

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

What more substantial service to conservation
than to practice it on one's own land?

--Aldo Leopold

March-April, 2013—Contents

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Understanding Threats to Biodiversity

***On March 27, Professor Dave Karowe Will Present
Overview and Latest Data on How Climate Change
Will Affect Biodiversity, Locally and Globally***

CLIMATE IS CHANGING MORE RAPIDLY THAN AT ANY TIME in at least the last 800,000 years. By the end of this century, our planet is likely to be warmer than at any time in the last 55 million years. Both the magnitude and rate of climate change are likely to present formidable challenges for many species.

ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, AT 7 P.M., Dave Karowe, Professor of Biological Sciences at WMU, will speak to Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones on “How Climate Change Threatens Biodiversity.” He’ll summarize predicted effects on plants and animals, highlight groups of species that are likely to be particularly vulnerable, and offer solutions that, if implemented soon, would reduce the harmful effects of climate change on Earth’s biodiversity.

The program will be at First United Methodist Church, 212 So. Park St., in downtown Kalamazoo, Wednesday, March 27. Socializing and refreshments begin at 6:30; program begins promptly at 7 p.m.

Dave Karowe has been studying and speaking on climate change for over 20 years. He’s spoken in the past to Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones, the Southwest Chapter of the

Michigan Botanical Club, the Wildflower Association of Michigan, and many local schools, colleges, and organizations; 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.

A Professor of Biological Sciences at Western Michigan University, David Karowe received his B.S. in Biology from Harvard University and his Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Michigan. He teaches courses in ecological and human-health consequences of climate change, conducts research on the effects of rising atmospheric CO₂ on plants and higher levels in the food chain, and co-directs research training programs in biosphere-atmosphere interactions for graduate and undergraduate students from across the nation.

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. 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>.

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Tim Dickson to Present, on April 17, a Program on Impacts of Habitat Fragmentation on Biodiversity

CONTINUING OUR CHAPTER'S SERIES ON UNDERSTANDING THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY, Tim Dickson, plant ecologist and Research Associate at Michigan State University's Kellogg Biological Station, will speak to Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones on Wednesday, April 17, illustrating how habitat fragmentation through development and land usage affects biodiversity.

Tim earned his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas and has since worked at Iowa State University, Washington University in St. Louis, and the Missouri Botanical Garden. He studies the effects of fragmentation on native plant biodiversity and also examines how restoration and land management practices can provide habitat for plants and animals. Tim will discuss past and current habitat loss, why habitat loss and fragmentation lead to species extinctions, and how we might reverse the tide of habitat loss and fragmentation in the future.

The program will be at United Methodist Church, 212 So. Park St., in downtown Kalamazoo. Socializing and refreshments begin at 6:30; program begins promptly at 7 p.m.

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First Kalamazoo Wild Ones Field Trip of the Year Will Feature Spring Ephemeral Wildflowers on April 27

JOIN US FOR A SPRING VISIT to the Mildred Harris Sanctuary on Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The 40-acre sanctuary combines a Beech-Maple Forest with a fallow field. The understory and ground cover contain a diversity of spring ephemerals and shrubs. Trout lily, Toothwort, Blue cohosh and Trillium are among the rich array found at this site.

Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones will be joined for this field trip by members of the Calhoun County Wild Ones. Chad Hughson, who is very familiar with the site, will be our guide. See the April SEEDLINGS supplement and our website for car-pooling instructions and other information about the trip.

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A Message from the Chapter's New President

AS I TAKE OVER THE ROLE OF PRESIDENT of the Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones for the second time, I realize that a lot has changed since I was last President. The chapter has seen tremendous growth; we are now the second largest chapter in the country!

Something like this does not happen by accident. It takes teamwork, and we are fortunate to have a lot of people working behind the scenes to make our chapter work. First of all our previous co-presidents Mike and Carol Klug guided our chapter through this growth and left us with a vision for the future by helping us come up with a vision statement for our chapter: **“KAWO is dedicated to promoting awareness and the practice of landscaping with native plants to restore and sustain biodiversity.”** Thank you, Mike and Carol, for all your hard work and for leaving us in a strong position for future growth.

Let me introduce you to many others who are working hard to make us successful. First the two new members to our executive committee are Cathy McMinn, as secretary, and Mary Ann Menck, who has rejoined the committee as a member at large. Others are Neil Sikora as treasurer, Mike Klug and Tom Small as past presidents, and Chad Hughson and Harry Bird as members at large. The office of vice president is currently open if you are interested. The executive committee meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and is open to all members who wish to attend. Contact me anytime for details.

