

**Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.**

**Inside this issue:**

Message from the President	2
Tinker Swiss Cottage	3
Board of Directors in Action	3
February Meeting Recap	4-5
Chapter Mini Grants	5
Clothing Sale	6
2011 Chapter Calendar	7
Chapter Contact Information	8

*Nature's Second Chance:  
Restoring the Ecology of Stone Prairie Farm  
Thursday, March 17, 2011*

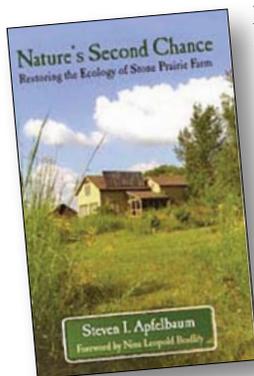
**Location: Burpee Museum of Natural History**  
737 N. Main St., Rockford IL

**Time: 7:00 pm**

*We must understand and improve  
our relationship with the land.*

So begins the introduction by Steven Apfelbaum to his 2009 book, *Nature's Second Chance: Restoring the Ecology of Stone Prairie Farm*. Mr. Apfelbaum is the founder, president, and senior ecologist of Applied Ecological Services (AES) and will discuss the particulars of his own ecological restoration of the eighty-acre Stone Prairie Farm in southern Wisconsin. He and his partner, Susan Lenhardt, have spent nearly thirty years recreating the prairie, wetland, and woodlands that stood before agriculture changed the face of the landscape. Mr. Apfelbaum offers unique insights into the biological world, the processes of ecological recovery, and how humans might play a starring role in healing the planet by implementing Aldo Leopold's land ethic, "one farm, lot, or brownfield at a time."

Mr. Apfelbaum will be joined by Corrine Daniels, vice-president of Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries (a division of AES). Ms. Daniels will share information on how people in our area have used AES and Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries to form their own bonds and relationship with the land.



Please join us to learn why and how to restore the land on which we live. Copies of the book, *Nature's Second Chance: Restoring the Ecology of Stone Prairie Farm*, will be available for purchase; or bring your own to be signed by the author.

This program is free and open to the public.  
For more information, please contact  
Lenae Weichel at 815-282-5482.

Submitted by Lenae Weichel  
Show Me/Help Me Chair & Interim Program Chair



Articles for the April 2011 newsletter, must be submitted to the Newsletter Editor, at: [dkcamps@aol.com](mailto:dkcamps@aol.com) by March 23, 2011.

## *Message from the President* Constance McCarthy

### **Sustainability Afoot in the Rockford Area**

Shortly after last month's newsletter went to print, some I attended the Sustainability Summit in Rockford, organized by the Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning and the Rockford Region Economic Development District, in late February. The project, Rockford Region Vital Signs, was awarded a significant federal grant to prepare and implement a 20-year plan to make our region more sustainable. Not just sustainable the way some of us in the green community think about things, but considering a wide range of core areas, including housing, transportation, health, education, energy, water, land, and biodiversity (plus numerous others).

I was happy to see that areas of concern to many Wild Ones members will be part of the plan, and the plan directors have said that they will be reaching out to organizations that have an interest in the core areas. Unfortunately, I saw only two other kindred organizations represented at the summit, and I personally found out only at the last minute, second-hand, about the event (and not even in my capacity as a representative of our chapter). There was no shortage of politicians and representatives of various government agencies, but almost no familiar faces from, for example, other members of the Four Rivers Environmental Coalition.



I hope that the plan directors will make a more concerted effort to connect with the many organizations in our area that would surely have valuable input to offer in the drafting of the plan. I was quite surprised at the seeming lack of outreach for this summit, but am looking forward to having our voices heard in this regional effort to build a more sustainable (in every sense of the word) community.



*Lisa Johnson and Mary Ann Mathwich presenting photos at the February meeting*

Photo by Tim Lewis

## *Membership Update* Marilyn Heneghan, Membership Chair

### **162 memberships on March 1, 2011**

#### **Welcome new members**

Rick Cook  
Edward Jakaitis III

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

(any amount about the \$30 basic dues)

Nancy Castle  
John & Ruth Todt  
Tim & Janaan Lewis  
Karen Matz  
Lowell & Betty Edwards

A Thank you to Lisa Johnson and Janet Giesen for helping greet members.

