

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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All articles for the September 2018 newsletter, must be submitted to: Constance@wildonesrrvc.org by August 23, 2018.

Dilferers on the Prairie: Parasitic Plants of Northern Illinois

Thursday, August 16, 2018

Location: Rock Valley College
Physical Education Center PEC0110 (lower level)
3301 North Mulford Road, Rockford, 61114

Time: 7:00 p.m.



Ed Cope, restoration ecologist at the Natural Land Institute, will provide a comprehensive look at parasitic plants found in northern Illinois, including such familiar species as dodder, as well as some you don't often think of as parasites like wood betony, Indian paintbrush, and toadflax. He will discuss how they find and attach to their hosts, their pivotal role

in the ecosystem, and why they are becoming a popular tool for restoration managers in the region. He will also look at some species that are often mistaken for parasites and learn how to differentiate them.

Parasitic plants derive some or all of their nutrition from other plants. They all have modified roots, known as haustoria, which penetrate the conductive tissues of the host plants and allow them to extract water and nutrients. Obligate parasites cannot complete their life cycle without a host, while facultative parasites can complete their life cycle without a host. Hemiparasites are parasitic under natural conditions, but photosynthetic to some degree.

Ed is a popular speaker on the flora of Winnebago County. His duties as the restoration ecologist with the Natural Land Institute include management of NLI's nature preserves, such as the 720-acre Nygren Wetland Preserve near Rockton, Illinois. He graduated from Montana State University in 2013 with degrees in land rehabilitation and wildlife habitat ecology & management. "While I take an interest in all living things," Ed says, "plants in particular have captured my curiosity."

This program is free and open to the public.
For more information, call (779) 537.8939.

Message from the President Constance McCarthy



Constance McCarthy
photo by Tim Lewis

Let's Work Together

I recently had an experience that initially had me feeling excited, but ultimately left me frustrated at a missed opportunity to collaborate. A fellow board member, Kim Lowman Vollmer, let me know about a program promoting the planting of rain gardens. The Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District

(SWCD) was offering support in the form of educational resources and partial funding/reimbursement for plants (yes, you read that correctly) for homeowners in the Rock River watershed. With this newsletter's deadline fast approaching, I thought this was perfect timing and I looked forward to helping to promote this great opportunity for our members.

Imagine my disappointment when I learned that the program is apparently at its very tail end, as the deadline for applications was August 1 - too late for inclusion in this month's newsletter or even the emailed meeting reminder. As I never received

any information about the SWCD rain garden program, I assume that our chapter is not on their distribution list for news and program information. What an unfortunate lost chance to collaborate on an initiative for which our two organizations so clearly align.

When the Four Rivers Environmental Coalition was an active organization, it served as a great forum for organizations to share information with each other on events and programs, and to seek out collaborations with each other. I am asking all of you to please let me know of programs being organized by other groups in our area that align with the Wild Ones mission. Perhaps folks saw the news about the SWCD rain garden initiative and just assumed that our chapter's board already knew about it. Please feel free to forward such things to me, or shoot me an email letting me know - the sooner, the better. I can't get the word out for events and initiatives about which I know nothing.

I am proud of our chapter's partnering with the Natural Land Institute on the Conservation@Home and Conservation@Work initiatives, and am grateful that they thought to reach out to us to collaborate. The more of us working to pull the wagon in the same direction, the easier it will be for all of us to accomplish our shared goals.

Clarification about Wild Ones Email

Towards the end of July, a member of the national Wild Ones organization (but not a member of the Rock River Valley chapter) inadvertently sent an email to a 15-year-old "all members" email list which was archived on the Wild Ones server. At no time did the member have access to members' (or former members') individual emails. Folks' frustrations were only compounded when recipients clicked "Reply All," causing all of us to receive a string of emails that were unwanted and perceived by some as a nuisance.

Many folks voiced their concerns to the national office about privacy and whether Wild Ones' data had been hacked. Rest assured that this is not the case.

