

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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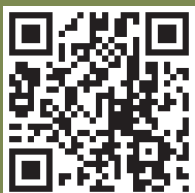
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www.wildonesrrvc.org

All articles for the Oct 2023 newsletter, must be submitted to: serendipitree@gmail.com by September 18, 2023.

Cranes Over Illinois

Thursday, September 21, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Cherry Valley Library
755 East State Street,
Cherry Valley, IL

Zoom: <http://wildonesrrvc.org/>

Pre-registration for Zoom now required. See website for details.



Stephanie Schmidt

Stephanie Schmidt is the Whooping Crane Outreach Coordinator at the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo Wisconsin. She helps raise awareness about endangered whooping cranes and sandhill cranes in our communities to inspire us to care for cranes and support greater protection for these birds. They are facing increasing threats of habitat loss, collisions, and poaching throughout their flyway. Each year in Illinois we will see over 40,000 sandhill cranes and 76 whooping cranes from November through March, including in our own community. The International Crane Foundation aims to ensure these birds are protected on our landscapes for future generations to enjoy and appreciate.

Stephanie will show us how to identify the two species of cranes in Illinois, and teach us a bit about their history, the threats they face, and the habitats they use. She'll also describe the whooping crane reintroduction program that the International Crane Foundation runs.

Stephanie often works very closely with naturalists and nature enthusiasts across the whooping crane flyway as they are catalysts for protecting cranes, helping to spread the word, and acting as eyes and ears on the ground to safeguard cranes from harm.

This in-person program will be held at the Cherry Valley Public Library. Please join us at 6:00 p.m. for socializing and a chance to check out our Wild Ones chapter library, followed by the speaker's presentation via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. To attend this meeting via Zoom, you must register first. Visit our website for more details.

Message from the President Jerry Paulson



Jerry Paulson

To Zoom or Not to Zoom? Since WORRV has been meeting at the Cherry Valley Library we've been live-streaming our educational programs via Zoom using the library's equipment.

This requires someone who knows how to work with the Zoom

app, which is constantly being updated. At the August meeting, we had some problems connecting with our Zoom account, and fewer people are accessing the program via Zoom. So, we're asking our members if we should continue to provide multi-platform access to our monthly programs via Zoom, and if so, is there someone who can run the Zoom meetings each month, either from the library or from home? Please respond to me (paulsonjerry@aol.com) or Janet Giesen (janetgiesen@gmail.com) if you want the live Zoom programs to continue and/or can help run the meetings on Zoom. We will continue to record the meetings and post them on our website to view later.

Our chapter is starting a new project in cooperation with the Rockford Public Library to collect and provide seeds of native plants for their "Seed Library". There is an upcoming opportunity to learn

more about collecting prairie seeds, by volunteering at the Natural Land Institute's Fall Prairie Harvest Day at the Nygren Wetland Preserve, 3190 W. Rockton Rd., Rockton, IL, on Saturday, September 9 from 9 a.m. to noon. If you can't make it on the 9th, NLI has other seed collection opportunities coming up this fall. Call Laura Helmich at 712-301-1208 to volunteer.

The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County also has many volunteer opportunities. You can call Keith Krey at (815) 516-2655, or go to www.winnebagoforest.org and click on the "About Us" tab, and go to "Volunteer with us" to volunteer. The Boone County Conservation District has regular volunteer workdays, including seed harvest days. To volunteer with BCCD call Mark Freedlund, at 815-484-3674 or email him at mfreedlund@bccdil.org. Several Wild Ones members who live in Boone County volunteer with the BCCD.

You can also contact the DeKalb County Forest Preserve District (815) 895-7191, the Byron Forest Preserve District (815) 234-8535, or Friends of Nachusa Grasslands (815) 456-2340, www.nachusagrasslands.org to help with seed collection and other stewardship activities at their sites. Collecting seeds is fun and very satisfying work!

Don't forget about our Fall Tree & Shrub Sale going on now. Orders are due by September 13th. I hope to see you in person or on Zoom at our next meeting on September 21st.

In My Yard Jane Evans

We had just moved to Illinois, and a whole new world of gardening was opening up to us. The spring "Garden for Food and Fun" was held at Rock Valley College and Lee Green, one of the presenters, had offered us a couple of pin cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica*) starts which we gratefully accepted. At that time our yard held only a small oak tree which had been run over several times by vandals, some jack pines which were dying off, and two silver maples planted by the builder. The pin cherries got to be about 30 feet tall and thrived for decades until they expired after their short life span of about 30 years. They left behind a baby which we are trimming each year to promote more berries. This year it was totally covered, bringing in cardinals, catbirds, and robins to eat its bounty. Black cherry, (*Prunus serotina*), is a longer-lasting and more beneficial tree feeding even more species of birds and mammals and is also a host

plant. We can always use more berries for birds!



