

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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Scan with your Smartphone for more information about Rock River Valley Wild Ones



Articles for the February 2013 newsletter, must be submitted to the Newsletter Editor, at: dkcamps@aol.com by January 23, 2013.

Restoring the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve
Thursday, January 17, 2013

Location: Burpee Museum of Natural History

737 N. Main St., Rockford IL

Time: 7:00 pm

Keith Blackmore will share with us the principal ideas guiding the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society chapter in its efforts to restore/recreate the 43-acre parcel known as the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve. Although small in size, the Preserve contains an impressive diversity of geologic and hydrologic features and the associated plant communities in both acid and alkaline wetlands, which include sedge meadows, a small brook, and the namesake Elkhorn Creek. The woodland component includes oak savanna areas as well as a bit of floodplain forest. Additionally, former cropland is being converted to prairie and savanna using seed only from plant species that are found on the Preserve and on adjacent acres. Mr. Blackmore will illustrate his discussion with slides.

With BS and MS degrees in zoology from NIU, Mr. Blackmore has been active in prairie work since the mid-1960s. Most of his work has been devoted to gaining protection to native relic sites and restorations and recreations. He taught biology and ecology at Highland Community College for 37 years, and is past president of the Audubon Council of Illinois, the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society, and the Prairie Preservation Society of Ogle County.

Come at 6:30 p.m. to socialize before the 7:00 meeting, browse the merchandise tables, and check out the library and Wild Ones information booths.

This program is free and open to the public.

For more information about Wild Ones, please visit our website at www.wildonesrrvc.org



Message from the Co-Presidents Ginnie Watson and Bob Arevalo



With the New Year come some new faces. We welcome Cynthia Nelson who will be our Volunteer Coordinator, a very important position. Anita Johnson and Mary Anne Mathwich

are the new Co-chairs for Show Me/ Help Me! We look forward to what you have to offer, and our thanks to Lu Clifton for your wonderful yard tours of 2012. The position of Program Chair remains unfilled. Please consider volunteering for this very necessary position.

And, there has been another change as well. There are now two Presidents (Co-Presidents) of the Rock River Valley chapter of the Wild Ones. Before we introduce ourselves we want to express our deepest gratitude to Constance McCarthy for leading our chapter as President for an incredible six years of growth and achievement. She has presided over one of the most dynamic and successful chapters in our national organization. Her dedication to duty and strong leadership is one reason why our chapter has been a model for other Wild Ones chapters. She moves on as President of Angelic Organics Learning Center and we wish her much success in the future.

Here is a little background on both of us so you will get to know us better.

Ginnie Watson

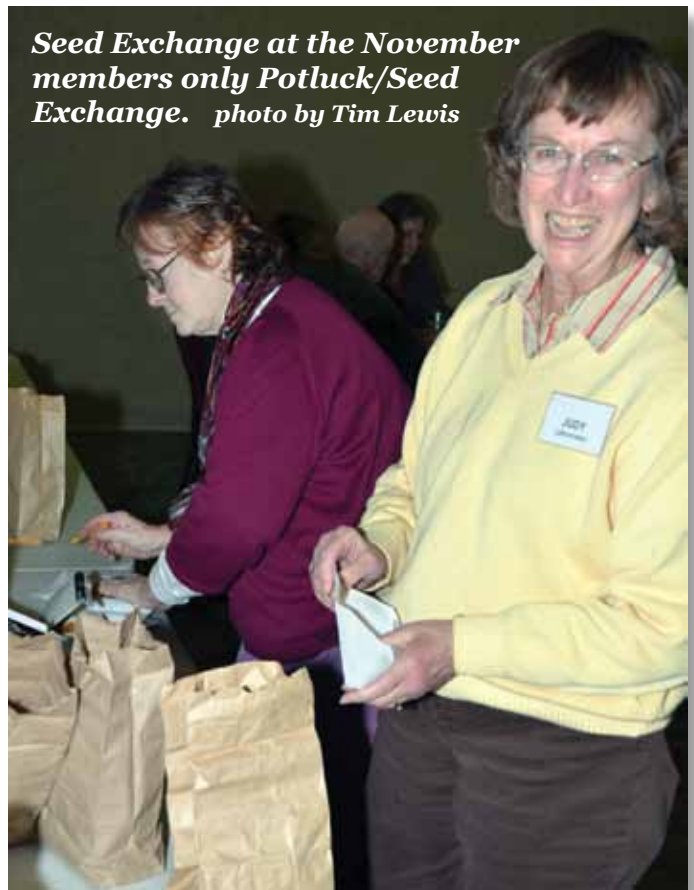
I graduated from Northern Illinois University with a biology major/chemistry minor, spending my 40-year career as a Medical Technologist (Clinical Laboratory Scientist) in the OSF St. Anthony Medical Center Laboratory. Now that I am retired I have more time to focus on nature and the environment. As a Master Naturalist I earn my hours working on the native plant portion of the U. of I. Extension Demonstration Garden behind the Extension office near Nicholas Conservatory. I am also working with Anne Meyer on her Native Heritage Garden next to the Recreation Path near Midway Village. I joined Wild Ones in 2004 and was the Program Chair and Vice President of our chapter from 2005-2008 and have been the Librarian since 2006, a position I will continue to hold. Though my yard was on the woodland tour a few years ago, it represents many hours yet to come of work needed in my backyard woodland and front yard savanna, both small but continually needy. I would like to see our chapter continue to grow to increase the positive impact we have made on the native biodiversity of our region. I would also like to see a larger Wild Ones 'footprint' in our community and, with it, greater recognition.

