

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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One Drop at a Time: Sustainable Stormwater Management for Homeowners

Location: **KLEHM ARBORETUM**
2715 S. Main St., Rockford IL 61102

Time: **7:00–9:00 pm**



With its green roof, bioswale, rain gardens, and other “green” applications, this residential pilot project in Elmhurst brings to life the principles of responsible treatment of rainwater within a residential landscape. Marcus de la fleur will speak about the rationales of the applied sustainable practices, explain how to make a yard not only beautiful but also useful and “green”, and describe and quantify the larger cumulative effect of taking these eminently doable “green” steps.

Marcus de la fleur is an Associate and Registered Landscape Architect, running his own design and consulting firm (de la fleur LLC) in Chicago, Illinois. He received his horticultural degree from the School of Horticulture at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and obtained his Masters in Landscape Architecture at the University of Sheffield, both in England. Marcus presently leads and manages several site planning, design, and engineering projects at various scales, some of them LEED rated or registered. These projects combine brownfield site developments, urban design, waterfront treatments, planting design, and native landscape restoration.

He has extensive field experience in sustainable technology application through his past work in Germany, Switzerland, and England. Marcus has taught two international MLA studios in Germany and has published articles on the use of prairie species in landscape design and on planning principles for botanical institutions. He frequently presents at conferences and seminars in North America and abroad on subjects of green technologies and sustainable applications. Marcus has started to apply a variety of sustainable principles to the landscape at his residence. He uses this pilot project to demonstrate the applicability, aesthetic opportunities, and cumulative benefits of sustainable landscape treatments at the residential scale and neighborhood scale.

This program is presented by the Rock River Valley chapter of Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes, and is generously co-sponsored by the Four Rivers Environmental Coalition and the University of Illinois Extension--Winnebago County.

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 April 2010 newsletter, must be submitted to the Newsletter Editor, at: dkcamps@aol.com by March 23, 2010.

Message from the President Constance McCarthy

Thoughts on annual survey results

Many thanks to those who returned the annual membership survey at the end of last year. I know that I've said it before, but the your input is an essential tool for improving the chapter and being sure that our efforts are responsive to what our members want. However, the first and foremost guidance for all our activities is the mission statement of Wild Ones:

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.

In the planning of our monthly educational programs, this mission statement is always the first criterion that must be considered, namely whether the topic being considered relates to the preservation, restoration, and/or establishment of natives plant communities.

Thus, some suggested program topics, such as composting and local foods, while likely of interest to a good number of our members, are not best addressed at a Wild Ones meeting. Don't get me wrong--I'm a member of the local foods working group and a Master Composter (both through the University of Illinois Extension--Winnebago County office), and these things are near and

dear to my heart. I am happy to pass along info to our members about programs offered by other organizations on topics such as these.

Another interesting tidbit about our monthly programs: because our speakers are often quite in-demand, most of our programs are scheduled up to one year in advance. Thus, topics suggested in the most recent membership survey might not find their way onto the schedule until later in 2010 or in 2011.

I pass along this information so that no one should feel that their suggestions are not being taken into account. I hope that I'm finding an appropriate middle ground by sharing info on programs offered by other groups, while keeping the focus of Wild Ones programs squarely on our mission.



Kim Risley and Patricia Hill prepared for the February meeting

photo by Larry McPherson

Membership Update Marilyn Heneghan, Membership Chair

172 memberships on March 1, 2010

Welcome New Members:

Wes Robinson
Monica Putnam & Jim Williams

Special Thanks to Recent Rock River Valley Chapter Donators

(any amount about the \$30 basic dues)
Kim Lowman-Volmer
Jerry & Mary Baker
Dick & Pam Gambrel
Don & Marilyn Heneghan

70 attended the January program

A thank you to Lynda & Lee Johnson for helping to greet members at the February program.

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.

