

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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www.wildonesrrvc.org



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All articles for the June 2021 newsletter, must be submitted to: Jerry Paulson at paulsonjerry@aol.com by June 23, 2021

Wild Garden's Frequent Fliers: Dragonflies and Damselflies

Thursday, June 17, 2021

**Time: 7:00 p.m.
via Online Zoom Presentation**

Our June program will see the return of Cindy Crosby. She is a dynamic speaker who has previously brought us programs on the Tall Grass Prairie and the uses of native plants. This time we will discover the fascinating and bizarre lives of Dragonflies and Damselflies—with plenty of group fun and lively interaction during the Zoom presentation. From their unusual life cycle of transformation, to their bizarre sex life, mystifying migratory habits, and their struggle for survival, there is plenty to discover and marvel about! Hear their cultural history, including some of the myths and superstitions that surround them. Be amazed at their natural history as you see close-up beautiful photography of some of our dragonflies in Illinois. Find out how dragonflies tell us something about the health of our waterways --- and our world. Then discover how you can do simple things in your garden to attract these remarkable flying creatures.



Cindy Crosby

Cindy Crosby is the author, compiler or contributor to more than 20 books. Her most recent book is "Chasing Dragonflies: A Natural, Cultural, and Personal History" (Northwestern University Press, 2020). Her recent full-color book of photographs and essays is "Tallgrass Conversations: In Search of the Prairie Spirit" with co-author Thomas Dean (2019). She is also the author of "The Tallgrass Prairie: An Introduction" (Northwestern University Press, 2017). Cindy earned her master's degree in natural resources from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. She is a Master Gardener, a steward for the Schulenberg Prairie at The Morton Arboretum and at Nachusa Grasslands, a Nature Conservancy site with bison in Franklin Grove, IL. When she's not out working in her garden, she speaks and teaches on natural history topics in the Chicago region. Cindy blogs each week at Tuesdays in the Tallgrass, and you can find her classes and events at www.cindycrosby.com

Information on how to connect to the Zoom presentation will be posted on the chapter website (www.wildonesrrvc.org) and Facebook page, and distributed via Constant Contact to members prior to the program. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call (779) 537-8939.

Message from the President Jerry Paulson



Jerry Paulson

We have really great members who are willing to step-up when asked and help out! Thank you everyone who volunteered to help with the annual native plant sale, especially those who came at the last minute to pull the rest of the 160 orders that we got this year. Some members came every day to work, setting up tables, unloading plants, putting labels in the pots, pulling orders, bringing orders to customers, helping people buying plants, and parking cars.

Special thanks to Jane Evans and Janet Giesen for coordinating the sale and to Fiona Fordyce for coordinating the volunteers. This was the largest sale we've had thanks to all their work! (see Janet's plant sale article for the numbers). In addition to all the plants we sold to our members and friends, the Cherry Valley Public Library purchased 1600 native plants to put on the library site. We're eager to see how beautiful they look in bloom.



Thank you to these members for helped at the native plant sale:

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Jane Reuber | Karen Matz | Fiona Fordyce |
| Gloria Powell | Julia Olsen | Paul & Amy Seiler |
| Greg Ruffner | Steve Symes | Sharon Shipp |
| Dennis McFall | Dawn Skupien | Ann Stone |
| Francie Barnes | Linda Graf | Alyson Broman Conn |
| Glenna Anderson | Cynthia Chmell | Peg Lockman |
| Ginnie Watson | Joe Jonakin | Cynthia Torrisi |
| Barb Kober | Cynthia Nelson | Jeff Stack |
| Ed Kletecka | Larry Swanson | Sallie Krebs |
| Betsy Hoelting | Mark Luthin | Jane Evans |
| Tom Mangan | Cathy Johnson | Janet Giesen |
| Anita Johnson | Lisa Johnson | |



Jane Lenser, Director of Cherry Valley Public Library, loaded native plants ordered from the WORRV plant sale.

2021 Chapter Programs and Events

- July 15** Using Native Prairie Plants for Wildlife Habitat | Ken Keilsmeier via virtual tour
7:00 p.m.
- August 19** Invasive Species ID and Control | Michael Hansen-Land Care Manager, University of Wisconsin-Morton Arboretum via live Zoom program
7:00 p.m.
- September 16** The Ecology of Our Native Oaks / Sarah Michehl, Land Conservancy of McHenry County
7:00 p.m.
- October 21** Conservation Planning in the Raccoon Watershed | Kerry Leigh, Natural Land Institute
7:00 p.m.

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

Recap of May Presentation Jerry Paulson

The May program was a virtual tour of some of the rare flora found on the cliffs of Apple River Canyon, led by Randy Nyboer, former Natural Heritage Biologist with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and field botanist with the Illinois Natural History Survey. He was joined by Jim Johannsen, Director of Conservation for Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation.

