

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

Inside this Issue:

Message from the Co-President	2
Take a Book!	2
Mentor Program	3
Woodland Plants	3
March Meeting Recap	4-7
Spotlight on Business Member	7
IL DNR Resources	7
Plant/Seed Sharing	8
Merchandise Must Haves	8
Membership	9
Chapter Calendar	9
Chapter Contact Information	10



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



All articles for the May 2015 newsletter, must be submitted to: Constance@wildonesrrvc.org by April 23, 2015.

*Starting from Scratch:
Planning Your Native Garden
Thursday, April 16, 2015*

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

Time: **7:00 p.m.**



You are interested in native plants, and now you want to have your own native garden to cultivate and enjoy. But how? There's more to it than throwing out some seeds and walking away. In *Starting from Scratch: Planning Your Native Garden*, Rebecca Olson, of Olson Ecological Solutions, will discuss the various steps involved in creating a native garden or backyard prairie.

Rebecca has focused her career on land and water conservation in northern Illinois, southern Wisconsin, and beyond. She is the owner and president of Olson Ecological Solutions, LLC, a consulting company founded in 2006 and partner company of Tallgrass Restoration, LLC. She also assists conservation groups and landowners in purchasing and selling land for preservation with Hoffman Realty, LLC. Rebecca's work protects, enhances, and creates natural areas and encourages human interaction with nature in various ways. The projects that she develops and manages provide natural areas in rural and developed settings like river corridors, drainage systems, wetlands, parks, and neighborhoods. These projects ensure many benefits to our communities, including open spaces for people to enjoy, habitat for wildlife, and areas to provide natural water filtration and prevent flooding. Rebecca attended Denison University for her Bachelor of Arts in biology and minor in chemistry. She then received her Master of Science in wildlife biology from Colorado State University. She moved to Rockford in 2000. She has been married to her husband, Scott, for 14 years and has two children. When she is not mucking around in the wetlands, she enjoys spending time with her family and biking, cooking, and skiing.

Rebecca Olson's academic and on-the-ground knowledge of native ecosystems and natural landscapes provides an ideal backdrop for this instructional presentation on establishing a native landscape at your home or business. Regardless of the size of your space, the amount of sun you receive, or the amount of moisture available, there is a native planting that will work for you. Rebecca will talk about designing your space, how to prepare your garden, how to plant your garden, and how to take care of it. She will discuss any questions that you may have, and she will address whether to use seed or live plants, how to handle dry and wet areas, and how natives can help with

(continued on page 2)

Message from the Co-President Phenology

Lenae Weichel

Years ago, I remember reading about Nina Leopold Bradley, daughter of Aldo and Estella Leopold, keeping a phenology diary; picking up twenty-some years later where her father had left off when he died in 1948. She kept these observations of plant growth and the return of migrating birds up until her death in 2011. Phenology is the record of seasonal beginnings... the blooms of plants and habits of birds are good indicators not only of the return of the sun but also of insects in their natural cycles. These records, kept over many years, allow us to observe changes over time that might be too gradual to notice or remember from year to year.

In Aldo’s own words, “keeping records enhances the pleasure of the search and the chances of finding order and meaning in these events.” More than that, maintaining a phenology journal helps to keep us in tune with the happenings of the natural world and the changes brought about as we move through seasons.

Aldo Leopold’s *A Sand County Almanac* is part seasonal observation, part conservation essay, and part love letter to a “cheap farm” undergoing restoration. A quick read alone, this year I am savoring it as I read it month by

month to my children and encourage them to observe the changes to the natural world around them. Some changes are quick, others gradual, but they are coming daily this time of year. The April chapter is one of my favorites, with talk of stranding by spring floods, bur oak bark, and the dances of woodcocks at dusk and at dawn.

Although I’ve never recorded my own phenological observations in a journal, I am encouraging my young son to do so. It is a great opportunity, not only to focus some of his inquisitive energy when he is exploring outdoors but also, to begin what could be a lifetime of phenological data. The data Nina collected showed some blooms and birds returning a full two to three weeks earlier than that of her father’s. What other kinds of changes might happen as my seven-year-old grows up and grows old?

There are plenty of online resources if you are interested in starting your own phenology diary. You can find lists, photos, tracking sheets, and the like; but all you really need is pencil and paper. And you might find that, as Nina Leopold Bradley once said, “the fact that you keep records, all of a sudden, changes the way you see the natural systems around you.”



