

**Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.**

Inside this Issue:

Message from the President	2
Mini Grants	2
Volunteers in Action	3
February Meeting Recap	4-5
Native Plant Sale	6
Membership	7
Chapter Calendar	7
Chapter Contact Information	8

[www.wildonesrrvc.org](http://www.wildonesrrvc.org)



[www.facebook.com/wildonesrockrivervalley](http://www.facebook.com/wildonesrockrivervalley)



Scan with your Smartphone for more information about Rock River Valley Wild Ones



All articles for the April 2020 newsletter, must be submitted to:  
[Constance@wildonesrrvc.org](mailto:Constance@wildonesrrvc.org)  
by March 23, 2020.

*The Sedges You Know, the Sedges You Don't*  
*Thursday, March 19, 2020*

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

Time: 7:00 p.m..



Dr. Andrew Hipp, senior scientist in plant systematics and herbarium director at the Morton Arboretum, will introduce us to the numerous native sedges of the Chicago region. He will cover their taxonomic and ecological context, including photos of the plants and the habitats they live in, in a “sedge nerdy but understandable way.”

Andrew Hipp conducts research on the origins and implications of plant biodiversity. His current work focuses on oaks, sedges, woody plant diversity, and interactions between diversity of plant lineages and biodiversity of plant communities. You can read about his research at <http://systematics.mortonarb.org/> and follow his natural history blog (which includes plenty of sedges) at <http://botanistsfieldnotes.com/>.

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*

It really feels like things are already ramping up for the chapter. Spring is our busiest time of year, and our activities heat up along with the weather.

Thanks to our booth volunteers who made possible our chapter's participation at Gardener's Pathway and Gardening for Food, Flowers, and Fun, two University of Illinois Extension events. Thanks also to Janet Giesen and

Laura Sjoquist for coordination of our participation and volunteers.

Planning for the chapter's plant sale is progressing, full steam ahead. Plants have been ordered and work on updating the sale brochure will have begun by the time you receive this newsletter. Please see the article in this newsletter for a complete update, including some new things with this year's sale.

Kudos to the program committee (Lisa Johnson, Mark Luthin, and Jerry Paulson)! If you were not at the February educational program at Rock Valley, you missed a really outstanding speaker. The recap

in this newsletter captures the contents of the program, but Dr. Temple's excellence as a presenter is more difficult to convey with mere words. His knowledge of Aldo Leopold and his life's work are as good as any I have encountered, and he was able to present clear and easily understandable examples of the impact that climate change is having on our region's plants, wildlife, birds, and insects. He encouraged everyone to come visit the Leopold Shack and the Leopold Center near Baraboo, Wisconsin, and to watch Green Fire, the first full-length, high-definition film about Leopold and his ideas.

This month's program promises to be another fascinating one. Yes, you heard me correctly! You might note that the subject will be sedges, and think to yourself, "an entire presentation about sedges?!" and wonder whether the program is one worth attending. Dr. Hipp presented a program on sedges to our chapter way back in the days when we were meeting at the Burpee Natural History Museum, and I can still remember today how riveting it was. He is incredibly knowledgeable about sedges and – just as important – is extremely passionate about them. I recall him as a friendly and engaging speaker who really knows his stuff. I hope to see you at the March meeting. You most certainly will not be disappointed!

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

Our chapter gives out Mini Grants each year. Your donations and money earned from our chapter's plant sales funds this program, and we thank you for your support. We like to encourage more non-profit organizations to plant with native plants. To that end, the chapter has developed what we call our "mini grant" program for those who are interested in starting or expanding an area of natural landscaping with natives. Grant applicants must be non-profit organizations, schools, scout troops, Master Naturalists (for Master Naturalist projects), Master Gardeners (for Master Gardener projects), etc. This grant program is not intended for private/home landscaping, but for projects that have an educational aspect. This could be a small butterfly garden, a little prairie area, or a section near a school or public building. Start thinking and planning now, as time flies and the plant sale is right around the corner!

You will find the application and information on our chapter's website. Under the Resources heading, go to Mini Grants. If you have any questions, contact Kim Lowman Vollmer (contact information on the back page of this newsletter).

