

**Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.**

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

*A Legacy of Natural Lands: George B. Fell and the Natural Areas Movement*

*Thursday, January 17, 2019*

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

Time: 7:00 p.m.



Arthur M. Pearson, author and naturalist, will talk about George B. Fell, the founder of Rockford's Natural Land Institute and a leader in the natural areas preservation movement that spawned many groups like Wild Ones. George Fell was an unlikely hero. Shy, introverted, tenacious to a fault. But in his quiet, deliberate way, this Rockford native protected more natural land in Illinois than anyone before or since. Even more amazingly, he was the driving force behind the founding of The Nature Conservancy, the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, and the Natural Areas Association.

Arthur Pearson spent 15 years researching Fell and has chronicled his life and work in an award-winning biography, *Force of Nature: George Fell, Founder of the Natural Areas Movement*. Arthur will guide us through Fell's journey and his own efforts to capture the complexity of the man, as well as his many accomplishments to protect the natural lands we love - especially those in and around the Rockford area.

Arthur Pearson is the former director of the Chicago Program for the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, where he oversaw the Foundation's investments in land conservation. He has written about conservation issues for numerous publications, agencies, and nonprofit groups. He is a regular contributor to the Center for Humans and Nature's *City Creatures* blog and his own blog about his volunteer restoration efforts at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

Earlier this year, *Force of Nature* won an Outstanding Achievement Award for Scholarly Publications from the Illinois State Historical Society. Arthur will bring copies of the book to sell and sign. The books retail for \$26.95, but he will be selling them for an even \$20 - a special discount for those attending our Wild Ones meeting.

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

While I stay busy as president, the related stress level is kept at a very manageable level because of the dedication, organization, competence, and diligence of the board and coordinators. I don't have to hover over them, as everything runs like a well oiled machine. Even though Thanksgiving is behind us, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the very hard working board members,

coordinators, and committee members who are leaving their positions, as well as to welcome the folks who will be joining us in leadership roles.

- *Facebook.* After several years of service, Marilyn Heneghan is passing the baton on maintaining our Facebook page. Her efforts helped expose the chapter to a new audience who might not have otherwise heard of us. This role will be taken on by Sallie Krebs, another social media wizard.
- *Woodland plant sale.* Jane Evans worked tirelessly to procure native woodland plants from several nurseries, travelling far and wide to be sure that orders could be filled. She also spearheaded our involvement at the Klehm Garden Fair and Nicholas Conservatory, increasing our exposure in the community. The woodland sale will continue to be combined with the prairie plant sale in spring 2019, so Cynthia Chmell and Bobbie Lambiotte will be responsible for both woodland and prairie plants going forward.
- *Program committee.* Ellen Rathbone and Ed Cope will be rolling off the committee. Their contacts and knowledge of educational topics and presenters has greatly benefitted the chapter, and we thank them for their efforts. The committee is still looking for a few new members (see elsewhere in this newsletter). Continuing on the committee will be Jerry Paulson and Lisa Johnson (chair), whose hard work is also noted and appreciated.
- *Publicity.* Due to family and travel commitments, Fiona Fordyce has passed the task of coordinating publicity to Joyce and

John Mori. We thank Fiona for her hard work (which we know has borne fruit because nonmembers at our educational programs tell us that they have heard about our events through various newspapers and other media outlets). Welcome aboard, Moris!

- *Mentors.* Mary Christian is thanked for her coordination of the mentor program in 2018. This program allows newcomers to natural landscaping to benefit from the knowledge and support of more experienced members. We are still looking for someone to assume this role in 2019 (see elsewhere in this newsletter).
- *Volunteers.* Don Heneghan has done an amazing job of lining up volunteers for many chapter events and monthly educational programs throughout the year. He has also made sure that our volunteers know that they are much appreciated by the chapter. We thank him for doing such a great job; he will be missed. However, we are still looking for someone to fill this position in 2019 (see elsewhere in this newsletter).

There will be a new coordinator position in 2019: *external plant sale coordinator*. (It was difficult to come up with a clear and concise title for this role!) We have co-coordinators for our chapter's annual plant sale, through which plants are sold by advance orders and on the pick-up days at the Paulson farm. The tasks for those co-coordinators is plenty big! This new coordinator role will be responsible for organizing our chapter's selling plants at non-Wild Ones events such as BirdFest and the Klehm Garden Fair. In 2019, this new role will be filled by myself and by Jane Evans.

I am also grateful for the following returning coordinators, and thank them for all their hard work (some have been at their task for quite a few years already!):

- Membership: Sallie Krebs
- Newsletter Production: Pambi Camacho
- Native Plant Sale: Cynthia Chmell and Bobbie Lambiotte
- Plant Rescues and Seed Collection: Mary Anne Mathwich
- Youth, Education and Grants: Kim Lowman Vollmer
- Booth, FREC representative, and website coordinator: Tim Lewis
- Library: Ginnie Watson

## Message from the President (cont'd)

- Merchandise: Cynthia Chmell
- Tree and Shrub Sale: Brian Hale and Jerry Paulson
- Show me/help me: Linda Ricker

I will be continuing as *newsletter editorial coordinator* in 2019.

I would also like to thank *board members* who agreed to run for their positions again for 2019: vice president, Jerry Paulson; secretary: Cathy Johnson; and at-large board members Doreen O'Brien and Kim Lowman Vollmer. Very hearty thanks to Deb Rogers for her hard work as chapter treasurer. The chapter benefitted from her being so well organized and having an aptitude for dealing with numbers. We are still looking for someone to fill this role in 2019 (see elsewhere in this newsletter)

Finally, *thank you to all who volunteered at our chapter's events* in 2018: at the plant and tree sales; mailing the newsletter (Janaan Lewis), providing graphic design skills to make our sale brochures look so professional, staffing the booth at community events, writing recaps of our meetings for the newsletter, serving as mentors for newer members, taking photos and bringing refreshments to meetings, serving as greeters at meetings, hauling the sound system to meetings, helping with the library, and helping at the special events like the summer social and plant rescues. (Sorry if I've omitted anyone!)

Some things to watch for in 2019:

- The *prairie and woodland plant sales* will continue to be combined into a single event.
  - Don't forget the *mini-grant program* that allows folks to purchase plants at cost for

things like public restoration projects (e.g., Master Naturalist), school gardens, etc. For more information, contact Kim Lowman Vollmer (contact info on the last page of this newsletter). There is an application process, and the sale coordinators need to be sure that there are enough plants for both orders and mini-grants.

- *Plant shares* will likely continue to be curtailed due to the arrival of the Asian jumping worm in our area. We hosted a speaker on this topic in 2018. Sadly, we will be hearing about this destructive worm more and more going forward, as it has a devastating effect on native plant communities.
- *Merchandise* will no longer be brought to every meeting, although Cynthia will still be the keeper of the merchandise. The new procedure is that there will be a blurb in the newsletter every month, listing what merchandise is available. If you would like to purchase merchandise, you can contact Cynthia and we will be sure that the merchandise is brought to the next meeting for you (or other arrangements are made for a hand-off).
  - *Wild Ones merchandise*: We no longer receive a discount and also must now pay shipping. If you would like to purchase Wild Ones merchandise for yourself, this can be done through the national website or the national office. The chapter will not be ordering any new Wild Ones merchandise to sell.

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## Natural Landscaping Conference: Toward Harmony with Nature

What: Ecological Awareness - Restoring the Health of Our Lands  
 When: Saturday, January 19  
 Where: Oshkosh Convention Center  
 Host: Fox Valley Area chapter of Wild Ones  
 Keynote: The Value of Ecological Restoration  
 Register: [www.TowardHarmonyWithNature.org](http://www.TowardHarmonyWithNature.org)  
 Cost:\* \$35 (members) / \$40 (nonmembers) / \$15 (students)

\* Additional charge for buffet luncheon.

