

**Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.**

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All articles for the September 2019 newsletter, must be submitted to: [Constance@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:Constance@wildonesrrvc.org) by August 23, 2019.

*Native Shrubs and Trees for Birds and Bees*  
*Thursday, August 15, 2019*

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

Time: 7:00 p.m.



Come to this month's program to learn about the rich diversity of woody plants native to the upper Midwest and the benefits of incorporating them into your home landscape to help attract and sustain a diversity of bird and pollinator species.

David Stevens is the curator of Longenecker Horticultural Gardens, the living collection of woody

ornamental plants at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum. The gardens, begun in 1935, contain the largest and most diverse collection of woody plants in Wisconsin with over 2,500 plant taxa.

David has a Bachelor's degree in horticulture from Virginia Tech and a Master's degree in horticulture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. With over 33 years' experience in the horticultural field, his work experiences include vegetable production, greenhouse management, botanical garden supervision, and plant breeding.

When not at the Arboretum, he helps run a 130-acre certified organic farm near Baraboo, Wisconsin with his wife Jane, producing specialty herbs, vegetables, grass-fed beef, pastured poultry, and maple syrup.

This program is free and open to the public.  
For more information, call (779) 537.8939.



## Message from the President Constance McCarthy



**Constance McCarthy**

*photo by Tim Lewis*

If you weren't able to attend the chapter's **annual potluck and tour of Severson Dells**, you missed a fine evening. Not only was there delicious food for our meal, but new friends were made among those who attended. I even found a new pen pal! On a more serious note, I'd like to thank the board members who came early to help set up for our meal inside

the Nature Center, and especially Ann Wasser and Andrea Wallace of Severson Dells for the gracious hospitality and knowledge shared. We are grateful to have them as a partner in our work!

An additional thank-you to Linda Ricker for organizing the most recent **Show Me/Help Me** event in July. Of course, the event couldn't have taken place without the willingness of the McClellands and the Kielsmeiers to host our members for a tour of their properties. Watch the September newsletter for a recap of that day's activities!

Finally, the last push of our chapter's fundraising for the year is right around the corner. Our

annual **tree and shrub sale** will be underway any day now. The brochure and order form will be distributed via Constant Contact (email), except for those folks who have specifically requested that a hard-copy be sent by mail. So watch your inbox and/or your mailbox! The brochure and order form will also be posted on the chapter's website ([www.wildonesrrvc.org](http://www.wildonesrrvc.org)), so feel free to direct folks there if they are interested in learning more about the sale.

If you know someone who would like to be added to the distribution list, please contact Sallie Krebs, our membership coordinator (contact info on the last page of this newsletter).

In addition to the share of your membership dues that we receive back from the national organization (and your generous donations to the chapter), our native plant sale (spring) and tree and shrub sale (late summer/early autumn) are what support the chapter's myriad activities, including bringing in top-notch speakers, paying for the use of our space at Rock Valley College, publishing the newsletter, and maintaining the website - to name but a few. We are grateful for your ongoing support of the chapter and hope that you will find some appealing things for your home or business landscape among the trees and shrubs offered for sale this year.

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## Severson Dells Conservation Crew Seeks Volunteers

Because invasive species pose one of the most significant threats to nature in our time, vegetation management is a crucial step in the conservation of our natural areas. And Severson Dells is looking for help. You can spend an invigorating morning (or several!) as a member of the Severson Dells Conservation Crew, working alongside fellow volunteers to remove invasive species from the woods. Weather permitting, they might make a cheerful fire of the brush that they cut. The crew works from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the second Saturday and fourth Monday of each month.

Please contact Andrea at [andrea@seversondells.org](mailto:andrea@seversondells.org) or (815) 335.2915 for more information.



## Recap: Wild Ones Potluck and Natural Area Tour

photos by Laura Sjoquist

A tasty assortment of appetizers, casseroles, salads, and desserts greeted Wild Ones members at Severson Dells Nature Center for our annual potluck dinner. It was a hot and steamy evening, but that didn't stop members from enjoying each other's company and, of course, food. Many discussions were overheard pertaining to what native flowers were blooming and what sorts of wildlife were attracted to the flora.

