

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 November 2014 newsletter, must be submitted to the Newsletter Chair, at: Pambi@wildonesrrvc.org by October 23, 2014.

Shooting Star: A Prairie Plant with an Attitude
October 16, 2014

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



Join us October 16 to hear Dr. Paul Sorensen talk about his much-loved interest in the shooting star plant. For many years his studies focused on the biology of prairie plants, including, and especially the shooting star – as new questions about this interesting species continue to be asked.

Sorensen earned his doctorate in Botany with an emphasis in Plant Taxonomy at the University of Iowa, where he graduated in 1967. He accepted an appointment as Assistant Curator of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University where he served three years before taking his next post as Assistant Professor at Northern Illinois University in the Department of Biological Sciences. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1979, and then Professor in 1991.

Dr. Sorensen retired from the regular NIU faculty in 2000, at which time he was appointed Professor Emeritus and Curator of the Herbarium. In 2006 he was appointed Adjunct Curator of Botany at the Burpee Museum of Natural History.

Throughout his career Sorensen has specialized in the systematic classification and taxonomy of vascular plants. His research has resulted in 43 publications, many of them on Latin American genera, notably Dahlia and Arbutus. Early on he became interested in conservation biology and while still a student in Iowa City worked to form the Iowa chapter of The Nature Conservancy in 1963.

We are sure you will thoroughly enjoy this much-beloved “lover of native plants”, who comes highly-recommended by several members who have heard him speak.

Please come early to browse the library, merchandise and refreshments tables.
Programs are free and open to the public.

We welcome and appreciate new members! Call 815-627-0344.

Submitted by Lynda and Lee Johnson, Program Co-Chairs

Message from the Co-President

Bob Arevalo

photos by Bob Arevalo



Bob Arevalo

photo by Jon McGinty

Many of us at Wild Ones are prairie enthusiasts for good reason. Before the arrival of Europeans, over 60% of Illinois or around 22 million acres was covered by prairie. Currently, it is estimated that only around 2,000 acres of prairie remain representing less than one hundredth of one percent of the total state surface area. This major shift in ecosystems had a tremendous affect on the flora and fauna in our state. For

that reason, among others, we promote the restoration of prairies and the planting of native species.

But besides planting these important herbaceous species, we must not forget the importance of woody native species on our properties. Many of our woody native species have been supplanted by exotic species and cultivars that do not support biodiversity because the native insects did not evolve with these non-native species. Some of these exotic species are quite impressive and beautiful. I have a couple of beautiful Japanese lilacs on my property that I enjoy. We don't necessarily need to be purists when considering what plants meet our needs in our home garden or on property we own. But as Doug Tallamy says in his significant book "Bringing Nature Home", "everyone can welcome more wildlife into their yards just by planting even a few native plants." So, for example, besides the milkweeds and coneflowers and native grasses, etc., don't forget to consider the native woody plants, i.e. trees and shrubs.



Dying Ash Trees

So, what trees and shrubs have you considered adding to your landscape? Some of you have had to consider what trees are going to replace the ash trees that have been decimated by the emerald ash borer. Remember to avoid monocultures, i.e. planting many of the same species all together. The next invasive exotic insect could wipe out your monoculture. Tallamy lists the species that attract the greatest level of biodiversity. He says

lepidopterans (butterflies and moths) represent over 50% of all insect herbivores, so he chose to study their relationship with woody plants. Don Miller at our last meeting also showed how butterflies were supported by many native trees and shrubs. Tallamy lists oaks (*Quercus* sp.) as supporting 534 species of lepidopterans. Wow, that is totally impressive to me! You have to read the book to realize the importance and significance of the various native trees and shrubs. Tallamy's book is available at our merchandise table at our meetings.

I hope many of you bought trees and shrubs at our recent Wild Ones tree and shrub sale. These are quality specimens at a reasonable price. You will enjoy not only these trees and shrubs for many years, but you will be also supporting the many native insects that they attract and support. The birds will also be thankful.

