

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

Inside this Issue:

Message from the Co-President	2
Board in Action	3
Project Learning Tree Workshop	3
Merchandise Must Haves	3
August Meeting Recap	4-6
Membership	7
Chapter Calendar	7
Chapter Contact Information	8



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



Articles for the October 2014 newsletter, must be submitted to the Newsletter Chair, at: Pambi@wildonesrrvc.org by September 23, 2014.

Managing Weeds Without Using Chemicals
Thursday, September 18, 2014

Rock Valley College/Woodward Technology Center, WTC
3301 North Mulford Road,
Rockford, IL 61114
Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm



Join us September 18 to hear Mary Blackmore talk about managing natural areas without using chemicals. This presents a unique set of challenges and opportunities that need planning, hard work and determination ...qualities that certainly describe Mary.

To avoid herbicides and their negative effects, one must focus on the target species' biology. This includes the strategic timing of physical processes such as cutting or burning, as well as the encouragement of native species best-suited to outcompete the invasive vegetation. Mary's discussion will also cover why people are your greatest asset and how your own expectations can be your greatest liability.

Mary Blackmore has been involved in various aspects of natural areas management in northwestern Illinois for over 30 years. Over that time she has worked as a volunteer for several local non-profit organizations, focusing on herbicide-free methods and volunteer recruitment and retention. In 1992 she began studying the efficacy of using goats to control woody vegetation in small prairie tracts, using her own herd. Currently she is the stewardship volunteer coordinator at two preserves in Ogle County which are owned and managed by the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society.

Confused about the terms "pesticides" and "herbicides"? This program will answer questions about managing native landscaping in a non-harmful way. The program is free and open to the public. Come early and browse the library, merchandise tables, and refreshments table.

We welcome and appreciate new members! Call 815-627-0344.

Submitted by Lynda and Lee Johnson, Program Co-Chairs

Message from the Co-President Ginnie Watson



Ginnie Watson

photo by Jon McGinty

This has been a year to remember. Everybody remembers milestones. This is our 20th year as a chartered chapter and we have come a long way, culminating in our first ever lecture/landscape tour. What a success that was! Our parent organization, the national organization of **Wild Ones, Native Plants, Natural Landscapes** also celebrated a notable event in which we shared, as well. The national organization reached

its 35th anniversary and commemorated it with a well planned conference featuring several excellent speakers, a good video of Jens Jensen, some delicious meals, and an opportunity to participate in the **Monarch Moves Dance n' Plant Festival!** Most of you were not there, but all of you will benefit from this special weekend in August...because of the breakout sessions.



Ginnie Watson at Planning a Conference session on Aug. 16

The 35th Anniversary Celebration was incorporated into the annual conference held each year by the national Wild Ones organization. The annual conference is, in fact, the combination of the annual meeting and a leadership conference and is held in various locations hosted by chapters around the country. The meat of these conferences is the breakout sessions aimed at improving the abilities of our leaders to carry out their duties and enhance their chapter's capabilities to support our mission. This conference did not disappoint.

There were 6 workshops occurring during 3 sessions so Co-President Bob Arevalo and I split 4 of them and attended the fifth one together. The sixth workshop, *Using the Tools of the Internet*, we felt was already well covered by our chapter. The workshops for the first session were *Developing a Regional Presence*, which Bob took, and *Becoming a Good Officer* which was my choice. In my session we learned the greatest stumbling block to

progressive movement on a board is, "but, we've always done it that way". So true. The next session covered the topics *How to be an Advocate* and *Planning a Conference*, the latter being my choice. Our chapter's very successful lecture/landscape tour gave me an opportunity to offer some advice while at the same time learning so much from chapters like Fox Valley, which is planning their 19th conference! The final session dealt with *How to Start a Chapter* and both Bob and I attended. As it turns out it is not difficult and is strongly encouraged by national as a way to increase our sphere of influence across the nation.



Ginnie Watson, Bob Arevalo, and Steve Windsor at How to Start a New Chapter session on Sunday, Aug. 17.

The workshops were very meaningful and important learning experiences but there were other light hearted moments as well. Sunday was the last day of the 35th Anniversary Celebration. It closed with **Monarch Moves Dance n' Plant Festival** hosted by Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter, and filming of participants' "moves for monarchs" by the Moving for Monarchs film crew. Area children were invited to dress up as monarchs and join the fun.

Bob and I will share what we learned at this important meeting of the minds with our chapter's board during our annual retreat. Our board does an exceptional job but there are always ways to improve and I feel particularly lucky to be a member of such a progressive and open minded board!



Orley 'Chip' Taylor, Founder & Director of Monarch Watch, presenting his program on Monarchs

Board of Directors in Action Cathy Johnson, Secretary

Highlights of activities of the Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter Board of Directors, as discussed at the August 13, 2014 meeting, include the following.