### **Pizzo Is Hiring**

**If you or someone you know is looking for a career in the environmental restoration industry, this is the opportunity you've been waiting for. Pizzo & Associates, Ltd. is currently seeking full-time permanent and seasonal help at all of their locations (Leland, Lemont, and South Barrington).**

Full job descriptions are available at <https://pizzogroup.com/about/careers>. If you are interested in working for an exceptional ecological restoration contractor, contact Lucas Henkel at [lucash@pizzo.info](mailto:lucash@pizzo.info).

## Chapter Volunteers in Action

Janet Giesen

photo by Janet Giesen

Every spring the University of Illinois Extension offers several educational and informational gardening programs throughout the state. This year our chapter had its first booth event at one such event, *Gardeners Pathway*, which took place on Saturday, February 22 at Kishwaukee College in Malta. Like the gardening event itself, our booth has a wealth of educational and informational material from which visitors can learn and take with them to plan their use of native plants in the home landscape.

Chapter booth volunteers greet visitors, answer their questions, and make suggestions about the benefits, uses, and importance of native plants. It's a rewarding experience and great way to meet like-minded people. This year ten people signed up at our booth to receive more information on our upcoming plant sales - this potentially represents ten new yards with native plants!

Our *Gardeners Pathway* volunteers this year were Karen Matz, Olga and Dan Bechtol, Cathy Johnson, Meryl Greer Domina, Jane Reuber, and Janet Giesen, most of whom are seasoned volunteers. We always pair new and skilled individuals at our booths, which helps to make the experience less intimidating and more enjoyable. This is a great way to get more involved in our chapter!



If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for any of our upcoming events this year, contact our volunteer coordinator Laura Sjoquist at [sjoquist.laura@gmail.com](mailto:sjoquist.laura@gmail.com). The next opportunity to be a booth volunteer will be at *Gardening for Food, Flowers, and Fun* at Rockford College on Saturday, March 7.



## City Nature Challenge Update

I hope you are getting excited about the City Nature Challenge (first reported in our chapter's January newsletter)! In some ways, it's still a long way off, and in others it is just around the corner. Here are some updates from Andrea Wallace Noble, Naturalist/Educator at Severson Dells. She is heading up local involvement. For more information, contact her at (815) 335.2915.

The website for local involvement, is live. Visit <https://www.seversondells.com/city-nature-challenge> to access it. Please share this with your community.

There is a calendar of events that is also live. Andrea has input all City Nature Challenge events that are open to the public to this calendar. If you would like her to add something, please let her know.

We thank Severson Dells Nature Center for coordinating the Rock River Valley team and California Academy of the Sciences and the Natural History Museum Los Angeles County for organizing the City Nature Challenge.

Just to refresh your memory: City Nature Challenge is an international competition between cities to document species on iNaturalist. iNaturalist is a free, fun, and easy-to-use website and phone app interface. It is a great way to learn about and connect with local wildlife.

The Rock River Valley Area team includes anyone in Boone, DeKalb, Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago counties.

Observation Period: April 24-27, 2020

Identification Period: April 28-May 3, 2020



## February Meeting Recap Mark Luthin

*photo by Sallie Krebs*

**“A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community.**

**It is wrong when it tends otherwise”.**

**- Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac***



Those words concluded Dr. Stan Temple’s presentation “Aldo Leopold, Phenology and Climate Change”. Leopold would have come to the conclusion that human-caused climate change is wrong.

Aldo Leopold started keeping phenological records, noting the timing of seasonal events, when he was in grade school. A prolific journalist, he continued keeping detailed records until the day he died. “Keeping records enhances the pleasure of the search, and the chance of finding order and meaning in these events” (Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*). When Leopold joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1909, he began to discover that meaning of the relationships which nature exhibits. By the 1930s, he started thinking that wildlife “needed” managing and was appointed the nation’s first professor of wildlife management at UW Madison.

In 1935, he surprised (doubtfully, a pleasant one) his family by buying a farm north of Madison. The

only “dwelling” on this farm was a chicken coop, which ultimately became what we fondly now call the Leopold Shack. Leopold continued his phenological record keeping at The Shack from 1935 until his death in 1948.

