

***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

May-June, 2014 — Contents

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Milkweed pods

***Wild Ones Celebrate Turning of the Season with
Trip to Trillium Ravine to View Spring Wildflowers***

Ken Kirton, a charter member and longtime supporter of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones, will lead our annual spring-wildflower field trip Saturday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to about noon, to **Trillium Ravine**.

A 15-acre nature sanctuary preserved by the Michigan Nature Association, Trillium Ravine has sloping sides that are covered by a wonderful variety of hardwoods and spring wildflowers. The trillium should be in flower, including thousands of White-flowered trillium (*T. grandiflora*). The preserve is especially known for two other species of trillium, Prairie trillium (*T. recurvatum*) and Toadshade trillium (*T. sessile*). Both have dark-red (or maroon) flowers.

There's a nice diversity of other spring ephemeral wildflowers: false rue anemone, squirrel corn, blue cohosh, and the other usual species plus some unusual ones. The steep banks of the ravine are covered with a variety of hardwood trees and add a unique dimension to the sanctuary.



White-flowered Trillium (*T. grandiflorum*) blooms profusely in Trillium Ravine



Trillium Ravine is noted for species of Red-flowered trillium (*T. recurvatum* and *T. sessile*)

Enjoy the quiet splendor of this beech-sugar maple forest and its springtime bounty of wildflowers. “The Wild Ones folks are in for a real treat,” says Ken Kirton, “There should be a beautiful display of wildflowers at this time of year!!!”

Directions to Trillium Ravine from Kalamazoo: Drive I-94 West to the Napier Road exit (to US-31 South: exit #30, I think). Follow Napier Road South a short distance, then exit onto US-31 South (exit will be on the right). Follow US-31 South to Exit #7 (Walton Road); exit onto Walton Road East (exit is on the right), proceed east, back over US-31, and exit onto East Geyer Road (South), IMMEDIATELY after crossing over US-

31. Geyer road winds south and east a short distance, through a small subdivision, and becomes Riverside Road. Trillium Ravine preserve is on the right (west); there is a Michigan Nature Association sign at the entrance. The distance from US-31 to the Preserve is about 1.25 mi.

The approximate address of Trillium Ravine Preserve is 2500 Riverside Drive, Niles, Michigan 49120.

Carpooling: Meet at the I-94 Mattawan exit carpool lot at 9 a.m. Dave Wendling will be there with maps.

There will be an afternoon trip continuing on to nearby Dowagiac Woods. Those who wish to join in this self-guided “extension” may want to bring a bag lunch. Dave Wendling will have maps and directions.

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Tom, Ruth, & Wild Ones Host 22nd Annual Spring Plant Exchange: Find New Native Plants, New and Old Friends



THE SPRING PLANT EXCHANGE that Nancy Small began in 1992 is now in its 22nd year and has provided many hundreds of people with native plants and information about natural landscaping.

The exchange, on **Sunday, May 18, from 1 to 5 p.m.**, will offer numerous plants from Tom and Ruth’s gardens, as well as plants brought by other Wild Ones members and supporters. In keeping with the principles we’ve 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, conversation, and shelter in the event of rain. As always, we proceed, rain or shine.

Kathy Goff and the Hospitality Committee will appreciate your bringing some snacks to supplement what they provide. The rest of us will also greatly appreciate your help.

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.

Copies of Nancy and Tom Small's popular book *Using Native Plants to Restore Community in Southwest Michigan and Beyond* will be for sale for \$25.

Also available will be copies of the video *Gardening for Life*, a documentary film of the Wild Ones conference at the Kalamazoo Nature Center in 2008, that featured an address by Professor Douglas Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, plus a panel discussion. The special cost of the film is \$5, **or free to new members**.

All proceeds from the book and film go to the Nancy Small Memorial Fund, for environmental education and restoration. Donations to the fund are welcome.

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. If you don't join, consider making a modest donation.

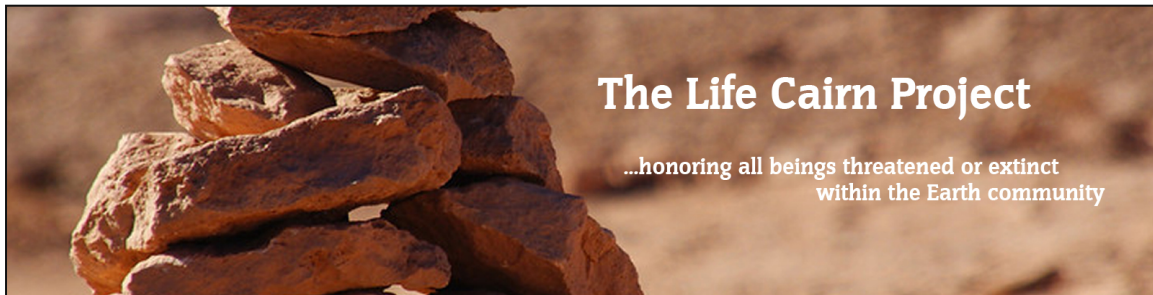
Please provide species labels for your plants.

