

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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www.wildonesrrvc.org



www.facebook.com/wildonesrockrivervalley



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

The Ecology of Oaks

Thursday, September 16, 2021

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

Sarah Michehl will talk about how our native oaks are woven into the fabric of our home landscape. The presentation will cover the reasons for their ecological importance and how to help the oak ecosystem as a whole.

Sarah is the Community Engagement Specialist with The Land Conservancy of McHenry County. She has spent 20 years working in the environmental arena as an educator. She has a personal and professional interest in sharing the functionality and joy that comes with incorporating native plants into any property. She's had the opportunity to visit and certify over 200 properties as part of The Land Conservancy's Conservation@Home program and advises landowners on how to care for their land.



Sarah Michehl

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 email to members prior to the meeting. The program is free and open to the public. For more information call (779) 537-8939.

July Program Video Available on You-Tube

Using Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat

The video of Ken Kielsmeier's virtual tour of the farm near Leaf River, Illinois where he has worked to plant native species to create habitat for birds and other wildlife, is available to view on You-Tube (<https://youtu.be/jwq8Tw096mI>). A link to the video is posted on the Chapter's website under "Meetings". The farmer who owns the land used the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to covert about nine acres of cropland to tallgrass prairie, and Ken planted native trees and shrubs on another five acres. The CRP helps farmers convert marginal cropland to wildlife habitat by providing annual rental payments to the landowner. He planted the first CRP field in 2003, adding more land over the years. Ken discusses the advantages of using native species to create wildlife habitat, where to obtain seeds and seedlings, and how the deep-rooted prairie species keep the topsoil from eroding. The video was shown on July 15th during our monthly program.

Message from the President Jerry Paulson



Jerry Paulson

No, you did not miss the August issue of the Wild Ones RRV Chapter newsletter. There wasn't one! Our newsletter production coordinator, Jessie Crow Mermel, had a long-planned trip to Alaska in late July, so we decided to take a month off and give everyone a break. From the photos she posted on her Facebook page it looked like it was a wonderful trip including several national parks.

As we move into the last months of 2021 the Delta variant of COVID 19 is forcing us to put on hold any plans to start meeting again in person. I am talking to Rock Valley College about what needs to happen with infection rates, mask mandates etc. before we can once more get together. In the meantime, we will be holding the annual meeting in November again on Zoom. Start taking photos

of your natural lawn that we can show during the meeting.

Also, please think about serving in a leadership position in the Rock River Valley Chapter. We are one of the largest Wild Ones chapters in the country, and almost everything we do is done by volunteers. We currently have a vacancy on the Board of Directors, and I welcome anyone who is willing to serve in this important position. We are also in need of coordinators for the Mentors Program and Volunteers. If you are interested in serving in any of these positions, please email me at paulsonjerry@aol.com or call me at 815-222-4414.

Finally, Wild Ones National is sponsoring a webinar by W.O. Lifetime Honorary Director and University of Delaware entomologist, Dr. Doug Tallamy, the author of the new book, *The Nature of Oaks: The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees* on Friday, October 5th at 6 pm CDT. The webinar is free, but pre-registration is required. See below for how to register.

Wild Ones Presents "The Nature of Oaks" with Doug Tallamy

Wild Ones Presents "The Nature of Oaks: The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees" by Dr. Doug Tallamy

Participate in a webinar with Wild Ones Lifetime Honorary Director and University of Delaware entomologist Dr. Doug Tallamy as he shares from his latest book, *The Nature of Oaks*. He will inspire you to treasure these trees and to act to nurture and protect them.

Register online:

<https://wildones.org/tallamy-oaks-registration/>

A webinar link for this event will be emailed to registrants leading up to the event. A recording will also be available to the public on the Wild Ones National YouTube channel in the days following the event.

