

**Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.**

**Inside this issue:**

Message from the Co-President	2
Participate in SM/HM	3
Prairie Plant Sale	3
Website Update	3
February Meeting Recap	4-6
Garfield Farm Museum	7
2013 Chapter Calendar	7
Chapter Contact Information	8



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



Articles for the April 2013 newsletter, must be submitted to the Newsletter Chair, at: Pambi@wildonesrrvc.org March 23, 2013.

*Rooftop Gardens*  
*Thursday, March 21, 2013*

**Location: Burpee Museum of Natural History**

737 N. Main St., Rockford IL

**Time: 7:00 pm**



Let's face it, we're all affected by our environment, and man-made environments, such as the city of Chicago, can be pretty harsh. Black tar roofs, cement buildings, and miles of asphalt make the air hotter, and more polluted.

Chicago's most famous rooftop garden sits atop City Hall, an 11-story building in the Loop. First planted in 2000, the City Hall Rooftop Garden was part of an initiative to test how green roofs improve temperature, air quality, and storm water runoff. The garden consists of 20,000 plants or 150 species, including shrubs, vines, and two trees. Most of the plants are prairie plants native to the Chicago region.



Kevin Carroll, has worked in landscaping and horticulture with the city of Chicago for the past 12 years. In addition to supervising the maintenance of Chicago's City Hall Rooftop Garden, he helps to supervise the maintenance of over 70 miles of landscaped medians, 420 traffic circles and cul-de-sacs, 54 malls and plazas, as well as other landscaped areas in Chicago's public right-of-ways.

Wild Ones, Rock River Valley Chapter, is an organization interested in promoting native plants and native landscapes. After working with this unusual rooftop garden since it's beginning, Kevin will be able to tell us which native plants have worked well, and which haven't, in this truly unusual setting. *(continued on page 2)*

## Message from the Co-President Ginnie Watson



I was talking to a friend a while back. He joined Wild Ones several years ago and enjoyed the informative monthly programs as well as our well written monthly newsletter but that was the extent of his participation in our chapter's activities. I asked him, on the occasion of our visit, if he would ever consider volunteering for any of our many activities and events and he quickly replied, "Oh no, I don't know enough to be of any help". I smiled to myself, remembering my own experience in the early years of my membership.

"There is no better way to learn than to join a group of people doing something they all enjoy!" I said. "They will teach you what you need to know to do a good job; you will learn as you go. Think of the possibilities. There are two plant sales in the spring, the prairie plant sale and the woodland plant sale. Both need lots of help and just imagine all you could pick up from those helpers who have worked there before. Most of them really know their forbs and grasses. Barbara Flores, our Woodland Plant Sale Coordinator, and Lenae Weichel, our Prairie Plant Sale Coordinator, are very knowledgeable and always looking for an extra pair of willing hands."

"Our booth display is displayed at several gardening events such as Gardeners Pathway, Gardening for Food and Fun, Bird Fest, and The Energy Fair. Assistants are always needed for these occasions. Tim Lewis, our Booth Coordinator, will tell you all you need to know and you would be paired with someone with experience." My friend was listening intently now as he imagined the fun of getting involved.

I told him about the ways he could help at our monthly meetings as greeter, library assistant, photographer, audio/visual set up, or providing beverages for attendees. There are other events throughout the year that require volunteer help as well such as Show Me/Help Me yard visits, the late summer Tree and Shrub Sale, and native plant rescues.

"Our volunteers are critical to our organization," I said. "Everyone, from board members on down to booth helpers at events is a volunteer." I could see his enthusiasm growing as he began to see himself in a more active role.