**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.

## *Tinker Swiss Cottage Won!*

Tinker Swiss Cottage won a Seeds for Education Grant. They are planning a Prairie Meadow Restoration at their facility this summer with funds from the Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant administered by wild Ones: native Plants, Natural Landscapes. Here everyone, but especially the children will learn about native plants that have grown in this area for thousands of years, while getting a close-up view of butterflies, songbirds and other creatures that use the plants for food or shelter. Members of Wild Ones are invited to participate in this project. You can contact Sheryl Hall at 815-282-3952.

Seeds for Education Grants include technical assistance and advice from local experts. The grants honor Lorrie Otto who originated the modern era of school garden

By Kim Lowman Vollmer, Youth Education and Grant Chair

projects in the 1970's in the Milwaukee area. With our spring plant sale we will partner with them to help supply plants at a discount.

Our Chapter has been donating to the SFE program for many years and I have been judging SFE grants for many years also. It is wonderful to see some of the money being utilized in our area. Tinker Swiss Cottage is a part of Rockford's History and if you haven't been there to visit, here is another reason to go.



## *Congratulations to Bob Arevalo*

Belated congratulations to Bob Arevalo, a Master Naturalist and member of our chapter, who received the Seedling Award from Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden for outstanding volunteer service. Bob worked closely with John Moors, the Arboretum's Horticulture Director, to complete an important tree survey within the Arboretum.

Many of you may already know Bob as one of the SoundMeisters who sets up the sound system at our monthly meetings. Three cheers for Bob!

## *Board of Directors in Action* Shey Lowman, Secretary

Highlights of activities of the Board of Directors, as discussed at the February 10, 2011 meeting, include the following:

- Harris Bank has completed its transition in acquiring Amcore Bank, allowing us to have properly named checks and statements.
- Marilyn Heneghan did a wonderful job collecting the data from this year's membership survey. We need a volunteer to do this for next year, contact Marilyn or Constance if you are interested.
- Seeds for Education grants from National Wild Ones will now involve the local chapters. Any grants received by members of our chapter will have assistance with mentoring and follow-up.
- Ginnie Watson has developed a new system to help users of the lending library to find the books they need, be sure to check out the library at the next meeting.
- A motion was passed to donate \$250 toward the sponsorship of the FREC River Gathering in June.
- A motion was passed to make a \$500 contribution toward the publication of the National Wild Ones Journal. The Root River Chapter is matching all contributions from other chapters.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, April 14, 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.

## *February Meeting Recap* Cathy Schafman

### **Photo Yard Tours**

The February program was conducted by 5 members of our Rock River Valley Chapter of Wild Ones: Marcia De Clerk, Anita Johnson, Mary Anne Mathwich, Guy Smith, and Kim Lowman Vollmer. The common theme of each presentation was the love of native plants, and the benefit of them to people, wild life, and our ecosystem.

Anita Johnson has spearheaded a prairie area at the Ledgewood School near Roscoe. She brought a posterboard display of photos showing children enjoying the prairie. Along with a variety of natives, she illustrated that all of the senses can be used while enjoying the prairie area.

Guy Smith began our program with a power point presentation of his yard enhanced by music. He has a small yard, but he has made a project of removing alien plants and replacing them with natives. He has gotten some of his plants from the Wild Ones plant sales which he has used to replenish his yard one area at a time. He has a rain garden along with his prairie/savanna area. He has varied the topography of his yard by adding a berm/trench area. Pasque flowers are one of his early spring flowers, and goldenrods and asters make his fall display. One of his favorite rain garden

flowers is the Northern Blue Iris. Guy finds he has no need to water once his natives are established. He plants a lot of species and finds what prospers on his site. His goal is to have maximum diversity and density. We each can contribute to a healthy ecosystem by planting natives in our own yard.

Mary Anne Mathwich has many native plants in the yard, but she limited her presentation to native vines. She related that she and her husband Bruce are still learning about what does best on their property. She uses Virginia Creeper and Wild Strawberries as ground cover. She has an arbor of Wild Clematis. Mary Anne and Bruce have created a green screen, or natural fence, out of several vines: American Bittersweet, Wild Cucumber, Wild Yam, and even Wild Grapes. One of her favorites is the Yellow Honeysuckle.