2010 Show Me/Help Me Days Lenae Weichel, Chairperson

As you likely know, Show Me/Help Me Days are opportunities to tour yards of chapter members. We hope each tour will contain both established landscapes (“show me”) and yards with potential and need of ideas or plans (“help me”). Chapter members of all levels of experience and knowledge can participate together to learn and share.

We are now looking for a selection of landscapes to tour. Do you have a yard that you have been working on for a while that is showing the beautiful fruits of your labor? Are you trying to determine what you have, what to do, and how to do it? Or does your landscape represent a little of both scenarios; you have some great things going

but need some ideas or information to get other things started? If any of these situations describe yours, your land should be on one of our Show Me/Help Me tours!

It matters not whether you have a small city lot or a rambling country estate. Location is also not a big factor because we will try to schedule different dates in particular areas so we can spend as much time as possible at each location.

Are you interested? Please contact Lenae Weichel, Show Me/Help Me Chairperson, at [lenaeweichel.org](mailto:lenaeweichel@weichel.org) or 815-282-5482 to volunteer your property or for more information. (Thanks to those of you who indicated your interest in the annual survey. I'll be getting in touch soon!)

Board of Directors in Action Shey Lowman, Secretary

Highlights of activities of the Board of Directors, as discussed at the February 11, 2010 meeting, include the following:

- Wild Ones RRVC is a partnering organization with the University of Illinois Extension, Master Naturalist Program. A non-discrimination agreement has been signed as part of the partnership.
- The following book was approved to add to the lending library: *The Blue Thumb Guide to Raingardens - Design and Installation for Homeowners in the Upper Midwest*. More information is available at www.bluthumb.org/raingardens.
- Plant Sale season is here! Order forms are out for the Woodland Plant Sale. Plants have been selected for the Prairie Plant Sale, forms will be with the March newsletter, Constance McCarthy is the coordinator.
- Seeds for Education Grants have been awarded, there were 48 applications from 12 Chapters. The process was all on-line this year saving a lot of time.
- There will be a plant rescue in May, those of you who signed up will be notified with the details shortly beforehand, so keep an eye on your email.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, April 8, 2010, 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.

There is a photo of the late Fran Lowman's home on page 7, lower left, in the Prairie Moon catalog. You can view it at www.prairiemoon.com



Merchandise Price List

Item Description	Mail Order Price	Our Price
BOOKS-		
Bringing Nature Home.....	\$17.95	\$15.00
Landscaping with Native Plants Booklet	\$10.00	\$ 5.00
Prairie Seeding and Seeding Evaluation Guide	\$14.00	\$12.00
STUFF-		
"In Celebration of Nature" Totes.....	\$10.00	\$ 5.00
Parsnip Predator	\$42.00	\$40.00
Wild Ones Center Mug.....	\$12.00	\$10.00
Wild Ones Yard Sign.....	\$29.00	\$24.00
CLOTHING-		
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!

Merchandise is available at Wild Ones meetings.
If you have a special request or would like merchandise reserved for you, please email Shey Lowman at slowman@niu.edu.

February Meeting Recap Cathy Schafman

Patricia Hill has been a landscaper for 25 years, evolving into using native plants to the Midwest the last decade. She is helping to form a new Wild Ones chapter in Kane County. She combines native plants with the client's existing cultivars if that is their preference. Therefore, her topic was combining native plants with exotic perennials if you aren't quite ready to go all the way. She showed many beautiful pictures of projects she has designed to a capacity crowd. She always uses plugs, rather than seed, and she mulches to deter weeds. As the plants grow, they fill areas and leave no room for weeds. She suggested having at least 3 plants blooming at each time during the growing season. She shared with us a list of prairie plants that she thought were "well behaved" enough to put on a normal city lot for those who would like to enjoy a native garden. She used both common and scientific names so a gardener of any experience could understand it. I will share with you some of her suggestions by the month.

The abbreviation for the month the flower blooms will precede the plant.

