

**Promoting Native
Plants for Natural
Landscapes.**

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

*Seed Collection and Propagation
of Native Plants
Thursday, January 19, 2017*

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

Time: 700 p.m.



We are pleased to welcome back Ed Cope to speak to our chapter. His past presentations have been excellent and well received. The Restoration Ecologist for the Natural Land Institute, Ed will discuss the do's and don'ts of seed processing, storage, and propagation. Learn about the best ways to keep your seed viable over the winter months, and how to get the most out of it come springtime. In-depth tutorials will be provided on do-it-yourself propagation techniques, including seed stratification and scarification. We will also discuss how to choose the right growing medium for native plants.

Ed received a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife and habitat management and land rehabilitation in 2013 from Montana State University. After graduation, he spent a year in Alaska working for a dog-sled team. He says, "There's a lot of good work to be done there. 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."

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

Message from the President Constance McCarthy



Constance McCarthy
photo by Tim Lewis

The revolving door of the Wild Ones Rock River Valley chapter remains in action. And, so, here I am again, back as chapter president. Of course I was co-president in 2016 with Ginnie Watson, but as we did not have success in finding a co-president for me for 2017, the cheese stands alone. Fear not! In case you have forgotten how “The Farmer in the Dell” goes, the cheese is not fated with solitude for long.

Just as the cheese becomes the farmer and then finds a mate, I am confident that, eventually, one of you will join me as co-president.

In any case, I am lucky to have my prior experience as board president (2008-2012, if my memory serves me correctly) to guide me. And a dedicated board and hard-working coordinators with whom to work. I feel very confident and excited about what the future holds for our chapter!

The New Year is also a fine time to take a look back and express gratitude for board members and coordinators who are moving on and/or shifting into new roles.

First, of course, is **Ginnie Watson**, the above-mentioned dynamo with whom I had the pleasure of serving during 2016. The chapter has grown by leaps and bounds since the last time I was on the board, and Ginnie did a good job of helping me to get my presidential legs under me again. In addition to shouldering the heavier share of the president’s load, Ginnie also wound up having to serve at the membership coordinator for most of 2016. The sudden departure of the previous holder of that position, meant that Ginnie had a baptism by fire. It is a big job on its own. Yet, she not only did it incredibly well, but she managed to keep all the presidential balls in the air, to boot. Far more work than any one person should have had to do, and I am grateful for her doing what needed to be done. Luckily, Ginnie will still serve another year on the board as immediate past president.

This means that the 2016 immediate past president, **Lenae Weichel**, will be leaving the board. Her experience and keen insights made her a great

sounding board, and she will indeed be missed (although I’m hoping she won’t permanently remove her sounding-board cap).

Ginnie has also handed off her interim membership coordinator role to **Sallie Krebs**. Sallie actually transitioned into this role in the fall of 2016. The training wheels are off now and already she is doing a super job. She has enviable organizational and computer skills. It will be great to have such a tech savvy person among us. We welcome Sallie and thank her for stepping up into this role!

Changes have also come to the program committee, which organizes all the presenters for our monthly educational meetings. **Bob Arevalo** will be the chair of the committee for 2017, with **Lisa Johnson**, a past and continuing committee member, slated to assume that role for 2018. While **Ed Kletecka** will be rolling off the committee, they will now be joined by **Ed Cope**. If his name sounds familiar, that’s because he gave an amazing presentation to our chapter on native orchids last year, and has signed on to give this month’s presentation on collecting and germinating native seeds. We thank Ed K. for his efforts on behalf of the chapter, and welcome the knowledge that Ed C. will bring to the committee.

Jodell and Marty Gabriel took over the woodland plant sale from Barbara Flores in 2016. Thanks to the Gabriels’ efforts, over 1,200 woodland plants found their way into local landscapes. For 2017, the woodland sale will be coordinated by **Jane and Jay Evans**. With a group of dedicated volunteers and the Evans’ enthusiasm for the task, I know that this year’s sale will be a success. A hearty thank-you to Jodell and Marty for your hard work! The chapter and the environment are grateful.

The prairie plant sale was chaired for the past two years **Rick Freiman**. He will be missed in that role, as well as in the chapter as a whole, as he has retired and moved out of the area. His hard work on the sale meant that over 2,700 native plants were planted in local prairies and savannas. And of course funds were raised that enable the chapter to fund its educational programs and activities. Taking over at the helm for the 2017 sale will be **Cynthia Chmell** and **Bobbie Lambiotte**. They combine computer skills (for order processing) and tremendous knowledge of native plants, and great enthusiasm for the task before them. We thank Rick for all his efforts on the sale, and welcome all that

Message from the President (cont'd)

Cynthia and Bobbie bring to the table.

Claudia Fleeman has served admirably as the show me/help me coordinator for the past two years, having taken over for Mary Anne Mathwich and Anita Johnson. It takes a keen sense of organization (and local geography!) to organize these multi-stop, travelling landscape tours, and Claudia has been very successful in balancing the “show me” and “help me” components. Indeed, the several events each year are consistently very well attended. A tip of the hat to Claudia for a job well done!

The coming year will see a slight alteration of past events and shifting of titles. Instead of numerous show me/help me events, the plan is to have just one show me/help me event (likely in June). However, this year will see the chapter's second annual lecture and natural landscape tour, all being coordinated by the talented **Mary Anne Mathwich** (and her hard-working committee). You will be hearing much more about this event in coming months. The essential facts are that the lecture will be on Thursday, July 13 (the second Thursday, rather than the usual third Thursday of the month on which our monthly meetings are held). The landscape tour will be the following weekend, Saturday and Sunday, July 15 and 16 (in typical “garden walk” format, with a map and description of locations, and the ability for folks to pick and choose which ones to visit at their own pace).

The committee has already scouted out and secured many beautiful landscapes for the tour, and the presenter has committed for the lecture. We will be counting on chapter members to help spread the word about this event at the least, and, for those so inclined, to volunteer on any or all of the three days. Many hands will be needed

to pull off an event of this magnitude. A big thank-you to Mary Anne and her committee for the hard work already done, and that still to be done going forward.

Finally, how to begin to thank **Janet Giesen** for her eight years of service to the chapter as treasurer? I still remember tagging up with another board member to corner Janet at the tree sale pick-up day at the Discovery Center parking lot in Rockford (some of you chapter old-timers might remember that location), asking her to consider being our treasurer. What a lucky day that was, for she said yes. In addition to keeping meticulous records (the checkbook always balanced to the penny in her monthly reconciliations), she helped to bring a greater sense of organization to the chapter's books. She has also compiled a detailed job description and list of tasks. Things could not be in better shape for the next person who serves as treasurer.

Unfortunately, we are presently without an elected treasurer, as efforts to find Janet's replacement were not successful at the time the 2017 ballots had to be printed. While we have a temporary fill-in, this is truly for only a few months. Janet will happily help a new treasurer transition into that role, so no one will be left to muddle through on their own. Perhaps you might be thinking, “the chapter has so many activities; being the treasurer must be an overwhelming task.” But if you know Janet from our monthly meetings, she is always calm and cheerful. It really is a manageable task, especially with the solid foundation that Janet has built.

If you are interested in filling this role, please contact me (contact details on the last page of this newsletter). The board is ready and willing to appoint the next treasurer. Just say the word!

November Potluck and Seed Exchange Constance McCarthy

A good time was had by all at the chapter's annual potluck and seed exchange on November 17, 2016 at the Unitarian Church in Rockford. Bob Arevalo did a great job of organizing the provided entrée and setting up the room for our gathering. As always, members brought a delicious variety of salads, sides, and desserts. Jerry Paulson and Bob could have a future in the hospitality business, as they took care to see that everyone felt welcome and that the potluck ran smoothly from beginning to end.

And what a bounty of collected seeds! Tim Lewis helped those at the seed tables who needed help in selecting the right ones for their landscapes. Everyone who wanted seeds went home happy, and leftover seeds were given to various restoration projects that were pleased at the prospect of free – and local ecotype – plants. Here's wishing all seed takers sky-high germination rates! Spring seems just a wee bit closer when there are seeds indoors that are germinating, stratifying, and dreaming of their future homes in

November Potluck and Seed Exchange (cont'd)

photos by Sallie Krebs



improved seating has been well received.

