

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

Inside this Issue:

Message from the President	2
March Program Recap	3
Deadline for Plant Sale	4
Plant Sale Volunteers	5
Membership	5
Chapter Contact Information	6

www.wildonesrrvc.org



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All articles for the May 2022 newsletter, must be submitted to:
paulsonjerry@aol.com
by April 21, 2022.

Illinois Owls: Masters of Illusion and Silence
Thursday, April 21, 2022

Time: 7:00 p.m.
via online Zoom program

Join Peggy Doty, Extension Educator, as we peer into the world of the Illinois owls. Owls are not only at the top of their food chain; they are also at the top of their game. Owls have one of the most unique set of tools in their predator toolkit. From eyes that can penetrate the darkness to rotating toes and a feathered satellite dish to pick up the smallest of rodent feet hitting the ground. Owls are also masters of illusion and silence.



Peggy Doty

Peggy Doty is an Educator for University of Illinois Extension specializing in environmental education to relate wildlife related issues and water quality to all ages. She holds a B.S. in Zoology with a specialization in wildlife management. Peggy is interested in human reactions and relationships to wildlife, especially large predators, and now feral swine, in Illinois. She also holds a M.S. in Education with a specialization in Outdoor Teacher Education/Curriculum and Instruction. Peggy has been teaching environmental education for over 20 years, is passionate about teaching children about their environment, and helping people understand wildlife as it relates to their lives.

This presentation will be presented via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84677299693?pwd=M1YvSC9HYm40MTk5NmhzVHo1Z2NIUT09>). Information on how to connect to the Zoom presentation will also be posted on the Chapter website (www.wildonesrrvc.org) and Facebook page, and distributed via email to members prior to the meeting. The program is free and open to the public. For more information call (815) 222-4414.

Message from the President Jerry Paulson



Jerry Paulson

On April 27th, I have the honor of joining Zach Grycan from the Natural Land Institute in leading the first tour in the 2022 Wildflower Walkabout Series at Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve. Each year Severson Dells Nature Center and the Natural Land Institute staff and volunteers explore local wildflower hotspots to

showcase what is currently in bloom at various woodland and prairie preserves around Winnebago, Boone and Ogle Counties. All walks begin at 6:00 p.m. There is no fee for the walks, but membership in Severson Dells and/or the Natural Land Institute is encouraged.

Registration for all of the walks will be required this year. Each walk has two leaders, and each group will allow reservations for 15 people. Directions to each preserve are on the website." For more information, please call 815/335-2915 (SD) or 815/964-6666 (NLI). Register at www.seversondells.org/wildflower-walkabouts.

Wed., April 27 – Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve

Zach Grycan and Jerry Paulson will lead this hike on property owned and managed by NLI. Many unique plants restricted to limestone and dolomite outcrops are found here, as well as some northern relict plants. Moderate-difficult hiking.

Tues., May 3 – Pecatonica Wetlands Forest Preserve

Connie McIntosh and Kathy Martinez will lead a tour of the Pecatonica Wetlands Forest Preserve, which includes river edge floodplain forest, oxbow pond marshes and upland forest along the Pecatonica River. Hiking will be easy to moderate.

Wed., May 11- Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area

Aaron Minson, Boone County Conservation District, and Brian Hale, Conservation District Volunteer, tour the recently restored prairie and basswood, hickory and white oak forest to explore the wildflowers in northern Boone County. Moderate hiking.

Tues., May 17 - Funderburg Forest Preserve

Join Forest Preserves of Winnebago County staff, Mike Groves and Steve Hornbeck, for an exploration of one of the newest forest preserves. Learn more about the dramatic restoration plans for the 868-acre preserve on the southwest side of Rockford. Moderate hiking.

Wed., May 25 - Burr Oak Valley Nature Preserve

Zach Grycan and Tyler Pellegrini, Natural Land Institute staff, will lead a tour through this 99-acre property that is owned and managed by NLI. Expect to see blue-eyed grass, Columbine, maidenhair fern, and the rare kittentails. Moderate hiking.

Tues., May 31 - Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve

Explore one of the newest forest preserves with Mike Brien and Steve Hornbeck from the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County. Walk through a fourth year restored prairie and head to the forest full of Chinquapin, Bur and Red Oaks on the cliffs overlooking the Rock River. Moderate-difficult hiking.

