

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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www.wildonesrrvc.org



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

The Effects of Climate Change on Native Plants and the Wildlife that Depend on Them
Thursday, June 16, 2022

Time: 7:00 p.m.
via Zoom

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

It is now generally accepted that our climate is changing to the detriment of most of life on earth due to an unnatural rise in CO₂. It has caused a change in the timing of such natural events as the budding of trees, shrubs, and forbs as well as insect emergence from winter dormancy which ultimately affects nesting birds that depend on insects to feed their nestlings.



Dr. Doug Stotz

Dr. Doug Stotz, from the Field Museum, will discuss these offsets as well as the effects of climate change on native plants, vegetation communities, and the wildlife that depend on them. He will also address the role those urban areas can play in the conservation of plants, animals, and their habitats in the face of climate change, including some thoughts on what people can do in their backyards and local parks.

Douglas Stotz is a senior conservation ecologist in the Keller Science Action Center at the Field Museum. He received his Ph.D. in Evolutionary Biology from University of Chicago in 1990. He is active in programs to preserve biological diversity and threatened habitats, both in the Chicago region and in the Andean and Amazonian rainforests of South America. In Chicago, he focuses on studying bird migration, the effects of climate change on bird populations and the value of urban area to biodiversity conservation. He is a member and formerly chair of the Climate Change Committee for Chicago Wilderness. Besides his bird work, Doug is part of the museum's Monarch team, ensuring that urban areas live up to their potential for providing habitat and milkweed to this declining migratory butterfly.

The program is free and open to the public. For information contact Jerry Paulson at 815-222-4414.

Message from the President **Jerry Paulson**



Jerry Paulson

Another native plant sale is over! It was a great success despite the wind, rain and mud because of the hard work of Janet Giesen and Jane Evans, who started work on the sale months ago. Their report is included in this newsletter. Thank you, Janet and Jane, and all of the members who volunteered during the sale, and to mail out the sale brochures, to

send out the email notices and media releases, to write and edit newsletter articles, buy snacks and everything else that goes into making our biggest fundraising event happen.

A special thank you is due to Kim Lowman-Vollmer who contacted all the volunteers for the plant sale. She single-handedly made sure that we had enough people to get the work done.

Besides getting thousands of native plants growing in people's yards, on school grounds and museum centers, we use the profits from the sale to help support other conservation and nature education organizations in the region. We will highlight these groups in future newsletters.



Mark Luthin and Gloria Powell preparing for the plant sale.
Photo by Janet Giesen

May Program Recap **Mark Luthin**

What kind of tree is that? How do you know? For botanists and non-botanists alike, tree identification, particularly in the winter, can be challenging. On May 19, Travis Cleveland from the University of Illinois Extension presented an informative and useful program on this challenging topic. Even though tree leaves, fruits, flowers, bark, wood, DNA, and even taste and smell can be used to help an amateur botanist identify trees, Travis focused on the leaf arrangement, stems and buds.

Travis illustrated using these three features as he demonstrated the use of dichotomous keys. Does the tree have opposite or alternate leaf arrangement? How are the bud scales arranged? What type of leaf scar and vascular bundles are found on the stem? These questions can all be answered when looking carefully at a stem, even when there are no leaves on the trees. Travis guided us through the process of using a dichotomous key, and ensured that even non-botanists, with practice, can use this method of identifying trees.

Travis also shared some common resources that he and other botanists use. Some of the resources can be used by people with little experience in tree

identification, some can be used by people with more experience.

The program was recorded and can be found on the Wild Ones of Rock River Valley website: <https://youtu.be/CWcUzSSwbgw>. Travis also asked that his email be included, for those that may have a question about the presentation: tclevela@illinois.edu



2022 Native Plant Sale Wrap-up Janet Giesen and Jane Evans

It goes without saying that we could not hold a plant sale without the help of volunteers. So here is a hearty THANK YOU to all the very special people who volunteered at the plant sale this year. We've listed your names below but please do contact us if your name is not on the list.

- Francie Barnes
- Becky Chewning
- Laura Dufford
- Ed Foster
- Linda Graf
- Brett Hanson
- Bob Hess
- Betsy Hoeteling
- Janet Hoisington
- Anita Johnson
- Cathy Johnson
- Lisa Johnson
- Joe Jonakin
- Ed Kletecka
- Barb Kober
- Mark Luthin
- Tom Mangan
- Mary Anne Mathewich
- Karen Matz
- Wendy Mertes
- Cynthia Nelson
- Gloria Powell
- Jane Reuber
- Linda Ricker
- Sharon Shipp
- Dawn Skupien
- Dianne Stenerson
- Ann Stone
- Ginnie Watson



Plant Sale Volunteers. Photo by Jerry Paulson



Cathy Johnson. Photo by Jerry Paulson



Brian Hale. Photo by Janet Giesen

During the days before the sale, we unloaded trucks, organized (and made) labels, placed labels in each of the plant cells, and pulled customer orders. During the pick-up and public sale days, we fetched customer orders, helped customers select plants, and carried orders to their cars. Our remarkable volunteers, some of whom worked more than one day, clocked in over 270 hours to make this year's sale a huge success!

Also, thank you Kim Lowman Vollmer who coordinated the volunteers; this year's team worked hard, and we never heard anyone complain about the working conditions! Finally, we must thank Jerry Paulson for once again allowing us to hold the plant sale at his lovely farm. The barn and grounds are a great location for this special event.