Photo by Jane Evans

August Meeting Recap: Denise Sandoval Linda Ricker

Our WORRV August presentation was given by Denise Sandoval. Denise is an experienced landscape designer who specializes in creating artistic landscapes that are a blend of environmental friendliness, visual appeal, and functionality—not only for humans, but for the wildlife that exist in them.



Denise Sandoval

She is the owner of Good Natured Landscapes, LLC, located in the far western suburbs of Chicagoland. She started her business in 2005, after receiving her horticulture degree and volunteering at a local site restoration using native plants in 2003. In 2014 one of her designs won the Chicago Wilderness Native Landscaping and Conservation Award. She has been growing native plants in her own yard for more than 20 years, growing many plants from seed and doing prescribed burns. She has served on the Wild Ones Greater Dupage chapter's board for 15 years and was a Conservation@Home Assistant for 6 years.

Denise started off by explaining the handout she created that lists her favorite native plants to use in gardens. The plants she includes are on the list because of several factors including the large range of sunlight and moisture they can handle, the great habitat they provide for all the various wildlife that dwell amongst them, their well-behaved nature in the smaller landscape (they are smaller sized and non-aggressive), and finally, they are available at many local nurseries. She suggests shopping local nurseries for these plants to encourage the use of the local genotypes, as opposed to ordering from nurseries located in farther removed areas. She also recommended checking with the nurseries regarding the use of pesticides in the production of these plants, which once in or on the plants, can affect wildlife in your garden.

She went on to explain some of the terms used on the handout. "Sprinkles and Less" refers to plants she likes, but that tend to be more aggressive, therefore using a few of these plants "sprinkled" throughout the garden or adding them later after the less aggressive plants are established, these favorites can effectively be included. Some of these include *Zizia aurea* (golden Alexander), *Phlox divaricata*, (woodland phlox) and *Echinacea*

purpurea (purple coneflower).

Denise then went on to describe some of her favorites for each of the three seasons:

Spring (April-mid June) For sun: *Zizia aurea* (Golden Alexander), *Viola sororia* (common violet), *Rudbeckia hirta* (Black-eyed Susan). **For shade:** *Geranium maculatum* (woodland geranium), *Polemonium reptans* (Jacob's ladder), and *Carex sprengei* (long beaked sedge), which she calls the prairie dropseed for shade.

Midsummer (Late June-early August) For sun: *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* (sweet black-eyed Susan), *Monarda fistulosa* (bee balm). **For shade:** *Campanulastrum americanum* (American bellflower) and *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Christmas fern).

Late Summer-Fall (mid-August to November) For Sun: *Oligoneuron rigidum* (stiff goldenrod) and the asters, *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae* (New England aster) and *Symphyotrichum laeve* (smooth blue aster). **For Shade:** *Eurybia macrophylla* (big leaved aster) *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* (calico aster) and *Solidago flexicaulis* (zig-zag goldenrod)

In her description of the varied plants she covered in her presentation, she also gave us information on the number of butterflies and bee specialists that visit these particular varieties. A bee specialist is like the monarch butterfly in that it feeds on very specific plants in order to thrive.

Besides forbes and grasses, she also had some favorite shrubs and trees for these same urban gardens including *Viburnum prunifolium* (blackhaw viburnum), *Diervilla lonicera* (northern bush honeysuckle), and *Hamamelis virginiana* (witch hazel).

Members who attended either live or on Zoom or who viewed the video on the website before September 17, could receive a copy of Denise's proprietary handout as part of her presentation. She can be found on her website Good Natured Landscapes LLC at <https://goodnaturedlandscapes.com/contact/>.

Thank you, Denise, for a great presentation and information so helpful to those trying to incorporate native plants into smaller urban and suburban landscapes! You showed us how every little space can help support our native wildlife!

Collecting Seeds **Kim Lowman Vollmer**

September is a great month to collect seeds from your native plants! The bountiful plant source will provide numerous seeds for yourself and others. Post this list so you remember to go collecting. We have a seed exchange in November, so be sure and save some to share. We are also collecting seeds for a Seed Library and have small labeled envelopes available at the next meeting for this purpose.

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
 Blue Vervain (*Verbena hastata*)
 Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepia tuberosa*)
 Common Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*)
 Compass Plant (*Silphium laciniatum*)
 Cream False Indigo (*Baptisia bracteata*)
 False Gromwell (*Onosmodium mole*)
 Fragrant Coneflower (*Rudbeckia subtomentosa*)
 Germander (*Teucrium canadense*)
 Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)
 Gray-headed Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*)
 Hairy Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum pilosum*)
 Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*)
 Hoary Vervain (*Verbenna stricta*)
 Illinois Bundleflower (*Desmanthus illinoensis*)
 Ironweed (*Veronia fasciculata*)
 Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*)
 Michigan Lily (*Lilium michiganense*)
 Milk Vetch (*Astragalus canadensis*)
 Ox-eye Sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)
 Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*)

Prairie Blazing Star (*Liatris pycnostachya*)
 Prairie Coreopsis (*Coreopsis palmata*)
 Prairie sunflower (*Helianthus pauciflorus*)
 Purple Prairie Clover (*Dalea purpurea*)
 Queen of the Prairie (*Filipendula rubra*)
 Rosinweed (*Siophium integrifolium*)
 Round-headed Bush Clover (*Lespedeza capitata*)
 Royal Catchfly (*Silene regia*)
 Showy Tick Trefoil (*Desmodium canadense*)
 Slender Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*)
 Spikenard (*Aralia racemose*)
 Spotted Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*)
 Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
 Tall Boneset (*Eupatorium altissimum*)
 Tall Cinquefoil (*Potentilla arguta*)
 Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)
 Western Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
 White Prairie Clover (*Dalea candida*)
 White Wild Indigo (*Baptisia alba*)
 Whorled Milkweed (*Asclepias verticallata*)
 Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
 Wild Quinine (*Parthenium intergrifolium*)
 Wild Senna (*Senna*)



Wild senna photo by Jessie Crow Mermel

Upcoming Events

September 13 | Orders due for Tree & Shrub Sale
 September 21 | 6:30 p.m. | Stephanie Schmidt: Cranes Over Illinois
 September 22 | 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. | Tree & Shrub Sale Pick-up
 September 23 | 9:00 a.m. to noon | Tree & Shrub Sale Pick-up
 October 19 | 6:30 p.m. | Boone County Conservation District 60th Anniversary History
 November 11 | Annual Meeting - Details TBD



Fall Tree & Shrub Sale Reminder

Our annual Fall Tree & Shrub Sale is going on now! The brochure may be downloaded online at http://wildonesrrvc.org/Plant_Sales.html. Orders are due on **September 13th** and the order pick-ups are on Friday, **September 22**, 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, **September 23**, 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Pick-up is at 4601 Paulson Road, Caledonia IL 61011. Contact Brian Hale with questions at 815.289.2384 or treeandshrubsale@gmail.com. Quantities are limited, so order early. See below for list of available trees and shrubs.

Shrubs

Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) - 1 gallon
 False Indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*)
 Purple Chokeberry (*Aronia prunifolia*)
 Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
 American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)
 Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)
 Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*)
 Smooth Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*)
 Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)
 Wild Black Currant (*Ribes americanum*)
 Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra var. canadensis*)
 Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)

Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*)
 Nannyberry Viburnum (*Viburnum lentago*)

Trees

Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
 Prairie Crabapple (*Malus ioensis*)
 Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
 American Plum (*Prunus americana*)
 Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)
 Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
 Chinquapin Oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*)
 Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

* all 5 gallon containers unless noted

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!

183 memberships as of August 23, 2023

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

Kirby Doyle, Rockford
 Brett & Margret Hanson, Rockford
 Linda & Terry Mohaupt, Rockford

Welcome to our new member(s)!

David Kenny, Rockford

Anniversaries:

25 Years:
 Jack & Joyce Armstrong, Rockford
 Kirby Doyle, Rockford
 10 Years:
 Christopher & Sandy Wrate, Rockford
 5 Years:
 Shawn Choinard, Rockford
 Betsy Kelly, Rockford

Thank you for your continuing support!

Get more involved with your Wild Ones Chapter!
 We are looking for people to offer their talents and time with the following positions:

President (in 2024)
 Treasurer
 Booth Coordinator



Mentor Coordinator
 Board Member-at-Large
 Volunteers

Contact Jerry Paulson to learn more and get involved: (815) 222.4414, paulsonjerry@aol.com



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 09/01/2023, 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.



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. We are live streaming the programs over ZOOM and posting recordings on YouTube. 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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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

APPOINTED COORDINATORS

Booth coordinator: [open position]

Facebook coordinator: Dawn Skupien

(815) 262.7864 dawnskupien@gmail.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)

Cynthia Nelson cnelson18@niu.edu

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Mark Luthin (815) 543.7412

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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: Cynthia Nelson (as to the left)

Website coordinator: Janet Giesen (as to the left)

Youth education & grants coordinator: Kim

Lowman Vollmer (as to the left)