See a Book ... Take a Book!

Ginnie Watson

Our Rock River Valley chapter’s Lending Library will be sponsoring a book table at the April monthly meeting. These books are free for the taking, but a free-will offering basket will be available should you be so moved. This book table is a result of the generosity of three of our members, Heather Hasenyager and Jodell & Marty Gabriel. Over thirty books were donated with the hope that the chapter would benefit, and so it shall. We have over 230 books in our library already, so not all of these donated books could be accommodated. Instead, those not added to our library will find homes in the libraries of those of you who wish to own them, and the money raised will help our chapter fund the many activities planned for this year.

You will be able to thank Jodell and Marty in person for their generosity, but Heather has moved out of state. We are so sorry to see her go, but wish her the best of luck.

Come early and browse. There are fewer books than audience members, so don’t miss out! If you want a list of the books being offered, contact me by e-mail (Ginnie@wildonesrrvc.org) and I’ll send you the list.



(Continued from page 1)

problematic areas. You will leave with a checklist, timetable, expectations, resources to help you get started, benefits that the garden will bring, and a sense of what joys the garden will have to offer.

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!*

Submitted by Jamie B. Johannsen, Program Chair

Mentor Program Melanie Costello, Mentor Program Coordinator

Spring is sprung! It's time to be outside working in our yards and landscapes! If you need some assistance figuring out what to plant or how to solve your native landscaping issues, now is a great time to be matched up with a mentor to help. Or maybe you have quite a bit of knowledge and a little extra time to help a less experienced member.

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 as a mentee or a mentor, contact Melanie Costello, Mentor Program Coordinator, at melanie@wildonesrrvc.org or at (815) 751-1583.

.....

Woodland Plants: Who Needs Them? Barbara Flores

Pussy toes, poke milkweed, and golden Alexanders. They may not sound like lunch to us but for the American painted lady, the monarch and the Eastern black swallowtail caterpillars, respectively, these host plants provide the vegetative food necessary for their survival. After emerging as a butterfly, these and all other butterflies, as well as bumblebees, native bees, and other pollinators, will require nectar and pollen throughout the summer. In the shaded yard, native woodland plants will provide the best food source and habitat for these creatures.

And, at the end of the summer and into early fall, the late flowering natives, goldenrods and asters especially, will provide nectar and pollen at a critical time for the amazing hummingbird and the much loved monarch as they "tank up" for their long migrations. Meanwhile, woodland grasses and sedges will offer seed and some shelter to many birds throughout the fall and winter.

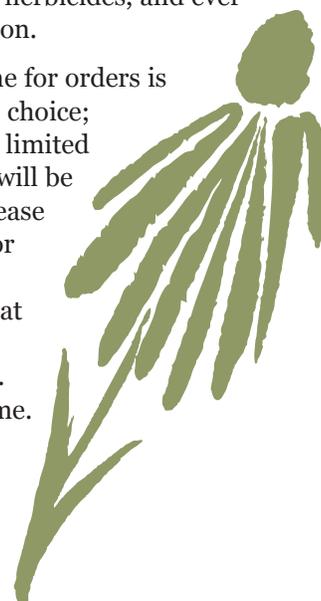
Research has shown that native plants support a greater diversity and number of insects than the hybridized, extravagant blossoms and the exotic plants one sees featured in magazines and at gardening shows. Native plants support the humble and sometimes unnoticed insects which take their place in the food web as the protein-rich food nestling birds require for healthy growth. In fact, even the adult hummingbird requires insects for a healthful diet.

For those who have a shady spot in their yard, please

revisit the 2015 woodland brochure, as well as the list of "pickup plants," both of which are on the chapter's website. There are 67 species offered this year, nearly all of which will provide much needed nectar, pollen, vegetation, and shelter to a wide range of pollinators and other creatures.

While the dramatic and alarming facts about the monarch are receiving much important news coverage, all wildlife needs help as natural habitat shrinks and fades due to development, agricultural practices dependent on pesticides and herbicides, and ever widening highway construction.

Please remember the deadline for orders is April 20. Pre-order to assure choice; however pickup plants and a limited selection of brochure plants will be available April 24 and 25. Please see the brochure for details or contact the Woodland Sale Coordinator, Barbara Flores at (815) 289-8602 or (Barbara@wildonesrrvc.org). All inquiries are most welcome.



March Meeting Recap

Cynthia Nelson

photos by Tim Lewis



Ed Jakaitis spoke on environmental change and cultural adaptation in prehistory throughout our region. He has worked for the Illinois State Archeological Survey (ISAS) for seven years, and is currently a staff archeologist. The mission statement of the organization is “To protect, preserve and interpret irreplaceable and non-renewable archeological resources

within the context of Illinois’ need to encourage and promote sustainable development.” The ISAS sponsors publications, promotes education through lectures and exhibits, maintains collections of artifacts, and partners with public and private organizations to promote the importance of heritage management in our state.

Cultural resources management (CRM), which our speaker described as “archeology done in your own backyard,” is required for compliance with heritage management legislation. One example of CRM is the requirement that all road projects be screened for any cultural resources that might be found in the area. The ISAS has a programmatic agreement with The Illinois Department of Transportation to carry out all of the archeological work done in the state of Illinois for transportation projects. A picture taken in the early winter of archeologists at work on a CRM project along Illinois Route 2 showed that a day in the life of an archeologist may require a warm coat (black tie for the press briefing, optional). In addition to large, significant sites that attract a lot of research and attention, such as the Cahokia mounds in Collinsville, there are many smaller sites of importance. Because of projects funded through CRM, archeologists have the opportunity to study a large variety of data sets in order to answer questions about human activity throughout prehistory.

At this time, north-central Illinois is a land of hill prairies, forested valleys, and lazy rivers that run through our region, but the landscape was not always like this. The archeological record includes the physical evidence of a culture over time. Culture change occurs across history under a number of different adaptive stressors which challenge established behavior and even survival. Evolutionary biology provides a theoretical framework for considering adaptive strategies as a response to challenges, including environmental shifts, changes in the social order, and technological change. The premise that long periods of relative stability are interrupted with short periods of rapid change, followed by a return to equilibrium – termed punctuated equilibrium – was

advanced by Eldredge and Gould (1972). This contrasts with the phyletic gradualism model, which posits evolutionary change as occurring in a slow and steady manner as a species attempts to adapt to challenges over the course of time. As paleontologists, Eldridge and Gould considered work based on the fossil record that suggests rapid evolutionary change in response to adaptive stress.

The Paleo-Indian period (12,000-10,000 BC) represents our first evidence of human culture in North America. During this period, which was toward the end of the Ice Age, groups of people crossed the Bering land bridge into North America. Our speaker showed a photograph of a region outside of Denali National Park in Alaska to portray what the landscape in the Midwest would have been at that time. Hemlock and spruce were abundant in a land with snow and ice, and there were grasses, sedges, and small forbs growing. Animals on the landscape included the megafauna that many associate with the Paleo-Indian people. Small groups of hunter-gathers were highly mobile, traveling rapidly across the land to follow the mammoth and mastodon south through ice-free corridors. Besides hunting big animals, the groups were undoubtedly foraging for food, with their diet augmented by smaller game, aquatic resources, and various plant sources. Clovis people are regarded as the earliest human inhabitants of North America; the Clovis culture is named for the tools found near Clovis, New Mexico. Both Clovis fluted points and fluted points from the later Folsom Complex (culture) were very effective for big-animal hunting. A wide, concave groove at the base of the tools allowed them to be hafted to a spear or a projectile. The Folsom points have these grooves on both faces, which would have facilitated hafting.

The large-flake removal to create the grooves (fluting) on the Clovis and Folsom points represents a high level of technical ability. These earliest tool forms were some of the most developed and highly-refined tools of any time-period in prehistory. In our modern world, we tend to expect continued improvements in technologies over time. However, technology, especially in prehistory, is based on the specialized needs of people in their environment. Because they were so highly mobile and dependent on their toolkits, the projectiles from these earliest groups in the Paleo-Indian period show the highest level of workmanship among prehistoric peoples. It would have been important for people to know where they could find quarry sites to obtain stone for tools. The location of materials for tool-making would determine where groups needed to travel. Chert, a widespread type of sedimentary rock, is a silicate often found as nodules in some other kind of rock. It has the property of

March Meeting Recap (cont'd)

breaking consistently and predictably, so was a favored stone to seek out for tool-making. There are many different types of Chert in Illinois. Galena Chert is found in our area, and in a wide area in northwestern Illinois; it is often found in limestone. Silver Mound in western Wisconsin has an outcrop of Hixton silicified sandstone. There are broken pieces of Hixton found all around the mound because people came to this site over thousands of years.

