

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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



Articles for the September 2014 newsletter, must be submitted to the Newsletter Chair, at: Pambi@wildonesrrvc.org by August 23, 2014.

Butterflies: Winged Wildflowers of Northern Illinois
Thursday, August 21, 2014

Rock Valley College/Woodward Technology Center, WTC
3301 North Mulford Road,
Rockford, IL 61114
Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm



Join Don Miller, Director of Education at Severson Dells Nature Center (WCFPD), August 21st, for a night of great butterfly action. Expect the unexpected, but be ready with your own butterfly wisdom to be a part of this program and prepare to have fun.

Do come and enjoy the beautiful butterfly pictures taken by one of the best nature photographers of this region, Mary Kay Rubey. (www.pbase.com/marykayrubey). Thank-you, Mary Kay, for allowing Don to use these awesome pictures. It'll be like watching a fourth of July fireworks display.

The program won't be just a field guide of local butterflies; there will be some art, music, poetry, a little comedy, and some good stories. Stories like the one about the founder of the Xerces Society, Bob Pile, and his experience when he visited this area. Do you have a good butterfly story to share? We can hear that, too.

Don grew up in Rockton, and has never strayed far from home. His parents provided him with many opportunities to fall in love with being outside and grow in wonder and awe for the natural world. He feels lucky to have taken many family summer vacations out west, as well as many visits to local forest preserves. His Grandpa Miller's experiences as caretaker of Sugar River Forest Preserve in the 1920's and 1930's influenced Don as a youngster. And his Dad took him paddling at an early age; we know this influenced Don's great love of local rivers.

When we asked Don "What kind of a kid were you?" His reply was: "In the early 1960's there were plenty of vacant areas that I played in - finding snakes, bugs, and eating dirt." He grew up to graduate with a Bachelor's Degree from Western Illinois in Biology with a certification in secondary education, and later earned a Master's in Outdoor Education and elementary teaching certification. Before arriving at Severson Dells on July 5th, 1989 (July 5th was his 25th anniversary there!), he worked two years at the Pecatonica River Education Center.

(cont'd on page 3)



Message from the Co-President

Bob Arevalo

Photos by Bob Arevalo



Bob Arevalo

photo by Jon McGinty

The July 7/14, 2014 issue of Time magazine had a cover article on “The Smarter Home.” It talked about the dwellings of the future that will make you calmer, safer, richer and healthier. It was an interesting article but something was left out. Nancy Stoll of Ann Arbor, Michigan pointed out in the feedback section in the July 21st edition “the smarter house would be

landscaped with native plants instead of lawn, which guzzles water.” Good for her for speaking up! I would have also added, among other things, native plants, once established, do not require fertilizers or insecticides. By eliminating the need for these products, we save money and help save the environment.

More and more commercial and governmental entities are realizing the benefits of planting natives. A good local example is North Pointe Health and Wellness Center in Roscoe. Their beautiful campus is surrounded by native plant areas to include large expanses of prairie. This project is stewarded by Heather Hasenyager, an employee of Beloit Memorial Hospital, who has done a wonderful job over several years. Other examples are the golf courses of the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District and the Rockford Park District which have greatly enlarged their planting of native areas on the golf courses. There are several native plant areas on Perryville Road north of East State street along the bike path. With more native areas and less lawn to mow, they are saving a lot of money on gasoline, fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides. Plus they are putting less carbon dioxide into the air with less mowing. I have also observed on drives into Chicago, large corporate headquarters that are planting earth friendly areas for less maintenance costs but also because the plantings can be quite beautiful. These are large areas, but of course we can do the same thing in our

own home landscapes. Most of you who are reading this are already doing this, so keep it up. Thank you for your contribution to the health of mother earth.

The bottom line is: more and more people, organizations, and companies are joining the native landscape movement. We have been on the leading edge of a movement that is catching on. Our 20th anniversary event, Inviting Nature Home Tours, was a great example of how we are getting the word out about our mission and our chapter here in the Rock River Valley. May we continue to set good examples for others to follow.