Marcia De Clerk took us on a seasonal tour of her yard. She has combined natives with non-natives for a very pleasing landscape. Some of her earliest flowers include Jacob's Ladder and Virginia Bluebells. May finds Columbine and Wild Geraniums blooming along with her flowering Nannyberry Viburnums and Serviceberry. Penstemon and Spiderwort follow. Later, Wild Senna, Rattlesnake Master, and Mountain Mint join her display. She showed many pictures of butterflies that frequent her yard. Asters

*Mary Ann Mathwich with Lisa Johnson and Lenae Weichel in the foreground*

Photo by Tim Lewis



## *Announcing Rock River Valley Chapter Mini Grants*

We have the second largest chapter in the Wild Ones organization and I think the best set of programs available. We have great fundraising, because it puts more natives into the world and the money is used for responsible things. Most of the money raised goes to bring outstanding speakers to our monthly programs, to improve our library, and to help non-profit organizations develop native plantings. We would like to encourage more non-profit organizations to plant with native plants.

To that end, the chapter has developed a Mini Grant program for those who are interested in starting or expanding an area of natural landscaping with natives. Grant applicants must be nonprofit organizations, schools, scout troops, Master Naturalists (for Master Naturalist projects), Master Gardeners (for Master Gardener projects), etc. This grant program is not intended for private/home landscaping, but for projects that have an educational aspect. This could be a small butterfly garden, a little prairie area, or a section near a school or public

building. Starting small is a great way to increase your chances of success.

This grant program will allow selected applicants to purchase plants or trees at cost from our chapter's woodland plant sale, prairie/savanna plant sale, and tree/shrub sale. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis; there is no deadline. The optimal situation would be for applicants to consult with the respective sale chair before the chair has to place the early order (November for woodland plants, early March for prairie/savanna plants). This will help ensure that there are enough plants for sale to the public, as well as for the grant recipients. However, sale chairs will work with selected applicants to find the best outcome for each case.

If you are interested in applying for a Mini Grant or if you have questions, please contact Kim Lowman Vollmer, Youth Education and Grant Chair, at 815-397-6044 or [kimlowvol@aol.com](mailto:kimlowvol@aol.com).

## *February Meeting Recap (cont'd)* Cathy Schafman

and Goldenrod color the fall. The Goldenrod and Big Bluestem still add interest to Marcia's yard in winter.

Kim Lowman Vollmer and her family purchased a country home on 2 acres 5 1/2 years ago with traditional landscaping. Her goal was to add natives and make it a safe place for kids and animals. She also developed one area at a time. She showed us the growing progress of her plantings over the years. Along with her husband John, daughter Carly, horses, and dog, we could tell that Kim greatly

enjoys the habitat she has created. They do practically no mowing. A horse pasture takes up part of the acreage. Kim made sure she planted an area with prairie plants that is very visible from her window, so it can also be enjoyed from the house. She continues to work on other

areas, such as a woodland garden that can be enjoyed in early spring and can look differently each day. She leaves her prairie area in winter for the animals and burns it each spring. She has gotten her plants from rescues, our plants sales, and moving them from her last property.

Those of us who attended got inspiration from the speakers to work on our own native projects.



*Kim Lowman Vollmer and the audience at the February 2011 meeting*  
Photo by Tim Lewis

*Merchandise Update* Shey Lowman, Merchandise Chair

# Merchandise Clothing Sale

**10-20% Off**  
*(In-stock items only)*

	<p><b>Tote bags</b>                  \$5.00 reduced to <b>\$4.00</b>  <i>(Red, White, Blue in-stock)</i></p>
	<p><b>Baseball caps</b>                  \$15.00 reduced to <b>\$12.00</b>  <i>(3 in-stock)</i></p>
	<p><b>T-shirts</b>, with "Roots" design                  \$21.00 reduced to <b>\$16.00</b>  <i>(Copper &amp; Sky Blue L &amp; XL in-stock)</i></p>
	<p><b>Sweatshirts</b>, dark green with embroidered logo                  \$41.00 reduced to <b>\$33.00</b>  <i>(L &amp; XL in-stock)</i></p>
	<p><b>Denim shirts</b>, with large graphic on back                  \$55.00 reduced to <b>\$48.00</b> for L &amp; XL                  \$57.00 reduced to <b>\$52.00</b> for XXL  <i>(L, XL &amp; XXL in-stock)</i></p>