I saw my friend the other day and asked how he was doing. He told me that after signing up for several volunteer opportunities he felt he had learned so much more than if he had simply attended monthly programs. He was proud to have helped our chapter and plans to stay involved. I know how he feels. I was asked to be Program Chair four months after joining Wild Ones in 2004. I have found several ways to help the chapter since 2004... have you found yours? There are more possibilities than the ones I've mentioned. What ideas do you have to help our chapter...and yourself? Not sure how to get started? Cynthia Nelson, our Volunteer Coordinator, is waiting to hear from you! [Cynthia@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:Cynthia@wildonesrrvc.org)



**Marcia DeClerk and Cathy Johnson,  
Library Volunteers**



**New Wild Ones t-shirt for spring!** This short sleeved t-shirt is a sand color with the Wild Ones logo embroidered in dark green. Available in adult sizes: S-M-L-XL.  
**Only \$18.00**

*continued from page 1*

Please join us on Thursday, March 21, at 7:00 p.m. at Burpee Museum of Natural History, 737 North Main Street to hear how Chicago has not only improved air quality with an innovative use of native plants, but also hear how the rooftop garden has saved over \$4,000 a year in heating and cooling utility costs.

For more information please call 815-627-0344

Submitted by Lynda and Lee , Co-Program Chairs

## Are you interested in participating in a Show Me/Help Me Day this year?

The Show Me/Help Me schedule is being organized for this growing season and we are looking for members who would like us to come to their landscape! Show Me/Help Me Days are evenings or weekend days when we arrange a tour of several chapter members' yards. We hope each tour will contain both established landscapes ("show me") and yards in-progress or with potential and need of plans ("help me"). Chapter members of all levels of experience and knowledge can participate together to learn and share.

What we need is a selection of landscapes to tour! Do you have a yard that you have been working on for a while that is showing the beautiful fruits of your labor? Are you trying to determine what you have, what to do, and how to do it? Or does your landscape represent a little of both

scenarios; you have some great things going but need some ideas or information to get other things started? If any of these are your situation, your landscape should be on one of our Show Me/Help Me tours!

It doesn't matter whether you have a small city lot or a rambling country estate. Location is also not a big factor because we will try to schedule different events in particular areas so that travel distance is reasonable on each day.

Are you interested? Please contact one of the Show Me/Help Me Co-Chairpersons: Anita Johnson, at (815)226-1606 [Anita@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:Anita@wildonesrrvc.org) or Mary Anne Mathwich at (815)721-5187 [MaryAnne@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:MaryAnne@wildonesrrvc.org) to volunteer your property or for more information.

### Chapter Website Update

Submitted by Shey Lowman



Back issues of the chapter newsletters are now available on the chapter website. All issues 2009 through 2012 are posted at [www.wildonesrrvc.org/newsletters.html](http://www.wildonesrrvc.org/newsletters.html). The newsletters are in PDF (Adobe Portable Document Format) which can be easily read with Adobe Acrobat Reader which is a free download from [get.adobe.com/reader/](http://get.adobe.com/reader/).

Be sure to check out the Resources tab for lots of helpful information. New items are continually added and updated. If you have suggestions for the website, please email Shey at [shey@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:shey@wildonesrrvc.org).

### Native Prairie Plant Sale

Order forms available mid-March  
 Order Deadline: April 26  
 Plant Pick-up (and Sale):  
 May 17 - 5:00 - 7:00 pm  
 May 18 - 8:00 - 11:00am

Contact: Lenae Weichel,  
 Prairie Plant Sale Chairperson,  
[Lenae@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:Lenae@wildonesrrvc.org) or 815-282-5482  
 Pick-up/Sale Location:  
 1438 Collingswood Dr., Rockford, IL 61103

## Membership Update

Marilyn Heneghan, Membership Chair

**172 memberships on March 1, 2013**

### Welcome New Members

Jane Snively

### Special Thanks to Recent Rock River Valley Chapter Donators

(any amount above the \$37 basic dues)

Judith Letourneau  
 Claudia Fleeman

44 attended the February Program

Thank you to Audrey Johnson and Lisa Johnson for greeting members.

**Note: It is preferred that renewal donations be sent directly to the Chapter's Membership Chair, Marilyn Heneghan, rather than to the national office.** Processing goes quicker this way for the chapter. Your expiration date is on your newsletter and your Journal address label. Thank you.

**"NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES"**  
 Please notify Marilyn Heneghan at [informationoptions@att.net](mailto:informationoptions@att.net) if you change your email address.

Dues payments can be sent either directly to the National Office or to the Chapter Membership Chair, Marilyn Heneghan. Forty percent of the dues paid, regardless of the amount, are shared with Rock River Valley Chapter. Members wishing to make donations specifically for the local chapter, should make a separate payment or so note on their membership application under "Chapter Contribution" and mail to the Chapter Membership Chair. Dues payments, regardless of amount, are considered a donation and are tax deductible.

## February 2013 Meeting Recap Janet Giesen

### The Role of Fire in our Local Landscape!



Fire on the Landscape! A hot topic for a cold evening, and Greg Keilback's dynamic and story-rich presentation kept us energized and entertained!

Greg Keilback is a biologist and educator through the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District at Severson Dells Nature Center. Greg likes to learn about the natural world. He took coursework at the University of Idaho and in Ely, Minnesota, which allowed him to study prairies and forests out West and here in the Midwest. In one project, Greg studied the interrelationships between wolves, white tailed deer, and moose within one particular burned area of the forest. Greg also studied the impact of fire and grazing on the short grass prairie; counted fire scars on trees; talked with and learned about the interrelationships of the Nez Pierce Indians with fire, land and its animals; tracked the movement of animals during fires; and helped with wild and prescribed fires. Greg has had some really interesting work in his life!

Greg personalized his presentation with stories of his work out West, including his encounters with Pack Rats, Cheerio-eating chipmunks, grouse, moose, elk and occupied bear dens. Greg said that he is able to apply what he learned out West to his work here because some Western prairies are similar to Illinois prairie systems.

During his presentation, Greg often referenced Dr. Stephen Pyne, a fire historian and professor of history at the University of Arizona. In 2000, Pyne stated that "in the United States, few places know as much fire today as they did a century ago," and Greg expertly outlined the history of fire on the U.S. landscape throughout his presentation.

### History and Culture of Prairie Fires

In fire language, *fire return intervals* refers to how often the fires were on the

landscape—how often the fires *returned* at any given time in the landscape (the number of years between two successive fires). Different climates favored different return intervals – and Greg showed that in the Winnebago County area, which was part of the prairie peninsula, understory fires had a return interval of 0-10 years, which was wonderful if you were a grass!

Pre-history shows that humans are inextricably linked with fire, and that link dates to pre-Columbian fire foraging and even fire cultivating. Fire has always been a determining factor in shaping the American landscape. Before European settlement, Native Americans used fire as a tool to clear hunting grounds, agricultural areas, and campsites. A crucial component of Native American culture is the American Bison (*Bison bison*).

Bison are a critical species in the prairie ecosystem because of their grazing habits. And key to good grazing are the prairie grasses, which need to burn to be healthy. To have prairie fires, one needs the prairie first, which was formed by glacial activity and a fairly dry sunny climate, supported by a cold season that kills plants above ground. Mixed into the equation are major grazers such as the bison and Native Americans, whose ancestors crossed the Bering Straight years earlier, bringing fire with them.

The Cheyenne and other Plains Indians sometimes referred to prairie fires as "red buffalo," in part because the fires roared across the grasslands bringing renewed growth in their wake. The Lakota named the winds after gods who descended from the sky to establish the Four Directions (East, North, West, South) and completed the circle of life. All Plains Indian peoples held the Bison sacred: the bison ate the grass and the grass fueled the fire – the Native Americans depended on fire to help them maintain a complete ecosystem – grazing bison and fire were intertwined.

