

**Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.**

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[www.wildonesrrvc.org](http://www.wildonesrrvc.org)



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All articles for the April 2019 newsletter, must be submitted to:

[Constance@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:Constance@wildonesrrvc.org)  
by March 23, 2019.

*Midwifing the River:  
The Rebirth of Nippersink Creek  
Thursday, March 21, 2019*

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

Time: 7:00 p.m.



Ed Collins, Director of Land Preservation & Natural Resources for the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD), will talk about the restoration of Nippersink Creek within MCCD's Glacial Park near Richmond, Illinois, and his role as a midwife to the rebirth of the river. Ed was chief ecologist in charge of the innovative project to return 3.5 miles of the creek to its original meandering course through the county park. In the process, he learned many lessons about the power of nature to heal itself and the spiritual connection that people have with water, wildlife, and native plants.

The segment of Nippersink Creek within Glacial Park was channelized in the 1950s to drain wetlands so that the land could be farmed. This engineering feat had serious side effects for the creek's ecology, caused sever erosion, and left the banks too steep for fishing or canoeing. Invasive species moved in, as well, crowding out the native plant life and degrading wildlife habitat. In 2001, MCCD completed the first phase of returning the creek to its original course, restoring the wetlands, and seeding the stream banks and wetlands to native plant species.

Ed will describe the enormous efforts that went into planning and implementing this large-scale creek restoration project, and will share the ecological lessons he learned from the experience. He has spent 35 years with the District, teaching ecology and working on land restoration and preservation. He has been involved in many interesting projects, including the first comprehensive mapping of oak tree loss in the region, and more recently the creation of the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge. He teaches classes in natural history, "forensic ecology" and "ecological spirituality."

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*

### Planting Seeds, For Now Only Figuratively

I've had enough of winter (especially the ice!) and am choosing to keep my focus on spring, which surely can't be far off. With that in mind, I'd like to plant a few seeds in your mind.

Our chapter's native plant sale will be gearing up very soon. This is our main fundraiser, which allows us to bring in top-

notch speakers, pay for the use of space at Rock Valley College, publish our newsletter, and provide a chapter website, among many other things. Anything you can do to help spread the word will be much appreciated. The sale coordinators, Cynthia Chmell and Bobbie Lambiotte (contact info on last page of this newsletter), have asked that anyone already having in mind that they would like to order more than just a handful of a particular plant (e.g., an entire flat of coneflowers), should let the coordinators know as soon as possible (even though the plant list and order form have not yet been released). This will allow them a better chance to secure adequate numbers of plants, as it is much easier to put a hold on certain quantities now than it is to try to scramble to find them once spring is in full swing.

Also, anyone wishing to buy plants at wholesale cost for public restoration projects (e.g., school prairie or butterfly garden, Master Naturalist project) needs to complete an application and submit it to our youth education and grants coordinator, Kim Lowman Vollmer (contact info on last page of this newsletter). This process needs to be completed before a plant order is submitted. Kim can also answer any questions you might have about the program.

Regarding the chapter's mentor program, we are still looking for a coordinator to oversee the matching up of mentors and mentees. Although no one signed up to request a mentor on the annual membership survey, next month's newsletter will provide information on how you can still request a mentor for the coming growing season. This program is a great way for folks who are newer to native plants, to receive guidance and support from a more experienced chapter member. If you have questions about the mentor program or have an interest in being the coordinator, please contact me (contact info on last page of this newsletter).

Finally, I encourage you to be mindful of the pollinators that will begin to rise in early spring from their winter slumber. The Xerces Society recommends that in order to protect overwintering queens, avoid raking or mowing too early in the season; spring raking is best done in April and May. While it can be warm enough for pollinators to forage during the day, they still need cover during chilly nights. And some bees don't emerge until the warmer days of May. Leaving their habitat intact until then will surely help them. I realize that it can be challenging to seemingly ignore your "messy" garden when spring seems to be arriving, but we all know that our critical pollinators need all the assistance we can give them.

Queens will still be foraging in spring, so it is especially recommended not to use pesticides then. Hopefully, you have already planted some early blooming flowers for the season's first bees. If not, keep an eye out for the chapter's plant sale this spring!

The last cold days of winter are also a fine time to think about building your own bee nesting block (or buying one from a local garden center if you're not the handy type). Most native bees are solitary and do not form hives (which is why they are not aggressive and rarely sting). Offering housing for them in your yard or garden is yet another way to attract and support our buzzing friends.