The Younger Dryas was a major climatic shift that affected the entire world. This colder period, which started about 10,800 BC and lasted for 1,300 years, interrupted the warming trend. The responses to this among cultures throughout the world varied with the regional effects of the climate change and the extent of disruption in previous patterns of life. For example, agriculture developed in the Middle East because the climate change had threatened traditional food sources. It is also in the Middle East that the first cities of the world developed. In North America, there were drought conditions throughout the Midwest. Megafauna declined, and most of these species became extinct. Human impacts are thought to have been an additional factor in the dying out of the large animals. The Clovis culture declined, delineating the end of the Paleo-Indian period. New technology developed that retained some features of earlier production. An example is an Agate Basin lanceolate point (c. 9000 BC), which has a similar form as the Clovis point but lacks the fluting. A Dalton projectile from around the same time does have fluting and also show the earliest form of a base on a tool in the basal ears created by a notch taken out of the sides of the tool. The tools were adapted to the changed conditions and the different species that people were hunting.

In the Early Archaic period (8000-6000 BC) the environment became more like present-day North America. The people continued to be mobile, not settling in one place for very long. More caribou, bison and elk herds were being hunted. Points with notches on both sides towards the bottom, creating a base, were used during this period. An Early Archaic site was discovered on the CRM project along Route 2 after the surface survey revealed lithic-tool debris. The site was excavated using a back-hoe to open up large trenches. Opening trenches permits researchers to examine buried surface layers to examine the contents at successive layers. Scraping tools were found at the site that would have been used to clean off hides. There was a modified projectile that had been reworked to serve as a drill, and



***Ed Jakaitis and Phil Fulkerson
talking after the presentation***

a Kirk Corner Notched, which is a projectile from around 7,000 BC. This site showed that some groups were moving into river bottoms during this time, even though most of the Early Archaic groups were living in the uplands. An aerial view of the site project shows that the nearby Rock River would have flowed differently during the Early Archaic period, when the water was higher, as evidenced by a paleochannel that runs along the edge of the valley. There is a site in the valley, where the ground is higher, that people once occupied. There is also a Late Woodland effigy mound site located on an isolated ridge in the same area. This would have been surrounded by water when the second channel was flowing. Soil samples in the area uncovered a flake of Hixton from Silver Mound, which is 150 miles away.

In the Middle-Archaic period (6000-2000 BC), people would migrate to where they could find resources, often to ecotones at the edges of forests and prairies. People hunted both open-plains and woodland animals. The atlatl, probably with a notched point attached, would have been the choice for hunting animals, including white-tailed deer and elk. People also foraged for food, gathering grasses, forbs, and acorns. An increase in ground stone tools has been found from this time. There are ground stone tools which suggest that people were doing a lot of woodworking. Dogs were domesticated during this period. The Koster site near St. Louis was a large project excavated in the 1960s by Northwestern University researchers, who identified some of the first dog burials in the Midwest. The hypithermal was a climatic event which peaked during the Middle-Archaic period. The Midwest experienced desert-like conditions and prairies expanded. Populations shifted as people

March Meeting Recap (cont'd)

moved to bottomlands near streams and rivers. People developed additional strategies in order to access the food sources available. They increased their diet with water resources, including waterfowl, fish, shellfish, and water plants. A cylindrical ground stone object found in the Otter Creek near Durand is thought to be a weight for a net. The Old Copper Culture developed towards the end of this period, primarily in Wisconsin, when people used copper to make a variety of tools, including hunting and fishing implements. A large number of Old Copper artifacts have been found in eastern Wisconsin.

During the Late Archaic period (2000-500 BC), the environment was becoming more stable. People belonged to larger communities and there were some permanent settlements. They probably tended plants that they used regularly for food, carrying out a rudimentary agriculture. *Chenopodium* and marsh elder are among the plant material found on Late Archaic sites. There is evidence of ceremonial burials during this time. The Red Ochre Culture (named for red ochre found on remains) was an Archaic-Woodland transition that appears to represent hereditary lineage, with some family groups becoming more powerful and influential. The basis of this conclusion is that some highly-ornate ceremonial items were buried with children, who would not have lived long enough to be recognized for their accomplishments or attain a position of status.

