

**Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.**

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[www.facebook.com/wildonesrockrivervalley](https://www.facebook.com/wildonesrockrivervalley)



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All articles for the June 2020 newsletter, must be submitted to:  
[Constance@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:Constance@wildonesrrvc.org)  
by May 23, 2020.

**Chapter's First Virtual Educational Program During Covid-19 Shutdown**

*Biogeography and Natural History of Amphibians and Reptiles in Northern Illinois*

*Thursday, May 21, 2020*

Time: 7:00 p.m..

**A link to the YouTube video will be sent prior to the event.**



Nathan Kutok (left) and Ben Davies (right) will present a video program about the amphibians and reptiles found in natural habitats of Northern Illinois, with an emphasis on habitat associations, relative distribution, and local conservation efforts.

Nathan is a soon-to-be graduate of Cary-Grove High School who has had an interest in reptiles and amphibians for as long as he can remember. He will enter Southern Illinois University -Carbondale this fall, majoring in wildlife biology and conservation. He has assisted with several regional herpetofaunal inventories, assisted the McHenry County Conservation District in a survey of smooth green snakes, and is currently doing a study on the ecology and distribution of crayfish snakes. He is on the seasonal stewardship staff of the Boone County Conservation District.

Ben is currently a junior at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, majoring in forestry-ecosystem restoration and management, with a focus on botany, plant ecology, and ecosystem restoration. He is a graduate of North Boone High School and Rock Valley College, and has interned with Citizens for Conservation in Barrington, Illinois. He has also worked as a seasonal employee for the Boone County Conservation District.

Future programs of Wild Ones - Rock River Valley chapter will be presented online 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*

What an upside-down world we find ourselves in these days. Just like for all of us as individuals, these are uncharted waters for our chapter. Both our March and April meetings had to be cancelled because of the stay-at-home order at because no events are being held on the Rock Valley College campus. At our last board meeting, we discussed how we could carry on

with our mission to educate folks about native plants, in spite of the obstacles presented by the current situation.

Many thanks to the program committee for sorting out the details for our May program to be shifted to an online format (as noted on the front page of this newsletter). We have never presented one of our monthly educational programs in this way,

and - fingers crossed - we hope that it will go well. We thank you for your patience and flexibility as we all do our best during challenging times.

The plant sale has also had to be modified this year. Extra days have been added to hopefully avoid congestion during the sale and allow folks to practice social distancing. This will also allow folks to purchase plants who otherwise would have done so at one of the many community events that have been cancelled. We look forward to the 2021 events at Nicholas Conservatory and Sand Bluff Bird Observatory, among others. Until then, we'll see you at the Paulson Farm for the 2020 sale.

Keeping a positive attitude and remembering to be grateful for all the blessings in my life are helping to keep me on an even keel. Our chapter is also lucky to have so many hard working, clever, nimble folks heading up important tasks. And of course we are grateful for all the support that our members provide the chapter. Be well, fellow Wild Ones! This too shall pass...

## *Plant Sale Update* Constance McCarthy

Because the community events at which we normally sell plants, have been cancelled, we are adding an extra weekend to the plant sale. In addition, the first day of the sale (which was originally planned to be for members only) is now open to everyone.

**The dates and times of the sale will be as follows:**

**Thursday, May 7, 3-7 p.m.**

**Friday, May 8, 3-7 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 9, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Friday, May 15, 3-7 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

The sale will take place once again at the Paulson Farm, 4601 Paulson Rd., Caledonia (near SportScore2 and the Northeast YMCA). We are grateful to Jerry Paulson, chapter vice president, for generously hosting the sale at his farm.

Over 90 varieties of woodland, savanna, and prairie native plants will be offered for sale, including forbs, ferns, grasses, sedges, and a two varieties

of small shrubs. You'll also find plants for rain gardens, and for attracting and helping pollinators, butterflies, birds, and other wildlife.

Social distancing must be respected at the sale and folks are requested to wear a mask (in line with the governor's order). If the sale becomes too congested, shoppers may have to wait their turn to browse the plants. We thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation as we attempt to navigate these entirely new circumstances for this year's sale.

Curbside pick-up will be available for orders placed in advance. If you need a sale brochure (which includes a list of plants that are anticipated to be available for purchase) or have any questions, please contact Constance McCarthy at [kublaikhan@mac.com](mailto:kublaikhan@mac.com) or (815) 540.8387 (cell). At the time of writing this article, we were not able to post the brochure to our chapter's website.

Please help us spread the word about the sale, as our usual avenues for promotion are not as abundantly available this year.

**Constant Contact Distribution of Newsletter**

Many thanks to folks who contacted Sallie Krebs, membership coordinator, in response to last month's newsletter article on signing up to receive the newsletter and other important notices from the chapter via Constant Contact. I am repeating the information again this month for those who may have missed it or who forgot:

If you are one of the folks who receives this newsletter in the mail, you are more than welcome to leave your name on that by-post distribution list. But if you are not yet signed up to receive the newsletter in digital form (via Constant Contact email), please consider contacting Sallie Krebs (contact info on the back of this newsletter) and ask that your name be added to

the Constant Contact distribution list. This will allow us to communicate with you via email in the worst-case scenario where our printer is unable to print hard copies of the newsletter, or if there is other urgent information to be communicated from the chapter.

Even if you are not a frequent user of email, please consider signing up for the Constant Contact emails. You may have to make a note to yourself to watch for the arrival of the newsletter in your inbox, but that is better than risking missing out on critical notices from the chapter.

We send no more than two or three emails per month, so no need to fear an onslaught of things in your inbox. And, of course, we never sell, share, etc. your personal information.

*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!!

**202 memberships as of April 23, 2020**

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

- Nancy Jacobson, Rockford
- Sallie Krebs, Cherry Valley
- Lora McClelland & Michael Simmons, Rockford

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

- April Haeflinger, Winnebago
- Ann Stone, Marengo
- April Meeting cancelled

**Anniversaries:**

**20 Years:**

- Steve Symes, Belvidere
- Mark & Linda Winstead, Rockford

**15 Years:**

- Rich & Susan McMullen, Pecatonica

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*

|                            |  |  |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| <b>May 7-9 &amp; 15-16</b> | Native plant sale: Order pick-up and public sale | Paulson Farm                               |
| <b>May 21</b>              | Local Reptiles                                   | <b>Nathan Kutok and Ben Davies</b> YouTube |
| <b>June 18</b>             | Seed Collecting and Processing                   | <b>Mike Groves</b> TBA                     |
| <b>July 16</b>             | 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 5/1/2020, 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)