

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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www.wildonesrrvc.org



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

Birds in the Garden: Tips for Creating and Enjoying a Bird Oasis

Thursday, September 20, 2018

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

Time: 7:00 p.m.



Pam Karlson has documented more than 110 bird species in her Chicago garden which were attracted by the wildlife habitat she has created. She will discuss landscape enhancements to attract resident and migratory birds to urban and suburban gardens.

An enthusiastic photographer, her photo-rich presentation covers the diversity of bird species found in the Chicago area, as well as their migration habitats, diet, nesting, and supplemental water and feeding needs. She will also explore habitat needs of pollinators, the role of citizen science and planting suggestions for birds, with an emphasis on natives.

Pam is a career artist, gardener, and birder, and has been rescuing migratory birds for 14 years as a wildlife rehabilitation volunteer. She co-owns Waxwing Studio, Inc.

with her artist husband Mike Edsey, specializing in illustration, design, gardening, and watercolor landscape painting.

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

While it seems like summer is barely behind us, the end of the year for our chapter is not far off. We have two more educational programs in September and October, followed by our annual potluck and seed exchange in November. It seems a bit odd to be pondering 2019 as I write this in early September, but here we are.

We have numerous positions to fill for next year. Only the treasurer is

expected to attend board meetings; coordinators are not required to attend board meetings, but are certainly welcome to attend as they wish.

Treasurer: This is a position on the board that we have an urgent need to fill. Deb Rogers will not be able to fill this role for the remainder of the year, so, in fact, our need for a treasurer is immediate and pressing. This person will be responsible primarily for keeping the chapter's financial records and reimbursing folks for expenses incurred (writing checks from the chapter's bank account). The board meets six times a year on the second Thursday of even-numbered months.

Volunteer coordinator: This person uses the results from our annual membership survey to line up volunteers for chapter events (plant sale, events where our chapter's booth will be set up, monthly meetings, and the tree sale), based on the need for volunteers specified by the various event coordinators. Volunteers are lined up by reaching out via phone and/or email.

Publicity coordinator: Using information provided by the program committee, this person sends out monthly emails to various media outlets across northern Illinois regarding our meetings at Rock Valley College. Templates and distribution lists already exist, so there is no need to reinvent the wheel.

Merchandise coordinator: While in the past, this person brought merchandise to sell at our monthly meetings, the board has decided that, starting in 2019, this person will keep a small supply of merchandise and bring items to monthly meetings only if requested by a member or other interested buyer. This will significantly ease the work load for this position.

Mentors coordinator: Using the information

garnered from the annual membership survey, this person will pair up folks who are seeking a mentor, with folks who are volunteering to be a mentor. Again, there are detailed instructions for this role, including already written newsletter articles. The activity for this coordinator is mainly in the spring, with some follow-up at year end.

Booth coordinator: Tim Lewis, the current coordinator, would like someone to be a co-coordinator with him in 2019. This coordinator is responsible for letting the volunteer coordinator know about staffing needs at the various events where our chapter's booth is to be displayed, and for coordinating the set-up and take-down of the booth at these events. Tim has been doing this task for many years and has a detailed description of what is involved. Educational materials are also brought to our monthly programs at Rock Valley College.

External plant sale events coordinator: This will be a new role in 2019. This person will work with the plant sale coordinators to select plants and organize the volunteers to sell them at events such as BirdFest (a Saturday and Sunday, usually Mother's Day weekend) and the Klehm Garden Fair (usually the first weekend in June). As with all the other open positions, plenty of support and guidance will be provided.

All of the outgoing folks (treasurer and the above-mentioned coordinators) are willing to show you the ropes, and there are plenty of materials (job descriptions, templates, task lists, etc.) that offer guidance on completing the particular task. You need not be an "expert" on native plants or a long-time member of the chapter to fill any of the above-mentioned positions. I don't think that I had been in the chapter for even one year before Tim Lewis (then chapter president) roped me into being the board secretary. Even if you are a recent joiner, one of these positions might have your name already written all over it.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our chapter. Indeed, we would not be able to accomplish anything without the dedicated folks who step up to serve the chapter as a board member or coordinator. Please consider taking on one of the open roles for 2019. I can assure you that the board and coordinators are a friendly and supportive bunch. No one will be thrown into the deep end or left to figure things out on their own.

If you are interested in one of the open positions, or if you would like more information, please contact me (contact info is on the back page of this newsletter). Many hands make light work!

Call for Nominations

Constance McCarthy, chapter president

Each year the chapter elects six board members: president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, plus two at-large board members. While the success of the chapter depends greatly on the dedication of the volunteers who serve on the board, the chapter is not governed by a group of selected insiders. All positions are open to any member who wishes to be on the ballot for the 2019 term. Although all current board members, except for the treasurer, have

expressed that they would like to continue serving the chapter in 2019, we encourage chapter members to run for any board position.