Apple River Canyon State Park and Land and Water Reserve is located northwest of Stockton, Illinois on the edge of the unglaciated part of Northwestern Illinois known as the Driftless Area. The bedrock cliffs and steep ravines along the canyon were formed 250,000 years ago when ice-age glaciers to the east of the current state park blocked Apple River, forming a large lake that spilled over a ridge and eroded a new channel to the south. "This is probably one of the most unusual natural areas in the State of Illinois," Nyboer said.

The area was first proposed for a State Park in 1918 by Dr. Herman Pepon, a botanist from Chicago. It became a park in 1932, and conservation groups have been working to preserve more land along the canyon ever since. There are 16 species of plants that grow on the cliffs and bluffs of the canyon walls that are listed as endangered or threatened in Illinois, including the only population of bird's-eye primrose, *Primula mistassinica* in the state. The primrose is one of several relict plant species that found a refuge in the canyon during the ice-age and are more commonly found farther north, like white pine and Canada yew.

Randy showed us stands of white camass, *Zigadenus elegans*, cliff goldenrod, *Solidago sciaphila* and *Sullivantia*, *Sullivantia sullivantia*, growing on the cliffs along the river on the new Townsend Glade addition to Apple River Canyon



Randy Nyboer

Land and Water Reserve. The Natural Land Institute acquired the 148 acres of land on the east side of the canyon in 2018 with the help of their partner, Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation, explained Johannsen. JDCF is assisting with the restoration of dolomite prairies on the top of the bluffs and will be planting hardwood trees in the former farm fields.

Randy showed us several early spring wildflowers growing on the rich wooded slopes of the ravine that cuts through NLI's new reserve tract and identified two species of ferns

that grow out of crevices in the cliffs, bulblet fern, *Cystopteris bulbifera*, and purple-stemmed cliffbreak, *Pellaea atropurpurea*. There are 15 species of ferns found in the canyon, according to Nyboer. He also spotted swamp saxifrage, *Micranthes pennsylvanica*, growing in a wet seepage area on the wooded slope. This species is generally found in fens in northeastern Illinois.

They then went in search of the rare bird's-eye primrose, finally finding it on the wet cliffs along the river in the state park. When Herman Pepon discovered the primrose it covered the cliff with its pink blossoms, Nyboer said. The population has declined in the past decades as the cliffs become drier due to climate change. "It will be interesting to see what climate change does to the populations of relict plants in the canyon," Nyboer said.

The full program can be seen on our website, www.wildonesrrvc.org. Contact the Natural Land Institute, www.naturalland.org, or Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation, www.jdcf.org to arrange a visit to Townsend Glade reserve.



White camass

Donations in Action Ann Wasser



Severson Dells Nature Center is grateful to Wild Ones of Rock River Valley for their generous support of the Pollinator Garden and

our habitat restoration efforts. With your support, we have been able to increase the quantity and diversity of plants in the Pollinator Garden, purchase tools to help maintain the garden space and will be developing a field guide complete with information about how homeowners can incorporate pollinator-friendly native plants in their home gardens.

The Pollinator Garden has multiple purposes at Severson Dells. The first of which is to educate the public about what native plants support which kinds of pollinators (bees, wasps, flies, humming birds, etc). We also want to attract a diverse array of pollinators

both for the public viewing and education, but also to increase the overall biodiversity at Severson Dells.

In addition to purchasing more native plants for the garden, Severson Dells purchased work gloves for our Conservation Crew volunteers who help with everything from removing honeysuckle and garlic mustard to collecting native seed for Forest Preserve of Winnebago County restoration efforts and planting trees in the prairie (on its way to being an oak savanna).

Thank you to Wild Ones for supporting native plant education and restoration efforts. We are also thankful to all of the Wild Ones members who also volunteer with Severson Dells Nature Center. Your commitment to local native habitats in your yard and in your community is so greatly appreciated.



Chapter Native Plant Sale a Success Janet Giesen and Jane Evans

With the help of our incredible 37 volunteers who unloaded trucks, labeled plants, and pulled a record 160 pre-orders, our annual native plant sale was a huge success this year. The May 6-8 weekend was a bit blustery, but almost all pre-orders were picked up and we had numerous walk-up sale customers. Of the pre-orders, Rockford customers topped the list. However, we had customers from as far as Aurora and Plano and Wisconsin and Iowa. And no number is too small or large when ordering natives, which ranged from just three to over 1600!