For questions about the exchange or about native species, please call Tom at (269) 381-4946, or e-mail yard2prairy@gmail.com.

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Bring a Special Stone to Add to the “LIFE CAIRN” at the Plant Exchange, and Let Us Rededicate Ourselves to Restoring Life

ON MAY 22, 2011, A GROUP OF PEOPLE GATHERED on Mount Caburn, in East Sussex, England, to place the first stones of a “Life Cairn,” to commemorate and to mourn all the species, over the entire planet, driven to extinction by human violence, development, and carelessness. Since that time, many thousands of people have made the gentle climb up the mountain to place a stone, participate in a ceremony, or simply to meditate, grieve for a particular species or all species, and dedicate themselves to preservation and restoration. Other, similar cairns are growing elsewhere in the world—a permanent and growing web of Life Cairns. See <http://www.thelifecairnproject.org/>



Tom and Ruth don’t live on a mountain, but their house is near the highest point for three watersheds: Axtell Creek, Arcadia Creek, and Woods Lake. On May 18, 2014, to observe the **third anniversary of the first “Life Cairn,”** anyone who wishes to do so may bring a stone and continue to build the Life Cairn that we began two years ago here in Kalamazoo, in Ruth and Tom’s front yard, easily visible and accessible from the street.

Please bring a stone from someplace familiar and important to you, preferably a small stone, preferably a light-colored one—one that will reflect light. So far, we have stones from Nepal, England, India, the Himalayas, the Mississippi River, Canada, and many places in Michigan and the U.S.

During the plant exchange, at around 3:30, those who wish to participate will gather to place their stones and observe a moment of silence, to honor those species vanished from the earth, those threatened with extinction, and those we may yet be able to save through our dedication to restoration of species and habitats.

During 2014, there will be temporary Life Cairns built in Washington, D.C., in view of the White House, and in London, before the House of Commons. Next year, there will be one built in December in Paris, during the crucial 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

As Martin Prechtel said at the dedication of the first Life Cairn, “This is a time of turning grief into beauty and the harsh confusion of these times into a possibility of a flowering earth.”

If you don’t attend the plant exchange or bring a stone, you will be welcome at any time to contribute a small stone to the cairn and to observe your own moment of silent remembrance.

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Other Programs and Events of Interest to Wild Ones

Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

First Annual Kalamazoo Wild Ones Native-Plant Sale

People’s Food Co-op, 507 Harrison, Kalamazoo

Locally grown, nursery quality native plants: individual plants, “garden samplers,” shrubs, trees. See the chapter’s web site for details: www.kalamazoowildones.org.

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Busy Schedule for Monarch Activists

Wild Ones Monarch Committee Will Bring the Monarch to the Do-Dah Parade on June 7

