

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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Information



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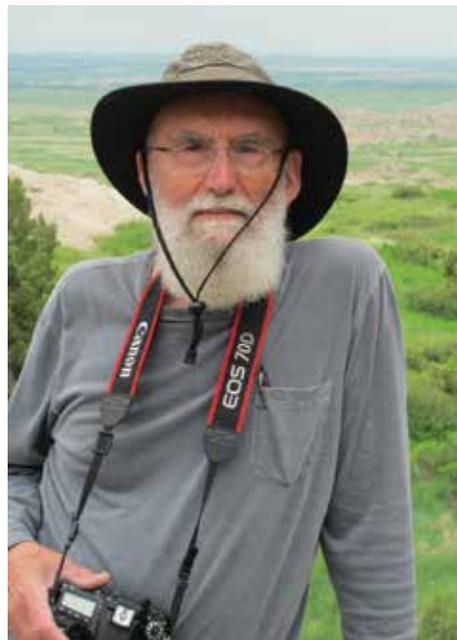


All articles for the September 2016 newsletter, must be submitted to: Constance@wildonesrrvc.org by August 23, 2016.

Winter Trees: How to Tell Your Ash from a Pole in the Ground
Thursday, August 18, 2016

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

Time: 700 p.m.



Jack Shouba is a former high school biology and chemistry teacher and winner of the Outstanding Biology Teacher Award for Illinois. Since taking early retirement, he has taught numerous classes at Morton Arboretum and worked part-time as a botanist, nature photographer, and science educator. Currently, he is working as Open Space Development Coordinator for the Campton Township Open Space Program in Kane county. He was a founder of the Save the Prairie Society, is a director of the Illinois Native Plant Society and treasurer of the Northeastern chapter of that group, and is active in the Morton Arboretum Photographic Society.

You know the old joke: "How do you tell a dogwood? By its bark." This presentation on local trees shows

how you can tell many trees by their bark, but also by their shape, color, branching pattern, habitat, leaves, flowers, and fruits. In winter, a close look at buds and twigs reveals fascinating details. Everyone loves trees, but do you know how to tell our state tree from the other common oaks? You can if you know the oak song. Be prepared: a sing-along just might break out at this month's program!

The program is free and open to the public.
For more information, call (815) 332-3343.



Message from the Co-President **Constance McCarthy**

"Whenever a theory appears to you as the only possible one, take this as a sign that you have neither understood the theory nor the problem which it was intended to solve."

- Karl Popper, Austrian-British philosopher



Constance McCarthy

photo by Tim Lewis

I have been thinking about a moment in the presentation by Michael Herrenbruck at our June meeting, when he mentioned that his designs for clients typically comprise 75% natives and 25% non-natives. I heard a slight ripple of dissatisfaction from somewhere in the audience, and I think that our presenter must have heard this, as well. He then added that he could just as

easily present a proposal with 100% native plants, but with a good chance that the client would respond by telling him to scrap the natives in the design all together.

This reminded me of efforts by a wide range of interests (nutritionists, environmentalists, animal rights advocates, etc.) to get people to eat a more plant-based and less meat-based diet. If those interests insisted to the wider public that everyone completely cease eating meat immediately, I doubt they would have much success in advancing their point of view. I am reading more and more in the press encouraging folks to do "meatless Mondays," with the unstated aspiration that they will find it not such an onerous thing. Indeed, they might so enjoy the tasty meatless meal each week that they expand to having two meatless meals a week. And so on, and so on. I'm guessing that, from the point of view of the nutritionists, environmentalists, etc., their ultimate hope might be that eventually folks like their meatless meals so much that they give up meat all together.

Even for the purists among us, for whom turf grass is anathema and the sight of a rhododendron drives them mad, we should think about how to increase our chances of convincing someone unfamiliar with natives, to begin the process of planting natives in their landscapes.

Taking an all-or-nothing approach could well result in a newcomer being turned off entirely. When we encourage folks to work natives into their existing plantings, hopefully they will begin to see the myriad benefits and gradually ramp up the numbers of natives in their gardens. Every little bit helps.

When I first became involved in the chapter and would mention this to gardening friends in the community, I sometimes would hear responses along the lines of, "Oh, you mean the plant police?" (still worse when combined with an eye-roll or other negative expression). This really pained me because I think our chapter is a pretty amazing group of people with a very important message, and here were avid gardeners who no longer wanted to hear anything more about natives - and especially not Wild Ones - because they had felt the negative sting of criticism related to their current landscapes.

Everyone is on their own landscaping and gardening journey. Let's remember to be patient and welcoming to folks who might not have reached the finish line yet - or maybe haven't even started the race. Let's not let the perfect be the enemy of the good. I'm more than happy to applaud folks embarking on the new path of learning about and planting natives, and to celebrate the steps they take in making landscape choices that are better for people, the environment, and the community. Three cheers for baby steps, giant steps, and everything in between!