There will be three breakout sessions in addition to the keynote lecture.

## Recap November Potluck and Seed Exchange Constance McCarthy

First, many thanks to Bob Arevalo for arranging things at the location of this year's event at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Rockford, and for arriving early to get everything set up (and staying late to clean up). Another hearty thank-you goes to Sallie Krebs for pulling together a lovely slide show of photos from chapter events throughout the year. The slide show played on a continuous loop before and during the meal, and it really captured well the great things our chapter is doing for the community and the environment.

As always seems to be the case at our chapter's events, we had a delicious meal. The entrée was provided by the chapter, and folks brought a dish to share (appetizer, side dish, or dessert). Thanks to Mark Luthin for delivering the evening's entrée.

Before the seeds started flying at the very large table during the seed exchange, the chapter president gave a presentation on the chapter's notable events and accomplishments in 2018, including the following:

- We held a *board retreat* during January to discuss new ideas and make plans for the future
- There were nine excellent presentations at our *monthly educational meetings* at Rock Valley College by experts in their fields. At those meetings, we serve refreshments, merchandise is sold to support the chapter, and the library is made available for members. The booth is often set up and literature is offered to attendees.
- We had three very successful *plant sales*: Woodland, Prairie, and Tree and Shrub. This was the first year that the prairie and woodland sales were combined into one large sale. Plants were also sold at Nicholas Conservatory, BirdFest, and the Klehm Garden Fair. The proceeds from those sales are largely what allows the chapter to bring in top-notch speakers, pay for our meeting space, publish and distribute the newsletter, maintain our website, and add books to our library, among other things.



**Mary Anne Mathwich (second from right) helps members select seeds.**

- Our *display booth* made an appearance at several outside events this year which improves awareness and name recognition for our chapter among the general public. One new event this year was OctoBird Fest at Rock Valley Garden Center.
- Headed up by Ginnie Watson, our chapter participated in *Nature Fiesta* in May at Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve. This bilingual event is targeted at the Hispanic community. We offered activities for children and sold native plants.
- We had an *evening social* at the Holstrum's home, featuring a delicious potluck, followed by a tour of their restored prairie (loaded with native forbs, trees, and shrubs). It was a night of reconnecting with old members, meeting new folks, and perfect weather (not too hot, nice breeze, no rain).
- There was a *plant rescue* at the home of member Janet Giesen in Sycamore in October.
- We celebrated the year with our annual *potluck and seed exchange*!
- Six *board meetings* were attended by your dedicated and hardworking board members. Numerous coordinators also attended.
- Our *memberships* are holding steady at around 215 households, including 9 lifetime

## Recap November Potluck and Seed Exchange

Constance McCarthy

memberships.

- 11 terrific issues of our highly respected *chapter newsletter* were published. The newsletter is distributed by post and via Constant Contact. If you'd like to go green and receive only the electronic version (an exact replica of the hard copy, but in color!) contact Sallie Krebs, membership coordinator (contact info on the last page of this newsletter).
- The chapter also gets the word out about our monthly programs and other events by means of our own *website*, as well as *Facebook*.



**Members helping themselves to native seeds.**



**Members listen to Constance McCarthy give the state of the chapter report.**

*Photos by Tim Lewis*

## URGENT: Board, Coordinator, and Committee Positions Still Open

We are a volunteer organization and, as such, rely on chapter members to step up to lead various undertakings by the chapter. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the chapter, and we are especially grateful to those who take the extra step to join the board, become a coordinator, or join a committee. Would you please consider joining us for 2019? There are detailed instructions (a "roadmap") for each position, and no one will be thrown into the deep end and left to fend for himself/herself. We are a friendly bunch, your board and coordinators (as well as the program committee), and would love to have you join us!

