

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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www.wildonesrrvc.org



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All articles for the November 2019 newsletter, must be submitted to: Constance@wildonesrrvc.org by October 23, 2019.

Every Square Foot: Starting a Natural Area in Your Yard

Thursday, October 17, 2019

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

Time: 7:00 p.m.



The spaces around where we work are woven into the web of life that stretches from Port au Prince to Perryville and beyond. Zach Grycan will present some perspectives about establishing Eden right in the backyard, the barnyard, the school yard, or the lumber yard. The sky (and the soil)'s the limit!

Zach is the Director of Stewardship at the Natural Land Institute, a local 501(c)(3) Land Trust whose mission is to create an enduring legacy of natural lands in northern Illinois for people, plants, and animals. He has been involved in restoring natural areas for just over a decade, and joined NLI in 2015.

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

President's Message

You may have seen in the past month the many news reports – across a wide variety of media – about the *striking loss of birds in the United States and Canada*. Nearly 3 billion (yes, billion) birds have disappeared in the last 50 years – a decline of almost 30%. This study, published in the journal *Science* in September, quantifies the total decline

in bird populations in North America. According to Ken Rosenberg of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, “These bird losses are a strong signal that our human-altered landscapes are losing their ability to support birdlife. And that is an indicator of a coming collapse of the overall environment.”*

As if the increasingly alarming news about climate change and a host of other environmental matters weren't enough, here comes some very bad news about the birds that are loved by so many of us in Wild Ones.

The Cornell Lab is promoting seven simple actions that we can take to help support birds. On the list, alongside things like keeping cats indoors, making windows safer, drinking coffee that's good for birds, and protecting the planet from plastics: (1) reducing lawns and planting natives and (2) avoiding pesticides – things that obviously at the top of our list as Wild Ones.

Our chapter is doing its part to spread the news about natives and how they are part of

Brian Hale, coordinator of the Wild Ones RRV Native Tree & Shrub Sale helps a member load the plants she purchased to plant in her yard. This year 149 native woody plants were sold to 40 people to enhance our natural landscape. Thank you Possibility Place Nursery for providing us with healthy plants again this year.

Photo by Jerry Paulsen

the solution to many vexing problems, including global warming, protecting pollinators, supporting monarchs, and water resource management. But each of us individually can also play a role in these efforts, sharing information with friends, family, neighbors, colleagues, etc. Let these folks know about our outstanding monthly educational programs, as well as other chapter events like our spring plant sale and fall tree and shrub sale.

Speaking of the *tree sale*, many thanks to all of you who supported the sale by making purchases and spreading the word. And of course, special thanks go to Brian Hale (sale coordinator) and Jerry Paulson (host of the pick-up site for those who placed orders). Watch next month's newsletter for a recap of the sale, including figures on the number of trees ordered and now finding a home in our Rock River Valley ecosystem.

It is easy to get discouraged by the seemingly non-stop stream of negative news on environmental topics. But it gives me hope to see all the good things so many of our chapter and community members and doing to reverse the tide. We are all making a difference in our own way. And I thank you for that!

* You can read much about this study on the website of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at www.birds.cornell.edu. A link to the study itself is also available on that website.



Consider Serving Our Chapter Constance McCarthy, chapter president

After the announcement at the September meeting, two folks stepped forward to offer to serve as publicity coordinator and at-large board member for 2020. Hooray!

That leaves two roles to fill for next year:

Booth coordinator. This role oversees our chapter's participation in three or four events each spring, specifically the set-up of the chapter's display booth and related materials. This role is most active from early spring through early summer.

Plant sale coordinator. This role oversees and organizes the chapter's annual plant sale. The sale itself takes place in May, but planning commences well before then.

Both of these coordinator positions can, in fact, be shared between two people – co-coordinators. Even if you are one interested person, please let me know; we can always find a co-coordinator to work with you (you need not find your own co-coordinator, although you are welcome to

do so if you have someone in mind). Another favorable aspect to consider: the way to go about carrying out your task is very well documented; there is a roadmap of sorts – clear instructions on what needs to be done. And of course you will be well supported in the transition, by the board and by the person(s) who previously filled the position.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact me (contact info on the back page of this newsletter). And of course let me know if you would like to serve the chapter in one of these roles in 2020, or if you have a suggestion of a chapter member you think would be especially well suited for one of the roles.

