

**Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.**

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[www.facebook.com/wildonesrockrivervalley](http://www.facebook.com/wildonesrockrivervalley)



Scan with your Smartphone for more information about Rock River Valley Wild Ones

[www.wildonesrrvc.org](http://www.wildonesrrvc.org)

All articles for the October 2022 newsletter, must be submitted to: [paulsonjerry@aol.com](mailto:paulsonjerry@aol.com) by September 21, 2022.

*Roots of Sustainability: Jens Jensen, O.C. Simonds, and other pioneers in native garden design*

**Thursday, September 15, 2022**

**Location: Rock Valley College  
Physical Education Center PEC0110 (lower level)  
3301 North Mulford Road, Rockford, 61114  
Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Zoom: <https://bit.ly/WO-Sept-Zoom>**



**Bob Grese**

Yes, we are starting to meet again in-person at the same location at Rock Valley College. We will also continue to live stream the program via Zoom, so watch your emails for the link. RVC has dropped their COVID 19 mandates, but we encourage everyone to continue to wear a mask, and to get your vaccination boosters.

Bob Grese is a Professor Emeritus in the School for Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and the former director of the University's Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum. He formerly taught in the landscape architecture program and is a strong advocate of ecologically-based design and ecological restoration. He has researched the work of early landscape architects who advocated such an approach to design, especially the work of O.C. Simonds and Jens Jensen who worked throughout the Midwest, including in the Rock River valley, and were known for the "Prairie style" of landscape gardening. Bob is the author of *Jens Jensen: Maker of Natural Parks and Gardens* and *The Native Landscape Reader*. He is a Fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architects as well as in the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture. He also is an honorary member of the Garden Club of America and serves as the president of the Ann Arbor Chapter of the Wild Ones.

**DOOR PRIZES!** National Wild Ones has given us a bunch of logo t-shirts, caps, cups and other stuff to clear out their inventory that we are giving away as door prizes on the 15th. Be there for a chance to get some great WO stuff! The program is FREE and open to the public. For more information call Jerry Paulson, 815-222-4414.

## *Message from the President* Jerry Paulson



**Jerry Paulson**

I'm excited that after 2 1/2 years of not meeting together in person due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we are starting again to gather at Rock Valley College in September. We've reserved the room for September, October, and November with the option to continue into 2023, depending on the progression of the virus and the response of our members. We're going

to continue to live stream the programs via Zoom, and to post recordings of the programs on our website, but please bear with us as we work out the bugs.

On a sad note, on August 3rd we lost one of our members, Lynda Johnson. Lee and Lynda Johnson have been members of Wild Ones for many years and served as Program Coordinators for a time. Lynda worked for me doing environmental education and outreach when I was the director of the Natural Land Institute, after she retired from the Burpee Museum of Natural History. She was a thoughtful, caring person who knew how to teach anyone to care for the beauty of the natural world.

Lynda thought me how to see the beauty in nature from the perspective of an artist. She showed me how wildflowers had evolved to synchronize blooming with other flowers of complimentary color. These are colors that are across from each other on the color wheel and when used together they enhance each other. So, goldenrod blooms in the fall at the same time as purple asters, and sunflowers bloom in summer along with purple coneflowers and monarda. They do this so that bees, butterflies, and other pollinators can see the contrasting blooms better in a sea of green. This is also true in paintings and graphic art...your eyes are drawn to the complementary colors.

Lynda never stopped teaching, or sharing her love of nature, art and people with anyone open to receiving it. We will miss Lynda.



**A bouquet of prairie wildflowers displayed at Lynda's memorial service. Photo provided by Jerry Paulson.**

## *2022 Native Tree and Shrub Sale: Orders are due by September 17*



Like native wildflowers, grasses, and sedges, native trees and shrubs provide habitat for birds, butterflies, pollinators, and other wildlife. Trees and shrubs clean the air we breathe, keep us cooler in the summer, and lessen the negative effects of

heavy rainfalls. Additionally, native trees and shrubs add value to your property.

This year we are offering a nice mix of 19 trees and shrubs. We will try to fill special requests of species that are not included in the brochure (some species may have only a limited supply). Please contact Brian Hale, our tree and shrub sale coordinator, using the sale's designated email address at [treeandshrubsale@gmail.com](mailto:treeandshrubsale@gmail.com) if you have any questions about this sale. The last day to submit orders is Saturday, September 17, and pick-up dates are Friday, September 30, and Saturday, October 1st. We will accept payment by check or Paypal.

The Tree and Shrub Sale Brochure is available at:

<http://wildonesrrvc.org/2022/tree-&-shrub-sale-brochure2022.pdf>

## *Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes Receives "Tom Dodd, Jr. Award Of Excellence"*

Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes are the recipients of the "The Tom Dodd, Jr. Award of Excellence" which was presented at the 2022 Cullowhee Conference on Native Plants in the Landscape in Cullowhee, North Carolina on Friday, July 22nd.

This prestigious award has been given annually since 1987 to individuals or organizations for excellence in one or more of: conservation of native flora in situ; studying and promoting the understanding of our native flora; building expertise in the propagation/cultivation of native plants; or the use of native plants in a diversity of natural and designed landscapes. Wild Ones was recognized for our efforts in the area of native plant education. Prior recipients have included Lady Bird Johnson, Larry Mellichamp, Wild Ones Lifetime Honorary Director Doug Tallamy, Wild Ones Front Range (Colorado) Chapter member Jan Midgley and Wild Ones Middle Tennessee Chapter members Mike Berkley and Terri Barnes.

Wild Ones Executive Director Jen Ainsworth expressed her enthusiasm at Wild Ones receiving this thoughtful recognition. "We are honored to be the recipients of this meaningful award from the Cullowhee Conference and are humbled to be considered among so many other prominent individuals and organizations in the native plant movement who have received this award in the past. We remain as committed as ever to our important work of educating others about native plants."

In 1977, the first seeds were sown for Wild Ones, which today is a nationally recognized, membership-based non-profit organization with a mission to promote environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities.

## *Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District's Fall Gathering*

**Thursday, September 29, 2022**

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Torstenson Youth Education Center  
13735 Cook Road in Pecatonica

- wagon tour of the property (optional)
- barbeque dinner
- presentation - Barnstormers Distillery
- video presentation - Freed Hemp Co.
- award presentations

\*Wagon tour begins at 5:00 p.m. (attendees must arrive by 4:45 p.m.)

\*Dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. There is no cost to attend the gathering. A donation is requested for the dinner.

RSVP's are required for the (optional) wagon ride and for the dinner.

RSVP by Thursday, September 23 by calling the office at (815) 965-2392, Ext. 3 or emailing [winnebago.co.swcd@gmail.com](mailto:winnebago.co.swcd@gmail.com).

BELL BOWL PRAIRIE IS A CATEGORY I ILLINOIS NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY (INAI) SITE, A DESIGNATION GRANTED BY STATE BIOLOGISTS THAT REFLECTS THE SITE'S VERY HIGH ECOLOGICAL QUALITY. BELL BOWL PRAIRIE CONTAINS SOME OF THE MOST INTACT AND UNDISTURBED NATURAL PLANT COMMUNITIES FOUND ANYWHERE IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. THERE IS LESS THAN 0.01% OF PRAIRIE REMAINING IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

THE CHICAGO ROCKFORD AIRPORT PLANS TO BULLDOZE IT.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES SEEN AT BELL BOWL PRAIRIE:

FEDERALLY ENDANGERED RUSTY PATCHED BUMBLE BEE (BOMBUS AFFINIS)

STATE ENDANGERED PRAIRIE FALSE DANDELION (NOTHOCALAIS CUSPIDATA)

STATE ENDANGERED LARGE-FLOWERED PENSTEMON (PENSTEMON GRANDIFLORUS)

STATE ENDANGERED LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (LANIUS LUDOVICIANUS)

STATE THREATENED BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO (COCCYZUS ERYTHROPHALMUS)

STATE ENDANGERED NORTHERN HARRIER (CIRCUS HUDSONIUS)

STATE ENDANGERED UPLAND SANDPIPER (BARTRAMIA LONGICAUDA)

THIS 8,000 YEAR OLD PRAIRIE IS IRREPLACEABLE.

# SAVE BELL BOWL PRAIRIE

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO DONATE VISIT:

[www.savebellbowlprairie.org](http://www.savebellbowlprairie.org)



## *August Program Recap: Invite Nature to Your Yard* **Mark Luthin**

Using his degree in marketing, Jim Kleinwachter, the Conservation@Home program director for The Conservation Foundation, sells success stories. Using before and after pictures, Jim showed us some of the many successful lawn conversions that he has helped create. Have a muddy ditch? Create a bioswale. Have an eroded shoreline that's home to geese? Plant native vegetation. Can't attract birds and butterflies to your home? Lose the turf grass and plant native wildflowers.

These remedies not only help create a healthy landscape, they also make the homeowner happier and healthier. Once established, the cost to maintain these natural landscapes is minimal, compared to the cost of a turf lawn, where 40 billion dollars are spent on lawn care each year in the US. Lawn grasses cover 20 million acres in the U.S. and is the largest crop in 39 states, including Illinois. Due to its shallow root system, turf grass sheds water after only 1/2" of rain, instead of being absorbed into the ground. That water then runs into our local water ways, eventually ending up in the Mississippi River. Think about some of the torrential rains that we've had this summer, and then think about all the chemicals that have been carried away. Deep-rooted native plants absorb that water, and require very little maintenance, once established.

Jim's family was in the hardware business, and much of that job involved problem-solving. Now Jim

uses his problem-solving skills working with homeowners, business owners and HOAs to solve their excess water runoff issues by helping them create bioswales or rain gardens. He also works with them to not only beautify their lawns with native plantings, but at the same time attract birds and butterflies to their homes.

Jim encouraged us to sell our own success stories, to be neighborhood ambassadors for native landscaping. "We can all work with our neighbors, friends, schools, churches, parks and businesses to create healthier landscapes," Jim said. Jim has worked with numerous homeowners, HOAs and businesses to create these healthy landscapes through the Conservation@Home program. The Natural Land Institute can also certify homeowners and businesses in the Conservation@Home or Conservation@Work programs. If you have worked to create a friendlier landscape for our wild friends, and would like your yard certified, you can contact Kim Johnsen at NLI, [kjohnsen@naturalland.org](mailto:kjohnsen@naturalland.org) or Wild Ones member Mark Luthin at [m.luthin@comcast.net](mailto:m.luthin@comcast.net). If you'd like to learn more about this, go to [naturalland.org](http://naturalland.org), click on the "About" tab, and pull it down to Conservation@ Programs.

A recording of the August program can be seen at:

<https://youtu.be/ft8C6vUHQHM>

### *Wanted: Newsletter Editor*

WORRV Chapter is looking for someone to take over as Editor of the monthly newsletter. This includes coordinating with members to submit articles and information, setting the production schedule, editing the articles, and working with the production coordinator to review and approve the final layout. The work takes only a few hours each month.

A small stipend can be provided if needed. Please contact Jerry Paulson, President, at [paulsonjerry@aol.com](mailto:paulsonjerry@aol.com) if you are interested.

### *Partner News: Nachusa Grasslands Autumn on the Prairie and a Thank You*

On September 17, Nachusa presents its annual festival-Autumn on the Prairie. The event includes "Look for Bison" tours, guided hikes, food sales, live raptors, nature exhibits, children's activities, music, artists, local vendors, and more. 10-4. \$5 per car. For directions to the Nachusa Grasslands Visitor Center, 2075 Lowden Road, Franklin Grove, IL, and for more information about the event go to: <https://www.nachusagrasslands.org>

This year WORRV donated \$500 to the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands to support their research projects. This is the letter we received: "As you know, your gift of \$500 in February was placed into our Science Fund. I thought you might be interested to know that we are using it to purchase a soil probe. It will dramatically improve the precision of soil moisture and temperature measurements, thus enhancing the quality of our researchers' analysis. Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter has helped us advance the study of tallgrass prairie. We are grateful for your support." -- Bernie Bucholz

## *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!

### 173 memberships as of August 26, 2022

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

Shawn Choinard, Rockford

Kirby Doyle, Rockford

Nancy Holstrum, Belvidere

Kelly Mastera, Belvidere

Virginia Rous, Rockton

*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!*

### Anniversaries:

20 Years:

John & Cathy Schafman, Rockton

5 Years:

David Stern, Rockford

### In Memoriam:

In memory of our former Wild Ones

Rock River Valley Chapter members

Dan Doyle - Member 1998-2022

### It is preferred that renewal memberships be submitted through the Member Center online

rather than by check for quicker processing and to avoid delays in receiving your chapter newsletter. To renew your Wild Ones membership Log in or contact [support@wildones.org](mailto:support@wildones.org) for more information. Your expiration date is on your chapter newsletter above your name on the label. You will receive several emails from the Wild Ones national organization prior to your expiration date. If you want to join Wild Ones as a new member go to the Member Center. Remember that your dues include membership in both National Wild Ones and our chapter. If you need to mail a check, please use the address below:

### WILD ONES

ATTN: MEMBERSHIP

2285 BUTTE DES MORTS BEACH RD

NEENAH, WI 54912-1274

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: [membershipworrvc@gmail.com](mailto:membershipworrvc@gmail.com) 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!**





NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

## ROCK RIVER VALLEY

ROCK RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

c/o Sallie Krebs  
1643 N. Alpine Rd., Suite 104  
PMB 233  
Rockford, IL 61107

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### *Don't become extinct!*

If the expiration date on the mailing label is 09/1/2022, 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



### *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*

Our regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at Rock Valley College. We are live streaming the program over ZOOM and posting videos on YouTube of the program. Links to the meetings and programs are posted on our website and our Facebook page, and sent to members via email the week of the meeting. If you want to receive the link send an email to: [janetgiesen@gmail.com](mailto:janetgiesen@gmail.com).

### *Rock River Valley Chapter Board and Coordinators*

#### **BOARD**

*President:* Jerry Paulson  
(815) 222.4414 [paulsonjerry@aol.com](mailto:paulsonjerry@aol.com)  
*Vice President:* Linda Tabb Ricker (217)  
649.3966 [greencreations.lejoi@gmail.com](mailto:greencreations.lejoi@gmail.com)  
*Secretary:* Cathy Johnson (815) 978.0865  
[catjohn\\_22@yahoo.com](mailto:catjohn_22@yahoo.com)  
*Treasurer:* Janet Giesen (815) 762.5912  
[janetgiesen@gmail.com](mailto:janetgiesen@gmail.com)  
*Board members:*  
Kim Lowman Vollmer (815) 397.6044  
[kimlowvol@aol.com](mailto:kimlowvol@aol.com)  
Ed Foster (815) 654-3441 [thistletwo@aol.com](mailto:thistletwo@aol.com)

*Facebook coordinator:* Sallie Krebs (815)  
540.4730 [membershipworrvc@gmail.com](mailto:membershipworrvc@gmail.com)  
*Library coordinator:* Ginnie Watson  
(815) 398.0138 [vsWatson47@aol.com](mailto:vsWatson47@aol.com)  
*Membership coordinator:* Sallie Krebs  
(as to the left)  
*Mentor coordinator:* [open position]  
*Merchandise coordinator:* Cynthia Chmell  
(815) 969.7435 [cynthiachmell@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiachmell@gmail.com)  
*Native plant sale coordinators:* Janet Giesen  
(as to the left)  
Jane Evans (815) 494-7731  
*Newsletter editor:* [open position]  
*Newsletter production:* Jessie Crow Mermel  
(815) 955.0653 [serendipitree@gmail.com](mailto:serendipitree@gmail.com)  
*Plant rescue/seeds coordinator:* Mary Anne  
Mathwich (815) 721.5187 [mprairiedock@aol.com](mailto:mprairiedock@aol.com)

*Program coordinators:* Lisa Johnson  
(779) 537.8939  
[lejohnson3804@outlook.com](mailto:lejohnson3804@outlook.com)  
Mark Luthin (815) 543.7412  
[m.luthin@comcast.net](mailto:m.luthin@comcast.net)  
Linda Tabb Ricker (as to the left)  
*Publicity coordinator:* Dawn Skupien  
(815) 262.7864 [dawnskupien@gmail.com](mailto:dawnskupien@gmail.com)  
*Show Me/Help Me coordinator:*  
Linda Tabb Ricker (as to the left)  
*Tree & shrub sale coordinator:* Brian Hale  
(815) 289.2384 [treeandshrubsale@gmail.com](mailto:treeandshrubsale@gmail.com)  
*Volunteer coordinator:* [open position]  
*Website coordinator:* Janet Giesen (as to  
the left)  
*Youth education & grants coordinator:* Kim  
Lowman Vollmer (as to the left)

#### **APPOINTED COORDINATORS**

*Booth coordinator:* [open position]