

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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All articles for the March 2018 newsletter, must be submitted to:
Constance@wildonesrrvc.org
by February 23, 2018.

*Changing The Conversation About Plants
Thursday, February 15, 2018*

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

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Matt Candeias is pursuing a PhD in community ecology at the University of Illinois. He is obsessed with botany and writes a weekly blog and podcasts at "In Defense of Plants." (www.indefenseofplants.com) When not reading, writing, or talking about plants, he is usually hiking and photographing



Matt Candeias studies, as well as writes and speaks about, plants at the University of Illinois.

them, or trying to grow them in and around his house. He will speak to our chapter about why we need to change the conversation about the importance of native plants.

"Plants generally get short shrift across the board," he says. "This is a travesty because plants truly are everything on this planet. They have this amazing ability to use our nearest star to break apart water and CO₂ gas in order to grow and reproduce. They are living, breathing, and fighting organisms that deserve to be celebrated as such," says Candeias.

"The latest estimates show that one-fifth of the world's plants are threatened with extinction. When we lose plants, we lose so much more. We need to change the conversation about plants and introduce our friends and family to the natural wonders of this kingdom. In doing so, we can refocus conservation efforts on protecting plants and the habitats they comprise," Candeias said.

This program is free and open to the public.
For more information, call (779) 537-8939

Message from the President Constance McCarthy



Constance McCarthy
photo by Tim Lewis

Sincere thanks to all who completed the annual membership and volunteer interest survey. If you didn't get around to returning the survey and would still like to volunteer at any of our chapter's events or undertakings, contact our volunteer coordinator, Don Heneghan (contact info on the back page of this newsletter). Volunteering is a great way to meet other chapter members, and I bet

you'll always come away having learned at least one new thing.

While the volunteer interest part of the survey is forward-looking to 2018, it also gives members the opportunity to provide feedback on the prior year's educational programs, as well as on how the chapter is doing in general and ways we can improve. All feedback is reviewed by the board and coordinators, and we are grateful to all who provided us with food for thought.

One particular bit of feedback really stuck with me. The comment suggested that we not focus so much on "preaching to the choir," but also be mindful of how our programs are heard and experienced by newcomers and prospective members. I heartily applaud and tip my hat to the purists among us who are swimming deep in the pool of native landscaping. But even Doug Tallamy, the guru of native landscaping, is of the mindset that everyone can do something. Just because someone might want only to intermix natives with their existing nonnatives, doesn't mean that they should feel judged or made to feel like a failure. Hopefully over time they will plant more and more natives. But even if they don't, they should still feel like they have a place in our chapter and at our educational programs.

I mention this only so that we can try to be mindful of welcoming new folks into our chapter, regardless of where they fall on the continuum of involvement with natives. Even comments that might

seem innocent or in good fun, can come across as alienating to some. I can recall times during our monthly meetings where the presenter or a question from the audience merely mentioned the word hydrangea, or rhododendron, or hosta, and I could hear grumbling or negative comments from the audience. This can give the impression that unless you are going to rip out every last nonnative plant, Wild Ones isn't the place for you. But nothing could be further from the truth.

While we are very grateful for our chapter's core group of supporters (it makes my heart so happy to see you every month!), we also need to have an eye to the future and be thinking of ways that we can always be attracting new members. I have mentioned several times in this column about maintaining a welcoming atmosphere for folks who might not have even a single native plants in their home landscape - yet (we hope!). We can't succeed in our mission to educate and encourage folks to plant natives, if visitors leave our meetings feeling judged or like they could never live up to the high standards of purists who have scarcely a blade of turf grass and nary a nonnative plant in their yards. We are not the "plant police" or a rigid, militant group.

I thank the member who included a comment on the annual survey to remind us that we can greatly expand our reach if we remember not to just preach to the choir and to be a welcoming place for all stripes of gardeners and landscapers.

One last note: A "welcome aboard" to *Mary Christian*, who has stepped up to be our chapter's mentor coordinator. She will be overseeing the pairing up of mentors with folks who have requested that they be assigned a mentor. Watch the newsletter for updates on this program; it's not too late to get involved, as either a mentor or a mentee.



Attendance at the January meeting

Woodland Plant Sale Corner

Planting season is right around the corner and we are so excited to be bringing you a combined woodland/prairie/wetland sale this year! Many woodland plant species will be offered, including:

Downy yellow violet (*Viola pubescens*). This plant is a great nectar/pollen plant for many bees, small butterflies, and skippers. It is a host plant for several butterflies and moths, and the seeds are eaten by juncos, doves, and other birds. This yellow violet likes a moist to medium soil, rich with

Jane Evans, woodland plant sale coordinator organic matter, in light to partial shade.

Virginia waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum virginianum*). This often overlooked plant is such a great source of nectar and pollen at a time when very early plants are done blooming and not much else has started. Queen bumble bees, solely responsible for rebuilding their colonies that die off at the end of each year, work this plant continually in my yard. It grows 1-2 feet tall in moist to medium rich soil, in light to partial shade.

Prairie & Wetland Plant Sale Corner

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, we are very excited about changes coming to this year's plant sales. First, the two plant sales are being combined into one single sale. Second, with the addition of wetland plants this year, this major event will be a woodland/prairie/wetland plant sale.

To fire up interest in the sale, we will be highlighting a few plants each month, including:

Sweet flag (*Acorus calamus*). Occurs in cattail marshes and open marshy ground. Common associates are swamp milkweed, blue flag iris, and arrowhead. The upright, lustrous, and aromatic leaves grow to three feet. The spadix is covered with tiny greenish-yellow blooms in a diamond pattern from May through June. Requires full to part-sun.

Marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*). One of the first plants to bloom in the wetland. Tolerates sun

Cynthia Chmell, sale co-coordinator to part-sun. Grows best in organic matter that remains moist throughout the summer. A compact plant that grows 8-24 inches tall with bright yellow flowers blooming April-May. Favored by ants and many types of small to medium-sized bees.

Queen of the prairie (*Filipendula rubra*). Listed as a threatened species in Illinois. Habitats include moist black soil, sand prairies, and meadows. Grows 3-6 feet tall in full sun, with pink inflorescence resembling cotton candy, blooming June-August. Beetles and flies feed on the pollen. Deer resistant.

Lizard's tail (*Saururus cernuus*). Grows at the edges of woodland pools and in shallow water. Common associates include cardinal flower, boneset and spice bush, buttonbush and elderberry shrubs. White flowers bloom June-August on 1.5-3 feet tall slender stems in part to full shade.

Events of Interest

In the spirit of cooperation and mutual support, we like to share details of upcoming events that may be of interest to chapter members. All are free unless noted otherwise.

Feb. 24, 2018 **Design for Habitat**. Natural landscaping seminar put on by the Wildflower Preservation and Propagation Committee (Crystal Lake, IL). Includes sessions on habitat makeover, bees, photography, design principles with native gardens, and speaker Neil Diboll (president of Prairie Nursery). For more information visit: <http://www.thewppc.org/>.

Mar. 3, 2018 **Gardening for Food, Flowers, and Fun**. Day-long conference at NIU Rockford, organized by U of IL Extension Master Gardeners. \$40 registration fee includes keynote speaker, box

lunch, break-out sessions, and morning beverages. To register or for more info, (815) 986.4357 or web.extension.illinois.edu/jsw. Look for our chapter's booth at the event!

Mar. 10, 2018 **Interpretive Hike**. Hosted by Boone County Conservation District. Starts at 10:00 a.m. at Kishwaukee Valley Conservation Area, 9416 U.S. Hwy. 20, Garden Prairie, Illinois. Your guide will lead you along the edge of the Kishwaukee River. RSVP to (815) 547.5711 or contact Dan Kane at dkane@bccdil.org for more info.

Mar. 17, 2018 **Amazing Monarch Butterflies**. Presentation at Rock Valley Garden Center in Rockford at 2 p.m. by Dolly Foster, arborist and horticulturist with the Oak Lawn Park District. For more information: (815) 398.1937.

January Meeting Recap

Constance McCarthy

photos by Sallie Krebs

Plant Monitoring in Winnebago County



Ginnie Watson & Greg Rajskey

Rajskey is asking folks to get involved with citizen science, but also wants us to understand why this matters. Citizen scientists are a very diverse bunch. Volunteers partner with scientists to collect data and answer real-world questions. Forest Preserves of Winnebago County (FPWC) aims to borrow from Plants of Concern, a program in the Chicago suburbs. Plants of Concern monitors in 15 counties (in Chicago and suburbs, and into Wisconsin and Indiana), tracking 288 species and 1,170 populations, with a 15-year dataset. The large dataset reveals trends, answers questions, and provides baseline data.

Citizen science is also the involvement of the public in scientific research. It's an excellent excuse to go out and play, while contributing to the science behind conservation, restoration, and professional land management. If you're wondering if this information is really vital, chapter member Fiona Fordyce noted that data gathered in Victorian England on butterflies and other insects are still being used today; some trends are not visible within our lifespan, but future generations will use the data and be able to observe trends.

There are over 1,500 plant species native to Winnebago county; 22 are listed as endangered, 10 are threatened. The more data that are collected on these plants, the better the land planning and management

When it comes to monitoring plants, certain plants have significance beyond just the particular species. One plant on the watch list

is red baneberry (*Actaea rubra*), a conservative plant (i.e., a plant that has a restricted fidelity to few environmental niches, limited in range and number). There is also a white form of the red baneberry (also *Actaea rubra*); both have thin, wiry pedicels. This is not the same as white baneberry (*Actaea pachypoda*), which has thick pedicels. There is also a red form of the white baneberry (*Actaea pachypoda* forma *rubrocarpa*). It is important to look not just at the fruit, but also at the pedicels. This plant could be an indicator of high-quality remnants. If it declines, that says something about what is going on with the ecosystem. Winnebago county is one of the areas in Illinois where it is most common.

When engaging in monitoring, it is important to minimize your impact. Pay attention, know what you're looking for, make as few passes as possible (to keep trampling to minimum), strategize, look where you step, and avoid kneeling or sitting in sensitive areas.

There is a form used to collect data. It captures GPS data for each subpopulation (although this is not likely to be used in the first year in Winnebago county). Information is collected about the site itself and conditions at the time of monitoring: soil conditions, growth form of the plant, what percentage of plants are flowering or fruiting; an estimate of the number of particular plant species (a count is preferred, but estimates are acceptable when necessary), including a note if there are any juvenile plants.

Citizen scientists also note the presence of any invasive species in the area. This information is critical for land managers. Other threats are also noted, such as deer browse, renegade trails, unauthorized access (ATVs, etc.), deer trails, and authorized trails (landowner approved).

Some of the species that are likely to be included in this year's assessment: red baneberry (*Actaea rubra*); speckled alder (*Alnus rugosa*), listed as endangered; dragon wormwood (*Artemisia dracuncululus*); tall green milkweed (*Asclepias hirtella*); kitten tails (*Besseyia bullii*); Hill's thistle (*Cirsium hillii*); trailing ground pine (*Lycopodium obscurum*); yellow star grass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*); prairie bush clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*); whorled loosestrife (*Lysimachia quadrifolia*); and declined trillium (*Trillium flexipes*).

Winnebago County's least wanted plants (*flora*

January Meeting Recap (cont'd)

nongrata) include: reed canary grass, crown vetch, birdsfoot trefoil, purple loosestrife, common reed, common teasel, European buckthorn, bush honeysuckle, Japanese knotweed, Japanese barberry, oriental bittersweet (not to be confused with the native bittersweet, which flowers only at the tips of the vine), autumn olive, European highbush cranberry (present, but not overwhelming numbers yet), burning bush, privet, callery pear, black locust (very aggressive suckering even 30-40 feet from the parent stem), and Siberian elm.

A major problem is that plants which don't seem problematic or aggressive in a person's home landscape, become invasive and destructive when their seed is spread to natural areas (woods, prairies, etc.). Rajskey is increasingly seeing burning bush in the woods; although not as many invaders as in the case of honeysuckle, it can still create excessive shade that decimates natives. Just because something isn't a problem in your yard, doesn't mean that your plants are not wreaking havoc in places well beyond what you can see. Privet is another example of something widely planted in residential landscapes, but which has escaped become a problem in native woodlands.

Some troublesome plants are initially marketed in a way to make them seem innocuous. For example, callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) is a common landscape tree that is increasingly making itself present in natural areas. Bradford pear was touted as a sterile clone, but it hybridized (through cross-pollination) with other trees and produced a species that is indeed viable (not the sterile tree it was promoted to be). In spite of its rampant spread into natural areas, it is still very widely planted and sold. Rajskey notes that the public and urban foresters needs to be educated about the significant downside of this tree.

Phenology is the other arm of plant monitoring efforts. Phenology is the study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena, especially in relation to climate and plants and animal life. This involves recording the date of occurrence of various milestones in an organism's life cycle. In the National Phenology Network, we are in the upper Midwest. Local observations are fed into this larger dataset. Updates are shared when changes begin to be observed.

There are five phenophases for trees: breaking leaf bud; leaves unfolded; increasing leaf size; colored

leaves; and falling leaves. When gathering these data, look at the overall impression of the tree or group of trees (e.g., *most* buds are still closed).

Species being monitored by the Green Wave campaign include: box elder, sugar maple, red maple (*Acer rubrum*; not likely in FPWC), red oak, cottonwood, quaking aspen, and balsam poplar (also not likely in FPWC). Prospective (non-target) species include: silver maple, white oak, bur oak, black oak, and big-tooth aspen.

There is online training available for volunteers. Fear not! Volunteers won't be turned loose and abandoned. The aim is for volunteers to have the tools needed to succeed. FPWC knows where plant populations are that need to be monitored. Rajskey can pair you up with other citizen scientists and/or a nearby preserve or a species you're interested in.

FPWC and Severson Dells will have training sessions coming up to train citizen scientists on a wide variety of plants, animals, insects, etc. Some recruitment and training dates for various taxa slated for study in 2018 have already passed, but are included below so that interested folks can still contact Rajskey to get involved:

- January 27: Bluebird Nest Box Monitoring
- February 3: Phenology and Watch Plants
- February 17: Illinois Odonate Survey (dragonflies and damselflies)
- February 24: Calling Frog Survey
- March 3: Bumblebees
- March 17: Bats
- March 24: Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network

Additional volunteer resources:

- Severson Dells: www.seversondells.org
- FPWC: winnebagoforest.org/volunteer
- National Phenology Network: www.usanpn.org
- Nature's Notebook: www.usanpn.org/natures_notebook
- <http://citizenscience.org>
- Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS): www.itis.gov
- www.illinoiswildflowers.info

If you would like to get involved or have questions, contact Rajskey (pronounced RYE-skee) at greg@seversondells.org or (815) 335-2915.

The Illinois Big Tree Register, Part 1

History of the Illinois Big Tree Register

The Illinois Big Tree Register (IBTR) was established in 1962 as a citizen outreach program in order to discover, record, recognize, and appreciate the largest native tree species in Illinois. In over 50 years, the IBTR has spawned a generation of big tree hunters and big tree aficionados who relish the opportunity and bask in the glory of finding and nominating the next champion tree.

The University of Illinois Extension forestry program encourages all citizens of our state to search our forests, parks, and front yards for future champion trees. Their hope is that in searching for these trees, citizens will become more aware of the vital importance of Illinois' rural and community forest resource.

National Register of Big Trees

American Forests® established the first National Register of Big Trees back in 1941. The National Register formally recognizes the largest tree species indigenous to the United States. There are 766 trees recognized as national champions, and Illinois is currently home to five of them (one of which is not native to Illinois*). DuPage county is home to the national champion common jujube* (*Ziziphus jujuba*), Kansas hawthorn (*Crataegus coccinioides*), scarlet hawthorn (*Crataegus coccinea*), and Ohio buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*). The national champion Shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*) is found in Union county.

The 10-year remeasurement rule

All big tree champions and co-champions must be reinspected, remeasured, and recertified every 10 years in order to maintain their "champion" status on both the IBTR and, if applicable, the National Register of Big Trees. It is the sole responsibility of the original big tree nominators and big tree owners to ensure compliance with the 10-year remeasurement rule.

Former champion trees, or recently retired champion trees, may be denominated to the IBTR, but only after the have been reinspected, remeasured, photographed, and georeferenced using GPS coordinates.

Illinois Big Tree Nomination Batching Period

Big tree nominations may be submitted to the IBTR throughout the calendar year. However, nominations for inclusion in the IBTR are reviewed and processed semi-annually. The crowning of new big tree champions and co-champions, and the dethroning of current big tree champions, is conducted twice a year, in February and August. Nominations are due by August 1 for the IBTR publication date of the following February, and by February 1 for the IBTR publication date of the following August. Therefore, nominations slated for the February publication must be received by August 1 of the previous calendar year; nominations slated for August publication must be received by February 1 of the current calendar year.

Definition of a tree

A tree is a woody perennial plant that has a minimum stem circumference of 9.5 inches, measured at a point 4.5 feet above ground level; a well-defined crown of foliage; and a total

vertical height of at least 13 feet (Little 1979).

Respect for private property

Many Illinois champion trees are located on private property. Big tree fans should not enter on private property without the expressed consent of the homeowner or landowner.

How to become a volunteer big tree inspector

Do you have a knack for tree identification? Are you proficient with using a GPS? Are you capable of taking precise tree measurements (circumference, height, and crown width)? If so, and you would like to volunteer, please contact Jay Hayek at jhayek@illinois.edu, as they are always looking to expand their cadre of volunteer big tree inspectors.

Eligible tree species

The IBTR recognizes 183± native tree species found in Illinois. Naturalized species, minor varieties, hybrids, and non-native species are not eligible for the IBTR. For a detailed list of eligible tree species, see *Technical Forestry Bulletin NRES-102*, published by the University of Illinois.

Scoring big tree nominations

The "biggest" tree of each native species is determined utilizing a point system devised by American Forests. Scoring, or total points, is based on the sum of three required tree measurements: circumference (inches), height (feet), and average crown spread (feet). Only the largest nomination (total points) for each native tree species can be crowned champion. However, certified nominations that fall within five points of the current champion tree will be listed and crowned as a co-champion. Just as there can be only one champion per tree species, so, too, can there be only one co-champion per species.

Champion big tree certificates are awarded to both the nominator and the owner of the champion and co-champion trees. For details on the IBTR nomination process, see *Technical Forestry Bulletin NRES-1102*, published by the University of Illinois.

The following Illinois native trees that are native to Winnebago and/or surrounding counties do not have a champion: black maple (*Acer nigrum*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), downy serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*), Allegheny serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*), paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*), American hornbeam / musclewood (*Carpinus caroliniana*), shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), alternative-leaf dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*), roughleaf dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*), gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), cockspur hawthorn (*Crataegus crus-galli*), downy hawthorn / redhaw (*Crataegus mollis*), eastern wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpurea*), butternut (*Juglans cinerea*), tamarack / eastern larch (*Larix laricina*), prairie crabapple (*Malus ioensis*), jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*), balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*), quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), northern pin oak / Hill's oak (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*), winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*), smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*),

The Illinois Big Tree Register, Part 1 (cont'd)

black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), peachleaf willow (*Salix amygdaloides*), black willow (*Salix nigra*), white basswood (*Tilia americana* var. *heterophylla*), rock elm (*Ulmus thomasi*), nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*), and blackhaw (*Viburnum prunifolium*).

Additional resources

Common and scientific names adhere to:

- ITIS (Integrated Taxonomic Information System), 2013. Online database (<http://www.itis.gov>). Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC.
- Little, E.L. 1979. Checklist of United States Trees (Native and Naturalized). Agriculture Handbook 541. U.S. Dept. of

Agriculture, Washington DC.

Helpful websites :

- National Register of Big Trees, <http://www.americanforests.org/our-programs/bigtree/>
- Illinois Big Tree Register, http://web.extension.illinois.edu/forestry/il_big_tree.html

This article reprinted (with permission) from: Hayek, J.C. 2016. The Illinois Big Tree Register. Univ. of Illinois Extension, Tech. Forestry Bull. NRES-1101.

Watch next month for Part 2 of this article which will contain details on the nomination process and how to properly measure trees for this purpose.

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!!

221 memberships as of January 23, 2018

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

Janet Giesen, Sycamore • Sue Lacerra, Rockford
Karen Matz & John Skowronski, DeKalb
Steve Symes, Belvidere • Diana Wiemer, Durand

Welcome to our new members!

Thomas Mangan, Clare • Greg Rajsky, Rockford
Sherri Ruston, Rockford • Laura Sjoquist, Rockton
Jan Marie Thornton, South Beloit

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!

65 attended the January Meeting including 7 guests
A big thank you to our January meeting volunteers!

Greeters: Marilyn Heneghan • *Refreshments:* Khrista Miskell & Anita Johnson • *AV/Sound Equipment:*

Bob Arevalo • *Meeting Recap:* Constance McCarthy • *Photographer:* Sallie Krebs

Library Assistants: Cathy Johnson

Anniversaries: 20 Years:

Bob & Bev Beebe, Rockford
Betsy & Dan Johnson, Winnebago

In Memoriam

In memory of our former Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter member Sue Symes - Member 2000-17

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

February 15 Strange & Marvelous Plants

Matt Candeias

Rock Valley College

March 15 Dragons Rule! Dragonfly ID & Info

Barbara Williams, Educator,
Severson Dells Nature Center

Rock Valley College

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



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 2/1/2018, 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

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Tree & Shrub Sale: Brian Hale, (815) 289.2384,
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