North Pointe Health and Wellness Center



Macktown Golf Course, Winnebago County Forest Preserve District

(cont'd from page 1)

Don has received the distinguished Atwood Award, EEAI's Lifetime Achievement award, as well as been named Illinois Environmental Educator of the Year. You will most likely find him in a canoe on one of the local rivers or exploring one of our great prairies or woodlands. He loves and lives in Winnebago County, a place he has called "home" for almost 60 years

Come early and browse the Wild Ones library, information booth, sales table (good deals!) and refreshment table.

We welcome new members.

Submitted by Lee and Lynda Johnson, Program Co-Chairs

photos by Mary Kay Rubey.



***L: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail,
R: (bigger one) Giant Swallowtail.***

Volunteer to Volunteer

Kim Lowman Vollmer, Youth Education and Grant Chair

The Rock River Valley Chapter of Wild Ones is run by volunteers, like you and me. As a volunteer, I helped to plan and organize Wild for Monarchs: Inviting Nature Home, Lecture and Tour of Native Yards, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our chapter. My involvement with this allowed me to meet so many new and interesting people. People volunteer for many reasons: to learn, to have fun, to help a worthwhile cause, to repay a kindness, to fill a void, to meet new people, to make a difference and many more reasons. One of my tasks as a volunteer was to get members to volunteer a few hours of their time to help in some way at one of the nine sites on the Inviting Nature Home tour of native yards. This meant speaking up at our monthly meetings and often making many cold calls to members. I met so many wonderful people and learned more about many of them. I had a few sites I worked closely with while planning this event and truly enjoyed getting to know those people and the history of

their beautiful property. One cheery woman is retiring and is excited to fill her life with a new adventure – Wild Ones. Another young couple just moved into a new house and are doing some major home remodeling. Another member is bringing along her son as they volunteer to run an activity station together. One new member is bringing a neighbor to spend the day with and learn. I talked to many new members of the organization and enjoyed telling them about all the great things we do, and I hoped that they would learn many new ideas that they could utilize in their yards. Yes, some people were going on vacation, were working, had others to care for, etc. But many people were willing to step out of their comfort zone, be brave, and help out on this great undertaking – Wild for Monarchs! Be sure to introduce yourself to me at a meeting so I have a face to put with the name. Thank you for volunteering!

July Social & Garden Tour

Cathy Schafman

photos by Tim Lewis



Members and guests listen to Jerry Paulson talk about the landscape restoration work at Indian Hill Manor

We visited the Indian Hill Manor for a potluck and garden tour. Jerry Paulson is a consultant for the foundation that owns the Indian Hill Manor and farm. He gave us the background of the property and a tour. Jack Kaskel, of Red Buffalo Nursery, gave us an overview of the meadow site. The landscape restoration of the property is a work in progress, as it is a huge project.

This was the location of the second settlement in our area, after Macktown near Rockton. When Rockford began to grow, the Indian Hill area was abandoned. Charles Barrett had the present Manor built between 1916 and 1918. The original landscaping was done in the Prairie Spirit style. The present restoration will rehabilitate the border plantings, the flower beds, and the meadow to this style, as they had deteriorated over the years.

O.C. Simonds, or one of his assistants, is thought to have designed the landscaping at Indian Hill Manor. In the late 1800's and early 1900's, there was a design movement called the Prairie Style. This was a regional approach to landscape design. Jens Jensen was another well know proponent of this style. Jensen and Simonds had close ties to Chicago's Prairie School architects, such as Frank Lloyd

Wright. The Prairie Style was referred to as landscape gardening rather than landscape architecture. The flat or rolling landscape of the Midwest with its mosaic of prairies and woodlands, was sought to be evoked. Open vistas would have islands of trees and shrubs with horizontal branching patterns. The eye was led past smaller plantings to the larger view beyond. Views of the sky, clouds, and sunsets were preserved. The original landscape of Indian Hill Manor even had a view of the Kishwaukee River. Even though the Prairie Spirit landscape gardeners fought against the popular European garden style, and they used many native species, they used other varieties when desired. They usually had flower gardens on properties, because they thought that was what the owners wanted. They also wanted to see the colors of the seasons. They planned so the gardens would be artistic and be idealized images of the prairie.