As was typical for early May, the weather was chilly and windy. This year we rented a large tent and even though the west side panel blew down the night before the sale, causing a "plant scramble" the following morning, it provided protection from the wind and rain during the public sale. Several people commented on how nice it was to shop under the big top!

Pre-order customers hailed from close to 40 cities and towns across the region, with most coming from Rockford (50), Belvidere (8), DeKalb & Roscoe (7), Loves Park, Pecatonica, and South Beloit (5). Customers also traveled from as far as Iowa City and Clinton, Iowa and Beloit Wisconsin. And after seeing the plant sale on our website, a customer drove from Chicago to pick up several Bishop's Cap that she couldn't find elsewhere. We are making a difference in three states and several counties across the region!

We offered one grant this year to help purchase native plants in support of Luthin Pond, which has been designated for environmental and science classes, the FFA, and Green Club, all at Belvidere high school. The pond was created as a parting project for RRVC member Mark Luthin when he retired. The project will help students learn about and be responsible for maintaining prairie habitats.

Also, Midway Village purchased native plants as they continue to expand and care for their native plant gardens.

Continued on page 4

2022 Native Plant Sale Wrap-up cont.

These projects help build chapter relationships within the region and educate the public on the importance preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities. Customers who purchased native plants this year realize the importance of planting natives in their yards and act as ambassadors who can influence others to use native plants to attract birds, pollinators, and wildlife.

Thank you all, our volunteers, our members, and our customers, for your support and interest in Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter. We look forward to seeing you at the plant sale next year. Look for details about the 2023 sale early next year.

And while you are working in your gardens this season, look around for areas to incorporate native trees and shrubs. Our tree and shrub sale offers a range of Illinois native species that thrive in home landscapes and attract birds and other wildlife throughout the year. Watch for the brochure on our website and email blasts later this summer.

2022 Plant Sale Stats:

Volunteer Hours: 273

Vendors: Country Road Greenhouses, Midwest Groundcovers, Pizzo Native Plant Nursery, RES Great Lakes (Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries), St. Aubin Nursery

Plant Species Ordered: 90

Total Plants Ordered: 6,322

Total Customer Pre-Orders: 131

Pre-Orders Picked Up:

Thursday, May 5 - 56

Friday, May 6 - 42

Saturday, May 7 - 30

July Member Social, Prairie Tour, and Picnic Linda Ricker

On Saturday July 16, 2022, beginning at 10:00 a.m., we will be touring the restoration prairie and wildlife habitat that RRVC member Ken Keilsmeier has been working on for several years. The prairie restoration is located on the farm of Ken's friends Mark and Joyce Long and is located at 5788 W Leaf River Rd., Leaf River. They 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 will take us on a tour of the area from a lovely, benched wagon that will give us a prairie-schooner-like view of the prairie in bloom.

The morning wagon tour will begin at approximately 10:15 a.m., followed by lunch that will be catered by the chapter and served by Ken's group of volunteers. A second tour will be offered after lunch. Bottled water will be available. Bring a lawn chair, your own table service, and a camera for taking pictures of the beautiful prairie!



Ken Keilsmeier in his prairie.
Photo provided by Jerry Pauson

Ken will be offering a native plant raffle and will be available for questions after which you will be free to walk the prairie on your own.

If you plan to attend, we ask that you kindly register by Friday July 1 at the following link: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=gxlg7gjab&oeidk=a07ej7o4gid4a3a4e8c>

This free event is open to all Wild Ones members, their children, and one adult guest. If you would like to attend the tour but are not yet a member you can easily join by clicking this link and following the instructions: <https://wildonesrrvc.org/Membership.html>

Please contact Janet Giesen at janetgiesen@gmail.com or 815.762.5912 if you have any questions about our chapter or this event. We look forward to seeing you in July!

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!

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

Francie Barnes, Rockford

Randy & Sylvia Downing, Stockton

Kirby & Dan Doyle, Rockford

Perry & Debbie Gay, Rockford

Brian Hale, Sycamore

Sue & Bob Jordan, Marengo

Lora McClelland & Michael Simmons, Rockford

Bethany Oliveri, Rockford

Welcome to our new member!

Cassie Paslick, Rockton

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:

20 Years:

Dan Kane, Belvidere

In Memoriam

In memory of our former Wild Ones

Rock River Valley Chapter members:

Ellwyn Englof - Member 2013-2022

Zeke Stirlen - Member 2006-2021

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 06/1/2021, 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

(815) 222.4414 paulsonjerry@aol.com

Vice President: Linda Tabb Ricker (217)

649.3966 greencreations.lejoi@gmail.com

Secretary: Cathy Johnson (815) 978.0865

catjohn_22@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Janet Giesen (815) 762.5912

janetgiesen@gmail.com

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kimlowvol@aol.com

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(as to the left)

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Mark Luthin (815) 543.7412

m.luthin@comcast.net

Linda Tabb Ricker (as to the left)

Publicity coordinator: Dawn Skupien

(815) 262.7864 dawnskupien@gmail.com

Show Me/Help Me coordinator:

Linda Tabb Ricker (as to the left)

Tree & shrub sale coordinator: Brian Hale

(815) 289.2384 treeandshrubsale@gmail.com

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)