Fortunately, he instilled the love of phenological record keeping in his daughter, Nina Leopold Bradley. She picked up where he left off in 1976 and continued until 1998. Nina noticed that as the average temperature increased 1.7 degrees from 1950-2006, some plants started blooming earlier in the year than when her father made his observations. For instance, the average bloom date for the compass plant was July 15 when Aldo kept records, but his daughter observed that the compass plant bloomed on average June 26. She also observed that cardinals (non-migratory) and robins (short migrations) started singing or appearing an average of two weeks earlier. However, birds that migrate longer distances didn’t arrive any sooner than during the 1930s and 1940s.

Some species seem to be less harmed by climate change than others. For instance, even though skunk cabbage blooms an average two weeks earlier these days, the eastern phoebe has adapted by continuing to feed on the insects it attracts at those earlier dates.

However, other species are less fortunate. The great crested flycatcher migrates long distances to its nesting area. Because of climate change, the flycatcher is at a competitive disadvantage to other cavity-nesters that arrive earlier. Ornithologists have seen a 30% decline in the flycatcher population.

According to Dr. Temple, phenological mismatches due to climate change can cause natural relationships between species to become “out of sync” with each other. For example, if some plants continue to have earlier flowering times, and if the pollinating insects haven’t yet emerged, there is a synchronization problem.

Today’s version of climate change, versus past cycles of climate change, is happening at

## February Meeting Recap (cont'd)



unprecedented rates, causing species to respond by adapting rapidly. Historically, adaptation (evolution), typically happens at a much slower rate.

Dr. Temple's talk was insightful, entertaining, and

informative, and helped me realize that record-keeping isn't just interesting - it's valuable.

For more information on Aldo Leopold and the Foundation that carries on his life's mission, visit [www.aldoleopold.org](http://www.aldoleopold.org).

 **Wild Ones**®  
NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES  
ROCK RIVER VALLEY

## Native Plant Sale Update

Constance McCarthy, native plant sale co-coordinator

Warming temperatures remind us that the chapter's native plant sale is not far off!

Jerry Paulson is co-coordinator with me this year, and Michelle George will be helping us out. Jane Evans will be coordinating the sale of plants at Nicholas Conservatory and the Klehm Garden Fair, while Ginnie Watson is heading up our involvement with Nature Fiesta (see below on all accounts).

The *sale brochure* (including plant list, prices, and order form) will be distributed and made available in early April, with orders being due on Friday, May 1. Members will receive the sale brochure in the same way that they already receive the chapter's monthly newsletter (either via Constant Contact email or as a hard copy sent by mail). If you know someone who would like to be on the distribution list, please contact Sallie Krebs (information on the back page of this newsletter). The brochure will be available for download from the chapter's website.

For best selection, place an advance order, and shop early on the pick-up days at the Paulson Farm.

The *public sale and pick-up days* (for those who placed advance orders) will be on Friday, May 8 (3 to 7 p.m.) and Saturday, May 9 (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) at the Paulson Farm. But, see below for something new this year, exclusively for members!

In addition to the above-noted pick-up days, *volunteers* will be needed during the day on Wednesday, May 6 (when advance orders will be organized). Please look at your calendar now and block out time some time to volunteer, if you are so inclined. This is our chapter's biggest and primary fundraiser every year, and an event of this magnitude would be impossible without the help of our much-appreciated volunteers. Contact

Laura Sjoquist, volunteer coordinator (information on the back page of this newsletter) if you would like to help out. If you indicated on your annual membership survey that you are interested in helping with the plant sale, she will also be reaching out to you.

The following are *non-Wild Ones events where we will be selling* a selection of our native plants:

- Nicholas Conservatory, butterfly event, Saturday and Sunday, May 2 & 3
- Sand Bluff Bird Observatory open house, Saturday and Sunday, May 9 & 10\*
- Nature Fiesta, Severson Dells Nature Center, Saturday, May 16\*
- Klehm Arboretum Garden Fair, Saturday and Sunday, June 6 & 7\*

Volunteers will be needed to help staff events marked with a star. As above, contact Laura Sjoquist if you are able to help by volunteering.

