

# ***SEEDLINGS, the Newsletter of Kalamazoo Area WILD ONES, Native Plants, Natural Landscapes***

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### ***After Long Winter, Richard Brewer Leads Wild Ones on April Field Trip to View Spring Wildflowers***

**Celebrate Spring with Wild Ones. On Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Richard Brewer** will once again lead us on a field trip to celebrate the return of warm days and wildflowers, the lovely, fragile spring ephemerals of the woods and the woodland openings. We'll travel to Richard's own property near Kalamazoo. Here are the details:

**BREWER'S WOODS:** 40 acres of rich beech-maple forest, grading into wet-mesic forest. Located in an outlier of the largest of the four patches of beech-maple forest in Kalamazoo County (southeast corner, which was also the last part of the county settled). We'll see the common and some uncommon herbs and shrubs of mesophytic forest. Most will be in bloom, some just beginning, and some just finishing up. Discussion will center on interactions in this complex ecosystem.

**CAR POOL** from the Pavilion Township Hall Parking Lot at the corner of 29th St. and East Q Ave. Park in the northwest corner of the lot. For most people coming from the Kalamazoo area, the most satisfactory route will be one that takes you to

East Kilgore (which is also East N Ave), then east to 29th St, then south on 29th to Q Ave. The Township Office is in the southeast corner of the intersection. We'll need to take no more than five cars to the field trip site.

**TIME:** We'll leave the parking lot at 10 AM, for a five-minute drive. We'll finish a little past noon. Bring a lunch if you wish to continue our conversation.

Emeritus Professor of Biology at WMU, Richard is co-author of the *Atlas of Breeding Birds of Michigan*, author of two widely used textbooks, *Principles of Ecology* and *The Science of Ecology*. His most recent book is *Conservancy: the Land Trust Movement in America*. He's one of the founders of the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy and has played an important role in the founding and life of the Kalamazoo Chapter of Wild Ones.

Please join one of the area's most knowledgeable and most popular field-trip leaders for a wonderful walk to enjoy spring wildflowers and learn more about the ecosystem that provides them.

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## ***Tom and Wild Ones Host 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Plant***

### ***Exchange:***

### ***Find New Native Plants, New Friends, Old Friends, Ideas***

The spring plant exchange that Nancy Small began in 1992 is now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year and has provided many hundreds of people with native plants and information about natural landscaping.

The exchange will offer numerous plants from Nancy's gardens, as well as plants brought by other Wild Ones members and supporters. In keeping with the principles Nancy always emphasized, it's not necessary to bring a plant in order to take one; and no plants will be for sale.

We do ask that attenders should bring only plants native to Michigan; and all plants should be potted up carefully and identified with labels. If in doubt as to whether your plant is a native, call or e-mail to inquire; or simply bring yourself, to enjoy and celebrate.

There will be refreshments, and the house will be open for rest and conversation, and for shelter in the event of rain. As always, we proceed, rain or shine.

The location is 2502 Waite Ave., one block west of Oakland Drive and one block south of Winchell. We'll block off some space near the driveway so that you can drive up to drop off or pick up plants; but you may have to park some distance from the house.

Several members of Wild Ones will be available throughout the afternoon to answer questions and to help people set out the plants they bring and to choose appropriate plants to take home.

Many of the plant lists and brief essays that Nancy wrote to help people develop native-plant gardens and restorations will be available. So will copies of the video, “GARDENING FOR LIFE,” a documentary film of the Wild Ones conference that Nancy organized at the Kalamazoo Nature Center in 2008, and that featured Professor Douglas Tallamy, author of BRINGING NATURE HOME.

The film will be the only item for sale at the exchange. The cost is \$10, with all proceeds to the Nancy Small Memorial Fund of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones, for environmental education and restoration. If you already have a copy of the DVD, you have a **defective** copy (we only recently discovered the defect). You may bring your copy for exchange, or—if you forget—simply get another copy free of charge **if** you promise to destroy the defective one you already have.

The purpose of the Plant Exchange is to foster natural landscaping with native plants. Here’s a plant-exchange etiquette guide.

**1. Respect and Share with Others**

- If you see a special plant, but there are only 5, please don’t take 2. Ask the person who brought it, or one of the expert-looking folks hanging about, what the chances are of getting more.

**2. Respect Plants:** give them the best possible chance of survival

- Plants might not get planted immediately. Please pot them up carefully so they can survive.

- Don’t bring junk, which at a minimum includes non-native invasives.

**3. From Each Person According to Ability; To Each According to Need**

- Just starting out? Don’t have plants to bring? Of course you may take plants. In fact, that’s one of the main purposes of the Plant Exchange. We all had to get started somehow, and when native plants start doing really well in your yard, bring some back.

Don’t have plants but want to bring something? Some refreshments would be welcome.

If you’re not already a member of Wild Ones, please consider supporting our work by joining.

**Please provide species labels for your plants.**

For questions about the exchange or about native species, please call Tom at (269) 381-4946, or e-mail [yard2prairie@gmail.com](mailto:yard2prairie@gmail.com).

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*Midsummer Field Trip Takes Wild Ones to Laura*

## ***Strehlow's Restored Woods and Meadows***

On Saturday, June 18, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wild Ones member Laura Strehlow will follow up her January program by leading us on a tour of the property where, for the past 20 years, she has worked to restore her 30 acres of woods, wetland, and meadow.

“Much of the restoration of my property has focused on the backyard,” she tells us. “I’ve created an understory and significantly decreased the lawn area. Other areas of the property were mowed perpetually, even though they were not part of the yard. I’ve let those areas go wild, and planted some natives to augment the invasives!

“I’m really happy with the small area of meadow restoration to the west of the house. It’s a joy to see in the summer and I admired the tall grasses this winter, too. We’ve created a mowed path (0.8 miles) through the woods and meadow. I’ve tried to re-introduce some spring ephemerals with variable luck. The woods are relatively young, with scattered older trees.

“There will probably be mosquitoes and maybe some gnats, although I think they are a bit earlier. The most important step towards restoration of this land has been the implementation of a conservation easement with the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy in 2009.”

Laura has a B.S. in Pharmacy and a B.A. in Botany from the University of Washington in Seattle, and a Master’s degree in Biological Sciences from Western Michigan University.

### **DIRECTIONS:**

**From Kalamazoo:** Take US 131 North to “D” Avenue; turn left (west). Continue through the four-way stops at Ravine Road and 6th street. Eventually you’ll cross into Van Buren County and over Pine Creek. Turn right at the sign to Timber Ridge at 23 ½ Street. Go north until the stop sign at 2nd Avenue. Turn left on 2nd Avenue. The address is 25768, and the house is on the north side of the road. If you see the SWMLC sign, you’ve gone past the house. It takes 20 to 30 minutes to drive from Kalamazoo.

Please turn left into the driveway of the house across the road and park facing the hedgerow. My neighbor Jim has generously allowed us to park there.

**From the West:** Take M-40 through Gobles to CR 390. Turn right on 390 until it ends at CR 657. Turn left on 657, wind around to the right and keep right when going around Clear Lake. The road becomes 2nd Avenue at Clear Lake. Continue

about 0.7 miles; you'll see the SWMLC Conservation Easement sign on the north. Please park as described above.

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***“Meet Our Members”: Our New Series Continues  
with an Introduction to Wild Ones Chris Bartley***

**by Dave Wendling**

I met with Chris at her home in Kalamazoo where she and her husband Lyn have lived for 11 years. We sat around her dining room table, overlooking a steep slope that is most of her property, an oak-hickory wood lot. Across the road is Pikes Pond. On the wall are pictures of her four children and six grandchildren.

Chris describes herself as a teacher and an organizer. I found her very energetic and enthusiastic about everything that she does. She's the landscape coordinator for the Friends of Woods Lake and has received the Star Award for Senior Volunteer.

After the interview she took me for a brisk tour of Woods Lake Park, showing me what has been done to restore the park and what still needs to be done. This will be a story for another day.

**Q.** Tell me about your background.

**A.** I grew up in Battle Creek, Michigan, on a hilly two-acre oak-hickory lot with a wooded swamp across the road. That was my playground. I went on to college at the University of Michigan and have been employed as an English teacher, and I later received a Master's Degree in Administration Social Work. Lyn and I moved several times before we arrived at our current property. Along the way I've been responsible for the care of 15 different yards. I took my children outdoors as much as possible, visiting lakes and woods.

