



Rock River Valley Chapter Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 1

January 2009

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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Underground Ecology or: How I Learned to Love Dirt, Thursday, January 15, 2009

Location: Burpee Museum of Natural History
737 N. Main St., Rockford, IL

Time: 7:00–9:00 pm

Dr. Teri Balser is an associate professor of soil and ecosystem ecology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Her dissertation assessed the importance of microbial community composition for ecosystem functioning. When we disturb the soil or change the environment, soil microbes responsible for processes will be affected and the composition of the microbial community will shift as organisms better suited to the new environmental conditions grow and compete.

Teri Balser received a Ph.D. in Soil Science from the University of California at Berkeley and A.B. degrees in Biology and Earth Sciences from Dartmouth College.

Through her doctoral research, Dr. Balser found that life within the soil influences plant growth there. It also affects how plant life responds to global changes. As we strive to include more native plantings in our yards and communities, we are disturbing the soil and changing our community.

Join us at our January meeting to learn the effects these changes can have on the ecology of our communities ñ learn to “love the dirt” as Dr. Balser has.

This program is free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact Kim Risley at (815) 962-4584.

Submitted by Kim Risley, V. Pre.s/Program Chair

Almost A Full Moon Lake Gathering Submitted by Kim Risley

Come join us at Rock Cut State Park on Saturday, February 7th for an ‘Almost a Full Moon Lake Gathering’. We will meet at the parking lot on the west side of the lake just before the dam at 4 PM (follow the road in toward the fishing pier). From there we’ll take a short (1/2 mile) hike through the winter landscape to the ‘cabin on the lake’ where we will share stories while drinking hot chocolate around the fire with friends and new acquaintances. Be sure to bring your favorite moon, lake or winter readings to share. This lake gathering is open to the public, so be sure to include friends and family in this special nature night.

As darkness falls we’ll watch the moon rise over the lake. Don Miller, hike leader and Education Director of Severson Dells, says, “The moon will be full in two days so we’ll have to squint our eyes a little. We can hike, ski, or sled to our hearts content. This is a “lovers moon” you know. No negative thoughts about cloudy weather! If there is moderate snow, hiking may be difficult.”

Make your reservation to enjoy a local site in a different setting. Maybe we’ll even get lucky and see some wildlife or hear owls calling out. For further information or to make your reservation contact Don Miller at Severson Dells (815) 335-2915 or Kim Risley at (815) 962-4584. A sign up sheet will be available at the January meeting.



Articles for the February 2009 newsletter, must be submitted to the Newsletter Editor, at dkcamps@aol.com by January 23, 2009.

Message from the President Constance McCarthy

Adieu and thank you

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our outgoing board members for their service to the chapter.

Kirby Doyle, Secretary, and Terry Laman, Treasurer, both joined the board in 2008 and, in spite of being new to the ropes, did a great job in taking and distributing board meeting minutes and tending to the chapter's financial affairs, respectively.

You probably don't need me to tell you how much the board will miss Ginnie Watson, who has served our chapter for four years as vice president and program chair. Perhaps you've seen her running around before our monthly meetings, working like mad to make sure that we all have a great educational experience. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes, including contacting and scheduling our speakers and writing the text of the meeting announcements. In addition to all her work as the program chair, Ginnie was responsible for organizing our chapter's exceptional lending library. After Fran Lowman donated many books, Ginnie created her own wish-list of books that she wanted to see added to our collection. She did extensive research, finding the

best price for these books, and encouraged the board to support the expansion of the library. This outstanding collection is now a real asset to our chapter, and we are proud to offer borrowing privileges to our members.

Although she will be leaving the board as vice president and program chair, Ginnie will continue as library chair. Look for her and her faithful assistant, Karen Matz, at future meetings. Without having to organize the evening's program, I'm sure that Ginnie will be glad to have more time to get to know you.

A hearty thank-you to Kirby, Terry, and Ginnie for their hard work on behalf of the chapter. You will all be missed!

And welcome to our new officers: Janet Giesen, Treasurer; Shey Lowman, Secretary; and Kim Risley, Vice President and Program Chair (as well as chair for our first-ever woodland plant sale). I am confident that 2009 will be a great year for Wild Ones. With such a wonderful board, I am indeed a lucky President.

Board of Directors in Action Submitted by Shey Lowman, Secretary

Highlights of activities of the Board of Directors, as discussed at the December 11, 2008 meeting:

- A refreshment chair will be appointed for the new year. 2-3 volunteers will be recruited to provide refreshments for each meeting. The chapter will purchase plates, napkins, cups to be placed in a tote and brought to each meeting to reduce the cost and time for the refreshment volunteers.
- Yard tours for interesting non-member facilities, that don't qualify for our Show Me/Help Me tours, were recommended, including the green roof project in Beloit, Specialty Screw and Kettle Foods.
- Seeds for Education received 100 worthy grants, including two from our Wild Ones members. The chapter donation to Seeds for Education was increased to \$1000.
- The tree and shrub sale maybe expanding to more than one supplier which would reduce costs and increase the variety of plants available.
- Kim Risley donated a copy of *An Encyclopedia of Shade Perennials* to the lending library.
- From a donation to the chapter in Fran Lowman's memory, a \$50 donation was approved to send to Girl Scout Troop 319 at Prairie Hill School for their butterfly garden project in the spring.
- Earth Day has been expanded to Earth Month and is being promoted by Four Rivers. Our first woodland plant sale the first weekend in May will be our first event. We are looking at a second event, to have a woodland yard tour on May 9 or 10, which is Mother's Day weekend.
- The chapter library list is being updated, which is included in new member packets and was last updated in 2006. We would like the entire library list posted on the chapter web site.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, February 12, 2009, at Aunt Mary's on State Street in Rockford. The meeting officially starts at 6:30 p.m., but many come at 5:30 to purchase their dinner. All chapter members are welcome and invited to attend board meetings.