### Pizzo Is Hiring

If you or someone you know is looking for a career in the Environmental Restoration industry, this is the opportunity you've been waiting for. Pizzo & Associates, Ltd. is currently seeking an experienced Restoration Crew Leader for their Lemont location. This individual must have 5 years of experience working in the regional Midwest, be able to obtain an Illinois Pesticide Operator license, and have a valid driver's license.

For those individuals that don't meet the experience requirements to apply for the Restoration Crew Leader position, Pizzo provides on-the-job training starting as a Restoration Technician. Pizzo is currently seeking Restoration Technicians for their South Barrington, Lemont, and Leland locations.

Full job descriptions are available at <https://pizzogroup.com/about/careers>. If you are interested in working for an exceptional ecological restoration contractor, contact Lucas Henkel at [lucash@pizzo.info](mailto:lucash@pizzo.info).

## Recap February Meeting Jerry Paulson

photos by Tim Lewis



Joyce and John Mori

### Take a Closer Look: A Visual Presentation of the Prairie

Many Wild Ones members took a break from the cold, snow, and ice to join John and Joyce Mori, each a PhD, to take a walk through the seasons of the prairies in northern Illinois, revealing their beauty and wonder through the Moris' close up photography. The emphasis was on the beauty, delicacy, and uniqueness found in the prairies.

John has always been interested in nature and has been taking photos of natural subjects for 50 years. Several years ago, he and his wife became interested in prairies. They were living near Peoria at the time. For three years they completed insect surveys on Illinois prairies for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Upon moving to Rockford, they were amazed at the wonderful job the Winnebago County Forest Preserves and others were doing preserving our local prairies. This sparked their interest to visit prairies in northern and Illinois and to use close-up photography to illustrate the beauty and wonder of these special places. Both Joyce and John take the photos, arrange them in presentations, and provide them to local nature groups to encourage people to see the wonder of the prairies themselves.

***“You must not be in the prairie, but the prairie must be in you. That alone will do as a qualification for biographer of the prairie. He who tells the prairie mystery must wear the prairie in his heart.” William Quayle, 1905***

On a wintery night in February we got a preview of the native wildflowers that will be coming in bloom in the next few months on the prairies in northern Illinois. John said that they focus on the beauty, not the science, of the prairie to get people interested in prairies, to give them enough knowledge so they know what they are walking through and will come back again and again. These areas have become like family to them, John said. He and Joyce may visit the same prairie two to four times a week. John explained that their photos are intended to focus on the pure beauty of the prairie, not the science.

***“The question is not what you look at but what you see.” Henry David Thoreau***

“Our goal is to develop an intimate relationship with the prairie. It is not a scientific endeavor,” John explained. “We want to enjoy the prairie.” In addition, “We strongly believe that scientific names stand in the way of getting to know a prairie well,” he said.

***“A name is at most a mere convenience and carries no information with it. As soon as I begin to be aware of the life of any creature, I at once forget its name.” Henry David Thoreau 1860***

“You need to open your mind, your senses, your feelings. Eventually you will begin to feel at home with the prairie. You will feel familiar with what you are seeing. If you walk slowly and observe closely, the beauty of the prairies will be revealed to you. It will result in a greater understanding of the pageant that occurs each year.”

John and Joyce have a couple rules that they follow when exploring their favorite prairies:

Rule One. There is *always* something new to see.

Rule Two. The prairie has changed between the time you entered it and left it.

“Close-up photos bring you into an intimate relationship with the plants and animals,” John said. The equipment they use is a camera with a telephoto lens, butterfly binoculars, a cell phone, voice recorder, and field notebook. They enhance their enjoyment of the prairies by creating nature



## Recap February Meeting (cont'd)



**Ron Hendrickson talks with John Mori**

notebooks, journals, drawings, and paintings of what they see.

John and Joyce then took us on a photographic walk through the seasons of the prairie: Pasque flower is the beginning of spring for the Moris, followed by prairie smoke, shooting stars, pussy toes, and bird's foot violet. Later in spring comes cream wild indigo and hoary puccoon. John and Joyce want to get a photo of the life cycle of each plant, in bud, flower, seed, and the dried seed head. He showed examples of pale purple coneflower and white wild indigo in each stage.

