

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 May 2014 newsletter, must be submitted to the Newsletter Chair, at: Pambi@wildonesrrvc.org
April 23, 2014.

Benefits of Native Landscaping for Private Landowners, Subdivision Developers, and Businesses

Thursday, April 17, 2014

**NEW LOCATION: Rock Valley College/Woodward Technology Center, WTC
3301 North Mulford Road,
Rockford, IL 61114**

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm



Join us April 17, 2014 – please remember to come to our new location at Rock Valley College! Corrine Daniels, Vice President and Director of Applied Ecological Services Restoration Nurseries will talk about the benefits of native landscaping – not only for us, private landowners, but also subdivision developers and businesses. Corrine will talk about how her work at AES has helped to change people’s attitudes about native landscaping – and the excitement she feels. Her excitement about the benefits of planting natives can hopefully spark our enthusiasm about spreading the word about native landscaping to our friends and neighbors, too!

“Passion” would be a good word to describe Corrine. She grew up on a farm, where her father taught her a love of nature, which she has nurtured her entire life. She dreamed as a young person of saving threatened and endangered species. “And look at me now – I get to do this on a daily basis!”

Corrine provides professional management for one of the most diverse, multi-state, native seed and plant nursery operation in the Midwest. During nearly 20 years of experience at AES, she has gained a wealth of practical experience in the growing and use of native plants. She enjoys working closely with partners in both the private and public sectors, including non-profit agencies. She is committed to “doing the right thing” for nature, the client, and the project.

Corrine helped grow AES and Taylor Creek Nurseries, near Brodhead, Wisconsin, from a local \$400,000 per year operation to a \$2.1 million dollar per year division, while expanding the operation from 70 acres to over 300 acres, with offices in five states. Daniels’ skill set combines strong horticulture and field experience with proven business management abilities and an extensive background in multiple aspects of leadership and personnel management.

Her proudest achievements include producing the highest quality **(cont’d on page 2)**

Message from the Co-President

Bob Arevalo



Bob Arevalo

photo by Jon McGinty

Many members of our Wild Ones chapter attended the recent Gardening for Food and Fun conference held at the NIU Rockford campus which is an annual conference put on by the University of Illinois Extension. Tim Lewis had our Wild Ones booth display there, and in addition he was a presenter. His topic was native seed starting. I was also a presenter on one of my hobbies which is growing shiitake mushrooms on logs.

In spite of the snowy conditions, the conference was well attended.

The keynote presentation was given by U of I Extension educator Peggy Doty.

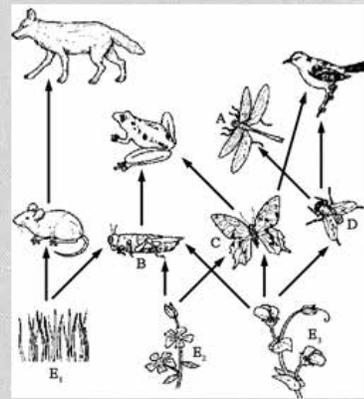
Her presentation was most enjoyable not only because of its content but also because of her humorous delivery. The title of her presentation was "The People and Nature Perspective." One of her main points was about food chain restoration. That phrase "food chain restoration" is another way of looking at what we at Wild Ones promote: native plants, natural landscapes promote environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restorations and establishment of native plant communities. She talked about the need to supply our native pollinators the native food they evolved with if we want to sustain our own food supply. She urged us to plant for more than just ourselves, i.e. plant native plants that support our native pollinators that in turn support the food chain. We are building a food chain. She says, if you plant natives, they will come, and then others will come. This was an inspiring message.

I comment on this presentation to you because of the interesting and informative presentations that you can enjoy if you seek them out and attend them. Some of us travel some distances to attend conferences and workshops. But I have a better and more local idea. Attend our Wild Ones presentations right here in Rockford at Rock Valley College that are always interesting and informative. Lynda and Lee Johnson, our

Food Chain Restoration

- Reconnecting pollinators with their plants.
- We need to supply our native pollinators the native food they evolved with, if we want to sustain our food chain.
- We also need familiar native nectaring plants.
- More fruit, vegetables, and stronger plants will result.
- *This is part of sustainable care and landscaping.*

Simple but Clear



program co-chairs, do a wonderful job of lining up great speakers with important messages. When you are unable to attend our meetings, you can always read a summary of the presentation in the subsequent newsletter, but you get so much more by attending the presentations in person. The PowerPoint presentations colorfully support the speaker's topic, and it is an opportunity to compare notes with other people who have similar interests.

