

**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 July 2020 newsletter, must be submitted to:  
[Constance@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:Constance@wildonesrrvc.org)  
by June 23, 2020.

**Online Video Educational Program for June**

*How to Collect and Store Seeds of Native Plants*

*Thursday, June 18, 2020*

Time: 7:00 p.m..



While many of us have extra time now, maybe you have thought about growing your own wildflowers. The first step is to collect the seeds. June is the time to start collecting seeds from early blooming wildflowers, sedges, and grasses. Mike Groves, natural resource manager for the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, will present a video primer on how to ethically collect and store seeds of native wildflowers, grasses, sedges, trees, and shrubs for use in natural landscaping projects.

Born and raised in the Winnebago area, Mike graduated in 1994 from the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point with a major in wildlife management and biology. He started working with the Forest Preserve

District in the summer of 1990 in preserve maintenance and also worked a summer at Klehm Arboretum. He was hired full time in 1994, and eventually was transferred to the Natural Resource Department. Mike currently oversees natural resource work in all 43 preserves and on all 10,500 acres. His job duties include seed collection, seed cleaning, greenhouse propagation, invasive species control, tree planting, wildlife monitoring, restoring natural areas, tree removals, and managing prescribed burns. He also oversees all resource staff and equipment.

A link to the video presentation will be sent prior to the event and posted on the chapter's Facebook page 30 minutes before the event starts.

Future programs will be presented on-line until our meeting venue reopens to the public.

For information about this program or how to link to the video, contact Jerry Paulson at (815) 222-4414..

## *Message from the President* Constance McCarthy



**Constance McCarthy**

*photo by Tim Lewis*

### **Our Agile and Nimble Chapter**

During these times unlike any that we have ever experienced (I don't think we have any members who lived through the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic), I continue to be impressed with how well our chapter has been able to adapt and carry on with our vital work of educating folks about native plants and natural landscaping.

Our first foray into uncharted waters was offering a virtual educational program for the first time. Our presenters were able to post their excellent slide show online, and a link was made available to chapter members and others on our information distribution list. This seemed to work very well, and we are planning to offer our June educational program online, as well. Many thanks to the program committee for coming up with a plan to deal with our being cut off from our usual meeting place at Rock Valley College (due to the college's closure of all on-campus facilities).

Until our meeting space at Rock Valley College becomes available and it is deemed safe to have larger gatherings indoors, you should plan on enjoying the chapter's educational programs online. Stay tuned for details!

The annual native plant sale was another chapter activity that had to be modified significantly due to mitigation orders issued by the governor and health department. Because all community events at which we normally sell plants (such as the butterfly event at Nicholas Conservatory and the Klehm Garden Fair) were cancelled, we added an extra weekend on to the sale. This gave folks more opportunities to shop for plants and allowed everyone to better maintain social distancing. Only for a brief time on the first day, did things become a wee bit congested; otherwise everyone did a great job of remaining spaced out while shopping and checking out. We also thank everyone for their compliance with the request that all shoppers and volunteers wear a mask while at the sale. We realize that these changes can be challenging for all of us to adjust to, and we are grateful for the best efforts made by all.

A more complete report on the plant sale will be presented in the next newsletter. Final numbers are still being tallied and the disposition of the last of the plants is being sorted out. Another hearty thank-you goes to all who volunteered to help with the sale. With the added weekend, we had many slots to fill on the volunteer schedule, but the board, coordinators, and chapter members all stepped up. An event of this magnitude would be entirely impossible without our volunteers, and I send each and every one a sincere but socially distant pat on the back.

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## *Recap of May Educational Program* Mark Luthin

On May 21, 2020 the Wild Ones of Rock River Valley had its first-ever "virtual" meeting. Rather than packing the lecture room at Rock Valley College (not allowed due to social distancing requirements), Ben Davies and Nathan Kutok created a slide show presentation of the **"Biogeography and Natural History of Amphibians and Reptiles in Northern Illinois"**. This presentation can be viewed online (link on page 3).

Northern Illinois has a wide-ranging geological history that created a unique geography across the northern tier of the state. From the driftless hills of the western counties, to the bogs, fens and lakes along the eastern side of the state, countless distinct habitats have emerged throughout the area. Ben and Nathan's slides allow us to reflect on how truly fortunate we are to have such a diversity of habitats within easy driving or walking distance of our homes.

This diversity of habitats – including woodlands, savannas, sand prairies, sedge marshes, fens, bogs, and others – creates unique communities of flora which in turn attract a wide variety of fauna. Most recreational naturalists can identify the easier-to-spot animals like our mammal and avian friends, but often forget about the vital herps, reptiles, and amphibians, in our midst.

Ben and Nathan gave us a good indication of what herps we may find in a particular habitat if we decide to look a little more closely. A variety of resources were also recommended in their talk to aid us

## Recap of May Educational Program (cont'd)

in our explorations.

Their presentation reinforced the fact that anthropogenic changes in natural habitats have dire consequences on wildlife. Encroachment by non-native plant species, pollution, and the creation of monocultures all have a negative impact on these communities.

