

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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



All articles for the September 2015 newsletter, must be submitted to:

Constance@wildonesrrvc.org
by August 23, 2015.

Permaculture for Native Gardeners
Thursday, August 20, 2015

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

Time: 7:00 p.m.



Judy Speer of the Small Waters Education Center in McHenry County will help native gardeners and landscapers apply key principles and practices from the permaculture movement. Permaculture is a design process that uses nature's patterns. Combining the best of natural landscaping and edible landscaping, permaculture aims for a site that sustains itself and the gardener. Permaculture attempts to minimize the outside elements brought onto a property, such as energy, water, and raw materials from distant places. It also works

to minimize the waste that leaves the property. By borrowing concepts and practices from the permaculture movement, native gardeners can maximize the efficiency of our native gardens.

Judy will describe ways to make native gardens sustainable and functional for people as well as wildlife, including suggestions for growing native plants that can be used for food, medicine, and craft materials. Her presentation will offer permaculture tips to help you design your native landscape for habitat, harvest, efficiency, and a deeper relationship with nature.

Judy Speer practices permaculture design, ecological restoration, and deep ecology with Small Waters Education, a nonprofit organization she founded along with her husband, Jack. They live in an oak savanna community near the headwaters of the Nippersink Creek in northern McHenry County. Judy and her husband, Jack, were recipients of the 2008 Chicago Wilderness Habitat Project Grassroots Conservation Leadership Award.

This program is free and open to the public. Call 815-627-0344 for more information.

Message from the Co-President Lenae Weichel

Pollinator Resources

Just outside my office window there is a little patch of native plants tucked between the house and the driveway. There are dozens of different plant varieties here that bloom from early spring (hepatica is usually the first) through late fall (a volunteer aster I let remain). Being on the north side of the house with the garage to the west, there are many woodland plants in the shady spots but some savanna and prairie plants extend into the sunnier areas. From my raised perch, I look directly into the blooms of a large tall Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*) and look down on its shorter cousin, boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*). Across the front walk are dozens more varieties of forbs, grasses, and sedges as that area extends farther from the structure's shade and into the full sun. The entire front of the house is a lively place these days. But back to the Eupatorium... at any given moment from sun up to sun down, these big pink clusters of blooms are heavy with pollinators. I am regularly treated to the colorful visits of gossamer monarchs and Eastern Tiger swallowtails and the noisy touchdowns of bumble bees and other insects. It is a worthy and interesting distraction from my computer work.

Last month, Barbara Williams reported on her attendance at the Quad Cities Pollinator Conference and Ginnie Watson shared with us the monarch habitat project our chapter is supporting. Here are some more ways that you can help to support pollinators in your corner of the world.

- Resist the urge to clean up your landscape.
- Many native bees and other pollinators are cavity-nesters. They (along with the birds who eat them) will appreciate dead trees and rock piles.
- Other native pollinators are ground-nesters. As solitary insects, they are not aggressive (not to be confused with colonies of non-native yellow jackets!) and appreciate exposed soil.
- Numerous varieties of moth create cocoons in leaf litter and overwinter there near their host plants, and many insects overwinter in the uncut stems of native plants.
- Plant diversity
- Plant variety will mean continuous bloom time for both your enjoyment and the support of pollinators.
- If there are particular insects you would like to attract, be sure to include their host plants in your landscape.
- Plant in clusters or masses to visually attract pollinators.
- Avoid plants with neonicotinoids and other pesticides. This includes plants from “big box” store garden centers – especially annuals. Many of us like to include some of these in containers but it is important to choose plants from local greenhouses (or where you can be confident about the soil medium). Systemic insecticides can remain dangerous for years – persisting in the soil even after the plant has died.
- Eliminate pesticide use (or consider more natural alternatives).
- Provide water, something shallow and regularly refreshed (to avoid mosquito production and disease).
- Reduce lawn or create a pollinator lawn (add violets, clover, and other broad leaf flowering plants and let your lawn bloom a bit before each mowing).
- Identify and support the pollinators you attract. There are some great online and print field guide resources.
 - beespotter.org/topics/key/illinoisfieldguide.html
 - Energy.wisc.edu/bee-guide/
 - Butterflies of Illinois: A Field Guide (IL Natural History Survey)
 - Peterson Field Guide to Moths of Northeastern North America
 - Caterpillars of Eastern North America: A Field Guide and Natural History (Princeton)
 - Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America