The national office did post a blog on the national website explaining the situation. Please visit www.wildones.org for details on what happened, how Wild Ones responded, and what has been done to prevent this from happening in the future. The specific blog post can be found at <https://www.wildones.org/wild-ones-members-allwildones-org-email-distribution-list-has-been-disabled/>. It also addresses best practices for group emails in general, including using BCC: and *not* using the "Reply All" option with a group email, so it's a helpful piece for anyone to read.

The national office thanks you for your patience, as they have been backlogged with other communications as they reply to the literally hundreds of members who have contacted staff directly to voice their concerns.

Yard Tour and Social 2018 Recap Karen Ruffner

photos by Tim Lewis



View of the Holstrum home from the street.

A caterpillar inching along milkweed. A dragonfly fluttering and darting between purple coneflowers. Compass plants towering over grasses and giving direction while birds sing overhead. These are just a few of the sights and sounds from the Holstrum prairie that Wild Ones members were treated to at the annual yard tour and social.

With the prairie blooming as a backdrop, member Nancy Holstrum gave a brief history and overview of the prairie her family started from seed in July of 1994 on 1/2 of their 3-acre lot. With the help of Roger Peters (excavator), Roger Gustafson (of the Boone County Conservation District, he designed and planted the prairie, and instructed the Holstrums on how to care for it), and Tim Gruner (garden curator at Anderson Japanese Gardens), the Holstrums set out making their prairie vision a reality. Roger sculpted berms, flattened areas, and built rock dams to make a dry prairie and stop erosion. When the yard was prepared, he scattered seed on the prairie as Chad Holstrum planted bluegrass on the paths that would invite visitors

in and provide breaks during the yearly controlled burns of the prairie. Chad and Tim planted trees on one side of the prairie to balance out the existing woods on the other. The result of all their labors was a spectacular prairie that brings pink and lavender springs, yellow summers, and red-purple grasses in winter.

Besides the history, Nancy shared Wild Ones wisdom she has learned along the way.

- Try to keep these out of a prairie:
 - goat's beard
 - Queen Anne's lace
 - burdock
 - curly dock
 - Canadian thistle
 - garlic mustard.
- The secret of pruning is to keep the curves of branches.

Yard Tour and Social 2018 Recap (cont'd)



Nancy Holstrum talks about the history of their native plant landscape.

- This pruning allows viewers to see beyond the tree/bush.
- It draws the viewer to the bark.
- It makes the tree/bush more interesting.
- Plant in groups of 3, but *not* in an equilateral triangle to enhance interest.

On the walk through the prairie and around the Holstrum home, members shared their expertise and everyone gained a new and/or renewed appreciation for all that grows in our Wild Ones world.



Members and guests listen to Nancy Holstrum.

As always, the spread at this Wild Ones potluck did not disappoint. There are many excellent cooks among us, and we were lucky to share the tasty fruits of their labors while getting to know fellow chapter members better (or catching up with existing friends). That we were fortunate enough to have weather that was neither sweltering nor rainy, was the icing on the cake.

Wild Ones Chapter Announcements

- Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter is looking for someone to fill out the year as treasurer. Please let Constance McCarthy know if you are interested or would like more information. She can be reached at kublaikhan@mac.com.



- Ed Cope, a restoration specialist, will speak at the August 16 meeting at RVC. His topic will be parasitic plants.
- Jerry Paulson is looking for ideas for next year's programs. Please contact Jerry with your suggestions.

Meeting attendees tour the Holstrum prairie.

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!!

221 memberships as of July 23, 2018

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

- Bob & Carolyn Arevalo, Rockford
- David & Virginia De Swarte, Mount Carroll
- Dan & Kirby Doyle, Rockford
- Ellwyn Englof, Rockford
- John & Carol Gerrond, Rockford
- Brett & Margret Hanson, Belvidere
- Marlowe & Nancy Holstrum, Belvidere
- Lee & Lynda Johnson, Rockford
- John & Cathy Schafman, Rockton
- Pat Schroder, Winnebago

Welcome to our new members!

