

**Promoting Native
Plants for Natural
Landscapes.**

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Wild Ones



All articles for the
May 2017 newsletter, must be
submitted to:
Constance@wildonesrrvc.org
by April 23, 2017.

Trends in Backyard Wildlife
Thursday, April 20, 2017

Location: Rock Valley College
Physical Education Center PEC0110 (lower level)
3301 North Mulford Road, Rockford, 61114

Time: 700 p.m.



Jack MacRae is 38 years into a career that has focused on the cultural and natural history of the Chicago region. He has worked at the Field Museum, Will County Forest Preserve, Naper Settlement Museum Village, and the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. Jack is currently the curator of The Museum of Wonder and Awe, a traveling 19th century dime museum. He also works part time at The Growing Place and portrays a garden gnome at various events.

His talk will deal with the recent history of natural areas management and protection in northern Illinois, and how it has led to notable changes in local wildlife populations. This presentation will look at trends in the wild neighbors that visit and share our

backyards, and how native landscaping has further aided in connecting our fragmented habitats.

This program is free and open to the public.
For more information, call (815) 332.3343.

Flora of the Chicago Region

The Northern Kane County Chapter of Wild Ones has some copies available of *Flora of the Chicago Region* by Gerould Wilhelm and Laura Rericha. It is radically different than *Plants of the Chicago Region*. Much larger, it has over 1,350 pages, 2,000 illustrations, and 3,200 maps, and weighs 8.5 pounds. Another feature is the relationships that plants have in supporting pollinators.

The Northern Kane County Chapter is offering the book for \$90.00 (discounted from \$125.00). They are receiving this special pricing because their chapter contributed financially to the book's production.

The book will be available in April. Anyone interested can contact Shirley Pfloderer at pfledjack@juno.com. They would be able to deliver to Rockford, as they do visit here occasionally.

Message from the President Constance McCarthy



Constance McCarthy
photo by Tim Lewis

Giving Thanks: It's Not Just for the Last Week of November

I like to think that one of the things that helps me maintain a positive outlook on life is the practice of gratitude. (Yes, it's a thing!) This was on my mind last month, but I thought that the launch of the chapter's two plant sales was a more pressing matter for your consideration in this space.

As our chapter has grown and grown over the years, so has the task of the chapter's treasurer. When she took over as treasurer in 2009, *Janet Giesen* oversaw the chapter's bank account and wrote checks to pay our bills and reimburse members for chapter expenses. Fast forward to when she wound up her duties at the end of 2016, and the number of balls she was juggling had increased considerably. The chapter now offers the possibility to pay for membership renewals and plant sale orders using PayPal, and payments can be accepted at meetings and events using the Square app. The chapter now also has an annual budget with our anticipated income and expenses for the year. This small paragraph seems inadequate to thank her for all her hard work and dedication to the chapter during her eight years of service on the board. Join me in giving Janet a hearty pat on the back next time you see her at a meeting. And if you're not a frequent meeting attendee, just know that she has been a major contributor to the smooth functioning of the chapter. A tip of the hat to you, Janet!

As the end of 2016 was drawing closer, we had not yet found a new treasurer to take over when Janet's term was up. Into the breach stepped *Wally Watson*, who kindly offered to serve as interim treasurer for two months. To be able to pick up the ball and run with it, he spent an afternoon with Janet to learn the basics. Fortunately, he was already familiar with our books because, in past years, he had generously put his accounting skills to good use in giving our records a review to be sure there were no glaring errors. Without his help during January and February of 2017, we would have been treasurer-less. Again, I wanted to recognize him for his service to the

chapter when we were in a bit of a pickle.

Finally, a big thank you goes to *Deb Rogers*, our new treasurer. As no one ran for the open position in the board election at the end of 2016, the board voted to appoint Deb to fill the vacant position at our February board meeting. Deb had been at the January meeting and heard my plea from the podium during the announcements, hoping to find someone to be our treasurer. I was so happy to speak with her after the meeting and to hear that she was willing to take on the position. After you give Janet her pat on the back, look for Deb at one of our monthly meetings and give her a pat, as well. (Board members have red ribbons on our name badges to make us easier to find.) I look forward to getting to know Deb and work with her on the board. Hip hip hooray for Deb!

Skunk Cabbage Diane DeYonker



Skunk cabbage at Anna
Page Park *photo by Tim Lewis*

February is the month to start looking for our earliest bloomer, the skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*). This seems unlikely, as we often still have snow on the ground, but the most unusual skunk cabbage deals with the cold in its own fashion.

Skunk cabbage is a member of the arum family, a group of plants with a spathe (like a pointed hood)

and a spadix (upon which the flowers grow) which is located inside the spathe. The spathe begins its growth in the fall, when you can see the purple, mottled, pointed cone poking up from the earth. The spathe opens in February, at which time you can see the spadix with the developing flowers. The blooms of the plant make their own heat, often melting any snow around the plant. Studies have shown that the plant's respiration keeps the

(continued on page 6)

Woodland Plant Sale: Orders due by April 20

We are so excited about the woodland plant sale and some of the new plants being offered this year. Check out the sale brochure to see if any of these selections would be a good addition to your garden. Our birds and pollinators need all the friendly plants they can get. The brochure and order form can be downloaded from the chapter website at www.wildonesrrvc.org.

We are already low on about a dozen species, so consider ordering soon to improve your chances of getting the ones you want. The deadline for orders is Thursday, April 20.

Individual plants will be available for sale to both members and non-members on the pick-up days. However, some may already be sold out and others available only in limited quantities.

Prairie Plant Sale: Order Due by April 30

Time to stock up on plants that add beauty to your landscape, while providing sustenance for butterflies, bees, and birds! The order form is available for download from the chapter's website at www.wildonesrrvc.org.

This year, the prairie plant sale is offering 53 species of sun loving plants, indigenous to Winnebago and surrounding counties, including ten species not offered last year. Orders are due by April 30. Pick-up dates are Friday and Saturday, May 19 and 20 at 4601 Paulson Rd., Caledonia

Mentor Program Ramping Up

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 get 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

On pickup day, we will also be having a sale of gently used donated garden items. Bird baths, garden art, tools, and anything to do with gardening may be donated. Even jewelry with a bug or butterfly theme would be appropriate. We also hope to have a selection of Wild Ones t-shirts available. To donate items or if you would like to volunteer during the pick-up days, please call Jane Evans, sale coordinator, at (815) 399.3787.

Individual plants will also be sold at Nicholas Conservatory on May 7, at Bird Fest (at the Sand Bluff Bird Banding Station at Colored Sands Forest Preserve) on May 13 and 14, and at the Klehm Garden Fair on June 3 and 4. Help spread the word, and happy gardening!

(north of Riverside Blvd., near the Northeast YMCA). Note that Paladin Pkwy., going north from Riverside, turns into Paulson Rd.

Individual plants will be available for sale (to members and non-members alike) on the pick-up days, although some species may be sold out and quantities will be limited. For best selection, order in advance.

For more information, contact sale coordinators Bobbie Lambiotte (815) 398.6257 or Cynthia Chmell (815) 969.7435.

time. One important way to do this is by putting in the effort to learn - through attending Wild Ones meetings and/or show me/help me events, and reading books (available from the chapter's lending library at monthly meetings). 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; and
 - have the wisdom to know when your knowledge is inadequate, and help your mentee find other resources.
- (contuned on page 8)

March Meeting Recap *Constance McCarthy photos by Tim Lewis*



Conducting a Controlled Woodland Burn: How and Why

Russell Brunner has been the superintendent of land management at Byron Forest Preserve District (BFPD) in Ogle county since 2003, and he estimates that he has done over 150 controlled burns. He is also the president of the Prairie Preservation Society of Ogle County. The BFPD

includes Jarrett Prairie Nature Preserve; Stephen J. and Deirdre Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve; Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve; Ripplinger-Gouker Prairie Preserve; Etnyre Preserve; and He-Leo Wetland Preserve.