Wed., June 8 – Jarrett Prairie Nature Preserve

Join Byron Forest Preserve naturalists Russell Brunner and Austin Webb to search the prairie for early summer wildflowers. This will be an easy hiking adventure.

Tues., June 14 – Deer Run Forest Preserve

Join us for an evening with Mike Groves and Richard Benning from the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County. We will be on the lookout for a variety of milkweeds (and the monarchs that love them), lupines and more as we enjoy the prairie at Deer Run. Easy hiking.

Wed., June 22 - Searls Prairie Nature Preserve

Joni Denker of the Rockford Park District and Jack Armstrong, Severson Dells and Rockford Park District board member, will lead this hike through mesic and wet-mesic prairie where prairie dropseed, Indian grass, and big bluestem grow. This site is one of the highest quality wet prairies in the state. Easy hiking, but the area may be wet.

Tues., June 30 – Pecatonica Ridge Prairie

NLI staff Zach Grycan and Laura Helmich will lead a tour through this beautiful upland prairie, located west of Winnebago. Prairie smoke, leadplant, birdsfoot violet and New Jersey tea may be seen at this native prairie. Easy hiking.

March Program Recap **Linda Ricker, Vice President**

Erin Garrett presented a program sure to whet the whistle of native plant enthusiasts with shady areas to fill with season long color, texture, and beauty.

Native plants in the garden, according to Erin, support the native food webs between plants and animals. 90% of insect larvae and plant-eating insects eat only plants they have coevolved with. Without that plant specific connection, the food web breaks down. Insects are important because they turn plant material into food sources for other animals and birds. Native plants also provide food directly to some animals as well as habitat.

Erin also noted that 5% of native plants in North America provide about 75% of the food for caterpillars which are in turn the favorite food of many birds and animals. Woody plants such as trees and shrubs support the highest diversity of caterpillars with the oak trees alone providing a food source for more than 900 caterpillar species. Herbaceous plant species that support high numbers of caterpillars usually grow in full sun. So why grow native herbaceous plants in the shade?

Shade dwelling natives provide the habitat to support these insects. Many insects pupate in the leaf litter found under shady areas beneath trees, and planting the shade loving native plants provides additional habitat locations and protection. Leaving the fallen leaves without raking them up in the fall leaves what Erin called “a soft landing” space for eggs or pupae to overwinter.

Erin also recommended local native plant nurseries can be found on the Illinois Native Plant Society website: illinoisplants.org/native-plant-nurseries/. Local farmer’s markets or plant sales, such as our very own Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter plant sale going on now (go to https://wildonesrrvc.org/Plant_Sales.html to order, orders due April 22) or go to illinoisplants.org/native-plant-sales/

Erin explained it’s important to define what is meant by shade. Light shade is about 3-5 hours of direct sunlight, partial shade is 2 hours of direct sun or more than half the day in shade, full shade is less than 1 hour of direct sun. Check how much sun your designated area receives before you order your plants.

Erin also explained you will also want to determine the type of soil you have and the general state of moisture in the soil. Soil moisture levels can

be anywhere from dry, to dry-medium, to mesic-medium- moderate, to medium-wet to wet and again, plants need to be planted in the moisture level they require to perform well.

Plants can be chosen based on their growth type: structural plants that provide a garden framework such as trees, shrubs and large perennials; the seasonal plants, like the spring ephemerals that beautify the spring garden for a short time, and the wildflowers that provide varied bloom times and foliage for color and texture, and the ground cover plants that fill in the base of the garden, such as sedges, grasses and ferns.

Finally Erin discussed a number of specific plants from each of these areas, including their various soil, light, and moisture requirements, as well as the number of caterpillars supported by each. Redbud trees, winterberry holly, Virginia bluebells, bloodroot and pussy toes were a few of the shade plants she recommended. To see the entire group of plants Erin talked about, you can view the recording of this March 2022 program on our website using the following URL: https://wildonesrrvc.org/Monthly_Meetings.html.