Registration now open!
Wild Ones Presents "The Nature of Oaks:
The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees"
by Dr. Doug Tallamy
Tues., Oct. 5th | 6 p.m. CDT

**Register now for this
FREE webinar at:**
wildones.org/tallamy-oaks-registration/

"A timely and much needed call to plant, protect, and delight in these diverse, life-giving giants."

—David George Haskell, author of *The Forest Unseen* and *The Songs of Trees*

What's Blooming? Lenae Weichel

Symphyotrichum (formerly Aster) novae-angliae **Daisy Family (Compositae)**

New England Aster

AKA: Starwort, Blue Daisy, Fall Rose, Frostweed, Blue Chamomile, Michaelmas Daisy, Hairy Michaelmas Daisy.

The word, aster, comes from the Latin and Greek words for "star." However, the New World asters have been reclassified to Symphyotrichum from Greek for "junction" and "hair." This variety is characterized by showy, composite flowers with yellow centers and many rays ranging from deep purple to violet to rose pink on branched panicles atop the clumped stems. They have no noticeable floral scent though some say they smell spicy when crushed. Lanceolate, toothless leaves with basal lobes have fine hairs on the underside and clasp erect, hairy, green



stems. The lowest leaves typically wither and fall before bloom time. Plant heights range from 3 to 7 feet with extensive branching near the top.

New England Asters are found throughout most of Illinois and every county in the upper 2/3 of the state. They are most commonly seen in well-drained, calcareous soils in upland prairies, marshes, and woodland edges with moderate moisture; often growing alongside Goldenrods for a stunning purple and gold effect. They prefer supportive vegetation and may flop over without it. They generally bloom from September to frost and spread both vegetatively by rhizome and via wind-dispersed seed.

New England Asters attract a wide variety of pollen- and nectar-seeking insects including ants, flies, long-tongued bees, moths, and butterflies. Larval host to *Phyciodes tharos* (Pearl Crescent) and *Chlosyne nycteis* (Silvery Checkerspot) butterflies.

Photos by Lenae Weichel



Orders Now Being Taken for Fall Tree & Shrub Sale Brian Hale

The Fall 2021 Native Tree and Shrub Sale list of species and order form are now available to download from the Chapter's website: www.wildonesrrvc.org.

Orders are due by **Saturday, September 25th** and can be picked up from **3 to 7 p.m. on Friday, October 1st or 9 a.m. to Noon on Saturday, October 2nd**. All trees and shrubs must be pre-ordered. They come in 5-gallon pots. If there is a species you would like that is not on the list, or you want a larger size, please contact the sale coordinator, Brian Hale at 815-289-2384 or by email at treeandshrubsale@gmail.com.

Our native trees and shrubs, especially the native oaks, provide food and shelter for hundreds of mammals, birds, insects, butterflies and bees. Once established, native species require only occasional maintenance. The trees and shrubs offered for sale are native to Winnebago County and the surrounding area and thrive in a variety of soil, moisture and light conditions. Information on the best soil conditions and sun exposure for each species is listed in the brochure, and a list of native plant resources is included.

Some quantities are limited, so order early.

Program Recap: Identification and Control of Invasive Species Jerry Paulson

Michael Hansen is the Land Care Manager at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum. He oversees the management of the 1,240-acre Arboretum, a unique collection of remnant and restored prairies, oak savannas, woodlands and wetlands located in the heart of Madison, and is also responsible for another 500 acres of outlying properties, including seven State Natural Areas. His work includes overseeing invasive species management and prescribed burns. He also assists with research, outreach, and other tasks carried out by Arboretum staff.



University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum

The UW-Madison Arboretum's mission is to conserve and restore Arboretum lands, advance restoration ecology and foster the land ethic of Aldo Leopold. About 40 acres of the Arboretum is cultivated gardens, while the remaining 1,200 acres are natural areas that have various invasive species problems. Hansen uses a definition of invasive species that includes both exotic and native plants: "Species that invades native plant communities and impacts those native communities by displacing or replacing native vegetation. USEPA"

The Arboretum staff work to control 28 exotic herbaceous species, 13 exotic woody species and 16 native woody species. Their approach to management is based on five principles: 1) Maintain native biodiversity of high-quality natural areas and restore lower quality areas; 2) Begin in core areas of high-quality areas and radiate out as resources allow to connect core areas; 3) Restore structure and ecological processes; 4) Manage for more diversity, and; 5) Move from managing numerous small units to fewer larger units. The management strategy is to develop a goal or vision for the site, determine what invasive species are present and set priorities on which species to control.

