

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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Articles for the February 2015 newsletter, must be submitted to the Newsletter Chair, at: Pambi@wildonesrrvc.org by January 23, 2015.

Converting a City Lot into a Wild Place
Thursday, January 15, 2015

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

Time: **7:00 pm**



Please join us Thursday, January 15, for our first program of 2015, when Mary Anne and Bruce Mathwich will entertain us with their adventures converting their city lot on the Rock River in Rockton into a wonderful "Wild Place."

How do two parsimonious, do-it-yourself people who know little about gardening convert their yard into a natural landscape? Long time Wild

Ones members Mary Anne and Bruce Mathwich have done it twice, and both agree it has been one of the coolest things they've done. The first landscape was at their home in Cherry Valley, and they have a whole slide presentation to prove it. It was the first Wild Ones landscape we visited several years ago, and it was beautiful!

They've moved on to the digital age, however, so now you'll see the experience of converting a 1950's Rockton home landscape with the debut of a Power Point presentation. You'll see a magnificent privacy screen of vines on the side of their yard, seed collecting tips, stump wrestling, diminutive wildlife, before and after pictures, and much more.

At last count there were 160 species of native plants in the landscape, including trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, forbs, sedges and grasses. Several of the plants have been collected during Plant Rescues – an activity where Wild Ones members are given permission by owners to dig up plants in places that are scheduled to be developed into buildings and shopping centers. The rescue plants are planted by "group" - named for each place from which they were rescued. To see native plants that were doomed for destruction by "progress" blooming, spreading and flourishing is indeed a very satisfying sight!

There is still room for more plants so the project continues on. In her spare time, Mary Anne helps with Wild Ones Show Me/Help Me days. These events are scheduled throughout the year, where Wild Ones members offer to show their yards...some to show what they've accomplished, and others to ask for help with beginning projects. For newer members, these are really good opportunities to see how to get started, and how to overcome various problems – watch for them in the newsletter!

(continued on page 2)

Message from the Co-President Ginnie Watson



Ginnie Watson

photo by Jon McGinty

New Beginnings... Sad Good Byes...Happy Introductions!

It is always exciting to begin the new year with a clean slate. The history of 2015 has not been written yet and it is intriguing to think of what the future has in store for us but to get to the future we must deal with the reality of today.

Several hard working board members are leaving us and we will sorely miss them. We are,

however, welcoming several wonderful new members to the team!

Bob Arevalo is leaving his Co-President position and will be the Immediate Past Co-President for a year. Technically, we get to keep Bob for another year on the board, happily! I am so grateful for the two years he spent as Co-President with me. Bob's energy, wisdom, insight, and creativity made him a perfect partner with whom to share presidential duties. Bob kept me grounded with his common sense and intelligent practicality.

Lynda and Lee Johnson are leaving their positions as Program Co-Chairs after 2 years. They have spent a great deal of time and energy providing the finest programs for our monthly meetings which have drawn increasingly large crowds. They will be gone from the board but have promised to remain active members so be sure to thank them for 2 years of great programs when next you see them.

Marilyn Heneghan has been our very efficient Membership Chair since May of 2008. Last year she shared that responsibility with Shey Lowman as they became Membership Co-Chairs. This year Shey very capably becomes sole Membership Chair as Marilyn

moves on to Facebook Coordinator. It is important for Wild Ones to have a presence on social media so Marilyn helps to keep our name at the forefront. Find us by searching 'Wild Ones: Rock River Valley Chapter'...then, 'like' us and 'follow' us!

Mary Anne Mathwich and Anita Johnson are giving up their positions as Show Me/Help Me Co-Chairs. This dynamic duo was instrumental in organizing the landscape tour portion of our 20th Anniversary Celebration. Their experience in finding excellent examples of native landscaping was vital to the success of that tour as well as the individual Show Me/ Help Me events.

Luckily, Mary Anne has agreed to remain on the board in a different capacity, that of Rescue/Seed Collection Chair. Mary Anne has been on the board intermittently since 1995 and we are very grateful for her experience.

Another new board member with a great deal of experience is Lenae Weichel. We welcome Lenae back as she joins me as Co-President. With the exception of 2014, Lenae has been on the board since 2004 wearing many different hats. We are delighted to have Lenae back.

Jamie Johannsen, Director of Marketing and Community Relations for the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, joins us as our new Program Director. This busy lady hit the ground running and has already come up with some very interesting ideas for future programs.

Our new Show Me/Help Me Chair is Claudia Fleeman. With her excellent eye for landscaping (you must see her yard!) Claudia will put together a Show Me/ Help Me schedule worth waiting for. If you would like to participate as a Show Me home or a Help Me home, be sure to contact Claudia at Claudia@wildonesrrvc.org.

You will find the full list of Wild Ones officers, chairs and coordinators at the end of this newsletter. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, these are the folks to talk to.

(continued from page 1)

Both Mary Anne and Bruce worked in manufacturing before starting second careers in environmental/science education and natural area management respectively. Now both retired, they are rearing Rocky the puppy and trying to keep him from eating mulch and interesting berries in the yard.