I will be accepting nominations for any of the above positions. Please consider nominating someone, or yourself, for a position on the board. Send nominations to me by email or phone (contact information on the back page of this newsletter). The period for nominations closes on October 15.

Programs of Interest

Winnebago Soil and Water Conservation District's fall gathering will take place Wednesday, September 19 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., with dinner at 6:00 at the Torstenson Center in Pecatonica. Tickets are \$10 and must be purchased in advance by calling (815) 965.2392, x3. Peggy Doty, a University of Illinois Extension educator, will give a presentation, "Large Predators Are Returning...Or Are They?".

The **Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation** is seeking 2019 project ideas as part of the K-12 pollinator schools grant program. Grants provide \$3,000 to \$10,000 for habitat installation. The program supports the installation of new or additional pollinator habitat at sites that educate K-12 students. Eligible applicants include schools, nature centers, and 501(c)(3) nonprofits that provide educational programming to K-12 students. For a full list of criteria including the Program's Minimum Habitat Requirements, visit:

<http://www.illinoiscleanenergy.org/natura-areas-program/k-12-pollinator-schools-program>. (Thank you to Winnebago Soil and Water Conservation District for sharing this information with our chapter.)

Rockford's Clean Energy Future: Join the Community Dialogue. Illinois' largest clean energy coalition is joining local partners to host a clean energy dialogue in Rockford. As they develop clean energy policy proposals for Illinois, they want to hear from you about your priorities, concerns, and needs related to the environment, energy, and the economy. The event will take place Tuesday, September 25, from 6 - 8 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 920 3rd Ave, Rockford, IL 61004. Dinner will be provided. RSVP required. For questions, contact: caroline.wooten@sierraclub.org.

August Meeting Recap

Jerry Paulson

photo by Sallie Krebs

Pilferers on the Prairie: Parasitic Plants of Northern Illinois

Ed Cope, restoration ecologist with the Natural Land Institute, returned to speak at the Wild Ones meeting on August 16, 2018. He is a popular speaker about plants of northern Illinois. His previous programs for Wild Ones featured ferns and orchids of Winnebago County.

His goal for this program was to bring clarity to a confusing subject: parasitic plants. Parasitism is a different way to frame a group of organisms, Cope said. It is not always obvious...sometimes plants are parasitic and sometimes not. He started by giving examples of plants that are freeloaders vs. parasites; freeloaders might hurt or kill other plants but don't need them to survive.

Vines are not parasites, even though they can kill plants that they grow over. Virginia creeper,

Parthenocissus quinquefolia, lives on its host and can strangle a tree, but it doesn't care if the tree is dead or alive. Bloodroot has a gooey bit that ants eat to spread the seeds; this is parasitic behavior, but not a parasite. Cockleburs stick to a host carrier, but the plant doesn't need a host to spread its seeds. These are freeloaders!

True parasitic plants are *haustorial*, i.e. they have haustoria which tap into the vascular system of the host plant and which invade the host tissue to suck



August Meeting Recap (cont'd)

up water and nutrients.

Parasites have to live on or in a host at some stage of their life, but they don't want to kill their host. Harvard ecologist, E. O. Wilson says about parasites, "they eat their prey in units of less than one."

All parasitic plants live on or in their host, cause some degree of harm to their host plant, and are structurally adapted to the lifestyle of a parasite.

Parasitic plants can be photosynthetic or non-photosynthetic. Examples are wood betony vs. dodder. Wood betony has chlorophyll and can make its own nutrients, while dodder cannot.

Some parasites are mycoheterotrophic. They have no haustoria; instead they develop a host relationship with fungi to access water and nutrients. The roots of plants, like shinleaf, *Pyrola elliptica*, share water and nutrients with fungi on oak roots. The fungi don't care, but the plants are parasites on the oak roots.

Cope explained that parasitic plants are important members of an ecosystem. Their role in applied ecology is threefold:

- reduce prevalence of target species. Land managers can use parasitic plants like wood betony to reduce stands of dense grasses. This increases floral diversity of the site and creates holes for other species to thrive;
- regulate the competitive balance of an ecosystem by competing with other plants; and
- indicate a good quality natural area or remnant. Having parasites in a natural remnant is indicative of functional ecosystems.

Cope then described the parasitic plants found in Northern Illinois. There are 37 species in 4 families and 13 genera in Illinois, and 29 species across 3 families and 12 genera in Northern Illinois:

Wood betony and **marsh betony** – *Pedicularis canadensis* and *P. lanceolata* (from the Latin *pediculus* – lice). Perennials, hemiparasitic. The hosts are primarily grasses and composites like goldenrods. Easy to transplant and grow from seed.

