

**Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.**

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*What is a Burn?  
Why are Burns Important?  
Thursday, October 15, 2009*

**Location: Burpee Museum of Natural History**  
737 N. Main St., Rockford, IL  
**Time: 7:00–9:00 pm**



Fire is an integral part of the prairie ecosystem and the plants and animals that inhabit it have evolved with fire. Fire slows down the spread of trees from the edges of the prairie and slows the spread of wind-blown seeds. Fire also helps speed up decomposition and aids in returning nutrients to the soil. Fire can also aid in weed suppression and in the germination of some species. Spring burns provide certain benefits to the ecosystem while fall burns provide some different benefits. Should I burn? How and when is it best to burn?

Andrew Bacon, restoration ecologist and land stewardship director for the Natural Land Institute for the past eight years, will discuss the relationship of northern Illinois' native plant and animal communities to fire and investigate the many facets of our

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Articles for the November 2009 newsletter, must be submitted to the Newsletter Editor, at [dkcamps@aol.com](mailto:dkcamps@aol.com) by October 23, 2009.

## *Message from the President* Constance McCarthy

### **Support of the chapter and of the national organization**

Now that our chapter's tree and shrub sale has concluded, I'd like to thank John Peterson, the chair for this sale, as well as all of you who purchased trees and shrubs. Our plant and tree sales are the main fundraisers for our chapter, and your support of the chapter through your purchases is what enables us to bring in top-notch speakers for our monthly meetings, among other things.

On the national level, membership numbers have declined somewhat and donations are down, causing a bit of a shortfall for 2009 budget. All Wild Ones chapters were asked to consider foregoing their dues reimbursements from national for third and fourth quarters, and our chapter's board of directors approved taking that action. In case you're not familiar with how the system works, part of your annual dues stays with the national organization, and part normally stays with our chapter. By allowing national to retain what would have

been our chapter's portion of membership dues in the last half of 2009, national will be able to get back on track, budget wise.

The Wild Center, which is the newer headquarters of Wild Ones in Appleton, Wisconsin, has not caused the budget shortfall, and dues are not being used to defray the expenses of the Wild Center. In fact, the Center continues to pay expenses related to the office space of the national organization.

Helping to spread the word about Wild Ones and the great work that is being done, on both a local and national level, will hopefully be beneficial for all of us in the long run. I think that I can confidently speak for the board by saying that we are all very appreciative of your support of Wild Ones with your time and/or treasure.

## *What is a Burn? Why are Burns Important?* continued from page 1



natural history, which require periodic fire for their continued survival. He will also discuss how northern Illinois is losing pieces of its' native prairies and savannas and observing shifts in the vegetative composition of many of the woodlands as the result of a lack of fire, leading toward a future of natural areas possibly unable to support the same quantity and diversity of wildlife that was historically found here.

An overview of the process of controlled burning utilized by many agencies throughout Illinois, including proper planning, weather conditions, fire behavior, fire break planning, site preparations, permitting, and so on will be presented. Greg Keilback (Natural Land Institute), Josh Sage (Boone County Conservation District), and Eric Bednar (Winnebago County Forest

Preserve District) all have years of experience related to controlled burning with their various agencies and they will form a panel to wrap up the evening with a question and answer session and further discussion.

***Photos courtesy of the Natural Land Institute***

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

Submitted by Kim Risley,  
V. Pres./Program Chair

*Wild One's Merchandise* Submitted by Shey Lowman, Chair

A reminder that the fall shopping season is upon us and the October meeting maybe your last chance to shop for your favorite Wild One this year!

We have a couple of books that you will find interesting. The first is *Life in the Soil: A Guide for Naturalists and Gardeners* by James B. Nardi. Nardi a biologist at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Illinois Natural History Survey. This is a delightfully written book that will enlighten you to appreciate dirt and all the critters that live there. Save \$5.00 off the retail price and get this book for \$20.00.

*Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* by Douglas W. Tallamy is another great book. This is one of the best books we have found that so carefully and entertainingly explains the importance of native plants in the landscape. We offer the brand new updated and expanded second edition at \$15.00, almost \$3 off the retail price.

We also have a couple of clothing specials. We have 2 men's large denim shirts with the Wild Ones logo over the front pocket for sale at \$29.00, \$15.00 off the regular price of \$44.00. When they are gone, they're gone. We are also trying to help national Wild Ones reduce their stock of men's polo shirts. These shirts normally sell for \$40.00 and are being offered at \$25.00. We have 2 men's XL shirts in Sand available. Other colors and sizes are available as a special order.

