

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

Inside this Issue:

President's Message	2
Annual Photo Contest	2
Prairie Tour & Picnic Wrap-up	3
Tree & Shrub Sale	4
June Program Recap	5
Luthin Pond Green Club	6
Membership	7
Chapter Contact Information	8



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Scan with your Smartphone for more information about Rock River Valley Wild Ones

www.wildonesrrvc.org

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

Invite Nature to Your Yard
Thursday, August 18, 2022

Time: 7:00 p.m.
via Zoom

Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/WO-Aug-Zoom>

Jim Kleinwachter, the Conservation@Home program director for The Conservation Foundation, will talk about the benefits of planting native plants in our yards. Even though many or most Wild Ones members already have natural gardens, Jim insists that we are in the minority and that we can help this to become more mainstream. Jim will tell us how we can use our native gardens to become beacons in our neighborhoods and the community at large.



Jim Kleinwachter

Jim began his relationship with The Conservation Foundation over twenty years ago. He has worked on prairie and wetland restoration projects at Warrenville's Johnson School and on several educational endeavors of the Foundation. Jim is also the recipient of the 1999 Paul Butler Memorial Award presented by The Conservation Foundation for outstanding volunteer service. In 2004, Jim joined the staff becoming the new Land Preservation Specialist for The Conservation Foundation.

Jim now works to preserve land as open space for The Conservation Foundation. He lectures all over the region on local environmental issues, and actively works with homeowners and business property owners to improve the environmental conditions of their sites. The Conservation@Home program was his idea to teach about sustainable landscaping practices. He currently manages the program.

This presentation will be presented via Zoom. Information on how to connect to the Zoom presentation is posted on the Chapter website (www.wildonesrrvc.org) and Facebook page, and will be 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

About 20 Wild Ones members attended the prairie tour and picnic on Saturday July 16, 2022, to see the prairie and wildlife habitat that our member Ken Keilsmeier has been working on for several years. The prairie restoration is located on the farm of Mark and Joyce Long located south of Leaf River, who welcomed us to their home and prepared a delicious

picnic for us. Ken and Mark have been restoring a previous cornfield to a native prairie and adding shelter belts of native trees and shrubs to provide wildlife habitat near the prairie. Ken took us on a tour of the area from a lovely, benched wagon that gave us a prairie-schooner-like view of the prairie in bloom.

Thank you Ken, Mark and Joyce for the wonderful tour and great food. Thanks also to Linda Ricker and Janet Giesen for coordinating the members-only event and ordering the food, and to Cathy Johnson for being our official photographer.

We are planning to hold our first in-person meeting in September. If we can work out all of the details, the program will also be live-streamed on Zoom. Watch your emails for more information.



Ken explains prairie development during Wild Ones tour. Photo by Cathy Johnson

Annual Photo Contest **Kim Lowman Vollmer**

The 2022 National Wild Ones Annual Photo Contest is for everyone, even kids and members without fancy cameras. You can submit your entries on the national website from July 1st to August 31st.

Photo categories:

- Fauna with Flora - non-pollinator wildlife with natives
- Flora - must be native to where photo was taken
- Natural Landscaping - native plants around buildings or facilities
- Photos by kids (photos taken by youth 18-years-old or younger)
- Pollinators - insects, butterflies, bats or birds
- Scenery - native woodlands, savanna, prairie, wetlands, etc.

- Wild Ones Projects - photo of Wild Ones chapter events/projects
- It's Alive - organism that do not fall under other categories (fungi, algae, etc.) that live on or with native plants



They will ask: where the photo was taken, to identify the common and scientific name (if possible); equipment used and if there is a story to go with it.

More details about photo contest guidelines and this year's categories are on the National website: <https://wildones.org/photo-contest-info/>

Prairie Tour and Picnic Recap, July 16, 2022 Cathy Johnson



View passing through the prairie.
Photo by Cathy Johnson

In 2003 Ken Kielsmeier undertook a labor of love when he began a restoration project on land that had been farmed for generations by the family of his friends, Mark and Joyce Long of Leaf River. On July 16, 2022, the Rock River Valley chapter of Wild Ones resumed its

begin with a tour through the restored areas of prairie and other habitat. The tour was followed by a picnic lunch, with some time to meander over more of the grounds where patches of native habitat had been created over the past nineteen years.