First, he discussed the background of oak woodlands. Regarding forests and woodland of Winnebago county, public land surveys in 1837 trees stated a composition of 57% bur oak, 28% white oak, and 15% all others. Also, the land was characterized as 75% "prairie" (generally open prairie) and 25% "forest" pre-settlement. Bur, white, red, and black oaks, as well as hickory were all common to our woodlands. There were native shrubs, as well as a diverse ground layer of forbs and grasses. One should keep in mind the distinction between a woodland (which implies an open canopy) and a forest (where the canopy is completely closed so that it's not possible to see the sky).

The topic of the evening: Why burn the woodlands? There is a natural and historic context of fire; the ecology of oak ecosystems benefits from fire; oak regeneration ensues; afterwards, there are more flowers and fewer weeds; and fire serves as a means of invasive brush suppression, but not control.

The natural and historic context of fire. While natural fires were started by lightning, fire was also anthropogenic, i.e. Native Americans burned regularly across America. Unfortunately, the shift towards fire suppression in the 20th century dramatically altered our woodland communities. Smokey the Bear came during World War 2; many areas had been logged, so forest fires were very intense. This led to a PR campaign to not burn anything.

Fire suppression brought about closed canopies where there were once open woodlands. Without fire, the open canopy woodland becomes a closed canopy forest. This killed many native species and invasives took over. The period during which no burning was done ultimately left a big mess for conservation groups.

Oak woodlands. Oaks are light-loving trees, and their seedlings need light to take root. Oaks will survive prescribed burns. Over the last 100 years when nothing was burned, mesophication took place. Maple, cherry, and elm trees have moved into oak woodlands and totally changed the ecosystem there. This quote from Stephen Packard (*The Tallgrass Restoration Handbook*) sums up the situation: "... on the fertile Corn Belt soils, all of our oaks are headed for oblivion, except where ecological restoration or other intentional management protects them."

Mesophication is the process by which "fire-maintained open lands converted to closed-canopy forests. As a result of shading, shade-tolerant, fire-sensitive plants began to replace heliophytic, fire tolerant plants. A positive feedback cycle - which we term mesophication" - ensued, whereby microenvironmental conditions (cool, damp, and shaded conditions; less flammable fuel beds) continually improve for shade-tolerant mesophytic species and deteriorate for shade-intolerant, fire-adapted species." Nowacki and Abrams, *The Demise of Fire and "Mesophication" of Forests in the Eastern United States* (2008)

Ultimately, trees such as cherry and maple choke the light needed by the oaks and other plants. In a healthy woodland ecosystem, there should be plants in the woodland all season long (not just spring). Those trees had their place in the 1800s when the ecosystem was more in balance. Now, when the ecosystem is out of whack due to the absence of fire, they march through the woodlands. Fire once kept them in their place along river banks, but no longer.

Burn frequency. The Illinois Fire Needs Assessment 2016 noted that only 6% of woodlands are burned - which is far too low. Understory woody plant cover was highest in unburned woodlands and was negatively correlated with fire frequency. Total forb cover was maximized at fire frequencies of 4-7 fires per decade. Prescribed fires can then be used to suppress understory woody plants and promote the establishment of light-demanding grasses and forbs.

March Meeting Recap (cont'd)

Oak regeneration is one of the key reasons to burn our oak woodlands. Currently, young oaks are found only on the edges, and not within woods. Young oaks are not found in a closed canopy forest because there is simply not enough sun for them to grow.

The *native flora* under and around oaks also benefit from oak restoration and burning. Plants that love open oak woodlands include shooting stars and bottlebrush grass. Another major upside of woodland burning is that garlic mustard hates being burned. Even low, medium intensity burns will kill garlic mustard.

Buckthorn and bush honeysuckle are Russell's two most hated invasives. They love the temperatures and climate here, but hate being burned. Sadly, some areas have effectively become a honeysuckle forest, with completely bare soil beneath them. Not even weeds will grow there – they truly support *no* flora. This means that there is no fuel on the ground to burn with a fire. His recommendation is to cut down the honeysuckles, treat with a herbicide, and then plant natives in their place. Fire alone will not control buckthorn and honeysuckle with large trunks. Once those invasives are removed and you keep up with fire, very few seedlings will return.

Let's burn the woods! Woodland fires are low, slowly creeping fires – nothing like the raging shooting flames you might see in a prairie fire. Indeed, the flames are usually just a foot tall. The critical steps for a woodland burn are: have a plan, have a permit, organize the people (helpers), organize the proper tools and personal protective equipment (PPE), monitor the weather, set up firebreaks and make other preparations, use a drip torch to start the fire, monitor the fire, and mop up.

Burn plan: Russell showed the aerial image of one of his burns that showed the location of the flank fire, the back fire, the point of ignition, the place where the head fire is to be ignited. Get a burn permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. There is no fee and the form is not hard to fill out (only 4 pages). You must include a map. Submitting the application also serves the purpose of telling the state that people *do* want to do controlled burns.

Proper equipment, people, and PPE. Fire jumpsuits made out of Nomex (a lightweight, fire resistant fabric), a helmet, gloves, and eye protection are all important. Other equipment includes: sprayers, slappers/swatters (to suffocates the fire and stop



Burn crew member laying down a second back burn line with a drip torch.

Photo provided by Byron Forest Preserve.

creeping fires), a leaf blower and rake (to blows leaf litter out of the way to create a fire break), a drip torch (containing a mix of gasoline and diesel fuel which doesn't ignite as fast as pure gas), radios (to ease communication among team members), an ATV sprayer. There is a training course, introduction to wildland fire fighting. Signage is also important, to warn folks on the road so that they are less likely to panic at the sight of the fire. Leave the signs up overnight in case the fire is still smoldering.

Weather. The weather affects the condition of fuels: There should have been no rain in the previous 48-72 hours so that the woodland fuel and leaf litter will be dry enough. The temperature should ideally be at least 40-50°, and not more than 60-70°. If the humidity range is 60-70%, the woodland won't burn; however if the humidity is too low, this can cause problems when trying to contain the fire. Also consider the cloud cover, as smoke lifts better on sunny days. The NOAA website (www.noaa.gov) has hourly data on wind speeds, humidity, and temperatures, as well as predictions about wind direction and speed changes.

Firebreaks. You can use a lawn, road or trail to stop the fire from spreading. These are of vital importance to fire management, as they will reduce stress and increase comfort. If there are brush piles in the area and you don't want them to catch fire, create a break around them. Dead trees near the edges of the woods can also be trouble, as they can catch fire and fall over, allowing the fire to spread where not intended.

Use leaf blowers to create a firebreak. Make a bare trail if there isn't one already. There is a lot of work that must be done in advance of the burn. This involves looking for tree snags and clearing debris

March Meeting Recap (cont'd)

around them to keep them from catching fire. If a felled tree is crossing the firebreak, cut it up with chain saw.

Lighting the fire. Review the plan with the crew and go over duties. Check weather. A wind speed of 5-20 mph is best (contrast with a prairie burn, where 10mph or less is optimal, and burning is not done if the wind speed is over 15 mph). Be mindful not to smoke out any neighbors.

Be sure you assess risks related to the nature of adjoining areas, such as a corn stubble field, oak woods, burned prairie, tall grass and pines, or grazed horse pasture.

There are several kinds of fire used in a woodland burn, including the back fire (lit first, it is a low-intensity, slow moving fire that works its way into the woods), the flank fire (lit along the edge of a trail), and the head fire (more intense).

After burns have been completed and invasives have been removed, restoration managers now focus on getting native shrubs back into area, especially hazelnut and viburnums.

Wildlife. He has seen very little dead wildlife from woodland burns. Many animals are not that active during April and May. In any case, native animals know to go into their burrows, as they evolved with the fire for centuries. And the fire is moving so slow that most animals can easily get away. He reminds folks to use a hose or sprayer to soak down signposts, bird houses, etc. that you don't want to catch fire.

He showed a great video of a burn in action. To view it, visit <https://vimeo.com/206290945> (Evolved with Fire), created by Byron Forest

Preserve District board commissioner Trevor Hogan.

Monitor and mop-up. Check fire lines frequently and keep an eye out for problem trees and old stumps that catch fire (assess the risk of leaving them to burn). When is the burn done? Woodland burns last significantly longer than prairie fires. You'll need to scout the burn area that evening and the next day, and continue to monitor the weather.

Questions from the audience.

What about poison ivy? Be extra careful if someone is allergic, as toxins are released into the air when it is burned and inhaling can cause health problems.

What does fire do to the duff? Most burns don't get down to the soil layer. Only the top few layers of leaf litter are burned.

What is the size of the crew needed? He recommends six people for a natural area.

Finally, notify the sheriff's department the day before a burn; they will relay the info to necessary parties. Also call when the burn starts, and then when it is wrapped up. If there are still a few stumps burning, call to warn them that someone might call, but it's OK. Also, notify neighbors in advance.

Resources:

Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council, www.prescribedfire.org

Good Oak Ecological Services, www.goodoak.com

Illinois Natural History Survey, www.inhs.illinois.edu

Oak Savannas, www.oaksavannas.org

Illinois Fire Service Institute: www.fsi.illinois.edu

U.S. Forest Service: www.fs.fed.us

Skunk cabbage (continued from page 2)

temperature around the flowers at 70°F. Flowers bloom from the top of the spadix down. Honeybees and small flies pollinate the flowers.

Skunk cabbages are found in wet habitats, like swamps, seeps, and alongside streams. They get their name from the smell that a broken stem, leaf, or spadix brings. With this notable aromatic quality, you may not want to plant it in your garden or yard; instead just have fun looking for it in parks and wild areas. The leaves contain calcium oxalate crystals, which - when eaten - give off a burning sensation, thus partially

protecting the plant from predation. Jack-in-the-pulpit, another plant in this family, also possesses this characteristic. The flowers and flower buds are eaten by muskrats. The fruit of the skunk cabbage is a clump of seeds that develop grouped together. These seeds may be eaten by grouse and pheasants.

The leaves of the skunk cabbage start their growth after the flowers have developed. The cabbage-like leaves are quite large, 1-3 feet.

(reprinted with permission from Wild Ones Oak Openings Region Newsletter, Feb. 2013 issue)

Mark Your Calendar for the Chapter's Showcase Event of 2017

Save the date for the Wild Ones Rock River Chapter *lecture and natural landscape tour*! If you are able and so inclined, please plan to participate and volunteer for a few hours.

Heather Holm will be presenting her *lecture on "Inviting Nature Home"* on **Thursday, July 13** at 7:00 p.m. at Northern Illinois University's Rockford facility on State Street. She will speak on the pollination of native plants. This presentation will be a fascinating journey showcasing the development of different flower types and the presentation of floral resources to pollinators. Heather will explore the types of insect pollinators, their foraging behavior, and the floral features that attract pollinators. There will be many examples of how native plants in our area are pollinated and what pollinator is most effective and why. The presentation will be illustrated with beautiful photographs.

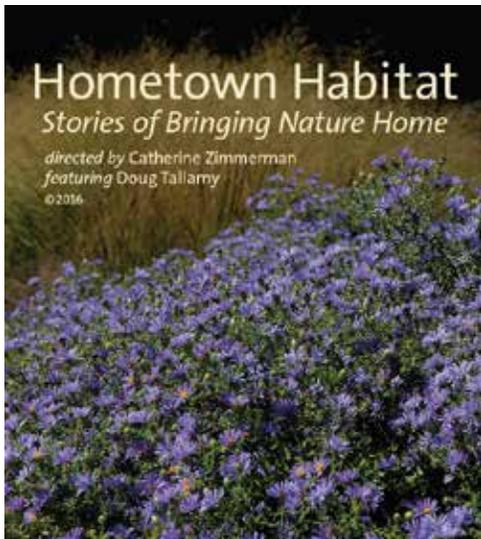
Heather is a horticulturist and biologist by training, as well as a writer, designer, and publisher. In addition to taking part in native bee research, she speaks to audiences throughout the Midwest and Northeast. In her most recent research project, she assisted University of Minnesota Extension faculty in a two-year study to determine the types of native bees present in cultivated blueberry farms in Minnesota and Wisconsin. She is the author of two books on native pollinators and plants.

To follow up this exceptional educational program, the *natural yards and landscapes* of eight chapter members will be open to the public for *tours* on **Saturday, July 15**, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on **Sunday, July 16**, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Details about the locations will be published in a future issue of this newsletter.

Information is also available on the chapter's website at www.wildonesrrvc.org.

P.S. Have you signed up to help during this big event? If not, please contact Krista Miskell at khrista@wildonesrrvc.org or (815) 298.5449

Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home A Film about the Importance of Natural Landscaping



If you missed the September 2016 screening hosted by the Wild Ones Rock River Valley chapter, mark your calendar to attend another free showing, presented by the

Friends of the Durand Library, of the documentary *Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home* on Saturday, April 29 at 10:00 a.m. at the Durand United Methodist Church. There will also be a second evening screening at the Durand Library on Tuesday, May 2, at 6:30 p.m.

The 90-minute film begins with respected and well known entomologist Dr. Douglas Tallamy, a professor at the University of Delaware, who describes his research documenting the importance of native plants. The film highlights "hometown habitat heroes" around the country, including a model residential community designed by Applied Ecological Services, a Brodhead-based natural landscaping company. Steve Apfelbaum, founder of Applied Ecological Services and author of *Nature's Second Chance: Restoring the Ecology of Stone Prairie Farm*, will be on hand at the screening to answer questions and share his invaluable experience.

For more information on the film, visit www.themeadowproject.com. For more information on the screening, contact Barbara Flores at (815) 289.8602 or bafheartland@gmail.com.

We're All in This Together

We occasionally receive notifications about events of like-minded groups or organizations in our area. Upcoming events that might be of interest to Wild Ones members and friends include:

Species Spotlight Saturdays: Forest Preserves of Winnebago County is offering the opportunity to learn about native animals, insects, and plants. Workshops are for citizen scientists and other curious folk. Ed Cope, a member of our chapter and Restoration Ecologist at the Natural Land Institute, will speak about *rare and endangered native plants of Winnebago county* on Saturday, April 22 at 9:00 a.m. at the FPWC Headquarters, 5500 Northrock Dr., Rockford. To register, visit the FPWC website at <http://winnebagoforest.org/contact-us/volunteer/> and click on the program.

In addition, *bat hikes* will take place from 8:15-9:15 p.m. on June 8 at FPWC Headquarters, and on July 6 at Four Lakes Forest Preserve.

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful – Awards and Luncheon: Will Allen, an urban farmer and the founder of Growing Power in Milwaukee, will speak at this event on Tuesday, April 25, at 11:30 a.m., at Giovanni's in Rockford. The keynote topic will be Growing Power: The Good Food Revolution. In 2010, Time magazine named Will Allen to its list of 100 World's Most Influential People, and he received the James Beard Award in 2011. For tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/earth-day-awards-luncheon-tickets-32102498437>.

Angelic Organics Learning Center – Good Food Advocate Celebration. Join the Learning Center and its partners to honor the 2017 Good Food Advocate Award recipients at Prairie Street Brewhouse on Friday, April 28 at 7 p.m. This year's honorees are Andrea (Andy) Hazzard of Hazzard Free Farm and Ketura St. Fleurose, Youth Leader with the Learning Center's Roots & Wings program. The event will feature live music, heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer tasting, and live painting by a local artist. Guests will also have the chance to win a share from the Roots & Wings CSA and Sugarstone Farm vegetable shares. Proceeds benefit the Learning Center's work with Roots & Wings at the Blackhawk Courts Farm and Garden in Rockford. For more information and tickets, visit www.learnrowconnect.org/GFA.