Scarlet Indian paintbrush and **downy yellow painted cup** – *Castilleja coccinea* & *C. sessiliflora* (named after Spanish botanist Domingo Castillejo) *C. sessiliflora* is endangered in Illinois. Both species are short-lived perennials, hemiparasitic. The hosts are primarily grasses.

False foxglove – *Agalinis* spp. (from the Latin *aga* – great and *linum* – flax). There are seven species

locally; annuals, hemiparasitic. Hosts are unknown.

Yellow false foxgloves– *Aureolaria* spp. (from the Latin *aurum* – golden). There are three species locally; annuals or short-lived perennials, hemiparasitic. The hosts are oak trees.

Mullein foxglove – *Dasistoma macrophylla* (meaning "woolly mouth"). Annual; hemiparasitic. The hosts are oak trees.

Naked broomrape and **clustered broomrape** – *Orobanche uniflora* & *O. fasciculata* (from the Greek *orobos* = vetch and *ankho* = strangle). Perennials, holoparasitic. Hosts are generally non-selective, but prefer composites like beach wormwood.

Squawroot – *Conopholis americana* (from Greek *conos* - cones and *pholis* - scale). A long-lived perennial, holoparasitic. The hosts are oak trees.

Beechdrops – *Epifagus virginiana*. Parasite on beech trees; annual holoparasitic. Not found in Northern Illinois, but is found near Lake Michigan in Indiana and Wisconsin where beech trees grow.

Blue hearts – *Buchnera americana*. Perennial, hemiparasitic. Hosts are oaks, ash, and cottonwoods.

Cow wheat – *Melampyrum lineare*. An annual; hemiparasitic. Hosts are various shrubs, trees, and mosses.

Dodders – *Cuscuta* spp. There are seven species in Northern Illinois. Annuals, holoparasitic. The hosts vary by species, but are often wetland grasses and shrubs. Some species prefer certain shrubs.

Bastard toadflax – *Comandra umbellata*. A perennial; hemiparasitic. The hosts are generally non-selective, but alumroot is preferred. Difficult to grow from seed.

Mistletoe is a parasite of oak trees in southern Illinois.

Finally, Cope said that plants like **Indian pipe**, *Monotropa uniflora*, are saprophytes, not parasites. Indian pipe depends on fungi to get its nutrients from decaying organic matter.

Coarroot orchids, *Corallorhiza* spp. are also saprophytic.

Fringed orchids, *Platanthera* spp., must have mycorrhizal fungi to survive, but are not parasites on the fungi.

Sincere thanks to Ed! This was another, informative and entertaining program about our local flora.

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 August 23, 2018

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

Michael & Jean Maloney, Belvidere
 Dennis & Sherry Scheider, Cherry Valley
 Barbara & Daniel Williams, Rockford

Welcome to our returning member!

John & Joyce Mori, 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!

A big thank you to our August meeting volunteers!

- Greeters:* Mary Anne Mathwich
- Refreshments:* Anita Johnson, Constance McCarthy
- AV/Sound Equipment:* Bob Arevalo, Ed Kletecka
- Meeting Recap:* Jerry Paulson
- Photographers:* Sallie Krebs, Tim Lewis
- Library Assistants:* Cathy Johnson, Marcia DeClerk
- Merchandise:* Cynthia Chmell

Anniversaries:

20 Years::

Kirby & Dan Doyle, Rockford
 Teri Hoffmann, Rockford
 Bob & Carolyn Arevalo, Rockford
 Jack & Joyce Armstrong, Rockford

5 Years::

Ellwyn Englof, Rockford
 Christopher & Sandy Wrate, 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

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
December	No Meeting-Happy Holidays!		

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 9/1/2018, 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
doreen@wildonesrrvc.org

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

Coordinators

Membership: Sallie Krebs (815) 627.0343
membership@wildonesrrvc.org

Newsletter-Production: Pambi Camacho
(815) 332.7637 pambi@wildonesrrvc.org

Newsletter-Editorial: Constance McCarthy
(as to the left)

Volunteers: Don Heneghan, (815) 389.7869,
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)

Booth, FREC rep., website: Tim Lewis
(815) 874.3468 tim@wildonesrrvc.org

Facebook: Marilyn Heneghan
(815) 389.7869 marilyn@wildonesrrvc.org

Library: Ginnie Watson (815) 398.0138
library.rrvc@gmail.com

Mentors: Mary Christian (815) 218.3746,
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Merchandise: Cynthia Chmell
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Publicity: Fiona Fordyce, (815) 397.6032,
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Show Me/Help Me: Linda Ricker, (217)
649.3966, greencreations.lejoi@gmail.com