

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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Photographing Native Plants
Thursday, June 17, 2010

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

The many seasons of northern Illinois offer the environmentally minded person many opportunities to get out and about. From enjoying the many views of our naturally landscaped yards, to walks through local parks, forest preserves and arboretums, to biking excursions on the many bike paths throughout the area; we have many chances to view the natives plants, animals, insects, butterflies and birds that share this planet with us.

The native woodland forbs like rue anemone, Dutchman's breeches and Virginia bluebells have come and gone. The prairie areas are starting to come to life. Clumps of pale purple coneflower, leadplant, butterfly milkweed, and wild quinine are about to bloom. Soon the blazing stars, Monarda, compass plant and Culver's root will send forth their blooms before the fall masses of asters and goldenrod mixing with the swaying grasses put on their show. Throughout out all theses displays we have seen the butterflies, hummingbirds and bees flitting from flower to flower as they do their job of pollinating while gathering the nectar. Birds use the stalks as landing pads while they search for food. We think to ourselves, "I wish I could capture this sight so I may enjoy the beauty of this moment again."

Now we have a solution for this! With extensive experience in the field of photography, Tim Lewis will show us how to get stunning photographs of native plants with a digital camera. A hobbyist "for longer than I care to say", Tim worked first for Camera Craft for several years before moving on to Barber-Colman as an industrial photographer. Tim enjoyed his work so much he taught basic photography through the YMCA and the Winnebago County 4-H, acting as a 4-H photo judge for 20 years! Tim is a past president of the local Rockford Shutter and Lens Club, past president of The Wild Ones - Native Plants, Natural Landscapes, and is currently a national director of Wild Ones.

Tim will cover the basics of getting good photographs of your natives. You will be able to go out and start taking better pictures the next day. The principles that he will present can be applied to everyday photography. Some of the topics he will cover include:

- Shutter speed and aperture control
- The basics of composition
- Lighting

As an added bonus, bring your camera for a brief hands-on demonstration as time allows following the program.

If you are 'all thumbs' when it comes to picture taking or you have much experience but wish to fine-tune your pictures, join us on Thursday, April 17, 2010 at 7:00 PM at

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

Message from the President Constance McCarthy

Plant sales gratitude

With our two spring plant sales behind us, Kim Risley and I are glad to be back in our normal routines. I feel confident in saying that we could not have pulled off these events without our chapter's amazing volunteers. Fetching plants, unloading plants, sorting orders, double-checking orders, setting up for the frenzy of pick-up days, helping customers interested in purchasing more plants, providing snacks for hungry volunteers, and, of course, clean-up. Volunteers really stepped up to the plate and made it possible for all of these tasks to be completed in relatively calm and organized flow.

The plant and tree sales are major fundraisers for our chapter, and they are what allow us to bring in such outstanding speakers from Champaign, Madison, Springfield, and beyond. So a hearty thank-you to

everyone who purchased plants this spring. You help make it possible for us to grow and expand in our efforts to achieve our mission: promoting and educating folks about how and why to use natives in their landscapes.

And a personal thank-you to Kim Risley for all her hard work in planning for, organizing, and carrying out the woodland plant sale. Considering that two years ago we didn't even have a woodland sale, you have done a remarkable job building this up.

On behalf of the Kim and I, thank you to everyone who helped make our spring sales such a success. Each of us will be providing a separate recap to the chapter, but I'm a firm believer that one shouldn't be stingy in spreading around gratitude.

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Burpee Museum of Natural History, 737 N. Main St., Rockford, IL and learn how you may capture the 'beauty of the moment' through photographs that you may enjoy for years to come.

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

Hats Off to Jack Armstrong

Congratulations to Jack Armstrong, who was recently elected by the Rockford Park District's Board of Commissioners to serve as President of that body.

And congratulations, yet again, to Jack for being named one of the recipients of the *Service Over Self Award*, given out on Thursday, May 20 by the Downtown Rockford Rotary.

We are proud to count you among our chapter members!

Membership Update Marilyn Heneghan, Membership Chair

172 memberships on June 1, 2010

Welcome new member
L. S. Hartley

**Special Thanks to Recent
Rock River Valley Chapter Donators**
(any amount about the \$30 basic dues)
Jeff Stack and Kathy Mielke

82 attended the May program. Thank you to program greeters
Lisa Johnson and Linda & Terry Mohaupt.

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 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.

Local Mushroom Foraging submitted by Constance McCarthy

At our May program on edible mushrooms, the subject came up regarding whether it was allowed to hunt for mushrooms on Winnebago County Forest Preserve lands. Good news from Jamie Johannsen of the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District: unlike most of the counties in the Chicago area, it is indeed allowed to forage for mushrooms in Winnebago County forest preserves. Happy collecting to all.