Our chapter depends on volunteers to function. Unlike many nonprofits, our chapter does not have any paid staff. Please consider stepping up and helping our chapter to fulfill its mission to educate and encourage folks to use natives in their home and business landscapes. Many hands make light work!

Love for Anne Meyer Ginnie Watson



I am creating a memory book for Anne Meyer containing pictures and short messages from her friends. Anne is in her 80s now and is much less mobile due to her arthritis. It is hard for her to get out and see friends, so I would like to give

her a way to “visit” with friends without having to travel.

Anne has been a strong supporter of, and participant in the native plant movement here in the Rockford area and surrounds. She took over Ender's Nursery in Cherry Valley from her uncle, selling a wide variety of local ecotype native plants. Many of the plants in our gardens came from there. She started a prairie of native plants at Nygren Wetlands; she started a prairie at her church; she restored several sites along the Midway Village rec path; she has given lectures, through the years, on native plants; and she has been a member of our Wild Ones chapter since

1994! Anne is a giver...and now we have our chance to give back. Here is what I am asking folks to do, if so inclined:

1. Email me your name and phone number so I can set up a time to come take your picture. Or if you already have a good close-up picture, send me that along with a short message for Anne which I can print on your page under your picture. (My contact info is below.)
2. Go visit Anne! She is at Cherryvale Place, 1545 Temple Ln., Room 231, Rockford, IL 61112. Call ahead to be sure they are open for visitors: (815) 201.3095.
3. Send Anne cards, notes, letters, etc. at the above-mentioned address.

I want her to know how many of us remember, love, and respect her for who she is and all she has done. Let's get this done! Many of you signed up at the September meeting, but if you were not there, send me your name and phone number, or pictures and messages quickly. This will take a while to compile, so time is of the essence!

I can be reached at: (815) 398.0138; VSWatson47@aol.com; and/or 3703 Highcrest Rd., Rockford, IL 61107-2162.

September Meeting Recap

Jerry Paulsen

photos by Tim Lewis



Autumn Allure

Jamie Johannsen, marketing & community relations manager for the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, took Wild Ones members on a tour of some of the best preserves in the county to see fall colors and migratory birds and waterfowl. She has worked for the District for 22 years, is a past Wild

Ones member and program coordinator, and a native of Rockford.

Jamie started giving credit where credit is due, saying that many of the photos she was using in the program were taken by David C. Olson, an award-winning local wildlife photographer. She then gave some basic facts about the District:

- 10,500 acres of preserves
- 43 sites
- 100 miles of hiking trails, including four paved trails
- 4 campgrounds
- 4 education centers
- 6 Illinois nature preserves

She then introduced us to some of the lesser-known forest preserves that provide what she termed “autumn allure.”

Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve is the newest preserve in the District, located on the Rock River in the southwest corner of the county on Kishwaukee Road. It is actively being restored, but has a small parking area on Kishwaukee Rd. and hiking trails from the road to the bluff. The highlight is the view from the 60-foot cliffs (extending 800 feet along the river) overlooking the valley below. It is a migratory bird stopover.

Pecatonica Wetlands Forest Preserve has an engineered wetland constructed with money from a Ducks Unlimited grant, making it a great area to see migratory waterfowl. The biggest preserve

(1,048 acres) in the county, the silver maples’ golden leaves are a beautiful sight in the fall.

Deer Run Forest Preserve is in the Kishwaukee river corridor near Cherry Valley. The Kishwaukee one of the cleanest streams in northern Illinois. This preserve contains restored native prairie, wetlands, and riparian habitat. The fall prairie provides a tapestry of colors, textures, and aromas. There are 13 species of sparrows found in the area. The District staff are tracking a pair of Blanding’s turtles to learn how to better manage the preserve for this rare species.