Bob Arevalo

When we moved to Rockford 28 years ago, we bought our house on five acres that has a restored prairie. Fran Lowman invited me to join Wild Ones around fifteen years ago, and I have been a member ever since. My property has been on the Show Me/Help Me tours, most recently on July 28, 2012. I have always been interested in nature. My first degree was in zoology from Berkeley. I also have a degree in Clinical Laboratory Science from NIU. I have been retired from the clinical laboratory at OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center for about a year and a half. Among my volunteer activities, I serve on the board at Severson Dells Nature Center, and I am an active volunteer at Klehm. Because of my volunteer activities at Klehm, I have become very interested in woody plants. I am a Master Naturalist and beekeeper. I also grow shiitake mushrooms on logs. I continue to enjoy the many wonderful presentations at our Wild Ones meetings.

We look forward to getting to know all of you better. With an active and supportive board along with many of you who volunteer for the many activities of Wild Ones, we are confident that our chapter will continue to be an important promoter of environmentally sound landscaping practices in the Rock River Valley.

Seed Exchange at the November members only Potluck/Seed Exchange. photo by Tim Lewis



New Chapter Website

Submitted by Shey Lowman

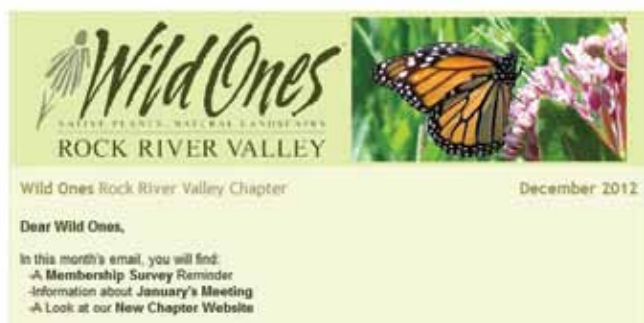


After two years of development the new chapter website is now available at www.wildonesrrvc.org, or scan the QR code at the left with your smart phone. The website is continually updated with information and resources, so

visit regularly to see what's new. Be sure to check out "Helpful Links" and "Native Plant Resources" under the "Resources" drop down menu. "Native Plant Resources" is a list of where native plants can be purchased. If you know of any sources that are not listed, please contact Shey with the information, shey@wildonesrrvc.org.

Monthly Chapter Email

Shey Lowman, Secretary



Since April the monthly email from the Chapter has been sent out via Constant Contact. This allows us to use graphics and useful links to information. An example of the email banner is above. Please be aware if you are a Gmail (Google) user that your email from us may end up in your "Spam" folder. Our emails have "News and Events from Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter!" as

the subject and are from "Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter wildonesrrvcnews@gmail.com".

To make sure you receive our emails in Gmail:

- At the bottom of the left column, click on "More"
- Then click on "Spam", third button down
- Look for an email from "News and Events from Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter!"
- If you find one, click on the empty box on the far left of the message, a check mark will appear
- At the top above the message/s you will see a button called "Not spam", click on it
- You are all set, all future messages will arrive in your "Inbox", usually the weekend before a meeting on the third Thursday of the month.