Come early to browse the Wild Ones library, display booth, merchandise table and refreshments.

After two years of planning programs, we are stepping down. Please welcome Jamie Johannsen, passionate lover of all things in the natural world, as the new Program Chair. Happy new year in your pursuit of native landscaping!

Submitted by Lynda and Lee Johnson, Program Co-Chairs

Annual Report Ginnie Watson, Co-President

2014 was an incredible year with many firsts for our chapter. Here is a brief list of our notable events none of which happened by themselves. It took the hard work of a dedicated board and hundreds of volunteers working hundreds of hours to make this organization the benchmark chapter that it is. Be proud, be very proud!

- We won the prestigious **Seth B. Atwood Award** presented by the Rockford Park District and the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District, now known as Forest Preserves of Winnebago County.
- We celebrated our 20th Anniversary with a landmark, first ever, highly successful Lecture/Landscape Tour which satisfied our two goals:
 - Increase membership beyond 200 members (51 new members!)
 - Increase our name recognition locally
- Our **monthly meetings** moved from Burpee Natural History Museum to Rock Valley College in the Woodward Technology Center
- A **Board Retreat** was held in early 2014 where new ideas were discussed, including plans to celebrate our 20th Anniversary
- We held **3 successful native plant sales**, increasing the native biodiversity of our area
- We held **2 Show Me/Help Me** events, showing the beauty and benefits of growing native plants
- Our Evening Social was held on the grounds of Indian Hill Manor and Farm
- We now offer the possibility to join/renew membership online through our website
- The chapter website continues to improve, offering more useful information
- We added over 30 books to our library
- We increased awareness of the plight of our pollinators, with Monarchs being the focal point
- We offered nine informative presentations by experts in their fields that drew large crowds
- **Membership**
 - Total: 215, an increase of 51 over last year
 - 5 business members
 - 8 life members

This has been a remarkable year and Bob and I want to thank all the board members and volunteers who helped make it so!

Treasurer's Report (as of November 1, 2014) Janet Giesen, Treasurer

National Wild Ones reimburses 30% of your dues to our chapter. As of November 1, 2014, net membership dues represents 7% of our total revenue. In addition, many of our generous members donate funds directly to our chapter, which represents 9% of our total revenue—these funds remain with our chapter. Noteworthy are the three plant sales that were held this year, which were the primary source of revenue for our chapter, with net sales at 24%.

As with any organization, we have a number of operating expenses. Some of our most costly expenses are postage, shipping, and post office fees—these represent 6% of our total expenses. This expense could be reduced by

having the monthly newsletter sent directly to your electronic in-box rather than receiving it via conventional mail. Make it a new-year's resolution to have your RRVC newsletter sent electronically! Some of our other operating expenses include the cost of printing our monthly newsletters, the meeting room and refreshments at RVC, Constant Contact and bank fees, chapter supplies, and the fees we pay our monthly presenters.

2014 was a healthy financial year for our chapter and at our December board meeting we will donate approximately 50% of our year-end assets to worthy entities who represent our mission.

November Meeting Recap Jerry Paulson

photos by John Peterson

Bringing the Beauty of the Prairie Indoors: Member Potluck and Seed Exchange



Loris Damerow, a landscape designer from Appleton Wisconsin, and President of the Wild Ones of Fox Valley Area Chapter, added some fun to our chapter's annual Member Potluck and Seed Exchange on November 20th.

Loris brought mounds of dried prairie plants, weeds, twigs and ferns that she had collected from her own yard, and showed the crowd of Wild Ones members how to bring the beauty of nature inside their homes during the winter months.

Loris also laid out a plant identification quiz of 18 dried native plants to test our ability to recognize prairie species in the winter. Even some of our best botanists were stumped on some of the plants.

Loris showed how to consider the shape, form and density of the dried plant materials that you have available, and to match them to the size, scale and shape of the container. For example, large leaves like prairie dock and tall grasses and twigs need to have tall, large containers to balance them. Grasses are light and airy

while dried goldenrod is dense and fluffy. Look for interesting seed pods and stalks with unusual shapes to add to your arrangement.

Many people then had fun filling vases with the dried plants, or creating arrangements in their hand to take home, while other members exchanged seeds, and swapped stories about their summer gardening experiences.

Before the program we enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner, with a variety of healthy foods and sweet deserts. The chapter provided vegetarian lasagna, hot cider and coffee. Thanks to everyone who shared food, and helped to clean up.

Co-Presidents Bob Arevalo and Ginnie Watson gave a summary of this year's activities. "What a year we've had!" exclaimed Bob, announcing that the chapter now has 216 members, an increase of 51 new members from last year. The chapter has 5 Business Members, 3 Affiliate Not-For-Profit Organizations, and 8 Life

November Meeting Recap (cont'd)



Members. The goal was to reach 200 members during our 20th anniversary year, he said.