- AMJ** Prairie Smoke (*Geum triflorum*)
- M** Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon meadia*)
- M** Heart-leaved Meadow Parsnip (*Zizia aurea*)
- MJ** Prairie Alum Root (*Heuchera richardsonii*) This is a native heuchera that is more valued for the leaves than the bloom.
- MJ** Ohio Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*)
- MJ** Blue Wild Indigo (*Baptisia australis*) This plant gets to be a bush shape. The flowers are stunning and the seed pods make a following attraction.
- MJ** Foxglove Beard Tongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)
- JJA** Wild Quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*) Patricia said this tall white flower is one of the longer blooming natives.
- JJ** Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*)
- JJ** Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) This needs well drained soil.
- J** Stiff Coreopsis (*Coreopsis palmata*)
- JA** Nodding Onion (*Allium cernuum*)
- JA** Prairie Baby's Breath (*Euphorbia corollata*)
- JA** Purple Prairie Clover (*Dalea ,Petalostemum, purpureum*)
- JA** False Sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthus*)

- JA** Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)
- JA** Rattlesnake Master (*Erygium yuccafillium*)
- AS** Frost Aster (*Aster ptarmicoides*)
- AS** Rough Blazing Star (*Liatris aspera*)
- S** Showy Goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*)
- SO** Sky Blue Aster (*Aster azureus*)

Grasses are an important part of native gardens. Here are several that Patricia suggested:

- AS** Purple Love Grass (*Eragrostis spectabilis* WD)
- ASO** Prairie Drop Seed (*Sporobolus heterolophus*) This was in many of the gardens as either a border plant or as a species within the garden with other native cultivars growing up through.
- ASO** Little Blue Stem (*Andropogon scoparius*)

Patricia does not think you have to have a huge prairie to enjoy prairie plants. She suggests to arrange them in open borders, an island bed, or use them to replace part of your lawn. You will have the enjoyment of the plants plus you will provide the birds and butterflies needed habitat. The most important thing is it helps connect you to the natural world from which so much in our life removes us. Patricia has written a book titled *"Design Your Natural Midwest Garden"*. It is in our Wild Ones lending library if you would like to see beautiful pictures of native plant combinations. If you would like to see growing requirement of the above listed plant, check your wildflower guides.



Patricia Hill signs her book for a guest after the February Wild Ones meeting.

photo by Larry McPherson

2010 Chapter Programs and Events

Date/Time	Program	Speaker	Location
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>	
April 15 7:00 PM	<i>Butterflies in the Garden</i>	Jane Grillo Monarch Watch participant	Burpee Museum of Natural History
April 20	<i>Last Day Woodland plant orders will be accepted</i>	Kim Risley Woodland Sale Coord.	
April 30	<i>Last Day Prairie plant orders will be accepted</i>	Constance McCarthy Plant Sale Coord.	
April 30 & May 1	<i>Pick Up Woodland Plant Orders</i> See order form for full details	Kim Risley Woodland plant Coord.	3007 Vinton Ave. Rockford, IL (815) 962-4584
May 8 1:00 - 4:00 PM	<i>Woodland "Open Yard" Tour</i> For additional information contact	For additional information contact Lenae Weichel at 815-962-2725	Watson Yard 3703 Highcrest Rd. Risley Yard 3007 Vinton Ave.
May 14 & May 15	<i>Pick Up Prairie Plant Orders</i> See order form for full details	Constance McCarthy Prairie Plant Sale Coord.	7208 N. 2nd St Machesney Park, (815) 282-0316
May 20 7:00 PM	<i>Edible Mushrooms of Illinois</i>	Gregory Mueller Coauthor of <u><i>Edible Mushrooms</i></u> <u><i>of Illinois and Surrounding States</i></u>	Burpee Museum of Natural History
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		To Be Determined
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

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 **3/1/2010**, 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 (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

Wild Ones Mission

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