

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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Articles for the January 2014 newsletter, must be submitted to the Newsletter Chair, at: Pambi@wildonesrrvc.org December 23, 2013.

*Member Potluck and Native Seed Exchange
Thursday, November 21, 2013*

Location: Burpee Museum of Natural History

737 North Main Street, Rockford, IL

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

If you've been visiting Wild Ones meetings and thinking about joining – this is a good time to join! The Member Potluck will be Thursday, November 21. This is a time of sharing seeds collected from our native plants with other members – a great way to get started with native plants, or to add to existing natives in your landscape. And if you don't have seeds to share with others, you are still welcome to take some home!

Wild Ones will provide Spinach Lasagna, Free Trade Coffee and cider and water. Please bring a dish to pass plus your own table service including plates, silverware, cups and napkins. If you are concerned about being environmentally responsible, bring things that are reusable, not disposable things to add to the landfill. The earth thanks you.

Join us for a fun evening, getting to know members, relaxing before the holiday schedules, and adding to your stash of wonderful native seeds. Members are welcome to bring their partner, significant other, friend, etc.

We welcome new members. Call 815-627-0344.

Submitted by Lynda and Lee Johnson, Co-Chairs/Program



2012 Potluck and Seed Exchange

Photos by Tim Lewis

Message from the Co-President Ginnie Watson



Dr. James Reinartz with Co-Pres. Ginnie Watson.

Bob and I have shared the Co-Presidency of the Rock River Valley Chapter of Wild Ones now for nearly a year and I, for one, am very grateful.

I am grateful to Bob for being so easy to work with; for his good ideas; for his unique insight and perspective; and for his ability to remain calm in a 'ruffled feathers' situation. I am grateful to my fellow board members for their dedication and hard work; for their willingness to go above and beyond to get the job done; and for realizing the importance of their positions and responding accordingly. I am grateful to all the volunteers for putting in so very many hours towards making this thing work. It doesn't happen without you!

I am grateful to our members who have so loyally attended our programs and events. That is what it is all about. We are seeing more and more of you this year! I am also grateful to all our members who couldn't join us for our many offerings but supported us financially anyway because you believe in our mission. You all are why we are here.

And finally, I am grateful to our Business members, *Applied Ecological Services, Pizzo & Associates Ltd., Red Buffalo Nursery* and Not-for-Profit Affiliate Organization member *Kickapoo Mud Creek Nature Conservancy*. These members honor us by wanting and trusting their good names to be associated with ours. We have great respect for these folks and are so pleased the feeling is mutual.

On the chapter level no one is paid for all the hard work and long hours that go into running and maintaining an organization such as ours. Everyone involved in keeping the wheels on the bus rolling is motivated by a sense of dedication, respect for our mission to educate and advocate for the growing of native plants, and a desire to

preserve, protect and/or restore the natural world...and it shows. Our organization is growing; we are reaching more people than ever before; more and more native plants are finding their way back into nature and the word is spreading. This is reward enough. Thank you all!



