



Rock River Valley Chapter Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue 1

January 2011

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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Propagating Native Plants From Seed Thursday, January 20, 2011

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

Time: 7:00 pm

As home landscapers, many of us have been active planting native plants - grasses, forbs and ferns, into our landscapes. The use of natives has occurred in many different situations - some in small "town" yards, others in one-acre or more plots and still others in larger restoration settings. When planting native plants, seeds of plants that germinate fairly easily are often sown directly into the ground, or plants are purchased, rescued, or traded for planting in their new homes. Many of our past monthly meetings have provided us with a great deal of useful information about the how and why of using native plantings both for the environment and to encourage the native birds, pollinators and various "critters" back into our landscapes. We have also learned about collecting and storing seeds from native plants. The question then becomes, "What do I do with the seed I have collected? Can I grow those plants that do not easily germinate from seed myself? How do I grow my own plants from the seed I have collected or bought?"

This month's presentation was created to answer those questions and more. Tim Lewis, our past chapter President and current President of the National Board for Wild Ones, will draw on his personal experiences in working at a local greenhouse and propagating natives at home, plus a variety of other authoritative resources to discuss:

- Why Grow Your Own (costs, germination conditions, specific growing conditions)
- Preparing Seeds (cleaning, storing and conditioning)
- Sowing Seeds (supplies for indoor propagation, how to sow, germinating)
- Growing Plants (germination, storing conditions for sown seeds, lighting, temperatures)
- Transplanting Seedlings (potting and caring for the plants)
- Growing Outdoors (preparing for the great outdoors, growing in pots outdoors, and over wintering)

If you have ever wished you could have a lot more of your favorite plants or wish to try your hand at growing your own plants to use in your landscaping endeavors, this is a meeting you will not want to miss. Please join us on Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Burpee Museum of Natural History, 737 N. Main St., Rockford, IL to learn how you too can grow your own native plants from seed.

This program is free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact Mary Thiesing at (815) 874-3975.

Submitted by Mary Thiesing, Program Chair



Articles for the February 2011 newsletter, must be submitted to the Newsletter Editor, at: dkcamps@aol.com by January 23, 2011.

2011 Chapter Programs and Events

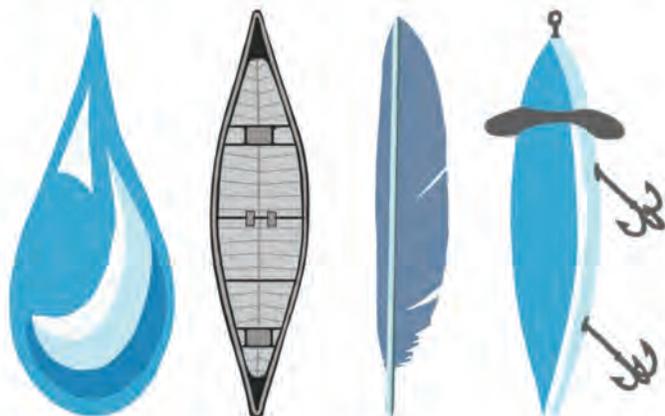
January 20 7:00 p.m.	Propagating Native Plants From Seed	Tim Lewis Wild Ones National Board President	Burpee Museum of Natural History
February 17 7:00 p.m.	Wild Ones Members Photo Yard Tour A visual tour of Wild Ones members native planting projects	Lisa Johnson - Coord. (815) 965-3433 x 1018	Burpee Museum of Natural History
March 17 7:00 p.m.	Nature's Second Chance: Restoring the Ecology of Stone Prairie Farm	Steve Apfelbaum Corrine Daniels Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries	Burpee Museum of Natural History
Mar. -Apr.	Native Plant Sales Orders taken during this time	Kim Risley Woodland plant Coord. Constance McCarthy Plant Sale Coord.	

Unless noted, programs are free and open to the public. Programs are subject to change.
Please contact Mary Thiesing at (815) 874-3975 for more information.



A River Gathering

June 16-19 2011 **Rockford, Illinois**
education, recreation, preservation, history, stewardship



**Celebrate
the beauty,
ecology, and
recreation of
our region's
greatest
natural assets.**

RockValleyCollege

FOUR RIVERS
ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION

Mark your calendars...Registration begins in March!

Make plans to share photos of your yards at the February meeting.

Please contact Lisa Johnson to let her know:

1. That you would like to share with us.
2. How you would like to share (digital, photo display, etc.)
3. If you will speak or if you would someone else to present for you.
4. If you are willing to speak on behalf of another member who is sharing.

Contact Lisa by email at Lisa.Johnson@burpee.org or 815-965-3433.

New Program for Chapter Volunteers in 2011 By Constance McCarthy

At our December board meeting, it was decided to implement a new program in 2011 to acknowledge all the hard work done by chapter members as volunteers.

Here's how it goes: Every time a person volunteers for the chapter, that person's name will be put in a hat (perhaps even a nice Wild Ones baseball cap!). The more you volunteer, the more times you name will go into the hat.