**Q.** How did you become interested in nature and in particular native plants?

**A.** My love of the outdoors and nature came from my father. He was always most comfortable outside ranging away in the wild, exploring the plants, insects, birds, and other animals. My brothers and I would range with him as often as we could. I loved to play outside and pick berries on our oak-hickory hill. To this day I love sitting by my window watching the oak and hickory trees swaying and dancing in the breeze.

I've gardened with natives as long as I can remember. That's what we had to work with; we didn't have a lot of money to buy nursery plants.

**Q.** When did you become involved with Wild Ones?

**A.** I met Tom and Nancy and started going to the Plant Exchanges before the chapter was formed. I appreciated that people could get started with native plants without having to spend a lot of money. After the chapter was formed I started going to meetings and soon joined.

Wild Ones has given me a different set of eyes when I look at native plants. I now appreciate more how natives are such a critical part of the ecosystem and all the

services that they provide. I've learned how destructive invasive plants can be and methods of controlling them. Wild Ones has given me many more resources than I had before, and it's much easier to obtain plants. This has been invaluable to me in my yard and at Woods Lake Park.

Steve Keto was also a big influence, not only as a source of plants, but as a teacher. He taught me not to be afraid to experiment with native plants in ways that I would never have done before.

**Q.** Do you have a favorite native plant?

**A.** I actually have a favorite tree and a favorite forb. The White Oak is by far my favorite tree. Even as a child I could appreciate its stately beauty and strength. It's long lived and very generous in the amount of life that it supports. Tallamy has shown us how many Lepidoptera and other insects that it supports, but many other animals use its acorns for food. I think that it's the model of a beautiful tree. My favorite forb is Prairie Smoke (*Geum triflorum*). It has delicate pink flowers that after pollination form a beautiful seed head with a cluster of long red hairy filaments that sparkle in the sunlight. In the winter when there is no snow covering the ground at Woods Lake, I like to brush away the tree leaves and look at its fuzzy basal leaves. I'm trying to establish it at the park as a ground cover to help stabilize the banks of the lake.

**Q.** Can you tell us about your property?

**A.** Once again, I live on an oak-hickory hill, with White Oak, Black Oak, Hickory, and other native trees that now make up a healthier tree canopy since I've removed Norway Maples, Siberian Elms, and Buckthorn. Under this I have an increasing number of understory trees and shrubs including Flowering Dogwood, Hazelnut, Witch Hazel, and Maple-leaved Viburnum.

When you add in all the wild flowers, grasses, and sedges, I have over 100 species of native plants growing along a 400-foot path. I enjoy inviting friends and neighbors to walk the path with me to show them the beauty of our natives and to teach them what I've learned.

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## ***Other Events of Interest to Wild Ones***

### **April through May 22**

#### **EXHIBITION OF ETCHINGS AND DRAWINGS BY LADISLAV R. HANKA Grand Rapids Art Museum**

Our friend Lad Hanka has had a well-deserved success with his new etching, "Kalamazoo River Songline," a visionary portrayal of the Kalamazoo River watershed in a six-foot etching, which is now the centerpiece of a large exhibit of Lad's work in Grand Rapids. The work, which he entered in ArtPrize Grand Rapids, did not win one of the regular prizes, but he did very well nonetheless: the curators

at GRAM honored his vision with their purchase award for the Museum's permanent collection.

The "Songline" exhibit includes the impressive zinc plates and many studies preliminary to the final work, plus a generous overview of Lad's other work—about 50 pieces in all—studies of birds, trees, fish, fungi, and Michigan landscapes.

The "Songline" etching has also been purchased for the permanent collections of the Detroit Art Institute and Kalamazoo College.

Lad has a degree in Biology from K College, where he was the Biology student of Paul Olexia, Wild Ones past president and current secretary. He'll be a premier illustrator of Nancy Small's book on native plants, now being completed by her husband Tom.

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**Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AT KALAMAZOO NATURE CENTER**

Free admission and special events all day, including naturalist-led walks every hour, KNC and community information tables from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., exhibit of live birds of prey at 1 p.m., and an art exhibit, "Earth: Power and Fragility," by Signature Artists Co-operative, in the Glen Vista Gallery.

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**Tuesday, April 19, 4 p.m.**

**Fetzer Center, WMU**

Dr. Amanda Rosewald, "What Determines Avian Response to Urbanization?"

Dr. Rosewald is Associate Professor of Wildlife Ecology in the School of Environmental and Natural Sciences at Ohio State University. Her presentation is part of the Theodosia Hadley lecture series, which is part of WMU's Dept. of Biological Sciences Spring 2011 lecture series.

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***Newfangled Schedule for Community Projects***

Your Community Projects Committee, in another attempt to lure more help, is offering a more regular schedule than usual of work days, hoping that a more dependable pattern might help us all.

If, however, you're interested to help but this schedule doesn't work for you, please let us know what times and days might suit you better. We're flexible.

Without more help, we'll be unable to respond effectively to the numerous opportunities and requests for assistance with native-plant projects around the community.

Our first task will be to rescue the plants that we have in **CRANE PARK**, where the city's Parks and Recreation Department has decided they want a more "formal" look. We've scheduled the following workdays to try to recover as many plants as possible.

**Monday, April 25, 1:00 - 4:00**

**Thursday, April 28, 10:00 – noon (if needed)**

We'll dig up and identify to the best of our abilities "root stocks" and pot them up to be used elsewhere. There are several possible sites where we can relocate these plants.

The next special work session will be at **Tom's place**, 2502 Waite Ave., to help with clean-up and preparations for the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Plant Exchange on May 22.

**Monday, May 16, 10:30-1:00**

Then we begin an alternation of Monday mornings and Thursday evenings. We begin at our **Axtell Creek** wetland and streambank plantings, for clean-up and maintenance at the two main sites.

**Thursday, June 2, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Paris Cleaners site**

**Monday, June 13, 10:30 – 12:30. Law office site**

**Monday, July 11, 10.30 – 12:30. Maple St. School “rain garden”**

**Thursday, July 28, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Axtell Creek sedge meadow**

Another possibility: a plant rescue from the native plantings at the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy office, on Sprinkle Road.

**Saturday, June 25, 9:00 – noon. (Tentative)**

Other jobs aren't definitely scheduled yet:

Supervise native plantings at the new Peoples Food Co-op site on Harrison Street, possibly sometime in June.

Collect Gallarucella beetles and transfer them to Axtell Creek for control of purple loosestrife plants downstream from the law office, possibly in early June.

If you haven't worked with us at these sites and need more information and directions, please e-mail us with your questions: Paul Olexia, [polexia@kzoo.edu](mailto:polexia@kzoo.edu), and Tom Small, [yard2prairy@gmail.com](mailto:yard2prairy@gmail.com).

For those stalwart few who have been faithful helpers, once again we thank you, from the heart.

--**The Community Projects Committee**: Paul Olexia, Catherine Niessink, Harry Bird, Tom Small.

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***Bad News***



The Great Barrier Reef will be lost unless there is dramatic action to cut greenhouse gasses over the next 10 years, a climate change scientist warns. Professor Ove Hoegh Guldberg issued the warning ahead of an address to a major climate change conference starting in Cairns today.

The director of the Global Change Institute at the University of Queensland says coral bleaching events are becoming more frequent due to rising sea temperatures and levels. He says the Great Barrier Reef could be gone within four decades unless carbon emissions are cut.

“If we actually act today we can save the Great Barrier Reef and reefs around the world,” he said. But he said it would take a concerted, global effort, with climate modelling showing that sea temperatures and ocean acidification would soon rise to levels that could not sustain coral reefs.

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## ***Good News***

### **Say YES! to YES!**

*YES!* Magazine, the “Journal of Positive Futures,” has an intriguing theme for its Spring issue: “Can Animals Save Us?” There are several excellent and thought-provoking articles, especially one called “Our Animal Selves,” by Linda Hogan, the Chickasaw Indian poet, novelist, and essayist whose writing I’ve long admired. (In connection with her article, I recommend David Abram’s new book, *Becoming Animal: An Earthly Cosmology*.)

Of particular note for Wild Ones is a double-page spread featuring Jane Goodall’s revisiting of The Ten Trusts, as developed in hers and Marc Bekoff’s book *The Ten Trusts: What We Must Do to Care for the Animals We Love* (2003). The editors of *YES!* asked Goodall to list the ten trusts along with a recommended action for each one: “what we can do in our everyday lives to carry out those trusts.”

The first trust is “Rejoice that we are part of the Animal Kingdom.” And “WHAT TO DO,” according to Goodall, involves a departure from her emphasis on megafauna and primates: “Create an ecological garden, encouraging bugs, butterflies, and birds.” That’s **#1 on the list**. The rest of the 10 are all notable, several of them very much consistent with the agenda of Wild Ones, including #3, “Build bug palaces in your garden.”

So pick up a copy of the Spring issue of *YES!* And “Rejoice!” Then “Create!”

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## **World Bank to Favor Renewables Over Coal**

The World Bank is planning to cut funding for fossil-fuel power plants to all but the poorest countries, and will instead emphasise the benefits of renewables as part of a major new energy strategy.

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## ***SIGHTINGS AND INSIGHTS***

*“As naturalists, we can fill our notebooks with anything that the breadth of nature can dream up and give us. Anything true. Anything that we are present and attentive enough to witness.”*

—Lyanda Lynn Haupt, *Crow Planet*

### **From ILSE’S JOURNAL: May 10, 2010 – A Day to Remember!**

I had quite a day today. First a hummer made a pass by the feeder and even came back tonight. Good sign.

Then I went out back to look for Red Admiral caterpillars since the butterflies have been around in good numbers for more than a week. No caterpillars but I think my very first RA egg. Need to research it a bit more to make sure.

Then off to check bluebird boxes. One box bluebirds fledged, one with big babies and one with small ones and a box with small chickadees. I was so relieved that they all survived last Sat’s nasty weather and the last two nights of below freezing temps. And 4 tree swallow nests but no eggs. Glad to see they did not get fooled by the early spring and start laying eggs too soon.

My box monitoring was interrupted for a good half hour by a large, dark orange butterfly flying low over the field. My heart went pitter-patter! Could it be a female Monarch? Am I dreaming? Forgot to take the binos but I was able to follow her as she stopped off at numerous 1-3 inch tall milkweed plants which had gotten zapped by the frost. Nonetheless, she did lay some eggs on the rather sickly looking plants and I found 5 of them, now safe and warm in the house.

This was very fortuitous as I had a monarch talk scheduled for the evening and now had actual eggs to show. I’m still on a high and probably will be up half the night from all the excitement.

—Ilse Gebhard

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## ***REQUESTS AND QUERIES***

### **Do You Know WordPress?**

The Website Committee is looking for a backup person to help with administering the chapter's new website and posting information to keep it up to date. We don't anticipate much of a time commitment - mostly just before and after the site is launched and when the tweaking process is heaviest (April, May). If you're interested and might be willing, please email Dave Wendling ASAP, [davewndlng@aol.com](mailto:davewndlng@aol.com).

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### **Would You Like a Site Visit?**

Spring is here and it’s time to start thinking about site visits. If you are a member and need some advice on native gardening, need to know what is growing

in your yard, need to know how to control invasive plants, or need resources, we're here to help.

Whether you're a new member, established member, or have had a previous visit, we'll be happy to arrange a visit to your site. We don't ask for money, just your desire to learn about including native plants in your landscape.

My contact information is: Dave Wendling, 269-624-6946,  
[davewndlng@aol.com](mailto:davewndlng@aol.com)

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### ***MEMORABLE QUOTATION***

Not only has the United Nations declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests and the first year of the Decade for Biodiversity, it's the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax*. So, in observance of all that, let the Lorax speak for us:

"I repeat," cried the Lorax,  
"I speak for the trees."

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Entomologist and chemical ecologist Thomas Eisner, one of the great scientists of our time, author of *For Love of Insects*, died a few days ago (1929-March 25, 2011). Here's a selection of quotations:

Organisms are linked by their interdependencies. In principle therefore, if you are preserving land with one group of organisms in mind, you are also creating shelter for others. . . . I would say that one should simply try to save as much land as possible. . . . The future is in wilderness preservation. It's as simple as that.

Insects are the most versatile chemists on Earth.

Bugs are not going to inherit the earth. They own it now. So we might as well make peace with the landlord.

**SEEDLINGS** is edited by Tom Small and appears five times a year. The next regular issue, for July-August, 2011, will come early in July; **deadline for submission is Thursday, June 30**. Please send submissions, comments, and suggestions to Tom at [yard2prairy@gmail.com](mailto:yard2prairy@gmail.com).