

**Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.**

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All articles for the June 2017 newsletter, must be submitted to:  
[Constance@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:Constance@wildonesrrvc.org)  
by May 23, 2017.

*Ornamental Invasive Plants: Their Threat to Natural Areas and Native Communities*

*Thursday, May 18, 2017*

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

Time: 7:00 p.m.



Chris Evans is currently an Extension Forestry and Research Specialist with the University of Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences and vice president of the southern chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society, chair of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Illinois Forestry Association, and associate editor of the Natural Areas Journal.

He has served as the chair of the Illinois Invasive Plant Species Council, vice president of the Midwest Invasive Plant Network, and vice chair of the National Association of Invasive Plant Councils. He has a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Murray State University and an M.S. in Forestry from Iowa State University.

Invasive plants are a serious threat to the health and diversity of native ecosystems. There are many pathways of introduction for exotic plants, including the ornamental and landscaping trade. Over 80% of the woody invasive plants in North America were intentionally introduced as ornamentals. While some of these species are regulated and prohibited from being sold and planted, other invasive species are still available in the trade. This presentation will cover the ecology and history of several common ornamental invaders; mention some upcoming species that are emerging as new invaders; review recent changes in Illinois invasive plant regulations; and discuss what homeowners, land managers, and citizens can do to help combat the threat of invasive plants.

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*

## Still Many Miles to Go: Let's Not Lump Milkweed Together with Zombies

I realize that sometimes it is easy to see so many faces at our monthly meetings, and to see how many native plants, trees, and shrubs are sold through our chapter's sales, and to feel quite a sense of satisfaction. Recently I was reminded that, while we

deserve to revel in that satisfaction a bit, in some ways there are still so many miles to travel on our journey to having the Wild Ones message and mission reach far and wide across our community.

The Monday, April 17, 2017 issue of the Rockford Register Star included an editorial (not a letter to the editor, but the actual editorial from the paper's editorial board) that was critical of the Illinois "General Assembly at work." The editorial board bemoaned the quagmire in Springfield - a valid point, although of course I am not commenting here on that matter. However, the means by which the editorial board chose to make their point really irritated me.

The editorial board criticized lawmakers for "passing inconsequential legislation" when the state continues to go without a budget. And the prime cited example was the resolution to make milkweed the official state wildflower. The board stated, "We have nothing against milkweed other than that it can take over your yard if you're not careful (it is a weed, you know)." I wonder how many people read that statement and concluded that they should avoid planting milkweed in their

gardens, simply because the statement was made by the lofty editorial board of a newspaper.

The ignorance exhibited here was quite shocking, considering that this very same newspaper has published articles in recent years about monarchs and their plight - including their need for milkweed. Beyond that, you can hardly open a magazine or pay attention to news reports without hearing about monarchs these days, and those articles and news reports always mention the need for more folks to plant milkweed.

The editorial goes on to cite legislation approved to declare October as Zombie Preparedness Month, lumping it together with the milkweed resolution as pure folly and a waste of legislators' time when there are far more pressing matters facing the General Assembly.

I was disappointed to see the editorial board speaking from a position of ignorance regarding milkweed. These are supposedly people who are well informed about what is going on in the world and in our community. Yes, of course it would be preferable for the legislators to resolve the budget impasse so that all the related, downstream problems would be resolved. But it was a cheap shot to characterize the promotion of milkweed as being just as idiotic as zombie preparedness.

There are obviously still people - in very high positions, no less - who need to be enlightened about the current situation faced by monarchs and how everyone can play a part in remedying that problem. It is my sincere wish that this be the last time I feel the need to write about displays of ignorance by community leaders. In any case, let us all take comfort in the certainty that this is the last time you will read about zombies in a Wild Ones newsletter.



## Wild Ones Mentor Program

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](mailto:melanie@wildonesrrvc.org) or at (815) 751.1583.

## April Meeting Recap Cathy Johnson photos by Tim Lewis



### Trends in Backyard Wildlife

For 38 years, Jack MacCrae has been in a career that has focused on the cultural and natural history of the Chicago region. During that time, 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 curator of

the Museum of Wonder and Awe, a traveling 19<sup>th</sup> century dime museum, about which you can learn more here:

<https://www.facebook.com/museumofwonderandawe/>  
<http://www.museumofwonderandawe.org/>

He now works part time at The Growing Place and portrays a garden gnome at various events. Jack is also a member of the DuPage County Wild Ones group, and has given many presentations to Wild Ones chapters, but says he has never spoken to one as large as the Rock River Valley audience and commended the chapter on its accomplishments. At the April meeting he discussed how trends in management and protection of natural areas, along with native landscaping, have affected habitat and wildlife in Illinois.