Wildflower Walkabouts: These are co-sponsored by the Natural Land Institute and Severson Dells Nature Center, with local groups providing the leaders for the various walks. Perfect for those who want to learn more about the north central Illinois landscape, and walk where flowers carpet the forest floor and birds abound. Upcoming walkabouts include:

- *Pecatonica River Forest Preserve*, Tuesday, May 2, 6:00 p.m.: Don Miller, retired executive director of Severson Dells, will lead a tour that includes creekside and river-edge floodplain forest, several old field meadows, gorges, and upland forest sites. Meet at the picnic shelter off Brick School Rd. Hiking will be easy to moderate.
- *Rotary Forest Preserve*, Wednesday, May 24, 6:00 p.m.: chapter board member Jerry Paulson will lead a hike through the limestone ravines and extreme topography of the beautiful Kishwaukee River valley. Botany and geology will be interwoven to explain the great variety of plant life found here. There will be scenic views of the river on this moderate to difficult hike.

Dates and locations of more walkabouts will be shared in the next newsletter.

Want Milkweed?

Sue Lacerra (of Rockford) saved milkweed seed pods from her garden last fall. Anyone interested in the seed can contact her at suzn5995@aol.com.

Mentor Program (continued from page 3)

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 and a great way to expand one's own knowledge!

To participate by requesting a mentor or offering to be a mentor, contact Melanie Costello, Mentor Program coordinator, at mentors@wildonesrvc.org or at (815) 751.1583.

Membership Update Sallie Krebs, 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!!

207 memberships as of March 23, 2017

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

Cecilia Coles, Belvidere
 Paula Evans, Rockford
 Don & Marilyn Heneghan, Roscoe
 Carla James, Rockford
 Mary Kuller, Rockford
 Marianne Miller, Belvidere
 Ted Ross & Kathie Ayres, Rockford

Welcome to our new member!

Lynne & Dennis Lake, Lena
 Linda Rickey, Rockton
 Marsha & Larry Ackerman, Rockford

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!

A big thank you to our March meeting volunteers!
 Greeters: Don & Marilyn Heneghan

Greeters: Lisa Johnson
 Refreshments: Khrista Miskell & Anita Johnson
 AV/Sound Equipment: Bob Arevalo
 Meeting Recap: Constance McCarthy
 Photographer: Tim Lewis
 Library Assistants: Marcia DeClerk & Cathy Johnson
 Merchandise: Cynthia Chmell

Anniversaries:

20 Years: Doreen O'Brien
10 Years: Ed & Carol Foster

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 that your dues include membership in both National Wild Ones and our chapter. Please use the address below:

Sallie Krebs
 Wild Ones Rock River Valley
 7492 Renfro Rd.
 Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Your expiration date is on your chapter newsletter above your name on the label. 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:** Sallie Krebs Email: membership@wildonesrrvc.org or call (815) 540-4730 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!



2017 Chapter Programs and Events

April 20 Trends in Backyard Wildlife
 7:00 p.m.

Jack MacRae
 Natural Historian of
 the Chicago Region

Rock Valley College
 PE Center, PEC 0110
 (lower level)

May 18 Ornamental Invasive Plants

Chris Evans, Forestry Extension
 and Research Specialist University
 of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Rock Valley College
 PE Center, PEC 0110
 (lower level)

Unless noted, programs are free and open to the public. Programs are subject to change.
 For more information, contact Bob Arevalo at (815) 332.3343



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 4/1/2017, 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:

Sallie Krebs
Wild Ones Rock River Valley
7492 Renfro Rd.
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

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, Physical Education Center PEC0110 (lower level), 3301 North Mulford Road, Rockford, 61114.

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

President: Constance McCarthy
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Vice President: Jerry Paulson
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Coordinators

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Prairie Plant Sale: Cynthia Chmell & Bobbie Lambiotte, (815) 969.7435 & (815) 398.6257

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: Bob Arevalo (815) 332.3343
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Landscape Tour & Lecture: Mary Anne Mathwich (as to the left)

Youth Education & Grants:
Kim Lowman Vollmer (as to the left)

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