

**Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.**

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*Photo Yard Tours  
Thursday, October 18, 2012*

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

This evening's program will provide a visual tour of native planting projects.

The use of native plants in our landscapes increases the biodiversity of our environment. Native plants provide food and shelter for our native insects, birds, and animals. These creatures, in turn, assist in providing the food and water that we as humans need for our existence. There are only a few creatures in the deepest parts of the ocean that do not depend on plants in some form for their existence. The native creatures that we depend on for our existence often do not utilize the ornamental, non-native plants that they have not evolved with to provide for all the needs of those depending on them. Therefore, it is important that we continue to add native plantings back into our landscapes, and encourage others to do so. However, some people feel that adding native plants to their landscapes can be a daunting task.

For the past year, many of our members have been busy snapping pictures of their activities in using native grasses, forbs, ferns, vines, shrubs, and trees in their landscapes. Pictures have been taken showing a wide variety of local birds, bees, butterflies, and other critters visiting our native plantings throughout the seasons. Major projects have also been documented through pictures.

Join us for a visual tour presented by Wild Ones members as they have added native plantings into Northern Illinois landscapes. We will hear about the steps members have taken, with pictures showing how they have landscaped with natives. Some have added them into existing landscaping, while others have established all-native areas in their yards.

Come at 6:30 p.m. to socialize before the 7:00 meeting, browse the merchandise tables, or check out the library and Wild Ones information booths. This program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.

For information about the program, e-mail Terry Mohaupt at [mohaupt@comcast.net](mailto:mohaupt@comcast.net) or telephone 815-399-8432.

For information about Wild Ones, phone 815-627-0344 • Visit our Web site at [www.WildOnesRRVC.org](http://www.WildOnesRRVC.org)



Articles for the November 2012 newsletter, must be submitted to the Newsletter Editor, at: [dkcamps@aol.com](mailto:dkcamps@aol.com) by October 23, 2012.



## *Message from the President* Constance McCarthy

### **Pulling the wagon forward**



I am writing this on the last day for nominations for board members for our chapter. As no names have been put forward, the present board will be moving into the recruitment phase. I'm hoping that this will be a smooth process as I'm winding down in the last months of serving as chapter president.

But it's not just by serving on the board that you could help to keep our chapter on its upward trajectory. Soon the annual membership survey will be sent to you, along with a ballot for the elected board members. Your feedback on this survey – even if you attended only a few meetings, or no meetings at all – is so important and highly valued by the board. A chapter that doesn't seek and respond to input from its members is a chapter with limited growth prospects.

The annual membership survey is also your chance to let us know ways in which you might be interested in lending a hand for the chapter. In addition to the many helpers at our monthly meetings, volunteers are needed for other activities and events that take place throughout the year. Indicating an interest in helping out on the survey does not lock you into volunteering; it just means that you'll likely be contacted by the volunteer coordinator as the event nears, to see if you're still interested.

And the membership survey is a way for you to let us know you'd like information on plant rescues when those opportunities arise.

The survey will take only a few minutes to complete. Please help the chapter to continue to grow and sustain itself. The entire board will be grateful for your input.



## *Membership Update* Marilyn Heneghan, Membership Chair

### **175 memberships on October 1, 2012**

#### **Welcome New Members**

Laura Meyer and William Hoffman  
Emmylou Studier  
Irv and Mary Wolf

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

(any amount about the \$37 basic dues)  
Joe Hemlock  
Terry Laman

58 attended the September Program Thank you to our greeters  
Krina Goss and Lisa Johnson.

**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.

## August Meeting Recap Lenae Weichel

### How to Naturally Landscape and Please Your Neighbors and Village Officials - All at the Same Time



**Brett Rappaport**

photo by Tim Lewis

Brett Rappaport is a partner at a Chicago law firm, a former president of the Wild Ones national organization, an adjunct English professor, and an experienced litigator in the fight against weed laws mistakenly applied to native landscapes. He and his wife are also natural landscapers at their lovely suburban home.

Mr. Rappaport began his humorous

and photo-rich presentation by explaining that he would approach the topic as a fight between good and evil; good being natural landscaping and native plant gardening and evil being traditional suburban lawn. His fight on the side of good against evil began in the late 1980s when he received a call from the Sierra Club regarding citizens of the city of Chicago being prosecuted for violating weed laws by planting native prairie wildflowers. Although Mr. Rappaport had no personal experience with native plants at that time, he was very impressed with the folks who were planting natives in their yards and really connected not only with the beautiful plants but with the reasons for planting them. After sussing out the language of the Chicago weed laws and finding them difficult to defend at best and certainly contradictory, he proceeded to attempt to work with the city. When that didn't work, he filed a federal civil rights lawsuit. The outcome wasn't exactly as he and his clients had hoped but, Rappaport says though he may have "lost the battle [he] won the war." The city of Chicago rewrote the weed ordinance, now plants native prairie plants throughout the city, encourages residents to do so with natural gardening contests, and even sports a prairie with walking paths atop city hall.