You may have thought that only hostas can grow under the shade of trees, but Erin provided us with a vast array of color and texture and bloom times to make our shady garden areas a bountiful source of food and habitat for insects, birds and wildlife and the beauty of nature for us humans to enjoy. Thank you Erin, we appreciate your taking the time to help us harness that beauty in an ecologically supportive manner.



POLLINATOR PALOOZA

SEVERSON DELLS NATURE CENTER

Visit a variety of booths to learn how your actions can support native pollinators. Learn how to design a pollinator garden that will impress the neighbors as well as the bees. Our pollinator-themed games and craft stations entertain visitors of all ages.

Saturday, April 23, 2022
10 AM to 3 PM
Severson Dells Nature Center

FREE

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/pollinatorpalooza>

Deadline for the 2022 Native Plant Sale is Fast Approaching! Orders are Due Friday, April 22

Janet Giesen and Jane Evans

It's not too late to place your order but it must be received by Friday, April 22 to be processed. As the deadline approaches we will be receiving more orders, which could limit selection. So, fill out your order form and get it in the mail! You can also use PayPal, which is the quickest way to place your order; it will be processed as soon as we receive payment.

This year we ordered some additional plant species that are not on the order form; they will be available for purchase only during the pick-up dates. We've highlighted a few of these plants below.

***Arisaema triphyllum* (Jack in the Pulpit)** - Growing 1-2 feet tall in mid- to late-spring, this unusual woodland plant likes dappled sun with abundant organic matter in the soil. It has bright red berries in late summer that may be eaten by robins, thrushes, and some woodland birds.

***Caulophyllum thalictroides* (Blue Cohosh)** - This short (1-3 feet tall), woody plant blooms in mid-spring, likes dappled sun, and attract small bees, bumblebees, and flies. Its berry-like seeds are eaten by small mammals. Very limited availability.

***Iris cristata* (Dwarf Crested Iris)** - Very short at 6-8 inches, this plant spreads slowly by rhizomes and blooms with gorgeous violet flowers in spring. Can colonize into a dense ground cover.

***Lilium michiganense* (Michigan Lily)** - Blooming in early summer, this plant grows up to 4 feet tall in part shade to sunny locations and attracts hummingbirds, sphinx moths, and butterflies.

***Mimulus ringens* (Monkey Flower)** - Growing 1-3 feet tall, this plant likes full to part sun and moist soil. It attracts bumblebees and is a host plant for several butterflies and moths.

***Sedum ternatum* (Wild Stonecrop)** - This 6-inch plant blooms in late-spring, attracts early pollinators, and can be planted between steppingstones, rocks, or just as a short ground cover.

Planting and Caring for Native Plants

Native plants need to be cared for to become established - just like other plants, with some exceptions. Here are a few points to consider as you prepare the site where your new plants will be located.



Monkey Flower (*Mimulus ringens*). Photo from Wiki Commons

- Prepare the site - clear away debris such as rocks, grass, sticks.
- Dig the hole to match the same depth and a bit wider as they are in the pot; keep the native soil to add back to the hole.
- For sunny areas, there is no need to add any soil amendments (fertilizer/compost) to the planting hole. Plants for woodland areas do better with soil rich in humus and leaf matter.
- Roughen the sides of the hole to help establish lateral root growth.
- Add the native soil around the roots in the hole without disturbing the root arrangement.
- Carefully push the soil down firmly to remove any air pockets. It's best to add soil in stages, lightly tapping the soil as you add more soil.
- Water the plant immediately to settle the soil and eliminate any air pockets. Add more soil if the soil level drops. In dry weather, water new plants weekly until they become established. After a few weeks, water as needed.
- Do not use pesticides, fertilizers, or compost (other than decomposed leaf matter for shady areas).
- Protect your new plants from rabbits or deer.
- Native plants may not bloom the first year; this is when they are establishing their root structure. In the second year they will establish more roots and greenery and sometimes they will bloom. Look for a flush of blooms in the third and subsequent years.