Ferguson Forest Preserve, located along the Sugar River, is a very important wildlife area. It is a migratory corridor for waterfowl with a lot of wetland and grassland habitat. Migratory waterfowl and cranes congregate here in the spring and fall, and prairie flowers and grasses provide a colorful backdrop for birders and hikers.

Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve has a popular, paved 2.3-mile trail along the Kishwaukee River, cutting through prairie, as well as oak-hickory and maple woodlands. The beautiful fall colors are reflected in the river. Visitors can enjoy a lovely walk along the river or canoe through a shower of golden leaves in the fall.

Colored Sands Forest Preserve has sand dunes, black oak savanna, and floodplain forest. Autumn is filled with migrating songbirds, raptors, and monarch butterflies. Sand Bluff Bird Observatory gives visitors a chance to see birds close up.

Forest Preserve Headquarters, located on Harlem Road just west of the Rock River has an old quarry lake, and many examples of native habitats in a small area. The paved walking trail offers an easy hike around the lake. Fall asters and goldenrods provide late season color in the prairie.

Indian Hill Forest Preserve is located on the Rock River along Kishwaukee Road. A small parking area leads to hiking trails along the wooded ravine and through walnut and pine woods. Migratory raptors and songbirds are a highlight in the fall.

Norman Jensen Forest Preserve is located on Bluff Road west of Rockton. A small gravel hill prairie and sandy bluff overlooking the Rock River provides lovely views of the valley. Rare plants are found in the ravine. The tawny color of the Indian grasses waving in the wind make a hike through the prairie to the river enjoyable in the fall.

September Meeting Recap (cont'd)



Kim Loman Volmer and Jamie Johannsen

Kieselburg Forest Preserve is located northeast of Loves Park off Rte. 251. The restored prairie, and calcareous seeps support unusual plants, including bottle gentian and grass-of-Parnassus, as well as many native insects and butterflies. The fall colors and textures are certainly worth a visit.

Kishwaukee Gorge Forest Preserve has a spectacular bedrock ravine, cliffs, and bluffs overlooking the Kishwaukee River. The oak forest on the bluff and silver maples along the river provide beautiful fall color. Both osprey and bald eagles nest along the river and can be seen flying through the valley from the top of the bluff.

Severson Dells Forest Preserve is well known for its nature center, workshops, classes, programs, and guided family activities. The bedrock “dells” along Hall Creek provide a pretty destination for a hike through the restored prairie and oak woods in the fall. The area is located on a flyway for migratory songbirds that stop over on their journey south.

Seward Bluffs Forest Preserve, located in the

western part of the county, is one of the most popular places to see fall foliage in the county. Grove Creek runs through the preserve, carving the namesake *bluffs* through the bedrock. Maples and oaks provide a blaze of color in the fall. A scenic overlook offers one of the best vistas in the county. A small remnant dolomite prairie is located along US 20. Bridle trails that wind through the preserve allow horseback riders to enjoy the fall colors.

Sugar River Alder Forest Preserve is located on the stateline along the Sugar River. Oak savanna, as well as restored and remnant dolomite and sand prairie provide habitat for many species of grassland birds, rare reptiles, and raptors. Burnished prairie grasses and six species of goldenrods provide a colorful backdrop for hikers and birders who visit the preserve.

For more information about the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, visit the website at www.Winnebagoforests.org.

Photos at Meetings

If you have attended one of our monthly educational programs at Rock Valley (or a yard tour, show me/help me event, plant sale, potluck, etc.), you have probably noticed that there is often someone taking photos for our chapter newsletter. If you do not want your photo taken, please let the photographer know. The photographer is always a chapter member and they are aware that folks may opt out of having their photo taken. Your request will in no way be viewed as an affront by the photographer, so please don't hesitate to let them know if these are your wishes.