- On July 26th and 27th, the chapter commemorated its 20th anniversary with a very successful and well-attended event, **“Wild for Monarchs: Inviting Nature Home”**. Dr. Michael Jeffords spoke on, **“Surrounding Yourself with Nature: Strategies for the Home Landscape,”** followed by a tour of yards featuring natural landscaping.
- Chapter membership has grown to 203 members as compared to 171 in June 2013.
- The 2014 Trees and Shrub Sale is currently underway through September 27.
- Thanks to Shey Lowman’s diligent efforts, the chapter continues to grow in its use of technology and its many benefits. The chapter can now accept PayPal membership payments and donations on its website.

Attention Educators – Project Learning Tree Workshop

Project Learning Tree is an award-winning environmental education program designed for teachers and other educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12. They have been teaching environmental education for over 35 years. To learn more about their program you can go to <https://www.plt.org/> They have workshops all over Illinois, but one this fall will be in our area.

Saturday, November 8
K-12 Project Learning Tree®
 9:30 am-3:30 pm

Rockford Park District Atwood Center; Rockford, IL.

Cost: \$25.00 includes training, lunch, snacks and resources. Participants must pre-purchase and bring the Activity Guide available during registration process (\$24.95 electronic download guide or \$29.95 + shipping for print copy)

[Register](#) - Facilitator: Becky Lambert, Rockford Park District
beckylambert@rockfordparkdistrict.org

*This training fulfills the GreenWorks! grant application training requirement

You can obtain more information at:

[//www.ezlcms.com/v5/login/1525/PLT_IL.aspx?buyCourseID=8787](http://www.ezlcms.com/v5/login/1525/PLT_IL.aspx?buyCourseID=8787)

or <http://www.eeai.net/upcoming-trainings1.html>

Submitted by Kim Lowman Vollmer, Youth Education and Grant Chair

Merchandise Must Haves... Shey Lowman, Merchandise Coordinator

Essential Accessories for Wild Ones and Master Naturalists!

Field Bag by Pájaro

This is the best field bag available and is made in the U.S.A. The handy and convenient features make this a must-have accessory for anyone using field guides. It comes with both a shoulder strap and a belt loop. Great for Master Naturalist training. Tell your MN friends! **\$35.00**



Ticked Off

Simply the best and easiest tick remover ever! And made in the U.S.A. Everyone who has bought it raves about it! **\$10.00**



August Meeting Recap

Butterflies: Winged Wildflowers of Northern Illinois

Kim Lowman Vollmer

photos by Tim Lewis



What an interesting and entertaining program on local butterflies given by environmentalist Don Miller, Director of Education at Severson Dells. He began the evening by acknowledging the great work that Wild Ones does in building oases and working on problems with the natural world. Don's own story began with growing up on the family farm and spying a pale purple coneflower while hiking with the dog. This opened up a new

world for him. During that time no one was growing these types of plants (prairie plants) in their nurseries, but he figured if he could grow lilies and poinsettias, he could grow these too. Back in the 70's and 80's there was maybe one book regarding propagation of native plants, but Don had fun 'cracking the code' to determine how to grow these interesting plants. He was successful at encouraging coneflowers to grow around his home, which was admired by many. After a few successful years McHenry County noticed these, wanted some and so started the natural movement in the area during the early 1980's. His early journey was enhanced by meeting greats like Doug and Dot Wade, Ann Meyer, Lori Otto, and Pearl Olson.

Don describes himself as a linear naturalist, as he knows a little about a lot of things. His mission is to connect people to nature and beat the technology age! He encourages all of us to do the same: teach about gardening, take a hike, and share our love of nature with this generation that is not connected to the outdoors. They will only take care of what they love and are passionate about, so it is our responsibility to build that connection. This mission helped spur on the new naturescape playground at Severson Dells called The Grove, where kids can be creative, use their imagination and be outside.

Don presented butterflies in family groups, showing us how to identify many of the local ones and learn their host plant. He had some awesome photos by Mary Kay Rubey which guided us through area butterfly identification, habitats and our quiz. He described his journey with the butterflies, which began when Severson Dells planted a butterfly garden, with the help of Allen Branhagen, about 30 years ago. The goal was to bring butterflies that were already in the area closer so that people can see them, enjoy and learn more.

Some butterflies we admired were:

Mourning Cloak Butterfly. Hibernates (in tree bark, old wood piles) as an adult, and it is often the first butterfly seen in the spring; lives 11 months; adults feed on tree sap, carrion, dung, overripe fruit, and some flowers; attracted to elm, willow, aspen, and birch.

Red Admiral Butterfly. Population varies from year to year; its key characteristic for identification is the red-orange band/stripping on its forewing; preferred food is nettles.