Co-President, Bob Arevalo



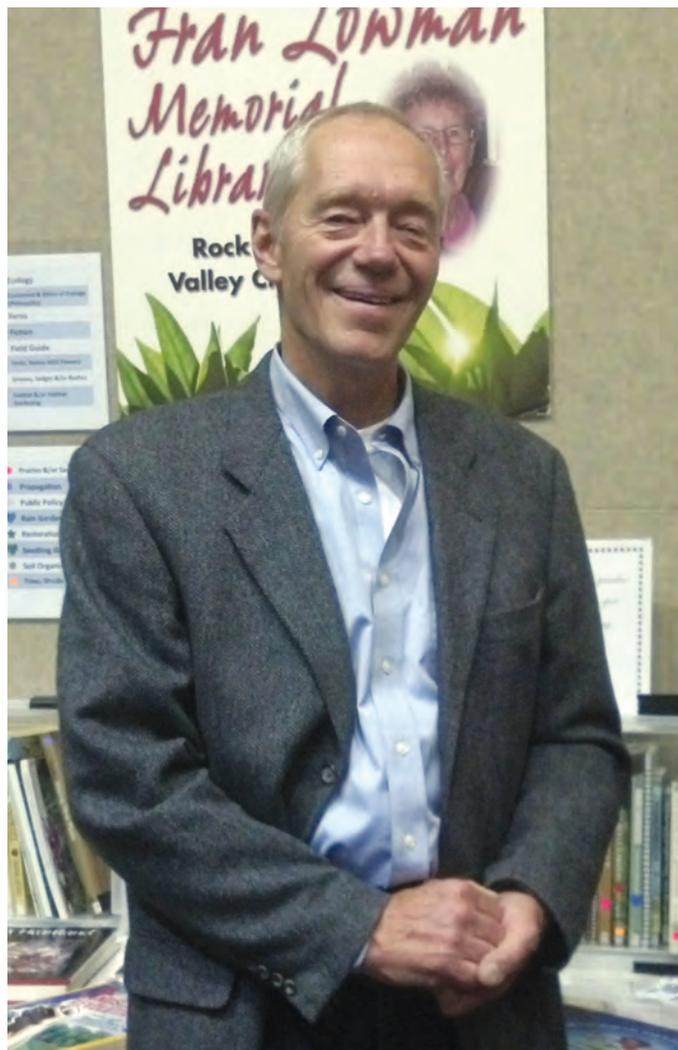
Anne Meyer Talking to members at Evening Social



Marcia DeClerk and Cathy Johnson, Library Volunteers

October Meeting Recap Cathy Schafman

Plants in Winter Surviving the Big Chill



Dr. James Reinartz

Photo by Tim Lewis

Our speaker was Dr. James Reinartz, director of the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee Field Station. It was apparent from the beginning of his presentation that he was filled with the wonder and awe of the workings of plants and he communicated it to us. Our general area has warm wet summers and cold dry winters. The growing season is considered to be from the last killing frost in spring to the first killing frost in fall. Our annual mean temperature is 45 deg. F and the annual mean rainfall is 32 inches. Dr. Reinartz's temperature data was from the 1980's, and it said our average low temperature is from -20 deg. F to -30 deg. F. We all agreed that it had been quite a few years since we had seen those temperatures. -29 deg F was Rockford's record low. Snow is an excellent insulator in winter. Herbaceous plants live at or below the ground during

winter. The plants and seeds dehydrate to live during cold weather. At or below ground level is much warmer than the air above, because of the snow insulation and even soil is quite a good insulator from the wind and cold of winter.

Dr. Reinartz's presentation was about woody plants. The question is how the living tissue of leaves, stems, and roots of plants make it through the winter? The leaves are the factories of the plant. The outside of the leaf is covered by the cuticle. Juicy bits are in the middle of the leaf, and they cannot survive ice crystals. Each plant cell is surrounded by a cell wall that consists of a layer of oil. This membrane holds the cell together so it can work. When an ice crystal destroys the membrane, the cell ceases to work.

Plants go through two stages to get ready for winter. They will enter stage one when the days become shorter and the temperatures are low, but not freezing. When they enter this, respiration increases within the leaf. Protein levels increase, enzyme activities increase, water levels drop, starch doubles, and the leaves drop. Leaf drop is called leaf senescence. The enzymes break down the protein. Leaves move their minerals back to the plants. Most of us think that leaves turn color in the fall when the chlorophyll is gone. This is correct with yellow leaves, but not with red leaves. Anthocyanins are red pigments. Their function to the leaf is actually that of a sunscreen. A maple tree can have red outer red leaves and inner yellow leaves, because the inner leaves don't get sun. More nutrients are in red leaves than green, and red leaves have a higher photosynthesis rate than yellow leaves. The leaves are programmed to fall off at a certain place. Leafscars seal off that area very well to combat the coming winter conditions. Stage two starts with the first killing frost. As freezing ice crystals form on the outside of the plant, the water is drawn out. By -10 deg F, 90% of the water is drawn out. -40 deg. F is the lower limit for many woody species. Even with tiny packets of water within the plant, the "antifreeze" that is naturally within the plant keeps it from freezing. There are some trees farther north that can survive lower temperatures, but they function differently to keep alive.