Tree and Shrub Sale Around the Corner

**John Peterson,
Tree and Shrub Sale Coordinator**

The 2016 Wild Ones Tree & Shrub sale is just around the corner. We've been working with our nursery partner to get a list of the species that they plan to have available this fall. Our plan is to have the electronic version of the sale flyer distributed by early August and the printed version to follow. We'll be accepting orders through Friday, September 23, with the pick up on Friday and Saturday, September 30 and October 1. Complete details will be included in the sale flyer.



Winnebago County Master Naturalist Training

The University of Illinois Extension Master Naturalist Program is designed for adults of all ages who desire the opportunity to learn about and positively impact our local environment. Master Naturalist trainees complete a minimum of 40 hours of field and classroom learning during the fall training period and then agree to complete 60 hours of volunteer service within two years to become a Certified Master Naturalist. To maintain certification, Master Naturalists must complete 30 hours of volunteer service and take one 10-hour continuing education class yearly.

Master Naturalist Training will be held again this fall on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

beginning September 8 and ending November 17, 2016. The program fee is \$250, which covers the cost of the Master Naturalist manual (\$125) and general program costs such as facility rental, instructor fees, supplies, and more. It is possible to pay in installments, if necessary. Final payment should be made, however, by the first day of class.

If you are interested in registering, an application form is available at the website of the Winnebago County Extension office (<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/jsw>). For more information or if you have questions, contact Ms. Sam Burbach, Program Coordinator, at (815) 986.4357.



Membership Benefit: Grants and Scholarships

**Kim Lowman
Vollmer, Youth Education and Grants Coordinator**

Our chapter has mini-grants and scholarships available. Our goal is to encourage more non-profit organizations to plant with natives, and we want to provide our members with the opportunity to attend workshops or conferences related to native plants. Qualified grants could take the form of being allowed to purchase trees and shrubs from our chapter's fall sale, at cost. In the spring, qualified grants could take the form of the possibility to purchase plants at cost - so start planning now.

You can find more information about these opportunities on our chapter's website (<http://wildonesrrvc.org/>) under the Resources tab. If you have any questions or would like additional information, contact Kim Lowman Vollmer at kim@wildonesrrvc.org or (815) 397.6044.



Annual Yard Tour and Evening Social Recap Jerry Paulson

It was a hot and stormy night at the home of Bob and Carolyn Arevalo on Thursday, July 21 for the members-only potluck social and yard tour. Around 30 members enjoyed the beautiful setting and a delicious potluck dinner on the patio and yard surrounded by a 40-year old prairie planting that was in place when Bob and Carolyn bought the house.

As an early attempt at landscaping with native plants, there are many lessons to learn from the prairie planting. Bob does a good job controlling the invasive exotic species, but some of the weedy natives have taken over large parts of the prairie. Canada goldenrod, a plant that spreads by rhizomes forming large clumps, covers a large area. Stiff sunflower is another that forms large patches, crowding out all other species.

Even so, there are many native plants, but as an old planting, the diversity of species is low. Early prairie planting efforts put in the grasses and wildflowers at the same time, and the

grasses crowded out the forbs. Today, the forbs are typically planted first and grasses are used sparingly to give the wildflowers a better chance to get a foothold. In one area of the yard, Bob had to have some septic system work done, and the wildflowers came back with greater richness because of the lack of competition from the grasses. Bob may want to rehabilitate other parts of the prairie by disturbing the soil or controlling the clones of goldenrod and sunflower.

In addition to controlling the invasives, Bob burns the prairie and sprays herbicide on patches of reed canary grass. We had finished dinner and were just starting the yard tour when that big black cloud came over from the north and it started storming. Everyone ran for their cars and the night ended abruptly, but not without all the plants from the evening's Plant Share being taken.

A sincere thank you to Bob and Carolyn and the members of the Program Committee for another fun summer social.



2016 Chapter Programs and Events

August 18 7:00-9:00 pm	Winter Trees: How to Know Your Ash from a Pole in the Ground	Jack Shouba, instructor at Morton Arboretum	Rock Valley College P.E. Center PEC 0110 (lower level)
September	Native Tree & Shrub Sale Orders taken until September 24 www.wildonesrrvc.org/Plant_Sales.html	John Peterson, Coordinator treeshrub@wildonesrrvc.org	815-979-8539
September 15 7:00-9:00 pm	Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home video Tentative	Video produced by Catherine Zimmerman, Hometown Habitat	Rock Valley College P.E. Center PEC 0110 (lower level)
September 30 5:00-7:00 pm	Pick Up Tree and Shrub Orders See brochure for full details at www.wildonesrrvc.org/Plant_Sales.html	John Peterson, Coordinator	815-979-8539 4601 Paulson Rd Caledonia, IL 61011
October 1 9:00-11:00 am	Caledonia, IL 61011		
October 20 7:00-9:00 pm	Native Plants in the Home Landscape	Jamie Ellis, Botanist Illinois Natural History Survey	Rock Valley College P.E. Center PEC 0110 (lower level)
November 17 6:00-9:00 pm	Pot Luck, Seed Exchange & Annual Meeting-members only. All members welcome with or without seeds. Bring a dish to share.	Chapter Co-Presidents to present annual report	Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockford 4848 Turner Street Rockford, IL 61107
December	No Meeting-Happy Holidays!		