Donna Peterson, Rockford

Welcome to our returning member!

Cherene Sweeny, Rockford

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

About 50 attended the July Potluck including 1 guest, who joined that night. A big thank you to our July potluck volunteers! Constance: if you know of any others, please add Jerry Paulson, Ken Kielsmeier, Cathy Johnson, Karen Ruffner (recap), Tim Lewis (photographer) And a big thank you to Marlowe & Nancy Holstrum for hosting the event!

Anniversaries: 10 Years:

Julia Olsen, DeKalb

It is preferred that membership renewals be sent directly to the chapter for quicker processing and to avoid delays in receiving your chapter newsletter. Remember that your dues include membership in both National Wild Ones and our chapter. Please use the address below:

Sallie Krebs
Wild Ones Rock River Valley
7492 Renfro Rd., Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Your expiration date is on your chapter newsletter above your name on the label. 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.

A portion of all dues paid is returned to the chapter by National Wild Ones to support our chapter activities. National Wild Ones provides liability insurance for our meetings and events. All dues and donations are fully tax deductible.

Please send address and email address changes to the Membership Coordinator: Sallie Krebs Email: membership@wildonesrrvc.org or call (815) 540-4730 if you have any questions about membership.

Wild Ones Annual Memberships:
Household \$40, Limited Income/Full-Time Student \$25, Affiliate Non-Profit Organization \$90, Business \$250.

Thank you for your continuing support!



2018 Chapter Programs and Events

August 16 7:00 p.m.	Parasitic Plants	Ed Cope Natural Land Institute	Rock Valley College PE Ed Center
September 20 7:00 p.m.	Birds in the Garden	Pam Carlson Waxwing Studio	Rock Valley College PE Ed Center
October 18 7:00 p.m.	The Tallgrass Prairie: An Introduction	Cindy Crosby Morton Arboretum	Rock Valley College PE Ed Center
November 15 6:00 p.m.	Member Pot Luck, Seed Exchange & Annual Meeting Members only Church of Rockford		Unitarian Universalist 4848 Turner Street Rockford, IL 61107

Unless noted, programs are free and open to the public. Programs are subject to change.
For more information, contact Lisa Johnson at (779) 537.8939



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 8/1/2018, this is your last chapter newsletter and you have received your last *Wild Ones Journal* until you renew your membership. National Wild Ones drops expired memberships the first week of the expiration month, so please don't be late! See the *Membership Update* for renewal information.

Mail your renewal to:

Sallie Krebs
Wild Ones Rock River Valley
7492 Renfro Rd.
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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

Regular meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Rock Valley College, Physical Education Center PEC0110 (lower level), 3301 North Mulford Road, Rockford, 61114.

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

Rock River Valley Chapter Board and Coordinators

Board

President: Constance McCarthy
(815) 282.0316 constance@wildonesrrvc.org

Vice President: Jerry Paulson
(815) 222.4414 jerry@wildonesrrvc.org

Secretary: Cathy Johnson (815) 978.0865
cathy@wildonesrrvc.org

Treasurer: Deb Rogers (815) 624.1036

At-Large: Doreen O'Brien (815) 985.4064
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At-Large: Kim Lowman Vollmer
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Newsletter-Editorial: Constance McCarthy
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daheneghan@gmail.com

Woodland Plant Sale: Jane Evans
(815) 399.3787 rrvc.woodland@gmail.com

Prairie Plant Sale: Cynthia Chmell & Bobbie Lambiotte, (815) 969.7435 & (815) 398.6257

Tree & Shrub Sale: Brian Hale, (815) 289.2384,
moyogi2@gmail.com; Jerry Paulson (as to the left)

Plant Rescues & Seed Collection:
Mary Anne Mathwich (815) 721.5187
maryanne@wildonesrrvc.org

Programs: Lisa Johnson, (815) 965.3433,
lisa.johnson@burpee.org

Youth Education & Grants:
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