The Lake to Prairie Chapter of Wild Ones 6th annual Native Landscaping Conference CREATING BEAUTIFUL NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Saturday, November 9, 2019

8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Village of Round Lake Beach Cultural and Civic Center

Register by mail or online by 10/15 and take advantage of Early Bird Ticket Savings

**Wild Ones Members: \$30, **Non-members \$35

Special this year! Purchase one Early Bird Ticket, bring a guest for free

Registration After 10/15 Wild Ones Members: \$35, Non-members \$40; Student with ID: \$20

Visit website laketoprairie.wildones.org

Questions? Call Sandy Miller - 847-546-4198

Events of Interest

Lecture: Strategies for Blanding's Turtle Recovery in Illinois

Tues., Oct. 22, 7:00 p.m.

Severson Dells Nature Center

The Blanding's turtle is an Illinois endangered species whose distribution is limited to the northern third of the state. Its conservation and management is made challenging by its long lifespan (sexual maturity is not reached until 14-17 years of age) and use of large expanses of both wetland and upland habitat. Richard King, of Northern Illinois University, will speak about the biology and status of this charismatic turtle and what is being done to promote its recovery. Free. Please register by Oct. 20.

Fall Colors Walk

Thu., Oct. 24, 6:00 p.m.

Severson Dells Nature Center

Autumn is heralded for the brilliant colors it brings. Join naturalist/educator Andrea Wallace Noble for a guided hike through Severson's beautiful woodlands. This will be a mild hike intended for nature enthusiasts of all ages. Free, but donations appreciated. Please register by Oct. 22.

OAKtober Hike

Sat., Oct. 26, 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Burr Oak Valley Preserve, located across from Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, 7404 Elevator

Rd., Roscoe. Limited parking on site with parking also at the church. Moderate to difficult level hiking.

Free for NLI members; \$5 for non-members (includes a one-time 6 month introductory membership to NLI). Registration requested by Fri., Oct. 25.

Did you know the white oak is the state tree and that October is Oak Awareness Month in Illinois? Join this guided hike through the rolling hills and oak savannas of Burr Oak Valley Preserve to see the beauty of this natural area and to hear about the ongoing restoration work and importance of an oak habitat.

Beginner Chainsaw Operation and Safety Workshop

Sun., Nov. 3, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Nygren Wetland Preserve, 3190 W. Rockton Rd., Rockton

\$35 per person. Register by Fri., Nov. 1

Learn the basic function and operation of a chainsaw and how to handle it safely. This is a great workshop for volunteers, professionals, and landowners. Equipment will be provided. There will be a lunch break and attendees may bring a lunch or visit a local restaurant. The workshop will be led by Zach Grycan (Natural Land Institute) and Melissa Grycan (The Land Conservancy of McHenry County).

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!!

210 memberships as of September 23, 2019

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

Michael & Jean Maloney, Belvidere
Christopher & Sandy Wrate, Rockford

Welcome to our new member(s)!

Terri & Clif Hill, Rockford
Jane Reuber, Rockford

Welcome to our returning member!

Terry Laman, Lena

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!

68 attended the September meeting, including at least 10 guests

A big thank you to our August meeting volunteers!

Greeters: Linda Ricker

Refreshments: Anita Johnson

AV/Sound Equipment: Bob Arevalo

Meeting Recap: Jerry Paulson

Photographer: Tim Lewis

Anniversaries:

10 Years:

Jeff & Judy White, Kirkland

5 Years:

Janet Hoisington, Rockford

In Memoriam:

In memory of our former Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter member Jack Houghtby - Member 2019-2019

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!



2019 Chapter Programs and Events

October 17 Starting a Natural Yard
7:00 p.m.

Zach Grycan, Director of Stewardship, Natural Land Institute

Rock Valley College
Phys. Ed. Center

November 21 Member Pot Luck, Seed Exchange & Annual Meeting Members only:
6:00 p.m. All members welcome with or without seeds. Bring a dish to share.

Chapter President to present annual report to the members

Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockford
4848 Turner St.
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 11/1/2019, 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

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

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

Treasurer: Janet Giesen (815) 762.5912
janetgiesen@gmail.com

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: Laura Sjoquist
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; 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,
LeJohnson3804@outlook.com

Youth Education & Grants:
Kim Lowman Vollmer (as to the left)

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

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