

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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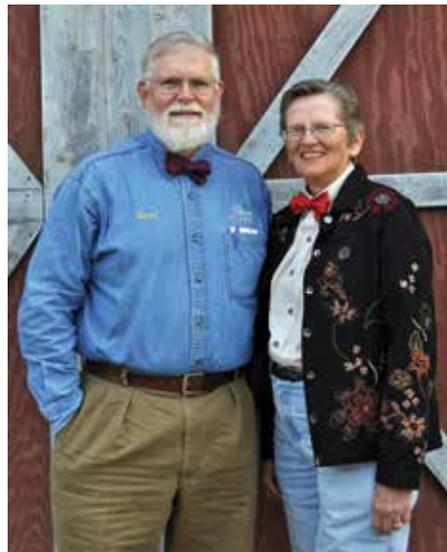
All articles for the May 2018 newsletter, must be submitted to:

Constance@wildonesrrvc.org
by April 23, 2018.

Nachusa Grasslands: From Inception to Bison
Thursday, April 19, 2018

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

Time: 7:00 p.m.



This month's speakers, Becky and Hank Hartman, will present a brief history of Nachusa Grasslands, including a discussion of the acquisition of bison and their impact on the grasslands. They will speak about the work they are doing on the unit that they are responsible for restoring and maintaining. A brief overview of the flowers of Nachusa will also be presented.

Becky and Hank are long-time volunteers at Nachusa. They have been entrusted with the stewardship of a unit within the preserve which contains both remnant and restored prairie. Their unit has been opened up to bison grazing, which presents some unique challenges.

The 3,600-acre Nachusa Grasslands preserve consists of large remnant prairie, woodlands, and wetlands being reconnected through habitat restoration to create one of the largest and most biologically diverse grasslands in Illinois.

This program is free and open to the public.
For more information, call (779) 537.8939.

Wildflower ID Workshop

Where: Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area, Boone County
When: Saturday, May 5, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Bring your favorite field guide and walk through the spring flowers with our chapter's own Brian Hale at Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area. Learn how to use field guides to identify flowers. No cost, but register if possible by calling (815) 547.7935. Note: Newcomb's Wildflower Guide (by Lawrence Newcomb) is Brian's preferred field guide.

Message from the President Constance McCarthy



Constance McCarthy
photo by Tim Lewis

By the time this reaches you in April, things will be really gearing up for May, which is always our chapter's busiest month. First and foremost is our chapter's main fundraiser: the native plant sale. As you have likely heard, this year will see the first-ever combination of the woodland and prairie plant sales into a single sale. The pick up days will be Friday and Saturday, May 11 and 12 at the Paulson farm. Folks are strongly encouraged to place orders in advance in

order to improve your chances of getting the plants you want.

Plants will also be available for sale on the May 11 and 12 at the Paulson farm, but quantities may be limited, and some plants might have sold out to fill orders placed in advance. The sale of plants on May 11 and 12 is open to the public, so please help to get the word out by telling friends, neighbors, etc. This is really a singular opportunity, as the vast majority

of plants being sold are not available at any retail outlets in the Rockford area.

The chapter will also be selling native plants that same weekend at the annual BirdFest at Colored Sands Forest Preserve in northwestern Winnebago county. The event takes place on Saturday and Sunday, May 12 and 13 and is a great opportunity to observe bird banding taking place and to learn more about birds.

Our chapter is one of the co-sponsors of Nature Fiesta (along with Forest Preserves of Winnebago County and the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois), open to the public, but especially targeted at helping the Spanish-speaking community to connect with nature. This event will take place on May 19 at Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Remaining plants will also be available at the annual Klehm Garden Fair on Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3.

Volunteers are needed for all these endeavors. Please consider giving a few hours to the chapter. For details, contact Don Heneghan, our chapter's volunteer coordinator (contact info on the back page of this newsletter).

