

**Promoting Native Plants for Natural Landscapes.**

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All articles for the June 2021 newsletter, must be submitted to: Jerry Paulson at paulsonjerry@aol.com by May 23, 2021

*The Rare Flora of Apple River Canyon*  
*Thursday, May 20, 2021*

**Time: 7:00 p.m.**  
**via Zoom Video Presentation**

Randy Nyboer, former District Natural Heritage Biologist for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Endangered Species Program Manager for the Illinois Natural History Survey, will lead a virtual tour of the rare flora of Apple River Canyon and the new Townsend Glade Land & Water Reserve for the program on May 20th. The video will be presented during a live Zoom meeting and will be posted on our website to watch after the 20th.



**Randy Nyboer**

The Natural Land Institute acquired the 149-acre Townsend Glade property in 2018 and designated it as an addition to the Apple River Canyon Land & Water Reserve in September 2020. The rare flora and unusual cliff communities of the Apple River Canyon in eastern Jo Daviess County have been recognized for more than 100 years. Its unique geology and high-quality natural communities support 13 species of rare and endangered plants, including the only known population of Bird's-eye primrose in Illinois. The Townsend Glade property has wet and dry dolomite cliffs that support the state-endangered white camass (*Zigadenus elegans*) and two state-threatened species, cliff goldenrod (*Solidago sciaphila*) and Sullivantia (*Sullivantia sullivantia*). Stands of native white pines and Canada yew grow on the bluffs along the canyon.

Randy Nyboer has a MS in Botany from Eastern Illinois University. He worked on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory in southwestern Illinois and then served as District Natural Heritage Biologist in northwestern Illinois from 1978-1990 and Regional Administrator for the Division of Natural Heritage from 1990-2002. He was an Environmental Consultant and Endangered Species Program Manager for the Illinois Natural History Survey from 2002-2007 and worked on the update of the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory from 2008-2013. Starting in 2014 he led the terrestrial ecology team to evaluate the natural quality of the natural communities in the 60,000 acres of the Forest Preserves of Cook County to guide management and restoration of the land. He lives with his wife in Morrison, Illinois.

*Information on how to connect to the Zoom presentation will be posted on the chapter website ([www.wildonesrrvc.org](http://www.wildonesrrvc.org)) and Facebook page, and distributed via Constant Contact to members prior to the program. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call (779) 537-8939.*

## Message from the President Jerry Paulson



**Jerry Paulson**

April 22nd was the 51st anniversary of Earth Day. I took part in celebrating the first Earth Day while I was a student at the University of Illinois. It was the very beginnings of the environmental movement, and I, like many of my generation, was passionate about the future of the earth, and the loss of species to pollution, deforestation and misuse of pesticides. What has changed since then?

Fifty years ago the American bald eagle was on the endangered species list. Sandhill cranes were greatly diminished in numbers, and the great whales were being hunted to extinction! DDT was banned and rivers were cleaned up bringing back fish and bald eagles. Wetlands were restored across the Midwest and sandhill cranes populations came back. Commercial whale hunting was banned, and the numbers of these magnificent beasts are slowly recovering. But habitat destruction has continued unabated, and climate change is bringing new challenges.

Today, my focus is on what I can do in my own backyard to save songbirds and beneficial insects, especially pollinators. What we plant and how we manage our own yards can make a big difference. Bees, moths and butterflies overwinter in dead plant stems and leaf litter. When we “tidy up” our yards in the Spring we are throwing out countless insects with the leaves and dried stalks. It’s better to let the leaves and stems alone until the gentle awakening of life emerges.

The other thing we need to do is plant native species and create natural habitat in our yards and gardens. Local ordinances limit what you can do in your own lawn, so it is important to have a planting plan, and to pick native plants that are appropriate for your site. Wild Ones has published a guide for *Creating Your Own Native Garden Design*. A copy of this guide will be available when you pick up your order at our native plant sale, and a PDF will be posted on our website at a later date.

It is clear that habitat loss causes decline in species and worsen the effects of climate change. We need to protect and restore habitat wherever we can, but we also need to create it in our own yards. Plant native species and enjoy the birds and beneficial insects that will come to live there. Thank you for being a Wild Ones member and helping to save the earth.

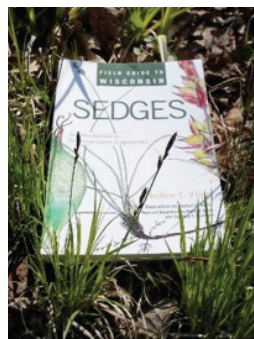
## Book Review of *Field Guide to Wisconsin Sedges* Ginnie Watson

Dr. Andrew Hipp, speaker for our April monthly meeting, is not only an excellent presenter on the topic of native sedges; he is also an author. Dr. Hipp has used his extensive knowledge of sedges to create *FIELD GUIDE TO WISCONSIN SEDGES*.

Sedges are some of the hardest plants to identify, especially in the field, but made easier with this book. The illustrations found within are prints of watercolor works painted by Rachel D. Davis, wife of the author, and are pretty enough for framing!

The back cover informs us:

- Distribution maps for all species



**Photo by Ginnie Watson**  
*Carex pensylvanica* ‘lawn’

- Species descriptions and detailed habitat information for more than 50 common species
- Color illustrations of whole plants or details for more than 70 species
- Appendix summarizing dominant *Carex* species by Wisconsin habitat
- A glossary of terms

This is a book about Wisconsin sedges but the distribution maps show which sedges are found in the Wisconsin counties bordering our own indicating probable local locations as well. Many of you may already have this book in your personal library having purchased Dr. Hipp’s book when he first gave his program on sedges to our chapter 12 years ago. This book may be found in our chapter library.

## *Recap of April Presentation* Lisa Johnson

On Thursday, April 15, Andrew Hipp, Senior Scientist in Plant Systematics and Herbarium Director at the Morton Arboretum, brought us an informative program on our native sedges via Zoom. Andrew started out with some background information on sedges in general, including basic classification and terminology. The sedges belong to the family Cyperaceae and are the 9th largest family in the world. Leaves come in threes and the leaf forms a sheath around the stem. The sheath is closed like the neck of a t-shirt where in grasses the sheath is open. There are about 5,500 species of sedges worldwide, about 160 can be found in the Chicago region. Typical sedges are in the genus *Carex*, which is characterized by a sac-like structure of the female flowers called the perigynium.

Andrew showed us some graphics of sedges and described their parts. Each plant has roots, most have rhizomes-creeping stems that run just under the ground and allow the plant to spread, leaves which wrap around the stem to form sheaths and then curve off to form leaf blades. The stem is often called a culm, at the end of the stem is the inflorescence which has leaves called bracts, lateral spikes and a terminal spike. The inflorescence

consists of the spikes which may be pistillate or staminate or both.

Andrew then took us on a walk through the *Carex*'s by the habitats they prefer. The details about how to identify common sedges found in Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin is posted on the WORRV chapter's website, at <http://wildonesrrvc.org/2021/May/Sedge-ID-by-Andrew-Hipp.pdf>

Why so many *Carex* species? The Global *Carex* group, which Andrew is a part of, worked on revising the classification of the *Carex* group. They sequenced about 40,000 plants and will be releasing the reclassification this year. *Carex* arose in East Asia and then migrated to the rest of the world unevenly. Most of the diversity of sedges arose in the last 5-10 million years.

Take-home message: we finally have an understanding of the phylogeny of sedges, with a new six-subgenus classification that gives more sense to the genus.

Andrew wrapped up with his wish that we take the time to enjoy the sedges and get to know them a bit, they are a highly diverse group that gives him a lot of joy. He then fielded questions from the audience.

## *Donations in Action* Therese Oldenburg

Nature at the Confluence is an urban environmental center located in South Beloit that was built on a former dumping area bordered by the Rock River, Turtle Creek and Kelly Creek. It was originally a marshy area, but over the last 80 years industrial foundry sand and slag was dumped here, raising the land 8-10 feet. Prior to 2017, it was not a place you would have wanted to visit; it was full of glass, discarded tires and homeless encampments.

Through the vision of an organization called Beloit 200, the center was built and opened in 2017 surrounded by five acres of prairie seeded by Tallgrass Restoration. We continually add new native prairie species and work to eradicate species such as Spotted Knapweed, Crown Vetch, Yellow Sweet Clover and Canadian Thistle.



We strive to create habitat for monarch butterflies and pollinators. In 2017 there were less than 10 Common Milkweed stems on the property and a 2020 survey indicated more than 300! Our Learning Gardens feature a pollinator garden that supports our public programming. We have an

indoor monarch exhibit during the summer, and we hand out free milkweed and pollinator-friendly seeds. People enjoy walking our prairie and woodland trails to see the wildlife that has reclaimed the land as their habitat.

It will never be the same fertile land that drew the Ho-Chunk here to create their gardens at their largest village called Ke-Chunk (Turtle). But, we're creating something new out of the land and we're bringing it back to life, one shovelful at a time.

## *What's Blooming?* Lenae Weichel

**Erythronium americanum**                      **Yellow Trout Lily**

**Erythronium albidum**                         **White Trout Lily**

**AKA: Dogtooth Violet, Adder's Tongue, Fawn Lily**

**Lily Family (Liliaceae)**

Less common: yellow lily, yellow bells, amberbell, yellow snowdrop, yellow bastard-lily, rattlesnake tooth violet, rattlesnake violet, yellow snakeleaf, lamb's tongue, deer's tongue, serpent's tongue, snakeroot, starstriker, scrofula root, thousand-leaf plant.

The pointed, oblong leaves of the White and Yellow Trout Lily generally emerge in late March, lengthening to five or six inches with smooth sides and mottled brown and green coloration. These leaves can carpet large areas of moist forest floor. Flowers (yellow or white, depending on variety) bloom on 6-10" stalks by late April and persist well into May. These look like the true lilies they are with nodding flowers involving six "tepals" and long red stamen and pistils. Tepals are so-called when the sepals and petals are identical. Trout lilies have three of each and close up at night or when particularly cloudy. The downward facing flowers protect the pollen from rain while also

keeping crawling insects from poaching the nectar that provides important energy (and pollen) sources for emerging bumblebees as well as soldier beetles and other flying insects. That said, in a given year, only a small fraction of the total population is in bloom and the seeds formed (dispersed by ants, ground beetles,

and crickets who carry away the seed to dine on its fatty elaiosomes) produce few new plants. Instead, clonal reproduction via buried corms creates dense colonies.

The many common names were derived mostly from observed characteristics and associations. "Dogtooth" comes from the shape and color of the corm, "Adder's Tongue" could relate to the two leaves or the stamen hanging from the flower looking like a forked serpent's tongue; some say the leaf coloration looks like snake skin while others liken it to a fawn or a speckled trout; it's association with moist woods near streams might also induce one to think of trout season. No matter the common name or origin, plants must become well-established before they'll flower and you won't find one flowering without at least two leaves.

Both varieties of trout lily are native to Winnebago County. The white trout lily is prevalent in all of the surrounding counties whereas the yellow is also native to Ogle, several counties in northeast Illinois, and the most of the bottom fourth of the state. Lovely carpets of trout lily can be found throughout our area with especially lovely ones at Severson Dells Forest Preserve (near the dell), on the wildflower trail at Anna Page Conservation Forest, down the hillside between the campground and playground at Hononegah Forest Preserve, and at Piskasaw Fen.

Photos by Lenae Weichel



## *2021 Plant Sale Update* Janet Giesen

By now our annual plant sale has come and gone and hopefully all the plants that were sold have found their way into their new gardens. Sometimes first year plantings will bloom, but typically, native plants follow the adage of most perennial plants in that "the first year they sleep, the second year they creep, and the third year they leap." And the leap

year is what it's all about! In the meantime, keep new transplants watered as needed and remove any weeds that could inhibit their growth. Once established, native plants need little care and will grace your gardens for years to come. Look for a final report on the sale in the June newsletter.

## 2021 Chapter Programs and Events

**May 6-8** Native Plant Sale Pick-up Dates

**May 20** Rare Spring Flora of Apple River Canyon | Randy Nyboer via virtual tour  
7:00 p.m.

**June 17** Dragonflies & Damselflies | Cindy Crosby via live Zoom program  
7:00 p.m.

Programs are subject to change. For more information, contact Lisa Johnson at (779) 537.8939

## Membership Updates 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!

### 196 memberships as of April 25, 2021

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

Glenna Anderson, Roscoe  
Cecelia Coles, Belvidere  
Ellwyn Engloff, Rockford  
Jane & Jay Evans, Rockford  
Phil & Carolyn Fulkerson, Rockford  
Kathleen Green, Rockford  
Wendy Mertes, Oregon  
Virginia Rous, Rockton  
Joanne Thompson, South Beloit

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

Glenna Anderson, Roscoe  
Dorie Blesoff, Unknown  
James Bloyd, Unknown  
Laura Dufford, Stockton  
Paige Fitton, Rockford  
Kathleen Green, Rockford  
Wendy Mertes, Oregon  
David Miller, Rockford  
Therese Oldenburg, Beloit WI  
Justad Saudi, Unknown  
Marybeth Slonneger, Iowa City IA

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

Sue Lacerra, Rockford

#### Anniversaries:

25 Years:

Elaine Hutchcroft, Rockford

15 Years:

Sue & Bob Jordan, Marengo

10 Years:

Joanne Blunt, Rockford

5 Years:

Betsy Hoelting, Rockford  
Michelle Lenderman, Rockford  
Peg Lockman, Roscoe

**It is preferred that renewal memberships 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  
Membership, Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter  
7492 Renfro Rd.  
Cherry Valley, IL 61016-9788

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: [membershipworrvc@gmail.com](mailto:membershipworrvc@gmail.com) 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.



NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

## ROCK RIVER VALLEY

ROCK RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

c/o Sallie Krebs  
1643 N. Alpine Rd., Suite 104  
PMB 233  
Rockford, IL 61107

### *Don't become extinct!*

If the expiration date on the mailing label is 05/1/2021, 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*

Due to COVID 19 restrictions on gatherings of more than 50 people we are not holding our regular meetings on the third Thursday of the month at Rock Valley College. Instead, we are meeting over ZOOM or posting videos on YouTube of the program. Links to the meetings and programs are posted on our website and our Facebook page, and sent to members via email the week of the meeting. If you want to receive the link send an email to: [janetgiesen@gmail.com](mailto:janetgiesen@gmail.com).

## *Rock River Valley Chapter Board and Coordinators*

### **BOARD**

*President:* Jerry Paulson  
(815) 222.4414 [paulsonjerry@aol.com](mailto:paulsonjerry@aol.com)  
*Vice president:* Constance McCarthy  
(815) 282.0316 [kublaikhan@mac.com](mailto:kublaikhan@mac.com)  
*Secretary:* Cathy Johnson (815) 978.0865  
[catjohn\\_22@yahoo.com](mailto:catjohn_22@yahoo.com)  
*Treasurer:* Janet Giesen (815) 762.5912  
[janetgiesen@gmail.com](mailto:janetgiesen@gmail.com)  
*Board member at-large:*  
Kim Lowman Vollmer (815) 397.6044  
[kimlowvol@aol.com](mailto:kimlowvol@aol.com)  
*Board member at-large:* Ken Kielsmeier  
(815) 289.2812 [jodikieles@gmail.com](mailto:jodikieles@gmail.com)

### **APPOINTED COORDINATORS**

*Booth coordinator:* [open position]

*Facebook coordinator:* Sallie Krebs (815) 540.4730 [membershipworrvc@gmail.com](mailto:membershipworrvc@gmail.com)

*Library coordinator:* Ginnie Watson  
(815) 398.0138 [vsWatson47@aol.com](mailto:vsWatson47@aol.com)

*Membership coordinator:* Sallie Krebs  
(as to the left)

*Mentor coordinator:* [open position]

*Merchandise coordinator:* Cynthia Chmell  
(815) 969.7435 [cynthiachmell@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiachmell@gmail.com)

*Native plant sale:* Jane Evans (815) 399-3787  
[jayevans9985@comcast.net](mailto:jayevans9985@comcast.net)

*Newsletter: editorial coordinator:* Jamie  
Johannsen (815) 494-6977 [jjohannsen50@gmail.com](mailto:jjohannsen50@gmail.com)

*Newsletter: production coordinator:* Jessie  
Crow Mermel (815) 955.0653 [serendipitree@gmail.com](mailto:serendipitree@gmail.com)

*Plant rescue/seeds coordinator:* Mary Anne  
Mathwich (815) 721.5187 [mprairiedock@aol.com](mailto:mprairiedock@aol.com)

*Program committee:* Lisa Johnson (chair)  
(779) 537.8939

[lejohanson3804@outlook.com](mailto:lejohanson3804@outlook.com)

Mark Luthin (815) 543.7412

[m.luthin@comcast.net](mailto:m.luthin@comcast.net)

Linda Rickter 217) 649.3966

[greencreations.lejoi@gmail.com](mailto:greencreations.lejoi@gmail.com)

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

*Show Me/Help Me coordinator:*

Linda Ricker (as to the left)

*Tree & shrub sale coordinators:* Brian Hale  
(815) 289.2384 [moyogi2@gmail.com](mailto:moyogi2@gmail.com) &  
Jerry Paulson (as to the left)

*Volunteer coordinator:* [open position]

*Website coordinator:* Janet Giesen (as to the left)

*Youth education & grants coordinator:* Kim  
Lowman Vollmer (as to the left)