

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

Why "NATIVES"?
Thursday, January 16, 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 January 16, 2014 for our first meeting of the new year, in our new location! Tim Lewis will give an excellent introduction to landscaping using native plants. The presentation explains the history of our ecosystems, how we got to where we are today, and why native plants are vital to the environment.

If you think we're into "natives" just because we like the pretty flowers, you will find that there is a lot more to it than beauty. The benefits and fallacies of natural landscaping will be explained. And finally, Tim will show examples of native plant landscapes to hopefully inspire you to change your thinking about your own landscapes.

Tim Lewis is the national president of Wild Ones Natural Landscapers. He has been on the board of directors for over eight years. Tim was president of the Rock River Valley chapter in Rockford for several years, and served on the board for many more years. He is the past president of the Four Rivers Environmental Coalition.

Tim was named "Conservationist of the Year" for 2009 by the Sinoissippi Audubon Society. In 2011, he was a finalist for the Seth B. Atwood Memorial Park and Conservation Service Award, and in 2012 was the recipient of this award. With his background in conservation, we are honored to have him in our organization.

He has been growing native plants in his yard since 1991. His beautiful yard contains over 100 species of native plants in prairie plots, rain gardens, and savanna and shade gardens.

Come early and browse the library, merchandise tables, chapter information booth, and refreshments table. The meeting is free and open to the public. We welcome new members. Call 815-627-0344.

Submitted by Lynda and Lee Johnson, Co-Chairs/Program



Message from the Co-President Ginnie Watson



Wild Ones moves to Rock Valley College!

Robert Allen Zimmerman (Bob Dylan) tells us that ... "The Times They Are a Changin'". How right you are, Bob! This is a banner year for Wild Ones! The national Wild Ones organization will be observing its 35th Anniversary

in 2014 and ***we will be celebrating our Chapter's 20th Anniversary!***

The national organization of Wild Ones accepted Rock River Valley as a chapter, with 22 members, in July of 1994. We met at Jarrett Prairie Center in Byron offering monthly programs and by 1999 we began publishing an informative newsletter to 97 members. Our numbers grew steadily and by 2002, with 118 members, we moved to Burpee Museum of Natural History, a larger facility.

Our relationship with Burpee Museum of Natural History has been a very positive one. This association with a nationally known scientific based organization has been mutually beneficial. We gained a well regarded, well appointed site for our meetings while introducing our members to a newly expanded and updated Burpee Museum. We did not make the decision to leave lightly.

This year, 2014, the year of our 20th Anniversary, will find us at **Rock Valley College** in the Woodward Technology Center! Our membership hovers around 180 and I want to see us grow beyond the 200 mark! We need a site that will grow with us, providing us with the ability to expand into a larger room when the need arises; up to date audio/visual equipment; better parking for a larger crowd; even more comfortable chairs! Moving to the academic atmosphere of Rock Valley College is the obvious next step for our chapter as we accept the challenge of educating more and more members and community participants about the increasing need to provide native habitat for our stressed ecosystem.

Our time at Burpee Museum of Natural History was fruitful and positive. That prestigious facility served us very well. We watched Burpee grow both in exhibit space and prestige. It has become a nationally recognized scientific institution and we wish them well in their future endeavors. We, now, have moved on to

Rock Valley College and we are on our way up!

Let me make a few more comments regarding change. Constance McCarthy and Lenae Weichel are leaving our Board after serving 9 and 10 years, respectively, in leadership positions. Constance started off as Secretary in 2005 and moved up to President in 2007. She spent 6 years in that position, longer than any former president of our chapter. This last year, as immediate Past President, marks her 9th and final year on our board.

Lenae Weichel began as Newsletter Editor in 2004, moving to Show Me/Help Me Chair and finally Prairie Plant Sale Coordinator. Her insight and editing capabilities made our newsletter one of the best, a tradition Pambi Camacho, our current Newsletter Chair, has built upon. We wish Constance and Lenae the very best and thank them for their dedication, wisdom, and guidance these many years!

