

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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All articles for the October 2019 newsletter, must be submitted to: Constance@wildonesrrvc.org by September 23, 2019.

Common Spiders of the Midwest
Thursday, September 19, 2019

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

Time: 7:00 p.m.



Spiders are amazing creatures that receive little praise for the role they play in the ecosystem. Whether indoors or out, the overwhelming majority of spiders are harmless, beneficial predators that consume an astonishing mass of insects around the globe each year. In this presentation we'll take a closer look at our eight-legged neighbors, with an emphasis on common myths, spider biology, and the diversity of the Midwest's spider fauna.

P.J. Liesch is an Extension Entomologist and has been the director of the University of Wisconsin Insect Diagnostic Lab since March 2014. P.J. has been involved with insect-related research, outreach, and Extension since 2005. He is a regular speaker for the Master Gardener program, the Wisconsin First Detector Network, the Pesticide Applicator Training program, and UW Farm and Industry Short Course programs. P.J. is an avid insect collector and has an inordinate fondness for beetles. He can be found Tweeting about life as an entomologist at @WiBugGuy.

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

After the annual springtime frenzy of activity for the chapter, followed by the dog days of summer, the second component of our chapter's fundraising efforts is upon us: the **Tree and Shrub Sale**. This year's sale is offering a good selection of native trees and shrubs that will support birds, wildlife, insects, and pollinators right in your own yard or

business landscape.

The sale brochure is available for download on our chapter's website, www.wildonesrrvc.org. Chapter members should have received the brochure via Constant Contact email or hard copy (for those who receive a hard copy of the newsletter). Please share the brochure with those in your network. This is a great opportunity, as very few of the species offered for sale, can be found at area garden centers and nurseries. Please note also that unlike the spring native plant sale, there will not be a vast selection of inventory from which to purchase on the pick-up days. Sales are by advance order only, so hop to it! Some quantities are limited; tree and shrub orders are filled in the order in which they are received.

This is a great chance to help our local ecosystem and the chapter, all at the same time! Orders are due Friday, September 20; pick-up dates to fetch your purchases are Friday and Saturday, September 27 and 28 at the Paulson Farm. If you have any questions or seek other species from our supplier (Possibility Place), contact the sale coordinator, Brian Hale, at moyogi2@gmail.com or (815) 289.2384.

Open Positions. You will also note elsewhere in this newsletter that we have one elected board member position to fill for 2020, namely one of the two at-large board members. This person provides input and suggestions to the board, and helps with other tasks where needed; there is not a specific portfolio of tasks assigned to this person. Thus, it is not at all time consuming – other than attending (as best as one can) the six board meetings.

We also have two appointed (i.e., not elected) roles to fill for 2020: the booth coordinator and

the native plant sale coordinator. The *booth coordinator* oversees our chapter's participation in three or four events each spring, specifically the set-up of the chapter's display booth and related materials. The *native plant sale coordinator* oversees and organizes the chapter's annual plant sale. The sale itself takes place in May, but planning commences well before then.

Both the booth coordinator and plant sale coordinator positions can, in fact, be shared between two people – co-coordinators. Even if you are one interested person, please let me know; we can always find a co-coordinator to work with you (you need not find your own co-coordinator, although you are welcome to do so if you have someone in mind). Another favorable aspect to consider: the way to go about carrying out your task is very well documented; there is a roadmap of sorts – clear instructions on what needs to be done. And of course you will be well supported in the transition, by the board and by the person(s) who previously filled the position.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact me. And of course let me know if you would like to serve the chapter in one of these roles in 2020, or if you have a suggestion of a chapter member you think would be especially well suited to be an at-large board member, booth coordinator, or native plant sale coordinator. My contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

OAKtober. Yes, I realize it's only September. But due to the timing of the distribution of our newsletter, a good chunk of OAKtober will already be behind us by the time the October newsletter reaches you. OAKtober was started in 2015 by the Chicago Region Trees Initiative as a way to increase awareness about the value of oaks and the oak ecosystem, as well as the need to restore oaks across Illinois. Organizations statewide will be hosting events to celebrate the month of the oak in Illinois. NLI will be hosting an OAKtober hike, and there will likely be other local events, as well. For a list of events in Illinois, visit www.chicagorti.org. If you take pictures of OAKtober events (or even just oak trees) and post them to social media, use the hashtag #OAKtober.



Show Me Help Me Recap Linda Ricker, Show Me Help Me Coordinator

On July 13, 2019 Wild Ones Rock River Valley chapter members were treated to two beautiful sites southwest of Rockford.

The first location was the home of Lora McClelland and Michael Simmons at 4210 S. Meridian Rd., Rockford. They have a heavily wooded site with the southern edge of the property bounded by a creek, so their challenges ranged from honeysuckle-choked woods to stream bank erosion. They have several restored areas that are beginning to look like native woodland again and we saw many natives in bloom on our stroll through their woods. They have removed honeysuckle, replanted entire sunny glades, and restored some of the original plantings put in by Lora's parents. One very special spot is the memory garden at her parents' favorite spot on the property. Michael has put in benches at various strategic locations so you can "set a spell" and enjoy the natural world all around you. It is a beautiful location, and we want to thank them for letting us meander through the woods and along the stream.



The second location was the prairie restoration that Ken Kielsmeier has been working on, located at 5788 W. Leaf River Rd., Leaf River. This prairie restoration is located on the farm of Ken's friends Mark and Joyce Long. They have been at work restoring a previous cornfield to a native prairie, as well as adding shelter belts of native trees and shrubs to provide wildlife habitat near the prairie. The yellow and purple coneflowers, common milkweed, butterfly milkweed, and bee balm were just beginning to flower, to name a few of the species we saw. We toured the prairie on a wagon built especially for our tour that could easily accommodate 40 people, and gave us a view of the prairie similar to how the original prairies must have looked from horseback or out the back of a prairie schooner heading west to California.



At the end of our tour of the prairie and shelter belt area, our hosts treated us to root beer floats and watermelon! Ken says we are welcome to come out and see the prairie anytime, and for those of you who missed this Show Me - Help Me event, I would highly recommend it!

I have enjoyed being the Show Me - Help Me coordinator this year and want to say thank you again to all our hosts who graciously allowed us to visit their native plant restorations this year, and to all the people who were able to attend. I look forward to next year and more beautiful sites to see. If you know of a site or would like us to visit your site next year (whether you are an established area, or would like input and suggestions from chapter members), please let me know. My contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

August Meeting Recap Jerry Paulsen

Native Shrubs and Trees for the Birds and the Bees

David Garison Stevens is curator of Longenecker Horticultural Gardens at the University of Wisconsin – Madison Arboretum. The arboretum is a living collection of woody plants started in 1935. He has a BS and MS of Horticulture, with 35 years of experience. He and his wife also run a 130-acre certified organic farm near Baraboo, Wisconsin.

Stevens said that we should plant trees and shrubs that provide optimal habitat for a diverse array of birds, bees, and wildlife, as well as to have multiple seasons of usefulness. Select species for their color, shape, flowers, and fruit. Plant evergreens for year-round shelter and color. Leave dead leaves and twigs for decaying material for insects.

Pollinators require habitat for both feeding and nesting. Retain some dead branches and snag trees for perching and nesting. Leave some soil uncovered for insect nests, he said.

Attract pollinators by selecting flowers for color, nectar guides, odor, nectar, pollen, and shape. Some species, like paw paw, attract only flies, while magnolias are pollinated only by beetles.

Insects are important in the landscape because most birds rely on caterpillars to feed their young. Caterpillars are rich in fat and protein, and 96% of terrestrial birds eat caterpillars.

The National Wildlife Federation has a guide for what plants will attract insects for birds, by Zip code. It also tells you what flowers, grasses, trees, and shrubs are suitable for any particular region.

Another great resource is the Illinois Wild Flowers Trees Index, covering trees, shrubs, and woody vines of Illinois. It gives the faunal associates birds. (www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/Plants?Trees-and-Shrubs)

David highlighted some of his favorite native trees and shrubs that grow in the Arboretum:

Amelanchier ssp. – Serviceberry, juneberry. Full sun or partial shade, showy white flowers in spring, edible fruit in summer, leaves showy red-orange fall color, smooth gray bark. Early nectar source for many bees and wasps. 105 species of butterflies and moths use it. 30 species of birds are attracted to the fruit.

Betula nigra – River birch. Best of the native birches. Disease free and heat tolerant. Excellent

yellow fall leaf color. Not subject to bronze birch borer like paper birch, and is drought tolerant. Full sun to partial shade. 32 species of birds eat the seed or nest in the tree. 358 species of butterflies and moths use the tree as a host plant.

Celtis occidentalis – Hackberry. Good street tree used to replace ash trees. Full sun or part shade. Fleshy fruit in late summer—a favorite of 24 bird species that eat the fruit. Tolerates windy, dry sites; clay soils; flooding; air pollution; and salt. Seeds ripen Sept.–Oct. A weedy tree species that spreads easily. At least 24 species of birds use it, and especially like the leaf galls. 38 species of butterflies and moths use it as a host plant, including the hackberry emperor moth.

Cephalanthus occidentalis – Buttonbush. Hardy, open round habit; full sun to part shade, fragrant, round white flowers from June to August. Round reddish nutlet fruit persists through winter. Glossy green leaves; native to wet areas, but can tolerate drier sites. Makes a good rain garden shrub. Large range of pollinators are attracted to both the nectar and pollen. At least 13 species of birds eat the small seeds, and hummingbirds feed on the flower nectar.

Juniperus virginiana – Eastern red cedar. 40-50' tall. Plants are male or female; select female plants for attractive blue fruit. Tolerates a wide range of soils and growing conditions. It is the most drought tolerant native conifer. Can be used as a specimen or screen; deer resistant. Variable size, winter color, form. Flowers early spring, and fruit ripens Sept.–Nov. At least 25 species of birds eat the fruit. High quality bird shelter for nesting and roosting. Host plant for 26 species of butterflies and moths.

Prunus virginiana – Chokecherry is a small tree, 20-30' tall, and can sucker from the base. Full sun to partial shade. Very adaptable to different soil types. Very drought tolerant. 3-6" clusters of white fragrant flowers April-May, followed by fruit that attracts at least 38 species of birds and other wildlife. Golden yellow to orange fall leaf color. Pollen and nectar source for a wide array of pollinators, and host plant for 377 species of butterflies and moths.

Quercus bicolor – Swamp white oak. 50-60' tall. Likes full sun. Native to bottomlands, but is drought tolerant. Makes a good street tree. Leaves dark, shiny green above and silvery white beneath.

August Meeting Recap (cont'd)

Peeling bark on branches. Yellow to orange fall leaf color. Flowers mid-late spring; acorns ripen in fall. At least 28 species of birds eat the acorns. 389 species of butterflies and moths use oaks as a host plant - the largest number of butterflies and moths reported on any tree species.

Rhus copallina - Flameleaf/shining/winged sumac. 7-15' tall, colonizes by root sucker. Full sun or partial shade, very drought tolerant. Outstanding flame red fall leaf color. Best in informal, naturalized settings. Fruit on female plants is showy through winter. Flowers July - Aug. Nectar and pollen source for a wide number of bees, wasps, and flies. Fruit in clusters ripens in fall and may persist into winter. At least 31 species of birds eat nutlets and use this shrub to nest

Sambucus nigra ssp canadensis - Common elderberry. This is not long lived. 5-12' tall, with a spreading habit. Full sun to partial shade; adaptable to a variety of soils; and can be used in rain gardens. Showy, fragrant white flowers in July followed by clusters of edible dark blue fruit. Makes excellent jelly and pies. Juice has medicinal qualities. A pollen source for bees, flies, and butterflies (no nectar). At least 32 species of birds eat the fruit, and it is a host to 37 species of butterflies and moths.

Most of these native trees and shrubs will be available to purchase from our chapter's fall tree and shrub sale. Order forms are available on the chapter's website, www.wildonesrv.org.

DeGraaf, Richard (2002) *Trees, Shrubs and Vines for Attracting Birds*. University Press of New England.
 Holm, Heather (2014) *Pollinators of Native Plants: Attract, Observe and Identify Pollinators and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants*. Illinois Wild Flowers, www.illinoiswildflowers.info/trees/tree_index.htm
 Nowak, Mariette (2012) *Birdscaping in the Midwest: A Guide to Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds*.
 Xerces Society (2011) *Attracting Native Pollinators: The Xerces Society Guide to Protecting North America's Bees and Butterflies*.



Call for Nominations

Constance McCarthy, chapter president

Each year the chapter elects six board members: president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, plus two at-large board members. While the success of the chapter depends greatly on the dedication of the volunteers who serve on the board, the chapter is not governed by a group of selected insiders. All positions are open to any member who wishes to be on the ballot for the 2020 term.

We will have an opening for one of our at-large board member positions for 2020, and need someone to run for this position. There are six board meetings per year, on the second Thursday of even-numbered months. Meetings last around an hour and we are a pleasant bunch, if I may say so!

Although all other current board members have expressed that they would like to continue

serving the chapter in 2020, we encourage chapter members who are interested to run for any board position.

I will be accepting nominations for any of the above positions. Please consider nominating someone, or yourself, for a position on the board. Send nominations to me by email or phone (contact information on the back page of this newsletter). The period for nominations closes on October 15.



Grants Available Kim Lowman Vollmer, Youth Education and Grant Coordinator



The Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grants are awarded by the national Wild Ones organization to non-profit places of learning that create awareness of nature. The grants involve doing research, planning and hands-on work, with involvement of youth and volunteers. The location could be a school, nature center, house of worship, or other similar place. It is important that the project involve youth and have an educational value.

Grants applications are completed online at:
<https://wildones.org/wp-content/images/SFE-Grant-Application.pdf>
 and are due October 15. This site also gives you more detail and

suggestions. If you need any additional assistance or would like more information, contact Kim Lowman Vollmer at kimlowvol@aol.com or (815) 397.6044.

Events of Interest

By the Light of the Silvery Moon: Full Moon Hike

Friday, Sept. 13, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Take a stroll at Severson Dells with nothing to light your way except moonbeams - a beautiful experience, with no two walks the same. Sometimes you'll listen to the owls, sometimes you can share the mysteries of the dark, and sometimes you can gaze at the stars and wax philosophical. If getting out into the grasslands and woods at night is on your bucket list, then come for a magical evening. Free. Register by Sept. 11.

The Way of Coyote: Shared Journeys in the Urban Wilds

Tues., Sept. 17, 2019, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Join Severson Dells for an evening with author, Gavin van Horn, as he discusses *The Way of Coyote: Shared Journeys in the Urban Wilds and Wildness*. Gavin will reveal the stupendous diversity of species that can flourish in urban landscapes like Chicago and the surprising attractiveness of cities to animals. He will also explore how people can become attuned to the wild community of life and contribute to the well-being of the wild places in which we live, work, and play. Free, but donations are always appreciated.

Fall Colors Hike: Hononegah Forest Preserve

Tues., Sept. 24, 2019, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Come explore fall colors at Hononegah Forest Preserve. Take a look at the changing leaves, fall wildflowers, and anything else that hikers cross paths with. Meet at the shelter house next to the soccer field. Free, but donations are always appreciated.

Breakfast at the Dells

Thurs., Sept. 26, 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

The annual breakfast fundraiser will take place at the Pavilion at Orchard Ridge Farms in Rockton. The event is free and a wonderful way to learn more about the programs at Severson Dells Nature Center and to support their mission. If you are interested in attending, call (815) 335.2915 or email info@seversondells.org.

Nature Poetry & Prose

Fri., Sept. 27, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Nature at the Confluence, 306 Dickop St., South Beloit
 Presented jointly by NLI and Nature at the Confluence

Be inspired by nature-themed works while listening to more than 10 writers read their creative compositions that commemorate their experiences and observations of the natural world. Light snacks and beverages will be available. Free for NLI members. \$5 for non-members (includes a one-time six-month introductory membership to NLI). Registration requested by Thu., Sept. 26.

Forest Quest Scavenger Hunt

Sat., Sept. 28, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Grab a group of two to six friends and discover the weird, wild, and wonderful secrets of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County. The hunt will take you to several forest preserve locations throughout the county; some spots you'll be able to reach by car, others will require venturing down a trail. Some questions may require a little research to answer.

There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places for teams that earn the most points. For more information and to register, visit the Severson Dells website at www.seversondells.org.

Fall Prairie Harvest Day

Sat., Oct. 5, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Nygren Wetland Preserve, 3190 W. Rockton Rd., Rockton
 This NLI-sponsored event is a fun and easy community service opportunity that is great for all ages and groups. Help collect seeds from native wildflowers and grasses which will be used in future prairie plantings at NLI preserves. Start anytime and work as long as you like between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Snacks and water available. Registration requested by Fri., Oct. 4.

Ongoing: Join the Conservation Crew to help restore the land at Severson Dells.

Severson Dells is looking for help with invasive vegetation management. 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. Contact Andrea at andrea@seversondells.org or (815) 335.2915 for more information.

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). 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!!

212 memberships as of August 23, 2019

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

- Bob & Carolyn Arevalo, Rockford
- Shawn Choinard, Rockford
- Melanie Costello, Stillman Valley
- Marlowe & Nancy Holstrum, Belvidere
- Sue Hulten, Rockford

Welcome to our new member(s)!

- Bill Mills & Pat Rooney, Sycamore

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!

73 attended the August meeting, including at least 13 guests

A big thank you to our August meeting volunteers!

- Greeters:* Betsy Hoelting, Linda Ricker
- Refreshments:* Anita Johnson, Laura Sjoquist
- AV/Sound Equipment:* Bob Arevalo
- Meeting Recap:* Jerry Paulson
- Photographer:* Tim Lewis

Anniversaries:

20 Years:

- Jane & Jay Evans, Rockford

15 Years:

- Constance McCarthy, Machesney Park

5 Years:

- Alyson Broman Conn, Pecatonica
- Donna Gable, DeKalb
- Marjory & Gerald Rand, Cherry Valley
- Dennis & Sherry Scheider, Cherry Valley
- Barbara & Daniel Williams, Rockford

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 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

Aug-Sept 20	Native Tree & Shrub Sale Orders taken until September 20 www.wildonesrrvc.org/Plant_Sales.html	Jerry Paulson & Brian Hale Coordinators treeshrub@wildonesrrvc.org	
September 19 7:00 p.m.	Midwest Spiders	PJ Liesch Manager: Insect Diagnostic Lab, UW-Madison	Rock Valley College Phys. Ed. Center
October 17	Starting a Natural Yard	Zach Grycan, Director of Stewardship, Natural Land Institute	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 10/1/2019, 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

Vice President: Jerry Paulson
(815) 222.4414 jerry@wildonesrrvc.org

Secretary: Cathy Johnson (815) 978.0865
cathy@wildonesrrvc.org

Treasurer: Janet Giesen (815) 762.5912
janetgiesen@gmail.com

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

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

Coordinators

Membership: Sallie Krebs (815) 627.0343
membership@wildonesrrvc.org

Newsletter-Production: Pambi Camacho
(815) 332.7637 pambi@wildonesrrvc.org

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

Volunteers: Laura Sjoquist
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; Jerry Paulson (as to the left)

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

Programs: Lisa Johnson, (815) 965.3433,
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

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library.rvc@gmail.com

Mentors: [open position]

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Show Me/Help Me: Linda Ricker,
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