

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

Inside this Issue:

Message from the President	2-3
Reserve Library Books	3
City Nature Challenge	3
Notable Chapter Events	4
Membership	5
Chapter Calendar	5
Chapter Contact Information	6

www.wildonesrrvc.org



www.facebook.com/wildonesrockrivervalley



Scan with your Smartphone for more information about Rock River Valley Wild Ones



All articles for the February 2020 newsletter, must be submitted to:
Constance@wildonesrrvc.org
by January 23, 2020.

How to Grow Prairie Plants from Seeds, Roots, and Cuttings

Thursday, January 16, 2020

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

Time: 7:00 p.m..



Peggy Redington is Co-owner of Country Road Greenhouses, Rochelle, Illinois.

and creating a vernalization period by sowing seeds and storing them in a cooler for the winter.

Peggy is a graduate of Kishwaukee College with an AAS Horticulture degree in greenhouse management, with certificates in greenhouse production and garden center management. She has 20-plus years in the horticulture industry, attaining positions in greenhouse management, nursery management, display gardens, landscape design and cannabis production. She was formerly the greenhouse manager of the Kishwaukee College horticulture program, where her emphasis was to support the instruction of all the horticulture program students, while also creating, maintaining, and beautifying the campus display gardens.

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

Since 2017, Peggy and Bryan Redington have owned and operated Country Road Greenhouses (CRG), a native plant nursery with 11 greenhouses on 6 acres near Rochelle, Illinois, and 2 acres of prairie which are currently being expanded to allow for more seed collection. The focus at CRG is to provide native prairie plants, grasses, sedges, and rushes to forest preserve districts, park districts, natural landscapers, native restoration projects, and groups that promote the use of native plants (including our chapter of Wild Ones).

They grow all of their plants from seed or cuttings which are collected on the property, and they are currently working on providing a source of native trees and shrubs. They are always looking for more ways to support and promote native plants, pollinators, and wildlife in our region. They maintain a hive of over 10,000 honeybees. Peggy will describe the basics of growing prairie plants from seeds, roots, and cuttings,

Message from the President Constance McCarthy



Constance McCarthy

photo by Tim Lewis

There are many people to thank and acknowledge as we end one year and launch into another.

First, I extend a special thank you to three people who do certain tasks every month, even though they are not specifically designated as coordinators: Bob Arevalo hauls and sets up the sound system and manages the AV system; Anita Johnson picks up

the cookies we enjoy as refreshments; and Janaan Lewis prepares the hard copies of the newsletter for mailing. Many thanks for your years of dedication to the chapter!

There are several coordinator positions (as well as a board role) where we extend our thanks to the departers for all their hard work on behalf of the chapter, while also giving a hearty "welcome aboard" to the newcomers:

- Doreen O'Brien departs her role as at-large board member. Ken Kielsmeier will wear this hat in 2020.
- Cynthia Chmell and Bobbie Lambiotte depart after two years as co-coordinators of the native plant sale.
- After constructing the booth himself from scratch and coordinating its appearance at countless community events and conferences, Tim Lewis is passing the baton.
- Ed Cope moved away and is no longer a member of the program committee. Continuing committee members are Jerry Paulson, Mark Luthin, and Lisa Johnson (chair). This committee always welcomes an additional member or two. If you are interested in helping to plan our monthly schedule of speakers, contact Lisa for more information.
- John and Joyce Mori have passed along the publicity portfolio to Dawn Skupien.

We will miss all of these folks who have served the chapter so well, and thank them for their efforts.

To sum up, there are open coordinator positions for 2020 as follows: native plant sale (coordinator or co-coordinators), booth, and mentors. Please consider serving the chapter in one of these

capacities. You will be well supported by the board if you step up. If no one steps up for these roles, it is the board that will have to pull together and see to it that the work gets done. That is obviously not an optimal situation for obvious reasons, and I hope that you'll consider helping out in this regard.

The chapter board members for 2020 are as follows: president, Constance McCarthy; vice president, Jerry Paulson; secretary, Cathy Johnson; treasurer, Janet Giesen; at-large, Kim Lowman Vollmer and Ken Kielsmeier.

Returning coordinators for 2020 are as follows: membership, Sallie Krebs; newsletter production, Pambi Camacho; newsletter editorial, Constance McCarthy; outside plant sales (at community events), Jane Evans and Constance McCarthy; plant rescues and seed collection, Mary Anne Mathwich; youth, education and grants, Kim Lowman Vollmer; FREC representative and website coordinator, Tim Lewis; library, Ginnie Watson; merchandise, Cynthia Chmell; tree and shrub sale, Brian Hale and Jerry Paulson; show me/help me, Linda Ricker; and volunteers, Laura Sjoquist.

