

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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All articles for the July 2016 newsletter, must be submitted to:

Constance@wildonesrrvc.org
by June 23, 2016.

The Balance of Nature and Design
Thursday, June 16, 2016

Location: Rock Valley College,
Physical Education Center PEC 0110 (lower level)
3301 North Mulford Road, Rockford, IL 61114

Time: 7:00 p.m.



Michael A. Herrenbruck will discuss the importance of design and the replication of nature in the urban setting. He tells us that good design brings back harmonious aspects to the natural landscape.

Mike grew up in rural Port Washington, Wisconsin. Growing up surrounded by the natural world, it only made sense that he inevitably gravitated toward a career related to nature. Having 10 years'

experience in the landscape horticultural field and an associate degree in landscape horticulture from Milwaukee Area Technical College, He is currently starting his sixth year as co-owner of Eco Harmony Landscape & Design, LLC. He currently lives in the Mequon area with his wife Jaimie. In his spare time he enjoys taking advantage of all the natural areas surrounding the metro Milwaukee area through hiking, photography and exploring inspirational ecosystems in order to achieve continued success implementing natural design..

The program is free and open to the public.
For additional information, call (815) 332-3343



The audience at the May 19 Meeting

Message from the Co-President **Constance McCarthy**



Constance McCarthy

photo by Tim Lewis

Abundance of Educational Opportunities – Why Not Seize One?

Spring and early summer are always the busiest time of the year for our chapter. On top of the two plant sales and numerous events where our chapter's booth is displayed, there are two Show Me/Help Me events coming up (including a plant sharing component). If you've

never been to a Show Me/Help Me event, I can't recommend it more highly. If you are newer to the world of native plants, you'll get to see some of our more experienced members knock your socks off with their vast knowledge of natives. I can still remember seeing someone distinguish between different varieties of goldenrod or sunflowers.

Remembering that we were all beginners at some point, these events are also a wonderful chance to pay it forward, so to speak, and share knowledge with those who are still building their individual knowledge base with regard to natives and the critters that rely on them. If you think you might not have much to contribute at a Help Me stop, you can still watch the masters at work as they offer numerous suggestions – often off the tops of their heads, but sometimes using a field guide that someone has brought along.

And everyone, no matter where they fall on the knowledge spectrum, will be able to marvel at some really stunning landscapes that have been cultivated by fellow Wild Ones. Some of the Help Me locations on these upcoming tours, may well be Show Me stops down the road. Indeed, another special aspect of these tours is to see a location for a second time, as the landscape will no doubt be better and more established than it was even

just one year before. Even if you have seen the Lewis yard several times, it just continues to get better with age and is always worth yet another visit.

If you're not yet a member, you may attend these member-only events by joining the chapter prior to the Show Me/Help Me and plant share event.

Beyond our chapter, the Natural Land Institute and Severson Dells Nature Center are again sponsoring their annual series of Wildflower Walkabouts. Walking tours of natural areas in north-central Illinois are led by folks from the two organizations. These are another incredible educational opportunity that would very much be worth your time. The guides will identify and discuss whatever happens to be blooming along the path. The walks begin at 6:00 p.m.; there is no fee for the walks, but membership in is encouraged. For more details (including exact location of the starting point), contact the Natural Land Institute at (815) 335.2915 or Severson Dells at (815) 964.6666. Upcoming walks include:

- Wednesday, June 15, Colored Sands Forest Preserve (tour led by Sand Bluff Bird Observatory's naturalists and Wild Ones chapter members Lee and Lynda Johnson). Come see vegetation that is unique to dray sand prairies, which once dominated the area but are now very rare.
- Tuesday, June 21, Harlem Hills Prairie Nature Preserve (tour led by Gary and Judy Anderson). If the season is progressing typically, you may well get to see thousands of pale purple coneflowers in bloom. Sunsets viewed from this prairie are especially striking.
- Wednesday, June 29, Searles Prairie Nature Preserve (tour led by Rockford Park District board member and Wild Ones chapter member Jack Armstrong). This is one of the state's highest quality wet prairies and will be in full bloom.

Mentor Program: A Great Membership Benefit **Melanie Costello, Mentor Program Coordinator**

It's not too late to get some advice from a Wild Ones mentor! Even later in the growing season, a mentor can be a valuable resource. This is especially true if you are contemplating adding some trees or shrubs to your yard, as the chapter tree and shrub sale will be starting soon. This is one of the great benefits of your Wild Ones membership. To request a mentor, or to volunteer to be a mentor, contact Melanie Costello at melanie@wildonesrrvc.org or (815) 751-1583.

Prairie Plant Sale: Volunteers Planted

Rick Freiman and Jerry Paulson, co-coordinators

Volunteers helped 2,528 more natives to be planted in our area, by transporting, tagging, assembling orders, and helping customers at this year's prairie plant sale. The thousands of new native plants going into the ground, year after year, must certainly be having a positive impact on our neighborhoods and ecosystem.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped with this year's sale: Bob Arevalo, Olga Bechtol, Ellwyn Englof, Jodell Gabriel, Janet Giesen, Cathy Johnson, Ed Kletecka, Tim Lewis, Mary Anne Mathwich, Khrista Miskell, Cynthia Nelson, Nancy and John Olson, Diane Stenerson, and Cindy Torrisi.



Jerry Paulson helps tag thousands of plants at the Wild Ones prairie plant sale.



Janet Giesen delivers an order to Guy Smith at the prairie plant sale.



Ed Kletecka succeeded in assembling two more yard carts for the prairie plant sale.

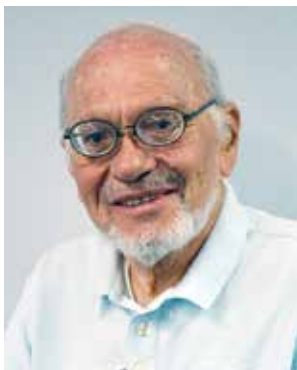
May Meeting Recap

Doreen O'Brien

photo by Pat Hollingsworth

Prairie Plants Close-Up: The Hidden World of Flowers and Fruits

***"When you take a flower in your hand and really look at it, it's your world for the moment. I want to give that world to someone else. Most people in the city rush around so, they have no time to look at a flower. I want them to see it whether they want to or not."* -Georgia O'Keefe**



The Wild Ones May program was presented by Ken Robertson, a retired botanist from the Illinois Natural History Survey at the University of Illinois. He has B.A. and M.S. degrees from the University of Kansas, and a Ph.D. from Washington University and Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. After six years

with the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, he and his wife moved to Champaign, Illinois.

Robertson is passionate and enthusiastic about the

nature of a flower's design, and he wants us to look at plants in a new way. In his detailed descriptions of flowers, he encouraged us to look more closely at flowers, and begin to understand how their presentation and design define how they pollinate and reproduce. Though we are drawn to a flower by its beauty, those features have a greater meaning.

What is a flower to a plant? (1) They are the reproductive structure of plants. (2) Flowers become fruits. (3) Fruits contain seeds. (4) Seeds grow to reproduce.

Most flowers have four parts or "whorls". *Sepals* are often green and serve the purpose of providing protection to the buds. *Petals* are often colored and

May Meeting Recap (cont'd)

serve the purpose of attracting pollinators. *Stamens* are the male part which serves the purpose of producing pollen (stamen components which may or may not be present are anther, filament, stigma, and style). *Pistils/carpels* are the female part which contains ovules and serves the purpose of producing seed. A fruit is the ripened ovary of a flower, and within that ripened ovary are seeds, or mature ovules. One ovule = one seed. These flower parts can be seen in a detailed diagram of a flower, which can be viewed on a link to Robertson's PowerPoint on our chapter's website.

A flower's appearance is an indication of how the flower will be pollinated. For example, a red petal attracts a ruby-throated hummingbird. A white petal may attract moths. A yellow flower attracts a butterfly. Grasses respond to the wind.

The appearance of fruits and seeds are an indication of how they are dispersed. Burs attach to fur and are carried by animals (including humans, of course!). Prairie plant and grass seeds are carried by the wind. Fleshy seeds are carried by ants or beetles, which chew off the flesh. In the case of tumbleweeds, the entire plant rolls and sheds its seeds. Birds chew and disperse fleshy fruits.

In order to assist us in understanding how these elements worked, Robertson focused on several flower families, and described the reproductive process within those family characteristics. Most of his photos were taken at Harlem Hills Nature Preserve and other prairies in northern Illinois. To view excellent pictures of the flowers and their features, go to the Wild Ones website and click on the link to Robertson's PowerPoint.

Buttercup (Ranunculaceae) family (a simple family).

Prairie buttercup (*Ranunculus rhomboideus*): A tiny yellow plant, with many individual stigma tips where bees can land. After pollination by the bees, the petals fall off, leaving a simple fruit which falls to the ground.

Pasqueflower (*Pulsatilla patens*): It has many stamens which attract beetles and bees. Rather than tiny seeds like the buttercup, the pasqueflower has long, hairy styles with a seed at the end which is dispersed by the wind. Many prairie plant seeds are dispersed by the wind.

Wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*): A woodland plant in the buttercup family. With its red color,

it attracts the ruby-throated hummingbird for pollination. The open, hanging flower allows room for the hummingbird to maneuver. The flower secretes a nectar which attracts the bird. The stigmas hang outward and as the bird approaches, the pollen lands on the stigmas. There are five ovules which each contain a black seed.

Rose (Rosaceae) family. This family has a structure called the hypanthium. The sepals and stamens of the rose family attach to the hypanthium.

Prairie smoke (*Geum triflorum*): The flower is often closed, and is pollinated by long-tongued bees. Seeds are dispersed by the wind.

White avens (*Geum canadense*): The style is very different from prairie smoke. The seed is left with a hook attached to the end of a bur, and is dispersed by attaching to animals. Robertson shared an entertaining SRDU (Sock Removal Difficulty Unit) chart. This chart listed several flowers and prairie plants, and then tallied the number of units needed to remove the burs from one's socks for each flower. Members are encouraged to go to our chapter's website and click on the link to Robertson's presentation.

Wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*): This plant is unspecified, and also has the hypanthium. The stalk is surrounded by pistils. The ovaries develop into the fruit. Strawberries that we eat today are hybrids and are found throughout the world. Robertson noted that a McDonalds strawberry shake is pink and merely flavored. However, while a Dairy Queen shake may have the seeds filtered out, the styles remain and pieces of that real fruit component are visible in the shake.

Prairie cinquefoil (*Drymocallis arguta*, formerly *Potentilla arguta*): The flower is very similar to a strawberry, although it develops no fruit. Robertson notes that very few prairie plants have a fleshy fruit.

Bean or legume (Fabaceae) family

Illinois tick-trefoil (*Desmodium illinoense*): It has five petals, one of which is called a banner petal. The banner petal points to the center and upwards, and is marked to show a bee where to land. As the bee lands, the stigma pops up and hits the insect to capture the pollen. It is like an exploding flower; the seeds are like Velcro and stick to animals for dispersal.

White wild indigo (*Baptisia leucantha*): It also has a banner petal, as well as 10 stamens (which is

May Meeting Recap (cont'd)



Ken Robertson chatting with Janet Giesen

common in the bean family), and one pistil (like all legumes). The white wild indigo develops a large bladder pod with little weevils inside. When the pod splits open, the seeds fall to the ground.

Cream wild indigo (*Baptisia leucophaea*): It grows low to the ground and attracts bees. As with the white wild indigo, the ovary becomes a bladder pod. The cream wild indigo is called a “roller” plant because the entire above-ground portion of the plant rolls across the prairie with the wind, spreading its seeds.

Hybrid wild indigo: A combination of the purple and cream wild indigo, it develops a beautiful blue flower, and can be seen at Searles Prairie in Rockford.

Primrose (Primulaceae) family. Shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*): It has an interesting pollination process. The star contains a cylinder of stamens with a stigma at the end. The bees wrap their legs around the cylinder, and as the bee buzzes, the pollen sifts out, lands on the bee, and hits the stamen. The fruit develops as a cylinder of teeth. The shooting star is called a “shaker” plant, as it shakes its seeds out and away from itself.