White Admiral Butterfly. Seen in the Boundary Waters; enjoys birch and poplar.

American Painted Lady Butterfly. When its wings are closed, it has two large eyespots on an olive background; food plants are pearly everlasting and Compositae (or Asteraceae), commonly referred to as the aster, daisy, composite, or sunflower family).

Painted Lady Butterfly. Similar to the American Painted Lady; when its wings are closed, it has multiple eyespots on an olive background; food plants include thistle.

Great Spangled Fritillary Butterfly. Large and beautiful; wings are orange above, and basal wings can become dark; seven silver spots below; likes prairie violets.

Meadow Fritillary Butterfly. A beautiful butterfly; food plants include violets.

Regal Fritillary Butterfly. An endangered butterfly in Illinois; populations have been reduced significantly east of the Mississippi River; likes violets and dung.

Monarch Butterfly. Wings have prominent black lines; males have a spot in the center of each hindwing; require milkweed plants.

“What a tragedy if our generation lets the migration of monarchs dissolve. This says something about us as a people!”

Viceroy Butterfly. Take note of the difference between the viceroy and the monarch; on the viceroy, the black lines form a broad band on the hindwings; viceroys are a bit smaller than monarchs; caterpillars feed on poplars and willows.

Gorgone Checkerspot and Pearl Crescent Butterflies. These two are similar; wings of the Gorgone Checkerspot have white margins; feed on Compositae (see above).

Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly. Beautiful butterfly with orange, black, and white spots; feeds on turtlehead and beardtongue.



Common Buckeye Butterfly. Big eyespots on fore- and hindwings; likes toadflax and plantain.

Tawny Emperor and Hackberry Emperor Butterflies. Warm brown topside with eyespots on border of hindwing; like hackberry and sweaty human skin.

Black Swallowtail Butterfly. Males have rows of larger yellow spots across the middle of their wings; females have smaller spots and more blue on their lower wings; when wings are closed, possible to see some orange spots.

Giant Swallowtail Butterfly. Large, black, with yellow spots; underside of wings is pale yellow with spots; has a big, happy, yellow clown mouth; likes wafer ash, prickly ash, citrus, and hop tree.

Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly. Mostly yellow wings when open and closed; female has more blue and may exhibit a blue phase; for protection, they mimic Pipevine Swallowtail; like basswood, cherry, birch, and ash trees, as well as carrot family and parsley plants.

Swallowtail Butterfly. They are doing well this year.

Red-spotted Purple Butterfly. Similar to Black Swallowtail, but lacks a "tail"; likes hawthorn, oak, and aspen.

Banded Hairstreak Butterfly. Leans sideways to catch rays of sun through a wooded canopy; feeds on oak and hickory.

Eastern Tailed Blue Butterfly. Has two to three orange spots on the hindwings; likes bush clover and Compositae (*see above*).

Snout Butterfly. Has thick palps that look like a snout; orange and brown; feeds on hackberry.

Question Mark Butterfly. Medium-sized; orange coloring; feeds on nettles, elm, hackberry, and gooseberry.

Eastern Comma Butterfly. Changes color with the seasons.

Milbert's Tortoiseshell Butterfly. When wings are closed, spots are visible; likes nettles.

Northern Pearly Eye Butterfly. Soft brown with several eyespots, especially on the edge of the hindwing; feeds on various grasses.

Common Wood-Nymph Butterfly. Brown with two eyespots on upper wing; second most common butterfly in July at Kieselburg Forest Preserve in Winnebago County; feeds on grasses.

Spring Azure Butterfly. Small; upper side of wings is clear azure blue; wings of females have black borders.

Cabbage Butterfly. White; not native, but common; female has two black spots on forewing; male has one spot on forewing.

(cont'd on page 6)



Lynda Johnson enjoying a laugh with Don Miller.

(cont'd from page 5)

Clouded Sulfur Butterfly. Yellow with no orange; likes clover plants.

Orange Sulfur Butterfly. Likes alfalfa.

Silver-spotted Skipper Butterfly. Has silver spots in middle of hindwing; rather common (Don saw many in early August); likes red clover as a nectar source, along with indigo, black locust, and legumes.

Don shared a story about Bob Pile, founder of the Xerces Society and a great butterfly guy. He was the first to conduct a butterfly count. On this counting journey he made a stop at Severson Dells to do a presentation and count butterflies. This great man was desperate to see a Baltimore Checkerspot and to be able to check it off his list! On their hike they not only found a rare moth, but near the moth – on a common milkweed, he found the Baltimore Checkerspot. Through Don’s storytelling and reading from of a book, this romantic description of the insects and these guys who are so excited about a simple butterfly – was such a joy.