Some new things you'll see with this year's sale:

- There will be a *members-only* pick-up (for advance orders) and first crack at the plants available for sale, on Thursday, May 7, from 3 to 7 p.m. Some plants may be available only in very limited quantities, so this will be a great opportunity for our members.
- A good number of plants (mainly woodland varieties) will not be available for advance order, but will rather *be sold only on the pick-up and sale days*. The specific plant varieties and prices will be well publicized in advance.
- Country Road Greenhouses will be creating *plant identification tags* for all the plants we are offering, making things much easier for both customers and volunteers. We are grateful for their assistance with this!

### Events of Interest

#### Sinnissippi Audubon Society Annual Dinner.

Thu., March 12, 6:30 p.m. at Rockford Indoor City Market. Kurt Burnham of the High Arctic Institute will speak on Birds and 'Bergs: 28 Years of Avian Research in Greenland. More specifically, he will discuss peregrine falcons, gyrfalcons, sea ducks, passerines, seabird migrations, and the effects of climate change and pollution in north Greenland. For more information: email [sinnissippiaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:sinnissippiaudubon@gmail.com) or call (815) 543.3658.

#### Severson Dells

*Spring Break Camp*. March 16-20, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

*Summer camps*. Registration is now open for camps aimed at a variety of ages, including a camp for kids and grandparents, and canoeing camp for teens.

For more information, visit [www.seversondells.org](http://www.seversondells.org) or call (815) 335.2915.

## 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!!

### 209 memberships as of February 23, 2020

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

- Cynthia Chmell, Rockford
- Jane & Jay Evans, Rockford
- Perry & Debbie Gay, Rockford
- Don & Marilyn Heneghan, Roscoe
- Ed & Charlotte Kletecka, South Beloit
- Mira Lee & Howard Waitzkin, Loves Park
- Terry & Joanne Miller, Belvidere
- Pam Mott, Rockford

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

Terry & Joanne Miller, Belvidere

69 attended the February meeting, including at least 12 guests

A big thank you to our February meeting volunteers!

- Greeters:* Sancee Siebold & Linda Ricker
- Refreshments:* Anita Johnson & Betsy Hoelting
- AV/Sound Equipment:* Bob Arevalo
- Meeting Recap:* Mark Luthin
- Photographer:* Sallie Krebs
- Library Assistants:* Jackie Rheume & Cathy Johnson

#### Anniversaries:

##### 20 Years:

Jerry Paulson, Caledonia

##### 15 Years:

Mindy Thompson, Rockfordr

#### In Memoriam:

In memory of our former Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter members  
Marlowe Holstrum - Member 1996-2020

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!



## 2020 Chapter Programs and Events

<b>March 19</b>	Sedges: Not Just Some Kind of Grass	<b>Andrew Hipp</b>	Rock Valley College Phys. Ed. Center
<b>April - May 1</b>	Native plant sale: Orders taken		
<b>May 8-9</b>	Native plant sale: Order pick-up and public sale		Paulson Farm
	Chapter's native plants* for sale		
<b>May 2-3</b>	Nicholas Conservatory, butterfly event		
<b>May 9-10</b>	Sand Bluff Bird Observatory, open house*		
<b>May 16</b>	Nature Fiesta, Severson Dells Nature Center*		
<b>June 6-7</b>	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





## 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 3/1/2020, 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](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:* Ken Kielsmeier (815) 289.2812  
[jodikiels@gmail.com](mailto:jodikiels@gmail.com)

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

#### **Coordinators**

*Membership:* Sallie Krebs (815) 627.0343  
[membershipworrvc@gmail.com](mailto:membershipworrvc@gmail.com)

*Newsletter-Production:* Pambi Camacho  
(815) 332.7637 [dkcamps@aol.com](mailto:dkcamps@aol.com)

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

*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)

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

*Booth:* [open position]

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

*Publicity:* Dawn Skupien (815) 262.7864  
[dawnskupien@gmail.com](mailto:dawnskupien@gmail.com)

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