After dinner, 15 self-described "brave souls" joined Severson Dells naturalist Andrea Wallace Noble for a hike through some of the sites on the property. Our first stop was at The Grove, a unique playground that uses natural "equipment" such as a fallen tree where kids are encouraged to be creative and imaginative. Louv's book *Last Child in the Woods* came to mind as we imagined kids scampering around on the playground, exploring, giggling, getting dirty and scraped up a little bit. This playground also features a popular area where kids (and adults, we learned) can make music using drums, a xylophone, and PVC pipes. But alas, we had more to see.

Andrea took us through the prairie at Severson, showing us where a forestry mower had created smoother transitions between the forest and prairie to help create more rusty patch bumble bee habitat. We observed that parts of the prairie included vast swaths of reed canary grass, which is a never ending battle to eradicate. As the dells are at the headwaters, it is hoped that total eradication can happen in the future.

Along the hike through the prairie, which was created pre-1975, Andrea pointed out the four *Silphium* species, some just starting their summer blooms. We did see a number of bees, including the rusty patch, feeding on monarda, and managed to watch dragon flies zip around looking for an evening snack. Andrea pointed out some sedges and rushes, proclaiming that "sedges have edges, rushes are round, and grasses are hollow right down to the ground".

Some of the group finished the hike at the greenhouse, which is used to propagate plants for the entire Winnebago County Forest Preserve, and some continued on an "intimate walk through an old pasture" (Jerry Paulson) to see where the forestry mower had helped create more habitat.

It was a warm, sweat-inducing hike, but the mosquitoes were few and the company was good.



## Spice Up Your Yard with Some of the New Shrubs and Trees Available from Our Fall Plant Sale

Pick-up dates: Friday and Saturday, Sept. 27 & 28

**Please note:** Unlike the spring plant sale, trees and shrubs may be purchased *only* by advance order; there will not be a wide variety of trees and shrubs for you to browse and purchase on the pick-up days.

Spicebush is just one of several new native shrubs and trees being offered for sale by our chapter this fall to spice up your yard (no pun intended!) and attract more birds and other wildlife. Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) is shade tolerant and has a small yellow flower in early spring. The leaves have a very aromatic lemon fragrance and turn an unbelievable yellow color in the fall.

Other new species are:

Pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*), a small tree that loves the shade of other trees, with beautiful horizontal branching and white flowers in the spring. Red berries in the fall are a favorite bird food.

Smooth hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*), our only native hydrangea that grows in shade, with white flowers that bloom in early summer.

Shrubby St. Jones Wort (*Hypericum prolificum*) is a small shrub that likes full sun. Bright yellow flowers bloom in July and August.

Wild black currant (*Ribes americanum*) grows only 3 feet tall and does well in shade. The fruit is edible and ripens in July. The leaves turn a very nice red, orange, and deep purple in the fall.

Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*) is a favorite shrub for attracting birds, producing abundant fruit in the fall. The large shrub has beautiful white flowers in May, and fabulous maroon-red leaves in the fall. An excellent plant for shrub borders.

Yellow honeysuckle (*Lonicera prolifera*), a low-growing vine. This native honeysuckle features an abundance of red berries in early to mid-summer and green foliage with silver undersides throughout the season. A great ornamental for small spaces.

Yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*) is a small, fast growing, native tree that is an endangered species in Illinois. Its natural habitat is limited to boggy or moist rocky sites in northern Illinois. It needs special care to grow in our climate: moist soil, some shade, and protection from cold winter winds. The trees may need some watering during droughts, so plant close to your house and a hose. The trunk has interesting bark and the leaves turn a lovely yellow in the fall. If you want to try something new, yellow birch is worth planting.

The order forms will be published on the chapter's website and sent to you in a few weeks. **September 20 will be the last day to place orders.** All orders must be placed in advance.

Watch your inbox for the *brochure and order form*, which will be distributed via Constant Contact (like all other chapter emails). Hard copies will be sent only to folks who have specifically so requested. Prior sale customers who are non-members will also receive the brochure and order form via Constant Contact. If you are not a member or know a non-member who would like to be on the distribution list, contact Sallie Krebs, membership coordinator (contact info on the last page of this newsletter).

Planting native species is good for the environment; provides habitat for birds, bats, and beneficial insects; reduces temperatures; and creates natural beauty.

Pickup will be Friday, September 27, and Saturday, September 28 at the Paulson farm. For questions or more information, contact Brian Hale at [moyogi2@gmail.com](mailto:moyogi2@gmail.com).