We also learned another valuable lesson: The importance of being out in your yard. “We need to be out enjoying the wonder and awe and all the unique things going on that we don’t know about, but that are amazing.” We continue to be in awe of nature and make discoveries every day about our natural world.

Don finished the evening by answering questions. Butterflies like dung for their minerals. Joe-Pye weed is a great nectar plant. Peterson Field Guides are still his favorites, as he grew up on those, but our Wild Ones Library has numerous butterfly books, for young and old, that can be checked out by members.



Membership Application/Renewal



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:

- Household Membership
- Household Lifetime Membership
- Professional Educator Membership
- Not-for-Profit Affiliate Organization Membership
- Associate Membership (limited income/student)
- Business Membership
- Gift Household Membership

Wild	Wilder	Wildest
<input type="checkbox"/> \$37	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100+
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1500 (Or 3 annual payments of \$500)		
<input type="checkbox"/> \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
<input type="checkbox"/> \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
<input type="checkbox"/> \$20		
<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$600	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,200
<input type="checkbox"/> \$37	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100+

If this is a gift membership, please put your name below to 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: \$ _____

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

I have enclosed \$ _____ to start/ renew my membership for _____ year(s).

Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter
1643 N Alpine Rd Ste 104
PMB 233
Rockford, IL 61107-1464

Membership Update Shey Lowman, Membership Co-Chair

NEW, we can now accept membership dues with all major credit cards through PayPal (no PayPal account required) on our website. Go ahead and rack up your rewards points and we all win.

Thanks to our 17 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!

211 memberships on August 23, 2014

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

- John & Carol Gerrond, Rockford, IL
- Ron Dierks, Caledonia, IL
- Donna Gable, DeKalb, IL
- Marlowe & Nancy Holstrum, Belvidere, IL
- Shey & Keith Lowman, Leaf River, IL
- Christine Myers, Cherry Valley, IL
- Kim Risley, Rockford, IL
- Dennis & Sherry Scheider, Cherry Valley, IL
- Guy Smith, Machesney Park, IL
- Jim & Karen Timble, Franklin Grove, IL
- Barbara & Daniel Williams, Rockford, IL

Welcome to new members!

- Alyson Conn, Pecatonica, IL
- Donna Gable, DeKalb, IL
- Jodell & Marty Gabriel, Machesney Park, IL
- Kara Gallup, Leaf River, IL/Pompano Beach, FL
- Lisa Normoyle, Rockford, IL
- Greg & Karen Ruffner, Caledonia, IL
- Dennis & Sherry Scheider, Cherry Valley, IL
- Diana Wiemer, Durand, IL
- Barbara & Daniel Williams, Rockford, IL

Anniversaries

Congratulations to this month's loyal members!

10 Years

- Constance McCarthy, Machesney Park, IL
- Steve & Shannon Godby, Dixon, IL

114 attended the August meeting (wow!), including 26 visitors. A big thank you to our August meeting volunteers!

Refreshments- Cynthia Nelson, Anita Johnson

- AV/Sound Equipment- Bob Arevalo
- Library Assistants- Barbara Flores, Karen Matz
- Greeters- Marilyn Heneghan, Janaan Lewis
- Meeting Recap for the Newsletter- Kim Lowman Vollmer
- Photographer- Tim Lewis

It is preferred that renewal memberships be 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
1643 N Alpine Rd Ste 104
PMB 233
Rockford, IL 61107-1464**

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



2014 Chapter Programs and Events

Aug-Sept	Native Tree & Shrub Sale Orders taken during this time	John Peterson Tree and Shrub Sale Coordinator 815-979-8539	
September 18 7:00-9:00 pm	Natural Areas Management Without Using Pesticides <i>(Rescheduled from February)</i>	Mary Blackmore Naturalist, Educator, and Lover of Native Plants	Rock Valley College Woodward Technology
October 16 7:00-9:00 pm	Shooting Star: A Prairie Plant With an Attitude	Paul Sorensen, PdD Dept. of Biological Sciences, NIU	Rock Valley College Woodward Technology
November 20 6:00 pm	Member only potluck and seed exchange.		Severson Dells Nature Center

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
1643 N. Alpine Rd., Suite 104
PMB 233
Rockford, IL 61107

Don't become extinct!

If the expiration date on the mailing label is **9/1/2014**, 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
1643 N. Alpine Rd., Suite 104
PMB 233
Rockford, IL 61107

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 815-721-5187.

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

Conference Coordinator: Kim Risley

815-962-4584 risley@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 Memberships: Household \$37, Associate (limited income/full-time student) \$20, Affiliate Non-Profit Organization or Educator \$90, Business \$250. Your entire membership contribution is tax deductible. Contact Membership Co-Chairs 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.