If anyone has information on the permissibility of this activity in surrounding counties (Boone, Stephenson, Ogle, Lee, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Carroll, etc.), please let me know so that it can be shared with our members. We are scattered over a wide area in northern and northwest Illinois, and after the inspiring May program, many of us can't wait to start the search.



*Black Trumpet,
Puffballs & Morels*



Wild Ones Volunteers Ed Kletecka, Volunteer Coordinator

Wild Ones volunteers have been a very busy group of people in the past two months. They have helped or in some cases, made possible, six events: Gardening for Food and Fun, Earth Day, Woodland Plant Sale, Bird Fest, Woodland Yard Tour, and the Prairie Plant Sale. The event chairmen requested a total of 69 volunteers and we ended up with 61 but they still got the job done. Several people volunteered for more than one event, this make my job a lot easier. Here are the volunteers that got the job done.

Gardening for Fun and Food coordinated by Tim Lewis: volunteers Anita Johnson, Steven Hall, Guy Smith, Bonnie Campbell, Carla Womack, Jude Wrzesinski, and Constance McCarthy.

Earth Day coordinated by Tim Lewis: volunteers Ed Foster, Karen Gallagher, Ben Gallagher, Dora May Meredith, and Guy Smith.

Woodland Plant Sale coordinated by Kim Risely: volunteers Ty Haynes, Sharon Bramel, John Peterson, Ed Kletecka, Marty Kuminowski, Barb Kuminowski, Janet Giesen, Karen Gallagher, Ben Gallagher, John Todt, and Barbara Flores.

Bird fest also coordinated by Tim Lewis with volunteers Judy Peterson, John Peterson, Marcia DeClerk, Carla Womack, Dave Johnson, Anita Johnson, Mary Anne Mathwich, Guy Smith, and Mary Thiesing.

Woodland Yard Tours coordinated by Lenae Weichel at the yards of Kim Risley and Ginnie Watson: volunteers Teri Hoffman, Kevin Holdman, Janet Giesen, Meryl Domina, and Sharon Bramel.

Prairie Plant Sale coordinated by Constance McCarthy: volunteers Anita Johnson, Ed Kletecka, Dick Noser, Barbara Flores, Terry Mohaupt, Marcia DeClerk, Guy Smith, Karen Matz, Kirby Doyle, Ginnie Watson, Tim Lewis, Kathy Ayres, Steven Hall, Guy Smith, Dora May Meredith, John Gerrond, Pat Shubert, and Sheryl Almquist Hall.

THANK YOU volunteers for all your help and a special thanks to the people that coordinated these events, Tim Lewis, Constance McCarthy. Kim Risley, and Lenae Weichel.



May Meeting Recap Cathy Schafman

Photos by Tim Lewis



Dr. Gregory Mueller

Dr. Gregory Mueller has a vast background in the field of fungi. He gave us much information about the ecology of mushrooms and shared some experiences from his many years in his profession.

Fungi are very important to our ecosystem. Some of them are decomposers, or recyclers, and break down dead organic materials. Some of them form symbiotic relationships with plants. These mycorrhizal fungi interact with roots

and grow out into the soil acting as extensions of the plant root system. The fungi gets food from the plant, but helps the plant absorb water and nutrients. Dr. Mueller showed us pictures of pine trees with and without mycorrhizal fungi. The ones with the fungi had much more vigorous growth. We know that garlic mustard is a notorious invasive. Adding to the damage that these plants do replacing native species, their roots also kill any fungal structures in the soil, therefore garlic mustard changes the native soil.

Mushrooms are a type of fungi associated with trees. The mushroom is a temporary reproductive structure of a much larger organism living in the substrata. The fungal cells in the soil look like a web of fine threads packed together. This network is called the mycelium and it interacts with the environment. Some large mycelium can be very old. Mushrooms begin as small caps above the mycelium. When it rains, the mushrooms take in water rapidly and appear overnight.

The next section of Dr. Mueller's presentation was the identification of mushrooms. One or several mushroom guides are needed to help identify mushrooms. Careful observation is required. He shared with us vocabulary that would be in these guides:

cap - pileus

stem - stipe

gills - lamellae

scales - squamules

swollen base - bulbous base

The shape, texture, size, odor, and possible taste of the mushroom should be noted. One of Dr. Mueller's favorite eatable mushroom is called the Black Trumpet,

Infundibuliform. It is small, funnel shaped, and appears on oaks in June or July. Some mushrooms, like the Yellow Chanterelles, do not have true gills. Some mushrooms have cores. Spores are the means of reproduction of mushrooms. They are forcefully shot from the underside of the structure between the gills. The cap is always parallel to the ground for this purpose. One identification feature can be the color of the spores. To learn this, you can make a spore print. Remove the stem of a mushroom, and put in on white paper. Put a cup over the top and wait for 4-5 hours. You should be able to see a clear spore print of the mushroom.