Gentian (Gentianaceae) family. Downy gentian (*Gentiana puberulenta*): This is an advanced, high quality flower. Its parts are fused together, with the stamen fused to the petals with the ovary in the center. There are two stigmas. It develops dry fruits with hundreds of tiny seeds which are blown away.

Borage (Boraginaceae) family. Hoary puccoon (*Lithospermum canescens*): It attracts butterflies, as indicated by the petals which flare outward and welcome in the butterfly. They have two types of flowers, some with stigma at top and some with anthers at the top, and they each fertilize the other.

Phlox (Polemoniaceae) family. Downy phlox (*Phlox pilosa*): It attracts butterflies. The stamens are scattered up and down the petals. If one wants to collect the fruit, this must be done when it is green. Once the fruit is ripe, it dries and explodes, scattering the seeds.

Sunflower or composite (Asteraceae) family. Robertson noted that what folks regard as a single sunflower in fact contains clusters of hundreds of flowers. They contain ray flowers, and disk flowers, and each receptacle is actually an individual flower. Some flowers within this family are the pale coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*), blazing star (*Liatris aspera*), and rough white lettuce (*Prenanthes aspera*).

At the end of his presentation, Robertson reminds us, “Every plant has stories to tell – if you look closely!”

References

<http://www.life.illinois.edu/plantbio/digitalflowers/>
www.wildonesrrvc.org – A link to Robertson’s PowerPoint is available in the May meeting information



*“If you have a **garden** and a **library**, you have everything you need.”*

Marcus Tullius Cicero, Statesman

Online Course: Designing with Native Plants

The New England Wildflower Society has a new online course starting up in the fall that anyone, anywhere can take. It is self-paced, and has open enrollment all fall and winter. The Society's other online courses can be found on their programs page at <http://newenglandwild.org/learn/our-programs>.

This entirely self-paced course will teach you the basics of designing with native plants and show you how to incorporate native plants into your garden and landscape. While the focus will be on native plants found throughout New England,

some of those plants are also native to our area. In any case, the emphasis will be on designing with native plants, and lessons learned will surely be applicable in our area, as well. Indeed, participants will learn how to design a visually interesting landscape that also supports biodiversity.

Open enrollment begins Monday, November 14, 2016 and ends Sunday, April 2, 2017. The program code is HORO100 and the instructor will be Dr. Elizabeth Farnsworth. The cost is \$64 (members of the New England Wildflower Society) / \$80 (nonmembers).

House for Sale

Nestled into Searls Park with its dog park, ball fields, BMX track, shelter house, golf practice field, woods, stream, bike path, and prairie all within walking distance, 4180 Safford Road is a stone and brick home on a small lot planted with wild flowers, shrubs, and trees. The home has three bedrooms, 1-1/2 bathrooms, large kitchen/dining room, family room, hardwood and tile floors, wood burning fireplace, and backyard patio. I am hoping to sell to a Wild Ones member without going through a realtor so that the wild areas will be maintained. Come see the house at an open house on Sunday, July 31 from 1:00-3:30 p.m.

For more information on the house, contact Francie Barnes at francie.barnes@gmail.com. For more information on the prairie, visit www.dnr.illinois.gov/INPC/Pages/Area1WinnebagoSearlsParkPrairie.aspx.

Membership Update **Ginnie Watson, Interim Membership Coordinator**

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. We appreciate your support!

225 memberships as of May 27, 2016

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

Marianne Miller, Belvidere, IL
Phil & Carolyn Fulkerson, Rockford, IL
Randy & Sylvia Downing, Stockton, IL
Francie Barnes, Rockford, IL

Welcome our new members!

Michele Lenderman
Sally Krebs
Mark Weir (returning)
Elizabeth Franck
Jennifer Derricks
Betsy Hoelting
Marianne Miller
Peg Lockman

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

82 attended the May meeting, including at least 16 guests.

A big thank you to our May meeting volunteers!

Greeters: Jane Evans, Janet Giesen, Janaan Lewis
Refreshments: Khrista Miskell, Anita Johnson
AV/Sound Equipment: Bob Arevalo
Meeting Recap for the Newsletter: Doreen O'Brien
Photographer: Pat Hollingsworth
Library Assistants: Cathy Johnson, Karen Matz

Anniversaries 10 years: - Guy Smith

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 that 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.

Twenty-five percent of all dues paid (about \$9.25 per membership) is returned to the chapter by National Wild Ones to support our chapter activities. National Wild Ones provides liability insurance for our meetings and events. All dues and donations are fully tax deductible.

Please send address and email address changes to the Membership Coordinator at membership@wildonesrrvc.org. Email or call (815) 627-0343 if you have any questions about membership.

Wild Ones Annual Memberships: Household \$37, Associate (student, senior, disabled) \$20, Affiliate Non-Profit Organization or Educator \$90, Business \$250.

Thank you for your continuing support!



2016 Chapter Programs and Events

June 16 7:00 p.m.	The Balance of Design and Nature	Michael Herrenbruck, Co-owner of Eco Harmony Landscape & Design LLC, Mequon, WI	Rock Valley College P.E. Center PEC 0110 (lower level)
July 21	Summer Evening Social & Potluck Members only	Carolyn & Bob Arevalo	Carolyn & Bob Arevalo's home in rural Boone County
August 18	Winter Trees: How to Know Your Ash from a Pole in the Ground	Jack Shouba, instructor at Morton Arboretum	Rock Valley College P.E. Center PEC 0110 (lower level)

Unless noted, programs are free and open to the public. Programs are subject to change.
For more information please contact Lisa Johnson at (815) 881-1014



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 **6/1/2016**, this is your last chapter newsletter and you have received your last Wild Ones *Journal* until you renew your membership. National Wild Ones drops expired memberships the first week of the expiration month, so please don't be late! See the *Membership Update* for renewal information.

Mail your renewal:

Wild Ones Rock River Valley
1643 N. Alpine Rd., Suite 104
PMB 233
Rockford, IL 61107

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Wild Ones Mission

Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities. Wild Ones is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization.

Rock River Valley Chapter Meetings

Regular meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Rock Valley College, Woodward Technology Center (WTC), 3301 N. Mulford Rd., Rockford, IL.

Special meetings, outings, and events are scheduled periodically and sometimes replace the regular meeting. Contact any officer to confirm information about our next meeting.

Rock River Valley Chapter Board and Coordinators

Board

Co-Presidents: **Ginnie Watson**
(815) 398.0138 ginnie@wildonesrrvc.org

Constance McCarthy (815) 282.0316
constance@wildonesrrvc.org

Vice President: **Jerry Paulson**
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Secretary: **Cathy Johnson** (815) 978.0865
cathy@wildonesrrvc.org

Treasurer: **Janet Giesen** (815) 899.6139
janet@wildonesrrvc.org

At-Large: **Doreen O'Brien** (815) 985.4064
doreen@wildonesrrvc.org

At-Large: **Kim Lowman Vollmer**
(815) 397.6044 kim@wildonesrrvc.org

Immediate Past President:
Lenae Weichel (815) 282.5482
lenaew@wildonesrrvc.org

Coordinators

Membership (interim): **Ginnie Watson** (as to the left)

Newsletter-Production: **Pambi Camacho**
(815) 332.7637 pambi@wildonesrrvc.org

Newsletter-Editorial: **Constance McCarthy**
(as above)

Volunteers: **Khrisa Miskell**
(815) 298.5449 khrisa@wildonesrrvc.org

Woodland Plant Sale: **Jodell & Marty Gabriel**
(815) 963.2137 jodell@wildonesrrvc.org
marty@wildonesrrvc.org

Prairie Plant Sale: **Rick Freiman**
(815) 871.7424 rick@wildonesrrvc.org

Tree & Shrub Sale: **John Peterson**
(815) 979.8539 john@wildonesrrvc.org

Plant Rescues & Seed Collection:
Mary Anne Mathwich (815) 721.5187
maryanne@wildonesrrvc.org

Programs: **Lisa Johnson** (815) 881.1014
lisa@wildonesrrvc.org

Show Me/Help Me: **Claudia Fleeman**
(815) 985.5158 claudia@wildonesrrvc.org

Youth Education & Grants:
Kim Lowman Vollmer (as above)

Booth, FREC rep., website: **Tim Lewis**
(815) 874.3468 tim@wildonesrrvc.org

Facebook: **Marilyn Heneghan**
(815) 389.7869 marilyn@wildonesrrvc.org

Library: **Ginnie Watson** (as above)

Mentors: **Melanie Costello** (815) 645.8430
melanie@wildonesrrvc.org

Merchandise: **Cynthia Chmell**
(815) 969.7435 chmell@wildonesrrvc.org

Publicity: **Doreen O'Brien** (as above)

Meeting Recaps: **Pat Hollingsworth**
(815) 627.9180 pat@wildonesrrvc.org

Members Only: Show Me/Help Me Day and Plant Share Saturday, June 25th, 10:00 a.m.

Claudia Fleeman, Show Me/Help Me coordinator

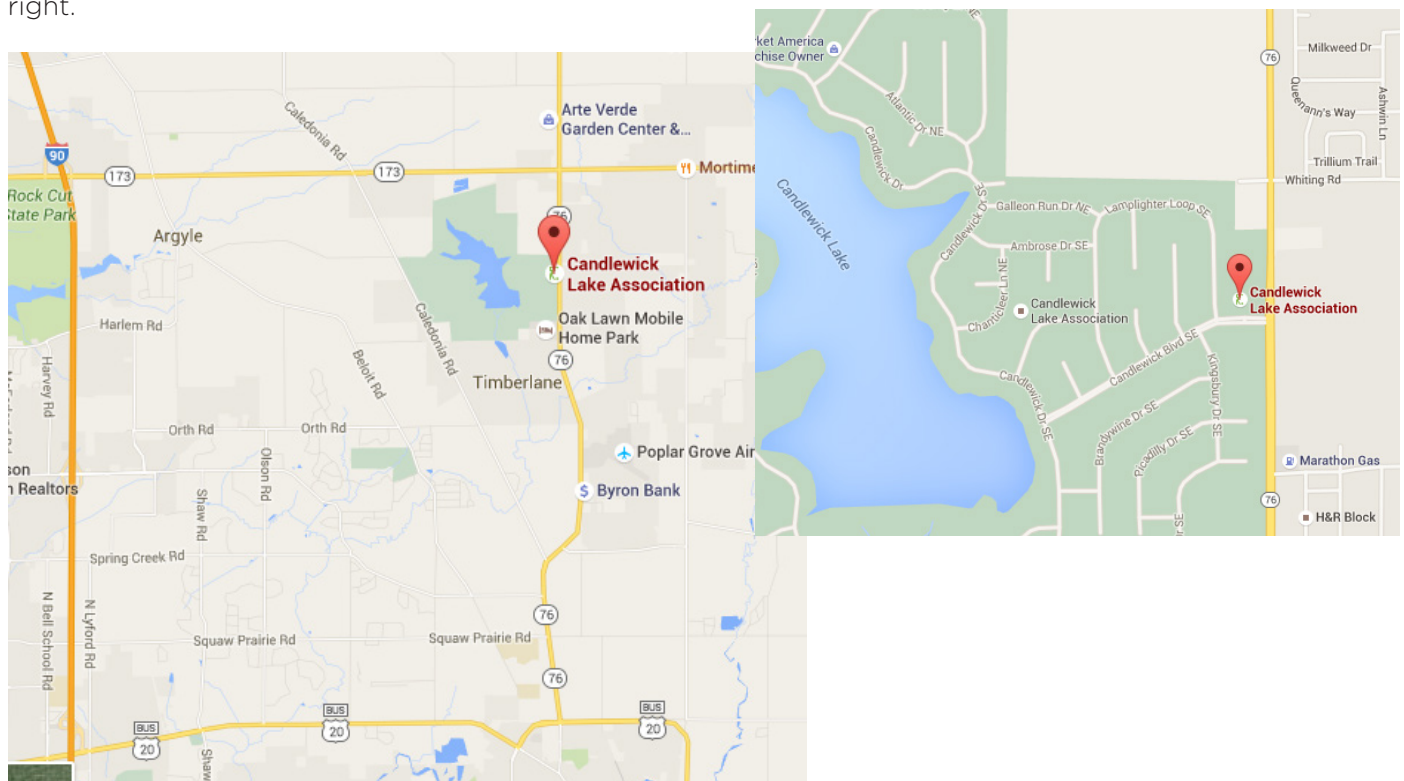
Show Me/Help Me days are interesting and educational for the novice and expert alike. During these excursions, we tour the yards of chapter members who have established landscapes, as well as those who would like some ideas or advice. These tours are a great learning opportunity and a chance to share knowledge and ideas. All members are welcome on the Show Me/Help Me tours. Members are welcome to bring a guest. No RSVP is required. If you have any questions, please contact me, Claudia Fleeman, at (815) 985-5158 or claudia@wildonesrrvc.org.

This Show Me/Help Me event will take place at Candlewick Lake, Poplar Grove. We will visit the native plantings installed for the Candlewick community by Wild Ones member, Rebecca Olson, of Olson Ecological Solutions LLC. Wild Ones member and Candlewick resident, Charles Sewell, will lead the tour. The lake is part of the Kishwaukee watershed, and these native plantings are part of an effort to filter groundwater running into the lake. The Candlewick community is very proactive towards keeping their lake clean of algae overgrowth and pollutants.

Enter Candlewick through the East Gate off Highway 76. Candlewick is a gated community. **We will meet in the administrative parking lot to your right before driving through the gate.** It may be necessary to carpool if there is a large showing. If you get lost on the way or arrive late, don't worry, just call my cell, (815) 985-5158, and I will drive to the gate to retrieve you.

During this event, we will also have a Plant Share opportunity. The plants to be shared will be a potluck of whatever members have decided to dig up from their yards and share. Members with extra native plant material should contact the Plant Rescue/Seed Collection coordinator, Mary Anne Mathwich, at (815) 721-5187 or maryanne@wildonesrrvc.org. Mary Anne will then decide how to get the plants to the location. Members with a place to plant the extra plants will take what they like.

Directions: Candlewick Lake is located in Poplar Grove. The entrance is off Hwy 76, on Candlewick Blvd. If you live north of Rockford, you can take Hwy 173 east to Hwy 76. Turn right on Hwy 76, then turn right onto Candlewick Blvd. If you are south, you can take Rote Rd. (which turns into Squaw Prairie Rd.) to Hwy 76. Turn left onto Hwy 76, then turn left on Candlewick Blvd. The parking lot is immediately to your right.



Members Only: Second Show Me/Help Me and Plant Share, Sat., July 9th, 9:00 a.m.

All members are welcome on Show Me/Help Me tours. Members may bring a guest. No RSVP is required. Come to all or any of the locations. The first yard tour will begin at 9:00 a.m., but times listed for the second and third yards are approximate. If you have any questions, please contact me, Claudia Fleeman (815) 985-5158 or claudia@wildonesrrvc.org

Marjorie Christen, Astro-Physics Inc., 11250 Forest Hills Rd., Machesney Park - 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

This Show Me/Help Me event will begin at Astro-Physics, a telescope manufacturing business owned by Marjorie and Roland Christen. Prairie enthusiasts for many years, they decided to create a walking path and prairie area around the building, planting native forbs and grasses so that they and their staff could enjoy the outdoors during breaks. If it is clear on that day, Christen will have a telescope set up for us to view the sun.

Sallie Krebs, 7492 Renfro Rd., Cherry Valley - 10:20 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Next on our tour, we will visit the yard of Wild Ones member, Sallie Krebs. She has 2,000 sq. ft. of garden space planted to attract birds and butterflies. A new member, Sallie has planted an area under river birch trees with natives and has various native plants scattered throughout her garden. Multi-talented, she has also installed a beautiful waterfall pond which has attracted small toads and frogs. She wants to concentrate on the birch tree area, but has a lot of space in other shady areas for planting natives.

Tim and Janaan Lewis, 3218 Redhawk Tr., Rockford - 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

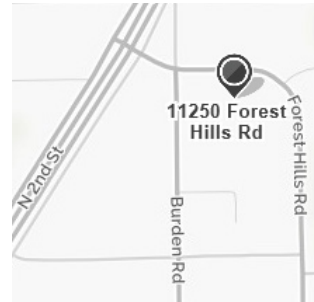
The last location scheduled for the day will be Tim and Janaan Lewis's yard. Tim and Janaan have been at this for a long time and have an interesting mix of mature plantings in their prairie, savannah, and woodland areas. They have very little conventional lawn space, utilizing mowed grass areas as pathways instead. They have even planted the challenging sites in their yard (deep shade, dry shade, and drainage) with natives. Tim grows and raises native plants from seed in his greenhouse. Wild Ones National president from 2010-2016, Tim has a wealth of knowledge to share with us.

Plant Share: Mary Anne Mathwich will host a plant share at the Lewis yard. The plants to be shared will be a potluck of whatever members have decided to dig up from their yards and share. Members with extra native plant material should contact the Plant Rescue/Seed Collection coordinator, Mary Anne Mathwich, at (815) 721-

5187 or maryann@wildonesrrvc.org. Mary Anne will then decide how to get the plants to the location. Members with a place to plant the extra plants will take what they like.

After a tour of the Lewis yard, refreshments will be served, giving us an opportunity to ask questions and socialize.

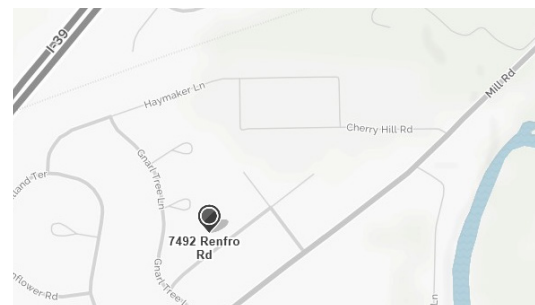
Directions:



1. Marjorie Christen, Astro-Physics, 11250 Forest Hills Rd.

Machesney Park Located just before Forest Hills intersects with Rt. 251 (N. 2nd St.). If you are traveling north on Forest Hills Rd., the building will be on the left, just before

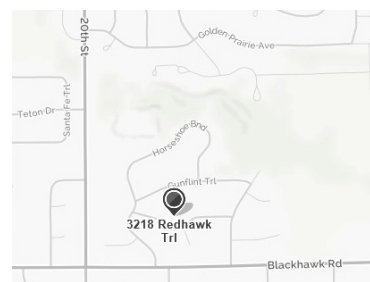
Rock Valley Credit Union. Park in the Astro-Physics parking lot.



2. Sallie Krebs, 7492 Renfro Rd., Cherry Valley

(Note: Perryville Rd. is

closed south of Harrison, so directions are to detour around the construction by taking Lyford Rd.). From Astro-Physics, turn right onto Forest Hills Rd. Turn left onto W. Lane Rd. (Hwy 173). Turn right onto Perryville Rd. Turn left onto Spring Creek Rd. Turn right onto N. Lyford Rd. N. Lyford becomes Slater Dr., which in turn becomes Mill Rd. Turn right onto Denrick Rd. (Denrick Rd. is 0.1 miles past Songbird Ln.) Take the first left onto Renfro Rd. The house will be on your right.



3. Tim and Janaan Lewis, 3218 Redhawk Tr., Rockford

Drive southwest on Renfro Rd. to Gnarl Tree Ln. Turn left onto Gnarl Tree Ln. Turn right onto Mill Rd. Turn left onto S. Perryville Rd.

Turn right onto Blackhawk Rd. (You will pass signs for Blackhawk Valley Campground.) Turn right onto Moosehorn Ln. (Moosehorn lane is just past Bow Tr.) Take the first right onto Redhawk Tr.