



Rock River Valley Chapter Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 1

January 2010

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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*Plant communities, restoration projects,
and nature preserves in northern Illinois
Thursday, January 21, 2010*

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

According to our mission statement, Wild Ones *promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities.* When people talk about restoration and native plant communities, they are referring to restoring the land by planting forbs, grasses, trees, and shrubs that formed the native habitat in the area before the arrival of European settlers, who began to clear the land for settlement and homesteads.

Although very little remains of the true natural environment before European settlement, there are still a few remnant areas that people can visit to observe the communities formed by the various native plants. Thus, people today depend upon resources such as Jones and Fell's *The Flora and Vegetational History of Winnebago County, Illinois*, Swink's *Plants of the Chicago Region*, and Curtis' *The Vegetation of Wisconsin* to determine what plants were here before settlement and in companionship with other plants.

John Nelson will discuss the pre European American landscape patterns of the northern Illinois region, with a focus on prairies and timbered areas that have since disappeared. By comparing those patterns to the modern landscape, Mr. Nelson will reveal the level of change that has occurred and explain opportunities that exist for protecting and managing our remaining natural areas. As a Natural Resource Protection Specialist with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC), Mr. Nelson's primary job responsibilities are to obtain legal protection for high quality natural areas and to provide assistance in the management and stewardship of lands enrolled in INPC protection programs. He will also discuss protection and restoration efforts that are underway by non-for-profit organizations, private citizens, and government bodies, including examples of these efforts.

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. Pres./Program Chair



Articles for the February 2010 newsletter, must be submitted to the Newsletter Editor, at: dkcamps@aol.com by January 23, 2010.



Message from the President Constance McCarthy

Starting the New Year with Gratitude

While it's true that being the chapter president (and coordinator of our mentor program) does keep busy from time to time, I truly could not do this job without the help of our very dedicated board and other volunteers. Indeed, that was the main selling point when Tim Lewis and Ginnie Watson approached me about running for president a few years back. They assured me that I would have plenty of support, so that the load wouldn't be overwhelming. And that has certainly turned out to be the case.

I am very grateful for the hard work that our board and volunteers do on behalf of the chapter. Kim Risley is a human dynamo; not only is she very organized in coordinating our woodland plant sale, she puts in many hours of work in finding speakers and pulling together our monthly meetings.

Shey Lowman and Janet Giesen, as secretary and treasurer, respectively, have been a breath of fresh air, bringing new ideas and perspectives that have helped the board and the chapter.

Marilyn Heneghan, our Membership Chair, keeps track of members, records, dues, and interactions with the national organization. She also mans the welcome table and coordinates the greeters at each monthly meeting. I can only imagine how efficient and helpful she must have been as a librarian!

Lenae Weichel has done a wonderful job of planning our Show Me/Help Me events and last year's woodland walk as part of FREC's Celebrate Earth month.

Kim Lowman Vollmer helps with the Seeds for Education grant program and serves as a liaison for those in our community who are interested in youth education.

We have Pambi Camacho to thank for this gem of a newsletter. This membership-benefit really makes our chapter stand out, in my humble opinion. Her experience with publishing and printing is put to good use for the benefit of all of us. Once the printing is done, Janaan and Tim Lewis handle the mailing end of the newsletter--no small task!

In addition to overseeing our tree and shrub sale, John Peterson continues to bring excellent plant rescue opportunities to our members. I know that many of us have been able to find plants that would be nearly impossible to obtain otherwise.

There are also a number of volunteers who have helped out the board and the chapter, and they deserve recognition and thanks, as well. Our plant sale has continued to be the major fundraiser for our chapter, thanks to the hard work of Dianne Stenerson and Kathy Ayers. Ginnie Watson not only hauls our lending library to each meeting and sets up a lovely display, but also keeps her eyes open for books that she thinks would be fine additions to our collection. Karen Matz can be counted on to make the trek from DeKalb to help Ginnie with the library each month, as well. Doreen O'Brien sends out press releases to let other organizations and media outlets know about our upcoming programs. Bev Crittenden has done a great job in her first year coordinating the refreshments that are served at our monthly meetings. Some of you may have received phone calls from Ed Kletecka as he organizes the volunteers needed for our many events and activities. Tim Lewis, in addition to the general support and guidance he continues to provide me in my role as president, also maintains our chapter's booth (always in the back corner at our meetings, and also seen at various "green" events in the area), represents our chapter at FREC meetings, serves on the national board of Wild Ones, and maintains our chapter's page on the national Wild Ones website. Last but not least, Shey Lowman has brought new energy to the position of merchandise coordinator. I have heard many positive comments about the spiffy displays and new items that are now available.