The following positions remain open for 2019 and need to be filled as soon as possible:

- *Treasurer.* This board member keeps the chapter's financial records and uses the chapter's checking account to reimburse expenses and pay various bills. Board meetings are on the second Thursday of even-numbered months (February, April, June, August, October, and December), although of course an occasional absence is not a problem.
- *Mentors.* This person uses the results of our annual membership survey to match up volunteer mentors with the folks who are seeking a mentor. There are detailed instructions and already prepared newsletter articles for you to submit. After doing the initial matching up of folks in the spring, the only other task is a little follow-up at the end of the growing season.
- *Booth.* Tim Lewis would like a co-coordinator to join him in the task of making arrangements for our chapter's display booth to appear at several non-Wild Ones events during the year (e.g., BirdFest). He is obviously experienced in this role and would be happy to show his future co-coordinator the ropes.
- *Volunteers.* Like the mentor coordinator, this person uses the results of the annual membership survey to line up volunteers for various chapter events throughout the year (plant sale, booth events, monthly meetings). This is done by email and by making phone calls. You're not left to scour the membership roster for this task; folks indicate on the annual survey the events where they are interested in volunteering.
- *Program committee.* This group plans the topics and organizes the speakers for our monthly educational programs at Rock Valley College. This friendly group is looking for a few new members.

If you are interested in any of these positions or if you have any questions, please contact Constance McCarthy (contact info on the last page of this newsletter).

## A Blog of Note



Chapter members Joyce and John Mori are avid nature photographers and usually spend two or more days each week walking through prairies. They have created a blog that will follow prairies through an entire year, and will also include special topics.

The blog can be found at: [myprairiejournal.com](http://myprairiejournal.com)

Do you have any favorite prairie and/or native plant blogs or social media accounts that you like to follow? Forward the relevant information to Constance McCarthy (contact info on last page of this newsletter). I think we'd all benefit from learning about valuable resources from fellow chapter members, and I'll share them as space permits in future newsletters.

# 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!!

## 216 memberships as of November 23, 2018

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

Alice Fox & Ron Holm, Loves Park  
 Laura Sjoquist, Rockton

### Welcome to our new member!

Alice Fox & Ron Holm, Loves Park

*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!*

About 40 members attended the November potluck

*A big thank you to our November potluck volunteers!*

Lisa Johnson, Mark Luthin, Cathy Johnson

*AV/Sound Equipment:* Bob Arevalo

*Photographer:* Sallie Krebs, Tim Lewis

### Anniversaries: 20 Years:

Josh & Mollie Krecklow, Leaf River



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>January 17</b> 7:00 p.m.	George Fell & The History of the Natural Areas Preservation Movement	<b>Arthur M. Pearson</b> Author	Rock Valley College PE Ed Center
<b>February 21</b> 7:00 p.m.	Take a Closer Look: A Photographic Prairie Walk	<b>John Mori</b> Nature Photographer, Lecturer	Rock Valley College PE Ed Center
<b>March 21</b> 7:00 p.m.	Midwifing the River: the Rebirth of Nippersink Creek	<b>Ed Collins</b> Director of Land Preservation & Natural Resources, McHenry County Conservation District	Rock Valley College PE Ed Center
<b>April 18</b> 7:00 p.m.	Native Plant Gardens	<b>Susan Carpenter</b> Senior outreach specialist, UW-Madison Arboretum	Rock Valley College PE Ed Center
<b>May 16</b> 7:00 p.m.	Beneficial Insects in Your Garden	<b>Jennifer Lazewski</b> Master Gardener, expert in native bees and other pollinators.	Rock Valley College PE 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 1/1/2019, 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:* [open position]

*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:* [open position]

*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,  
[lisa.johnson@burpee.org](mailto:lisa.johnson@burpee.org)

*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.rsvc@gmail.com](mailto:library.rsvc@gmail.com)

*Mentors:* [open position]

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

*Publicity:* Joyce & John Mori,  
(815) 484.3657 [johnlmori@icloud.com](mailto:johnlmori@icloud.com)

*Show Me/Help Me:* Linda Ricker, (217)  
649.3966, [greencreations.lejoi@gmail.com](mailto:greencreations.lejoi@gmail.com)