Educator Workshop

Organisms of Flowing Water

Where: Burpee Museum of Natural History, Rockford

When: June 9, 2018, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Middle school and high school teachers are invited to attend this workshop designed to explore the organisms that live in and around a variety of flowing-water habitats. The class will look at macro- and micro-invertebrates and food webs; conduct water-testing activities; and will discuss the effects humans have on aquatic environments. Suggestions for incorporating the Aquatic Illinois resources trunk into participants' teaching will be offered. Teachers of other grade levels are welcome to register for the workshop, but may need to adapt the materials and information. Professional Development Hours are available. This workshop is part of the ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) program from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Registration: <https://www.enticeworkshops.com/Registration.asp?WorkshopID=1228>

ENTICE workshops provide natural resources information, instructional methods and supplemental educational materials. When incorporated into lessons with students, the materials provided encourage and promote stewardship of our state's natural resources. Workshop includes: free workshop/resource materials; meals during the workshop; opportunities to connect with natural resources and education professionals; lesson plans and activities correlated to the Illinois Learning Standards; and for teachers, Professional Development Hours.

Have questions? Contact the IDNR Division of Education at dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov or (217) 524.4126.

March Meeting Recap Ellen Rathbone

photo by Sallie Krebs

Dragonfly and Damselfly Watching with Barbara Williams



Every encounter with Barbara Williams is an opportunity to learn something new and interesting, and her dragonfly/damselfly presentation on March 15 was no exception. Although the presentation seemed geared toward people who want to go out and monitor these colorful insects (Citizen Science), it was also good for those who are just interested in learning a bit more about Odonate biology and behavior.

Odonate is the collective term for dragonflies and damselflies – they are from the insect order Odonata. From there, scientists break them down into two suborders: Anisoptera (dragonflies) and Zygoptera (damselflies), meaning “different wings” and “same wings,” respectively. If one looks at dragonfly wings closely, one will see that the hind wings are shaped differently than the front wings; on damselflies, the hind and front wings are nearly identical.

Barbara began her presentation with a very good question: why watch dragonflies? It has

definitely become an “in” thing in recent years – not nearly as popular (yet) as birdwatching, or even butterfly-watching, but it is climbing the charts. But, to answer the question, one can only say, why not! Like all things in nature, these insects are fascinating, and the more one learns about them, the more interesting they become. And it’s always wonderful to be able to identify the creatures that one might meet while out on a walk in the woods or fields!

So, where can one find Odes, as the real pros call them? They occur in almost any habitat. Water, while required for egg-laying and juvenile development, is not required by the adults in their day-to-day activities. Therefore, one will find Odes at rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, and marshes, but also on mountaintops, in one’s back yard, in the woods, and out on the prairie.

Barbara’s presentation had many good photos illustrating the Odonate lifecycle. Males patrol for females at *rendezvous* locations, and when a male finds a female he “likes”, he grasps her behind her head with the *cerci* at the end of his abdomen, his *epiproct* (a third appendage on the end of his abdomen) pressing tightly down on her head. When she folds up her legs and he starts to fly around towing her behind, the pair is described as being “in tandem”.

Next, he has to transfer his sperm from his nether regions to his secondary sex organs (*hamules*), located toward the front end of his abdomen. He does this by bending his abdomen around, female and all. Once this first transfer takes place, he swings the female’s abdomen around to make contact with the hamules in order to transfer the sperm to her reproductive opening. It is during this process that the pair form the iconic heart shape while in flight. What is pretty amazing is that the reproductive organs of each species of Ode only fit together with Odes of the same species. If, by some chance, the male has grabbed a female of a different species, the reproductive organs will not fit together, and she will be released.

Once the eggs are fertilized, they are laid. Many species remain in tandem during the egg-laying process, although some species separate, the male flying off to find other females to hook up with, and the female heading for the water to make her deposits. Eggs are laid either directly in the water, in the substrate at the bottom of the water, or in plant parts (like stems or algae mats) that are in or

March Meeting Recap (cont'd)



near water. The eggs eventually hatch (anywhere from a few days to months later, depending on species), and the nymph (as the juveniles are called) head out into the water in search of a meal.

From nymph to adult, Odes are fearsome predators. Dragonfly nymphs have impressive mouthparts: the lower jaw looks like a giant arm folded up underneath the head. When prey is encountered, that arm-like jaw shoots out at an incredible speed and snatches the prey item, drawing it back to the maw for consumption.

