

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 August 2013 newsletter, must be submitted to the Newsletter Chair, at: Pambi@wildonesrrvc.org July 23, 2013.

*Members' Summer Social
Thursday, July 18, 2013*

Location: Bobby Lambiotte's home
3038 Bildahl Street, Rockford, IL 61109

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm



Members are invited to gather at the home of Bobby Lambiotte on July 18 at 7:00pm. Please bring a dish to pass and folding chairs. Water, plates, napkins, cups and forks will be provided. Bobby's home is in the middle of the city – it is a charming example of what can be done with native plantings on a city lot.

Bobby became interested in Wild Ones about 15-16 years ago. She picked up a brochure or flyer – and began her journey with Wild Ones. She discovered Enders Greenhouse, where the people there, and Fran Lowman, set her on a path with truly "wild" native plants!

She inherited the property on Bildahl when her Grandmother passed in 2000. She also has a farm near Stillman Valley, where she continues her passion for horses and everything "country." Since 2000 Bobby has concentrated on a different area of the Bildahl yard, gradually growing a magnificent oasis for birds, butterflies, and other creatures. She started in the very back of the back yard – tearing down the old garage and horse barn, and planting native trees and shrubs. This is also the area for her woodland plants. There was one very old Hackberry tree which she kept, and this is called the "Grandfather Tree."

Outside the fence around the yard are prairie plants. Inside the fence is little space for "lawn" – it is all native wildflowers. Her yard has been a designated Monarch Watch Waystation, and a National Wildlife Federation Backyard for Wildlife. Bobby said she did this early on, to show the neighbors that her "wild" plantings were deliberate and planned. To qualify with National Wildlife Federation, she had to supply a list of native plants, show that there was cover for nesting, plus water and food. The process for both of these designations provided certificates, which then enabled her to secure signs. She said at first neighbors were skeptical, but now are very accepting, and often stop and admire and give compliments.

This year she is back to the first area she planted years ago – to restore it. This is the space where she has dug up many plants to donate to Midway Village Museum and other places, and now needs weeding and replanting! Her future plans include putting in a small pond. Please join us July 18 for a delightful evening and "show-and-tell."

If you are interested in becoming a member, so you can be included in the Member Social, contact the Membership Chair: 815-389-7869.

Submitted by Lynda and Lee, Co-Program Chairs

Message from the Co-President Ginnie Watson



Last week about 6:30 PM Wednesday evening I was weeding the Demonstration Garden behind the University of Illinois Extension Office. As a Master Naturalist, I started and now maintain the beds containing native plants. Every Wednesday evening from 6-8:00 PM I and two Master Gardeners, Paul Dennis and Wild Ones member Ron

Hendrickson, hold a plant clinic there. Paul and Ron answer questions about vegetable gardening and I deal with the native plant questions. Because the Wild Ones Mission is to educate about and advocate for growing native plants this is a good fit for me.

A young couple came up the hill and joined us in the gardens. Several plants, Columbine, Harebell, and Pale Purple Cone Flower, were blooming drawing their eyes further into the beds and soon we were deep in conversation. Their questions were good and I felt they were making a positive connection with the idea of growing natives. A little while later a young mother and her two young children found their way into garden. We were standing near the blooming Golden Alexanders so her first question was, "What are those?" The answer brought a smile to one of her children's face. It seems his name was Alexander and all were pleased by that. At ease now, the mother had many more questions and our discussion about native plants continued for some time.

The same sort of thing happens down at the Native Heritage Gardens, my other volunteer site. Anne Meyer and her helpers are putting in and maintaining several large native beds near the Bike Path associated with Midway Village. Though we don't hold a formal plant clinic many of the Bike Path participants stop and ask about our efforts, the plants and what we hope to gain by planting there. In other words...why natives...

...and, it occurred to me I've been answering the same questions, for a long time, in my own yard. My yard is a work in progress and always will be, as are most gardening efforts. I am frequently out there tucking in another native or pulling out a nasty offender and every year more grass disappears. On a number of occasions people, who now are friends of mine, made the effort to walk several blocks from their homes to chat with me about my yard. One gentleman even pulled his car over and we had a long talk ending with his words, "I'll have to try that!"

My point here? We all have the potential for educating about and advocating for the use of native plants simply by growing them in our yards. Native plants along with their many virtues are attractive and make a lovely presentation. They draw attention and make a statement with their pleasing appearance. Don't hide your natives in the back yard. Use them in the front yard as well and be prepared to make new friends! You will find it very easy to live the Wild Ones Mission to advocate for and educate about growing native plants!



Membership Update Marilyn Heneghan, Membership Chair

172 memberships on July 1, 2013

Welcome New Members

Martin Solis

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

(any amount above the \$37 basic dues)

Dan & Kirby Doyle

Tracey Kast

65 attended the June program.

