

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

Inside this Issue:

President's Message	2
Plant Sale News	2
Mark Luthin	3
Annual Meeting	3
October Recap	4
New Wild Ones Guide	4
Membership	5
Chapter Contact Information	6



www.facebook.com/wildonesrockrivervalley



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

www.wildonesrrvc.org

All articles for the January 2023 newsletter, must be submitted to: paulsonjerry@aol.com by December 21, 2022.

44 Winnebago County Forest Preserves in 2022

Thursday, November 17, 2022

**Location: Rock Valley College
Physical Education Center PEC0110
(lower level)
3301 North Mulford Road, Rockford, 61114
Time: 6:00 p.m. (seed exchange)
7:00 p.m. (program)**

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/WO-Oct-Zoom>

Register: <https://conta.cc/3fb44OM>



Rob Clark

When the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County announced their challenge to visit all 44 preserves for their centennial year in 2022, Rob Clark decided to meet the challenge. His personal "rules" were that he had to hike at least a mile or two in each one to claim it as a visit and take enough photos during his hikes that others could share in their natural beauty. Rob will share a selection of the amazing photographs of the forest preserves he visited this year.

Rob Clark has enjoyed photographing nature since his high school days. In 2020, he retired from teaching mathematics for 27 years at Rock Valley College. Throughout college and his career, he spent time outdoors with his camera. He has been a volunteer at the Nygren Wetland Preserve for the last 20 years, and Nygren remains one of his favorite places to photograph. He recently became a member of NLI's Board of Trustees and is also a Board member with Nature at the Confluence, and regularly volunteers with Severson Dells' Canoe Convoys.

Please Register for November Meeting

We are excited to let you know that we will be offering a variety of light refreshments and beverages at our November meeting. We will gather between 6 to 7 p.m. to socialize and exchange seeds. Join us to celebrate and honor our mission and volunteers. To ensure that we have plenty of food for everyone, we ask that you register for the event by clicking on the link above. Please contact Janet Giesen if you have any questions at 815-762-5912 or janetgiesen@gmail.com. For more information, see page 3.

Message from the President **Jerry Paulson**



Jerry Paulson

You've heard the saying, "There is no such thing as a free lunch!" Well, if you volunteer to join the WORRV chapter leadership team you can enjoy a free lunch at an area restaurant at our chapter leadership retreat in December. As a volunteer organization, we rely on our members to do the day-to-day work to help run the chapter. This

includes everything from serving on the Board to helping at our native plant sales.

We will honor our dedicated volunteers at the annual meeting at Rock Valley College on November 17th. The meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. with snacks and our seed exchange, followed by the recognition of volunteers and treasurer reports, and a special program highlighting the 100-year anniversary of the creation of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County at 7:00 p.m.

We need people who are interested in serving on the Board, to assist the Membership Coordinator by bringing member badges to meetings and signing up new members, to recruit volunteers for the native plant sale, and to help plan programs and yard tours. We're also looking for people to write articles for the newsletter and a coordinator of our Mentor program who can connect novices with experts on natural landscaping.

Please call or email me at 815-222-4414 or paulsonjerry@aol.com if you are willing to join our leadership team---and enjoy a free lunch!

Watch Your Mailbox

Our annual member survey and ballot for the election of the Chapter Board and Officers will be mailed to WORRV chapter members next month. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it along with your ballot by the deadline. We use the results of the survey to plan our programs for next year and to recruit volunteers for various tasks. Thank you for participating in the work of the chapter.

2023 Plant Sale News

It's not too early to start planning your 2023 native gardens and projects. The plant sale committee has had one of many meetings and made an initial list of native plants to meet the needs of native plant enthusiasts - whether you are just beginning, need to fill in some spaces, or have a large project to tackle.

Native plant vendors begin to plant seeds for the upcoming year in the fall based, in part, on customer orders. We select our plants based on previous plant sales and those species that will thrive in a range of environments. We welcome orders of any size, but if you are planning on ordering large quantities of one species (for example, 25 Prairie dropseed or one full flat of Wild petunia, etc.), please let us know so we can plan to have those plants available for you. Please note that although we order our plants early, we have no control over crop failure, which is when weather and other conditions occur that could reduce or eliminate part of the order.

Mark your calendars now for the 2023 Native Plant Sale! The order deadline is Friday, April 28, 2023, followed by a members-only pick up and sale on Thursday, May 11, and the regular sale and pick-up on Friday, May 12 and Saturday, May 13. Watch for more details in future Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter newsletters, our [website](#), and Facebook.



Thank You, Mark!



We extend our Congratulations to Mark Luthin, who on October 14th, was presented with the Best of the Best Outstanding Citizen Volunteer of the Year Award at the Illinois Association of Park Districts Gala. He was nominated by the Boone County Conservation District for his commitment and dedication as a volunteer. Mark also volunteers for the Natural Land Institute and for the Wild Ones Rock River Valley chapter as a member of the Program Committee and at native plant sales.

