

Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.

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All articles for the May 2020 newsletter, must be submitted to:
Constance@wildonesrrvc.org
by April 23, 2020.

*Science, Stream Studies, and Stewardship:
A Summer at Severson Dells*

Thursday, April 16, 2020

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

Time: 7:00 p.m..

This is the place where you would normally be reading all about this month's program.

Unfortunately, we are cancelling our April educational program. While we have not received official word yet from Rock Valley College (at the time of sending this newsletter to the printer) regarding their ability to make our meeting space available, we cannot imagine a scenario where things will be completely back to normal by the time April 16 rolls around. The latest word (again, at the time of publication) is that the peak in Illinois is not even expected until mid-April; May events like the Kentucky Derby and Indy 500 have been postponed, and even June's Summerfest in Milwaukee has been pushed back to September.

With so much uncertainty, we can only do what is best for ourselves and our fellow citizens, as we all do our part to flatten the curve and protect the health of our members and the general public.

Constant Contact Distribution of Newsletter

As I began preparing this newsletter for publication, I had an initial sense of panic. What if our printer would be unable to print the hard copies of this newsletter that are mailed by post to over 95 members? How would we communicate to them about the cancellation of the April meeting? About this year's plant sale? Would we have to call all 95 people? Mail postcards printed on a home computer?

By a real stroke of good luck, it turns out that our printer will be able to print this month's newsletter. But who knows what next month holds?

If you are one of the folks who receives this newsletter in the mail, you are more than welcome to leave your name on that by-post distribution list. But if you are not yet signed up to receive the newsletter in digital form (via Constant Contact email), I cannot urge you strongly enough to please contact Sallie Krebs (membership coordinator; contact info on the back of this newsletter) and ask that your name be added to the Constant Contact

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Message from the President Constance McCarthy

“He is a wise person who does not grieve for those things which he has not, but rejoices for those which he has.” – Epictetus



Constance McCarthy

photo by Tim Lewis

In these exceptionally uncertain times, it would be easy to be overwhelmed with disappointment over things that are not happening, or are happening in drastically modified form. Of course we are not happy that – for the first time in chapter history – two monthly educational programs are cancelled in a row.

Already, we are receiving

enquiries from folks concerned about the chapter’s plant sale (see separate article on that subject in this newsletter). Everything seems up in the air.

But if I’ve learned anything in life, it’s to roll with the punches and accentuate the positive.

At our board meeting on the second Thursday of April, we will have to meet via Zoom, Go-To-Meeting, or some other online platform, as the stay-at-home order will most likely still be in place then. We’ve never had to meet this way as a board, but we will figure it out and make it work. One of the topics we will surely discuss is planning for the contingency of not being able to host an in-person monthly educational program. After all, who knows what May will bring? Or maybe things will settle down for a spell, only to flare up again,

leading to another stay-at-home order. Could we live-stream a presentation by the scheduled speaker via YouTube or some other platform? We need to have a Plan B in hand so that we can still work to achieve our mission: educating folks about native plants. If you have any suggestions or expertise in this area, please let me know.

Normally, the April meeting is when we really promote our chapter’s plant sale. We also had plans to distribute promotional postcards to businesses and organizations all over the northern Illinois area. Current circumstances make these things much more challenging (if not impossible, with regard to the latter). Instead, we will have to count on our members to help us get the word out to friends, family, and those in your social networks. The plant sale is our chapter’s main fundraiser for the whole year, and the money we raise is what allows us to bring in top-notch speakers, publish the newsletter, pay for our meeting space and refreshments, maintain our website, and many other things.

Again, please see the separate article in this newsletter regarding the plant sale and changes that we may have to make.

Gardeners are, by nature, a resilient bunch, and I see that among my fellow Wild Ones. The sun will come up tomorrow, this too shall pass, and shoulder on we shall!

Connect With Nature and Learn More About Local Wildlife and Wildflower Andrea Wallace Noble

[Editor’s note: Andrea Wallace Noble was to have been the presenter at our April educational meeting. In lieu of that cancelled presentation, she submitted the following article for our newsletter.]