On March 6, 1805, Lewis and Clark observed smoke and fire in the Missouri River Valley, "... which was set on fire by the Indians for an early crop of grass, and inducement for all the buffalo to feed on." When these explorers wanted to meet with groups of Indians, they

photos by Ronald Cress

followed the regional custom of igniting the prairie to signal their intentions – this practice illustrated man's link with fire.

In 1865 a fire was deliberately set by the U.S. Army to drive Indians out of the Platte Valley. Driven by strong northwest winds, the scattered fires soon joined into a massive fire. Three days later the fire was still burning along the banks of the Arkansas River in Kansas and Colorado, and the flames reached the Texas Panhandle. The entire section of Nebraska that lay south of the Platte River and west of fort Kearney, along with much of the region to the south, was left blackened and desolate. One observer noted that "the fire's roaring noise fills you with astonishment and almost terror" and that it was "as if the world itself was burning."

The Indians managed to survive the fire itself, but the destruction of grasslands drove away the game and met the army's goal of making the region temporarily untenable for the nomadic tribesman. Ironically, the Indians were using fire in a mostly positive way and the government eradicated the game that they needed for their own food!

The early periodic prairie fires were started either by lighting or by Native Americans and were commonplace before Euro-American settlements. Any given parcel of land probably burned once every one to five years. Unfortunately, places set aside and protected as reserves (public forested lands) have witnessed changes. As we have purposefully extinguished fires and look upon them as evil and bad, the abundant amount of timber (woody graffiti) that is in our forests leads to hotter, more catastrophic fires. These are not "natural" fires.

### Catastrophic Fires Today

How hot a fire burns and the energy it releases gives rise to the fire's level of severity. If you were to return to a burn area and estimate that 82% of all organic matter in the region was consumed, the fire would be considered severe. And this is what we are seeing across the nation today; catastrophic fires burning abnormally hot because there is so much fuel to burn. The excess fuel is a result of

fire suppression, where we have put out fires instead of letting them burn the surplus fuel on the ground. It is humans, then, who have allowed the intensity of the fires to reach such staggering high numbers. As a result, the nation's Western ecosystems have responded with monster fires that completely blacken everything, causing erosion, immense impacts on society (loss of life and property), and movement of wildlife.

### Forest Succession

Forest succession occurs after fires and impact wildlife with each sere of succession through which the ecosystem matures. After clear cutting or fire, it may appear as though nothing is left. However, the root structure of grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees are still viable. In one year, the pioneer species begin to emerge: annuals (1-2 fire return interval years), short grasses and forbs (3-4 fire return interval years) are inhabited by Cottontail Rabbits, Prairie Warblers, Eastern Towhee and American Woodcock. The intermediate species such as grasses, shrubs, pines, young oaks, and hickories will then emerge (5-150 fire return interval years) and attract Ruffed Grouse and White-tailed Deer. The 150+ fire return interval years brings about the climax community of the mature oak and hickory forests, which supports Red-eyed Vireo and Wild Turkey.

Greg referred to *landscape scale*, a term used when studying prairie ecosystems. The original prairie ranged from Canada to Ohio to Texas and was an enormous ecosystem like the old growth forests of the West. But understanding the landscape scale is not enough to fully appreciate what a prairie was. One must learn about the time it took to form the prairie, which is almost impossible to comprehend. Today, ecology and landscape ecology scientists and students are not only studying the size of prairie ecosystems, but the time it took for prairie ecosystems to evolve.

Fire is a landscape issue that must be fully understood – the risks and benefits of a prescribed burning regime must be carefully calculated. (A fire regime refers to the way in which fires naturally occur in a particular ecosystem over an extended period of time.) Therefore, it is important to discuss both the positive and negative effects of wild fires and prescribed

burning on a landscape scale.

