

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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www.wildonesrrvc.org



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

*Members Only
Evening Social Potluck and Yard Tour
Thursday, July 19, 2018 – Rain or Shine*

Location: The home of Marlowe and Nancy Holstrum
9101 Meadowsweet Dr., Belvidere, IL

Time: **6:00 p.m.** (Note this start time is earlier than our monthly meetings)

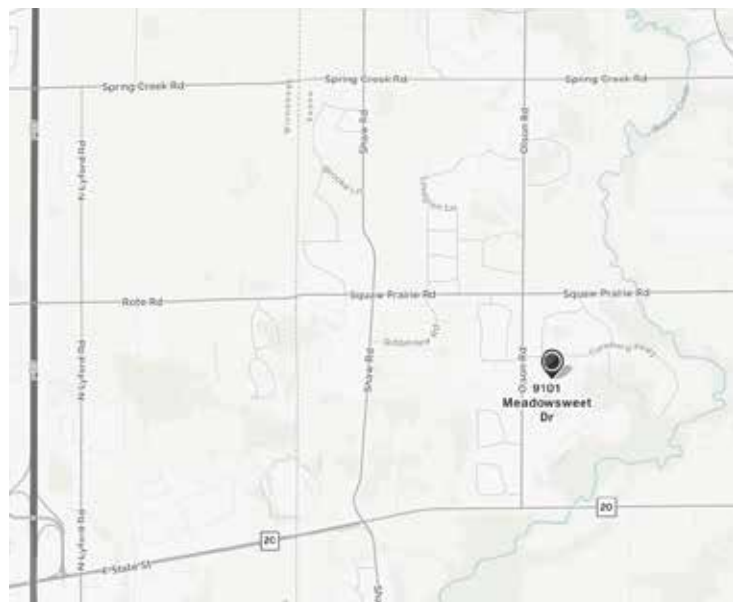
Members (i.e., members plus partner, significant other, friend, etc.) are cordially invited to the Holstrum home on Thursday, July 19 at 6:00 p.m. The event will take place rain or shine. Please bring a dish to pass, a lawn chair, and your own table service (plates, napkins, cups, silverware). Lemonade and water will be provided.

The Holstrums planted a native prairie on their lot when they built their house. The seeds of prairie plants were broadcast over this large hillside home site 27 years ago. Different soil and moisture types were planted with different seed mixes. Despite a drought the first year, the seeds survived to create a terrifically diverse and beautiful landscape. Planting with seeds is an economical way to create a natural landscape with a great diversity of species.

This is also a **Show Me/Help Me** event in the sense that you will be able to see a residential prairie and ask questions.

For more information or if you need directions, call Jerry Paulson at (815) 222.4414.

Directions: Take Riverside Blvd., Squaw Prairie Rd., or Spring Creek Rd. to Olson Rd., and follow Olson Rd. to Tuneberg Pkwy. (located between Spring Creek and Squaw Prairie Rds.). Turn east onto Tuneberg Pkwy and then south onto Meadowsweet Dr. Park at the end of the cul du sac. Parking space is limited, so please car pool if possible.



Message from the President Constance McCarthy



Constance McCarthy
photo by Tim Lewis

As you may have just read on the previous page, this month marks our chapter's return to our July *annual yard tour and social/potluck*. (Last year the event was bumped to August because of the major landscape tour event in July.) I am hoping that you will seriously consider attending the yard tour and social/potluck this month.

First, the Holstrum's property is just magnificent. This is no small-scale planting of some natives (although we certainly applaud those wherever they occur!). The terrain and type of flowers, grasses, trees, and shrubs that you will see are all quite varied. Surely, there will be some inspiration to be found for all of us, whatever size or type of home or business landscape we each might have.

Perhaps you are thinking, "Oh, I haven't attended a meeting at Rock Valley in ages," or even "I've never been to a meeting and don't know anyone." Please, do not let such thoughts deter you from attending! I am very proud of what a friendly bunch we are as a chapter. I've been involved in some gardening and environmental groups that are rather clique-ish and not the most fun to attend. There's not much worse than going to a social function and feeling as much camaraderie as if you were sitting alone in your own living room. Fear not! Such a fate will not befall you at this yard tour and social/potluck. We are a very open and welcoming group

and you will be surprised at how quickly folks will start chatting with you.

And if you are reading this and are not yet a member, but would still like to attend, you can join in advance or even the night of the event. The contact information for our chapter's membership coordinator, Sallie Krebs, can be found in this newsletter. Members are also welcome to bring a friend, so if you know someone who you think might be interested in learning more about natives and what our chapter is up to, please invite them to attend with you.

Another matter for your consideration: the annual *photo contest* that is sponsored by our national organization and is headed up this year by our chapter's own Tim Lewis (contact information also found elsewhere in this newsletter). I apologize for not bringing this to your attention sooner, but hopefully you are already familiar with the contest from reading the national journal and/or email updates. If not, please check out the article in this newsletter and consider entering.