The Woodland tradition is marked by societies' becoming more organized, with a more complex social order and differentiated social groups. In the Early Woodland period (500-200 BC), people developed early horticulture, with sunflower, squash, and beans becoming staples. Larger seeds and a higher quantity of seeds have been found from this period, suggesting that the people were selecting out particular specimens to keep seeds for cultivation. Pottery was used to store food. Metates were ground stone tools used as grinding stones for processing grains and seeds. Projectile points



Kai Holdmann checking out books from the library.

from this period were not notched, and had a straight or a decreasing-width stem. It is thought these were made from the readily available stone to be "single-use" in order to preserve the wooden haft. After killing an animal, the hunter could pull out the spear or shaft without breaking or splitting it, leaving the point behind.

In the Middle Woodland period (200 BC-500 AD), there were advancements in ceramics techniques; the pottery had more styles and was decorated. Materials for implements included mica from the Northeast, and copper from the northern Midwest. The Hopewell cultural type included widely dispersed populations in the Midwest that shared trade routes. They developed dramatic material items, many believed to be for ceremonial purposes. Goods have been

found at some distance from where they were sourced, suggesting a trade network that is referred to as the Hopewell interaction sphere. Sterling was a major center in this network. Pipes fashioned here from the local pipestone have been found in a variety of other locations. Pipes filled with a potent form of tobacco, *Nicotiana rustica*, were an important feature of certain rituals and ceremonies.

In the Late Woodland Period (500-1300 AD), different vessel types, including a globular form of pots, came into use. Effigy mounds took on many different forms. There is evidence that different forms of effigy mounds represented different clan groups. The Effigy Mound Culture existed in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois (including in Rockford), as well as in parts of Iowa and Minnesota. People would disperse in the winter as hunting opportunities became scarce, and return to places along the rivers in spring, when they would add to the mounds and inter their deceased family members.

Middle Mississippian culture (800-1350 AD) was developing in the area around Cahokia at the same time the Effigy Mound Culture was declining. The Middle

March Meeting Recap (cont'd)

Mississippian people had a highly organized social order that included religious power and political power. There was monumental architecture and large platform mounds, with structures including houses and temples often built on the top of the mounds. There is evidence that Woodhenges were constructed. It took a great deal of resources to build up an organized city like Cahokia and support the large population. There was intensive agriculture and harvesting of wood. The forest lands deteriorated, and there would have been other issues inherent to a large population, including food resources and waste disposal. Walls were built around sites, which is an indication of tension and conflict among people. Faced with declining resources and political turmoil, people started to move away from Cahokia. It is thought that some relocated to southern Wisconsin, where red-slipped pottery at the Aztalan Mississippian site was found. It is thought that red-slipped pottery is a clear indicator of movement of the Cahokia when it is found in other places. When Cahokia moved to this area, they may have influenced the Late Woodland people in the transition to Upper Mississippian culture. Pottery forms of the Cahokia appear to have influenced the style of the grit-tempered pottery of the Langford tradition (1100-1400 AD) and of the shell-tempered pottery of the Oneota (1050-1450 AD).

Why do we care what people were doing in the past, or how they were changing? The study of archeology reflects the effect of resources on how people interact

with each other and how they handle various stressors. From the study of cultures over time, we can learn about how people adapt to factors in their environment and in their culture, including social structure, climate change, changes in the availability of resources, technology change, population growth, and the outbreak of conflict.

References and Resources

Eldredge, Niles and S. J. Gould (1972). Punctuated Equilibria: *An Alternative to Phyletic Gradualism*. In T.J.M. Schopf, ed., *Models in Paleobiology*. San Francisco: Freeman Cooper. pp. 82-115. Reprinted in N. Eldredge. *Time frames*. Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1985, pp. 193-223.