### Effects of Fire on Soil

- Fire unlocks the potential for new growth in the soil – a quick jolt of flame sends nutrients coursing through the site.
- Nutrients are mainly nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus, all of which provide fertile nutrients for regeneration of species previously existing in the area, as well as species that may grow due to the introduction of a new fire-adapted environment.
- Prescribed fire is often the best way to release these nutrients as long as the fire is done in a natural regime.
- Too much heat can damage the soil and reduce microbial biomass. This fact may explain why, even though most Americans believed the land was completely destroyed after the Yellowstone Fire of 1988, only weeks after the fire many plants and tree saplings were flourishing from nutrients in the soil.
- The removal of litter allows more rainfall to reach the ground before evaporating. This provides for greater early-season soil moisture and higher inputs of nitrogen due to natural levels of nitrates dissolved in rain.
- A commonly held assumption is that the ash remaining after a prairie fire provides a fertilizer effect from the nutrients. This is not true! There is increased availability of nutrients after a prairie fire, but it's not from the ash. The nutrients are from the increased nitrogen inputs in rainfall and nitrogen fixation (bacteria associated with legumes) and the increased mineralization from microbes. The clean slate that follows the fire allows everything to move more freely. Therefore, it is the fire that gives everything a jolt to get started again, not the ash!
- Most prairie soils were extremely fertile from centuries of growth and root decay. Thus, the nutrients in the ash are a relatively minor addition. Many of today's prairies are not that fertile anymore!



### Effects of Fire on Wildlife

- Animals are the least harmed by fire because they are the most likely to escape.
- Small mammal populations usually increase after a fire due to increased food sources (seedlings and grasses). The reduction in ground cover and the seed dispersal by a fire's winds benefit small animals that seek their subsistence by gathering seeds.
- Small mammals are also less likely to perish in a fire because ground-burrowing animals can seek refuge underground.
- Although their numbers initially decrease, a bear population will eventually flourish due to an increase in places for habitat such as snags and woody debris left by a fire. After the young plants and trees mature, they will be left by the ungulates and eaten by the bear.
- Black bears reap the biggest benefits of a fire-dependent forest. The favorite food of a black bear is berries that grow on low, shrub-like bushes, which are most prevalent after an understory fire.

### Effects of Fire on Plants

- 80% of prairie lives underground in the form of root systems. As the plants begin growth in the spring after a burn, their new leaves are in a sunny, open environment. Less fuel (dead wood, dead plant matter) on a prairie helps promote formation of "sun leaf" characteristics and convective cooling by winds, both of which optimize the leaves for photosynthesis.
- In unburned prairie, where new growth is surrounded by litter, leaf temperatures can exceed the optimum for photosynthesis (due to

less convective cooling) and leaves develop shade characteristics, which hampers photosynthesis when the leaf emerges above the litter toward the sun. Reed canary grass can tolerate this because it uses light more efficiently than prairie grasses that require more sun to photosynthesize.

- Fire is a prairie-cleansing agent which removes plant pathogens and reduces disease. Fire protects the prairie from itself because prairie that is unburned for many years begins to suffocate under its own litter. The increased growth, flower, and seed production that results from fire are positive for all prairie organisms. Plants provide the energy, nutrients, and habitat for insects, birds, and mammals to prosper.
- Plants use fire to reproduce and colonize. Some plants are mere survivors: they use their adapted characteristics to survive a fire.
- Plants that colonize after a fire are fire-dependent. Most of these plants generate from seeds stored in the soil (residual colonizers), which are activated by the heat from a fire. Serotinous cones of Douglas fir, Jack Pine, and other conifers burst open only during a forest fire, thus releasing seeds that may also require heat to germinate.

### Fire Regime Plant Classification

Greg identified ways that plants adapt to wildland fires – three of those classifications are resisters, endurers, and avoiders.