- Bob Arevalo hosted an evening social at his home in July, featuring a five-acre prairie. Although the event was unfortunately rained out half way through (darn you, summer storms!), members enjoyed seeing that beautiful prairie.

- Our co-presidents attended the Wild Ones national meeting and workshop in Neenah, Wisconsin in August. The event featured

area woodlands, savannas, and prairies.

Ginnie Watson and Constance McCarthy, co-presidents, also gave a recap of the chapter's accomplishments in 2016. Highlights include:

- We held a board retreat during February to discuss new ideas and make plans for the future.
- There were eight excellent presentations at our monthly meetings at Rock Valley College by experts in their fields, plus an inspiring video featuring the wisdom of Doug Tallamy.
- We had three very successful plant sales, namely the woodland, prairie, and tree and shrub sales.
- To improve our visibility and name recognition, as well as to spread the word about natives, our display booth made an appearance at five outside events across northern Illinois.
- We participated in the second Nature Fiesta, organized by the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County. This is a well attended nature event largely directed toward the Hispanic community.
- There were two well planned and executed show me/help me events.
- There were four plant rescues. In addition, five plant-sharing opportunities were organized, helping 200-250 (est.) native plants find new homes in other members' landscapes.
- We made the move to a new meeting room in the PE Center at Rock Valley College. The

a roast of Tim Lewis as outgoing national president.

- Six board meetings were attended by a dedicated and hardworking board.
- Our memberships are holding steady with 215 members, 2 business members, 5 affiliate not-for-profit organizations, 1 professional educator, and 9 lifetime memberships.

None of these events and accomplishments would have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the chapter's many volunteers. Speaking of volunteers: by the time you receive this newsletter, hopefully you will have returned the **annual volunteer survey** that was mailed to all members in late November. Although the requested deadline for mailing in your completed survey was December 31, you can still return the survey and we will be sure that the appropriate coordinators are informed of your volunteer interests. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the chapter. Many hands make light work!

Finally, the board members for 2017 are:

President	Constance McCarthy
Vice president	Jerry Paulson
Secretary	Cathy Johnson
Treasurer	[vacant]
At-large	Kim Lowman Vollmer
	Doreen O'Brien
Immediate past president	Ginnie Watson

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!

199 memberships as of November 22, 2016

Special thanks to our members who made contributions above the basic \$37 dues!
Joe Hemlock, Rockford, IL

Welcome to our new member!
Peggy Werner

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!

27 attended the November potluck and seed exchange.

Anniversaries

5 years:

Krina Goss
Ron Hendrickson

10 years:

Frank & Karen Finch

20 years:

Karen Matz

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:

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 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!

Helpful Hint: Prescribed Burns

Did you know that the permitting process for a prescribed burn can take up to 90 days? If you are considering a prescribed burn for your prairie this fall, now is a great time to begin the planning and permitting process.



2017 Chapter Programs and Events

January 19
7:00 p.m. Seed Collection and Propagation of Native Plants

Ed Cope
Restoration Ecologist
Natural Land Institute

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

February 16
7:00 p.m. Spring Ephemeral Wildflowers of Illinois

Chris Benda
"The Illinois Botanizer"

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 1/1/2017, 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
(815) 282.0316 constance@wildonesrrvc.org

Vice President: Jerry Paulson
(815) 222.4414 jerry@wildonesrrvc.org

Secretary: Cathy Johnson (815) 978.0865
cathy@wildonesrrvc.org

Treasurer: [vacant]

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

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

Immediate Past Co-President:
Ginnie Watson (815) 398.0138
ginnie@wildonesrrvc.org

Coordinators

Membership: Sallie Krebs (815) 627.0343
membership@wildonesrrvc.org

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

Newsletter-Editorial: Constance McCarthy
(as to the left)

Volunteers: Khrista Miskell
(815) 298.5449 khrista@wildonesrrvc.org

Woodland Plant Sale: Jane & Jay Evans
(815) 399.3787

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
bob@wildonesrrvc.org

Landscape Tour & Lecture: Mary Anne Mathwich (as above)

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 to the left)

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