So, come to as many presentations as you can. Invite others to join you. Our April 17th presentation is "Benefits of Native Landscaping for Private Landowners, Subdivision Developers, and Businesses" by Corrine Daniels of Applied Ecological Services. It should be really interesting. See you there.

(cont'd from page 1) in the Midwest, and developing a very deep and dedicated team of employees. Their plants are awesome, and worth the drive to see everything!

Come early and browse the library, merchandise tables, chapter information booth, and refreshments table. We welcome new members! Call 815-627-0344. Submitted by Lynda and Lee Johnson, Co-Chairs/Program

Wild Ones to Receive the 2014 Seth B. Atwood Award!

The following was received on March 28, 2014:

It is my pleasure to convey the decision of the Atwood Award Selection Committee to present the 2014 Seth B. Atwood Award for Parks and Conservation to Wild Ones- Rock River Valley Chapter. Wild Ones was selected to be recognized in the Organization category, and an award will also be presented to a recipient in the Individual category.

The Seth B. Atwood Park and Conservation Service Award will be presented this year beginning at 5:30 p.m. on April 24, 2014 at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden. Cost to attend the event is \$20 per person. Social, appetizers, cash bar and presentation program comprise the schedule for the evening.

The Atwood Award is named in honor of Seth B. Atwood, the late industrialist who preserved and donated more than 1,000 acres of valuable land for the citizens of Winnebago County. Thanks to Mr. Atwood, we can all enjoy the beauty that is found in Atwood Park along the Kishwaukee River and Atwood Homestead Forest Preserve beside the Rock River. He was a man of action and his deeds set an example for all to follow.

The Atwood Award is presented by the Rockford Park District and the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District. To date, 43 recipients have received this award which recognizes individuals and organizations for their exceptional volunteer contributions to facilities, programs or services which preserve natural areas and park spaces, provide recreation or education.

Congratulations! This a huge honor for you and your group, and I am thrilled that such a relevant and impactful organization as Wild Ones RRVC is being recognized.

Jamie B. Johannsen

Director of Marketing and Community Relations

Winnebago County Forest Preserve District

This award was only made possible by the dedicated members and volunteers over the years who have made Wild Ones what it is today. Please join us for the presentation of the award. Thanks to all of you who have contributed your time and talent to our great organization.

Bob Arevalo and Ginnie Watson
Co-Presidents of Wild Ones – Rock River Valley Chapter

Mentor Program Melanie Costello, Mentor Program Coordinator

A single conversation with a wise man is better than ten years of study. – Chinese Proverb

One of the many benefits of Wild Ones membership, the Mentor Program matches less experienced members who request a mentor with more experienced members who are willing to share their knowledge. The requirements to have a mentor are simple.

- You must be a Wild Ones member.
- You have to ask!
- You must value your mentor's free offering of time. One important way to do this is by putting in the effort to learn – through meetings, books, and/or Show Me/Help Me events; you can't rely entirely on your mentor.

The requirements to be a mentor are also simple. You need to:

- Have a willingness to share your time (two visits for the growing season are suggested).
- Have enough knowledge and experience to help a less experienced member. Please note: this doesn't mean "expert," and there are no tests to pass!
- Have the wisdom to know when your knowledge is inadequate, and help your mentee find other resources.

The advantages of the program to the mentored member are obvious. However, the advantages to the mentor are also notable. It is a wonderful opportunity to further the Wild Ones mission. I've often heard it said, and I believe, that you don't truly learn something until you teach it.

To participate by requesting a mentor or offering to be a mentor, contact Melanie Costello, Mentor Program Coordinator, at melhhj1@hotmail.com or at 815-645-8430.

March Meeting Recap Cynthia Nelson

photos by Emmylou Studier



At times when Mollie Fifield Murray is walking in The University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum she considers that she is walking where Aldo Leopold, who was a founding director of the Arboretum, walked. The process of restoration at the Arboretum is guided by the understanding of ecological systems as well as the commitment to continue to advance this understanding. In her talk she referred to Leopold's land ethic and to the idea that every part of an ecological system is important, and taking away one part can harm or destroy the system.

We are facing the loss of pollinators. The plight of the Monarch butterfly has received a lot of attention in recent years. The Monarch Joint Venture includes the goal of promoting conservation for other species as well as Monarchs. Bumblebees are also in trouble. Changes in land use that have reduced host and nectar sources for butterflies have reduced nesting sites and food sources for bumblebees as well; and the use of systemic pesticides (specifically the neonicotinoids) are serious threats to pollinators.

One important thing we can do is to support native planting. Often the standard ornamental shrubs, annuals and perennials that are produced and distributed widely do not support the ecosystem. In fact, plants might even be promoted based on characteristics such as repelling insects or having "persistent" fruits. Native trees and shrubs support native pollinators, as do native flowers. Butterflies

and moths seek specific host plants on which to lay their eggs, which the larvae can feed on when hatched. Learning about the life-cycles and habitat needs of our pollinators and using practices that support their needs is one important step in assuring that the next generation will have butterflies and bees to appreciate. Avoiding systemic insecticides and working to eliminate their acceptance and use is another.

"The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant, "What good is it?" If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is good, whether we understand it or not. If the biota, in the course of aeons, has built something we like but do not understand, then who but a fool would discard seemingly useless parts? To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering."

– [Aldo Leopold, *Round River: From the Journals of Aldo Leopold*](#)

Resources:

Mader, E. , Shepherd, Vaughan, M. , Black, S.H., LeBuhn, G. (2011). *Attracting Native Pollinators. The Xerces Society Guide*. Storey Publishing, North Adams MA. (In RRVWO library).

Monarch Joint Venture. <http://monarchjointventure.org/news-events/news/monarchs-as-a-flagship>
Xerces Society Web page <http://www.xerces.org/>



Janaan Lewis & Janet Giesen

Woodland Plants Offer Early Benefits to Pollinators and Birds Barbara Flores, Sale Coordinator

The presentation on pollinators at the March meeting provided a wealth of information about pollinators and their need to find pesticide-free native plants. For those who missed the meeting, please see the excellent recap in this month's newsletter.

Even if only a small portion of a yard is shady, it offers an opportunity to provide early-flowering native woodland plants to benefit both pollinators and birds. Please read the woodland brochure with an eye to the many creatures who visit woodland plants for nectar, pollen, vegetative food or shelter. Early returning migratory butterflies and ones that may have wintered over, either as adults or in the pupal form, will especially appreciate the early blooms.

Native woodland plants provide a direct benefit for the hummingbird as Wild Columbine and Virginia Blue Bells provide an early source of nectar for them after their long migration back to the Midwest. Later in the season the agile little bird will draw nectar from the downward hanging flowers of Solomon's Seal. Throughout the season and into early fall other birds will feed on seed from native grasses and sedges and will find shelter and nesting material also.

However, there is an even more important benefit for the birds. That is by having pesticide-free native plants in the yard, insects, which are a crucial part of the food web, are available in greater numbers at a time when the birds are feeding their young. Hummingbirds must find smaller insects to feed their nestlings and even the adult requires insects for a complete diet. In fact, nearly every bird

species needs to find such protein rich food for its young. Thus, parent birds look to larval forms of caterpillars and moths as well as other insects to feed their nestlings. They know that baby birds cannot live on nectar or seed.

While many woodland plants do flower earlier, others flower throughout the season. Fall flowering woodland asters and goldenrods are important food sources for migratory butterflies and other pollinators as they prepare for winter. Birds also need to stock up on seed and insects as they prepare to set out on their journey southward.

Scattered forest preserves and conservation areas are not enough in number or acreage to help struggling species of wildlife. Please make a part of your yard, no matter what size, a source of food for wildlife.

Orders for woodland plants are due April 21. Both the brochure and the list of additional plants which will be available at pickup can be found on the website. Please contact the sale coordinator with any questions or special requests. And as always, please do not hesitate to request a different pickup time or location if more convenient. For those in the DeKalb area, orders can be picked up locally if desired.



photo submitted by Rick Freiman

March Meeting Overflow!



Membership Update

Shey Lowman, Membership Co-Chair

Thanks to our 23 members who renewed this month! A membership e-form and our membership brochure describing the benefits of membership are both available on the chapter website (www.wildonesrrvc.org), just click on the Membership tab. Thank you in advance for helping us reach our goal of 200 members in 2014!

178 memberships on March 23, 2014

Special thanks to our members who made donations above the basic \$37 dues!

Cynthia Chmell, Rockford, IL
Jane & Jay Evans, Rockford, IL
Claudia & Stephen Fleeman, Rockford, IL
Don & Marilyn Heneghan, Roscoe, IL
Ed & Charlotte Kletecka, South Beloit, IL
David Kostka, Juda, WI
Jerry Paulson, Caledonia, IL

Welcome to new members!

Mira Lee, Loves Park, IL
Patricia Rooney & William Mills, Sycamore, IL
Marcia Speck, Aurora, IL

It is preferred that renewal memberships are sent directly to the chapter for quicker processing and to avoid delays in receiving your chapter newsletter. Please use the address below:

Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter
5411 E. State Street #340
Rockford, IL 61108-2907

Your expiration date is on your chapter newsletter and your national Journal address labels. You will be mailed a renewal

Anniversaries Congratulations to this month's loyal members!