To determine the priority for what species to control, Hansen recommends that you consider: 1) the current and potential extent of the infestation; 2) the current and potential impact of the infestation on the natural community; 3) the

quality of the community that is impacted, and; 4) the difficulty of controlling the species.

Hansen's crew of staff and volunteers use hand pulling, digging and severing, mowing and cutting, removal of seed heads of annuals and biennials, selective herbicide application and prescribed fire to control invasive species. The method they chose for each species is based on the current science, trial and error, and experience of others. They try to match the best tools and timing for each species and focus on early detection and prevention.

To prevent the spread of invasive species Hansen recommends that you use only local sources for native seed and plants and confirm that your source uses only natives not cultivars or "nativars", clean your boots when moving from one area to another, and help spread the word and educate others about invasive species.

The full presentation was recorded and is posted on the chapter's website at (www.wildonesrrvc.org). To view the video on YouTube, visit: <https://youtu.be/Lt2CDuREuE4>

You can reach Michael Hansen at Michael.hansen@wisc.edu.

The National Seeds for Education Grant is Back

The Seeds for Education (SFE) is a nationally supported grant program that gives awards to purchase native plants and seeds. It is open to schools, nature centers, after school care programs, churches, community centers or youth groups in need of funding for a native garden, butterfly garden, pollinator garden or habitat for hands-

on learning. The Wild Ones SFE grant program is accepting online applications through October 15th, for 2022 projects. Go to this site for more information, ideas and application.

<https://wildones.org/sfe-application/>

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!

198 memberships as of August 27, 2021

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

Rebecca Dewayne, Belvidere
Dan & Kirby Doyle, Rockford
Mike & Deb Eickman, Rockton
Kelly Mastera, Belvidere
Ann Stone, Marengo
Christopher & Sandy Wrate, Rockford

Welcome to our new member(s)!

Rebecca Dewayne, Belvidere
Doug Elfstrom, Beloit WI
Wendy Heiler, McConnell
John Karvelis, Pecatonica
Eric Kingery, Oregon
Kelly Mastera, Belvidere
Carrie Meyer, Silver Spring MD
Patricia Nicolosi, Loves Park

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:

25 Years:

Nancy Holstrum, Belvidere
Janaan Lewis, Rockford

20 Years:

John & Carol Gerrond, Rockford
Pat & Dave Schubert, Rockford

15 Years:

Jane Lenser, Cherry Valley

It is preferred that renewal memberships be submitted through the Member Center

online rather than by check 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. If you need to mail a check, please use the address below:

WILD ONES

ATTN: MEMBERSHIP
2285 BUTTE DES MORTS BEACH RD
NEENAH, WI 54912-1274

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 weeks prior to your expiration date.

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 09/1/2021, 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:

WILD ONES

ATTN: MEMBERSHIP
2285 BUTTE DES MORTS BEACH RD
NEENAH, WI 54912-1274

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
Immediate Past President: Constance McCarthy
(815) 282.0316 kublaikhan@mac.com
Secretary: Cathy Johnson (815) 978.0865
catiohn_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: Linda Tabb Ricker
(217) 649.3966 greencreations.lejoi@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 above)

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 as to the left

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

Show Me/Help Me coordinator: Linda Tabb Ricker (as to the left)

Tree & shrub sale coordinators: Brian Hale (815) 289.2384 moyogi2@gmail.com

Volunteer coordinator: [open position]

Website coordinator: Janet Giesen (as to the left)

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