Some mushrooms are eatable. Some will cause intestinal distress, and some are lethal. Never eat old mushrooms of any type. If you touch a mushroom and it turns blue where your finger was, do not eat it. Dr. Mueller suggested that you always cook the mushrooms you eat. He said that would kill any organisms growing on them. Cooking also breaks down some compounds in mushrooms that are hard to digest. He also thinks mushrooms have much more flavor when cooked. Some eatable and lethal mushrooms look very similar. Many features are alike, with few differences, so great care should be taken for identification before eating. Also, some people might get sick from eatable mushrooms, so Dr. Mueller only ingests a small amount of a new mushroom and makes sure he has no reaction. Puff balls are eatable, if fresh. They need to be cut in half. If the flesh is very white, it is eatable, although there is no flavor.

If an herbicide has been used near an area where a mushroom is picked, it can be affected.

Dr. Mueller has written the book *Edible Wild Mushroom of Illinois and Surrounding States* He also suggested the website www.illinoismushrooms.com.

Wild mushrooms are a very interesting subject, and some are delicious to eat, but great care needs to be taken if you are going to hunt and ingest them.

Dr. Mueller
and
Larry McMcPherson



2010 Plant Rescue John Peterson, Plant Rescue Chair

Photos by John Peterson

On the morning of Sunday, May 2, more than 20 members of our Wild Ones Chapter gathered on the westside of Rockford to help rescue native woodland plants in an area that is gradually being developed by the owners of the property. Because of the extended timeline for completing the project, this provided us with yet another year (our 4th) to rescue from the abundance of native plants and shrubs that grow on the property. Most people collected at least dozen plants from among eight or so species, resulting in a total of more those 200

plants that are now safe and growing at their new homes. Our thanks to Wild Ones member, Kim Risley, who, for the

fourth consecutive year, was able to obtain permission for us to rescue plants. Kim, along with Tim Lewis, also functioned as our on-site woodland plant experts that day and offered their guidance and woodland plant scouting ability to all those present. In order to provide much needed sustenance to the Sunday morning rescuers, Tim treated us to a homemade rhubarb cake made from his secret recipe. Thanks to all how attended and helped out.



Guy Smith



Kim Risley, Karen Matz and Janet Giesen

(L) Bobby Lambiotte, longtime member and longtime rescuer.

(R) Janet Giesen with her plant sled



Arisaema triphyllum

12" – 30" high
Jack-in-the-Pulpit Shade
Mesic soil

A very pointed sheath comes up in the spring from which the three leaves of Jack-in-the-Pulpit emerge from its underground corms. In April or May, a green and brown flower forms, which is covered by a spathe. Later, the flower develops into bright red fruits reminiscent of corn on the cob.

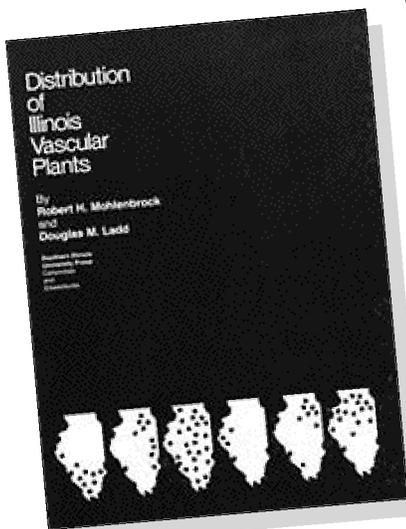


Merchandise Update

submitted by Shey Lowman, Merchandise Coordinator



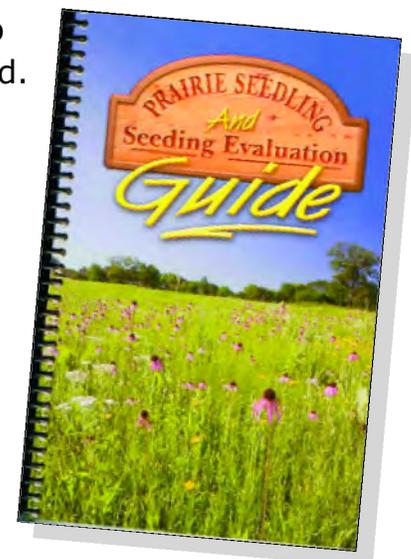
The **Parsnip Predator** is a remarkable tool for killing thistle, Queen Anne's Lace as well as for excising the pestiferous Wild Parsnip, *Pastinaca sativa*, while allowing you to stay on your feet! Made for slicing tap roots below soil level, it is light weight and ergonomic too. Make this investment at \$40.00 and save \$2.00.