Bur Oak



Recycle Pots/Flats from Wild Ones Plant Sales

Everyone who has plant pots and/or flats from either of the Wild Ones plant sales, woodland or prairie, is encouraged to bring them to the October meeting so that they can be returned to one of our growers for reuse. Please, only pots and flats from Wild Ones sales or ones which are identical in size and shape can be accepted. Our suppliers of the woodland plants and the prairie ones, Red Buffalo and Agrecol respectively, use the same style of half pint pots.

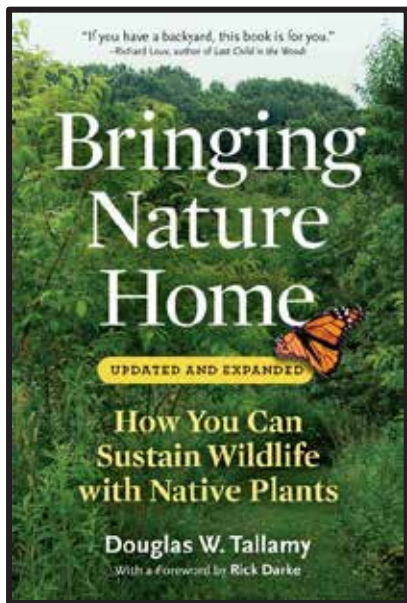
There will be a large box outside Woodward Technical Center where the pots and trays can be placed. If anyone has a larger quantity of these (accumulation from past years or additional purchases from the growers) please mention this at the reception table for help in unloading.

This is not, of course, limited to Wild Ones members. Anyone with the same size pots is welcome to bring them in for reuse. Please contact Barbara Flores at Barbara@wildonesrrvc.org or call 815-289-8602 with any questions or to make other arrangements.

Thanks for making this extra effort so that these items can be reused and kept out of the landfill.

Merchandise Must Haves... Shey Lowman, Merchandise Coordinator

THE Book You Must Have!



Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants by Douglas Tallamy. "Our Wild Ones mission is to 'promote environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities.' This statement could easily be mistaken as a summary of the main ideas in Tallamy's book, it validates our Wild Ones principles with sound scientific support..." "I rank this as the most important environmental gardening book I've read. It's about ecology and about gardening, but it's more than that. It's inspiring and sobering." From review by Janet Allen, March/April 2008 *Wild Ones Journal*.

This excellent book is a must read for all Wild Ones. Prairie Moon Nursery says, "Buy, borrow, or steal this book! It is essential reading with ideas that need to become part of our understanding of how life works on this planet." In addition this book is a good read.

Retail \$17.95, yours for only **\$15.00**



Bringing Tallamy Home DVD,
Toward Harmony with Nature 2014 presented by Doug Tallamy
 on January 25, 2014. You've read the book, now see the man!
\$8.00



September Meeting Recap

Managing Weeds Without Using Chemicals

Cynthia Nelson

photos by Tim Lewis



Mary Blackmore is the Volunteer Coordinator for two biodiversity preserves in Ogle County, Elkhorn Creek and Silver Creek, that are owned and managed by the Northwest Audubon Society. Her presentation reflected her observations and experiences in conservation work over the years. In the words of Lee Johnson, who introduced her, she has

“walked the walk,” using alternatives to herbicides in her work in natural areas.

Since an important goal in preservation and restoration of natural areas is to support habitat, the use of herbicides can be undesirable because of deleterious effects on wildlife. There are other concerns about the use of herbicides, including the following:

A lack of information about the ostensibly inert ingredients. Manufacturers are required to list the active ingredients in herbicides. However, the so-called inert ingredients may not be benign, and are often difficult to get information about.

Non-target species mortality. Herbicides may harm other desirable plants by drift or by translocation through the roots.

Negative environmental effects of chemical manufacture and disposal. Adverse effects of exposure to chemicals may be a risk for those working in the industry, those using the chemicals, or for those exposed due to accidental release.

The “treadmill” of plant resistance. Resistance to an herbicide may be present in a few plants due to random mutation, which plants will survive and reproduce without competition from the plants susceptible to the herbicide.

