

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

Supplement for February, 2013—Contents

- **Loss of Biodiversity Series Continues This Month with Phyllis Higman on “Impact of Invasive Plants”**
 - **Save the Date: David Karowe Will Speak March 27 on “How Climate Change Threatens Biodiversity”**
 - **Douglas Tallamy Returns to Michigan as Keynote Speaker for the 26th Annual Wildflower Association Conference March 3 and 4 in Lansing**
 - **New Climate Reports Present Alarming View of a Harsh Future**
 - **Wild Ones Campaign to Save Monarch Butterfly Continues to GROW!**
 - **Quotations for Contemplation**
-
-

Phyllis Higman Continues Wild Ones Series in February with Program on “Invasive Plants & Their Impacts on Biodiversity”

On Wednesday, February 27, at 7 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church, Phyllis Higman will continue the chapter’s series on the threats to Michigan’s and the world’s essential biodiversity with a talk on “Invasive Plants and Their Impacts.”

Phyllis Higman is a botanist and the Conservation Education Program Leader for Michigan Natural Features Inventory. She has 20 years of field-based experience studying Michigan’s native ecological communities and rare and declining species. She has studied invasive plants since 2005 and developed a long-term, statewide framework to assist the Michigan Department of Natural Resources—Wildlife Division with implementing a coordinated strategy to address them.

Phyllis is working to bring partners together across jurisdictional boundaries to build long-term capacity to meet the objectives of the framework. She has led the production of two Invasive Plant Field Guides. Most recently, she coordinated the development of standardized early detection mapping protocols that are integrated into the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) and is currently working with partners to build a statewide Early Detection and Rapid Response Program for Invasive Aquatic Plants.

Socializing begins at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 27; the program begins promptly at 7.

For more information on invasives, see <http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/invasive-species/invasives.cfm#publications>.

+++++

Dave Karowe Returns to Kalamazoo Wild Ones with March Program on Climate Change & Biodiversity

David Karowe, Professor of Biological Sciences at WMU, will be the speaker for our program on March 27, on “How Climate Change Threatens Biodiversity.” Dave has been studying and speaking on climate change for over 20 years. He’s spoken in the past to Kalamazoo Wild Ones, the Southwest Chapter of the Michigan Botanical Club, and the Wildflower Association; more recently he’s been the leadoff speaker for the semester-long WMU Honors College Lyceum series on Climate Change.

A dynamic speaker always changing, refining, and updating his graphic presentations, Dave is the area’s most knowledgeable speaker on climate change. Put March 27 and David Karowe on your calendar now, and stand by for more details about Dave’s latest presentation on climate change and biodiversity in the March issue of *Seedlings*.

Meanwhile, the WMU Lyceum series of lectures on climate change continues through April 17, with a free program every Wednesday at noon at the Lee Honors College (except for March 6). You’ve missed Dave Karowe’s two presentations, but there are many informative programs still to come. For a full schedule of the series, see <http://www.wmich.edu/news/2012/12/3798>.

You might also explore <http://homepages.wmich.edu/~karowe/Teaching%202010.html>.

+++++

Wildflower Association Conference March 3 and 4 Features Keynotes by Douglas Tallamy & Laurel Ross

The 26th annual conference of the Wildflower Association of Michigan, at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing March 3 and 4, will feature two programs by Douglas Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home* and always an inspiration to Wild Ones and native-plant activists.

Many of us heard Doug when he was here in Kalamazoo in 2008 or at the WAM conference in 2009; but he continues to refine and update his presentations and to inform and delight audiences throughout the nation. Only recently, we saw an enthusiastic article on Doug’s book and presentation in the international edition of the *Miami (Fla.) Herald*.

Additional keynote programs on the WAM conference theme of “Grow the Change you Wish to See in the World,” will be offered by Laurel Ross, Director of Urban Conservation for Chicago’s Field Museum, one of the foremost natural-history museums in the world. Laurel is also just retired as the chair of Chicago Wilderness, a coalition of over 250 environmental, civic, and cultural organizations dedicated to preserving natural areas and adapting to climate change in urban neighborhoods of the Chicago region.

For outstanding keynote speakers and other wonderful programs, plan to attend the 2013 Wildflower Association conference. For full details and registration, see

www.wildflowersmich.org.

+++++

New Climate Report Paints Alarming Picture of Future

A new report says the United States is already suffering the effects of the global climate crisis, which threatens future food supplies, increases the risk of flooding and

powerful hurricanes and, if left unchecked, could warm the country catastrophically -- by as much as 10 degrees by 2100.

The draft National Climate Assessment, released last month, says that by the end of the century, if current greenhouse gas emissions continue on their current path, "what now seems like an extreme heat wave will become commonplace."

"This report gives Americans a disturbing preview of a harsh future ruled by climate chaos," said Shaye Wolf, the climate science director for the Center for Biological Diversity. "Our country will suffer searing heat, surging seas, and terrifying storms unless we act immediately against greenhouse gas pollution. Fighting climate change should be the first thing on President Obama's mind in the morning and his last thought before bed."

The *UK Guardian* newspaper reports that Nicholas Stern, author of the highly regarded 2006 *Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change*, now believes, "I got it wrong on climate change—it's far, far worse."

According to Lord Stern, "Looking back, I underestimated the risks. The planet and the atmosphere seem to be absorbing less carbon than we expected, and emissions are rising pretty strongly."

The Stern review indicated that global temperatures would likely rise between two and three degrees Celsius above the long-term average. He now believes we are "on track for something like four [roughly 7°F.] . . . This is potentially so dangerous that we have to act strongly."

+++++

Another Update on Monarch Survival

Wild Ones Monarch Project Is Spreading & Growing!

By Ilse Gebhard

The Kalamazoo Area Chapter's project to help the survival of the monarch butterfly by planting milkweeds is making very good progress.

- Butterfly, Swamp and Common Milkweed seeds are at various stages of stratification or have already germinated and are at the seedling stage. Let's give a big cheer: Grow Milkweeds, Grow!
- Fund raising for the milkweed "give-away" is coming along but more donations are welcome. The more money we have, the more milkweeds Hidden Savanna can grow for us to give away to customers buying native plants. We plan to have a waystation exhibit with handouts on sale dates.
- We are in the process of registering 20 waystations belonging to non-profit organizations where the monarch habitat was either started from scratch or greatly improved by invasive species removal. All but one are "colossal" in size by the registration definition, meaning more than 5000 square feet. While there is a great need for waystations of any size, these large, contiguous habitats are especially valuable.

The habitats registered are:

- 14 Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy preserves
- 1 Western Michigan University preserve (Kleinstuck)
- 1 Wild Ones Community Project (Axtell Creek Wet Meadow)
- 1 Kalamazoo College native plant garden on campus
- 3 Kalamazoo Nature Center prairies (Harris, Emma Pitcher, Willard Rose)

Several potential waystations have been identified and are at various planning or planting stages and will be registered as soon as they qualify.

Thank you all for your donations, which I will report on in a future issue of *Seedlings*.

+++++

Quotations for Contemplation

Our wild acceleration of life’s central process makes the study of evolution extremely timely. We are changing the environments of life faster and faster, and we are changing their genetic machinery faster and faster . . . We have barely begun to glimpse the degree to which we are all involved in the action and reaction of evolution right now. In this sense the revolution that Darwin began in 1859 is not yet completed . . . Many lines of life on Earth, including our own, are now living through days as charged with change as the days when the last dinosaurs died, or the first finches alighted in the Galápagos . . . The action in the present is a manifold and all-embracing evolutionary event, and [Darwin’s] finches in their last precarious solitudes, their islands’ islands, are in the peculiar position to illuminate what it means for us.

--Jonathan Weiner, *The Beak of the Finch: A Story of Evolution in Our Time* (1995)

[EDITOR’S NOTE: Ruth and I returned a few weeks ago from a ten-day tour of the Galápagos Islands. It was as powerful and as informative an experience as either of us has ever had. I’m already working on my first article, for an international Quaker journal. We’ll be writing and speaking about our experience on many occasions in the future; we’ll try to keep you informed of what’s coming up.]

We need to teach our children, our students, and our corporate and political leaders, the fundamental facts of life—that one species’ waste is another species’ food; that matter cycles continually through the web of life; that the energy driving the ecological cycles flows from the sun; that diversity assures resilience; that life, from its beginning more than three billion years ago, did not take over the planet by combat but by networking.

--Fritjof Capra, “Systems Thinking and the State of the World,” in *Grow Small, Think Beautiful: Ideas for a Sustainable World from Schumacher College*, ed. Stephan Harding (2011)

+++++

SEEDLINGS is edited by Tom Small and appears five times a year, with a few additional brief supplements. The next regular issue, **for March-April, 2013**, will come early in March. **Deadline for submission is Thursday, Feb. 27, 2013.** Please send submissions, comments, and suggestions to Tom at yard2prairy@gmail.com.