Jerry is helping recreate this "Prairie Spirit" at Indian Hill Manor. As he gave us a tour, we could see that many native shrubs had been recently planted in the understory of the trees around the border of the property including: Black Choke berry (*Aronia melanocarpa*), American

Hazelnut (*Corylus Americana*), Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolia*), Fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatic*), Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*), and Highbush cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*).

There are still a few original old trees, including Scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*), in the border. We saw remnants of past grandeur when we were walking near the past sunken garden area to get to the meadow site that Jack Kaskel has begun to clear. He is also in charge of its restoration. He briefed us on his plans for the area.

We all enjoyed the walk back to our picnic area past the Manor, which will be used for educational purposes, where we saw several new flower beds. Some of these were native and some not, but they were all beautiful. Master Gardeners and Stillman Valley FFA members have helped in the restoration.

We were privileged to have the opportunity to tour the grounds of the Indian Hill Manor. When the Prairie Spirit landscape restoration is complete, the grounds, along with the historic buildings, will be a jewel in our area.



Anita Johnson and Jack Kaskel talk about the restoration work at Indian Hill Manor.



Monarchs in Trouble

Kim Lowman Vollmer, Youth Education and Grant Chair



The monarch butterfly is in trouble, and we can help. The children of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockford, Illinois learned about this problem and planted butterfly milkweed in their existing church prairie, helping first-hand to save the monarchs.

The monarch caterpillar only eats milkweed, and cannot survive if there is not enough of it. Where has the milkweed gone? These children learned that because it's called a "weed", some people get rid of it. More people are mowing

alongside roads and fields where milkweed likes to grow. We are also destroying the land milkweed grows on by constructing more buildings, and so the plants get destroyed too. Their winter home in Mexico is also being destroyed. Because of this, the monarchs are losing their habitat.

We spent about an hour planting 32 butterfly milkweed plants into the beautiful church prairie. Older children were paired with younger ones, and it was a delight watching them work together while planting. There were experts who had done some planting before and there were novices who learned how to dig a hole for their plants. Some children were a bit hesitant to wade into the prairie like bison in order to find the perfect planting location, while others were

fascinated with the insects and plants. The holes were easy to dig due to the large amount of rain this year, but we still watered them after the planting was complete.

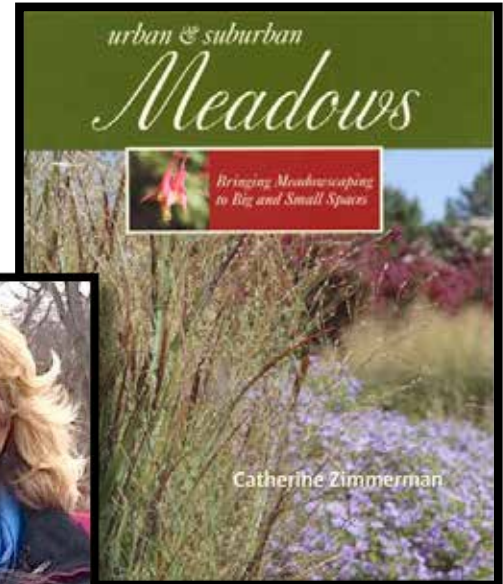
Firsthand helping with monarchs provides a great learning experience and one that will hopefully provide a lasting positive effect of caring for our earth.

Thank you Rock River Valley Chapter for helping to provide the butterfly milkweed plants.

Merchandise Must Haves... Shey Lowman, Merchandise Coordinator

Planning and Planting Guide for Areas Large and Small!

A book for beginner and experienced native plant enthusiasts is **Catherine Zimmerman's *Urban & Suburban Meadows, Bringing Meadows to Big and Small Spaces***. She is an Honorary Director of national **Wild Ones** and has written this enticing introduction to meadowscaping. This guide provides step-by-step instructions on organically creating and maintaining beautiful meadow gardens. Filled with beautiful photographs see recommendations from experts such as **Doug Tallamy** and Prairie Nursery's **Neil Diboll**. Meadows can be big or small, short or tall; they sequester carbon, retain water, filter pollutants, eliminate the need for fertilizers or pesticides and provide habitat for wildlife. **\$25.00**



Membership Application/Renewal



Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

- I prefer receiving the color digital version of the monthly newsletter as a PDF file via email.
- Check here if you do not want to be published in the annual January membership roster.

Please select your membership category:

- Household Membership
- Household Lifetime Membership
- Professional Educator Membership
- Not-for-Profit Affiliate Organization Membership
- Associate Membership (limited income/student)
- Business Membership
- Gift Household Membership

Wild	Wilder	Wildest
<input type="checkbox"/> \$37	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100+
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1500 (Or 3 annual payments of \$500)		
<input type="checkbox"/> \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
<input type="checkbox"/> \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
<input type="checkbox"/> \$20		
<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$600	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,200
<input type="checkbox"/> \$37	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100+

If this is a gift membership, please put your name below to let the recipient know it is from you:

- I would like to make an additional donation to support the Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter for: \$ _____

Please make your **check payable** to **Wild Ones** and mail it to:

Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter
1643 N Alpine Rd Ste 104
PMB 233
Rockford, IL 61107-1464

I have enclosed \$ _____ to start/ renew my membership for _____ year(s).

Membership Update

Shey Lowman, Membership Co-Chair

Thanks to our 11 members who renewed this month! A membership e-form and our membership brochure describing the benefits of membership are both available on the chapter website (www.wildonesrrvc.org), just click on the Membership tab. Thank you in advance for helping us reach our goal of 200 members in 2014!

204 memberships on July 28, 2014

Special thanks to our members who made donations above the basic \$37 dues!

John & Carol Gerrond, Rockford, IL
 Bob & Carolyn Arevalo, Rockford, IL
 Ellwyn Englof, Rockford, IL
 Diane Stenerson, Rockford, IL
 John & Cathy Schafman, Rockton, IL

Welcome to new members!

Roberta & Bill Allen, Sycamore IL
 Jeanne Baker, Rockford, IL
 Russ Buchanan, Rockford, IL
 Deb Chostner, Rockford, IL
 Mary Davis, Roscoe, IL
 Ron Dierks, Caledonia, IL
 Kay Hotchkiss, Rockford, IL
 Ramona Lanier, Sycamore, IL
 Christine Myers, Cherry Valley, IL
 Cheryl Nelson, Cherry Valley, IL
 Andres Perez, Rockford, IL
 Mike Scholl, Polo, IL
 Sharon Wegler, Durand, IL

Congratulations to our first new members earning their free copy of the book *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy!

New members can redeem their book certificate by attending 3 Wild Ones events or participating in Wild Ones native plant sales during their first year of membership.

Marcia Speck, Aurora, IL
 Khrista Miskell, Rockford, IL

Anniversaries Congratulations to this month's loyal members!

15 Years

Jack Schroeder, Rockford, IL

10 Years

Linda & Terry Mohaupt, Rockford, IL

5 Years

Mike & Deb Eickman, Rockton, IL
 Frank & Barbara Flores, Durand, IL

79, including 8 visitors, attended the June meeting. 30 members attended the July yard social and tour. It is preferred that renewal memberships be sent directly to the chapter for quicker processing and to avoid delays in receiving your chapter newsletter. Please use the address below:

**Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter
 1643 N Alpine Rd Ste 104
 PMB 233
 Rockford, IL 61107-1464**

Your expiration date is on your chapter newsletter and your national Journal address labels. You will be mailed a renewal reminder two months prior to your expiration date with a completed membership form and return envelope for your convenience.

Please send address and email address changes to Shey Lowman at shey@wildonesrrvc.org.

Thirty percent of all dues paid are returned to the chapter by National Wild Ones to support our chapter activities. All dues and donations are fully tax deductible.

Thank you for your continued support!



2014 Chapter Programs and Events

Aug-Sept

Native Tree & Shrub Sale
 Orders taken during this time

John Peterson

Tree and Shrub Sale Coordinator
 815-979-8539

August 21

7:00-9:00 pm

Butterflies: Winged Wildflowers of Northern Illinois

Don Miller, Director-Severson
 Dells Nature Center

Rock Valley College
 Woodward Technology

September 18

7:00-9:00 pm

Natural Areas Management
 Without Using Pesticides
 (Rescheduled from February)

Mary Blackmore

Naturalist, Educator,
 and Lover of Native Plants

Rock Valley College
 Woodward Technology

October 16

7:00-9:00 pm

Shooting Star:
 A Prairie Plant With an Attitude

Paul Sorensen, Pdd

Dept. of Biological
 Sciences, NIU

Rock Valley College
 Woodward Technology

Unless noted, programs are free and open to the public. Programs are subject to change.
 Please contact Lynda and Lee Johnson at (815) 629-2781 for more information.



ROCK RIVER VALLEY

ROCK RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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

Don't become extinct!

If the expiration date on the mailing label is **8/1/2014**, this is your last chapter newsletter and you have received your last *Wild Ones Journal* until you activate your membership

You may receive a renewal notice from both the National organization and your chapter. Your membership information will be updated quicker if you renew through your chapter so you won't miss an Issue of the chapter newsletter.

Mail your renewal:
Wild Ones Rock River Valley
1643 N. Alpine Rd., Suite 104
PMB 233
Rockford, IL 61107

Wild Ones - Rock River Valley Chapter

Board of Directors and Chairs

Co-Presidents: Bob Arevalo 815-332-3343

Bob@wildonesrrvc.org

Ginnie Watson 815-398-0138

Ginnie@wildonesrrvc.org

Vice President: Jerry Paulson 815-222-4414

jerry@wildonesrrvc.org

Program Co-Chairs: Lynda and Lee Johnson

815-629-2781 lyndaLee@wildonesrrvc.org

Secretary: Cathy Johnson 815-978-0865

cathy@wildonesrrvc.org

Treasurer: Janet Giesen 815-899-6139

janet@wildonesrrvc.org

Membership Co-Chairs: Marilyn Heneghan

815-389-7869 marilyn@wildonesrrvc.org

Shey Lowman 815-757-4456

shey@wildonesrrvc.org

Newsletter Chair: Pambi Camacho

815-332-7637 pambi@wildonesrrvc.org

Plant Rescues/Seed Collection Chair:

John Peterson 815-979-8539

john@wildonesrrvc.org

Show Me/Help Me Co-Chairs:

Mary Anne Mathwich 815-721-5187.

maryanne@wildonesrrvc.org

Anita Johnson 815-226-1606

anita@wildonesrrvc.org

Youth Education & Grants Chair:

Kim Lowman Vollmer 815-397-6044

kim@wildonesrrvc.org

Prairie Plant Sale Coordinators:

Rick Freiman 815-871-7424

rick@wildonesrrvc.org

Deb Freiman 815-871-7424

deb@wildonesrrvc.org

Woodland Plant Sale Coordinator:

Barbara Flores 815-289-8602

barbara@wildonesrrvc.org

Tree & Shrub Sale Coordinator: John Peterson
815-979-8539 john@wildonesrrvc.org

Booth Coordinator: *FREC Representative:*

Tim Lewis 815-874-3468

tim@wildonesrrvc.org

Conference Coordinator: Kim Risley

815-962-4584 risley@wildonesrrvc.org

Library Coordinator: Ginnie Watson

815-398-0138 ginnie@wildonesrrvc.org

Mentor Coordinator: Melanie Costello

815-645-8430 melanie@wildonesrrvc.org

Merchandise/Website Coordinator:

Shey Lowman 815-757-4456

shey@wildonesrrvc.org

Volunteer Coordinator: Cynthia Nelson

815-758-8978 cynthia@wildonesrrvc.org

Regular meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at

Rock Valley College/Woodward Technology Center, WTC, 3301 North Mulford Road, Rockford, IL 61114

Special meetings, outings, and events are scheduled periodically and sometimes replace the regular meeting time/place. Contact any officer to confirm information about our next meeting.

Wild Ones Annual Memberships: Household \$37, Associate (limited income/full-time student) \$20, Affiliate Non-Profit Organization or Educator \$90, Business \$250. Your entire membership contribution is tax deductible. Contact Membership Co-Chairs for additional information or to join.

815-627-0344 • Visit our Web site at www.WildOnesRRVC.org

Wild Ones Mission

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