MacCrae began his presentation by issuing the disclaimer that this is not a scientific talk and not based on research, but rather what he is reporting are trends based on what he and others have observed. When he worked at the Field Museum, Jack was able to procure books that were being thrown out, and he cited some of those in this talk, including *The Mammals of Illinois and Wisconsin*, from 1912; *The Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin*, from 1909; *The Mammals of the Chicago Region*, from 1939; Frank Chapman's *Birds of North America*, from 1894; and a Roger Torey Peterson bird book from 1948. Referencing what does and what does not appear in these books compared with today tells an interesting story. House finches were only in the west, and passenger pigeons were still around in a couple of the earlier books, but becoming rare; white tailed deer were not found in Illinois in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The

changes in the presence of wildlife in Illinois in this presentation included a topic on which he was not allowed to speak at another recent presentation, and one of his personal favorites: the return of some larger predators to the region.

MacCrae's presentation was formatted around the structure of the food chain, but not the oversimplified diagram of how energy flows from the sun through the plants, through the herbivores to the carnivores. The diagram the speaker prefers is a complex one illustrating the webs of energy flowing in many different directions, animals changing their diet depending on various factors including the time of the year and their age. This is reflected in a simple chart showing that when prey population goes up, predators follow, and when the predator population is up, the prey goes down, and is true of any ecosystem, regardless of biome, with the possible exception of island populations.

### Birds (excluding raptors)

Being in the middle of the country, Illinois benefits from a number of different natural divisions that come together, resulting in the state's being an extremely rich biodiverse area.

In 2002, with the arrival of the West Nile virus to the region, the previously common call of chickadees was greatly diminished. They have rebounded, but not to their previous numbers. The spread of the West Nile virus was illustrated by a map showing its movement across the country, beginning with a black cloud on the east coast of the U.S. in the summer of 2001 and growing into a wave that moved from east to west, eventually crossing the Rockies and taking out vast numbers of birds, including chickadees, jays, and crows.

House finches have experienced a change largely due to a cultural phenomenon. They began as a western bird, from Mexico and the southwestern U.S. Then, around 1958, they began to be caught and sold as pets called Hollywood Finches. In 1961, when they were being sold in New York, a law that made their possession illegal created a scare that resulted in sellers and owners releasing them outdoors. From the early 1960s to the 1980s, the numbers of house finches in the eastern U.S. increased exponentially and moved west, eventually covering the country from coast to coast, and at the expense of the purple finch. Today, house finches make up a majority of the birds found at feeders in many yards.

## April Meeting Recap (cont'd)



**Large crowd at the April meeting.**

According to the 1908 edition of *Birds of Wisconsin*, northern cardinals were summer residents in northern Illinois and migrated south; they would not have been found at feeders in the winter in northern Illinois, nor in Wisconsin. The change in their numbers and range, since then, is probably due to moderating temperatures, the provision of food through the increase in home bird feeders, and the increase of habitat due to planting shrubs and evergreens that cardinals love. Similarly, ruby throated hummingbirds, have recently been reported even in southern Illinois in winter bird counts. Red bellied woodpeckers, downy woodpeckers, and even pileated woodpeckers are increasingly being reported in northern Illinois. Ecologists believe that this is largely due to removal of invasive plants such as garlic mustard, buckthorn, and honeysuckle, along with the restoration of habitat more conducive to these and other birds, including grassland birds and waterfowl. Some of the most notable trends among waterfowl over recent decades include the vast growth among wild geese, and the resurgence of wood ducks.

### Raptors

Illinois has 24 species of raptors, the numbers of which have risen dramatically over the years. A chart showing the counts from one forest preserve in southeast DuPage County alone, revealed sharp increases, including among bald eagles. Counts can have some discrepancies, however, based on a few factors, including the number of people

participating in counts, and changes in wind patterns. Overall, raptors of all kinds have been doing well in the area, and bald eagles can now be found nesting in several locations in Chicago. Peregrine falcons, once endangered, have been taken off the endangered species list.