Failure to remedy the root cause of the problem. If unwanted plants are thriving in an area, the conditions are undoubtedly good for them. Considering the hydrology of the area and whether any alterations are indicated

is one strategy. Helping native plants get established that can succeed in the location is another.

An invasive species is a non-native species that is likely to cause harm in an area. When a particular species has been targeted for control, it is important to pay attention to its biology, which can be key to the means of control as well as the timing of activities. Characteristics that are important include the time of year the plant leafs out; whether the plant is an annual, a perennial or a biennial; when the plant sets seed, and the extent of the root system and the amount of disturbance caused by pulling up the roots.

When Yellow Sweet Clover, which is a biennial, is mowed down (or grazed down), it will regrow and set seed during the season, so should be carried out of an area. Wild Parsnips can spread rapidly once established and can severely modify prairie and savannah habitats. The plant is a rosette in its first year and forms a thick taproot. It grows tall and sets seed the following year. Second-year plants can be killed by cutting below the root crown (which is the swollen tissue just below the stem). The Parsnip Predator, positioned about 2 inches from the base of the plant, is an ideal tool for this job. If gotten to before the seeds are developed, the “slice and fling” procedure is fine. If the seed heads are developed, they should be clipped and carried out in plastic bags, although the rest of the plant can be left in the area.

One important strategy to eliminate an undesirable plant without the use of herbicides is to exhaust the energy resources of the plant. Repeatedly lopping off a plant will do this. If you are working on Honeysuckle, lopping it when it is in full-leaf, even in flower, and then returning six weeks later to repeat the lopping will weaken the roots. Goats, as browsers, are very good at repeatedly removing woody saplings and shrubs. These “loppers on hooves” will eat through Multiflora rose, Canada thistle, and thorny shrubs. People that have goats are hired to bring their herds in by the Department of Fish and Wildlife and by State Natural Resource departments. Burning is another means of controlling invasive plants. Burning part of an area and leaving the rest untouched is a way to support the wildlife in the area. Combining burning with other processes (planned or adventitious) can be particularly effective. An example of this is a burn carried out one year at Elkhorn Creek after a disease came through in the Spring that attacked Multiflora Rose. This burn was very successful in eliminating many of the already-weakened plants.

Establishing natives is important in out-competing invasive plants. At Elkhorn Creek they have had success



Members and guests enjoy Mary Blackwell's presentation

with *Carex trichocarpa* (hairy fruit sedge) in out-competing Reed Canary Grass. Although they haven't yet tried this strategy at Elkhorn, our speaker said Big Blue Stem and Indian Grass were planted at Nygren where Reed Canary Grass was growing. The Canary Grass was mowed down when it flowered, allowing the later-flowering native grasses to flourish and set seed. The Canada, or "field" thistle is an example of a plant with an extensive horizontal root system. The thistle thrives on disturbed ground, so uprooting the plant in an attempt to establish a bed for native plants is not likely to succeed. Lopping off the seed head and planting around the thistle is a better method.

Although conifer saplings can be simply cut down, hard woods should be girdled first in order to avoid sprouting. Tools for girdling are a curved saw, a chisel and a rubber mallet. There is an optimal time period for girdling, which is after full leaf out when you have bark slippage, and not too late in the season. Black Cherries typically have some later overgrowth of bark, which should be chiseled away.

Our speaker recommended spending some time volunteering with an organization that is trying to protect remnants. Settlement, agriculture and development in Illinois have left us with less than 1/100 of 1 percent of the land in native prairie. The fact that we have a highly-populated state does suggest we have the possibility for

many stewards of natural areas. Volunteers create more educators and more defenders of biodiversity. Besides contributing, volunteers are listening to the birds, watching the butterflies and bees, learning the names of plants, and enjoying their time outdoors. Activities planned for volunteers such as a frog listen or a nature walk are additional learning experiences as well as a way to thank volunteers. Contact information is included below for a few areas in our region that provide volunteer opportunities.

Northwestern Illinois Audubon Society
<http://www.nwilaudubon.org>

Elkhorn Creek and Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserves
 You may contact Mary Blackmore at 815-938-3204.