We must also say goodbye to Barb Kuminowski who is leaving after one year. Thank you, Barb, for serving so ably as Mentor Coordinator. As we say good bye, we are pleased to welcome Melanie Costello who will take Barb Kuminowski's place as Mentor Coordinator. Melanie has also served as Booth Coordinator. Cathy Johnson will be joining us as Secretary while Shey Lowman moves to Membership Co-Chairmanship with Marilyn Heneghan. Cathy has served as Library Assistant for several years. And, lastly, we welcome Rick and Deb Freiman as Prairie Plant Sale Coordinators. It is a big job and we know they are up to the task.

This is a year of change. Let us welcome it with open arms...at Rock Valley College!



Directions to Wild Ones New Meeting Venue at Rock Valley College

- If arriving by the I-90 toll road, exit at Riverside Blvd.
- Go west on Riverside and turn left at Mulford Road.
- Enter campus on west side from Mulford Road.
- Turn right into parking lot #2.
- Park in front of the Woodward Technology Center (WTC).
- Enter the central doors to the WTC on the first floor.



There will be signs directing you to the left to rooms that will be used.

New Member Benefit Shey Lowman

Our chapter has received a generous \$500 donation from one of our members to help further the cause of Wild Ones with new members. Beginning in January 2014 to celebrate our chapter's 20th anniversary, new members who join as of January 1, 2014 will be offered the benefit of receiving one copy of the book *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* by Douglas S. Tallamy. New members will earn their book when they attend their third chapter meeting, event or purchase plants through one of the chapter plant sales.

New members will receive their personalized certificate in their new member packet when they join the chapter. The certificate has areas for three events to be filled in

with a description and the signature by the event host or a board member. It can then be redeemed at the merchandise table during one of our regular monthly meetings at Rock Valley College.

We are purchasing \$500 worth of the books and they will be given out until they are gone. We are very grateful to our anonymous member and their generosity for helping our new members.

Please share this information with your friends and family and help us grow the chapter. Our goal is to be the biggest and best chapter in the country.



The Year in Review Jerry Paulson

At our Chapter's annual pot-luck and seed exchange meeting in November, our Co-Presidents, Bob Arevalo, Ginnie Watson and Treasurer, Janet Giesen, recapped RRV Chapter "Happenings in 2013". Co-President, Bob Arevalo first thanked all the volunteers who put in many hours during the year to make everything happen.

He reported that the year started out with a board retreat to get new ideas and to plan for the activities and programs in 2013. Nine excellent programs were presented, and a special visit to the rooftop garden on Chicago City Hall was a highlight for those who were able to attend. Our popular summer social and garden tour was held at Bobbie Lambiotte's house. Bob thanked Lee and Lynda Johnson for getting the speakers for the excellent programs and planning the tours.

The woodland, prairie and tree and shrub sales were a big success thanks to the work of the coordinators, Barbara Flores, Lenae Weichel, and John Peterson. Tim Lewis had our Wild Ones display booth at six public events this year, including the first ever "Nature Fiesta" sponsored by the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District. Four "Show Me/Help Me" days were held at members yards, planned by Anita Johnson and Mary Ann Mathwich. Bob thanked the coordinators for all their work during the year.

In August Ginnie Watson, Bob Arevalo, Jerry Paulson and Tim Lewis attended the Wild Ones national meeting and planning workshop in Neenah, Wisconsin. They learned about the new Wild Ones website and voted to continue the national "Wild for Monarchs" campaign for another year. Bob shared the new color membership brochure that was developed and printed by the chapter with the other chapters.



Bob thanked Shey Lowman for maintaining the chapter website and other tech matters, and for expanding the merchandise offerings at our monthly meetings. He thanked Jerry Paulson for putting together the monthly e-mail notices, and Marilyn Heneghan for helping to hold the chapter membership steady at 176 members. Our chapter is the third largest out of 48 chapters in the nation, Bob reported.

Janet gave the Chapter financial report for the year. Dues make up about 30% of the Chapter's revenues, she said. Profits from plant sales provide about 50% of yearly income. The costs of speakers, room rental, snacks, etc. for our monthly meetings are the biggest expense, followed by printing and postage for our newsletter, plant sales fliers, and hand-out materials for our display booth. Donations were made to different groups, including the National Wild Ones "Seeds for Education" program.



As the members finished eating their deserts, Ginnie Watson talked about the Chapter's plans for 2014. She said we will continue to work with the "Wild for Monarchs" campaign and promote planting of butterfly refuges for monarchs and other native insects.