Before the tour, Ken shared a summary of the history and motivation behind the development of what we would be viewing in the 8 to 9 acres of prairie and restored habitat. He explained his deep appreciation of



Our hosts, joyce and Mark Long.
Photo by Cathy Johnson

July event of visiting a member's yard or other natural area, combined with a potluck with a tour of the prairie restoration on the Longs' property, followed by a picnic.

Jerry Paulson, chapter president, welcomed everyone, introduced Mark, Joyce and Ken to the crowd and thanked them for their gracious hospitality and the work they had put into the event. He then gave a brief overview of the day's events, which would



Wild Ones ramble around another small native project on the farm.
Photo by Cathy Johnson



Native planting in front yard of Mark and Joyce Long
Photo by Cathy Johnson

nature and belief in the importance of doing what we can to steward nature. He also mentioned the challenges of turning around an ecosystem that has been farmed for generations and restoring it to a natural network. Doing this in an area where the soil averages about 6 to 10" atop limestone bedrock can be especially daunting and requires careful consideration of what trees and shrubs that

July 16, 2022, Prairie Tour and Picnic Recap, cont.



restoring a prairie may be outside the realm of most people, anyone can create a small area in a yard or other areas where small patches of land are unused. Every additional bit of habitat supporting pollinators, birds and wildlife is increasingly important in a world where so much of this has been lost.

environment can support.

Just a sampling of the many native species in this prairie.
Photo by Cathy Johnson

Despite the challenges that come with transforming long-farmed land back to prairie, Ken has accomplished great things in nearly twenty years as displayed in the accompanying photos. Throughout the day Ken emphasized that while



Last of Ken's give-away native trees goes home with Terry and Linda Mohaupt
Photo by Cathy Johnson

Wild Ones Native Tree & Shrub Sale 2022 Brian Hale

Watch for order form coming in your email

Our fall native tree & shrub sale is coming up. Order forms will be posted on our website soon, so watch your email for the link.

Deadline for orders - September 24
Order pick-up dates - September 30 & October 1

To ask about availability of specific species contact Brian Hale at treeandshrubsale@gmail.com.



June Program Recap **Ginny Watson**

The Effects of Climate Change on Interrelationships in Nature



Dr. Douglas Stotz

Climate Change is a fact, alarming and ominous. We are already feeling its effects and would be wise to learn all we can about how it will affect us; how it will affect the natural world around us; and what we can do about it.

Dr. Douglas Stotz, Senior Conservation Ecologist in the

Keller Science Action Center at the Field Museum, presented a program on how well the natural communities are adapting to climate change for our June meeting.

Dr. Stotz explained that his talk would focus on birds since that is his area of interest, but we understand that nature is interrelated and what affects birds will have an impact on the rest of nature, directly or indirectly. His talk concentrated on three areas:

- What changes in climate can be seen now and what can we expect in the future?
- Impacts on natural areas, native plantings, and biodiversity in N. Illinois
- How we can help nature adapt

We have experienced one degree celcius warming since 1950 but the warming is uneven. The whole of the U.S. is warmer than it was during the 20th century. Precipitation patterns will be inconsistent from previous patterns with the eastern half of the U.S. wetter than historically. We can expect to see 4.3 inches more rain and snow per year with less precipitation in winter than is common now and much of it coming as rain rather than snow. Spring will be wetter, but summer will be much drier.

Birds can be used to illustrate the impacts of climate change. They experience direct climate change effects such as increases in temperature, precipitation, storm intensity, drought, and flooding. The indirect effects will be more important, however, such as a change in prey base, predators, diseases

due to warmer winter conditions, and habitat changes. The offset of annual cycle events such as leaf out, flowering, fruit availability, and insect flushes will also impact birds.