## 2011 Chapter Programs and Events

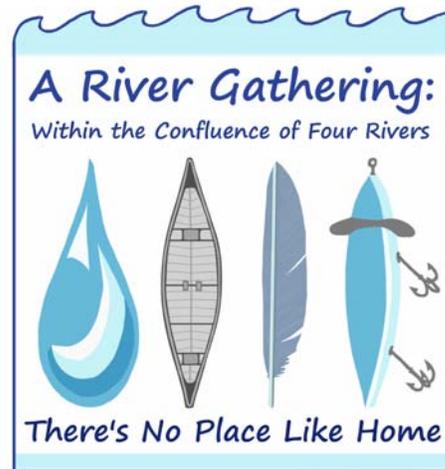
<b>March 17</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>Nature's Second Chance: Restoring the Ecology of Stone Prairie Farm</b>	<b>Steve Apfelbaum Corrine Daniels</b> Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries	Burpee Museum of Natural History
<b>April</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	Burpee Museum of Natural History
<b>Mar. -Apr.</b>	<b>Native Plant Sales</b> Orders taken during this time	<b>Kim Risley</b> Woodland plant Coord. <b>Constance McCarthy</b> Plant Sale Coord.	
<b>May 7</b> 1:00 - 4:00 pm	<b>Woodland Open Yard Tours</b>	<b>Lenae Weichel</b> Coordinator 815-282-5482	Vi Bates Memorial Garden at Klehm Arboretum 2715 S. Main St., Rockford Hoffmann Landscape 8232 Pueblo Dr., Rockford
<b>May 19</b> 7:00 pm	<b>Native Plants and Hidden Gems in Winnebago County Forest Preserves</b>	<b>Eric Bednar</b> , Winnebago Co. Forest Preserve District Natural Resources Technician	Burpee Museum of Natural History

Unless noted, programs are free and open to the public. Programs are subject to change.  
Please contact Lenae Weichel at 815-282-5482 for more information.



### A River Gathering to Celebrate The Rock, Kishwaukee, Sugar and Pecatonica Rivers June 16 – 19, 2011

The Four Rivers Environmental Coalition and Rock Valley College are hosting a four-day festival to celebrate the ecological, recreational, cultural and aesthetic value of the rivers in our region and to offer ways in which people can work to preserve them as resources and places of inspiration. Four days in north western Illinois and southern Wisconsin to learn about, explore and celebrate rivers, wetlands, trails and woods and all that make their homes there. Here is your chance to visit some of the Midwest's highest quality and culturally significant rivers and surrounding habitat. Join your neighbors and visitors, bring your back packs and be ready for four full days of guided tours, hands-on workshops, wonderful people, distinctive art and music, and beautiful rivers.



A River Gathering: There's No Place Like Home is designed to appeal to people of all ages and from all walks of life. The format, a hybrid between a festival and conference, will offer diverse educational, cultural and recreational experiences. Rock Valley College's Stenstrom Center in Rockford, Illinois will be Gathering headquarters for the opening night reception, key note speakers, exhibitor/vendor booths, and Saturday workshops. Field trips, clinics, demonstrations and guided adventures will take place on and near the Rock, Kishwaukee, Pecatonica and Sugar Rivers in Winnebago, Boone and Ogle Counties in Illinois and in Green County, Wisconsin. This event is family-friendly and children's activities will be geared for children age 5+.

Registration begins March 1, 2011. The \$25 "no frills" registration fee (\$20 for students) covers the opening reception with art show and live music, your choice of 25 concurrent sessions and lunch on Saturday, as well as most of the field trips and clinics throughout the weekend (some of the field trips require extra fees for equipment). For a \$75 registration fee you can also enjoy a dinner cruise on the Pride of Oregon paddleboat on Saturday night, followed by live music on the river-view deck at Maxson Manor. Learn more at [www.fourriver.org](http://www.fourriver.org).



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 **3/1/2011**, 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 (kublaikhan@mac.com)	<i>Librarian:</i> Ginnie Watson (815) 398.0138 VSWatson47@aol.com
<i>Vice President:</i> Kim Risley 815-962-4584 (rip-cordo1@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 (mvtcorgis@verizon.net)	<i>Youth Education &amp; 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](http://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.