The Year in Review (cont'd)



Ginnie will also add new books to the library to expand the resources available to members.

Ginnie said that 2014 will be the Chapter's 20th Anniversary, and announced a membership drive to bring in more members. Thanks to a very generous donation from a member, new members who join after January 1st, and participate in 3 Chapter events will be given a free copy of Doug Tallamy's book. Plans are also being made to hold a workshop sometime during the year.

Then Ginnie announced that the monthly Chapter meetings are moving from Burpee Natural History Museum to Woodward Technology Center at Rock

Valley College, starting in January. (See directions to new meeting location.) The new venue is a central and safe location, provides a large meeting room with an audio-visual system, and a large parking lot close to the building with easy access for loading and unloading our library, information display and merchandise. It will also provide us with access to college instructors, students and space for future workshops, conferences and meetings.

Finally, Janaan Lewis, Karen Matz and Ed Foster were each given a \$25 gift card for reporting the most volunteer hours for the year.

Board of Directors in Action

Highlights of activities of the Board of Directors, as discussed at the October 8, 2013 meeting, include the following:

- John Peterson reported the Tree & Shrub sold a total of 147 plants.
- A motion was approved to donate \$2.00 per member to the national Wild Ones Seed for Education grants.
- An anonymous \$500 donation was made to the chapter to recruit new members.
- Plans were initiated for celebrating the chapter's 20th anniversary in 2014. It is also national Wild Ones 35th anniversary.

Highlights of activities of the Board of Directors, as discussed at the December 12, 2013 meeting, include the following:

- The 2014 chapter budget was approved for \$30,900 maintaining all the current board purchasing approvals.
- The contract has been signed with Rock Valley College

Shey Lowman, Past Secretary

for the 2014 meeting rooms.

- The board will be having its annual retreat in February to set goals for 2014.
- The election results were announced. Congratulations to our new board!

Co-Presidents-Bob Arevalo & Ginnie Watson

Vice President-Jerry Paulson

Secretary-Cathy Johnson

Treasurer-Janet Giesen

Program Co-Chairs-Lynda & Lee Johnson

Membership Co-Chairs-Marilyn Heneghan & Shey Lowman

Newsletter Chair-Pambi Camacho

Plant Rescues/Seed Collection Chair-John Peterson

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

Youth Education & Grants Chair-Kim Lowman Vollmer

A Plant Rescue of a Different Sort Submitted by Barbara Flores

One evening In December of 2012 my husband Frank and I came home to find our nearly 150 year old house on fire. The cause was an 11 year old boiler and it would be more than 10 months before cleaning and restoration were complete and we were back in our home.

Two incredible Wild Ones members learned about what had happened and drove the snowy and cold distance to our house in the country, bringing with them fresh potting soil, tarps, and anything else needed to rescue, not native plants this time, but my beloved houseplants. It was neither easy, nor pleasant, to work in an unheated house, darkened with the smoke which coated every surface, including the foliage and surface soil of every pot. These two ladies, Ginnie Watson and Janet Giesen, set themselves to the task of repotting and cutting back the way too many plants I had and moving them to the nearby farmhouse where we would be living.



2013 Woodland Plant Sale

Barbara Flores Coordinator, Woodland Plant Sale

Our chapter hosted its fifth annual Native Woodland Plant Sale earlier in 2013 which resulted in the addition of 2,080 native plants to the flora of Winnebago and surrounding counties. Of that number, 240 plants were sold at cost to Wild Ones members for various educational projects which had been approved by the board.

This sale, as well as the prairie sale and tree and shrub sale, are an important part of fulfilling the Wild Ones mission to foster the use of native plants. To that end native species which are not readily available locally are offered for sale to members and nonmembers alike. And, of course, the sale is also a fundraiser to help support the fine speaker programs as well as the other educational and outreach activities of the chapter.

For the past two years the woodland plants have been taken to the two day Birdfest event at Sand Bluff Bird Banding Station and this has proved to be a great way to familiarize members of the public with Wild Ones and with native plant species. Many people visited the plant sale area, adjacent to the membership booth, and enjoyed seeing unfamiliar plants as well as learning the names of species they had seen in the wild. Others simply enjoyed talking about the native plants which they have and learning more about the chapter and its activities.