Three Rivers Archeological Society meets on the second Monday of the month (except in July and August), with meetings in Rockton or Beloit. A contact for information about meetings is provided on the website. www.museum.state.il.us/iaaa/threehome.htm

Evolution 101 provides a nice explanation of the pace of evolution, competing hypotheses, and punctuated equilibrium. <http://evolution.berkeley.edu/evosite/evo101/VIIAPaceevolution.shtml>

There are examples of Clovis fluted points at the Burpee Museum of Natural History in Rockford. Images of various projectile points can be viewed at the Illinois State Museum website. http://www.museum.state.il.us/ismdepts/anthro/proj_point/points_introduction.html

Flintknapping demonstration at Silver Mound, Wisconsin, a segment from Wisconsin Public Television. www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLFayYW1f4Y

Photographs of Kirk Corner Notched Blades. <http://anthropology.umn.edu/labs/wlnaa/points/clusters/kirkCornerNotched.html>

Illinois State Archeological Survey. University of Illinois, Champaign, Urbana: www.isgs.illinois.edu

Spotlight on Business Member: Tyler's Landscaping Bob Arevalo



Tyler's Landscaping Service has been serving northern Illinois and

southern Wisconsin since 1987. Over the years they have evolved into a full service landscape contractor, providing professional design services, construction and management of commercial and residential landscaping. They hold active memberships with several industry and local organizations, including the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association, the Illinois Green Industry Association, and the Rockford Regional Chamber of Commerce. These organizations have helped them to both better educate their staff and give back to the community.

Among many other things, President Tyler Smith has given back to the community by serving as the President of the Board for the Natural Land Institute and currently serves as Board President of the Rockford Park District.

He also served as president of the board at Klehm Arboretum and the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association. Tyler's Nursery became a Business Member of our chapter of Wild Ones in 2014. Please welcome our newest business member. For more info, go to www.tylerslandscaping.com.

Great Resources for Kids and Teachers

Kim Lowman Vollmer, Youth Education and Grant Chair

The Illinois DNR has an interesting and educational web site that you shouldn't miss, at www.dnr.illinois.gov/outreach/kidsconservation/Pages/default.aspx.

There are videos, resources for teachers, lots of fun and educational items about the flora and fauna of our area, and pictures that ask *Have you seen this?* They also have photo contests and writing contests that offer the chance to have your work published. The site is intended for youth up to age 17. Wandering through the Illinois DNR website, you can also find information about conservation; endangered species; minerals; kids and education; Leave No Child Inside; and so much more. Have a fun trip!

Introducing Plant/Seed Sharing

Mary Anne Mathwich, Plant Rescue/Seed Collection Chair

Our chapter has not had any plant rescues for a while. We should still look for rescue opportunities, but perhaps places to rescue plants from development are becoming too few. Our chapter, however, has been around for 20 years and we have some well established member natural landscapes. I've noticed in our yard that there are many extra plants that come up each year that we have no place to put. Last year there were eight wafer ash trees in the vegetable garden, some starry Solomon's seal in the mowed path, and wild petunia all over the lawn. This brought to mind an idea.

We share native plant seeds at the November seed exchange, but we can do more. Let's provide a method to disburse extra native plant material by connecting members who have extra plants or seeds, to members who have a place to plant them throughout the growing season. We can call this plant/seed sharing.

How it will work: Members with extra plant material should contact the Plant Rescue/Seed Collection Chair (contact information, below), who will evaluate where and when to disburse the plant material. Opportunities for sharing could include:

- at the end of Show Me/Help Me events
- after regular Wild Ones meetings
- at the annual social in July
- at the annual potluck and seed exchange in November.

All plant materials involved in these events would be shared at no cost and also with no guarantee of viability. Shared plant material should not be sold by the receiving member, and would be for the use of the member for the member's own landscape or a project to which the member is contributing. It is crucial that you share only material from your own property, not roadsides, parks, neighbors' lots, etc.

So this spring, be on the lookout for woodland plants that have jumped the boundaries of your planting area and are threatened by your lawn mower. Watch for plants in seed and try to collect from the woodland ephemerals. Watch and collect from your savanna and prairie areas throughout the season, and let's share our diversity of native plant materials with each other. To protect your plant material until it is exchanged, keep your plants moist and your seeds dry. When digging plants, try to get most of the roots. Then, if you're not up to potting the plant, put it in a plastic bag with a damp paper towel. Let's see how this idea goes. If it works well, it will be another great member benefit.

Merchandise Must Haves...

Cynthia Chmell, Merchandise Coordinator

Spring is Here – Time to Get Those Tools!