Severson Dells Nature Center offers a multitude of opportunities to help you connect with nature. Whether you want to learn more about wildflowers, explore a creek with a grandkid, study vulnerable species, restore native habitats, or more, we have a great program for you! Given the uncertainty around COVID-19, you can find the most up-to-date information about event

cancellations and postponements on our website www.seversondells.org or by calling (815) 335-2915. Here are a few of the opportunities we have available for you to enjoy nature:

Citizen Science

Do you care about wildlife and want to do your part to ensure their survival? Well, you may be a future Citizen Scientist. Our Citizen Scientists are volunteers who monitor wildlife through one of our many projects. With just a little training, you could help us monitor bats with our high-tech bat detector, native bees through Beespotter, bluebird

Connect With Nature and Learn More About Local Wildlife and Wildflower (cont'd)



Andrea Noble is an Educator/Naturalist at Severson Dells Nature Center.

nestboxes, tree phenology through Budburst, calling frogs through the Frog Survey, threatened grassland birds, and more!

City Nature Challenge

City Nature Challenge is an international effort to document wildlife across the globe. This year, more than 250 cities are getting their communities out in nature to observe wildlife using an app and website called iNaturalist. Severson Dells is excited to coordinate a team for Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, Ogle, and Stephenson counties and hopes to host several events on the weekend of April 24-27, 2020. You can help us by participating on your own, coming to one of our events, or spreading the word. For more information, visit www.seversondells.com/city-nature-challenge.

Grandparents Camp

The best place to make memories is out in nature. Bring a grandkid (or two or three) to our Grandparent's Camp at Severson Dells. We will splash in the creek on July 1 and explore our prairies and forest on July 2. Each day will be packed with hands-on activities that will engage and inspire both you and your grandkid. You are welcome to sign up for one or both days of camp.

Restoration Workdays

Become a steward of the land by helping restore our natural habitat at Severson Dells Forest Preserve. We meet on the second Saturday and fourth Monday of each month from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. to remove invasive species, collect seed, and more. We provide snacks, water, tools, and PPE. All you have to do is show up!

Wildflower Walks

Severson Dells Nature Center and the Natural Land Institute have created a series of wildflower hikes at stunning natural areas across Northern Illinois. Each hike is led by a local expert and focuses on a particular group of plants, whether it be spring ephemerals, woolly milkweed, or coneflower. The hikes run for about an hour and take place from late April to the end of June.

This is just a sample of the range of activities happening at Severson Dells. Contact me at andrea@seversondells.org or pick up a print newsletter for details on all of our events.

Andrea Wallace Noble is a "Severson Kid," meaning that she grew up catching crayfish in Hall Creek and chasing butterflies through the prairie at Severson Dells Nature Center. Inspired by the Severson staff, she always knew she wanted to work at the intersection of science and people. Andrea graduated from Hillsdale College with a Bachelor's degree in biology and minors in chemistry and marketing management. She taught biology for first through ninth grade students at Montessori Private Academy before joining the staff at Severson Dells as a naturalist/educator. She shares many great adventures with her husband Brendan, horse named Luna, and crested gecko named Linnaeus.



Native Plant Sale Update

Constance McCarthy, native plant sale co-coordinator

My goodness, how things have changed since I wrote the plant sale update for the March newsletter!

First and foremost: *yes, the plant sale will take place this year!* The sale brochure will be distributed in early April, and advance orders will be due on Friday, May 1. If you are interested in choosing plants for a rain garden, butterfly garden, or pollinator garden, or to attract birds (including hummingbirds), guidance will be provided regarding which plants we are offering, will be the best for your desired purpose.

However, current circumstances will most likely cause us to have to make some changes in the way the sale has always taken place.

If there continues to be a stay-at-home order on the days on which the order pick-up and public sale are to take place (Thursday through Saturday, May 7-9), we will figure out a way to do curbside pick-up at the Paulson farm that will allow for everyone to maintain required social distancing. Modifications may have to be made to how we conduct the in-person sale. Perhaps a list of available plants will be made available very near to the pick-up dates, and folks can let us know which additional plants they would like to purchase; again, those plants could be packaged for curbside pick-up at the Paulson farm.