Now that the entire contest is digital, it is so much easier for folks to enter. As some of you may recall, it used to be necessary to print enlargements of your images and mount or frame them in order to enter the contest. You don't have to be a pro to enter. Indeed, even kids younger than 18 can enter! I see people with cameras at our chapter events and know that many of you enjoy taking photos of your home landscapes and of the nature that you encounter on hikes, camping trips, travels, etc. Considering that it takes only a few mouse clicks to enter, what's holding you back?



Nancy, Brooke & Chad Holstrum 2017 Yard Tour

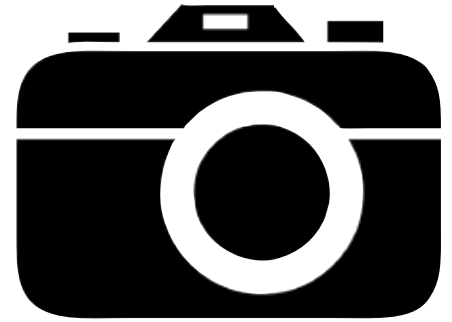


Prairie-front yard 2017 Yard Tour

Wild Ones 2018 Photo Contest

Share the beauty of native plants and scenery by entering the Wild Ones 2018 Photo Contest. Your photos might grace the Wild Ones website, publications, or other literature (credited to you, of course).

The contest has six categories: flora, scenery, pollinators, natural landscapes, children, and Wild Ones mission-related projects. Only Wild Ones members and employees of Wild Ones Business members whose membership is current during this contest, are eligible. Household membership includes everyone who lives within the same household, including children up to the age of 18.



The subject of *all* entries *must* be native plant species, native species landscapes, or native plant ecology found in the United States or Canada. Be sure the plants are true natives and native to where the photo was taken. A native plant species is one that occurs naturally in a region, ecosystem and/or habitat, and was present prior to European settlement. A photo of a nativar, hybrid, or cultivar of a native plant as the main subject is not acceptable.

Children are eligible! Child under 18 have their own category because they have their own, very unique perspective on the world around us.

Each photo entry must be accompanied by an entry form. [Photo Contest Entry Form](#)

Upload all entries, in *digital* format, with the entry form, to Wild Ones using the link provided in the entry form.

- Acceptable file formats are JPG, JPEG, TIF, or TIFF.
- All digital files must be 10 megabytes or smaller.
- Photos must be sized to 1,600 pixels wide or tall.
- Please rename your digital file to include the title of the picture and the name you used on the entry form. Example: Monarchs at Play-Doe.jpg

Additional limitations:

- Photo entries must have been taken by the contest entrant.
- Each qualified entrant may enter no more than *two* entries per category, and no more than *four* entries in total.
- Photo entries that do not conform to the contest categories and rules will be disqualified.
- Photo entries must not have been entered in any previous Wild Ones photo contest and must not have been published as a winner in any other photo contest.
- Photo entries must have been taken within three years of the current year's contest.
- A photo montage will be considered a single entry, and all images in the montage must fit into one of the categories and collectively portray a single theme. Before and after images of native plant landscaping could be considered for montage entries.

Entry Deadline: July 15. You will receive acknowledgment of your submissions

If you're not a photographer, but are a photo appreciator, you can participate by voting for your favorite among entrants. Photo contest entries will be on the national Wild Ones Members-Only website after the official judging. Wild Ones members are then invited to vote for their favorite photo to determine the People's Choice Award.

For specific contest rules and an application, see the national website at:

<https://www.wildones.org/photo-contest/>. If you have questions, please contact: natives.tim@comcast.net.

June Meeting Recap Jerry Paulson

Designing Your Backyard Habitat: Low Impact Design



Laura Sjoquist and Andrea Rundquist
photo by Tim Lewis

Laura Sjoquist, community conservation coordinator for the Natural Land Institute's new Conservation@Home and Conservation@Work programs, started by explaining the goals of the program to help property owners create yards, schools grounds, church yards, and businesses that are environmentally friendly and benefit people and the environment. The aim of the program is to encourage the use of native plants in yards and gardens, protect natural areas, promote good water resource practices, and educate landowners about improving natural habitat.

NLI staff will evaluate the yard or grounds of people who enroll in the program and make recommendations to improve the habitat for wildlife and conserve water. They will certify your yard for a \$50 fee, provide a sign to post in your yard, and provide resources to help you become better environmental stewards. Contact Laura at (815) 964.6666 or LSjoquist@naturalland.org for more information.

Andrea Rundblade, owner and designer at Green Key Landscape Design, then spoke about how to design your backyard to create a sustainable habitat for wildlife. The goal of sustainable landscape design is to consider the environmental impact it will have and blend it with the surrounding natural landscape.

