

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

Inside this Issue:

Message from the Co-President	2
Birdfest & Nature Fiesta	3
Mentor Program	3
Board in Action	3
April Meeting Recap	4-6
Show Me/Help Me	7-8
Spotlight on Business Member	9
Website News	10
Merchandise Must-Haves	10
Membership	11
Chapter Calendar	11
Chapter Contact Information	12



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



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

Local Ferns for Native Gardens
Thursday, May 21, 2015

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

Time: 7:00 p.m.



Ed Cope, Restoration Ecologist for the Natural Land Institute, will give us a peek into the fascinating world of ferns and the many ways they can benefit our native gardens and landscapes. Ferns are one of the most ancient plant groups, dating back 300 million years. His program will provide a detailed look into landscaping with native ferns. Ed will educate us a bit on this plant group's distinguishing characteristics, complex reproductive cycle, and how they differ from most of the more highly evolved plants that we

work with in our gardens. He will discuss the benefits of planting ferns, the ins-and-outs of propagation, and how to make them thrive in a garden setting. An overview will also be given on which species are native to the region, and where they may be enjoyed in a natural setting.

Ed has extensive education and experience in restoring and managing northern Illinois native vegetation and ecosystems. He has volunteered for and been employed by the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County and, currently, the Natural Land Institute. As a seasonal natural resource employee at FPWC, Ed produced photo field guides to the *Orchids of Winnebago County* and the *Ferns of Winnebago County*.

Cope received a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife and habitat management and land rehabilitation in May 2013 from Montana State University. After graduation, he spent a year in Alaska working for a dog-sled team. Cope says he came back to Winnebago county because his calling is in the Midwest. "There's a lot of good work to be done here. I've spent time (out west), but their point of view (on the environment) is so different. There's still so much land left. There's not so much here."

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

Message from the Co-President

Ginnie Watson

photos by Ginnie Watson



Ginnie Watson

photo by Jon McGinty

Last year our Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter won the Seth B. Atwood Memorial Park and Conservation Service Award for exemplifying the values and mission of conservation of natural places demonstrated by Seth B. Atwood, the late industrialist. This year the honor and prestige of the highly respected Atwood Memorial Award has once again touched our Wild Ones chapter. Our Co-President, Lenae Weichel, was chosen as the individual award winner for 2015!

position she held through 2006. Lenae moved on to become Show Me/Help Me Chair in 2007, remaining in that post until 2011. In 2012 she took on the position of Prairie Plant Sale Coordinator and continued through 2013. In the meantime, Lenae took on the responsibilities of President of the board out at Severson Dells and was absent from our board during 2014. 2015, however, finds her back with us, sharing duties with me as our Co-President. Add in Lenae's efforts on behalf of Angelic Organics Learning Center and the picture rounds out to a very strong endorsement of Lenae's achievements.

The Atwood Award festivities took place on April 23 at Klehm Arboretum and were hosted by the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County and the Rockford Park District. The evening began with a 5:30 p.m. social, appetizers, and live music, followed by the 6:00 award ceremony. There was a good crowd present, including other Wild Ones members who came to see one of our own receive this merit. (The Atwood Award is also presented to an organization with similar attributes – which this year was the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation.)

Lenae joins 10 other Wild Ones members who have also been similarly honored. Lenae was preceded by such Wild Ones notables as Lee Johnson, Jack Armstrong, Dan Williams, Lynda Johnson, Dave Kostka, Jerry Paulson, Don Miller, Judy Barnard, Anne Meyer, and our own Wild Ones national President, Tim Lewis. (If I have left any members out please let me know and I'll do a mea culpa in the next issue!)

Of course, none of us are surprised at this announcement. Lenae comes by this recognition after years of service and dedication to the conservation of our natural world. It was my honor to offer the Atwood Award Committee a letter of recommendation for Lenae. In it I noted, "Having joined the local chapter of Wild Ones in 2000, except for a single year, Lenae has been a member of our board since 2003. As a board member, Lenae vowed to uphold and carry out the Wild Ones Mission which encourages the promotion of "... environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities."

Lenae's tenure on the board began in June, 2003, when she volunteered to become the Newsletter Editor, a



Lenae with Winnebago County Forest Preserve Board

Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter is an organization of which you should be very proud. There are many leaders among our membership and the latest to be honored is Lenae Weichel. Be sure to congratulate her when next you see her!



Wild Ones at Birdfest & Nature Fiesta in May



Lenae shows her award to her husband and son

Wild Ones, Rock River Valley chapter will be partnering with Forest Preserves of Winnebago County to provide community outreach at two public events in forest preserves in May. As we have for several years, Wild Ones will have a display and prairie plants for sale at the 17th annual Birdfest at Colored Sands Forest Preserve on May 9 and 10. Birdfest features demonstrations on bird banding, raptors, reptiles, insects, attracting birds to your yard with native plants, photographing birds, nature hikes, children’s activities, and much more. Bird and nature items and food for sale make this a great Mother’s Day outing. Admission is \$3/ adults; \$0.50/ages 3-12; free/children 2 and younger. Visit sandbluff.org for details.

Nature Fiesta, at Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve on Saturday, May 30 from 12:00–4:00, gives our Wild

Ones chapter a great opportunity to participate in bilingual nature education. Nature Fiesta will include a variety of environmental education activities designed to connect families and individuals with our local nature. Guided hikes, exhibits, games, and crafts will help teach about monarchs, birds, wild flowers, rivers, and other topics that can be explored in parks and natural areas throughout the summer. Guides and activity leaders will include Spanish-speaking educators and volunteers. Wild Ones will host the Wildflowers station, providing educational printed materials, native plants for sale (including milkweed for monarchs), and craft activities for kids. Music and food make the afternoon a fun celebration of cultural and biological diversity. Please plan on attending this fun, free event! Go to winnebagoforest.org for details.

.....
Wild Ones Mentor Program Melanie Costello, Mentor Program Coordinator

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.

Becoming a mentor is a wonderful opportunity to further the Wild Ones mission. And the assistance to a less experienced member can be invaluable!

To participate by requesting a mentor or offering to be a mentor, contact Melanie Costello, Mentor Program Coordinator, at melanie@wildonesrrvc.org or at (815) 751-1583.

.....
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 April 9, 2015 meeting, include the following.

- To make the website more new-member friendly, a letter to new members is now positioned prominently, explaining where to find information and assistance. It’s hoped that this change will fill the gap left by the cessation of the printing and mailing of the new member handbook.
- The chapter is actively looking for members who could help write recaps of the program presentations for the newsletter.
- The chapter will be participating in Nature Fiesta again this year, with a focus on monarch butterflies. The event will be held May 30, 12:00-4:00 p.m., at Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve, 5360 Mulford Rd., Cherry Valley, IL.
- Seven mini-grants have been awarded to applicants who are creating or continuing native plantings within the region covered by our chapter.
- The next board meeting will be Thursday, June 16 at 6:00 p.m., at Thunder Bay Grille, 7652 Potawatami Trail, Rockford, IL. The meeting officially starts at 6:00 p.m., but many come at 5:00 to purchase their dinner. All chapter members are welcome and invited to attend board meetings.

April Meeting Recap Janet Giesen

photos by Tim Lewis



Rebecca Olson, owner and president of Olson Ecological Solutions, LLC, has been working with native plants for about 14 years. In that time, Rebecca has developed a process by which she has successfully designed native plant environments. Her presentation highlighted that process, which emphasized the importance of having an overall goal for planting native plant species.

Rebecca stressed the following steps that should be considered when designing with native plants: 1) identifying your goal for using native plants, 2) selecting and designing the site, 3) selecting plant materials, 4) preparing and planning the site, and 5) taking care of the site. Each of these steps will be described below, with advice for those who are starting from scratch and those who are working with sites that they are trying to enhance.

OVERALL GOAL FOR PLANTING NATIVE PLANT SPECIES

To help identify your goal, Rebecca would have you ask the following questions: Are you planting to create habitat for animal species? Do you want to treat storm water run-off? Do you want to reduce mowing grass? Asking these questions will guide your space design. As a result of addressing these questions, you will, without even trying, improve soil health and create landscaping interest.

Planting to Create Habitat. Native plants can attract birds, butterflies, pollinators, and particular species of interest specific to your area. For those who live around bodies of water, controlling nuisance geese may be your goal for habitat design. Rebecca stressed that if one of your goals for using native plants is to create a specific wildlife habitat, be sure that your plans and location can support the plants and structure for that habitat.

Planting to Treat Storm Water Run-off. Improve quality of storm water runoff through the use of rain gardens or detention areas that collect rain water. Rain gardens allow the collected water to seep into the ground within 48 hours, which means that rain gardens will not attract mosquitoes (which need one to two weeks to develop into biting adults). With detention areas, don't create unsafe environments such as hidden drop-offs. Also, consider the water depth, especially if there are children in the neighborhood.

Rebecca's initial goal for using natives in her own landscape changed from improving water run-off to attracting pollinating insects and birds after one of her

neighbors voiced concern about basement flooding. She stressed the importance of talking with neighbors about your plans to use native plants and how they can benefit the environment, which can help address misconceptions and discourage problems later.

Planting to Reduce Mowing. Grassy areas can become part of the native landscape design but not necessarily the focus of that plan. Consider grassy areas for humans and pets in addition to those areas you plan for native plants. Remove as much grass that will fit with your native plant design plan.

SITE SELECTION

How Will Your Garden Area Fit Within Your Entire Landscape? Go back and consider your goals for planting native plant species. If it's treating storm water run-off, you need to find a low spot in the yard or create a rain garden to capture that run off. Do you have kids who play outside and who will require a mowed grassy space? Or, do you have wasted grassy spaces that could be repurposed into a space planted with natives? Rebecca re-emphasized that you should have goal and work with a plan!

What is the Size of the Proposed Planting Site?

A general rule of thumb is to use seed for larger tracts of land (1/4-acre lots and acres), in which you have less control over which plants comes up where. Use live plants for smaller spaces (measured in square feet), in which you have more control over what goes where. Using a combination of seed and live plants is possible. For example, if you have a large area but would like part of it to be a focal point or screening for a swimming pool or patio, use live plants in that designated spot. In that smaller area you can achieve a particular look by using grasses for texture, a combination of short and tall forbs for color, or drifts of just a few species. Then seed the remaining large area.

Rain Gardens. If your goal is to have a rain garden, you will need to calculate the amount of storm water that runs off your roof or paved area that would be entering your garden. Then you can determine how big the area should be and what to plant.

Suitability of Native Plants. You will need to consider how plants grow: whether they are natural seeders, have runners that spread like crazy, look "weedy" or have a more tidy appearance, and what they look like when fully mature. Knowing how native plants grow will determine which species to select and where to plant them. Rebecca mentioned that native plants, for the most part, can grow with non-natives, especially when you are getting started.

April Meeting Recap (cont'd)

SITE DESIGN

What do You Want Your Garden to Look Like? Think about one of the principles of landscape design – anchoring your garden with a focal point such as a tree or a structure to tie in or connect to the entire landscape. Ask yourself what's being repeated in the yard – such as shapes, textures, and colors. Before adding vegetation, think about features for function and landscape interest – such as walkways – so you can access specific areas, berms, and rock reinforcement to hold rain-garden water, and areas where you can sit and enjoy the environment.

Habitat for Wildlife. This includes arrangement of vegetation, water, shelter, and food. Water can be provided with rain gardens, shallow scrapes, pools, bird baths, and vegetation that has cups and leaves that hold water for a period of time. Shelter includes logs, snags, box houses, and nesting sites for a range of animal species. And finally, the plants themselves naturally provide food for wildlife – leaves for larvae, pollen for insects, and the insects in turn that become food for birds and other animals.

Added Features for Your Enjoyment. When planting with natives, it's a good idea to think about layers or strata that include trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants that can add interest and habitat. Consider plant height, sculptures, boulders, and rocks for aesthetic appeal. Rebecca stressed that just because you have a native garden doesn't mean that you can't also make it interesting with paths, fire pits, shade and climbing trees, sitting areas, decks, play areas, and swimming pools.

Rebecca focused the second half of her presentation on herbaceous plant layers, including a number of features to consider when planting native plant species.

Plant Height. Consider what kind of plant height you want for your space. Short plants measure three feet or less, while tall plants are four feet or above. Incorporating mixed-height levels of plants tends to provide the most interest to native plant gardens.

Ecological Function. Besides what is pretty (wildflowers), you should think about cool and warm season grasses for texture and contrast, legumes that add nitrogen to soil (*Baptisia bracteata*), and diverse plant structures that will provide the ecological function of habitat for insects, macro-invertebrates, birds, and mammals.

Greenery and Blooms. Thinking about the variety of plant types and their structures is an important



Ron Cress talking with Rebecca Olson

consideration when selecting native plants because this is what you will see out of your windows or what you observe from different locations in the area. Consider the ratio of grass-like plants to blooming plants, with approximately 60% forbs to 40% grasses, which helps to create a more aesthetic and natural looking environment. Blooming forbs have four seasons of color: spring, early summer, late summer, and autumn, so strive to have blooming plants in each season. Rebecca recommends that for a more visually appealing native garden area, consider three or four bloom colors per season. However, bloom colors do not affect the function of the plants, i.e., adding nitrogen to the soil, producing pollen, or providing food for insects.

Also, a good goal for a budget-driven ratio for seeded areas is 60% forbs to 40% grasses, aiming for a high number of seeds versus ounces because seeds have various weights. If you are working with a nursery and you ask them how many seeds per square foot in your seed mixture, have them translate that mixture of seeds versus ounces. Rebecca recommends 200 seeds per square foot for a wet area, 100 seeds per square foot for a mesic area, and at least 75 seeds per square foot for a dryer area.

Sun Exposure. Each plant species has its own tolerance to sun exposure that ranges from full sun to partial shade to full shade. Therefore, select plants that will do well in a particular location based on the amount of sun it receives each day.

Moisture Received. Each native plant species requires and tolerates a particular amount of water to survive. Rebecca recommends, therefore, that you plant each species in an area according to its level of preference that are either wet, wet mesic, mesic, dry-mesic, or dry.

April Meeting Recap (cont'd)

Problematic Areas. These areas can include very wet, erodible, or very dry sandy areas that may affect the survival of certain plant species. Know your soil type before selecting your native plants.

PLANT SELECTION

Select plants according to sun exposure, moisture needs, and their wet code, which identifies native plants by one of five indicator codes that designates “a plant species preference for occurrences in a wetland or upland” (USDA, n.d.). Pay attention to a plant’s wet code, especially if you have a rain garden or a wet area in which you wish to plant natives, as well as dryer areas that may require upland species. Here is the link to the USDA Wetland Indicator Status site: (<https://plants.usda.gov/wetinfo.html>).

PREPARING YOUR GARDEN SPACE

It’s extremely critical to carefully and purposefully prepare your site before planting native plants or you will be fighting aggressive weeds throughout the growing season. Rebecca stressed the importance of taking more time in preparing your site rather than becoming over anxious to get plants into the ground. Here are her recommendations.

For those who are starting from scratch and whose plan involves changing the topography that might include berms, rain gardens, and terraces, make those changes first. Then, put into place any habitat and non-vegetative structures such as walkways, rocks, or water features. The next step involves what Rebecca calls, “getting to black soil” by killing any existing vegetation that is not part of your plan. Rebecca mentioned that to kill vegetation, you can till the soil or use herbicides, both which tend to be the most common techniques used today. However, tilling brings up weed seeds and needs to be done several times to be effective. Herbicides, such as Roundup®, which kills all live plants, can be used once but twice is more effective. After all the vegetation is dead, you can begin to plant the garden.