- **Resisters** (Bur Oak and Ponderosa Pine) are shade-intolerant trees with thick bark. These trees resist heat from fire and typically live long lives. The thick bark of Bur Oak acts as an insulator which helps reduce fire damage. Interestingly, Bur Oak mortality declines with increased fire frequency – the more fire the better because heat intensity drops due to less fuel being burned. It takes six years for Bur Oaks to form the corky substance that resists heat and a strong enough root system to handle fire, even if the top portion of the tree is killed. Bur Oaks will re-sprout.
- **Endurers** (Oaks, Aspens, and many shrubs species) are shade-intolerant and are the dominate species in oak savannas. Fifty to 100 year old trees

that lose top growth to fire re-sprout after above ground parts are damaged or killed.

- **Avoiders** (Maple, Black Cherry, and Hackberry) are shade-tolerant species with thin bark. These species thrive with increased humidity and love the shade. They slowly invade savannas and other areas after long fire-free durations. Most of the forests in our region consist of avoiders because of the lack of fire in the landscape. With no fire, we have no oaks!

### Fire Scars

Fire scars on trees will tell you a story about the fire. The scar tells us the direction from which the fire came. When the fire burns toward the tree, the flames will go around the trunk and “lick” the tree. The hottest part of the fire is the tip of the flame and it is the flame’s tips, where they “licked” at the tree, where scars form. One of Greg research projects had him map specific northern islands in Minnesota where old fires had occurred. He identified all of the tree fire scars, compiling by age distribution, when the fires happened, when they stopped, and what direction they were coming from. Findings from his research revealed that if an Indian camp was anywhere near where the fire occurred, that was the epicenter of the fire.

### Interesting Facts about Fire on the Landscape

- Native Americans ignited more than half of pre-settlement fires.
- In the Eastern half of the U.S., historic fires were frequent and widespread during both drought and wet climate conditions – humans were setting fires in all seasons, wet or dry.
- Earlier periodic fires burned throughout the prairie region, blackening hundreds of square miles at a time. In tall grass prairies, fires raged as fast as 40 miles per hour and sent flames 30 feet or more into the air.
- Fires are natural and necessary to habitat vitality and renewal in the evolution of a prairie.
- In the 1840s to 1860s, roads were built across the nation which caused fire to be completely put out on our landscape.
- We can never put back into the

landscape natural landscape fire regimes that took place prior to settlement. But we can return the fire return interval to our own private lands.

- When fire began to be looked upon as bad, the United States started to become a more urban country.
- 7 bison can be sustained on 40 acres of short grass prairie as long as there is a short fire return interval that ensures the grass is not being overgrazed.
- The more frequent the fire, the less heat is produced because there is less firewood to fuel the fire.
- In 1986, 93% of all fires greater than 4 hectares (about 9.88 acres) were caused by humans (campers, cigarettes thrown out of automobile window, railroad fires, etc.)
- In 2001, lightning was the cause of only 2.8 % of all “wild” fires.
- Prairie fires burn hotter than forest fires.
- The Pecos Prairie should be burned as often as possible.
- The more we learn about fire return intervals, the better. The more we burn the better.

At the end of the evening Greg provided us with some words of wisdom:

- “The foremost lesson is that fire can never be 100% positive for all species.”
- “It is important to care and love nature to the point that we group up and talk about it.”
- “We must decide how to apply and withhold fire in the landscape because we still remain, all of us, all peoples, across a hundred millennia, the keepers of the planetary flame.” (Pyne)

### Selection of Works Authored by Fire Historian Stephen Pyne

- *America's Fires: A Historical Context for Policy and Practice* by Stephen J. Pyne (2011).
- *Fire in America: A Cultural History of Wildland and Rural Fire* by Stephen J. Pyne. (1997).
- *Introduction to Wildland Fire, Second Edition*, by Stephen J. Pyne, Patricia L. Andrews, and Richard D. Laven. (1996).
- *No Fuel Like an Old Fuel and A Story to Tell* by Stephen J. Pyne. In *Fire Management Today, Volume 60, Number 4. (Fall 2000).*

## *Prairie, Woodlands & Wetlands 26th Management Seminar*

### **Garfield Farm Museum**

On February 16 we were privileged to attend the all-day seminar at Garfield Farm Museum on "Prairie, Woodlands & Wetlands Management". Garfield Farm Museum is located about half an hour east of Sycamore - an easy drive from Winnebago County. Our goal, besides learning about the topics, was to evaluate the different presenters as possible speakers for future programs for Wild Ones, RRV.