While we have one of the biggest Wild Ones chapters in the country, this would simply not be possible were it not for the dedication of these many hardworking individuals. On behalf of this chapter, I'd like to extend a hearty "thank you!" to all of them.

Membership Update Marilyn Heneghan, Membership Chair

174 memberships on January 1, 2010

Welcome New Members:

Paul & Carol Soderholm
Daniela Zaluda & Dennis Johnson

Gift membership to: Barack & Michelle Obama,
The President & First Lady, from Karen Matz

31 members attended the November Pot Luck and Seed Exchange.

Special Thanks to Recent Rock River Valley Chapter Donators

(any amount about the \$30 basic dues)

Paul & Carol Soderholm
Susan Christensen
Barbara Hazelwood-Miller
Pat Hollingsworth
Janet Giesen

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.

Member Participation Sought for February 2011 Meeting

Yes, that's right: 2011. It may seem like a long way in the future, but you'll see why it's not too soon to start thinking about this program. For our February 2011 meeting, we will be doing a different type of presentation than you might be accustomed to seeing at Wild Ones programs. The focus will be on the activities of chapter members to increase native plantings and diversity in their individual landscapes.

A coordinator (*any volunteers?*) will be announced later, along with more details as the year 2010 goes by. In the meantime, members are encouraged to take pictures showing various areas of their landscapes throughout the seasons. The amount of presentation time for each individual will depend upon the number of people who choose to share with us, as well as the extent of the member's efforts with natives.

If the thought of speaking in front of a group is not a pleasant one for you, fear not! We anticipate being able to work with such members, perhaps finding a more loquacious member to do the speaking part of the presentation, or having some folks display photos and a description of their project (on poster board, for example). Again, more information will be provided down the road.

We're giving you so much advance notice so that you'll be able to have pictures of your landscape at various

times throughout the year. So, you might want to take a picture of Monarch butterflies on your red milkweed, hummingbirds visiting a cardinal flower, bees pollinating wild bergamot, or a goldfinch perched on the seed head of a pale purple coneflower. Perhaps you started with an area of lawn and converted it to native plantings. Maybe you've added native plants amidst existing beds of non-native flowers, or diverted rainwater to grow a rain garden. Maybe you got a great picture of the snowfall of December 9 covering native grasses and flowers, or new seedlings peeking their heads up in the spring.

In a nutshell: Start snapping those pictures and making plans to share your efforts with all of us.

Don't be deterred from participating just because you're not the master of public speaking, or because you feel that your efforts "just don't measure up to those of other members." Think of our Show Me/Help Me events: while it's always inspiring to see the magnificence of the completed efforts at incorporating natives into a home landscape, there is also benefit to hearing about projects that are just in their infancy. Whether you have only a few slides or more extensive documentation of your efforts, we would love to hear from you.

Submitted by Kim Risley
Vice President/Program Chair

2010 Chapter Programs and Events

Date/Time	Program	Speaker	Location
January 21 7:00-9:00 PM	<i>Native Plant Communities of Northern IL</i> Why is biodiversity so important? What we had, where it went, what can we do as homeowners	John Nelson Illinois Department of Natural Resources	Burpee Museum of Natural History
February 18 7:00-9:00 PM	<i>Planning native plantings, incorporating into existing, using cultivars, planning for burns</i>	Patricia Hill Author of <i>Design Your Natural Midwest Garden</i>	Burpee Museum of Natural History
March 18 7:00 PM	<i>One Drop at a Time</i> Sustainable Stormwater Management for Homeowners	Marcus de la fleur Landscape architect - de la fleur LLC	Klehm Arboretum 2715 S. Main St Rockford, IL (815) 965-8146
Mar-Apr	<i>Native Plant Sales</i> Orders taken during this time	<i>Sales flyers to come</i>	

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 **1/1/2010**, 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 (kublai Khan@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.