In the process of educating himself about native plants, Rappaport met Lorrie Otto (the woman who inspired Wild Ones) and was introduced to the community of natural landscapers around the country. He also wrote an article for the Law review on weed ordinances and

native plantings that is still referenced today.

#### The Land Ethic v. the Lawn Ethic

*"A thing is right when it serves to preserve the integrity and stability of a biotic community.*

*It is wrong if it tends otherwise."*

*Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac*

The roots of the lawn ethic in the United States came after the Civil War and were loudly espoused by a man named Peter Henderson in his book *Gardening for Pleasure* in 1875. It was in this book that he suggested turning against the agricultural roots that might lead one to let their plants grow tall or woods to be natural and that those who don't "are few, for the example of the majority will soon shame them into decency."

Rappaport pointed out that the suburban landscape is contrived, over-watered, and over-fertilized. But where, some ask, is the harm in that? Rappaport's list included the following:

- Water waste
- "Fill-in-the-blank-cides" (pesticide, herbicide, fungicide)
- Lost resources (habitat, carbon sink, urban oasis, flood retention)
- Cost (-cides, water [even more-so in arid regions], maintenance)
- Aesthetics. (this is the only argument that could hold up as it is truly subjective)

Not all writers, landscape designers, and lawmakers took Henderson's view. The 1920s saw the spearheading of native plantings along American roadways, parks landscaped with native plants and stone, and writers like Jens Jenson and Aldo Leopold teaching the benefits of the natural world. The lawn ethic was bolstered by inexpensive fertilizers and pest/herb-icides created from excess production capacity in ammunition plants after World War II but in 1962, Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring* and the environmental movement gained strength. And in 1979, 9 women in Milwaukee, Wisconsin gathered together to advocate for native planting and Wild Ones was born!

#### Local Weed Laws

Mr. Rappaport explained that weed laws are bad because of the behaviors they protect and those they promote. They keep homeowners from doing good and protect something bad. He shared the Weed Ordinance in Rockford and pointed out the lack of clarity and definitions as well as some potential challenges. He also shared some of the "rationales" for many weed laws

## August Meeting Recap (cont'd)

and pointed out the realities of these misnomers about native plants.

**Fire:** of course, native plants do not cause fire.

**Vermin:** rats live in garbage, wood piles, etc. – manmade environments, not prairies and woodlands.

**Mosquitoes:** which are not present without standing water.

**Wind-borne Pollen:** most native plants require pollinators and so are better for those with allergies.

**Aesthetics:** in the end, it is all a question of aesthetics and there are as many opinions of those as there are people.



**Terry Mohaupt talks with Jina and Bret Rappaport**

photo by Tim Lewis

### How to Please Your Neighbors and Village Officials

Rappaport shared the old adage (a favorite with his grandmother), “You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar” which holds true here as well. You will be much better off being nice, warm, inviting, and considerate neighbor than being a jerk.” He suggested following the acronym BRASH:

**Border** – Rappaport likened a common response to native plants as looking messy to a Jackson Pollack painting in the 1950s. People still may not like it but with a frame (or border) around it, they recognize that it’s supposed to be there. Giving a planting bed a frame makes it look intentional. A border can be mowed grass, a stone wall, a split-rail fence, or a uniform planting.

**Recognize** – recognize that your neighbors have a right to what they like just as you have a right to your natural yard.

**Advertise** – with communication designed to persuade neighbors to “purchase or use a brand.” Your yard is the brand. Aristotle suggested using logos (logical explanations and commonsense), pathos (credibility), and ethos (connection with your neighbors on an emotional level) to convince people of something. Use Wild Ones or Wildlife Tree signs to communicate that your yard is a product of intent. Share books and information with neighbors, direct them to websites, or show them photos of completed native landscapes (share Wild Ones photo contest winners at [www.for-wild.org/members/photos/](http://www.for-wild.org/members/photos/)).

**Start Slow** – When the Rappaports moved into their house, they found a traditional lawn with overgrown shrub borders. Initially, they removed overgrown plants

and planted native flowers in the vacated beds. Then every year they increased the size of the beds until their yard was a prairie with lawn paths. This had two benefits: it gave neighbors time to adjust to the changes and was cheaper and easier; working slowly and getting to know their land.

**Humanize** – A successful landscape should be welcoming and invite people to step in. Include a Leopold bench, paths, or even a council ring; a feature in Jens Jenson’s landscape designs.

### Conclusion

Mr. Rappaport ended with personal stories about his family’s interactions with Lorrie Otto and the positive impact she had on their worldview. He stressed the obligation we all have to teach (our neighbors and village officials) as only through teaching can we truly understand and only through understanding can we conserve and make the world a better place. More information can be found on the Wild Ones website at [www.wildones.org/weedlaws/weedlaw.html](http://www.wildones.org/weedlaws/weedlaw.html).

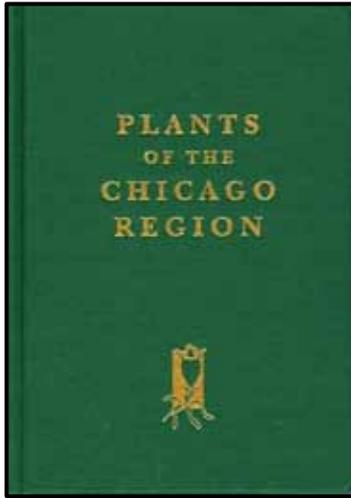
*“In the end we will conserve only what we love,  
we will love only what we understand,  
and we will understand only what we are taught”*  
*Baba Dioun*

One additional piece of advice was offered by member Jack Armstrong, who suggested keeping invoices from plants and seeds you’ve purchased. This way, you can share the benefits of the plants you’ve planted but also the value to municipal officials who are challenging a planting.

## Merchandise Must Haves...

Submitted by Shey Lowman,  
Merchandise Coordinator  
slowman@niu.edu

Classic resources for you and your favorite Wild One! We are currently able to offer ***Plants of the Chicago Region*** and ***Distribution of Illinois Vascular Plants***, almost impossible to find.



***Plants of the Chicago Region***, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed.  
Floyd Swink & Gerould Wilhelm  
The only source for specific plant details, including plant communities and “coefficients of conservatism” ratings for each plant to determine a natural area assessment. **\$45.00** (\$50 retail)



***Distribution of Illinois Vascular Plants***  
Robert H. Mohlenbrock and Douglas M. Ladd  
Out of print, this is the only plant survey that includes every county in Illinois. Available in very limited quantities, get yours while you can. **\$30.00**

## 2012 Chapter Programs and Events

<b>August - Oct.</b>	<b><i>Native Shrub and Tree Sale</i></b> <b><i>Orders taken during this time</i></b> See brochure for complete details	<b>John Peterson</b> Native Tree & Shrub Sale Coordinator	(815) 248-2110 tacmot@msn.com
<b>October 12&amp;13</b>	<b><i>Native Tree &amp; Shrub Pickup</i></b> See brochure for complete details	<b>John Peterson</b> Native Tree & Shrub Sale Coord.	14037 Baker Rd Durand, IL 61024 (815) 979-8539
<b>October 18</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b><i>Photo Yard Tours</i></b> A visual tour of native planting projects		Burpee Museum of Natural History
<b>November 15</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b><i>Pot Luck and Seed Exchange</i></b> Members only – all members welcome with or without seeds. Bring a dish to share.		Burpee Museum of Natural History
<b>December</b>	<b><i>No Meeting-Happy Holidays!</i></b>		

Unless noted, programs are free and open to the public. Programs are subject to change.  
Please contact Terry Mohaupt, at 815-399-8432 or mohaupt@comcast.net for more information.



NATIVE PLANTS. NATURAL LANDSCAPES

## ROCK RIVER VALLEY

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 **10/1/2012**, 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)  
**Vice President:** Deb Askelson 815 754-5673 (debaskelson@yahoo.com)  
**Program Chair:** Terry Mohaupt 815-399-8432 (mohaupt@comcast.net)  
**Secretary:** Shey Lowman 815-757-4456 (slowman@niu.edu)  
**Treasurer:** Janet Giesen 815-899-6139 (janetgiesen@gmail.com)  
**Membership Chair:** Marilyn Heneghan 815-389-7869 (informationoptions@att.net)  
**Newsletter Editor:** Pambi Camacho 815-332-7637 (dkcamps@aol.com)  
**Plant Rescue Chair:** John Peterson 815-979-8539 (tacmot@msn.com)  
**Librarian:** Ginnie Watson (815) 398-0138 VSWatson47@aol.com  
**Merchandise Chair:** Shey Lowman 815-757-4456 (slowman@niu.edu)  
**Show Me/Help Me Chair:** Lu Clifton 815 248.3412 (Lclifton@mchsi.com)  
**Prairie Plant Sale Coordinator:** Lenae Weichel 815-282-5482 (lenae@weichel.org)  
**Woodland Plant Sale Coordinator:** Barbara Flores (815) 289.8602 (bafheartland@yahoo.com)  
**Youth Education & Grants Chair:** Kim Lowman Vollmer 815-397-6044 (kimlowvol@aol.com)  
**Volunteer Coordinator:**  
**Booth Coordinator, FREC representative:** Tim Lewis (815) 874.3468 natives.tim@comcast.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 \$37, Limited Income/Full-Time Student \$20, Business \$250  
Entire membership contribution is tax deductible. Contact Membership Chair for additional information or to join.

815-627-0344 • Visit our Web site at [www.WildOnesRRVC.org](http://www.WildOnesRRVC.org)

### *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.