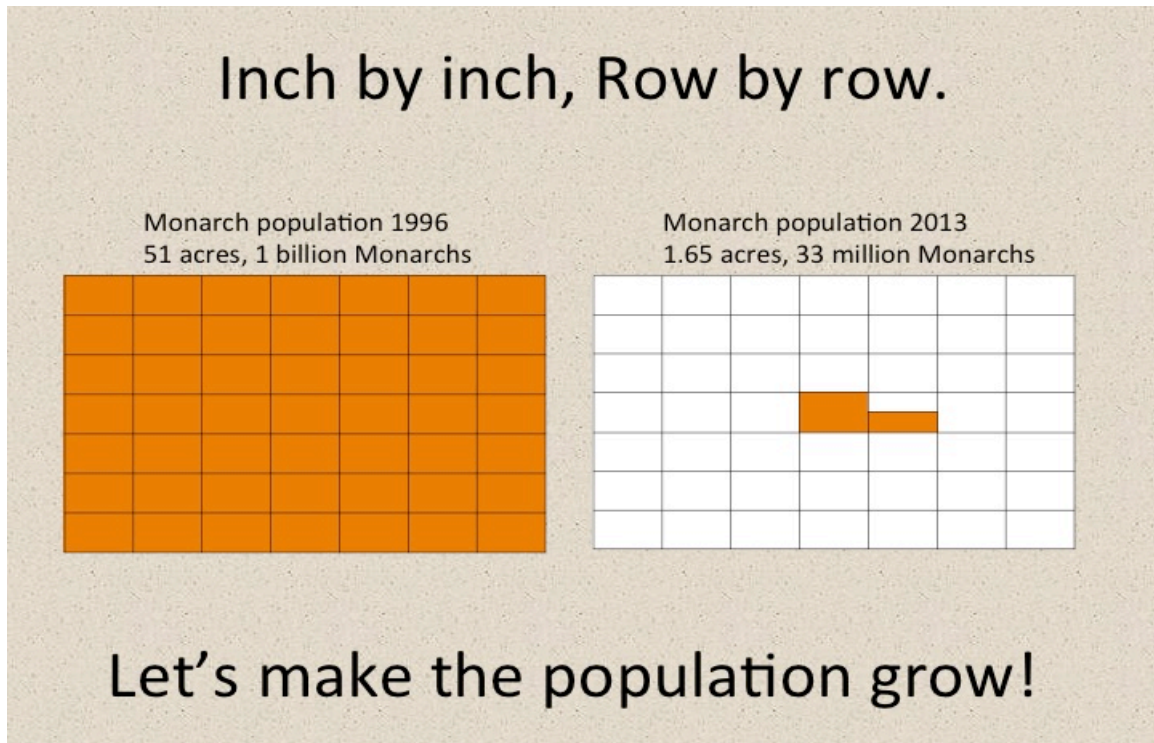
By Ilse Gebhard

WE WILL GET MONARCH CONSERVATION IN THE PUBLIC EYE in a big way on June 7 at the Do-Dah Parade in downtown Kalamazoo. Wild Ones was invited to participate by a coalition of groups that promotes peace and social and environmental justice. The theme of the “unit” developed by Wild Ones and this coalition is monarch conservation, with some of the marchers dressed in monarch life-cycle costumes while others will wear t-shirts depicting monarchs. With materials supplied by Monarch Watch and Monarch Joint Venture and milkweed collected locally by Wild Ones members, we will be able to give out **1500 milkweed seed packets** and 1000 monarch bookmarks to spectators along the route, with 15,000 expected. Yes, that’s fifteen thousand!

Milkweeds that were generously grown by Mike and Carol Klug in their greenhouse will be available at the spring plant exchange and at two native-plant sales, one milkweed per customer. In addition some of the milkweeds will be used in the creation of Monarch Watch Waystations at community and school gardens. Donations of other native plants for these gardens will be greatly appreciated. Please bring them to the plant exchange.

A number of monarch presentations are scheduled as well as attendance at events with the “Bring Back the Monarch” booth. Also two Monarch Larva Monitoring Project workshops are scheduled, one at the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery on May 29 and one

at the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary on May 31. The former is free but the latter has a charge. For more information on these workshops, please contact me at gebhard.ilse@gmail.com.



Nine more Monarch Waystations were registered in our area in the last six months, one each in Lawton and Schoolcraft, two in Delton, and five in Kalamazoo. Wild Ones members were involved at least to some extent with most of them.

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Wild Ones Needs Your Help!
And Wild Ones Wants to Help You Plan Ahead
By Dave Wendling

WILD ONES AND I NEED YOUR HELP. We have recently had two people resign from the Publications, Publicity, and Outreach (PPO) committee for personal reasons. The PPO committee is very important to our success since it is central to spreading our message and in helping to organize some of our activities. One thing that I have learned as president of our chapter is that we can succeed only with the help of others.

If you have organizational or computer skills or would just like to help us in our mission, please let me know.

Dave Wendling—269-624-6946; dave.wendling47@gmail.com

I AM STILL TAKING REQUESTS FOR SITE VISITS for 2014 to help you get started with native gardening or to help you improve on what you've already started. There will be

signup sheets at the plant exchange, but you can also call or e-mail me if you would like to schedule a Site Visit.

If you check our webpage www.kalamazoowildones.org, you can view and download our new Mentorship Brochure that describes our Mentorship Program and includes an application. The purpose of this program, an extension of our Site Visits, is to assist and encourage our members to transition traditional lawn and garden areas into native plant gardens that are attractive and at the same time valuable natural habitats.

If you have had a Site Visit and still feel you need more help getting started with native plants, the Mentorship program is for you. If you qualify, we will match you with a more experienced member who will share his or her time and knowledge to assist you in planning and planting a small native garden. **We are taking applications for 2015. So get a Site Visit this season and start planning; sign up for a Mentor next season to help with your project.**

Questions? Email dave.wendling47@gmail.com or call 269-624-6946

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Quotations for Contemplation

Every hour, three species disappear. Every day, up to 150 species are lost. Every year, between 18,000 and 55,000 species become extinct.

-- Ahmed Djoghlaif, head of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity

As we allow ourselves to feel our pain for the world, we find our connection with each other.

-- Joanna Macy, author of *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in without Going Crazy*

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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 **July-September**, will come early in July. **Deadline for submission is Friday, June 27, 2014.** Please send submissions, comments, and suggestions to Tom at yard2prairy@gmail.com. For more information and news, check us out at www.kalamazoowildones.org and www.facebook.com/KalamazooAreaWildOnes