



Rock River Valley Chapter Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue 5

May 2011

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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Native Plants and Hidden Gems in Winnebago County Forest Preserves Thursday, May 19, 2011

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

Time: 7:00 pm

We all probably have our preferred forest preserve in Winnebago County be it for natural beauty of the beauty of proximity. But where do we go to see our favorite native plant or tree in season? Where is that one special location where we know we can spot a certain plant or tree at the peak of its bloom or leaf time? Some of this region's best displays of native plants can be found in Winnebago County Forest Preserves. From the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District (WCFPD) website:

In the 1800's Winnebago County was a land of open prairies, wetlands and savanna. These areas teemed with wildlife, trees and flowers. The rivers ran clean and unrestricted and their natural flowing and flooding patterns created conditions for supporting numerous aquatic and wetland species. As the land became more populated and the land was farmed, fires, so important to prairie, woodland and wetland ecology, were halted. The landscape has undergone a magnitude of frequent change over the past 150 years.

The impact from these changes can be slowed or even reversed and the native life can again rule the land. The WCFPD restores degraded land to high quality ecosystems which support diverse native communities, including some threatened and endangered species.

Learn from Eric Bednar, WCFPD Natural Resources Technician, about the fascinating array of native plants in our region. Mr. Bednar will give tips on where to go, and in what seasons to enjoy prairie, woodland, and wetland wild flowers as well as ferns, grasses, sedges, and trees.

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

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



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

Message from the President Constance McCarthy

More Hat Tipping

I feel like I've been tipping my hat so much lately, I am more often hatless than hatted! Ah, a part of being president that I truly love.

First, kudos to Jack Armstrong for being named the Outstanding Individual Friend of the Environment, as awarded by Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful at their Earth Day luncheon on 7 April 2011. Jack was especially recognized for his work with Computers for Schools, which has refurbished (and kept out of landfills) over 6,000 machines in the past 12 years. KNIB described Jack as someone "who is known as a passionate advocate for recycling; conservation; the value and benefits of environmental education programs; and the importance of connecting youth with the outdoors." We are proud to have Jack among our chapter members. Three cheers for Jack!



Plant Rescue Reminder

If you didn't return your annual membership survey to the chapter, indicating that you'd like to receive notification of plant rescue opportunities, please contact John Peterson, Plant Rescue Chair (his contact info is on the back of this newsletter), in order to have your name added to the distribution list. There is a good chance that a rescue might materialize in May, but the details will not be broadcast to the entire chapter -- only to those who have signed up to receive plant rescue information.

Congratulations also go to Tim Lewis for being one of the nominees for the Seth B. Atwood award. This award is presented annually to an individual and to an organization that make extraordinary contributions in the areas of parks, recreation, and conservation. Considering his work for this chapter, the national Wild Ones organization, and the Four Rivers Environmental Coalition, Tim would have been a most deserving recipient of this award. Although Tim did not win the award, attendees at the 27 April 2011 City of Gardens Spring Kickoff event were treated to a very colorful keynote address. Again, we are proud to have Tim in our chapter.

Please join me in extending congratulations to Tim and Jack.

Atwood Award Correction

I was honored to be nominated by my friends including Wild Ones for the Atwood Award which is given jointly by the Rockford Park District, Rockford Park District Foundation and the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District. I was among the final nominees. Unfortunately, some information from the nomination form was misunderstood. The description in the event's program and information published in the Rockford Register Star says that I created Wild Ones. As most of you know, this is not true. The Park District has apologized and I hold no hard feelings towards anyone for this honest mistake. It is a great honor to be among the many deserving nominees and award winners.

Tim Lewis, President, Wild Ones

Membership Update Marilyn Heneghan, Membership Chair

158 memberships on May 1, 2011

Welcome new members
Patrick Luetkenhaus

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

Robert Jordan
Ginnie Watson

59 attended the April program. Thank you to Janet Gieson and Lisa Johnson for Greeting Members at the 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.

Prairie Plant Sale Update

By Constance McCarthy,
Prairie Plant Sale Co-Coordinator

Although the last day for advance prairie plant sale orders has passed, individual plants will still be available for purchase during the scheduled pick-up times on Friday and Saturday, 13 and 14 May (5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and 9 a.m. to noon, respectively) at 7208 N. 2nd St., Machesney Park, Illinois. Some plants may have already sold out completely; plants will be for sale based on availability.

The pasque flower (*Anemone patens*) was not available for advance order, as the plants germinate late and the supplier could not guarantee that they would be available when we pick up our order in May. If the plants do happen to be available then, of course we will have some for sale on 13 and 14 May during the pick-up times. If the plants turn out to be available subsequently, you'll still be able to purchase some. In the latter case, this will be by arrangement with me.

As I mentioned last month, a limited number of wild lupine and New Jersey tea plants will also be available for sale on the pick-up days. (These were not listed on the order form.) If you're interested in more than a few of these, let me know.

Questions about prairie or savanna plants? Contact me at kublaikhan@mac.com or (815) 282.0316.

Individual woodland plants will also be for sale on 13 and 14 May, based on availability. Questions on woodland plants? Contact Barbara Flores at bafheartland@yahoo.com or (815)289.8602.



Board of Directors in Action

Shey Lowman, Secretary

- We have a new Program Committee that is working hard to continue our tradition of excellent monthly programs. Lenae Weichel in the Interim Program Chair, Kim Risley and Ginnie Watson serve as consultants, and Melanie Costello, Marcia DeClerk, Rich & Susan McMullen, Larry McPheron, Terry Mohaupt, Doreen O'Brien and Guy Smith serve as the Committee members. They have divided their tasks into three areas: writing copy for upcoming events and recaps of speaker presentations for the newsletter, serving as room hosts and introducing speakers and third, recruiting and hosting speakers. Thanks to these volunteers for their dedication to our chapter!
- The Wild Ones financial reports were recently reviewed by a volunteer CPA and were found to be in good order. The CPA is assisting our Treasurer, Janet Giesen, in developing more automated, easier to use spreadsheets.
- The following books have been added to the Lending Library, be sure to check them out:

Attracting Native Pollinators: Protecting North America's Bees and Butterflies by The Xerces Society Guide

Creating Habitats and Homes for Illinois Wildlife by Illinois Department of Natural Resources and University of Illinois

Illinois Birds: A Century of Change by Illinois Natural History Survey

Prairie-Style Gardens: Capturing the Essence of the American Prairie Wherever You Live by Lynn Steiner

Sharing Nature with Children by Joseph Cornell

The Kids' Nature Book: 365 Indoor/Outdoor Activities and Experiences by Susan Milord

Wildlife Gardening: How to Bring Birds and Bugs to Your Backyard by Martyn Cox

- When volunteers are needed for events, Constance will be sending out a Chapter wide email asking for volunteers. Thank you for your support in responding to these requests.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, June 9, 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.

April Meeting Recap Cathy Schafman

Photos by John Peterson

Illinois Birds: A Century of Change



Author Michael Ward answers a question from Lee Johnson about his new book

Michael Ward was on the team from the Illinois Natural History Survey that surveyed the bird population of Illinois in 2006. The first systematic survey of Illinois birds was conducted in 1906 and repeated in 1956. When the first survey occurred, many pictures were taken. Detailed data sheets were made. In 1956 and 2006, the teams surveyed the same areas, using similar methods to the 1906 count, even though technology had drastically changed.

Some bird populations are gone from our area, such as the Prairie Chicken. Some are rebounding, such as Canadian Geese. Some are on the decline, such as the Field Sparrow. Dr. Ward feels it is better to try and figure out factors of decline before a specie is threatened.

The change of land use influences bird populations. There are more forests and urban

areas now than in the past. As for crops, there is approximately the same number of acres planted in corn now, but many more acres planted with soy beans. A small amount of hay and small grains are raised with practicably no specialty crops, such as tobacco. The fields are much bigger now and corn is planted much denser. With herbicide use there are cleaner fields than in the past. The biggest land use change in the state is the increase of housing developments in the northern counties. It should be noted that in 1956, DDT was in use and many bird populations dipped. Some of these have rebounded now.

Birds need diversification in plant habitat. Shrub land birds are decreasing. In 1906, there were many weeds in the fields, and fields were also left fallow some years. Weeds make lots of food for birds.

There have been a large range expansion for some birds. Turkey Vultures and Downy Woodpeckers are examples of birds that have moved north, and Red Tailed Hawks and Cedar Waxwings have moved south. Some reasons could be mild winter, habitat changes, and bird feeders, as the average temperature for our area has remained the same. Birds that have been influenced by bird feeders are Northern Cardinals, Red bellied Woodpeckers, Carolina Wrens, and Tufted Titmouse.

The largest population areas of our state are around Chicago and St. Louis. Some birds are getting used to living by humans and their populations rise. House Wrens, Robins, and Mourning Doves will make their homes in back yards. As time goes on, urban habitats may become more important. Big trees and bushes draw birds. One city bird now, the Coopers Hawk, would not have been in an urban area in 1906, because it would have been shot. Some birds are finding it easier to find food in yards than in the wild such as Sand Hill Cranes have recently done in Lake County.

The forest birds, water birds, and backyard birds have increased populations. Examples are: Cedar Waxwings, Ringbilled Gull, Canada Geese, Carolina Wrens, Tufted Titmouse, and Red Bellied Woodpeckers. Grassland birds, shrub land birds, savanna birds have decreased. Examples are: Loggerhead Shrike, Bobwhite, Bobolink, Red Headed Woodpecker, and Field Sparrow. No birds have gone extinct in the state in 100 years. 40% of bird species have increased, 33% have remained stable, and 27% are decreasing. When asked, most Illinoisans would like to see the bird population increased. Large scale restorations such as the Nygen Wetlands help, but they can only do so much. More areas need to attract birds. No till agriculture helps. It is better for the birds than tillage. Roadside left unmowed



Wild Ones members talk with Michael Ward before his presentation

would help. Birds need cover to survive. Dr. Ward reported that the University of Illinois now has some unmowed areas.

What can the average home owner do to attract birds? Do not mow some areas. Plant native shrubs. Try to control the honeysuckle and buckthorn. Make a place for birds to either nest or stop by while migrating.



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

www.fourriver.org

Mark your calendars...Registration begins in March!

Merchandise Update Shey Lowman, Merchandise Chair

Merchandise Update

Submitted by Shey Lowman
Merchandise Coordinator

NEW! We now have Wild Ones patches, decals and window clings.

Wild Ones Patch. This unique woven patch can be sewn-on or ironed-on; use it on any of your clothing items to show how Wild you are!
\$4.00

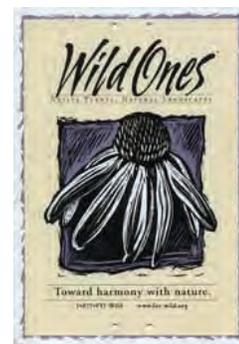


Wild Ones Decal. With a white background, this decal has an adhesive back that will attach to anything, use your imagination. **\$2.00**



Wild Ones Window Cling. The cling side attaches to the inside of any window. Put them on your car and house, coordinates nicely with a Wild Ones Yard Sign. **\$2.00**

Wild Ones Yard Sign. Show your pride in being a Wild One! Pre-drilled holes for mounting on a post. Beautifully silkscreened for only **\$25.00.**



Winnebago County Forest Preserve District Board Meeting Recap/Highlights Tuesday, April 19, 2011

- All Commissioners were in attendance with the exception of Audrey Johnson who was ill. Judith Barnard arrived just a bit late.
- Vaughn Stamm, the new Director of Preserve Operations introduced himself. He will take over his position in May.
- Chad Miller, an interested citizen, presented to the board information regarding the benefits of allowing bow hunting in the county preserve.
- The board will be conducting a strategic planning process this summer.
- A service proposal was given for the upcoming, required accessibility audit process.
- Financial reports were shared and the advice to establish a Finance Committee was given.
- It was proposed to take out a fishing lease on several small, man-made lakes that sit on property nearest to Four Lake Forest Preserve. The board decided to lay this topic on the table as the project would require over \$ 50,000 to cover the necessary renovations and accommodations.
- Jamie Johansen presented information regarding her role in Marketing and Communications and Mike Durand presented on Golf Courses Maintenance.
- The board then went into closed session to discuss land acquisition and a leave of absence.
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10 at Klehm Arboretum.

2011 Chapter Programs and Events

May 7 1:00 - 4:00 pm	Woodland Open Yard Tours	Lenae Weichel Coordinator 815-282-5482	Vi Bates Memorial Garden at Klehm Arboretum 2715 S. Main St., Rockford Hoffmann Landscape 8232 Pueblo Dr., Rockford
May 13 & May 14	Pick Up Prairie Plant Orders See flier for full details	Constance McCarthy Prairie Plant Sale Coord.	7208 N. 2nd St. Machesney Park, IL (815) 282-0316
May 19 7:00 pm	Native Plants and Hidden Gems in Winnebago County Forest Preserves	Eric Bednar , Winnebago Co. Forest Preserve District Natural Resources Technician	Burpee Museum of Natural History
June 16 7:00 pm	Insects in the Prairie and Insect Folklore	Robert "Prairie Bob" Ahrenhoerster Prairie Seed Source	Burpee Museum of Natural History
July 21 7:00 pm	Yard Tour/Evening Social Members Only		Home of Don and Marilyn Heneghan (815) 398-7869
August 1 through September 3	Native Shrub and Tree Sale Orders taken during this time See brochure for complete details	John Peterson Native Tree & Shrub Sale Coordinator (815) 248-2110 tacmot@msn.com	
August 18 7:00 pm	Underground Ecology or How I learned to Love Dirt!	Dr. Teri Balsler University of Wisconsin-Madison	Burpee Museum of Natural History
September 9 & 10	Native Tree & Shrub Pickup See brochure for complete details	John Peterson Native Tree & Shrub Sale Coord.	14037 Baker Rd Durand, IL 61024 (815) 248-2110
September 15 7:00 pm	Ecology 101	Jack Pizzo Pizzo & Associates	Burpee Museum of Natural History
October 20 7:00 pm	Bringing Nature Home; How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens	Doug Tallamy Author, professor University of Delaware	Burpee Museum of Natural History
November 17 7:00 pm	Pot Luck and Seed Exchange Members only – all members welcome with or without seeds Bring a dish to share.		Burpee Museum of Natural History
December	No Meeting-Happy Holidays!		

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.

Look for our Wild Ones booth at these activities

May 7 & May 8 For more information contact Mike Eickman at 815-871-8483	Bird Fest	Sand Bluff Bird Observatory Shirland, IL 61079 815-629-2671
August 13 & August 14	Illinois Renewable Energy and Sustainable Lifestyle Fair	Ogle County Fairgrounds 1440 N Limekiln Rd. Oregon, IL 61061



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 **5/1/2011**, 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

President: Constance McCarthy 815-282-0316 (kublai@mac.com) *Librarian:* Ginnie Watson (815) 398.0138 VSWatson47@aol.com
Vice President: Kim Risley 815-962-4584 (rip-cordo1@comcast.net) *Show Me/Help Me Chair:* Lenae Weichel 815-282-5482 (lenae@weichel.org)
Program Chair: Mary Thiesing (815) 874-3975 (mvtcorgis@verizon.net) *Youth Education & Grants Chair:* Kim Lowman Vollmer 815-397-6044 (kimlowvol@aol.com)
Secretary: Shey Lowman 815-757-4456 (slowman@niu.edu) *Volunteer Coordinator:* Ed Kletecka (815) 389.0120 fiero2@charter.net
Treasurer: Janet Giesen 815-899-6139 (janetgiesen@gmail.com) *Booth Coordinator, FREC representative:* Tim Lewis (815) 874.3468 natives.tim@comcast.net
Membership Chair: Marilyn Heneghan 815-389-7869 (informationoptions@att.net) *Refreshments Coordinator:* Bev Crittenden (815) 964.8252 bevcrit@aol.com
Newsletter Editor: Pambi Camacho 815-332-7637 (dkcamps@aol.com) *Merchandise Chair:* Shey Lowman 815-757-4456 (slowman@niu.edu)
Plant Rescue Chair: 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.