20 Years

Lisa Johnson, Byron, IL
Mary Anne & Bruce Mathwich, Rockton, IL
Anne Meyer, Rockford, IL

10 Years

Mary Berve, Darien, WI
Suzanne Falconer, Byron, IL
Jim & Karen Timble, Franklin Grove, IL

5 Years

Cynthia Nelson, DeKalb, IL

.....
reminder two months prior to your expiration date with a completed membership form and return envelope for your convenience.

Please send address and email address changes to Shey Lowman at shey@wildonesrrvc.org.

Thirty percent of all dues paid are returned to the chapter by National Wild Ones to support our chapter activities. All dues and donations are fully tax deductible.

Thank you for your continued support!

Merchandise Must Have

Shey Lowman, Merchandise Coordinator

Spring is Here, Time to Get Those Tools!



The **Parnip Predator** is a remarkable tool for killing thistle, Queen Anne's Lace as well as Wild Parsnip, while allowing you to stay on your feet! Made for slicing tap roots below soil level, it is lightweight and ergonomic too. Your back will thank you for making this **\$42.00** investment.



The thorn and bramble protection you need!

The Pallina Pruning Sleeve made from rugged nylon and polyurethane material, fully lined for protection. They have covered knuckles and thumb for added protection, Velcro adjustment, elastic finger stays, quality construction. **\$25.00**

Gloves not included. For best puncture resistance, use with any inexpensive grain pigskin, grain or split cowhide work gloves, most under \$10.

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



I prefer receiving the color digital version of the monthly newsletter as a PDF file via email.

Check here if you do not want to be published in the annual January membership roster.

Please select your membership category:

| | Wild | Wilder | Wildest |
|--|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Household Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$37 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100+ |
| Household Lifetime Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1500 (Or payable in 3 annual payments of \$500) | | |
| Professional Educator Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$90 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$120 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 |
| Not-for-Profit Affiliate Organization Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$90 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$120 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 |
| Limited Income or Full-Time Student Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 | | |
| Business Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$600 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,200 |
| Gift Household Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$37 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100+ |

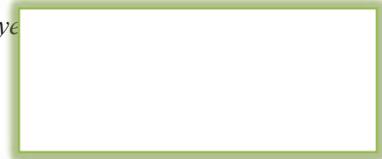
If this is a gift membership, please enter your name below so we can let the recipient know it is from you:

I would like to make an additional donation to support the Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter for: \$ _____

**Wild Ones
Rock River Valley Chapter
5411 E State St #340
Rockford, IL 61108-2907**

Please make your **check payable to Wild Ones** and mail it to this address:

I have enclosed \$ _____ to start/ renew my membership for _____ ye



2014 Chapter Programs and Events

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Feb-April | Woodland Plant Sale Orders | Barbara Flores | barbara@wildonesrrvc.org 815-289-8602 |
| April 17 7:00-9:00 pm | Benefits of Native Landscaping for Private Landowners, Subdivision Developers, and Businesses | Corrine Daniels Applied Ecological Services | RVC/Woodward Technology Center, WTC 3301 North Mulford Road Rockford, IL 61114 |
| April 21 | Woodland Plant Sale Orders Due | Barbara Flores | barbara@wildonesrrvc.org 815-289-8602 |
| April 28 | Last day prairie plant orders will be accepted | Rick & Deb Freiman | 815-871-7424 |
| April 25 3-7:30 pm April 26 9-12 noon | Pick Up Woodland Plant Orders See brochure for full details | Barbara Flores 815-289-8602 | 15813 Anderson Rd. Durand, IL 61024 |
| May 16 5-7 pm May 17 8-11 am | Pick Up Prairie Plant Orders See brochure for full details | Rick & Deb Freiman | Location TBA |

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 **4/1/2014**, 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:
Wild Ones Rock River Valley
5411 E. State Street #340
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

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

Secretary: Cathy Johnson 815-978-0865
cathy@wildonesrrvc.org

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

Membership Co-Chairs: Marilyn Heneghan
815-389-7869 marilyn@wildonesrrvc.org
Shey Lowman 815-757-4456
shey@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 Coordinators:
Rick Freiman 815-871-7424 rick@
wildonesrrvc.org
Deb Freiman 815-871-7424
deb@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

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

Mentor Coordinator: Melanie Costello
815-645-8430 melanie@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
Rock Valley College/Woodward Technology Center, WTC, 3301 North Mulford Road, Rockford, IL 61114
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: Household \$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.