Early summer brings bumble bees and milkweed. Prairie petunia, spiderwort, prairie clover and blue lobelia. You can focus on color, like the bright orange of butterfly weed, the purple of verbena or the happy yellows of black-eyed Susan. One of John's favorite flowers is evening primrose. Late summer brings partridge pea, nodding onion, wingstem, and pale headed coneflower. Fall brings the gentians... downy gentian, bottle gentian, cream gentian...along with asters, sunflowers, and goldenrods. Late fall and winter, after a hard frost, you can sometimes still find butterflies on warm days. The flowers are gone, but leaves and

seed pods are still interesting to see, especially when covered in hoarfrost.

John said that it is interesting just to look at the structure of leaves, the back of the flower head, the shape of the flowers, seed heads and hips, dew drops on the stems, and the insects that are attracted to the plants.

***"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes."***  
**Marcel Proust**

He then entertained everyone with his wonderful photos of butterflies, moths, and other insects like grasshoppers, damselflies, dragonflies, milkweed bugs, beetles, flies, wasps, ambush bugs, weevils, spiders, praying mantises, and robber flies. They also find frogs, turtles, snakes, and toads in the places they visit.

John invited everyone to check out his new blog at [myprairiejournal.com](http://myprairiejournal.com). He will produce an active week-by-week summary of what they see through presentations of their photographs.

Thank you, John and Joyce, for sharing your love for the beauty of the prairie.



**Celeste Jelinek and Janaan Lewis look at a tree book from the chapter library**

# 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](http://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!!

## 212 memberships as of February 23, 2019

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

- Dick Baldwin, Rockford
- Janet Giesen, Sycamore
- Mira Lee & Howard Waitzkin, Loves Park
- Judy Letourneau, Rockford
- Mark & Laurie Luthin, Belvidere

55 attended the February meeting, Including at least 4 guests

A big thank you to our February meeting volunteers!

- Greeters:* Loann Collier
- Refreshments:* Anita Johnson
- AV/Sound Equipment:* Bob Arevalo
- Meeting Recap:* Jerry Paulson
- Photographer:* Tim Lewis, Sallie Krebs
- Library Assistants:* Marcia DeClerk, Cathy Johnson
- Merchandise:* Cynthia Chmell

### Anniversaries:

#### 20 Years:

Harriet Roll, Capron

#### 15 Years:

Rick & Jane Hoffman, Monroe Center

#### 5 Years:

Mira Lee & Howard Waitzkin, Loves Park  
 Bill Mills & Pat Rooney, Sycamore  
 Marcia Speck, Aurora

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](mailto: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!



## 2019 Chapter Programs and Events

<b>March 21</b> 7:00 p.m.	Midwiving the River: the Rebirth of Nippersink Creek	<b>Ed Collins</b> Director of Land Preservation & Natural Resources, McHenry County Conservation District	Rock Valley College PE Ed Center
<b>April 18</b> 7:00 p.m.	Native Plant Gardens	<b>Susan Carpenter</b> Senior outreach specialist, UW-Madison Arboretum	Rock Valley College PE Ed Center
<b>May 16</b> 7:00 p.m.	Beneficial Insects in Your Garden	<b>Jennifer Lazewski</b> Master Gardener, expert in native	Rock Valley College PE Ed Center
<b>June 20</b> 7:00 p.m.	Prairie Ethnobotany: People & Plants	<b>Cindy Crosby</b> The Morton Arboretum	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 3/1/2019, 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](mailto:constance@wildonesrrvc.org)

*Vice President:* Jerry Paulson  
(815) 222.4414 [jerry@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:jerry@wildonesrrvc.org)

*Secretary:* Cathy Johnson (815) 978.0865  
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*Treasurer:* Janet Giesen (815) 762.5912  
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*Membership:* Sallie Krebs (815) 627.0343  
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*Newsletter-Production:* Pambi Camacho  
(815) 332.7637 [pambi@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:pambi@wildonesrrvc.org)

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

*Volunteers:* Laura Sjoquist  
[sjoquist.laura@gmail.com](mailto:sjoquist.laura@gmail.com)

*External Plant Sales:* Jane Evans  
(815) 399.3787 Constance McCarthy (as to the left)

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

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

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

*Programs:* Lisa Johnson, (815) 965.3433,

[lisa.johnson@burpee.org](mailto: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](mailto:tim@wildonesrrvc.org)

*Facebook:* Sallie Krebs (as to the left)

*Library:* Ginnie Watson (815) 398.0138  
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*Mentors:* [open position]

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### Coordinators