We will not know more precise details until the days of the pick-up and public sale draw closer.

The Constant Contact distribution list for the plant sale contains all members who have signed up with us to receive such emails, as well as past customers of the plant sale. Again, if you do not fall into one of those two groups and want to be sure to receive the most up-to-date information, *please contact Sallie Krebs* (membership coordinator; contact info on the back of this newsletter). Non-members can also contact Sallie to be added to the plant sale distribution list.

We had plans to sell plants at non-Wild Ones events, as this has been especially profitable for us in the past and allowed us to get the word out about Wild Ones. These events were to tentatively include: Nicholas Conservatory (early May), Sand Bluff Bird Observatory open house (Mother's Day weekend), Nature Fiesta (mid-May), and the Klehm Garden Fair (early June). We have not received word regarding whether any/all of these will still take place; I'm sure that even the organizers of these events don't know at the moment. So much depends on factors entirely outside any of our control. We will just have to roll with the punches; if the events happen, we will be there, and if not, we won't. Yet again, updates will be provided as soon as we have information to share.

Thanks in advance to everyone for your flexibility during these challenging times. With everyone's help, we will be able to get the word out far and wide about the sale, all for the benefit of our chapter.



Grandparents can learn about nature with grandkids this summer at Severson Dells Forest Preserve

Newsletter via Constant Contact (continued from page 1)

distribution list. This will allow us to communicate with you via email in the worst-case scenario where our printer is unable to print hard copies of the newsletter.

Even if you are not a frequent user of email, please consider signing up for the Constant Contact emails. You may have to make a note to yourself to watch for the arrival of the newsletter in your inbox, but that is better than risking missing out on critical information from the chapter.

I think that there are only fewer than 10 folks who do not have a computer and/or do not have email. It is much easier for us to have to call this handful of members, than to have to call all 95 people.

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!!

208 memberships as of March 21, 2020

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

Jerry Paulson, Caledonia

Welcome to our new member(s)!

Karen Brunner, Rockford
Leah Krippner, 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!

March Meeting was cancelled

Anniversaries:

10 Years:

Judy Letourneau, Rockford

5 Years:

Dick Baldwin, Rockford
Kris Borre & James Wilson, Sycamore
Marjorie Christen, Rockford
Paula Evans, Rockford
Amy & Dan Wolf, 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!



Event of Interest: *Healing The Planet One Plate at a Time* Earth Day Presentation by Joel Salatin. A free lecture by renowned farmer and author, Joel F. Salatin, will honor the fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day on Saturday, April 25th at 6:00 pm at Rock Valley College Physical Education Center, 3301 N. Mulford Road, Rockford 61114. For details about the Healing The Planet One Plate at a Time lecture event go to Rock Valley College Facebook page. For more information contact Joe Haverly at J.Haverly@rockvalleycollege.edu

2020 Chapter Programs and Events

- April - May 1** Native plant sale: Orders taken
- May 8-9** Native plant sale: Order pick-up and public sale Paulson Farm
- May 21** Local Reptiles **Aaron Minson**
Rock Valley College
Phys. Ed. Center
- Chapter's native plants* for sale
- May 2-3** Nicholas Conservatory, butterfly event
- May 9-10** Sand Bluff Bird Observatory, open house*
- May 16** Nature Fiesta, Severson Dells Nature Center*
- June 6-7** Klehm Arboretum, Garden Fair* **A selected variety of plants will be offered for sale.*

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 4/1/2020, 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: Ken Kielsmeier (815) 289.2812
jodikiels@gmail.com

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

Coordinators

Membership: Sallie Krebs (815) 627.0343
membershipworrvc@gmail.com

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(815) 332.7637 dkcamps@aol.com

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: Constance McCarthy & Jerry Paulson (as to the left)

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)

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

Booth: [open position]

Facebook: Sallie Krebs (as to the left)

Library: Ginnie Watson (815) 398.0138
library.rsvc@gmail.com

Mentors: [open position]

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

Publicity: Dawn Skupien (815) 262.7864
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Show Me/Help Me: Linda Ricker,
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