At the annual seed exchange and potluck in November, we will draw three names. (You need not be present to win.) Those three winners will each receive a gift certificate to our chapter's merchandise store (operated by Shey Lowman at our monthly meetings). Of course board members are not eligible for this program, as it is our intention to recognize and encourage more folks to volunteer on behalf of the chapter.

Possibilities for volunteering at our monthly meetings include: providing refreshments, setting up the sound equipment, acting as library assistant, helping to greet folks at the welcome table, taking photographs, writing a recap of the meeting for our newsletter, and providing overnight accommodations for an out-of-town presenter.

There are also possibilities to volunteer by staffing our

chapter's display booth at various events, such as Gardening for Food & Fun, Bird Fest, Earth Day, the woodland yard tour, and the Alternative Energy Fair. Setting up and breaking down the booth at these events would also get your name in the hat.

Other volunteer opportunities include helping with plant sales (two in the spring) or the tree sale (in the fall); helping the Plant Rescue Chair (John Peterson) or the Show Me / Help Me Chair (Lenae Weichel); acting as a mentor for a chapter member seeking to learn more about native plants (through our Mentor Program); helping with mailings; and tallying the results from our annual survey and election (a one-time task in the late fall or early winter).

There are other volunteer opportunities that will surely fall under this new program; the ones listed above are just those that came to mind as I'm writing this.

As always, if you're interested in volunteering, please contact the relevant board member or chair, or Ed Kletecka, our Volunteer Coordinator. Everyone's contact information in on the back of this newsletter.

Here's to much happy volunteering in 2011! Onward and upward!

Membership Update Marilyn Heneghan, Membership Chair

167 memberships on January 1, 2011

Welcome new member

Joe & Dian Dailing

Special Thanks to Recent Rock River Valley Chapter Donators

(any amount about the \$30 basic dues)

Larry McPheron

Janet Giesen

20 attended the November Pot Luck and Seed Exchange.

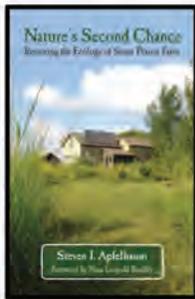
Note: It is preferred that renewal donations be sent directly to the Chapter's Membership Chair, Marilyn Heneghan, rather than to the national office. Processing goes quicker this way for the chapter. Your expiration date is on your newsletter and your Journal address label. Thank you.

"NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES"
Please notify Marilyn Heneghan at informationoptions@att.net if you change your email address.

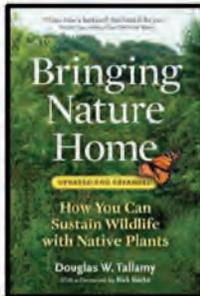
Dues payments can be sent either directly to the National Office or to the Chapter Membership Chair, Marilyn Heneghan. Forty percent of the dues paid, regardless of the amount, are shared with Rock River Valley Chapter. Members wishing to make donations specifically for the local chapter, should make 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.

Merchandise Update Shey Lowman, Merchandise Coordinator

We have exciting new merchandise for you to start off this exciting new year!



Steven Apfelbaum will be here to talk to us on **March 17** about **Nature's Second Chance: Restoring the Ecology of Stone Prairie Farm**. Steven is the owner of Applied Ecological Services and lives near Juda, WI. You will want to read his book so you can thoroughly enjoy his presentation and get your copy signed by this remarkable and engaging author. **\$16.00**



Mark your calendars! On **October 20**, Douglas Tallamy, the renowned author of **Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants**, will be right here at the Burpee Museum of Natural History! This excellent book is a must read for all Wild Ones. Prairie Moon Nursery says, "Buy, borrow, or steal this book! It is essential reading with ideas that need to become part of our understanding of how life works on this planet." In addition this book is a good read. Have yours ready to be signed! **\$18.00**



Designing Gardens with Flora of the American East by Carolyn Summers is the perfect follow-up book to Douglas Tallamy's *Bringing Nature Home*. Tallamy makes the case for using native plants, Summers tells you how to do it. She covers everything from understanding indigenous plants, cultivars, hybrids, invasive plants to specific plant recommendations for wildlife support and landscape design. There are many plant lists for specific applications; woodland, fern glade, meadow, etc. **\$24.00**



The Inside Story by Janice Stiefel is a Wild Ones exclusive. Originally all 66 of Janice's articles appeared in the Wild Ones' *The Outside Story* and the Wild Ones Journal in black and white, and without photos. But this 80-page book is printed in full color, and includes photos of the plants and related insects. Janice was an important part of Wild Ones' early history. You'll enjoy her book. Lovingly compiled by her husband, John, each book has been personally inscribed and signed by him. **\$25.00**



Finally we bring you the thorn and bramble protection that you have been asking for! **The Pallina Pruning Sleeve** made from rugged nylon and polyurethane material, fully lined for protection. They have covered knuckles and thumb for added protection, Velcro adjustment, UV resistance, bound seams, daisy chain elastic finger stays, and a asymmetrical custom fit cuff. **\$25.00**

Use these pruning sleeves with either *grain pigskin*, *grain* or *split cowhide* gloves for best puncture resistance, available wherever work gloves are sold.