She started with the basics of how to create habitat for wildlife by providing food, water, cover,

and nesting areas. Habitat is the natural home or environment needed for animals, plants, and other organisms to survive. She showed photos of yards with poor or no habitat with large expanses of mowed turf and trimmed shrubbery, and yards with trees and shrubs, and beds of flowers and grasses where birds, butterflies, and other pollinators can thrive.

Sustainable landscapes are in balance with the local climate and soils, and require a minimum of resources to maintain, such as fertilizer, pesticides, gasoline, time, and water. Creating a sustainable landscape begins with a good design that is appropriate for the site. Start by getting better acquainted with your property—a lawn chair and sketchpad are the best tools for this.

To begin, sit in your yard and look for sunny and shady spots, wet and dry soils, and slopes where water runs off the land. Consider the health of the lawn and existing plants, areas that are difficult to mow, areas used by pets and kids for play, sheds and patios, water features, views, and focal points. Then measure the yard and draw a sketch of the footprint of the house, garage, sheds, driveways, patios, fences, waterways, etc. Once you have a sketch of your site, draw circles around those areas of your yard where there are sunny and shady spots, a need for privacy screening, play areas, vegetable gardens, wet spots, slopes, and water features. Also look at the front and back of your house to get a sense of scale and how trees and shrubs will fit into the landscape when they are grown.

The next step is to select the plants for each area that will thrive in your soil and light conditions and climate. Be sure to give the plants room to grow and to avoid invasive species. Always choose healthy plants, and develop a color palette that you like. Andrea showed us several photos of how flower and leaf color can change the feeling and look of a garden, so be sure to think about color and texture.

Good design influences how people feel and behave in a landscape, Andrea said. She showed us several examples of different landscapes and asked how they made us feel. She then gave us some basic design tips to remember when designing a backyard habitat:

- *unity*: make sure that all the pieces work together

June Meeting Recap (cont'd)

- *balance*: chose an informal or formal design
- *repetition*: follow nature's lead and mass plants
- *contrast and variety*: a variety of colors, shapes and texture spice things up
- *shape and form*: consider the rules of basic geometry
- *focal and vantage points*: these will grab your attention
- *texture*: this adds visual interest and feeling to the design
- *color*: let your true landscape colors shine through.

Another reason to plant a sustainable landscape is to encourage beneficial insects that will control pests like mosquitoes without resorting to pesticides. The use of commercial mosquito control companies is a growing trend in suburban areas and is having a major effect on birds, butterflies, and other beneficial insects.

Sustainable landscapes are an alternative to the typical American lawn. Turf grass lawns make up about 30 million acres of land, more than any other crop, and require tremendous amounts of water, fertilizer, pesticides, gasoline and time to maintain.

By replacing turf grass with native species, or alternatives like No-Mow fescue, you save energy, oil, and time mowing all that grass.

Water harvesting is another thing that can be built into a sustainable landscape. Prairie plants are deep rooted and allow rainwater to soak into the soil instead of running off into nearby streams and storm sewers. Design features such as rain gardens, bio-swales, porous pavement, rain barrels, dry rock beds, ponds, and wetlands all collect water and allows it to evaporate or soak into the ground. Andrea and other landscape designers can help you come up with a design for creating your own backyard habitat. For more information, contact her at (815) 988.1184 or Andrea@greenkeylandscapedesign.com.



Youth Work on Prairie Restoration Kim Lowman Vollmer

"Wild Ones continues to lead the natural landscaping movement as we explore, teach, and change the practice of gardening in our communities and around the country to using native plants." This is directly from the Wild Ones national website and I am so proud to support this statement.

My church, the Unitarian Universalist Church in Rockford, has a prairie restoration that is about 40 years old. Our seventh principle states, "We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things." I feel so lucky that I get to bring my love of nature and native landscaping to the children. I am hoping to change their view of gardening, plants, and how we care for the earth and our ecosystem.

On Sunday, May 27, when the temperature was in the 90s, I had the pleasure to work with about a dozen young people to plant more diversity into

our prairie at church. They worked in pairs and each had a different plant to plant, such as lupine, milkweed, indigo, purple prairie clover, and more. They helped each other find a good location, dig holes, plant, tamp down the dirt, and water. I am pleased to see that each year the kids know more and more about native plants, butterflies, pollinators, and nature. They were wonderful teams and I am so proud of them. My helping to do nature education and plantings at my church has become a great tradition. The kids are so excited and I am known as the nature lady.

This was possible because of a small grant from our chapter. You will find information about this on our chapter's website (www.wildonesrrvc.org, under Mini-Grants). Thank you to the Rock River Valley Chapter for helping to make this project possible and supporting the education of youth about native plants.