### Rodents

Small rodents, including the white-footed deer mouse, harvest mouse, meadow jumping mouse, ground squirrels and chipmunks, prairie voles and meadow voles, supply food for many other animals. The meadow vole is one of the most fecund of these animals, with a female vole having up to 17 litters in one year, producing up to 83 young, the females of which also go on to produce as many as thirteen litters in their first year of life.

There are a variety of squirrels in the region, including the fox squirrel, grey squirrel, and black squirrel (which is actually a color variant of the grey) and southern red squirrels. Flying squirrels are found around the Chicago region, living in oak and hickory forests.

Muskrats and beavers can also be found in the region. Beavers had disappeared from Illinois by 1908, although they could still be found in northern Wisconsin at that time. By the 1970s, beavers could be found again in about half of the counties in Illinois.

Rabbits are common in Illinois, and, despite stories of mother rabbits abandoning babies who have been handled by humans, mother rabbits take good care of their young. They feed them throughout the night, under cover of the dark, but leave the nest when the sun comes up in the morning for the safety of the babies. She will return after dark and the babies will be fine without her during her absence. If a baby is removed from the nest, the mother will continue to feed it if it is returned. When the ears of the bunnies become erect, they are able to survive on their own, despite still being small in size.

White-tailed deer used to be hunted any time of the year, but this was changed to restrict hunting times to the fall, when orphaned babies are not going to be left in this process. Soon after the

## April Meeting Recap (cont'd)

Civil War, deer were gone; the last one was reported in Illinois in 1874. Stocking began in the 1950s and the numbers rebounded to the point that now some forest preserves in the Chicago area have 100 deer in a square mile. In some areas, this has resulted in the ground resembling asphalt, with no vegetation. Only in areas fenced to keep deer out are the native plants in some areas able to survive. Other animals have been adversely affected by the excessive number of deer, including the smallmouth bass. Due to run off from the hardened soil, the once clear waters where they're found became murky, and the bass became unable to spot their food. Other fish, like carp and catfish can find their food by smell, but the smallmouth bass needs to be able to see it.

Opossums are numerous, and are not really prey animals, nor do they communicate with other animals. They have small brain cavities and their defense is to bare their teeth when they perceive a threat. With 52 teeth - more than any other mammal in North America - they can present an impressive effect. They don't kill other mammals, but will scavenge, and they rarely live for more than three years.

Raccoons are another animal whose numbers have increased significantly, particularly in urban areas. Their numbers are reported to be 200 times higher than what they were 200 years ago, and more can be found in the city of Chicago than in the entire Shawnee National Forest. Raccoons have become very well fed in urban areas, where they can dumpster dive and often become much larger than in their natural environments. Jack suggested that, "If you want to see wild raccoons, go up to Ashland, Wisconsin, where they're skinny and eat crayfish and frogs. If you want to see raccoons the size of a Ford pinto, go to the northside of Chicago, where they live in the cemeteries and come out and have their choice of German, Chinese, or Greek restaurant dumpsters." Although they are cute and can be amusing, people should stay away from raccoons and not encourage them to come around, due to the threat of diseases that can be spread to humans, particularly leptospirosis caused by bacteria found in their urine. Raccoons



**Terry and Linda Mohaupt get ready to hear Jack MacRae**

can also cause significant damage to buildings if they get inside attics or other areas.

Skunks have also proliferated over the years, possibly due to the milder winters, since they are not true hibernators; however, even after the winter of the polar vortex, the number of skunks remained high. The only thing that eats skunks is the great horned owl.

Bringing up the end of the small mammals are shrews, particularly the short-tailed shrew and the pygmy shrew. There are few things that eat shrews. Their skulls are very hard and their teeth are tipped in red.

### **Large Mammals**

Like the small mammals, several larger predators have increased in number and expanded their range to include at least parts of Illinois. To begin this segment, the speaker displayed a photo of a coyote sitting in a Quiznos restaurant in Chicago. He had wandered in, walked past the customers, and headed for the cooler where he sat down until animal control picked him up and released him in a county forest preserve. They have been increasing since the 1990s, and have adapted well to maintaining or increasing their population in decreasing amounts of space. Where they may have once lived on five miles they can now survive on five acres. Coyotes are strictly a North American animal, but can now be found pretty much anywhere on the continent. Goose eggs are a favorite food.