We also have many active chapter committees with very capable chairs: Ruth Caputo leads our programs committee, Vicki Berglund our publications, publicity & outreach committee, Kathy McGoff our hospitality committee, Paul Olexia, Tom Small, and Catherine Niessink our community projects committee, and Tom Small our plant exchange committee. Other very active members that are hard at work include our new membership coordinator Jeff Weiss, and our new speaker's bureau coordinator Jennifer LaForest. Our publications editor is Tom Small, our representative on the Kalamazoo Environmental Council is Eleanore Chadderdon, and our site visit coordinator is Dave Wendling. Many others participate by serving on these committees or volunteering for various projects.

It is truly my privilege to be president of an organization with so many people working hard behind the scenes to make us a very successful and relevant organization. I thank all of you!

I announced at the January meeting that I would be rereading Sara Stein's *Noah's Garden* since it's the 20th anniversary of her book. Her message has changed my life. Here's a quotation from the book that is even more relevant today than 20 years ago: *Already our understanding of wildlife is based mostly on such presentations as National Geographic Specials; as a result, we are likely to have more sympathy for rhinoceroses in Africa than for toads on our own doorstep. One would almost think from watching television that Nature resides only in the wilderness, that to see it we must turn to that station, subscribe to Natural History, or take an ecotour. One also would think that to fulfill our moral obligation to this remote natural world we can act only at a distance—write to a congressman, join conservation groups, petition to preserve a threatened ecosystem. But all of us live within an ecosystem; like the Bluebird of Happiness, Nature is in our own back yard.*"

--Dave Wendling

269-624-6946, davewndlng@aol.com

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Opportunities to Promote KAWO & Native Plants – Can You Help?

KAWO IS PARTICIPATING IN TWO EVENTS with our display table. If you can contribute a couple of hours to help spread the word about native plants and our group, please contact Vicki Berglund, chair of PPO Committee, at [\(269\) 345-9565](tel:2693459565) or vickiberglund@sbcglobal.net. Thank you.

• **April 20, Kalamazoo Nature Center, Earth Day Celebration:** We'll set up at 9 a.m. and talk with folk until takedown at 4 p.m. Again, 2 hours of your time would be helpful. Families and fun and synergistic support of environmental causes.

• **April 27, People's Food Co-op, Grow-It-Yourself Day:** Gardeners shop from about 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (start/end times to be confirmed). Devote 2 hours to KAWO; then peruse the veggie starts or enjoy the co-op's native plantings.

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It's time to think about a Site Visit

SPRING IS COMING, THE FROGS WILL BE CALLING in about four weeks, and it's time to start thinking about site visits. If you're 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 are here to help.

Whether you're a new member or an established member, we'll arrange for a more experienced native-plant gardener to visit your property as a consultant to help you decide on how to use native plants in your landscape. There's no extra charge for this service; our reward is seeing you succeed in creating beauty and native habitat in your yard or property

To sign up contact Dave Wendling at 269-624-6946, davewndlng@aol.com

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Quotations for Contemplation

THE PLANT WORLD PLAYS A SPECIAL PART in the great circulation of water. As plants consist mainly of water an immense stream transpires into the atmosphere from fields, meadows and woodlands. On a summer's day, a 40,000 litre stream of water is drawn through a hectare of woodland into the atmosphere. . . . The plants are vascular systems through which water, the blood of the earth, streams in living interplay with the atmosphere. Together earth, plant world and atmosphere form a *single* great organism, in which water streams like living blood. --Theodor Schwenk, *Sensitive Chaos: The Creation of Flowing Forms in Water and Air* (1996)

TRUE UNITY IN THE INDIVIDUAL AND BETWEEN MAN AND NATURE, as well as between man and man, can arise only in a form of action that does not attempt to fragment the whole of reality. --David Bohm, *Wholeness and the Implicate Order* (1980)

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SEEDLINGS is edited by Tom Small and appears five times a year, with a few additional brief supplements. The next regular issue, for **May-June-July, 2013**, will come early in May. **Deadline for submission is Monday, April 29, 2013.** Please send submissions, comments, and suggestions to Tom at yard2prairie@gmail.com.

For more information and news, check us out at www.kalamazoowildones.org and www.facebook.com/KalamazooAreaWildOnes