The information in each talk was very comprehensive, describing the basics of establishing native plant communities.

Jerome Johnson started with a history of Garfield Farm Museum from the 1840s. He showed how we can "map the nature" of our land using old maps online. The first step before planting any native plants is to know what was there originally - various sources are old atlases of counties; 1900s maps showing elevations, marsh & rivers, & fence lines; since 1939 Soil & Water have aerial photos; the Illinois Secretary of State/archives show land plats; and many more. Jerome also showed extensive native plant slides of what is at Garfield Farm, throughout the year, and what works for their site.

Roy Diblik has been growing native grasses and flowers from seed since the late 1970s. He likes to think of plants in community and composition, not only the colors and seasons in which they flourish, but different heights and relationships of everything together. He has established many native plant landscapes in communities, including the gardens at the Millennium Park in downtown Chicago. He said if we establish prairie with children and families, and get them coming back year after year, they will become future native plant advocates. His words come out like a poet, or artist!

After lunch, Conner Shaw talked about trees and shrubs - what can thrive here, and what can provide food sources

for animals. His knowledge is for homeowners who want just the right tree in their yard, to owners of large landscapes who want to include native shrubs. He told how Bur Oak trees need to be planted in a cluster, and that the roots actually communicate with each other - a woven mass underground absorbing knowledge to help the trees survive. Conner has spoken to our WO group in the past, and he will be the August 15 speaker on Native Trees and Shrubs. Look for this very interesting program!

Al Roloff from DeKalb County Forest Preserve system spoke on Wetlands. He stressed thoughtful planning for long-term survival, and not planting everything at one time. Knowing the water source, water table, and run-off from farms and subdivisions for contaminants should be considered. Jerome Johnson ended the day with talking about burning and how to do it. Al also added to this discussion.

Two things we got out of the day, besides native plant info - Jerome stressed the importance of old diaries when researching your land. Lynda does nature journaling, and feels this is important to document what we are doing today; 50 or 100 years from now, this will be vital to people trying to research what we have done with native plants.

Jerome showed slides of drain tiles on the Garfield Farm site. He said the installation of field tiles to drain wet areas was one of the most extensive engineering projects of the world! Also, Haegar Pottery, local to that area, is the company that first made the drain tiles! Scottish immigrants to the area made the tiles, and the company made a fortune! Drain tiles is what gave this company fame - not the pottery that many of us have as decorative items in our houses!

We highly recommend this seminar to everyone. The food was excellent, too.

Submitted by Lee and Lynda Johnson

## *2013 Chapter Programs and Events*

<b>March 21</b> 7:00-9:00 PM	Rooftop Gardens	<b>Kevin Carroll</b> City of Chicago's Rooftop Garden Initiative	Burpee Museum of Natural History
<b>April 22</b>	Woodland Plant Sale Orders Due	<b>Barbara Flores</b> , Woodland Plant Sale Coordinator 815-289-8602, <a href="mailto:Barbara@wildonesrrvc.org">Barbara@wildonesrrvc.org</a>	
<b>April 18</b>	"GROW A Birdfeeder" Saving Birds Thru Habitat	<b>Kay Charter</b> Author, Co-owner of Charter Sanctuary, Ex. Dir. of Saving Birds Thru Habitat	Burpee Museum of Natural History
<b>April 26</b> 3:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Woodland Plant Sale Pickup	<b>Barbara Flores</b> Woodland Plant Sale Coord. 815-289-8602 <a href="mailto:Barbara@wildonesrrvc.org">Barbara@wildonesrrvc.org</a>	Pickup Location 15813 Anderson Rd. Durand, IL 61024
<b>April 27</b> 9:00 AM - Noon			

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

Please contact Lynda and Lee Johnson at (815) 629-2781 for more information.