Boone County Conservation District: <http://www.bccdil.org>

You may contact Josh Sage by e-mail jsage@bccdil.org or by phone (815) 547-7935.

DeKalb County Forest Preserve District
<http://dekalbcounty.org/forestpreserve>

You may contact Terry Hannan by e-mail thannan@dekalbcounty.org or by phone 815-895-7191.

Winnebago Forest Preserve District: <http://www.wcfpd.org>

From the main web page, click on Contact Us and Volunteer.

The Natural Land Institute: <http://www.naturalland.org>

You may contact Kevin Rohling for more information by e-mail krohling@naturalland.org or by phone (815) 218-0210.

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:

	Wild	Wilder	Wildest
Household Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$37	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100+
Household Lifetime Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1500 (Or 3 annual payments of \$500)		
Professional Educator Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
Not-for-Profit Affiliate Organization Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
Associate Membership (limited income/student)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20		
Business Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$600	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,200
Gift Household Membership	<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:

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

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

Film: Bracelets for Birds

This is an introduction to bird banding, as told by experienced bird banders and young net checkers at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory, near the border of Illinois and Wisconsin. SBBO is an all-volunteer bird banding station and has trapped, banded, and released 350,000 birds since 1967. Sand Bluff Bird Observatory is located in Colored Sands Forest Preserve in northwest Winnebago County. Local filmmaker, Charles Johannsen, documented activity at SBBO over several years to put together this video that shows the hows and whys of bird banding. Several well-known regional folks including Lee Johnson, former director of Burpee Museum, are featured in the film. Not released to the public yet. 34 minutes.

The film will be shown at the Unitarian Universalist Church on October 21 at 7 p.m. Ticket price is \$5, and all proceeds benefit SBBO.



Membership Update Shey Lowman, Membership Co-Chair

Thanks to our 5 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. Renew with any major credit cards through PayPal (no PayPal account required) by using our website. Go ahead and rack up your rewards points and we all win. Thank you for helping us reach our goal of 200 members in 2014!

215 memberships on September 23, 2014

Welcome to new members!

Maggie Kincaid, Rockton, IL
 Janet Hoisington, Rockford, IL
 Marjory & Gerald Rand, Cherry Valley, IL
 Martha Zinn, Rockford, IL

Congratulations to our 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.*

Roberta & Bill Allen, Sycamore, IL
 Mary Davis, Roscoe, IL
 Dennis & Sherry Scheider, Cherry Valley, IL

Anniversaries

Congratulations to this month's loyal members!

15 Years

Jane & Jay Evans, Rockford, IL

10 Years

John Berry, Marengo, IL
 Shey & Keith Lowman, Leaf River, IL

5 Years

Jeff & Judy White, Kirkland, IL

75 attended the September meeting, including 8 visitors.

A big thank you to our September meeting volunteers!

Refreshments- Cynthia Nelson, Anita Johnson
 AV/Sound Equipment- Ed Foster
 Library Assistants- Barbara Flores, Karen Matz
 Greeters- Marilyn Heneghan, Janaan Lewis
 Meeting Recap for the Newsletter- Cynthia Nelson
 Photographer- Tim Lewis

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

October 16 Shooting Star:
 7:00-9:00 pm A Prairie Plant With an Attitude

Paul Sorensen, PdD
 Dept. of Biological
 Sciences, NIU

Rock Valley College
 Woodward Technology

November 20 Member Only Potluck and short program:
6:00-9:00 pm "Making Unique Dried Arrangements
 Using Native Plant Material"

NOTE: different location

Unitarian Universalist
 Church
 4848 Turner St.
 Rockford, IL 61107

Look for more info in the November newsletter.

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.





NATIVE PLANTS. NATURAL LANDSCAPES

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 **10/1/2014**, 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

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jerry@wildonesrrvc.org

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815-629-2781 lyndaLee@wildonesrrvc.org

Secretary: Cathy Johnson 815-978-0865

cathy@wildonesrrvc.org

Treasurer: Janet Giesen 815-899-6139

janet@wildonesrrvc.org

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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.