Thank you for your continued support of merchandise for the Wild Ones RRV Chapter! If you have a special request or want any merchandise reserved for you, please send me an email at [slowman@niu.edu](mailto:slowman@niu.edu).



## Merchandise Price List

Item Description	Mail Order Price	Our Price
<b>BOOKS-</b>		
Bringing Nature Home .....	\$17.95	\$15.00
Landscaping with Native Plants Booklet .....	\$10.00	\$ 5.00
Life in the Soil .....	\$25.00	\$20.00
Prairie Seedling and Seeding Evaluation Guide .....	\$14.00	\$12.00
<b>STUFF-</b>		
Parsnip Predator .....	\$42.00	\$40.00
Wild Ones Center Mug .....	\$12.00	\$10.00
Wild Ones Yard Sign .....	\$29.00	\$24.00
<b>CLOTHING-</b>		
Baseball Cap .....	\$15.00	\$13.00
T-Shirt L-XL .....	\$21.00	\$18.00
T-Shirt XXL .....	\$25.00	\$20.00
Sweatshirt L-XL .....	\$41.00	\$39.00
Sweatshirt XXL .....	\$45.00	\$41.00
Denim Shirt with Graphic L-XL .....	\$55.00	\$53.00
Denim Shirt with Graphic XXL .....	\$59.00	\$55.00

**Checks Payable to Wild Ones**  
Ask about Special Orders!



*Membership Update* Marilyn Heneghan, Membership Chair

**176 memberships on October 1, 2009**

**Special Thanks to Recent Rock River Valley Chapter Donators**

(any amount about the \$30 basic dues)  
Michael and Jean Maloney

46 attended the September program. Thank you to Linda Mohaupt and Lisa Johnson for greeting members this month.

**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](mailto:informationoptions@att.net) if you change your email address.

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.

## September Meeting Recap Shey Lowman



**Lisa Johnson**

Photo by Tim Lewis

Founding member of Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter, Lisa Johnson stepped in at the last minute to give us a presentation on “Wildflowers for Your Backyard.” Our scheduled speaker had a family emergency and had to cancel the program on “Underground Ecology or: How I Learned to Love Dirt.” So many thanks to Lisa!

Lisa has been an educator at the Burpee Museum of Natural History since October 2001, coming from

the Byron Forest Preserve where she had worked in the same capacity for 7 1/2 years. Lisa has assisted with woodland and prairie restorations in addition to developing woodland and prairie habitat education programs and field trips for schools around the region. Lisa lives on ten acres in the country, about eight of which are Oak-Hickory woodland with large numbers of wildflowers and the unfortunate curse of Garlic Mustard. The other two acres are an old horse pasture that is gradually becoming prairie.

Native wildflowers can make a wonderful addition to any yard. They have adapted to live here over thousands of years and so require very little maintenance. Native wildflowers also provide food and habitat for many birds and butterflies. Lisa lead us on a visual seasonal tour of the wildflowers in her yard beginning with the earliest spring ephemerals.

### Woodland spring:

Virginia Spring-Beauty, *Claytonia virginica* (the first bloomer)  
 Dutchman’s Breeches, *Dicentra cucullaria*  
 Trout Lily, Dog-Tooth Violet, *Erythronium albidum*  
 Virginia Bluebells, Cowslip, *Mertensia virginica*  
 False Rue-Anemone, *Enemion biternatum*  
 Rue-Anemone, *Thalictrum thalictroides*

How do you tell the difference between False Rue-Anemone and Rue-Anemone? Lisa showed us how the False Rue-Anemone has more leaves and is bushier, while the Rue-Anemone has far fewer leaves and more blooms.

### Woodland spring into summer:

Bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis* (red sap is used for dye)  
 Woodland or Wild Blue Phlox, *Phlox divaricata*

Wild Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*  
 Wild Geranium or Cranesbill, *Geranium maculatum*  
 Jack in the Pulpit, *Arisaema triphyllum*  
 Prairie Trillium, *Trillium recurvatum*  
 Spreading Jacobs Ladder, *Polemonium reptans*

In the summer, Lisa advises looking for plants with berries to provide color in the woodland.

### Woodland summer:

Blue Cohosh, *Caulophyllum thalictroides*  
 White Baneberry, *Actaea pachypoda*  
 Red Baneberry, *Actaea rubra*  
 White Snakeroot, *Eupatorium rugosum*  
 Great Blue Lobelia, *Lobelia siphilitica*

Lisa moved onto the prairie and into the sun to share her wildflowers.