And then another dear Wild Ones member, Anita Johnson, seeing how limited the lighting was to keep all the plants through the winter, stepped in, taking several home with her and enlisting two friends to help give more of my plants a warm, sunny spot until spring.

Among the many tropicals which were saved was a 40 year old *Beaucarnea recurvata*, or pony tail palm, and a more than 60 year old Christmas cactus. Lost, of course, were the ones nearest the fire, but the 100 plus plants which survived, albeit shadows of their earlier selves, are the result of Ginnie's and Janet's efforts. These plants are very familiar and special to me and it is with immense pleasure that I watch them grow. I don't want to replace the ones I lost, not right now – perhaps it is a bit of a period of mourning but mostly to savor caring for the ones Ginnie and Janet saved.

For those new members who may not know, Ginnie is co-president of Wild Ones, Janet is treasurer and Anita is a board member. The RRVC is in great hands.

It is my privilege to coordinate the sale, but there would be no sale without the help of many wonderful volunteers. Chapter members provided ample help throughout the entire sale period from preparing brochures for mailing, to distributing brochures to various locations, making plant signs, picking up the more than 2,300 plants from the grower, unloading same and inserting labels, pulling orders, organizing the plant tables, helping on pickup day, at Birdfest, at the prairie sale and finally at the May meeting. Phew! And to top it off, it is all great fun plus we get to know each other and other members and learn more about native plants in the process.

So thank you so much to all who helped, some for the first time and especially those who have helped over the years: Kathy Crandall, Wendy Dahlberg, Kirby Doyle, Janet Giesen, Don Heneghan, Anita Johnson, Ed Kletecka, Barbara Kober, Barbara Kuminowski, Karen Matz, Cynthia Nelson, John Peterson, Jane Snively, Diane Stenner and Guy Smith. Special thanks to Jane for preparing lovely signs for the more than 40 species offered. And to Jane and Wendy for helping with getting the plants from the grower and especially to Jane's dad, who used his large trailer to supplement my horse trailer, all on a chilly, rainy day.

Volunteers Recognized Shey Lowman

All year we keep track of the number of hours that our hard working volunteers have worked to make our chapter the terrific organization that it is. For every two hours that any member helps at an event, a meeting, preparing a mailing or anything that is needed, their name gets put into a pool for a drawing at the November Potluck. So the more two hour stints a person puts in, the greater their chances are for being selected during the drawing. Three lucky volunteers receive a \$25 gift certificate that can be used toward chapter merchandise

or plant purchases during any of the three annual plant sales.

This year's outstanding volunteers that won the drawing are: Janaan Lewis with 55 hours spent preparing the monthly newsletters for mailing; Karen Matz with 20 hours for volunteering at the meetings and helping with the library; and Ed Foster for his 10 hours setting up the sound system at the monthly meetings. Congratulations to all! And thanks to all of our volunteers who worked nearly 200 hours on the chapter behalf this year!

Membership Update Marilyn Heneghan, Membership Chair

175 memberships on January 1, 2014

Special Thanks to Recent Rock River Valley Chapter Donators

(any amount above the \$37 basic dues)

Kathy Ayres
Frank and Karen Finch
Janet Giesen
Susan Christensen

30 attended the Pot Luck and Seed Exchange.

Thank you to Shey Lowman and Janet Giesen for their help.

Note: It is preferred that renewal donations be sent directly to:

**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.

2014 Chapter Programs and Events

January 16 7:00-9:00 pm	Why Natives?	Tim Lewis President National Wild Ones Board	RVC/Woodward Technology Center, WTC 3301 North Mulford Road Rockford, IL 61114
February 20 7:00-9:00 pm	Managing Weeds Without Using Chemicals	Mary Blackmore Naturalist, Educator, and Lover of Native Plants	RVC/Woodward Technology Center, WTC 3301 North Mulford Road Rockford, IL 61114
March 20 7:00-9:00 pm	Planting Natives for Pollinators	Molly Fifield Murray UW Madison – Arboretum	RVC/Woodward Technology Center, WTC 3301 North Mulford Road Rockford, IL 61114
April 17 7:00-9:00 pm	Benefits of Native Landscaping for Private Landowners, Subdivision Developers, and Businesses	Corinne 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

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 **1/1/2014**, 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 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

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 & Deb Freiman 815-871-7424
freiman@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: 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.