Another Successful Plant Sale

The 2018 plant sale is over and more than 4,700 native plants have been added to the Rock River Valley landscape! In addition to the advance orders and the sale at Jerry Paulson's farm, plants were sold at Nicholas Conservatory, Birdfest, Nature Fiesta, and Klehm Arboretum's Garden Fair.

This plant sale is the primary source of revenue for our chapter. Proceeds from the sale help to support our monthly educational programs, events, the newsletter, and the website, among other things.

Volunteers helped to organize the advance orders, assisted customers on the main days of the sale at the Paulson farm, and helped to sell plants at the other mentioned events. A hearty thank

Cynthia Chmell, Jane Evans, and Bobbie Lambiotte, sale coordinators

you to all our volunteers, without whom this sale would not be possible: Dan Bechtol, Olga Bechtol, Mary Christian, Marcia DeClerk, Jay Evans, Paula Evans, Fiona Fordyce, Carolyn Fulkerson, Carol Gerrond, John Gerrond, Janet Giesen, Linda Graf, Cheryl Henry, Betsy Hoelting, Anita Johnson, Cathy Johnson, Gene Jordan, Joy Jordan, Ed Kletecka, Sallie Krebs, Janaan Lewis, Tim Lewis, Sue Lacerra, Peggy Lockman, Mark Luthin, Jean Maloney, Mike Maloney, Mary Ann Mathwich, Karen Matz, Constance McCarthy, Cynthia Nelson, Doreen O'Brien, Jerry Paulson, Dawn Skupien, Paul Soderholm, Steve Symes, Ann Wasser, Ginnie Watson, and Peggy Wehrle.

Board of Directors in Action

Cathy Johnson, Secretary

Highlights of activities of the Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter Board of Directors, as discussed at the June 14, 2018 meeting, include the following.

- The chapter's 2018 native plant sale was very successful. The final plant sale of the year will be the tree and shrub sale in the fall.
- The chapter is looking for a new treasurer for 2019. If you are good with numbers and have some time to spare, please consider volunteering for this board position.
- There is no program meeting at Rock Valley College in July; the annual members-only summer social will be July 19.

Events of Interest

In the spirit of cooperation and mutual support, we like to share details of upcoming events that may be of interest to chapter members. All are free unless noted otherwise.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Sat., July 14 | Conservation Crew Restoration Day, 9 a.m. -12 p.m. Severson Dells. |
| Fri. July 20 | Night Hike, 8 p.m., Severson Dells. |
| Fri. July 27 | Species Spotlight: Bat Hike, 8 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Seward Bluffs Forest Preserve. |
| Wed., Aug. 8 | Sustainable Landscaping Essentials for Property Managers and HOA Boards. This event is being offered by The Pizzo Group from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Attendees will learn: natural areas terminology; common HOA challenges and how to solve them; and best practices for property managers. A tour of a stormwater basin will also be included. For location and to register, contact The Pizzo Group at (815) 495.2300. |



Ron Hendrickson, a dedicated member who attends almost every meeting wearing his "Wild Ones" bow tie.

photo by Tim Lewis

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!!

222 memberships as of June 23, 2018

- Francie Barnes, Rockford
- Olga & Daniel Bechtol, Steward
- Janice Christ, Oregon
- Kay Hotchkiss, Rockford
- Cathy Johnson, Rockford
- Gary & Susan Voss, Byron
- Diana Wiemer, Durand

Welcome to our new members!

Larry Swanson, Loves Park

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!

83 attended the June Meeting, including at least 6 guests

A big thank you to our June meeting volunteers!

- Greeters:* Marilyn Heneghan, Dee Vowell
- Refreshments:* Anita Johnson, Constance McCarthy
- AV/Sound Equipment:* Bob Arevalo
- Meeting Recap:* Jerry Paulson
- Photographers:* Sallie Krebs, Tim Lewis
- Library Assistants:* Cathy Johnson

Anniversaries:

20 Years:

- Pam Mott, Rockford
- Chris Nelson, Beloit, WI

5 Years:

- Fiona & Graham Fordyce, Rockford

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

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| July 19 6:00 p.m. | Member Potluck and Yard Tour! | Marlowe & Nancy Holstrum | see page 1 |
| 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 | Rock Valley College PE Ed Center |
| October 18 7:00 p.m. | The Tallgrass Prairie: An Introduction | Cindy Crosby | Rock Valley College PE Ed Center |

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 7/1/2018, 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

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(815) 222.4414 jerry@wildonesrrvc.org

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cathy@wildonesrrvc.org

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At-Large: Doreen O'Brien (815) 985.4064
doreen@wildonesrrvc.org

At-Large: Kim Lowman Vollmer
(815) 397.6044 kim@wildonesrrvc.org

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membership@wildonesrrvc.org

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(815) 332.7637 pambi@wildonesrrvc.org

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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:
Kim Lowman Vollmer (as to the left)

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