A big thank you to Lisa Johnson for greeting members.

Congratulations to new Lifetime Member

Guy Smith

Note: It is preferred that renewal donations be sent directly to the Chapter's Membership Chair, Marilyn Heneghan, Wild Ones Rock River Valley 5411 E. State Street PMB340 Rockford, IL 61108

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.

Please send email address changes to Marilyn Heneghan at Marilyn@wildonesrrvc.org

Dues payments can be sent either directly to the National Office or to the Chapter Membership Chair, Marilyn Heneghan, Wild Ones Rock River Valley, 5411 E. State Street PMB340, Rockford, IL 61108. 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.

FIELD TRIP TO ROOFTOP GARDEN CHICAGO CITY HALL IN AUGUST



Kevin Carroll, our March speaker, has invited us to view the Rooftop Garden on the top of the 11-story City Hall in Chicago in August. The native prairie plants will be splendid!

The date will be on a Monday (can't come on a weekend – the building is closed then, sorry). As of the deadline for the newsletter, the date has not been

determined, but if you are interested, please contact the Program Co-chairs: Lee or Lynda, 815-629-2781. It will be either August 5, 12, or 19.

We will meet near the bus stop at the Clock Tower Resort, 7:30 am and carpool. Our tour will be at 10:00 am. Only 10 people can go on the tour at the same time, so it was suggested if we have many more than that, we split up, and half the group view the gardens at the Millennium Park and then switch. City Hall is located at LaSalle and Washington Streets, just a short walk from the Millennium Park. There is easy to reach parking under Millennium Park, and many nearby restaurants for lunch. Washington is the one-way street we will exit off of I-94/90.

Kevin has told us that City Hall policy does not allow children under age 12 on the roof. If you remember his slides, there is NO barrier around the edge. Yikes. We adults need to stay away from the edge! Also, be aware there is horrid construction on Interstate 90 into Chicago. We can decide if we wish to drive an alternative route.

Please call Program Co-chairs if you are interested.

June 2013 Meeting Recap

Cynthia Nelson

photos by Ron Cress

When asked why she cares about Monarchs, Patricia Miller answers “Would the world be poorer if we didn't have the Mona Lisa?” Her own efforts to enrich our world include research, monitoring, education, and even rearing Monarchs in her home. She shared the experience of appreciation of the Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) for itself, as well as the understanding that conservation efforts for the Monarch will sustain habitat for other species, including other pollinators. Ms. Miller has developed educational programs and activities that she has presented to hundreds of classrooms of children. She said “If even two children in every class sustain an interest, they can make a difference for the future of Monarch populations.”

The North American Monarchs migrate South for the Winter, and so require multiple habitats over a large area including Canada, the US, and Mexico. The International Union for Conservation of Nature has listed Monarch migration as an endangered phenomenon, and the World Wildlife Fund has included Monarchs on the list of species needing monitoring and protection. Monarchs



overwintering in Mexico, which are estimated by measuring the area of forest covered by Monarchs, were at a record low in 2012. Habitat loss in over-wintering sites as well as in breeding sites is considered to be a major factor in this decline. At the end of winter,

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June 2013 Meeting Recap (cont'd)



Monarchs migrate North. Native plants co-evolved with native butterflies, and provide support through the life-cycles of Monarchs. The Monarchs require nectar plants to survive and breed, and the female requires a host plant to lay her eggs. The host plant, any of several species of milkweed, is the only thing a Monarch larva can eat, and the females lay their eggs on milkweed. Increasing Spring and Summer temperatures, development, intensive agriculture, mowing, and pesticide use in the United States have all threatened the availability of native plants, and particularly of milkweed, for Monarchs.

Monarchs go through four or five generations each year, with the last generation born in the North (the great-grandchildren, or great-great-grandchildren of the Monarchs that over-wintered in the South) migrating South for the winter. Ms. Miller gave us the opportunity to see Monarchs in different stages of their life cycle. She brought along larvae (including a newly-hatched instar), pupae, and live Monarchs. She showed us how to hold a Monarch (wings closed holding all four wings), an essential skill for those tagging butterflies. A female lays her eggs on milkweed, typically one egg on the underside

of a leaf on the milkweed plant, which hatch in 3 to 4 days. The larva starts as a tiny instar, which sheds its skin (molts) as it grows, going through five instars over 10 to 14 days. When the larva is about 2 inches long, it pupates by splitting its exoskeleton and shedding its skin. The pupa, or chrysalis, hooks a tiny appendage on its abdomen into a silk pad it had spun before pupating. A Monarch butterfly emerges from the chrysalis in 10 to 14 days.

When Ms. Miller rears Monarchs, she brings the milkweed leaves with Monarch eggs inside and provides fresh leaves for the growing larvae after they hatch. After a chrysalis is formed, she ties it to a twig in her butterfly tent. The emerging butterfly has damp wings, and is unable to fly until the wings dry. After the wings dry, she releases the butterfly outdoors. Rearing the Monarchs inside allows her to observe and share with others the wonder of the metamorphosis, as well as assuring an increased survival rate for those she rears.

(continued on page 5)



June 2013 Meeting Recap (cont'd)

To learn how scientists estimate the size of the Monarch population in Mexico, see the slideshow at Journey North's website:

www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/monarch/sl/pop/index.html

To read about tagging Monarchs, and how the data from recovered tags is used to research Monarch migration, see the Monarch Watch website:

<http://www.monarchwatch.org/tagmig/tag.htm>

Information about monitoring the breeding population of Monarchs is provided by the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project.

<http://mlmp.org/>

To learn about the Wild for Monarchs campaign, see the Wild Ones website.

<http://www.wildones.org/land/monarch/>



2013 Chapter Programs and Events

July 18 7:00-9:00 pm	Evening Social/Yard Tour Members only: All members welcome. Bring a dish to share, and folding chair.	Bobby Lambiotte	3038 Bildahl Street Rockford, IL 61109 815-963-6483
Aug-Sept	Native Tree & Shrub Sale Orders taken during this time	John Peterson Tree and Shrub Sale Coordinator	
August 15 7:00-8:45 pm	Native Trees & Shrubs: What Works!	Conner Shaw	Burpee Museum of Natural History
September TBA	Pick Up Tree and Shrub Orders See brochure for full details	John Peterson Tree and Shrub Sale Coordinator	14037 Baker Rd Durand, IL 61024 815-979-8539
September 19 7:00-8:45 pm	Global Warming as it Relates to Natives	Jessica Hellman, PhD Univ. of Notre Dame	Burpee Museum of Natural History
October 17 7:00-8:45 pm	Native Plants in Winter	Dr. James Reinartz, Director Univ. of Wisc.-Field Station	Burpee Museum of Natural History
November 21 7:00-8:45 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 Lynda and Lee Johnson at (815) 629-2781 for more information.



ROCK RIVER VALLEY

ROCK RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

c/o Pambi Camacho
6680 Hartwig Drive
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

ATTENTION:
DO NOT GO TO BURPEE MUSEUM
FOR A PROGRAM JULY 18!
SEE ARTICLE ABOUT MEMBER
SOCIAL FOR JULY ON PAGE 1!!!!

Don't become extinct!

If the expiration date on the mailing label is **7/1/2013**, 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
Wild Ones Rock River Valley
5411 E. State Street PMB340
Rockford, IL 61108

Wild Ones - Rock River Valley Chapter

Board of Directors and Chairs

Co-Presidents: Bob Arevalo 815-332-3343
Bob@wildonesrrvc.org

Ginnie Watson 815-398-0138
Ginnie@wildonesrrvc.org

Vice President: Jerry Paulson 815-222-4414
jerry@wildonesrrvc.org

Past President: Constance McCarthy
815-282-0316 Constance@wildonesrrvc.org

Program Co-Chairs: Lynda and Lee Johnson
815-629-2781 LyndaLee@wildonesrrvc.org

Secretary: Shey Lowman 815-757-4456
Shey@wildonesrrvc.org

Treasurer: Janet Giesen 815-899-6139
Janet@wildonesrrvc.org

Membership Chair: Marilyn Heneghan
815-389-7869 Marilyn@wildonesrrvc.org

Newsletter Chair: Pambi Camacho
815-332-7637 Pambi@wildonesrrvc.org

Plant Rescues/Seed Collection Chair:
John Peterson 815-979-8539
John@wildonesrrvc.org

Show Me/Help Me Co-Chairs:
Mary Anne Mathwich 815-624-6301
MaryAnne@wildonesrrvc.org
Anita Johnson 815-226-1606
Anita@wildonesrrvc.org

Youth Education & Grants Chair:
Kim Lowman Vollmer 815-397-6044
Kim@wildonesrrvc.org

Prairie Plant Sale Coordinator: Lenae Weichel
815-282-5482 Lenae@wildonesrrvc.org

Woodland Plant Sale Coordinator:
Barbara Flores 815-289-8602
Barbara@wildonesrrvc.org

Tree & Shrub Sale Coordinator: John Peterson
815-979-8539 John@wildonesrrvc.org

Booth Coordinator, FREC Representative:
Tim Lewis 815-874-3468
Tim@wildonesrrvc.org

Lending Library Coordinator: Ginnie Watson
815-398-0138 Ginnie@wildonesrrvc.org

Mentor Coordinator: Barb Kuminowski
815-248-9263 Barb@wildonesrrvc.org

Merchandise/Website Coordinator:
Shey Lowman 815-757-4456
Shey@wildonesrrvc.org

Volunteer Coordinator: Cynthia Nelson
815-758-8978 Cynthia@wildonesrrvc.org

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.