PLANTING THE GARDEN

Plant trees and shrubs first that will create the backbone or foundation of your area, followed by the herbaceous layer, using seeds, live plants, or both. Seeds are especially good in areas that will not be receiving water other than



Members browsing donated books available.

rain. Live plants will require some water to survive the first year – ideally keeping the soil moist until the roots take hold. When using live plants, expect to see good results in as little as three years, after the plants have had time to establish strong root systems.

ENHANCING EXISTING AREAS WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Key to this technique is to keep some plants and weaken the undesirables by tilling to expose the black soil that will more readily accept seeds. You can inter-seed or inter-plant to weaken undesired species, or you can judiciously (spot spray) using herbicides. Expect a longer time (up to seven years) to see good results when enhancing existing areas, especially with seeds.

TAKING CARE OF YOUR NATIVE GARDEN

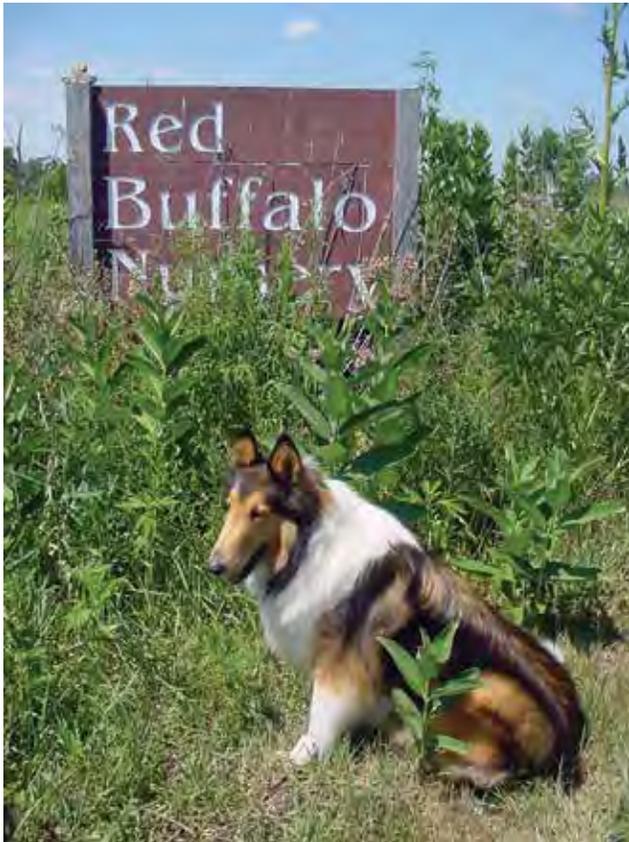
After your plants have begun to be established, a primary goal is to control weeds, which can be accomplished by any of the following methods: hand pulling, which is successful only on certain species; using herbicides only on designated weeds, being sure to cover native plants with buckets, boxes, or milk cartons; mowing to control annuals before they set seed, keeping in mind that weeds grow faster and often taller than the new native plants, so adjust your mower high to mow the weedy annuals using these specs: 4-6” in May and June, 6-8” in July, 8-12” in August; prescribed burning, done randomly in fall or spring, which can invigorate native plants; and filling in bare spots with live plantings.

Spacing native plants one foot on center allows plants to quickly fill in, which in turn will help deter weeds. Planting two feet on center, or one plant per four feet, is more economical but will take more time for plants to fill in. Therefore, you will likely have more weeds with this planting method.

CONCLUSION

Rebecca Olson shared her expertise about and experiences with native plants and landscaping with those of us with years of native plant experience as well as those who are new or just beginning to embrace the native plant culture. Whether starting from scratch or enhancing an existing area, Rebecca provided us with another perspective on using native plants in the landscape.

Spotlight on Business Member: Red Buffalo Nursery Bob Arevalo



Red Buffalo Nursery has been selling quality native plants since the turn of the century (21st century, that is). Jack Kaskel started the business because he discovered the majesty of our endangered native ecosystems while volunteering for the North Branch Prairie Project (30 years ago). He is now working to restore them, and helping others restore and recreate these magical environments.