Mark Luthin

Annual Meeting & Seed Exchange

The annual meeting of WORRV chapter will be held at Rock Valley College on Thursday, November 17th starting at 7:00 p.m. We will have reports from our officers and a special program by Rob Clark about his year-long effort to visit all 44 of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County during the centennial year of the Forest Preserve District. We will also have our seed exchange starting at 6:00 p.m. Information about preparing and packaging your seeds is below. We will have hors d'oeuvres and other treats prior to the meeting, so come early!

Collect seeds from native plants in your yard or landscape project. If possible, separate the seeds/seed heads from the excess plant material and put single-species seeds in their own envelopes, baggies, or paper bags (lunch bags work great). Add a label with both the common name and scientific name (check online or in a seed catalog), place of origin (e.g. Winnebago County, Wild Ones plant sale, or another source), and your name (in case anyone has questions, such as "how does the plant grow?"). We often have lots of seeds so if you are new to this and don't have any seeds to share, you are still welcome to join us and take seeds home. Sharing seeds increases the opportunity for more native plants to grow in our communities. Come help us celebrate another successful year of native landscaping!

Register by Nov 12:

<https://conta.cc/3fb44OM>



Members share seeds at Annual Meeting

October Program Recap: Bats – Beyond the Myths Jerry Paulson



Barbara Williams

Bats represent one quarter of all mammal species on earth yet they are widely misunderstood and persecuted. Barbara Williams asked us to look past our prejudices to see that bats are inextricably linked to the health of our environment and our agricultural systems. Globally, they consume huge

quantities of crop pests and provide pollination services worth billions of dollars. Locally, bats are busily at work on mosquito control and crop pest reduction and they ask nothing more than to be left alone to do their work.

Bats are not blind, are not flying rodents, and will not attack people or get in your hair! A quarter of all mammals are bats, second only to rodents. Many predators eat bats, while bats consume millions of insects and spread seeds of many trees, cactus, and other plants. They pollinate agave, some giant cactus flowers, bananas, and a long list of other fruit trees.

Many species of bats have evolved fleshy structures on their faces to echolocate their prey and avoid flying into obstacles in the dark. Northern Illinois has ten species of bats: Big brown

bat, Silver-haired bat, Eastern red bat, Hoary bat, Little brown bat, Tri-colored bat and Evening bat are the most common. The Grey bat, Indiana bat and Northern long-eared bat are rare or endangered species. Most species roost in trees or crevices in old barns or buildings.

Barbara explained the risks and benefits of welcoming bats to your landscape and ways to accommodate and encourage bats without conflict. She also gave a brief demonstration of a bat detection microphone and recorder that can be used to monitor bat populations.



Little brown bat

Watch the full program on our website at:

<https://youtu.be/AmrNBZdcdWA>.

New Wild Ones "Climate Resilient Landscapes" Guide Now Available

The Wild Ones Natural Landscapers has published a new guide to creating a Climate Resilient Landscape in your yard. The guide focuses on the critical, positive impact native landscaping can have on climate change, lists climate resilient trees, shrubs and other native plants, explains how to store carbon in your garden, use water wisely, avoid runoff, lose your lawn, and includes native garden designs that you can adapt to your own space. Free copies of the guide will be available at the annual meeting at Rock Valley College on Nov. 17th and at future meetings.



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!

176 memberships as of October 26, 2022

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

Barb Kober, Rockford

Dianne & Dennis Stenerson, Rockford

Christopher & Sandy Wrate, Rockford

New Members:

Elizabeth Lindquist, Roscoe

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!

About 20 attended the October Meeting, and about 17 via Zoom

A big thank you to our October meeting volunteers!

Greeters: Linda Ricker

AV/Sound Equipment: Janet Giesen

Meeting Recap: Jerry Paulson

Anniversaries:

15 Years:

Maureen Elick, Rockford

In Memoriam

In memory of our former Wild Ones

Rock River Valley Chapter members

Paul Letourneau - Member 2010-2023

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 11/1/2022, 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

Our regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at Rock Valley College. We are live streaming the program over ZOOM and 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

Board members:

Kim Lowman Vollmer (815) 397.6044

kimlowvol@aol.com

Ed Foster (815) 654-3441 thistletwo@aol.com

Library coordinator: Ginnie Watson

(815) 398.0138 vswatson47@aol.com

Membership coordinator: Sallie Krebs

membershipworrvc@gmail.com

Mentor coordinator: [open position]

Merchandise coordinator: Cynthia Chmell

(815) 969.7435 cynthiachmell@gmail.com

Native plant sale coordinators: Janet Giesen

(as to the left)

Jane Evans (815) 494.7731

Ginnie Watson (as above)

Cynthis Nelson cnelson18@niu.edu

Newsletter editor-in-chief: Jerry Paulson (as

to the left)

Newsletter editor and production:

Jessie Crow Mermel (815) 955.0653

icrowmermel@gmail.com

Plant rescue/seeds coordinator: Mary Anne

Mathwich (815) 721.5187 mprairedock@aol.com

Program coordinators: Lisa Johnson

(779) 537.8939

lejohnson3804@outlook.com

Mark Luthin (815) 543.7412

m.luthin@comcast.net

Linda Tabb Ricker (as to the left)

Publicity coordinator: Dawn Skupien

(as to the left)

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: Dawn Skupien

(815) 262.7864 dawnskupien@gmail.com