Dr. Reinartz reminded us that we owe life on earth to the miracle of photosynthesis. Within a leaf, carbon dioxide, water, and light work together to produce sugar and oxygen. We pondered if evergreens have photosynthesis in winter because they keep their leaves and remain green. They do not because of low temperatures. Do the evergreens have any food making advantages over deciduous trees? Yes they do, because they can

October Meeting Recap (cont'd)

photosynthesize when day temperatures are above freezing, even when night temperatures are below freezing, so their food making days are extended. Also, in the winter, if there is an extended warm period, they can photosynthesize. Can stems photosynthesize? Yes they can, because chlorophyll is present just below the bark.

Dr. Reinartz discussed the structure of a tree in winter. From the outside of a tree, first there is bark, next in the phloem which transports sugar from the leaf factories to the rest of the plant, next is the vascular cambium which manufactures the phloem to its outside, and the xylem the inside. The xylem is the plumbing, or pipes, of the plant, as it carries water and minerals up from the roots. The xylem is really dead cells when it is functioning, but the cambium and phloem are living structures. The pith is at the center of a tree. Each year the annual ring is made on the outside of the xylem. In the spring the tree really has to jump start to begin functioning, and the xylem, or plumbing system of the plant, has to get in high gear. The “pipes” of the xylem become larger in diameter in the spring to do the job, thus creating the ring. All woody plants have a way to repair their “plumbing” if water crystals form. There are check valves within the cell that seal off the water bubble. Once it is sealed, resins from the rays that you can see run through the xylem, will repair the cell damage.

Dr. Reinartz said late fall is probably the worst time to prune woody plants. If it hasn't frozen hard yet, the healing qualities of the tree can stimulate growth. Growth at that time of the year would certainly weaken the tree.

Dr. Reinartz's Email address is jimr@uwm.edu and his website is www.uwm.edu/Dept/fieldstation/ if you would like more information.



Dr. James Reinartz, Lynda and Lee Johnson

Photo by Ginny Watson



Ted Ross, Marlowe and Nancy Holstrum

Photo by Ginny Watson



Membership Update Marilyn Heneghan, Membership Chair

177 memberships on November 1, 2013

Welcome New Members

Jim McPherson
Oran Wilder

Special Thanks to Recent Rock River Valley Chapter Donators

(any amount above the \$37 basic dues)
Anne Meyer
Joe Hemlock

Note: It is preferred that renewal donations be sent directly to the Chapter's Membership Chair, Marilyn Heneghan, Wild Ones Rock River Valley 5411 E. State Street PMB340 Rockford, IL 61108 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.

54 attended the October program.

A big thank you to Janet Giesen, Janaan Lewis and Judy Letourneau for greeting members.

Please send email address changes
to Marilyn Heneghan at
Marilyn@wildonesrrvc.org

Dues payments can be sent either directly to the National Office or to the Chapter Membership Chair, Marilyn Heneghan, Wild Ones Rock River Valley, 5411 E. State Street PMB340, Rockford, IL 61108. 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.

2013 Chapter Programs and Events

November 21 7:00-9:00 pm	Pot Luck and Seed Exchange Members only: All members welcome with or without seeds. Bring a dish to share.	Burpee Museum of Natural History
December	No Meeting-Happy Holidays!	

2014 Chapter Programs and Events

January 16 7:00-9:00 pm	Why Natives?	Tim Lewis President National Wild Ones Board	Burpee Museum of Natural History
February 20 7:00-9:00 pm	Managing Weeds Without Using Chemicals	Mary Blackmore Naturalist, Educator, and Lover of Native Plants	TBA
March 20 7:00-9:00 pm	Planting Natives for Pollinators	Molly Fifield Murray UW Madison – Arboretum	TBA
Mar-April	Native Plant Sales Orders taken during this time		

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 **11/1/2013**, 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

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Ginnie@wildonesrrvc.org

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815-248-9263 Barb@wildonesrrvc.org

Merchandise/Website Coordinator:
Shey Lowman 815-757-4456
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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

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.