Ben and Nathan also reinforced that there is hope for our future. Both of these young men are still in school, with Nathan just recently graduating from high school, and Ben a junior in college. Their passion, their dedication, and their knowledge of the natural world at such a young age is a good indication that with perseverance, these natural areas that we love will be protected well into the future.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wynwzEiGDV3\\_are6Poy9DyXundiotu61/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wynwzEiGDV3_are6Poy9DyXundiotu61/view).

## 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!!

### 205 memberships as of May 23, 2020

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

Francie Barnes, Rockford

Janice Christ, Oregon

Cecilia & Michael Coles, Belvidere

Randy & Sylvia Downing, Stockton

Phil & Carolyn Fulkerson, Rockford

Pat Schroder, Winnebago

Ginnie Watson, Rockford

#### Welcome to our new member(s)!

Eric Ellison, Rockford • Sallyann Roberts, Rockford

Paul & Amy Seiler, Rockford

A big thank you to our May meeting volunteers!

*Meeting Recap:* Mark Luthin

**A special thank you to:** Our speakers Nathan Kutock and Ben Davies for creating the wonderful virtual presentation.

#### Anniversaries:

##### 20 Years:

Kevin Holdmann & Lenae Weichel, Rockford

##### 15 Years:

Dan & Pambi Camacho, Cherry Valley

Colleen McDonald, Rockford

Ken Wengert & Ken Bartelt, Pecatonica

**10 Years:** Joanne Webster, Loves Park

**5 Years:** Virginia Rous, Rockton

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 to the right:

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: [membershipworrvc@gmail.com](mailto:membershipworrvc@gmail.com) 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

**June 18**

Seed Collecting and Processing

**Mike Groves**

Online Video

**July 16**

Members Only Potluck/Yard Tour-

Nygren/Lost Flora Fen

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 6/1/2020, 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 [kublai Khan@mac.com](mailto:kublai Khan@mac.com)

*Vice president:* Jerry Paulson  
(815) 222.4414 [paulsonjerry@aol.com](mailto:paulsonjerry@aol.com)

*Secretary:* Cathy Johnson (815) 978.0865  
[cjohn\\_22@yahoo.com](mailto:cjohn_22@yahoo.com)

*Treasurer:* Janet Giesen (815) 762.5912  
[janetgiesen@gmail.com](mailto:janetgiesen@gmail.com)

*Board member at-large:*  
Kim Lowman Vollmer (815) 397.6044  
[kimlowvol@aol.com](mailto:kimlowvol@aol.com)

*Board member at-large:* Ken Kielsmeier  
(815) 289.2812 [jodikieles@gmail.com](mailto:jodikieles@gmail.com)

### **APPOINTED COORDINATORS**

*Merchandise coordinator:* Cynthia Chmell  
(815) 969.7435 [cynthiachmell@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiachmell@gmail.com)

*Native Plant Sale:* Constance McCarthy & Jerry Paulson (as above)

*External plant sale event coordinators:*  
Constance McCarthy (as to the left) &  
Jane Evans (815) 399.3787  
[javevans.9985@comcast.net](mailto:javevans.9985@comcast.net)

*Tree & shrub sale coordinators:* Brian Hale  
(815) 289.2384 [moyogi2@gmail.com](mailto:moyogi2@gmail.com) &  
Jerry Paulson (as to the left)

*Booth coordinator:* [open position]

*Membership coordinator:* Sallie Krebs  
(815) 540.4730 [membershipworrvc@gmail.com](mailto:membershipworrvc@gmail.com)

*Facebook coordinator:* Sallie Krebs (as above)

*Program committee:* Lisa Johnson (chair)  
(779) 537.8939  
[lejohnson3804@outlook.com](mailto:lejohnson3804@outlook.com)  
Mark Luthin (815) 543.7412  
[m.luthin@comcast.net](mailto:m.luthin@comcast.net)

Jerry Paulson (as to the left)

*Publicity coordinator:* Dawn Skupien  
(815) 262.7864 [dawnskupien@gmail.com](mailto:dawnskupien@gmail.com)

*Website coordinator:* Tim Lewis  
(815) 874.3468 [natives.tim@comcast.net](mailto:natives.tim@comcast.net)

*Youth education & grants coordinator:* Kim Lowman Vollmer (as to the left)

*Library coordinator:* Ginnie Watson  
(815) 398.0138 [vsatson47@aol.com](mailto:vsatson47@aol.com)

*Mentor coordinator:* [open position]

*Newsletter: editorial coordinator:* Constance McCarthy (as to the left)

*Newsletter: production coordinator:* Pambi Camacho (815) 332.7637 [dkcamps@aol.com](mailto:dkcamps@aol.com)

*Plant rescue/seeds coordinator:* Mary Anne Mathwich (815) 721.5187 [mprairedock@aol.com](mailto:mprairedock@aol.com)

*Volunteer coordinator:* Laura Sjoquist  
(815) 298.1387 [sjoquist.laura@gmail.com](mailto:sjoquist.laura@gmail.com)

*Show Me/Help Me coordinator:*  
Linda Ricker (217) 649.3966  
[greencreations.leioi@gmail.com](mailto:greencreations.leioi@gmail.com)