas, designs and planting techniques on a small scale, then use what you learn to expand the next year

Some possible starting points include:

- Creating a small pollinator garden to start (perhaps using the “Super Nine”)
- Planting native trees and shrubs for the birds
- Incorporating native plants into an existing flower bed
- Replacing some lawn with low maintenance native plants