## 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!!

### 215 memberships as of July 23, 2019

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

Kirby & Dan Doyle, Rockford  
 Cathy Johnson, Rockford  
 John & Cathy Schafman, Rockton  
 Diana Wiemer, Durand  
 Barbara & Daniel Williams, Rockford

#### Welcome to our new member(s)!

Dean Huisingh, Fulton  
 Jacqueline Rheaume, Rockford  
 Lauren Smith, 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!*

26 attended the July Potluck

A big thank you to the many who helped at the potluck!

#### Anniversaries:

##### 15 Years:

Linda & Terry Mohaupt, Rockford

##### 10 Years:

Mike & Deb Eickman, Rockton

##### 5 Years:

Deb Chostner, Rockford  
 Ron Dierks, Caledonia  
 Kara Gallup, Sunrise FL  
 Kay Hotchkiss, Rockford  
 Karen & Greg Ruffner, Caledonia  
 Diana Wiemer, Durand

It is preferred that membership renewals 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:

Sallie Krebs  
 Wild Ones Rock River Valley  
 7492 Renfro Rd., Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Your expiration date is on your chapter newsletter above your name on the label. 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.

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: [membership@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:membership@wildonesrrvc.org) 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!



## 2019 Chapter Programs and Events

<b>August 15</b> 7:00 p.m.	Native Shrubs & Trees for Birds & Bees	<b>David Stevens</b> Curator of Longenecker Horticultural Gardens, UW-Madison Arboretum	Rock Valley College Phys. Ed. Center
<b>Aug-Sept 20</b>	Native Tree & Shrub Sale Orders taken until September 20 <a href="http://www.wildonesrrvc.org/Plant_Sales.html">www.wildonesrrvc.org/Plant_Sales.html</a>	<b>Jerry Paulson &amp; Brian Hale</b> Coordinators <a href="mailto:treeshrub@wildonesrrvc.org">treeshrub@wildonesrrvc.org</a>	
<b>September 19</b> 7:00 p.m.	Midwest Spiders	<b>PJ Liesch</b> Manager: Insect Diagnostic Lab, UW-Madison	Rock Valley College Phys. Ed. Center

Unless noted, programs are free and open to the public. Programs are subject to change.  
 For more information, contact Lisa Johnson at (779) 537.8939



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 8/1/2019, 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

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

*President:* Constance McCarthy  
(815) 282.0316 [constance@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:constance@wildonesrrvc.org)

*Vice President:* Jerry Paulson  
(815) 222.4414 [jerry@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:jerry@wildonesrrvc.org)

*Secretary:* Cathy Johnson (815) 978.0865  
[cathy@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:cathy@wildonesrrvc.org)

*Treasurer:* Janet Giesen (815) 762.5912  
[janetgiesen@gmail.com](mailto:janetgiesen@gmail.com)

*At-Large:* Doreen O'Brien (815) 985.4064  
[doreen@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:doreen@wildonesrrvc.org)

*At-Large:* Kim Lowman Vollmer  
(815) 397.6044 [kim@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:kim@wildonesrrvc.org)

### Coordinators

*Membership:* Sallie Krebs (815) 627.0343  
[membership@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:membership@wildonesrrvc.org)

*Newsletter-Production:* Pambi Camacho  
(815) 332.7637 [pambi@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:pambi@wildonesrrvc.org)

*Newsletter-Editorial:* Constance McCarthy  
(as to the left)

*Volunteers:* Laura Sjoquist  
[sjoquist.laura@gmail.com](mailto:sjoquist.laura@gmail.com)

*External Plant Sales:* Jane Evans  
(815) 399.3787 Constance McCarthy (as to the left)

*Native Plant Sale:* Cynthia Chmell & Bobbie Lambiotte, (815) 969.7435 & (815) 398.6257

*Tree & Shrub Sale:* Brian Hale, (815) 289.2384, [moyogi2@gmail.com](mailto:moyogi2@gmail.com); Jerry Paulson (as to the left)

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

*Programs:* Lisa Johnson, (815) 965.3433,  
[LeJohnson3804@outlook.com](mailto:LeJohnson3804@outlook.com)

*Youth Education & Grants:*  
Kim Lowman Vollmer (as to the left)

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

*Facebook:* Sallie Krebs (as to the left)

*Library:* Ginnie Watson (815) 398.0138  
[library.rvc@gmail.com](mailto:library.rvc@gmail.com)

*Mentors:* [open position]

*Merchandise:* Cynthia Chmell  
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