We still have a few copies available of Mohlenbrock and Ladd's ***Distribution of Illinois Vascular Plants***. This 1978 book shows the distribution, by county, of every vascular plant known to occur in Illinois as a native, naturalized, or escaped species. It is the only book showing the location of Illinois native plants outside the Chicago area. Over 3,000 plants are listed. This fabulous book sells for \$28.00, get yours while they last!

The Prairie Seedling and Seeding Evaluation Guide is

a must have reference to have for identifying native plants and weeds as they emerge. This is a privately published book that is hard to find and a bargain at \$12.00.



Check out the clothing closeouts at the next meeting and save \$10 - \$30!

Thank you for your continued support of merchandise for the Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter! If you have a special request or want any merchandise reserved for you, please send me an email at slowman@niu.edu.

A Tree Grows in Pecatonica By Constance McCarthy

Last month I wrote about how to determine the age of a tree by measuring its circumference at 54 inches above the ground and then applying a formula based on what type of tree it is. I promised a follow up this month on two chapter members, Marcia and LaVerne Johnson, who did this very activity on their own land, with some amazing results.

While taking the Master Naturalist course through the University of Illinois Extension--Winnebago County, Marcia became interested in restoring an oak savanna on their farm in the Pecatonica area. One bur oak in particular caught her eye -- a tree which they now affectionately refer to as Ernie.

This tree's circumference measured 13 feet, or 156 inches. Divided by 3.14, results in a diameter of 49.68 inches. The multiplier for bur oaks is 5. That makes this tree an incredible 248.4 years old. As Marcia notes, in 1762 it was merely an acorn.

John Richards of Tree Care Enterprises came out to see this magnificent tree for himself, and he and his crew spent a day at the Johnson's farm this spring to remove some dead wood from this tree and others in the savanna. Marcia and LaVerne burned the savanna last year, but he says that they likely won't do this again. Numerous limbs of the bur oak come very close to the ground, and the burning seemed to give the tree a "good smack." The area had been rather heavily grazed in the past, but they are hopeful that some part of a seed bank might still be there.

Our Wild Ones chapter is serving as a resource partner for Marcia as she undertakes her Master Naturalist project to restore the savanna. Watch this space for future updates as the project moves along. We wish the Johnsons (and Ernie) the best of luck in this undertaking!



2010 Chapter Programs and Events

Date/Time	Program	Speaker	Location
June 17 7:00 PM	<i>Photographing Native Plants</i>	Tim Lewis National Board Director, Wild Ones	Burpee Museum of Natural History
July 15 7:00 PM	<i>Yard Tour/Evening Social</i> Members Only	Home of Lenae Weichel and Kevin Holdmann	1438 Collingswood Dr Rockford, IL 61103
Aug.-Sept.	<i>Native Shrub and Tree Sale</i> Orders taken during this time See brochure for complete details	John Peterson Native Tree & Shrub Sale Coordinator	
August 19 7:00 PM	<i>The Missing Link The Transition from Canopy to Ground: The Ecology, Culture and Use of Shrubs and Small Trees</i>	Professor John Harrington University of WI - Madison	Burpee Museum of Natural History
Sept	<i>Native Tree & Shrub Pickup</i> See brochure for complete detail	John Peterson Native Tree & Shrub Sale Coord.	
Sept. 16 7:00 p.m.	<i>Reptiles & Amphibians</i>	Lisa Johnson	Burpee Museum of Natural History
October 21 7:00 p.m.	<i>To Be Determined</i>		Burpee Museum of Natural History
November 18 7:00 p.m.	<i>Pot Luck and Seed Exchange</i> All Members only welcome with or without seeds Bring a dish to share.		Burpee Museum of Natural History
December	<i>No Meeting-Happy Holidays!</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 **6/1/2010**, 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 and Chairs

President: Constance McCarthy 815-282-0316 (kublai@mac.com) *Youth Education & Grants Chair:* Kim Lowman Vollmer 815-397-6044 (kimlowvol@aol.com)
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Plant Rescue Chair: John Peterson 815-248-2110 (tacmot@msn.com)
Show Me/Help Me Chair: Lenae Weichel 815-282-5482 (lenae@weichel.org) *Merchandise Chair:* Shey Lowman 815-757-4456 (slowman@niu.edu)

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.