## April Meeting Recap (cont'd)



**Craig and Glenda Shaver browse the chapter library.**

When Jack was in college in the late 1970s to the early 1980s, he recalls bobcats being reported in southern Illinois, as well as areas around Galena and near the Kankakee River, and close to Indiana. A survey in the 1990s placed them in 91 of the 102 counties in Illinois. The most recent survey found them in 100 counties, with DeKalb county and another county around Champaign being the only two not reporting bobcats.

When Jack graduated from college, wild otters were still being reported as living only in the Cache River in southeastern Illinois, and the Kishwaukee River. Then the state began releasing them and the number of otters in Illinois went from 200 to 14,000.

### **Return of the large predators**

Similar to the rapid increases in the number of some other species, the number of wolves increased suddenly and dramatically from 1993-1995. Wolves are a northern hemisphere animal, and packs do not share territories. Around 2000, a wolf wearing a tracking collar from the upper peninsula of Michigan was shot by a hunter in Cooksville, Missouri, the longest known trip of a young male. Since then, several shootings have occurred in many counties of Illinois, including some in northern counties near Winnebago County. There has been verification of at least 16 wolves, meaning they have been photographed by a trail camera, shot, or hit by cars and confirmed – not just reported as having been seen; however,

there are probably many times more than this that have come into Illinois. There are so many wolves in northern Illinois and Wisconsin that they are no longer federally protected north of I-80, although wolves south of I-80 still are.

The number of black bears has dropped in Wisconsin since hunting seasons were opened. At their peak, there were probably around 40,000, and since hunting began, those numbers have dropped to around 30,000. They are in all parts of the state, and started showing up in southern Illinois counties in 2008. Since then, they have also been sighted in northern Illinois, including Winnebago and nearby counties.

There have been verified sightings of mountain lions in central to northern Wisconsin over the last ten years. They are numerous and common in southeast Missouri. They have more recently been appearing in northern Illinois, including in a Chicago CTA station and an area near Wrigley Field.

Generally, wolves are coming to Illinois from the north, bears are coming from the north and the south, and mountain lions are coming from the west. The northern range of armadillos and roadrunners has been reported as having expanded to now include Illinois.

The factors in the change of these ranges and numbers may include restoration of habitat, availability of food, reduction of the number of BB and pellet guns in the hands of children, and changes in the thinking of humans regarding wildlife that has led to a reduction in the indiscriminate killing of wildlife.



# 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](http://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 April 23, 2017

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

- Francie Barnes, Rockford
- Phil & Carolyn Fulkerson, Rockford
- Anne Meyer, Rockford
- Jerry Paulson, Caledonia
- Ginnie Watson, Rockford

### Welcome to our new member!

- Ellen Rathbone, 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!*

77 attended the April Meeting including at least 8 guests

A big thank you to our April meeting volunteers!

- Greeters:* Paula Evans
- Refreshments:* Khrista Miskell & Anita Johnson
- AV/Sound Equipment:* Bob Arevalo
- Meeting Recap:* Cathy Johnson
- Photographer:* Tim Lewis
- Library Assistants:* Marcia DeClerk & Cathy Johnson
- Merchandise:* Cynthia Chmell

### Anniversaries:

#### 10 Years:

- Glenda & Craig Shaver, Rockford

#### 5 Years:

- Tom & Chris Hartung, Orangeville
- Carla James, Rockford
- Karen Retzke, Belvidere

**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](mailto: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

**May 18** Ornamental Invasive Plants  
7:00 p.m.

**Chris Evans**, Forestry Extension  
and Research Specialist University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Rock Valley College  
PE Center, PEC 0110  
(lower level)

**June 15** Gardening with Nature  
7:00 p.m.

**Ray Wiggers**  
Author and science educator  
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



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 **5/1/2017**, 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](mailto:constance@wildonesrrvc.org)

*Vice President:* Jerry Paulson  
(815) 222.4414 [jerry@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:jerry@wildonesrrvc.org)

*Secretary:* Cathy Johnson (815) 978.0865  
[cathy@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:cathy@wildonesrrvc.org)

*Treasurer:* Deb Rogers (815) 624.1036

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

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

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

#### Coordinators

*Membership:* Sallie Krebs (815) 627.0343  
[membership@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:membership@wildonesrrvc.org)