Board of Directors Election Results

A big thanks to all of you for voting in the recent election of our Board of Directors for 2013! This year we had a record number of ballots returned, 60 in all. The following is your new Board of Directors:

Co-Presidents: Bob Arevalo & Ginnie Watson (Lending Library Coordinator)

Past President: Constance McCarthy

Vice President: Deb Askelson

Secretary: Shey Lowman (Merchandise, Website Coordinator)

Treasurer: Janet Giesen

Newsletter Chair: Pambi Camacho

Membership Chair: Marilyn Heneghan

Rescues/Seed Collection Chair: John Peterson (Tree & Shrub Sale Coordinator)

Show Me/Help Me Co-Chairs: Mary Anne Mathwich & Anita Johnson

Youth Education & Grants Chair: Kim Lowman Vollmer

Appointed and Re-appointed Coordinators:

Booth Coordinator: Tim Lewis (FREC Representative)

Mentors Coordinator: Barb Kuminowski

Prairie Plant Sale Coordinator: Lenae Weichel

Publicity Coordinator: Doreen O'Brien

Volunteer Coordinator: Cynthia Nelson

Woodland Plant Sale Coordinator: Barbara Flores

November 2012 Members Only Potluck & Seed Exchange



Socializing

photo by Tim Lewis



Dinner time

photo by Tim Lewis



Membership Update

Marilyn Heneghan, Membership Chair

172 memberships on January 1, 2013

Welcome New Members

Laura Meyer
Rick Freiman

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

(any amount about the \$37 basic dues)

Kathie Ayres
Carlos Contreras
Janet Giesen
Karla McGrail

40 attended the November Potluck 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.

Board of Directors in Action

Shey Lowman, Secretary

Highlights of activities of the Board of Directors, as discussed at the December 13, 2012 meeting, include the following:

- On behalf of the membership, the Board presented a beautiful walnut gavel plaque to Constance McCarthy in appreciation of her six years as President of our Chapter. She is the longest serving president and is commended for her many contributions and tireless efforts to increase awareness of and resources for the Chapter. She will continue to serve on the Board of Directors as Past President for 2013.
- The Board will be having a half day retreat in January to put together a 2013 plan of action for the Chapter; the first retreat was held in January 2012.
- Ginnie Watson has acquired four new books for the lending library:
Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Wisconsin
 For children: *Where Once There was a Wood*
In a Nutshell
How a Seed Grows

• Donations were approved to support the following organizations:

- Sponsorship for 2013 River Gathering
- Keith School prairie project
- Severson Dells Naturescape project
- Vi Bates Wildflower Garden at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden
- Lorado Taft Field Campus Bird Garden, Master Naturalist project
- Natural Land Institute Nygren Wetland Preserve
- Nachusa Grasslands “Bison on the Horizon” project
- Winnebago County Extension Native Plant Gardens, Master Naturalist project

The next board meeting will be Thursday, February 14, 2013, at Aunt Mary’s, 4431 E. 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.



2013 Chapter Programs and Events

January 17 7:00-9:00 PM	Restoration of Elkhorn Creek Restoration of Elkhorn Creek	Keith Blackmore Retired professor Kishwaukee College	Burpee Museum of Natural History
February 21 7:00-9:00 PM	The Role of Fire in our Local Ecosystems	Greg Keilback Naturalist with Severson Dells	Burpee Museum of Natural History
March 21 7:00-9:00 PM	Rooftop Gardens	Kevin Carroll City of Chicago’s Rooftop Garden Initiative	Burpee Museum of Natural History

Unless noted, programs are free and open to the public. Programs are subject to change. Please contact Ginny Watson, at 815-398-0138 or VSWatson47@aol.com 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 **1/1/2013**, 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

Co-Presidents: Bob Arevalo 815 332-3343 (arevalo@t6b.com)
Ginnie Watson 815 398-0138 VSWatson47@aol.com

Past President: Constance McCarthy 815-282-0316
(kublaikhan@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 Chair: 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 Co-Chairs: Mary Anne Mathwich 815 624-6301
(mprairiedock@aol.com) / Anita Johnson: 815 226-1606
(davnita@comcast.net)

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: Cynthia Nelson 815 758-8978
(cnelson@niu.edu)

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

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.