Red Buffalo Nursery specializes in plants native to the prairies, wetlands, savannas, and forests of northeastern Illinois and southeastern Wisconsin. The Nursery grows plants from locally collected seed whenever possible (and never digs plants from the wild populations).

Red Buffalo Nursery offers garden design, landscaping, and natural areas restoration and maintenance services, too. When they design a garden, or create a natural areas management plan, they use the original pre-settlement environment as their model. Today, many of our natural areas are overrun by invasive weeds – plants never encountered prior to European settlement. These weeds, like garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, and common buckthorn, don't belong here, and many are actively displacing our beautiful and rare native plants.

Everyone at Red Buffalo Nursery believes our native ecosystems are worth restoring or recreating, and that's why they are in business. Thank you, Red Buffalo, for being a business member of our chapter. Learn more about Red Buffalo nursery at their website, www.redbuffalonursery.com.



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:

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

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

Website News Shey Lowman, Website Coordinator

We continue to update our website (www.wildonesrrvc.org) to enhance our communication with you, our members. Recently, a great deal of information was added to the **New Members** page on the drop down menu under the **Membership** tab (the first yellow pointing finger). Want to know what to expect at your first meeting or what communications to expect from the chapter? Check out this page! Most members will find something they didn't know.



The second yellow pointing finger is the all-new **Survey Reports**. Here you will find the reports from each of our meeting or event surveys, which include stats about the responses and anonymous comments. Below is an example question from one of the surveys. We always appreciate your feedback!

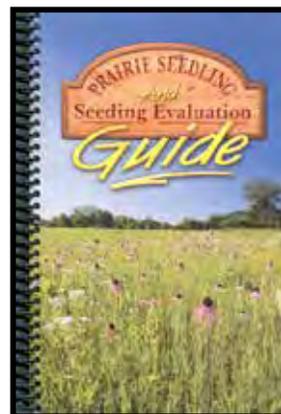
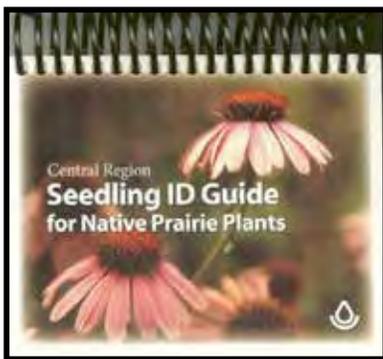
4. What is your level of satisfaction with the February meeting?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Very satisfied	14	46.6%
Somewhat satisfied	9	30.0%
Neutral	1	3.3%
Somewhat dissatisfied	1	3.3%
Very dissatisfied	0	0.0%
No Responses	5	16.6%
Total	30	100%

7 Comment(s)

Merchandise Must-Haves... Cynthia Chmell, Merchandise Coordinator

What's Growing in Your Yard? These Handy Guides Will Help You!



Central Region Seedling ID Guide for Native Prairie Plants by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Missouri Department of Conservation. This 5" x 4" spiral bound laminated field guide fits in your pocket. It has photographs from seed to seedling to mature plant for 40 species. **\$12.00**

The Prairie Seedling and Seeding Evaluation Guide is a must-have reference for identifying native plants and weeds as they emerge. It identifies 42 native forbs and 14 grasses, plus 14 flowering weeds and 8 grass weeds. This is a privately published book that is difficult to find. **\$14.00.**

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!

223 memberships as of April 23, 2015

Welcome to our new members!

Marjorie Christen, Sycamore, IL
 Rebecca Olson, Rockford, IL
 James Wilson, 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!

86 attended the April meeting, including 9 guests.

A big thank you to our April meeting volunteers!

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

Anniversaries

Congratulations to this month's loyal members!

15 Years

Mark & Linda Winstead, Roscoe, IL

10 Years

Rich & Susan McMullen, Pecatonica, IL
 Dora May Meredith, Rockford, IL

It is preferred that membership renewals 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 sup



2015 Chapter Programs and Events

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
August 20 7:00-9:00 p.m.	Permaculture for Native Gardeners	Judy Speer Small Waters Education Center	Rock Valley College Woodward Technology Center

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 **5/1/2015**, 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.