The year started with the chapter receiving the Seth B. Atwood Award from the Rockford Park District Foundation, Rockford Park District and the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County in recognition of our many educational activities. That was followed by our 20th anniversary celebration in July featuring a tour of natural yards and public places and a keynote speaker about the importance of pollinators.

During the 20th anniversary year we highlighted the plight of the Monarch butterfly and the need to plant native milkweeds and wildflowers to help bring back a healthy population of this iconic species. The publicity the chapter got from these Wild for Monarch efforts helped to increase its name recognition and to get more people involved in natural landscaping.

At the first of the year the chapter moved its monthly meetings from Burpee Museum of Natural History to the Woodward Center at Rock Valley College. RVC has plenty of parking and seating, a good AV system, and easy access for out-of-town members.

In addition to wonderful speakers on many interesting topics, the chapter held three native plant sales, two Show Me/Help Me tours and a summer social and tour at Indian Hill Manor's garden rehabilitation project. This was all done by our dedicated volunteers. We also expanded our cadre of mentors for members just starting their natural yards.

The behind-the-scenes work of our fantastic newsletter editor, Pambi Camacho, and our Membership Co-Chairs, Marilyn Heneghan and Shey Lowman was recognized. Shey revamped our Wild Ones RRV Chapter website and expanded our use of on-line e-mails. New members can now join through the website.

Ginnie Watson continued to add new titles to the chapter lending library, and posted all the titles on the chapter website.

Janet Giesen gave a brief financial report for the chapter (see the Treasurer's Report) before closing the business meeting. Bob Arevalo announced that voting was still going on for the 2015 officers. The results would be announced in January.

Rock River Valley Chapter on Facebook

Marilyn Heneghan, Facebook Coordinator



Our Chapter is now on Facebook as a place where we can connect as a group. National Wild Ones and a number of chapters have a presence on Facebook and it seemed it was time we did too.

There will be posts about our programs, plant sales and events, as well as information that may be of interest to our members. It is a place where members can post photos, ask questions and share ideas.

You will need to sign up for Facebook or already be on Facebook to follow our chapter.

To find our Chapter on Facebook look up: Wild Ones: Rock River Valley Chapter and click on like and follow. Be sure to ask your friends to "Like" us too!

Volunteers Recognized

Shey Lowman, Membership Chair

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 else that is needed, their name gets put into a pool for a drawing announced 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: **Frank Flores** with 26 hours, **Guy Smith** with 15.5 hours and **Joe Hemlock** with 15 hours. Congratulations to all! And thanks to all of our volunteers who worked over 350 hours on behalf of the chapter this year!

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:

	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 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
Associate Membership (limited income/student)	<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 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: \$ _____

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

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

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

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), just click on the Membership tab. Renew with any major credit cards through PayPal (no PayPal account required) by using our website. Go ahead and rack up your rewards points and we all win. Thank you for helping us achieve our goal of 200 members in 2014!

216 memberships on November 23, 2014

Thanks to our **22** members who renewed this month!

Welcome to new members!

Nancy Olson, Roscoe, IL

Anniversaries

Congratulations to this month's loyal members!

20 Years

Kay Blair, Belvidere, IL

15 Years

Carlos Contreras, Hampshire, IL

10 Years

Karla McGrail, Cedar Rapids, IA

50 attended the November potluck, a record!

A big thank you to our November potluck volunteers!

Food- Lynda Johnson, Cynthia Nelson
 Library Assistants- Marcia DeClerk, Cathy Johnson
 Meeting Recap for the Newsletter- Jerry Paulson
 Photographer- John Peterson

Many extra thanks to Cynthia Nelson and Lynda Johnson, for ordering the wonderful lasagna and coffees for the November potluck. Cynthia was especially helpful in picking up and driving these catered items from the DeKalb Duck Soup Coop all the way to Rockford.



2014 Membership Wrap Up:

Total Memberships	216 (176 in 2013)
Business Memberships @ \$250/year	5 (2 new in 2014)
Affiliate Not-For-Profit Organizations @ \$90/year	3 (2 new in 2014)
New Memberships	51 (16 in 2013)
Expired Memberships	9 (17 in 2013)
Total Member Donations	\$2,349.25 (\$1,220 in 2013)

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!

2015 Chapter Programs and Events

January 15 7:00-9:00 p.m.	Converting a City Lot into a Wild Place	Mary Anne and Bruce Mathwich, long-time Wild Ones members and native plant enthusiasts	Rock Valley College Woodward Technology Center
February 19 7:00-9:00 p.m.	Spring Ephemerals-Gems in our Woodland Gardens	Kris Koch, Education Coordinator –Rotary Gardens, Janesville, WI	Rock Valley College Woodward Technology Center
March 19 7:00-9:00 p.m.	Land Management in This Area Prior to European Settlement	Ed Jakaitis, Archaeologist, Illinois Archaeological Survey	Rock Valley College Woodward Technology Center
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

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 **1/1/2015**, 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 815-624-6301
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

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

Publicity Coordinator: Doreen O'Brien
815-985-4064 doreen@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 • Join on-line 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.