Message from the President Constance McCarthy

You Say Goodbye (Sort Of), I Say Hello

The New Year brings a few changes to our chapter's board of directors. First, Kim Risley has given up her position as Program Chair. I am very grateful for all the hard work that Kim put into this role, as our outstanding programs are widely recognized in the community and have played a crucial role in the growth of the chapter. While you might just see Kim buzzing about the room at our monthly meetings, there is much work that goes on behind the scenes to make things run as smoothly as they do.

Lucky for us, she is staying on the board as Vice President this year. This will be especially helpful for the transition. Plus, I am happy that she will remain as a sounding board for ideas, as her input while serving on the board has been invaluable. Finally, she will be staying on as co-chair of the woodland plant sale, as Barbara Flores learns the ropes this year. Welcome to Barbara, and thank you so much for taking on this responsibility for the chapter!

On the "hello" front, I'd like to welcome Mary Thiesing to the board, as she is the incoming Program Chair. Kim's job as Program Chair is being bifurcated, so that Mary will do all the behind-the-scenes work to organize our monthly educational programs. I've worked with Mary as a Master Gardener on quite a few projects over the past 10 years, including the Education Committee and the Garden Fair at Klehm Arboretum. Mary has extensive experience organizing programs for Master Gardeners,

and has been the chair of Gardening for Food and Fun for many years. She is also a Master Naturalist and a Master Composter. We are so lucky to have someone with her many talents joining us. Another welcome, to Mary!

I'm still looking for someone to handle just the program-related tasks at our monthly meetings. (This is the other half of the job previously done entirely by Kim.) This will basically involve making sure that things are set up properly and welcoming our guest speaker. As with most tasks, this one can be shared so that one need not worry about attending every meeting. And as always, I'd be over the moon if someone would step up to do this. Even if you are only interested in doing part of the task (sharing it with some other person), that would put me half way to filling this position. Anyone....? (My contact information is on the back of this newsletter.)

*L to R, Sheryl
Almquist Hall,
Kim Risley, and
Janet Giesen at
the November
2010 Seed
Exchange.
Kim explains the
attributes of the
plants that the
seeds will
produce.*



Board of Directors in Action Shey Lowman, Secretary

Highlights of activities of the Board of Directors, as discussed at the December 9, 2010 meeting, include the following:

To provide information for our members, Wild Ones will have a representative at the Winnebago Forest Preserve Board meetings beginning in January. A written recap will be included in the newsletter.

- Plans for the Prairie Plant Sale are under way with the initial order being made in March. We are looking for a member interested in co-chairing the sale, please contact Constance to volunteer, kublaikhan@mac.com.
- The following books have been added to the outstanding resources in the Lending Library:

The Inside Story by Janice Stiefel
Restoring Restoring Ecological Health to Your Land by Steven Apfelbaum
Designing Gardens With Flora Of The American East by Carolyn Summers

Wild Urban Plants of the Northeast, a field guide by Peter Del Tredici

Invasive Plants, Guide to the Identification and the Impact and Control of Common North American Species by Sylvan & Wallace Kaufman
Gardeners of Eden by Dan Daggett

- Look for new incentives to reward volunteers for their invaluable service to Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter. Beginning in 2011, volunteers will have their names added to a pool for a drawing at the November potluck. Each time a member volunteers, their name will be added to the pool. This year, three lucky volunteers will receive a \$25 gift certificate for Wild Ones merchandise, which is available at monthly meetings.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, February 10, 2011, 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.



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 **1/1/2011**, 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

<i>President:</i> Constance McCarthy 815-282-0316 (kublai@mac.com)	<i>Librarian:</i> Ginnie Watson (815) 398.0138 VSWatson47@aol.com
<i>Vice President:</i> Kim Risley 815-962-4584 (rip-cord01@comcast.net)	<i>Show Me/Help Me Chair:</i> Lenae Weichel 815-282-5482 (lenae@weichel.org)
<i>Program Chair:</i> Mary Thiesing (815) 874-3975 (mvteorgis@verizon.net)	<i>Youth Education & Grants Chair:</i> Kim Lowman Vollmer 815-397-6044 (kimlowvol@aol.com)
<i>Secretary:</i> Shey Lowman 815-757-4456 (slowman@niu.edu)	<i>Volunteer Coordinator:</i> Ed Kletecka (815) 389.0120 fiero2@charter.net
<i>Treasurer:</i> Janet Giesen 815-899-6139 (giesen@niu.edu)	<i>Booth Coordinator, FREC representative:</i> Tim Lewis (815) 874.3468 natives.tim@comcast.net
<i>Membership Chair:</i> Marilyn Heneghan 815-389-7869 (informationoptions@att.net)	<i>Refreshments Coordinator:</i> Bev Crittenden (815) 964.8252 bevcrit@aol.com
<i>Newsletter Editor:</i> Pambi Camacho 815-332-7637 (dkcamps@aol.com)	<i>Merchandise Chair:</i> Shey Lowman 815-757-4456 (slowman@niu.edu)
<i>Plant Rescue Chair:</i> John Peterson 815-248-2110 (tacmot@msn.com)	

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.wildones.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.