Spring leaf out of trees occurs earlier now because they respond to warming of the atmosphere. Birds, using photoperiod to determine when to migrate north, arrive later so they are out of sync with the trees and the caterpillars which feed on the fresh new leaves. The birds depend on caterpillars for food for their babies but because of the timing offset there is less food for baby birds and the trees do not benefit from pest control. Different organisms respond to different temperature cues. Soil, water, or air temperature are the main cues. Other mechanisms affecting phenology are first and last freezes, timing of the spring thaw, maximum/minimum temperatures, and warm/cold spells of sufficient lengths and strengths.

Birds present the best-case scenario because they are more mobile than other organisms. They respond to habitat structure rather than specific plant species. They will, however, do worse than models suggest because models are not flexible enough. Other organisms will be affected by change in range, change in overwintering status, and change in species interactions such as predator/prey relationships, pollination, and species dispersal. Species most at risk will be those with limited dispersal, specialized habitats, obligate interactions near range edges or limits, narrow ecological tolerances, and those requiring cold mediated ecological conditions such as dormancy.

Native plantings are important as they provide early spring and late fall provisions for pollinators. What else can we do? It is critical to improve corridors between protected areas so breeding populations can intermix. We must increase natives in waterways and agricultural areas, which Dr. Stotz calls biological deserts. We must decrease our human carbon output. We must decrease the stresses on natural environments. We must provide more corridors by creating large, connected landscapes of quality habitat to support migratory species. And, we must increase phenological diversity of spring leaf out by growing more late season species.

The Chicago Wilderness has developed a Climate Action Plan which can be found at www.CWprairies.org. We thank Dr. Doug Stotz for an eye-opening report on the stresses of climate change on our natural world. Dr. Stotz's full program can be seen on You-Tube at: <https://youtu.be/5L9kMub2HeM>.

Luthin Pond Green Club Project

Amanda Newmes, Green Club Advisor

Belvidere North's Green Club thanks all members of the Rock River Valley Wild Ones for giving us a grant that was used to purchase more than 100 native prairie plants for Luthin Pond, located by the Agricultural greenhouse off of Squaw Prairie Road. On Saturday, May 14th, more than a dozen Green Club members gathered to weed, plant, and



thankful for his knowledge and expertise.

Luthin Pond is designated for Environmental and Science classes to study as well as the FFA and Green Club, to learn about the benefits of prescribed burns, maintaining prairie habitat, and gardening, agricultural

water the plants provided to us through a grant from the Wild Ones Chapter. In just four short weeks, the plants have doubled in size and are doing very well. Thanks to Mother Nature for all the Spring rain! Club members look forward to gathering in August to weed

design, and plant management. We hope the project will revitalize the pond habitat, create a program of care and respect for nature and teach critical thinking, research and problem solving skills.



and plan for cattail removal this winter. If you look closely at the pictures, you will see the man the pond is named after, former science teacher Mark Luthin! Mark came out to join us in our planting fun and we were



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!

174 memberships as of July 23, 2022

Special thanks to our members who made contributions above the basic \$40 dues!

Mira Lee & Howard Waitzkin, Loves Park

Ann Whitney, Pecatonica

Abigail Bukowski, Beloit WI

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:

Lynda & Lee Johnson, Rockford

10 Years:

Emmylou Studier, DeKalb

5 Years:

Kara Keller, Rockford

John & Barbara Spiritosanto, Rockton

Ann Whitney, Pecatonica

David & Virginia De Swarte, Mount Carroll

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

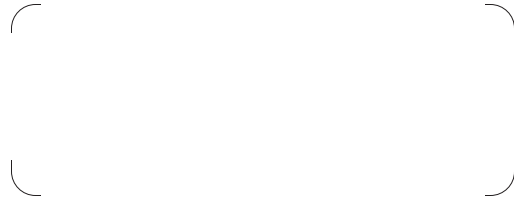
c/o Sallie Krebs
1643 N. Alpine Rd., Suite 104
PMB 233
Rockford, IL 61107

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't become extinct!

If the expiration date on the mailing label is 08/1/2021, 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

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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)