Unless noted, programs are free and open to the public. Programs are subject to change.
For more information please contact Lisa Johnson at (815) 881-1014

Membership Update Ginnie Watson, Interim 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!

222 memberships as of July 23, 2016

Special thanks to our members who made contributions above the basic \$37 dues!

Kirby Doyle, Rockford, IL
Nancy & Marlowe Holstrum, Belvidere, IL
Ellwyn Englof, Rockford, IL

Welcome our new members!

Elba Stirlen

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!

Approximately 30 attended the July Evening Social.

A big thank you to the volunteers who helped organize and run the Evening Social!

Host: Bob and Carolyn Arevalo

Volunteers: Lisa Johnson, Ed Kletecka, Jerry Paulson

Anniversaries

15 years:

John & Carol Gerrond

10 years

Jane Lenser
Lynn St. John

It is preferred that renewal memberships 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:

Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter
1643 N Alpine Rd Ste 104
PMB 233
Rockford, IL 61107-1464

Your expiration date is on your chapter newsletter and your national Journal address labels. 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.

Twenty-five percent of all dues paid (about \$9.25 per membership) 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 at membership@wildonesrrvc.org. Email or call (815) 627-0343 if you have any questions about membership.

Wild Ones Annual Memberships: Household \$37, Associate (student, senior, disabled) \$20, Affiliate Non-Profit Organization or Educator \$90, Business \$250.

Thank you for your continuing support!

House for Sale

Nestled into Searls Park with its dog park, ball fields, BMX track, shelter house, golf practice field, woods, stream, bike path, and prairie all within walking distance, 4180 Safford Road is a stone and brick home on a small lot planted with wild flowers, shrubs, and trees. The home has three bedrooms, 1 1/2 bathrooms, large kitchen/dining room, family room, hardwood and tile floors, wood burning fireplace, and backyard patio. I am hoping to sell to a Wild Ones member without going through a realtor so that the wild areas will be maintained. Come see the house at an open house on Sunday, August 28 from 1:00-3:30 p.m.

For more information on the house, contact Francie Barnes at francie.barnes@gmail.com.



NATIVE PLANTS. NATURAL LANDSCAPES

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 **8/1/2016**, 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:

Wild Ones Rock River Valley
1643 N. Alpine Rd., Suite 104
PMB 233
Rockford, IL 61107

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

Co-Presidents: **Ginnie Watson**
(815) 398.0138 ginnie@wildonesrrvc.org

Constance McCarthy (815) 282.0316
constance@wildonesrrvc.org

Vice President: **Jerry Paulson**
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cathy@wildonesrrvc.org

Treasurer: **Janet Giesen** (815) 899.6139
janet@wildonesrrvc.org

At-Large: **Doreen O'Brien** (815) 985.4064
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At-Large: **Kim Lowman Vollmer**
(815) 397.6044 kim@wildonesrrvc.org

Immediate Past President:
Lenae Weichel (815) 282.5482
lenaew@wildonesrrvc.org

Coordinators

Membership (interim): **Ginnie Watson** (as to the left)

Newsletter-Production: **Pambi Camacho**
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Newsletter-Editorial: **Constance McCarthy**
(as above)

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marty@wildonesrrvc.org

Prairie Plant Sale: **Rick Freiman**
(815) 871.7424 rick@wildonesrrvc.org

Tree & Shrub Sale: **John Peterson**
(815) 979.8539 john@wildonesrrvc.org

Plant Rescues & Seed Collection:
Mary Anne Mathwich (815) 721.5187
maryanne@wildonesrrvc.org

Programs: **Lisa Johnson** (815) 881.1014
lisa@wildonesrrvc.org

Show Me/Help Me: **Claudia Fleeman**
(815) 985.5158 claudia@wildonesrrvc.org

Youth Education & Grants:
Kim Lowman Vollmer (as above)

Booth, FREC rep., website: **Tim Lewis**
(815) 874.3468 tim@wildonesrrvc.org

Facebook: **Marilyn Heneghan**
(815) 389.7869 marilyn@wildonesrrvc.org

Library: **Ginnie Watson** (as above)

Mentors: **Melanie Costello** (815) 645.8430
melanie@wildonesrrvc.org

Merchandise: **Cynthia Chmell**
(815) 969.7435 chmell@wildonesrrvc.org

Publicity: **Doreen O'Brien** (as above)

Meeting Recaps: **Pat Hollingsworth**
(815) 627.9180 pat@wildonesrrvc.org