A rusty-patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*) forages on prairie blazing star (*Liatris pycnostachya*) with prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterlepis*) behind.
photo by Lenae Weichel

Woodland Plant Sale: Thank You, Volunteers Barbara Flores



photo by Stephanie Knake

Many people made the 2015 native woodland plant sale possible and not only enabled the sale of more than 2,000 native plants, but also gave the support and help needed to offer plants for sale at other venues where many interested people could learn more about native plants.

Volunteers helped in so many ways. First, the brochure had to be put together. That meant researching and preparing descriptions of new plants. Jodell and Marty Gabriel, Judy Uchno, and Marcia Speck helped with that. Tim Lewis put all my bits and pieces together into a very handsome brochure. Anita Johnson and Judy collated the brochure and helped me plan a flyer to be distributed at six gardening events and included in 900 welcome packets for those attending.

Once the brochures were ready, they had to be distributed. Shey Lowman maintains the plant sale mailing list throughout the year and made sure everyone on the e-mail list received their copy. Tim saw to the mailing of the hard copies and also made sure he had brochures at the membership booth as it traveled from event to event. Anita, Judy, Bob Arevalo, and Ginnie Watson helped get the brochures to many locations in Winnebago County and beyond.

And finally, there were the plants! More than 2,000 of them had to be picked up from Red Buffalo Nursery and, naturally, the weather was dreadful. But what a great time! Nancy Olson and Cheryl Henry went with me and we loaded everything up. Meanwhile, Olga and Dan Bechtol were already at the house helping my husband, Frank, get the barrels and sheets of plywood set up. My neighbor and new Wild Ones member Chuck Billman was there to help, and Nancy and her husband John came out to the house, too. It was cold, rainy, and windy – so much so that we had to keep the plants in the barn for the first time in six years. We unloaded, unboxed, and tagged the plants to be ready for pulling orders the next day.

Predictably, another cold, rainy day for pulling orders, and still too windy to put any plants outside. So the “pickup plants” all had to go back on the trailer so we would have room to pull orders and get them organized. The ink in the pens was too cold to flow and our fingers were numb. Nevertheless, Barbara Kuminowski, Kathy Crandall, Don Heneghan, Judy and Anita, and Ed Kletecka got the orders together in record time. The next day, Dianne Stenerson came over and we went through all the orders. Because we were shorted on so many species, it was tough getting the orders together. Hardly an order was complete and there were lots of credits to keep straight.

At last, Friday, pickup day. Like two angels, Janet Giesen and Cynthia Nelson arrived early Friday morning to help get set up. Judy had made neat little clips to hold the colorful plant signs which Jane Snively had prepared. These really enhanced the sale. Anita and Judy again were wonderful – preparing labels (we were short on tags for several species), counting out milkweed seed for free packets, and helping customers. Some always arrive early and are most welcome. Marty sat patiently in the rain minding the cash box. Rhonda Johnson and Cathy Schafman helped customers with their orders, and Guy Smith and John Peterson completed the group. The next day was cold and miserable again, but Janet and Cynthia were there to support and help.

The woodland sale doesn't end at pickup day. The following weekend, we had a one-day sale at Nicholas Conservatory thanks to the help of Judy Uchno, Judy Letourneau, and Jane Evans. The interest people showed in the woodland plants and native plants in general was so gratifying. The next weekend was the two-day Birdfest event, which is so very important for reaching out to a great number of people interested in learning about native plants. Janet and Anita were with me, and Cynthia helped for hours on Sunday. It was a very rewarding and satisfying time.

Finally, the prairie sale pickup. Not so many plants remained, but many hands helped me unload and set up. Jerry Paulson made sure I could get the plants safely in one of the buildings for the night. Ah, only the May meeting left and I was slowing up! Bless Cathy and John Schafman for helping me unload and get set up at Rock Valley College, helping customers, and then packing things up again.

That's how the sale goes – without all these wonderful folks, it would not go at all. And my dear husband, Frank, helped with everything throughout the four weeks. When all is said and done, it was great fun! Thank you, everyone.

July Social, Yard Tour, and Plant Exchange Cathy Schafman

We met at the home of Claudia and Steve Fleeman on a night that had the possibility of showers. Since everyone was a gardener, we stuck to the plan and brought raincoats and umbrellas. A good number of members attended and we all enjoyed Claudia and Steve's beautiful yard and house. The Fleemans have lived at this property for nine years. The yard was traditional grass and weeds when they moved there. The first summer, Claudia made it her goal to kill all of that vegetation by smothering it with black plastic and yard cloth. In the winter, she ordered native seeds from the Prairie Moon Nursery. She put the seeds in sand in her refrigerator, and then raised plants in flats. In the spring, she planted those plants and bought more from the Wild Ones plant sale. Steve told us that the yard is Claudia's passion, and we could see evidence of that wherever we looked.

We began the tour in the front yard. It is a low wetland area that gathers the neighbors' rainwater when it storms. There was blue grama grass and Eco-Grass (a no-mow seed mix from Prairie Moon Nursery) framing an area of forbs. The center of the basin contained an area of huge hollow Joe-Pye weed. We saw a hummingbird attracted to a climbing honeysuckle. Among the other flowers were Culver's root, cardinal flower, swamp milkweed, Michigan lilies, butterfly weed, whorled milkweed, and rattlesnake master. Claudia reported that she had seen monarch butterflies on all of the milkweed, including the whorled milkweed – which was unusual. The tall liatris were not quite blooming, but their elegant shape added to the view. Blue false indigo and fragrant sumac were closest to the house.

We continued our tour following Claudia around the side of the house, where we found more Eco-Grass, a redbud tree, penstemon, and ostrich ferns. Around the back of the house, some of the first plants we saw were river oats. Claudia reported that they were so aggressive that she usually trims them before they go to seed. There was also a pagoda dogwood, viburnums, and more ferns. Claudia had constructed a screech owl house and hung it high in one of her trees. She had a metal collar around the tree to discourage raccoons. Some of our members were treated by seeing the small face of a screech owl peer from the house. Claudia demonstrated the use of a scuffle hoe. If you have small weeds that you don't have time to pull, this is the perfect tool to use.

The back of the house had an area that contained spring ephemerals, wild ginger, ferns, blue cohosh, and wild



photos by William J. Mills III

yams. There was also a beautiful blooming Annabelle hydrangea, and another redbud tree.

On the far side of the house, we were met by a buckthorn tree, which – although no longer alive – was artistically trimmed. It is a dramatic plant hanger now. Claudia's vegetable and herb areas were planned for both production and an aesthetic composition. Claudia had a large variety of plants combined with garden art. Her heirloom tomatoes were already reaching for the sky. Her alpine strawberries were peeking from under the leaves, and will produce all summer. And her Moon and Stars watermelons were close to being ripe.

Many of our members brought a large variety of species for the plant share. Mary Anne Mathwich invited the group to view the plants and pick out some for their gardens. We then had a delicious potluck and a good visit with other members. We all thanked Claudia and Steve for having us, especially on a night when we had to dodge the raindrops.

June 2015 Show Me/Help Me Recap Claudia Fortucci-Fleeman



The Mohaupt's butterfly garden

Twenty two members attended our second Show Me/Help Me of the year. We began the morning in Rockford at the home of Linda and Terry Mohaupt. Linda and Terry guided us to their butterfly garden, where rows of common milkweed were flowering and fragrant. They had planted this garden just outside their front door so that they would be surrounded by butterflies as they left their house each morning in the summer. They certainly have made the butterflies happy campers. The Mohaupts then walked us over to the front yard, which was lush with native bushes, grasses, and forbs, such as elderberry, black-eyed Susan, and switch grass. Gems such as beautifully blooming spikenard were planted around the perimeter of the house. A lot of attention was given to an expanse of land,



The Mohaupts guide us through their front yard

north of the house, that will be seeded with prairie natives this fall. Different suggestions, such as smothering with black plastic, were discussed for ridding the area of stubborn weeds such as creeping Charlie and non-native grasses. It is a large area and a lot of their time will have to be invested, but like the rest of their property, it will be a feast for native insects and birds when it is finished.



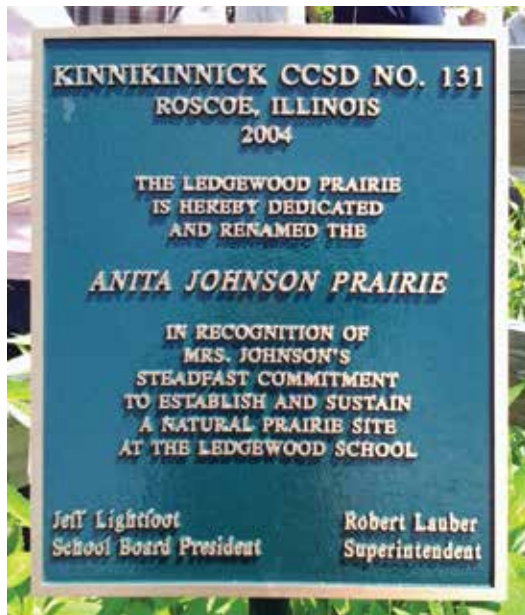
Dianne Stenerson narrates the history of her property



Dianne Stenerson shows the group her rain garden

Next, we met up at Dianne Stenerson's home. A long-time member, Dianne hosted our chapter's first plant sale here. The Stenerson home is a renovated pre-civil war farm house, and until this slice of Rockford was developed into a subdivision, it was the only house in the area. Dianne handed all of us copies of a spreadsheet listing her native plants, including 135 species of trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, and forbs. The extensive amount of labor and time invested in this garden was evident everywhere we looked. In a rain garden bordering the road, chokeberry, monarda, prairie sun drops, baptisia, and asters thrived. A grove of coralberry bushes framed the walkway to the house. To the side of the house, woodland plants flourished and beak grass added a lovely contrast to the ferns and forbs. Walking along the perimeter of the yard, then up and down paths, Dianne pointed out royal fern, shield fern, wood nettle, blue cohosh, black cohosh, and water leaf. There were so many plants to look at that we ran out of time and never even made it to the back yard.

June 2015 Show Me/Help Me Recap (cont'd)



The Anita Johnson Prairie sign



Anita Johnson leads us through the prairie

For our third stop, we headed across town to the Anita Johnson Prairie located at Ledgewood School in Roscoe. Anita started cultivation of this prairie in 1982. This was a school and community effort that was headed up by Anita, with the school children observing each step. The first of these steps was to remove the sod with a sod cutter. Next, the site was plowed by a local farmer. Early that autumn, Anita sowed winter wheat to prevent erosion. The following spring, they seeded the prairie. That first year, Anita drove back and forth from the school to the prairie site in order to haul water to hand irrigate the prairie. The soil contained so much gravel that it took four years for all of the plants to leaf out above ground. In 2002, Anne Meyer donated a bur oak. The prairie has been mature for some time now. Anita taught prairie summer school for three years, taking the children to this prairie for hands-on classes. Last year, Anita was able to plant woodland flowers under the shade of the oak. On the morning of the Show Me/Help Me visit, butterflies fluttered between bluestem, black-eyed Susan, coneflower, penstemon, butterfly weed, and yarrow. Fittingly, in 2004, the prairie, then called the Ledgewood Prairie, was renamed the Anita Johnson Prairie. This name is embossed in metal and mounted in front of the prairie. How cool is that? Of course Anita, being Anita, won't tell you this. She still calls it the Ledgewood School Prairie.

The morning's finale took place at the home of Nancy and John Olson. Nancy is a new member, but is a very experienced gardener of 25 years and we are very fortunate to have her as a member. She is a fiber artist

Nancy Olson's front yard prairie



June 2015 Show Me/Help Me Recap (cont'd)



and her artistic mastery of color and texture is evident everywhere in her gardens. Her entire front yard slopes towards the street, and every inch was filled with prairie grasses and forbs. The noon sun was shining on the grasses and flowers, showing them off to their full advantage. It was stunning. She led us down the freshly mulched paths of the prairie area then told us to wander at our leisure around the rest of the yard, which was mostly woodland. The ferns and an assortment of woodland flowers and bushes were growing so exuberantly, it seemed as if we were in a coastal forest in Washington state. We then munched on baked goods and fruits, and relaxed by the Olson's peaceful waterfall-pond.

To add to the festivities, Mary Anne Mathwich set up a plant exchange in the Olson's front yard. Members happily picked out plants from a very nice selection of natives to plant in their own gardens.

photos by Claudia Fortucci-Fleeman

Nancy Olson guides us through her front yard prairie

Spotlight on a Business Member: St. Aubin Nursery

Bob Arevalo



St. Aubin Nursery has been in business for over 100 years, having been founded by Eugene A. de St. Aubin in 1913. They continue to remain a family owned business and pride themselves on providing superior plants to the landscaping community.

St. Aubin Nursery's wholesale pick-up yard is located in Kirkland, Illinois where they have over 500 acres of high quality landscape material. This location features several hundred pre-dug shade, ornamental, and evergreen trees under drip irrigation. They are especially proud to advertise that they are native plant specialists, and they invite you to view their new wholesale catalog. They collect most of their own seed from local ecosystems, and they use and endorse the Rootmaker™ air pruning system. They offer native plant selections from quarts to 6" caliper.

They offer flexible delivery options that will insure that your plant material will arrive on your job site, on time. Delivery is available to all 48 states and Canada. St. Aubin Nursery also takes pride in digging their trees in the correct manner. They have been digging down to the root flare, before extracting the ball, for over 20 years. This



Illinois state tree the white oak (Quercus alba)

enables your trees to fare better in their new location.

Their welcome mat is always out, and they encourage and hope that you will come and take a tour of their nursery. Please call beforehand to set up a time and they will arrange to show you around. Thank you, St. Aubin Nursery for being a business member of our chapter. Learn more about St. Aubin Nursery at their website, <http://staubin.com/home.php>.

In a Time of Extinction, a Call to Life
At Rockford Theater, 323 Park Avenue, Rockford, Illinois
Sponsored by Severson Dells Nature Center, Supported by Wild Ones
Rock River Valley Chapter
Monday, September 28, 2015 • 7:00 p.m. FREE

Author and philosopher Kathleen Dean Moore and concert pianist Rachelle McCabe combine to present a very moving and powerful presentation on the theme of extinction. Their collaboration began when McCabe heard Moore speak about climate action, a speech that she heard as music. They are both convinced of the power of music, and of the need for more powerful calls to action.

"Frederick Nietzsche wrote that we have art in order not to die of the truth," Moore says. "This performance is art that allows us to tell the terrible truths about global warming and mass extinction, in a way that enters into peoples' hearts, rather than breaks them."

Both the creative process and the performance are unusual – perhaps unique. McCabe chose the music and performs a powerful interpretation. Moore has "written to" the music, weaving words into the silences between the variations, creating an echoing conversation, a call and response. It is program not to be missed!

Kathleen Dean Moore is one of the Northwest's best known nature writers, winner of the Oregon Book Award and the Pacific Northwest Bookseller Award. Her recent co-edited book is *Moral Ground: Ethical Actions for a Planet in Peril*. Distinguished Professor of Philosophy Emerita at Oregon State University, she speaks around the country about the moral urgency of stopping a global carbon catastrophe.

Rachelle McCabe, concert pianist and Professor of Music at Oregon State University, enjoys an international career as an artist-teacher and as a solo recitalist and highly respected chamber musician. She has performed extensively in the United States, Canada, Southeast Asia, and England, and has been heard on NPR's Performance Today, the CBC, and PBS.

Testimonials

"A powerful blend. The music and words harmonized in a symbiosis hard to imagine before hearing it tonight. The two of you become a unique performance." - Brooke Collison, Oregon State University

"It was truly exceptional. I had no idea what to expect. I was deeply moved by the power, eloquence, wisdom, urgency, and insight of the presentation. The synergy of the music and the reading was brilliant. Why? Because there was such integrity in the sharing of voices. The symmetry between the two of you was magnificent. The Rachmaninoff piece (and the performance) was stunning and your language (and delivery) sent me to so many different places, mainly emotional. And that's what I needed. Not another intellectual experience, but rather a revitalization of the emotional connection to the planetary emergency." --Mitchell Thomashaw, former president, Unity College

2015 Chapter Programs and Events

August 20
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Permaculture for Native Gardeners

Judy Speer
Small Waters Education Center

Rock Valley College
Woodward Technology
Center

September

Native Tree & Shrub Sale
Orders taken until September 26

John Peterson
Tree and Shrub Sale Coordinator

815-979-8539
john@wildonesrrvc.org

Unless noted, programs are free and open to the public. Programs are subject to change.
Please contact Jamie Johannsen 815-494-6977 for more information.

Membership Update Shey Lowman, Membership Co-Chair

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. Go ahead and rack up your rewards points and we all win. We appreciate your support!

215 memberships as of July 23, 2015

Welcome to our new members!

All of our new members are identified with a green ribbon on their meeting name badges. Please introduce yourself to them and help us welcome new members to our great chapter!

24 attended the July yard social.

Anniversaries

Congratulations to this month's loyal members!

20 Years

John & Kim Lowman Vollmer, South Beloit, IL

15 Years

Michael & Jean Maloney, Belvidere, IL

10 Years

Carol Delheimer, Rockford, IL
Scott & Cindy Stear, Roscoe, IL

5 Years

Allen Reed & Andrea Dubnick, Leaf River, IL
Tracey Kast, Rockford, IL

It is preferred that renewal memberships be sent directly to the chapter for quicker processing and to avoid delays in receiving your chapter newsletter. Remember, your dues include membership in both National Wild Ones and our chapter. 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 from the chapter 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. Email or call 8156270343 if you have any questions about membership.

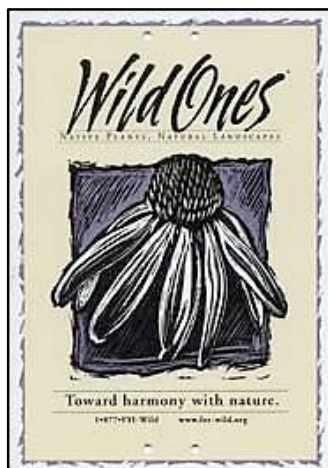
Thirty percent of all dues paid (about \$11.10 per membership) are returned to the chapter by National Wild Ones to support our chapter activities. All dues and donations are fully tax deductible.

Thank you for your continuing support!



Merchandise Must-Haves Cynthia Chmell, Merchandise Coordinator

Show Everyone What's Growing in Your Yard!



Wild Ones Yard Sign

Weatherproof aluminum yard sign announces to all that the owner's land is being restored toward harmony with nature. The sign measures 7" x 10" and has two mounting holes, top and bottom, to allow for securing to a support. **\$25.00**



Native Prairie Plants Sign

NEW! From Prairie Moon Nursery, show everyone the importance of your native planting or remnant with this Native Prairie Plant sign. This durable 9" x 12" sign is printed on a 2mm aluminum base, with rounded corners and pre-drilled holes for easy installation. **\$25.00**



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 **8/1/2015**, 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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Wild Ones - Rock River Valley Chapter

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Regular meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. 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 • Join online with any major credit card 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.