We sold over 9,500 Illinois native plants and a few shrubs this year, with net proceeds of over \$6,300. This figure might seem low but putting on a plant sale is an expensive activity. Yet our success can be measured in several ways. First, it allows us to build relationships and educate the public on the importance preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities. Second,



we sold dozens of plants that will be planted in new and ongoing restoration projects across the region. Third, the hundreds of people who purchased native plants this year realize the importance of planting natives in their yards. And forth, everyone who took part in the sale act as

ambassadors who can influence others to use native plants to attract birds, pollinators, and wildlife.

Thank you for your support and interest in Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter. We look forward to seeing you at the plant sale next year. Look for details about the 2022 sale early next year. In the meantime, it's not too early to start thinking about fall planting, especially native trees and shrubs. Our tree and shrub sale will offer a range of Illinois native species that will thrive in home landscapes. Watch for the brochure on our website later this summer.

Membership Updates 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!

Important Changes to the Membership Renewal Process! This information was sent to chapter officers and membership coordinators by the national Wild Ones organization:

“Chapters may no longer take membership dues payments or national donations on behalf of members. This is to ensure that your payment and personal information remains secure and to process your renewal as efficiently as possible. (Local donations to your chapter can still be made directly to your chapter.) The best way to renew your membership is online through the Member Center, which keeps you in complete control of your personal profile and payment information. Wild Ones payments are made through Stripe, a PCI Service Provider Level 1, which is the highest grade of payment processing security. Members are also strongly encouraged to pay their membership dues online rather than by check. To process checks causes a significant amount of manipulation in the member management system causing renewals to take longer to process and creating a higher risk for data entry errors. If you traditionally have renewed your membership by check and are open to making the change to securely paying online going forward, this would be greatly appreciated!”

201 memberships as of May 21, 2021

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

Darrell Borghi, Rockford
Dan Kane (Boone County Conservation District),
Belvidere
Ginnie Watson, Rockford

Welcome to our new member(s)!

Mary Ann Bjork, Rockford
Darrell Borghi, Rockford
Becky Chewing, Rockford
Daniel Pohl, Rockford

Welcome to our returning member(s)!

Bill Mills & Pat Rooney, Sycamore

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!

Anniversaries:

15 Years:
Guy Smith, Machesney Park

It is preferred that renewal memberships 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
Membership, Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter
7492 Renfro Rd.
Cherry Valley, IL 61016-9788

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 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!



NATIVE PLANTS. NATURAL LANDSCAPES

ROCK RIVER VALLEY

ROCK RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

c/o Sallie Krebs
1643 N. Alpine Rd., Suite 104
PMB 233
Rockford, IL 61107

Don't become extinct!

If the expiration date on the mailing label is 06/1/2021, 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

Due to COVID 19 restrictions on gatherings of more than 50 people we are not holding our regular meetings on the third Thursday of the month at Rock Valley College. Instead, we are meeting over ZOOM or posting videos on YouTube of the program. Links to the meetings and programs are posted on our website and our Facebook page, and sent to members via email the week of the meeting. If you want to receive the link send an email to: janetgiesen@gmail.com.

Rock River Valley Chapter Board and Coordinators

BOARD

President: Jerry Paulson
(815) 222.4414 paulsonjerry@aol.com
Vice president: Constance McCarthy
(815) 282.0316 kublaikhan@mac.com
Secretary: Cathy Johnson (815) 978.0865
catjohn_22@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Janet Giesen (815) 762.5912
janetgiesen@gmail.com
Board member at-large:
Kim Lowman Vollmer (815) 397.6044
kimlowvol@aol.com
Board member at-large: Ken Kielsmeier
(815) 289.2812 jodikiels@gmail.com

APPOINTED COORDINATORS

Booth coordinator: [open position]

Facebook coordinator: Sallie Krebs (815) 540.4730 membershipworrvc@gmail.com

Library coordinator: Ginnie Watson
(815) 398.0138 vsWatson47@aol.com

Membership coordinator: Sallie Krebs
(as to the left)

Mentor coordinator: [open position]

Merchandise coordinator: Cynthia Chmell
(815) 969.7435 cynthiachmell@gmail.com

Native plant sale: Jane Evans (815) 399-3787
jayevans9985@comcast.net

Newsletter: editorial coordinator: Jamie
Johannsen (815) 494-6977 jjohannsen50@gmail.com

Newsletter: production coordinator: Jessie
Crow Mermel (815) 955.0653 serendipitree@gmail.com

Plant rescue/seeds coordinator: Mary Anne
Mathwich (815) 721.5187 mprairiedock@aol.com

Program committee: Lisa Johnson (chair)
(779) 537.8939

lejohanson3804@outlook.com

Mark Luthin (815) 543.7412

m.luthin@comcast.net

Linda Rickter 217) 649.3966

greencreations.lejoi@gmail.com

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

Show Me/Help Me coordinator:

Linda Ricker (as to the left)

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

Volunteer coordinator: [open position]

Website coordinator: Janet Giesen (as to the left)

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