A special thank-you goes to Pambi Camacho, without whom we would not have the amazing chapter newsletter that you receive every month. She also updated the brochures and order forms for both the native plant sale and the tree and shrub sale. We are so grateful for her hard work.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the hardest working board and coordinators! While I stay busy as president, it is the dedication, organization, competence, and diligence of the board and coordinators that keep the chapter running like a well-oiled machine.

Finally, an extra hearty thank-you to all who volunteered at our chapter's events in 2019. This includes at the plant and tree sales; mailing the newsletter; providing graphic design skills to make our sale brochures look so professional; producing the newsletter (putting it together on the computer); staffing the booth at outside events; writing recaps of our meetings for the newsletter; serving as mentors for newer members; taking photos and bringing refreshments to meetings; serving as greeters at meetings; hauling the sound system to meetings; helping with the library; and helping at the special events like the summer social, show me/help me days, and plant rescues. The risk of attempting to craft a list, is the possibility

Message from the President (cont'd)

of oversights. My sincere apologies if I've omitted anyone! (Please let me know so that I can make the necessary correction in next month's newsletter.)

Wild Ones is an all volunteer organization. Without volunteers, there is no Wild Ones. We are so

grateful for all that our volunteers contribute to the organization all year long!

I can't wait to see what we will accomplish in 2020 as we join together to help the chapter achieve its goals!

Reserve Library Books Offered for Free-Will Donation

Ginnie Watson, library coordinator

Good reference books are worth gold. They can answer a nagging question, stimulate a great idea, or start a conversation. Our chapter has a wonderful library, but has too many books to bring to each meeting. Three years ago I removed the older books that were not being checked out and placed them in the Reserve Library, housed at my home. No one has asked for these books during the past three years so I will be bringing them, one box at a time, to the monthly meetings and offering them to you for a free-will donation that will fund the acquisition of new books in the future.

The photo here is of Box 1, of three. I will bring in the equivalent of one box each month until they are all gone. These books have valuable information which may simply be duplicated in a more up to date book in the traveling library brought to each meeting. The pictures in the book may be in black and white rather than color, or the book may be a duplicate of one found in the traveling library. Each of these books can be the start of a wonderful library of your own or add



to one you have already nurtured. *All free-will donations from this offering stay with the library to support the purchase of new books.*

City Nature Challenge

Engage your community, connect them with nature, and contribute to science!

The City Nature Challenge is an international competition between cities to document species on iNaturalist. iNaturalist is a free, fun, and an easy website and phone app interface. It is a great way to learn about and connect with local wildlife.

The Rock River Valley Area team includes anyone in Boone, DeKalb, Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago counties.

Observation period: April 24-27, 2020

Identification period: April 28-May 3, 2020

Andrea Wallace Noble (naturalist educator at Severson Dells) will be hosting trainings on how to use iNaturalist prior to the City Nature Challenge and will record

Kim Lowman Vollmer,
youth, education, and grants coordinator

tutorial videos for those who cannot make it to the training. Look for that information to be posted on the Severson Dells website sometime in February. This will allow you time to practice before the competition dates.

Organizations can help by hosting a mini-bioblitz, which could be a casual hike, meeting, and/or gathering with an iNaturalist tutorial to help. Organizations can also promote the event to their audience or members. Help will also be needed in identifying the species posted to iNaturalist, and it is hoped that Wild Ones members could be of great assistance in that regard.

Andrea will also be at our chapter's March 20 meeting to provide any one-on-one assistance that might be needed. She will be available from 6:30-7:00 p.m. and then following the meeting.

Notable Chapter Events in 2019

As reported by the chapter president at the November potluck and seed exchange (a members-only event), highlights of the activities of the Rock River Valley chapter of Wild Ones, include the following:

- We held a *board retreat* during January to discuss new ideas and make plans for the future.
- There were nine excellent presentations at our *monthly educational meetings* at Rock Valley College by experts in their fields. At those meetings, we serve refreshments and the library is made available for members. The booth is often set up and literature offered to attendees. There has been a change regarding how the chapter sells merchandise: no longer is it set up at every meeting. If you are looking for a book or a Parsnip Predator, for example, contact Cynthia Chmell, merchandise coordinator, to arrange payment and pick-up/hand-off.
- We had two very successful *plant sales*: the native plant sale in the spring (woodland and prairie/savanna) and tree and shrub sale. This was the second year that the prairie and woodland sales were combined into one large sale. Plants were also sold at Nicholas Conservatory, BirdFest, and the Klehm Garden Fair. The proceeds from those sales are largely what allows the chapter to bring in top-notch speakers, pay for our meeting space, publish and distribute the newsletter, maintain our website, and add books to our library, among other things. The tree sale sold many more trees and shrubs than in the past. Thanks to the coordinators, and to everyone who purchased plants and trees to support our chapter and the environment.
- Our *display booth* made an appearance at several outside events this year which improves awareness and name recognition for our chapter among the general public.
- We had two *show me/help me* events that were well attended. We are always looking for homeowners (or business owners) to participate, either as show me sites or help me sites. Contact Linda Ricker or indicate your interest in the annual membership survey.
- We had an *evening social* at Severson Dells in July, featuring a delicious potluck, followed by a hike to see this beautiful preserve. The event

was well attended in spite of the sweltering heat. It was a night of reconnecting with old members, as well as meeting new folks. Thanks to Severson Dells for hosting us!

- There was a *plant rescue* at the home of member Janet Giesen in Sycamore.
- The chapter hosted its annual *potluck and seed exchange*.
- Six *board meetings* were attended by your dedicated and hardworking board members. Numerous coordinators also attended.
- Our *memberships* are holding steady at around 207 households, including 9 lifetime memberships.
- There were 11 terrific issues of our highly respected *chapter newsletter*. The newsletter is distributed by post and via Constant Contact. If you'd like to go green and receive only the electronic version (an exact replica of the hard copy, but in color!), contact Sallie Krebs, membership coordinator.

I call that a successful year!

Things to Watch for in 2020

Remember the mini-grant program that allows folks to purchase plants at cost for things like public restoration projects (e.g., Master Naturalist), school gardens, etc. Contact Kim Lowman Vollmer for information. There is an application process, and the coordinators need to be sure that there are enough plants for both orders and mini-grants.

Our chapter plans to participate in Nature Fiesta in May, an event coordinated by the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County. This bilingual event is targeted at the Hispanic community. We plan to offer activities for children and sell native plants. Watch the newsletter for details.

The *annual survey and ballot* for the 2020 board of directors was mailed to all members in December. Hopefully by now you have completed and returned these important items. The survey is a way for you to provide feedback to your board and coordinators, as well as to indicate areas where you'd like to volunteer to help the chapter. *If you haven't returned your survey yet*, please bring it to the January meeting or return it in the provided envelope. Better late than never!

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!!

206 memberships as of November 23, 2020

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

- Alice Fox & Ron Holm, Loves Park
- Donna Gable, DeKalb
- Kent & Kathy Lawrence, Oregon
- Anne Meyer, Rockford
- Laura Sjoquist, Rockton
- Dianne & Dennis Stenerson, Rockford
- Ginnie Watson, Rockford

Welcome to our new member(s)!

- Fred & Karol Ellenberger, 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!

A big thank you to our November potluck volunteers!

Refreshments: Ed Foster and all who contributed food

AV/Sound Equipment: Ed Foster, Ed Kletecka, Dave Schubert

Annual Report: Constance McCarthy, Kim Lowman Vollmer

Photographer: Sallie Krebs

Merchandise: Kim Lowman Vollmer

A special thank you to:

Anita Johnson, Karen Matz & others who brought seeds to share

Anniversaries:

25 Years:

Kay & Phil Blair, Belvidere

15 Years:

Karla McGrail, Cedar Rapids, IA

5 Years:

Dee Vowell, Rockton

Seed exchange at November members only potluck

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!



2020 Chapter Programs and Events

January 16 Prop. Native plants from seeds & cuttings

Peggy Redington
Country Road Greenhouse

Rock Valley College
Phys. Ed. Center

February 20 Climate Change & Phenology

Dr. Stanley Temple

Rock Valley College
Phys. 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



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 1/1/2020, 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: Ken Kielsmeier (815) 289.2812
jodikiels@gmail.com

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: [open position]

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)

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

Booth: [open position]

Facebook: Sallie Krebs (as to the left)

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

Mentors: [open position]

Merchandise: Cynthia Chmell
(815) 969.7435 chmell@wildonesrrvc.org

Publicity: Dawn Skupien (815) 262.7864
dawnskupien@gmail.com

Show Me/Help Me: Linda Ricker,
(217) 649.3966,
greencreations.lejoi@gmail.com