Membership Update Marilyn Heneghan, Membership Chair

176 memberships on January 1, 2009

Welcome New Members

Larry & Dee Dee McPheron

Special Thanks to Recent Rock River Valley Chapter Donators

(any amount about the \$30 basic dues)

Karen Finch
Terry Laman

38 attended the Potluck/seed exchange.

Dues payments can be sent either directly to the National Office or to the Chapter Membership Chair, Marilyn Heneghan. Forty percent of the dues paid, regardless of the amount, are shared with Rock River Valley Chapter. Members wishing to make donations specifically for the local chapter, should make a separate payment or so note on their membership application under "Chapter Contribution" and mail to the Chapter Membership Chair. Dues payments, regardless of amount, are considered a donation and are tax deductible.

Note: It is preferred that renewal donations be sent directly to the Chapter's Membership Chair, Marilyn Heneghan, rather than to the national office. Processing goes quicker this way for the chapter. Your expiration date is on your newsletter and your Journal address label. Thank you.

"NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES"
Please notify Marilyn Heneghan at informationoptions@att.net when your Insight email address has changed.

2009 Chapter Programs and Events

Date/Time	Program	Speaker	Location
January 15 7:00-9:00 PM	<i>Underground Ecology-or, How I Learned to Love Dirt</i>	Dr. Teri Balsler, Assoc. Prof. Earth Sciences UW Madison	Burpee Museum of Natural History
Feb. 7 4:00 - ? PM (later for hot chocolate by the fire!)	<i>Almost Full Moon Walk</i> Guided magical night hike focusing on winter nature and, hopefully, owl song. We will finish the evening by enjoying a hot cup of chocolate. Sign up now to join the fun!	Don Miller Education Director with Severson Dells Nature Center	Rock Cut State Park cabin on the lake
February 19 7:00-9:00 PM	<i>Getting On Top of...Roof Gardens</i>	Corrine Daniels Applied Ecological Services	Burpee Museum of Natural History
March 19 7:00-9:00 PM	<i>The Importance of Rain Gardens</i>	Dr. Stacy James Water Resources Scientist, Prairie Rivers Network	Burpee Museum of Natural History
Mar -Apr	<i>Native Plant Sale</i> Orders taken during this time	Dianne Stenerson Plant Sale Chair Kim Risley Woodland plant Ch.	
April 16 7:00-9:00 PM	<i>Using Native Woodland Plants in Your Landscape</i>	John Harrington Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison	Burpee Museum of Natural History
May 21 7:00-9:00 PM	<i>Identifying Prairie & Savanna Plants</i>	Dr. Steven Hill IL Natural History Survey	Burpee Museum of Natural History

Please check future newsletters for remaining 2009 Events and Activities

Unless noted, programs are free and open to the public. Programs are subject to change.

Please contact Kim Risley (815) 398-0138 for more information.



ROCK RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

c/o Pambi Camacho
6680 Hartwig Drive
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Don't become extinct!

If the expiration date on the mailing label is **1/1/2009**, this is your last chapter newsletter and you have received your last *Wild Ones Journal* until you activate your membership

You may receive a renewal notice from both the National organization and your chapter. Your membership information will be updated quicker if you renew through your chapter so you won't miss an issue of the chapter newsletter.

Mail your renewal to Marilyn Heneghan
P.O. Box 114, Roscoe, IL 61073

Wild Ones - Rock River Valley Chapter

Board of Directors

President: Constance McCarthy 815-282-0316 (kublaikhan@mac.com) *Newsletter Editor:* Pambi Camacho 815-332-7637 (dkcamps@aol.com)
Vice President: Kim Risley 815-962-4584 (rip-cordo1@comcast.net) *Plant Rescue Chair:* John Peterson 815-248-2110 (tacmot@msn.com)
Secretary: Shey Lowman 815-757-4456 (slowman@niu.edu) *Show Me/Help Me Chair:* Lenae Weichel 815-282-5482 (lenae@weichel.org)
Treasurer: Janet Giesen 815-899-6139 (giesen@niu.edu) *Youth Education & Grants Chair:* Kim Lowman Vollmer 815-397-6044 (kimlowvol@aol.com)
Membership Chair: Marilyn Heneghan 815-389-7869 (informationoptions@att.net)

Regular meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at the
Burpee Museum of Natural History, 737 North Main St., Rockford, IL

Special meetings, outings, and events are scheduled periodically and sometimes replace the regular meeting time/place. Contact any officer to confirm information about our next meeting.

Wild ones Annual Membership: Family \$30, Limited Income/Full-Time Student \$20, Business \$200
Entire membership contribution is tax deductible. Contact Membership Chair for additional information or to join.

Visit our Web site at www.for-wild.org/chapters.html

Wild Ones Mission

Wild ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restorations and establishment of native plant communities. Wild Ones is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization.