

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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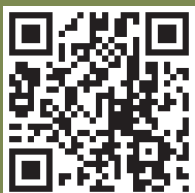
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Scan with your Smartphone for more information about Rock River Valley Wild Ones

www.wildonesrrvc.org

All articles for the Sept 2023 newsletter, must be submitted to:
serendipitree@gmail.com
by August 21, 2023.

Gardening with Native Plants Through the Seasons

Thursday, August 17, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Cherry Valley Library
755 East State Street,
Cherry Valley, IL

Zoom: <http://wildonesrrvc.org/>



Denise Sandoval

Discover the inner and outer beauty of some of Denise Sandoval's favorite native plants through the seasons. She'll discuss what plants she uses most often in her designs because they are beautiful, versatile, and easy to grow. These plants do well in clay soils, are easy to find locally, take a range of conditions, and look good in small-medium landscapes, as well as larger areas. Learn about their physical attributes, their behavior, how to use them in the garden, plus some of the wildlife they support. A handout with her recommended plant list, design tips, and wildlife information will be provided.

Denise Sandoval is the landscape designer and owner of Good-Natured Landscapes LLC. She started her business in 2005 to create beautiful, functional, and kind-to-the-Earth landscapes for Illinois' far western suburbs featuring native plants. She discovered the beauty and benefits of native plants while volunteering at a restoration site and working on her horticulture degree in 2003. Her expertise is blending creative, artistic design with local ecology to ensure every landscape is environmentally friendly, visually appealing, and functional for humans. One of her design projects received the "Chicago Wilderness Native Landscaping and Conservation Award" in 2014. She's been gardening with native plants in her own yard for over 20 years, growing from seed, performing prescribed burns, and installing her first rain garden in 2004. She served on the Wild Ones Greater DuPage board for 15 years and was a Conservation@Home Assistant for 6 years.

This in-person program will be held at the Cherry Valley Public Library, in Cherry Valley, Illinois. While our speaker will join us via Zoom, please join us at 6:00 pm for socializing and a chance to check out our Wild Ones chapter library, followed at 6:30 pm by our speaker's presentation.

Message from the President Jerry Paulson



Jerry Paulson

Wild Ones members and their guests had a great time on Saturday, July 22nd touring Greg and Karen Ruffner's historic farm near Roscoe and learning about the oak savanna restoration project they are doing on in cooperation with the Fish & Wildlife Service and Pheasants Forever.

and to Janet Giesen for taking the reservations. Special thanks to Greg and Karen Ruffner for hosting us for the annual member picnic and tour and showing us their carefully restored barn.



Our fall Tree & Shrub sale is coming up soon (see Brian Hale's article). We will once again have a large selection of quality planting stock of native trees and shrubs. If you have a special order, contact Brian (contact information is on page 5). Call Brian to help unload the plants that he is picking up from the Possibility Place Nursery near Joliet on September 21st.

Jared Trickey, wildlife biologist with Pheasants Forever, explained the process that is needed to restore the oak savanna on the farm. This was followed by a delicious picnic lunch provided by the chapter. Thanks to Mark Luthin and Linda Ricker for making the arrangements



We are settling in well at our new meeting location at the Cherry Valley Library. Everyone is adjusting to the earlier starting time of 6:30 p.m. Our chapter has partnered with the library to plant many native species around the library, so they are happy to have us meet there. You can enjoy the wildflowers if you come early or after the meeting. Hope to see you at the next meeting on August 17th.

Collecting Seeds of Native Plants Kim Lowman Vollmer

Our native flowers are beautiful this time of year and it is a great time to collect seeds. Storing the seeds in paper bags instead of plastic helps to keep them from molding. Don't forget to label your bags. You can even post this list where you will see it before heading outside. Here are some to look for during August:

- Blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*)
- Downy wood mint (*Blephilia ciliata*)
- Flowering spurge (*Euphorbia corollata*)
- Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)
- Large-flowered beardstongue (*Penstemon grandiflora*)
- Monarda-eastern (*Monarda bradburiana*)
- New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)
- Partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*)
- Prairie alumroot (*Heuchera richardsonii*)



Monarda photo by Jessie Crow Mermel

Butterflies and Brats: Annual Picnic Recap

On Saturday, July 22nd, Wild Ones of Rock River Valley members and their guests gathered at Old Goat Farm in Roscoe, IL, to tour the oak savanna, wetland, and prairie restoration. In addition to enjoying cultivating community, a picnic lunch provided by the chapter, and tours of the beautiful oak savanna, guests also enjoyed a tour of the historic restored barn on Greg and Karen Ruffner's property.



Greg Ruffner and Jared Trickey give an introduction to the history of Old Goat Farm and the savanna restoration process.



Wild Ones members gather in front of the historic restored barn before heading out for a tour of the land.



Some of the oaks in the savanna are around 300 years old.



Jared points out native flowers in the wetland area to his group while Greg Ruffner's group heads into the savanna.



Greg explains the site prep process: hauling trash, cutting invasive trees and shrubs, herbicide application, seeding, mowing, and burning.



A view of the farm from the 4.5 acres of savanna. The site is being restored through grants from Pheasants Forever and USFWS.



Jared discusses the challenges with weeds like Queen Anne's lace in the prairie restoration at Old Goat Farm.



Wild Ones members Randy Mermel and Daniel Pohl enjoy chatting about plants before lunch.



Wild Ones member and librarian Ginnie Watson about to enjoy her picnic lunch in the restored barn.

Photos by Jessie Crow Mermel

In My Yard Jane Evans

It had been a bumper year for berries. Our Gray dogwoods (*Cornus racemosa*) were loaded and I was eager to see birds eating them. However, a few days went by and the berries had been untouched. Hating to see the berries go to waste, I contemplated picking them and scattering them near our bird feeders. The next day brought good luck and the berries had all disappeared, perhaps providing a bountiful feast for a flock of waxwings. Our Gray dogwoods are about 7 feet tall at maturity and share space with some other bushes in a corner of the yard. Like other dogwoods they are host plants and are a life-giving source of food for fall migratory birds.



photo by Jane Evans

Getting Ready for the Fall Tree & Shrub Sale Brian Hale

In June, I visited Possibility Place Nursery, and met with Meghan, my contact there, to talk about our selections for this year. Every year the selection changes, for a lot of reasons. This year, we were able to add Iowa Crabapple, but we were unable to get White Oak. As usual, if you have special requests, let me know and we will try to make your tree dreams come true. We are planning at the end of June for delivery of stock in September, so we try to advertise plants they feel confident they will have in stock. I enjoy going down to Possibility Place. It's a long drive, but everyone there is very nice.

In addition, I have been playing with growing out trees from seed or bare roots. I have several Serviceberries, Amelanchier arborea and Amelanchier laevis that look nice, but the Chinquapin and Swamp white oaks will need

another year. A squirrel climbed my rabbit fence and dug every single acorn I had planted, so I lost several Chinquapin and White oaks, plus he dug holes in many of the pots. Next year, I will need a cage to protect the baby oaks.

Pricing will be the same as last year - \$40 for trees and \$35 for shrubs. The Serviceberries will be \$20 - all the money from their sale will go to Wild Ones.

We hope to have the brochure out by the middle of August. The schedule this year is a week earlier than usual. Orders will be due September 15th and pickup will be September 22nd and 23rd. The following week is the Annual Gathering of the Illinois Native Plant Society, and I will be in Springfield with all the plant geeks.

Shrubs

Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) - 1 gallon
 False Indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*)
 Purple Chokeberry (*Aronia prunifolia*)
 Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
 American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)
 Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)
 Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*)
 Smooth Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*)
 Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)
 Wild Black Currant (*Ribes americanum*)
 Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra var. canadensis*)
 Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)

Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*)
 Nannyberry Viburnum (*Viburnum lentago*)

Trees

Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
 Prairie Crabapple (*Malus ioensis*)
 Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
 American Plum (*Prunus americana*)
 Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)
 Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
 Chinquapin Oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*)
 Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

* all 5 gallon containers unless noted

Upcoming Events

August 17 | 6:30 p.m. | Denise Sandoval: Gardening with Natives Through the Seasons

August 31 | 11:50 p.m. CT | Wild Ones National Photo Contest Submissions Due*

September 21 | 6:30 p.m. | Stephanie Schmidt: Cranes Over Illinois

October 19 | 6:30 p.m. | Boone County Conservation District 60th Anniversary History

November 11 | Annual Meeting - Details TBD



* Submit photos at : <https://wildones.org/photo-contest-info/>

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!

183 memberships as of July 24, 2023

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

Sylvia Dunton, DeKalb

Eric Kingery, Oregon

Mira Lee & Howard Waitzkin, Loves Park

Sandra Quillen, Davis Junction

Katharine Trindl, Rockford

New Members:

Kim Didier, Rockford

Sylvia Dunton, DeKalb

Brad Kemp, Rockford

Sandra Quillen, Davis Junction

Katharine Trindl, 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!

Anniversaries:

15 Years:

Julia Olsen, DeKalb

Thank you for your continuing support!

Get more involved with your Wild Ones Chapter!
We are looking for people to offer their talents and time with the following positions:

President (in 2024)
Treasurer
Booth Coordinator



Mentor Coordinator
Board Member-at-Large
Volunteers

Contact Jerry Paulson to learn more and get involved: (815) 222.4414, paulsonjerry@aol.com



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 08/01/2023, 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.



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. We are live streaming the programs over ZOOM and posting recordings on YouTube. 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.

Rock River Valley Chapter Board and Coordinators

BOARD

President: Jerry Paulson

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Vice President: Linda Tabb Ricker (217)

649.3966 greencreations.lejoi@gmail.com

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catjohn_22@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Janet Giesen (815) 762.5912

janetgiesen@gmail.com

Board members:

Kim Lowman Vollmer (815) 397.6044

kimlowvol@aol.com

APPOINTED COORDINATORS

Booth coordinator: [open position]

Facebook coordinator: Dawn Skupien

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Library coordinator: Ginnie Watson

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Membership coordinator: Sallie Krebs

membershipworrvc@gmail.com

Mentor coordinator: [open position]

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(815) 969.7435 cynthiachmell@gmail.com

Native plant sale coordinators: Janet Giesen (as to the left)

Jane Evans (815) 494.7731

Ginnie Watson (as above)

Cynthia Nelson cnelson18@niu.edu

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Mark Luthin (815) 543.7412

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Publicity coordinator: Dawn Skupien (as to the left)

Show Me/Help Me coordinator:

Linda Tabb Ricker (as to the left)

Tree & shrub sale coordinator: Brian Hale

(815) 289.2384 treeandshrubsale@gmail.com

Volunteer coordinator: Cynthia Nelson (as to the left)

Website coordinator: Janet Giesen (as to the left)

Youth education & grants coordinator: Kim

Lowman Vollmer (as to the left)