### Prairie spring:

Pasque Flower, *Anemone patens*  
 Prairie Smoke, *Geum triflorum*  
 Prairie or Downy Phlox, *Phlox pilosa*  
 Shooting Star, *Dodecatheon meadia*  
 Cream Wild Indigo, *Baptisia bracteata* (horizontal blooms)

### Prairie early summer:

Spiderwort, *Tradescantia ohiensis*  
 Prairie Rose, *Rosa arkansana*  
 Butterfly Weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*  
 White Wild Indigo, *Baptisia alba* (vertical blooms)  
 Pale Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea pallida*  
 Lead Plant, *Amorpha canescens*  
 Prairie Coreopsis, *Coreopsis palmata*

### Prairie summer:

Black Eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia hirta*  
 Culvers Root, *Veronicastrum virginicum*  
 Wild Petunia, *Ruellia humilis*  
 Wild Bergamot, *Monarda fistulosa*  
 Gray Headed Coneflower, *Ratibida pinnata*  
 Purple Prairie Clover, *Dalea purpurea*  
 Compass Plant, *Silphium laciniatum*  
 Prairie Blazing Star, *Liatris pycnostachya*

### Prairie summer to fall:

Rough Blazing Star, *Liatris aspera*  
 Prairie Dock, *Silphium terebinthinaceum*  
 New England Aster, *Aster novae-angliae*  
 Smooth Blue Aster, *Aster laevis*  
 Brown Eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia triloba*  
 Stiff Goldenrod, *Solidago regida*  
 Showy Goldenrod, *Solidago speciosa*

Last, Lisa talked about the benefits of fire on a prairie, a timely topic for next month’s presentation. For people

who cannot burn, she recommends mowing every three years at 6" and leave the clippings to restore the soil.

At the end of the meeting a silent auction was held for an Ironwood *Ostrya virginiana* tree that was generously donated by Ginnie Watson. Janet Giesen's charitable bid of \$20 will support the on-going efforts of the Rock River Valley Chapter to promote the use of native plants in the landscape. Not to mention a nice Ironwood tree in Janet's yard.

## 2009 Tree and Shrub Sale Recap John Peterson, chair



The results of this year's Rock River Valley Wild Ones Tree and Shrub Sale was that more than 30 of our members and some non members ordered and took delivery of 126 plants covering 26 different species. The most popular species this year was Maple Leaf Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), followed by the perennial favorites, American Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*), Grey Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*) and Nannyberry Viburnum (*Viburnum lentago*). The most popular tree again this year was Burr Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*).

In addition to thanking everyone who bought plants this year, a special thanks to Tim Lewis for designing this year's sale flyer and order form and to Kim Risley for reviewing and proof reading the material. Thanks also to Don Heneghan and Janet Giesen for helping to fill orders on the pick up dates.

Over the last 5 years, our Wild Ones Chapter has sold almost 900 native trees and shrubs. In addition to helping us raise money to fund our chapter's activities, your plant purchases meant that the better part of a thousand trees and shrubs, all native to our area, are now growing and providing wonderful examples of why we should all plant native trees and shrubs.



## 2009 Chapter Programs and Events

Date/Time	Program	Speaker	Location
October 15 7:00-9:00 PM	<b>What is a Burn? How Does Burning Help Our Landscapes?</b>	<b>Andy Bacon</b> Natural Land Institute	Burpee Museum of Natural History
November 19 7:00-9:00 PM	<b>Pot Luck and Seed Exchange</b> <u>All Members only</u> welcome with or without seeds		Burpee Museum of Natural History
December	<b>No Meeting-Happy Holidays!</b>		

**Please check future newsletters for remaining 2009 Events and Activities**

## 2010 Chapter Programs and Events

January 21 7:00-9:00 PM	<b>Native Plant Communities of Northern IL</b> Why is biodiversity so important? What we had, where it went, what can we do as homeowners	<b>John Nelson</b> Illinois Department of Natural Resources	Burpee Museum of Natural History
February 18 7:00-9:00 PM	<b>Planning native plantings, incorporating into existing, using cultivars, planning for burns</b>	<b>Patricia Hill</b> Author of <u>Design Your Natural Midwest Garden</u>	Burpee Museum of Natural History

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

Please contact Kim Risley (815) 962-4584 for more information. 7:00-9:00 PM



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 **10/1/2009**, 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 (kublaihan@mac.com) *Newsletter Editor:* Pambi Camacho 815-332-7637 (dkcamps@aol.com)

*Vice President:* Kim Risley 815-962-4584 (rip-cord01@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](http://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.