NATIVE PLANTS. NATURAL LANDSCAPES

## ROCK RIVER VALLEY

ROCK RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

c/o Pambi Camacho  
6680 Hartwig Drive  
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

### *Don't become extinct!*

If the expiration date on the mailing label is **3/1/2013**, this is your last chapter newsletter and you have received your last *Wild Ones Journal* until you activate your membership

You may receive a renewal notice from both the National organization and your chapter. Your membership information will be updated quicker if you renew through your chapter so you won't miss an issue of the chapter newsletter.

Mail your renewal to Marilyn Heneghan  
**Wild Ones Rock River Valley**  
**5411 E. State Street PMB340**  
**Rockford, IL 61108**

## Wild Ones - Rock River Valley Chapter

### *Board of Directors and Chairs*

**Co-Presidents:** Bob Arevalo 815-332-3343

Bob@wildonesrrvc.org  
Ginnie Watson 815-398-0138  
Ginnie@wildonesrrvc.org

**Past President:** Constance McCarthy  
815-282-0316 Constance@wildonesrrvc.org

**Program Co-Chairs:** Lynda and Lee Johnson  
815-629-2781 LyndaLee@wildonesrrvc.org

**Secretary:** Shey Lowman 815-757-4456  
Shey@wildonesrrvc.org

**Treasurer:** Janet Giesen 815-899-6139  
Janet@wildonesrrvc.org

**Membership Chair:** Marilyn Heneghan  
815-389-7869 Marilyn@wildonesrrvc.org

**Newsletter Chair:** Pambi Camacho  
815-332-7637 Pambi@wildonesrrvc.org

**Plant Rescues/Seed Collection Chair:**

John Peterson 815-979-8539  
John@wildonesrrvc.org

**Show Me/Help Me Co-Chairs:**  
Mary Anne Mathwich 815-624-6301  
MaryAnne@wildonesrrvc.org  
Anita Johnson 815-226-1606  
Anita@wildonesrrvc.org

**Youth Education & Grants Chair:**  
Kim Lowman Vollmer 815-397-6044  
Kim@wildonesrrvc.org

**Prairie Plant Sale Coordinator:** Lenae Weichel  
815-282-5482 Lenae@wildonesrrvc.org

**Woodland Plant Sale Coordinator:**  
Barbara Flores 815-289-8602  
Barbara@wildonesrrvc.org

**Tree & Shrub Sale Coordinator:** John Peterson  
815-979-8539 John@wildonesrrvc.org

**Booth Coordinator, FREC Representative:**  
Tim Lewis 815-874-3468  
Tim@wildonesrrvc.org

**Lending Library Coordinator:** Ginnie Watson  
815-398-0138 Ginnie@wildonesrrvc.org

**Mentor Coordinator:** Barb Kuminowski  
815-248-9263 Barb@wildonesrrvc.org

**Merchandise/Website Coordinator:**  
Shey Lowman 815-757-4456  
Shey@wildonesrrvc.org

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Cynthia Nelson 815-758-8978  
Cynthia@wildonesrrvc.org

Regular meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Burpee Museum of Natural History, 737 North Main St., Rockford, IL

*Special meetings, outings, and events are scheduled periodically and sometimes replace the regular meeting time/place. Contact any officer to confirm information about our next meeting.*

Wild ones Annual Membership: Family \$37, Limited Income/Full-Time Student \$20, Business \$250  
Entire membership contribution is tax deductible. Contact Membership Chair for additional information or to join.

815-627-0344 • Visit our Web site at [www.WildOnesRRVC.org](http://www.WildOnesRRVC.org)

### *Wild Ones Mission*

Wild ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restorations and establishment of native plant communities. Wild Ones is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization.