

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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Bring Back the Monarchs - America's Most Beloved Butterfly
Thursday, June 20, 2013

Location: Burpee Museum of Natural History

737 N. Main St., Rockford IL

Time: 7:00 pm



First 3 photos by Janet Allen and last photo by Judy Kesser



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



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

The Monarch Butterfly is the first (and often only) butterfly that children know by name. It's fun to see a caterpillar, and watch the process to see it change into a beautiful butterfly! How many of you remember a teacher who helped you learn the life-cycle of a butterfly by watching an adult emerge from the classroom chrysalis? Exposing young people to the natural world is one way we can help children love nature – and grow up with a conservation ethic.

Join us for the June 20th meeting to hear Patricia Miller talk about Monarch Butterflies. Pat became interested in monarchs and monarch conservation while presenting talks on butterfly gardening for the University of Illinois Extension office as a Master Gardener. In 2005 she helped in promoting the concept of monarch way-stations. Following a trip to Mexico in 2008 to observe wintering monarchs, Pat developed programs for school children, libraries, and garden and environmental clubs throughout the Chicago region.

Pat is a Master Gardener and Master Naturalist and continues to share her love of monarchs with everyone she meets. She is also involved in raising and tagging hundreds of monarchs. Pat believes, "Education and awareness are key issues in protecting this wonderful creature."

Pat reports that the Monarch Butterfly has been all over the news lately: CBS News, Good Morning America, National Geographic, National Wildlife Fund, World Wildlife (continued on page 3)

Message from the Co-President Bob Arevalo



Bob Arevalo

photo by Jon McGinty

I just returned from a six day trip to Ely, Minnesota organized by Severson Dells Nature Center and led by Greg Keilback, Biologist/Educator. There were a total of eleven of us who journeyed north to learn about one of the most celebrated nature writers, Sigurd F. Olson and to experience nature through the flora and fauna of the north woods. It was a phenomenal and deeply spiritual trip.

So you ask: what does this have to do with native plants and natural landscapes?

Sig wrote elegantly about listening points. He wrote: "Everyone has a listening-point somewhere. It does not have to be in the north or close to the wilderness, but some place of quiet where the universe can be contemplated with awe." The natural landscapes that we create in our home environments can provide those personal listening points. We can contemplate the plants, insects, and birds with a deep appreciation of the beauty of nature and the interdependent web.

So, slow down and take time to appreciate the native areas you have created. It will feed your soul.

Sig Olson (1899-1982) was one of the greatest environmentalists of the twentieth century. A conservation activist and popular writer, Olson introduced a generation of Americans to the importance of wilderness. He served as President of the Wilderness Society and the National Parks Association and as a consultant to the federal government on wilderness preservation and ecological problems. He earned many honors, including the highest possible from the Sierra Club, National Wildlife Federation, and Izaak Walton League. You can learn more about Sig Olson at www.listeningpointfoundation.org or www.northland.edu/soei.



Membership Update Marilyn Heneghan, Membership Chair

179 memberships on June 1, 2013

Welcome New Members

Janice Christ
Tom & Katie Eickman
Jane & Jay Evans
Anne Phillips
Claudette Pirrello
Kathy Stanton
Brian Zimmerman

Special Thanks to Recent Rock River Valley Chapter Donators

(any amount above the \$37 basic dues)
Guy Smith
Ginnie Watson
Jerry Paulson
Dick & Sandy Noser
Jeffrey Stack & Kathy Mielke

57 attended the May program.

A big thank you to Lisa Johnson and Terry & Linda Mohaupt for greeting members at the last 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.

June 20, 2013 Program (cont'd)

Fund, and the New York Times, just to name a few. The official overwintering numbers were recently released indicating the lowest population in the 20 years of recording. The reasons are many, and as most problems in nature, the answers are complex.

“I am an optimist! I fully grasp the serious nature and complexity of the problem. This will not deter me from focusing on what I can do. What can you do?? First, you have control over your own land. You can choose to plant milkweed and other native plants, and garden pesticide-free. Second, you can choose to educate everyone you can about monarch conservation and what they can do. Third, you can choose to raise monarchs in your home.

Estimates are that less than 10% of all monarch eggs laid mature to adulthood. Fourth, you can use your voting rights to elect officials whom you believe will make good choices for the environment. Lastly, contact not only elected officials, but also appointed officials to educate them on environmental issues.”

Come before 7:00 pm, browse the merchandise tables, check out the library and Wild Ones information Booth, and help yourself to refreshments.

This program is free and open to the public. For more information please call 815-627-0344

Submitted by Lynda and Lee, Co-Program Chairs

Wild for Monarchs Submitted by Cynthia Nelson

As a partner in the Joint Venture for Monarchs, the Wild Ones National organization convened a committee in the Fall of 2012 that included members of local Wild Ones Chapters. The committee worked through the Fall and Winter to plan the Wild for Monarchs campaign. The first item on the agenda: To collect milkweed seed in different localities. Staff at the Boone County Conservation District and Master Naturalist Interns in the U of I Extension Unit 2 program collected and labeled milkweed seed which was sent off from our Chapter. Our Monarch Watch partners at the University of Kansas made arrangements for growing the milkweed and distributing it according to region of origin of the seed.

During the Fall and early Winter, the Wild for Monarchs committee consulted with scientific experts, educational

specialists and conservation advocates to assist in developing a package of Wild for Monarchs materials for local Chapters. Wild Ones brought their knowledge about native plants to the table; and developed a certification program for gardens that builds on Monarch Waystations and focuses on the use of native plants. Local chapter members have distributed Wild for Monarchs brochures and information about planning a native butterfly garden at events this Spring, including Bird Fest and the Nature Fiesta. You probably noticed the inclusion of information about Monarchs in the Prairie Plant sale brochure, and may have purchased milkweed at the sale (*Asclepias incarnata* and *Asclepias tuberosa* were available). Some of our local chapter members are giving presentations at schools, churches, businesses and organizations. If you are interested in getting involved, please feel free to be in contact.

NEED HELP? IN OVER YOUR HEAD? STARTING A NEW PROJECT?

It's not too late to sign up for the Wild Ones Mentor Program. You will be matched with a more experienced member for advice and guidance. For for details, or to sign up as a mentee or a mentor, contact Barb Kuminowski, Mentor Coordinator, at 815-248-9263 or kuminowski@mchsi.com. Remember, too, the Show Me/Help Me events are another valuable learning experience available only to Wild One members.



May 2013 Meeting Recap *Cathy Schafman*

photos by Tim Lewis



Mathew Bardol and Dennis Dreher

Dennis Dreher gave a presentation “**Green Infrastructure - Its role in Preserving the Kishwaukee River Corridor**”. The goal of this project is to build a greenway system along the Kishwaukee River to prevent erosion and control storm water runoff. The funding for this project is through the Chicago Wilderness Sustainable Watershed Action Team and was funded by a grant from Boeing Corporation.

The Kishwaukee River is a class A stream. It could be threatened with increased erosion, run off, and flooding. Runoff brings sediment to the river and sediment kills mussels, which are a sign of a healthy water way.

The Kishwaukee project included the following goals:

- 1. Develop a green infrastructure policy and implement it,**
- 2. Engage local government,**
- 3. Engage land owners.**

The goal of a green infrastructure plan is to have a system in which the water, soil, and vegetation used in an engineered system mimics one in nature.

Green infrastructure plans can be used in different scales all of which use the same principles.

The smallest scale would be a plan for your yard. You can begin by using native plants in your landscaping. Permeable paving can be used in your driveway. Rain gardens can be planted by the end of your down spouts. The goal is to get the rain

into the ground rather than having it run off.

A neighborhood plan would incorporate the same principles into a design of a new development. Bioswales would be added to further take rain and sediment into the ground before the water would reach a naturally landscaped detention pond. Open natural areas would be planned among the houses. Water resources benefit from natural landscaping as it does not require the fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides that traditional turf does. Another advantage of natural landscaping is that it encourages children and family interaction. Natural landscaping can also enhance property values.

Mr. Dreher showed us illustrations of several large industrial projects in which green plans were used.

Developers can also benefit from a green plan. The cost of site work can be reduced if more land is left undisturbed. The cost of water management can be reduced. Open spaces can be a good marketing draw. When the green plan is put in place before the development starts, it can reduce the permit hurdles that often can occur during construction.

Chicago Wilderness has developed a three state green infrastructure plan with Illinois being one of the states. Boone and Winnebago Counties also have a greenway plan. What needs to happen is that the plan needs to turn into policy. New zoning laws and development standards need to coordinate with the plan. Ordinances need to be updated. There have been signs that the Winnebago County Board is working on this. Natural vegetation needs to be installed and maintained for us to have high quality water and a pleasing natural environment.



Carolyn Fulkerson talking with Mathew Bardol and Dennis Dreher

Wild Ones Local Chapter Participates in New Event!

Submitted by and photos by Ginnie Watson

May 18 saw the first happening of **Nature Fiesta**, a family oriented event aimed at a bilingual (Spanish/English) audience. Organized by Jamie Johannsen and sponsored by Winnebago County Forest Preserve District as well as Spring Creek Elementary School, the outing succeeded in enticing nearly 500 Moms, Dads, Grandparents and children out to Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve for an afternoon spent enjoying nature.

Wild Ones members, Jack Armstrong and Program Co-Chair Lee Johnson, led the river hikes and bird hikes respectively. Mike Groves led the river walk. There was a station with live monarch butterflies lovingly raised by Helen Molina, a Birds of Prey booth with live birds, a 50 gallon fish tank with local aquatic species and a wild flower station manned by four more Wild Ones members. Bob Arevalo, one of our two Co-Presidents, used our artful Display/Booth as well as posters and brochures describing Monarch Joint Venture to engage visitors on the virtues of growing native plants. The natural progression was to offer native plants for sale...at the Wild Ones two tables next to the booth.

Barbara Flores, our Woodland Plant Sale Chair, presented the last of the woodland plants left from the very successful woodland plant sale this spring. Ginnie Watson, our other Co-President, found new homes for many prairie plants remaining from the now ended Prairie Plant sale. But, there was one more table under Wild Ones' influence.

Cynthia Nelson, Volunteer Chair and Wild for Monarchs Campaign Coordinator, held court at our Crafts table, where she provided face painting to a long line of eager children! This was Cynthia's first go at face painting but a rather large number of happy youngsters think Cynthia has found a new calling! Children come equipped with parents and the Craft table was next to the native plants sale tables. Consequently, we most certainly sold more plants to waiting parents than would otherwise have been sold!

Jamie pronounced **Fiesta** a smashing success and we agree with her assessment. This gathering of folks enjoying nature with their families and friends gave us a great chance to educate and advocate for the use of native plants in landscaping...and to have a marvelous time while so doing! Looking forward to 2014.



Barbara Flores discusses native woodland plants with Fiesta visitors



Cynthia Nelson does face painting for kids at Fiesta



Ginnie Watson helps out at the W.O. Crafts table

May Show Me/Help Me Recap

Submitted by Anita Johnson

photos by Shey Lowman



Our first Show Me/Help Me of the season was at the home of Lisa Johnson where ten Wild One members were treated to a very informative tour of Lisa's beautiful woodland yard and grounds under a canopy of white oak, hickory and hackberry trees. Lisa pointed out the woodland plants around the house and then led a short hike down a ravine to an intermittent stream and waterfall and a spring. During the course of the tour, at least 43 varieties of woodland wildflowers were identified. Mary Anne Mathwich pointed out the difference between Solomon's seal, Solomon's plume and Starry Solomon's Plume. Lisa compared and contrasted Rue Anemone, False Rue Anemone, and Wood Anemone.

Next we visited the yard of Melanie Costello who has $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of Oak Savanna. We were immediately drawn to her magnificent Bur Oak where she has developed the beginning of a savanna planting. Melanie's main concern was how to landscape with the foundation plants next to her home. She has purchased some native shrubs from the Wild Ones shrub and tree sale but would like to add more. A variety of trees and shrubs were suggested, including American hazelnut, witch hazel, yellow honeysuckle and fragrant sumac. She already had pagoda dogwood, cranberry viburnum and New Jersey tea.

The south side of Melanie's house perfectly lends itself to planting native grasses and forbes. The prairie planting would add a splash of color to be



enjoyed both in and out of her home. It was also suggested that she could add a screen of native shrubs and trees along the road. Nannyberry viburnum, red twig dogwood, grey dogwood, common ninebark and spice bush were suggested.

Our last stop was Jarrett Nature Preserve in Byron. We briefly toured the museum center and then Lisa Johnson led us on a hike through prairie and woods on the Indigo Trace Trail. Early blooming spring prairie plants included fringed puccoon, cream wild indigo, bird's foot and prairie violet, golden Alexander and an amazing display of shooting stars. After cookies and lemonade, we departed. It had been a perfect afternoon for our first "Show Me/Help Me" of the season!

Prairie Plant Sale - Plants still available

Our annual sale of native prairie plants has been a great success at getting native sun-loving plants into local landscapes. Every year we have plants left unsold after our pre-order and pick-up processes. This year is no different and we have a few of the following varieties available for sale (Common names only are used to minimize the size of the list):

Purple Hyssop
Mud Plantain
Thimbleweed
Red Milkweed
Butterfly Milkweed
Short's Aster
White Wild Indigo
Cream Wild Indigo
False Aster

Prairie Coreopsis
Pale Purple Coneflower
Rattlesnake Master
Boneset
Prairie Smoke
Cardinal Flower
Great Blue Lobelia
Stiff Goldenrod
Ditch Stonecrop
Prairie Cinquefoil
Yellow Coneflower
Compass Plant
Smooth Blue Aster
New England Aster
Side Oats Grama
Bristly Sedge
Long-beaked Sedge

Tussock Sedge
Prairie June Grass
Switch Grass
Rufous (Red) Bulrush
Indian Grass

The plants we received from our grower this year were quite beautiful and these are just waiting for a new home in your landscape! We have only a few plants of some of these varieties and more of others so if you have interest in them, please contact Lenae Weichel (lenae@weichel.org or 815-282-5482) to reserve yours! If you would like the opportunity to browse, please contact Lenae to make an appointment to do so. Any remaining plants will be available for sale at the June Chapter Meeting.

2013 Chapter Programs and Events

June 20 7:00-8:45 pm	Planting Natives to Attract Monarch Butterflies & Other Insects: WO Joint Venture	Patricia Miller	Burpee Museum of Natural History
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.



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 **6/1/2013**, 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

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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.