Odes undergo *incomplete metamorphosis*, which essentially means they go from egg to nymph to adult. The nymph stage looks a lot like the adult - minus the wings (there are little stubby proto-wings on their backs, but that is it). Insects that undergo *complete metamorphosis* pass through four stages (egg, larva, pupa, adult), and the larva usually looks nothing at all like the adult. Upon completion of its juvenile stage, the Ode climbs out of the water onto a conveniently located plant or rock, where its exoskeleton splits open along the back, and

the newly-formed adult crawls out. Like butterflies and moths, the Ode has to wait while its wings unfold, dry, and harden. During this time, it is quite vulnerable, but once it is all dry, it is ready to go and pillage the local insect population.

After reviewing the lifecycle and some Ode behaviors, Barbara shared many photographs of species she has found in her years of dragonfly watching. For each one, she gave tips on how to identify it, although she did caution that for many of the species, one must have the insect in hand to see the identifying traits. However, good photographs can be examined later on, too, to help confirm identification.

All in all, it was a delightful and informative presentation that surely left many in the audience eager to go out and find Odes in order to practice their newly whetted ID skills once it warms up. Many thanks to Barbara for sharing her vast Ode knowledge with us, and for intriguing us with titillating tidbits about the secret lives of these beautiful insects.



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!!

227 memberships as of March 23, 2018

Special thanks to our members who made contributions above the basic \$40 dues!

Cynthia Chmell, Rockford
 DonMike & Kathy Crandall, Winnebago
 Jane & Jay Evans, Rockford
 Perry & Debbie Gay, Rockford
 Jerry Paulson, Caledonia
 Ginnie Watson, Rockford

Welcome to our new members!

Caroline Bushong, DeKalb
 Bruce & Joanne Johnson, Rockford
 Dennis McFall, Rockford
 Bill & Mindy Stivers, Machesney Park
 Peggy Wehrle, 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!

70 attended the March Meeting including at least 15 guests

A big thank you to our March meeting volunteers!

Greeters: Kay Blair, Cecilia Coles
Refreshments: Anita Johnson, Don Heneghan
Meeting Recap: Ellen Rathbone
Photographer: Sallie Krebs
Library Assistants: Cathy Johnson
Merchandise: Cynthia Chmell

Anniversaries:

20 Years:

Anita & David Johnson, Rockford
 Ed & Charlotte Kletecka, South Beloit
 Mary Kuller, Rockford
 Kathy Mielke & Jeff Stack, Roscoe

15 Years:

Don & Marilyn Heneghan, Roscoe

10 Years:

Mary Thiesing, Rockford

In Memoriam

In memory of our former Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter members
 Robert A. Roll - Member 1999-2018

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.

A portion of all dues paid 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 \$40, Limited Income/Full-Time Student \$25, Affiliate Non-Profit Organization \$90, Business \$250.

Thank you for your continuing support!

2018 Chapter Programs and Events

April 19

7:00-9:00 p.m.

History & Interesting Plants of
 Nachusa Grasslands

Hank Hartman

volunteer at Nachusa Grasslands

Rock Valley College

Physical Education Ctr

March to May

Native Plant Sale

The woodland/wetland/prairie sale begins mid-March with the deadline for orders April 27. The pickup dates will be May 11 and 12 at: Paulson Farm, 4601 Paulson Rd., Caledonia, IL

Unless noted, programs are free and open to the public. Programs are subject to change.

For more information, contact Lisa Johnson at (779) 537.8939



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 4/1/2018, 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 to:

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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Treasurer: Deb Rogers (815) 624.1036

At-Large: Doreen O'Brien (815) 985.4064
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At-Large: Kim Lowman Vollmer
(815) 397.6044 kim@wildonesrrvc.org

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membership@wildonesrrvc.org

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(815) 332.7637 pambi@wildonesrrvc.org

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

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daheneghan@gmail.com

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

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

Tree & Shrub Sale: Brian Hale, (815) 289.2384,
moyogi2@gmail.com; Jerry Paulson (as to the left)

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

Programs: Lisa Johnson, (815) 965.3433,
lisa.johnson@burpee.org

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

Booth, FREC rep., website: Tim Lewis
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Publicity: Fiona Fordyce, (815) 397.6032,
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