

Position Announcement  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
*Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes*

Wild Ones is a national not-for-profit promoting native plants and sustainable landscaping. Through its 53 chapters around the country, and from its WILD Center national headquarters near Appleton, WI, Wild Ones leads the national landscaping movement by exploring, teaching, and influencing the practice of gardening.

This environmental education and advocacy organization was launched in 1977 as Wild Ones Natural Landscapers by a small group attending a natural landscaping workshop. Since those early days, Wild Ones has become a national volunteer-driven organization providing resources and organizational support to its 4,000 members.

Following a year of board-led reorganization, Wild Ones is primed to transfer management and operational responsibilities from board to staff and begin a period of expansion and growth; it seeks an executive director to lead this work. Reporting to the board chair, the executive director manages a small staff and a \$350,000 budget.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

- Partner with the board to think broadly about opportunities and future directions; lead conversations about priorities, focus, and resources; update the current strategic plan and lead its implementation.
- Working closely with the board president, lead and manage the transfer back to staff the operations assumed by board members during the recent period of stabilization, including financial, technology, and personnel functions.
- Expand Wild One's visibility and influence: serve as its public face and voice; develop and communicate a strong vision and message; help grow Wild One's membership base and chapters; develop partnerships with colleague-organizations; and in general promote the Wild Ones' message and mission broadly.
- Nurture and manage relations with the chapters, explore ways to promote and sustain member involvement.
- Energize and lead board and staff fundraising, including donor cultivation and outreach to corporate donors.
- Assure Wild Ones' role as a key convener and resource on native plants and natural landscapes, including publication of the *Wild Ones Journal*, managing Seeds for Education, and in other ways connecting members and the broader public to the practice and science of natural landscapes.
- As appropriate, manage and support board activity and the work of board committees.
- Manage operations, technology, and finances; evaluating and improving systems and process as needed.
- Manage and coach staff; recruit, and develop chapter and national office volunteers. Arrange for and oversee management of the 13-acre WILD Center national headquarters.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

- Success working with a board in their governance of a small organization and in strategic planning, including discussions about resources, focus, and priorities.
- Success managing a small not-for-profit, including financial management; experience managing an organization in transition, and/or a volunteer membership organization *highly* preferred.
- Excellent communications skills; success in fundraising and in shaping and communicating messages for varied audiences; experience with social media. Experience promoting partnerships welcome.
- B.A. and a minimum of 7 to 10 years' relevant experience. Available to live in the Appleton, WI, area.

#### PERSONAL QUALITIES

The successful candidate will be a creative, analytic, and energetic leader, an excellent story-teller who is able to move easily from hands-on to bold planning to engaging a large audience. He or she will welcome with humor and good cheer the complexities of managing a board and working with a small staff and volunteers. She or he will have the ability to lead and manage Wild Ones as it is now and to imagine and create its future.

*Further information about Wild Ones is available at [www.wildones.org](http://www.wildones.org)*

*Selection will be made by October, 2017.*

Those interested in this position should send a cover letter and résumé to:  
*info@himmelfarbgroup.com*, with Wild Ones in the subject line.

Wild Ones is an equal opportunity employer.