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

*Volunteers:* Khrista Miskell  
(815) 298.5449 [khrista@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:khrista@wildonesrrvc.org)

*Woodland Plant Sale:* Jane Evans  
(815) 399.3787 [rrvc.woodland@gmail.com](mailto:rrvc.woodland@gmail.com)

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

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

*Plant Rescues & Seed Collection:*  
Mary Anne Mathwich (815) 721.5187

*Programs:* Bob Arevalo (815) 332.3343  
[bob@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:bob@wildonesrrvc.org)

*Landscape Tour & Lecture:* Mary Anne Mathwich (as to the left)

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

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

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

*Library:* Ginnie Watson (as to the left)

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

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

*Publicity:* Doreen O'Brien (as to the left)



## *Members Only: Show Me/Help Me Day and Plant Share*

*Saturday, June 10, 9:30 a.m.*

Mary Anne Mathwich, Plant Rescue/Seed Collection coordinator and interim 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. You may want to wear long pants and to bring bug repellent, sun protection, and your favorite plant identification resource. If you have any questions, please contact me, Mary Anne Mathwich, at (815) 721.5187 or [maryanne.mathwich@gmail.com](mailto:maryanne.mathwich@gmail.com).

This Show Me/Help Me event will start in Capron, Illinois. You are welcome to come to all or any of the locations. The first yard tour will begin at 9:30 a.m., but times listed for the later properties are approximate.

9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. – Robert Roll, 11064 Cemetery Rd., Capron.

Within this is 7 ½ acre property is an oak/hickory woodland remnant with white oaks, bur oaks, shagbark hickories, black cherries, box elders, hawthorns, pagoda dogwood, and more. The owner has planted many other trees on the property, including red pines and the native black walnut and white pine. A small tributary to Piskasaw Creek wanders through the woods. Traditional plantings surround the house and a pondless water fall. Non-native plants such as garlic mustard, Japanese honeysuckle, and European buckthorn have been a challenge to the native woodland ground cover and shrub layer. We will seek out and identify the various tree species as we provide suggestions for native woodland forbs and shrubs for the shady areas, and for wetland plants for a roadside swale.

*Directions: IL 173 is Main St. in Capron, turn south on S. East St (by Casey's), veer left onto Cemetery.*

10:40 – 11:25 a.m. – Willowbrook Middle School,

6605 Prairie Hill Rd, South Beloit. The late Fran Lowman, influential charter member of the RRV chapter of Wild Ones, was instrumental in bringing natural landscapes to this school. Also influential and continuing to support the native plantings, is Fran's daughter, Kim Lowman Vollmer. A 3-acre prairie with a pond is east of the main school grounds. Tucked in next to the school is a prairie and woodland planting. Another planted area is a sunny prairie spot. Both of these diverse plantings can be viewed from outside and inside the school, providing many opportunities for nature observation and study.

*Directions: West on Cemetery, right on S. East St, left on E. Main, right on N. Wooster/Capron Rd., left on Hunter, right on Rt. 76, left on Manchester/Prairie Hill Rd.*

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 – John and Kim Lowman

Vollmer, 14197 White School Rd., South Beloit. Enjoy visiting the horses as we tour the prairie tended by these lifetime Wild One members. There are also several mini native habitats, such as a small wetland and a prairie specimen planting leading to the front door. Native shrubs and woodland species are also found on this 2 ½-acre property.

We will enjoy some refreshments at this stop, giving us a chance to ask questions and socialize. We will also have a Plant Share opportunity here.

*Directions: Turn right from the school drive onto Prairie Hill Rd., right on White School Rd.*

***What is Plant Share?***

Do you have native plants that are too abundant or that have jumped the boundaries of your planting area or are threatened by a lawn mower or yard project? Consider potting them up, sticking a label on and bringing them to a member event. Members with a place to plant the extra plants take what they like. All plant materials involved in these events are shared at no cost and also with no guarantee of viability. Shared plants are not to be sold and are to be for the use of the member for the member's landscape or a project to which the member is contributing. Also, it should only be material that is native to our area. Please contact me if you are not sure.

Members with native plant material to share should contact Mary Anne Mathwich, at (815) 721.5187 or [maryanne@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:maryanne@wildonesrrvc.org).