Volunteers Still Needed for the 2022 Native Plant Sale

Thank you to all of those who have agreed to volunteer at the plant sale this year. We've got a great team so far but still need a few more people to round out the shifts. Also, we will need a few volunteers at the Klehm Garden Fair in June. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact us and we'll let you know where we can fit you in. We'd love to have you join us! Kim Lowman Vollmer at kimlowvol@aol.com or Janet Giesen at janetgiesen@gmail.com

Wild Ones Plant Sale		
Date	First Shift	Second Shift
Tuesday, May 3	9 am-12 pm	12-3 pm
Wednesday, May 4	9 am-12 pm	12-3 pm
Thursday, May 5	2-5 pm	5-7 pm
Friday, May 6	2-5 pm	5-7 pm
Saturday, May 7	8-11 am	11 am-2 pm
Klehm Garden Fair Shift Times		
Saturday, June 4 (11:30 am-2 pm or 2-5 pm)		
Sunday, June 5 (9-11:30 am or 11:15 am-2 pm or 2-4:30 pm)		

Membership Update **Sallie Krebs, Membership Coordinator**

A membership e-form and our membership brochure describing the benefits of membership are both available on the chapter website (www.wildonesrrvc.org). Click on Join/Renew under the Membership tab. You can renew (or join) with any major credit card through PayPal (no PayPal account required) by using our website. We appreciate your support!

189 memberships as of March 25, 2022

Welcome to our new member(s)!

Linda Ballou, Loves Park

Denise Glasenapp, Rockford

New members are identified with a green ribbon on their meeting name badges. Please introduce yourself to them and help us welcome all new members to our great chapter!

Anniversaries:

25 Years:

Doreen O'Brien, Oregon

15 Years:

Ed Foster, Rockford

In Memoriam

In memory of our former Wild Ones

Rock River Valley Chapter members

Steve Symes - Member 2000-2022

It is preferred that renewal memberships be submitted through the Member Center online rather than by check for quicker processing and to avoid delays in receiving your chapter newsletter. To renew your Wild Ones membership Log in or contact support@wildones.org for more information. Your expiration date is on your chapter newsletter above your name on the label.

You will receive several emails from the Wild Ones national organization prior to your expiration date. If you want to join Wild Ones as a new member go to the Member Center. Remember that your dues include membership in both National Wild Ones and our chapter. If you need to mail a check, please use the address below:

WILD ONES

ATTN: MEMBERSHIP

2285 BUTTE DES MORTS BEACH RD

NEENAH, WI 54912-1274

A portion of all dues paid is returned to the chapter by National Wild Ones to support our chapter activities. National Wild Ones provides liability insurance for our meetings and events. All dues and donations are fully tax deductible.

Please send address and email address changes to the Membership Coordinator: Sallie Krebs
Email: membershipworrvc@gmail.com or call (815) 540-4730 if you have any questions about membership.

Wild Ones Annual Memberships: Household \$40,
Limited Income/Full-Time Student \$25,
Affiliate Non-Profit Organization \$90,
Business \$250.

Thank you for your continuing support!



NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

ROCK RIVER VALLEY

ROCK RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

c/o Sallie Krebs
1643 N. Alpine Rd., Suite 104
PMB 233
Rockford, IL 61107

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't become extinct!

If the expiration date on the mailing label is 04/1/2021, this is your last chapter newsletter and you have received your last Wild Ones Journal until you renew your membership. National Wild Ones drops expired memberships the first week of the expiration month, so please don't be late! See the Membership Update for renewal information.

Mail your renewal to:
Sallie Krebs
Wild Ones Rock River Valley
7492 Renfro Rd.
Cherry Valley, IL 61016



Wild Ones Mission

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

Rock River Valley Chapter Meetings

Due to COVID 19 restrictions on gatherings of more than 50 people we are not holding our regular meetings on the third Thursday of the month at Rock Valley College. Instead, we are meeting over ZOOM or posting videos on YouTube of the program. Links to the meetings and programs are posted on our website and our Facebook page, and sent to members via email the week of the meeting. If you want to receive the link send an email to: janetgiesen@gmail.com.

Rock River Valley Chapter Board and Coordinators

BOARD

President: Jerry Paulson
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Tree & shrub sale coordinator: Brian Hale
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Volunteer coordinator: [open position]
Website coordinator: Janet Giesen (as to the left)
Youth education & grants coordinator: Kim
Lowman Vollmer (as to the left)

APPOINTED COORDINATORS

Booth coordinator: [open position]
Facebook coordinator: Sallie Krebs (815)