The **Parsnip 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 **\$44.00** 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 Update Shey Lowman, Membership Co-Chair

A membership e-form and our membership brochure describing the benefits of membership are both available on the chapter website (www.wildonesrrvc.org). Click on **Join/Renew** under the **Membership** tab. You can renew (or join) with any major credit card through PayPal (no PayPal account required) by using our website. Go ahead and rack up your rewards points and we all win. We appreciate your support!

221 memberships as of March 23, 2015

Welcome to new members!

Dick Baldwin, Rockford, IL
 Paula Evans, Rockford, IL
 Amy & Dan Wolf, Rockford, IL

All of our new members are identified with a green ribbon on their meeting name badges. Please introduce yourself to them and help us welcome new members to our great chapter!

66 attended the March meeting, including 6 guests. A big thank you to our March meeting volunteers!

Greeters: Janaan Lewis, Janet Giesen
Refreshments: Anita Johnson, Cynthia Nelson, and Barbara Flores for bringing mugs
AV/Sound Equipment: Bob Arevalo
Meeting Recap for the Newsletter: Cynthia Nelson
Photographer: Tim Lewis
Library Assistants: Barbara Flores, Cathy Johnson

Anniversaries

Congratulations to this month's loyal member!

10 Years

Darryl & Margery Wahler, Sterling, IL

5 Years

Judy Letourneau, Rockford, IL

It is preferred that renewal memberships be sent directly to the chapter for quicker processing and to avoid delays in receiving your chapter newsletter. Remember, your dues include membership in both National Wild Ones and our chapter. 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 from the chapter 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. Email or call (815) 627-0343 if you have any questions about membership.

Thirty percent of all dues paid (about \$11.10 per membership) is 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 continuing support!



2015 Chapter Programs and Events

Mar-April	Native Woodland Plant Sale Orders taken during this time	Barbara Flores Coordinator	815-289-8602
	Native Prairie Plant Sale Orders taken during this time	Rick & Deb Freiman Coordinators	815-871-7424
April 16 7:00-9:00 p.m.	Starting From Scratch: Planning Your Native Landscape	Rebecca Olson Olson Ecological Solutions	Rock Valley College Woodward Technology Center
May 21 7:00-9:00 p.m.	Local Ferns for Native Gardens	Ed Cope Restoration Ecologist, Natural Land Institute	Rock Valley College Woodward Technology Center
June 18 7:00-9:00 p.m.	Propagating Conservative Natives to Support Restoration	Rob Sulski Stewardship Educator	Rock Valley College Woodward Technology Center
July 16 7:00-9:00 p.m.	Members only Summer Evening Social & Potluck Tour of Native Landscaping	Home of Claudia Fleeman	4411 Dorset Dr. Rockford, IL 61114

Unless noted, programs are free and open to the public. Programs are subject to change.
 Please contact Jamie Johannsen 815-494-6977 for more information.



NATIVE PLANTS. NATURAL LANDSCAPES

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 **4/1/2015**, 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: Ginnie Watson 815-398-0138
ginnie@wildonesrrvc.org
Lenae Weichel 815-282-5482
lenae@wildonesrrvc.org

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

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

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

Membership Chair: Shey Lowman
815-757-4456 shey@wildonesrrvc.org

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

Plant Rescues & Seed Collection Chair:
Mary Anne Mathwich 815 721-5187.
maryanne@wildonesrrvc.org

Program Chair: Jamie Johannsen
815-494-6977 jamie@wildonesrrvc.org

Show Me/Help Me Chair:
Claudia Fleeman 815-985-5158
claudia@wildonesrrvc.org

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

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

Prairie Plant Sale Coordinators:
Rick Freiman 815-871-7424
rick@wildonesrrvc.org
Deb Freiman 815-871-7424
deb@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

Editorial Coordinator: Constance McCarthy
815-282-0316 constance@wildonesrrvc.org

Facebook Coordinator: Marilyn Heneghan
815-389-7869 marilyn@wildonesrrvc.org

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

Mentor Coordinator: Melanie Costello
815-645-8430 melanie@wildonesrrvc.org

Merchandise Coordinator:
Cynthia Chmell 815-969-7435
chmell@wildonesrrvc.org

Publicity Coordinator: Doreen O'Brien
815-985-4064 doreen@wildonesrrvc.org

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

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

Regular meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. 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 • Join online with any major credit card 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.