

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

November Supplement, 2012—Contents

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***Potluck, Silent Auction, Special Program, Celebration
at Kalamazoo Wild Ones November Annual Meeting***

Come celebrate with us at the special Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones 13th annual meeting and birthday celebration Wednesday, Nov. 28, at 7 p.m. (socializing begins at 6:30) at the First United Methodist Church, 212 So. Park St., in downtown Kalamazoo.

- *We'll begin the evening with a **potluck dinner**. Please bring a dish to pass, and your own plates, cups, and tableware. We'll provide coffee, tea, and some juices or fruit punch.*
- **During socializing, dinner, and the program we'll be having a silent auction.** Please keep looking for things to donate for this fund-raiser to support the programs and the work of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones.
- **As part of the evening's festivities, Tom Small, co-founder of the Kalamazoo Area chapter, will speak on "Looking Back, Looking Forward,"** a brief illustrated program on past accomplishments and future plans of the Kalamazoo chapter.
- **Please RSVP to Mike and Carol Klug by November 26 if you are able to attend (klug@mei.net or [269-623-6725](tel:269-623-6725)).**

We Need Your Contributions to the Silent Auction

You can use your talents to make something such as birdfeeders, bee boxes, pottery, art work, etc. You may want to donate something that you no longer need. You may want to purchase and donate something you really like and think someone else would also treasure: a book, a video, a picture, something that speaks of the natural world—something that is beautiful or useful—or both.

Try to find something you think someone else would like to keep or something they would like to give as a gift during the holidays or year ahead. It

would be wonderful to have everyone bring one or more items and also purchase something at the auction.

So far, members have mentioned that they will be bringing pottery, gardening items, a quilting item, Emma Pitcher's copy of *Orchids of the Western Great Lakes Region*, by Fred Case, with marginal notations by Emma, a dogwood ornament from the Wendell August forge, a vase from Kalamazoo Glass Blowers, three wildflower drawings by J. Brumette, a bee nesting box, bat house, nature books, children's books, other books, handmade paper notecards, slogger waterproof shoes in sizes 9 & 10, and much, much more.

Please bring the items in between 6:00 and 6:25 (earlier is better) and fill out a brief bidding sheet so the bidding can start promptly at 6:30. Bids can be made throughout the night until the closing of the auction, about 8:45. Bids will be in dollars only. Payment is best by check for the total amount of your purchases, but cash is also acceptable. No credit cards.

All proceeds of the auction will go to supporting the work of the Kalamazoo Chapter. We'll be very grateful for your support, both in donating and in bidding on and purchasing items. This will be the only fund-raising event this year for Kalamazoo Wild Ones.

If you have questions or problems, contact Judy Dircks (269-384-2059) or drksjl@charter.net. (Put "silent auction" in subject line of e-mail.)

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WILD ONES GOES WILD FOR MONARCHS!

KALAMAZOO AREA WILD ONES JOINS NATIONAL MOVEMENT TO SAVE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

The national organization of Wild Ones, Native Plants, Natural Landscapes, has joined forces with Monarch Joint Venture and Monarch Watch's **Bring Back the Monarch Campaign** in an effort to save America's favorite butterfly, the Monarch.

According to Chip Taylor of Monarch Watch, monarch numbers are down across the US, mostly because of habitat loss. The overuse of herbicides along roadsides and elsewhere is turning diverse areas that support monarchs, pollinators, and other wildlife into grass-filled landscapes that support few species.

The major emphasis for this partnership will be to increase the number of milkweed plants across the US. Wild Ones members and 50 local chapters will work at the "plants-roots" level to educate the public and to plant local varieties of milkweed.

The Monarch Joint Venture is a partnership of organizations working together across the continental U.S. to conserve the monarch migration, through a science-based approach. The MJV's work includes habitat conservation in monarch breeding grounds and western overwintering sites; education to share information on monarchs with diverse audiences; and research and monitoring to inform monarch conservation efforts.

The Bring Back the Monarch program's goals are to restore 20 milkweed species to their native ranges throughout the United States. Since milkweeds are the only plants on which monarch females will lay eggs and the larvae will feed, it's vitally necessary

that we restore milkweeds and replace monarch habitats lost to development, roadside maintenance, and agriculture. And since adult monarchs need nectar to reproduce, this program also encourages the planting of nectar-producing native flowers.

WHAT IS KALAMAZOO AREA WILD ONES DOING?

Locally, the Kalamazoo Area Chapter has already identified a number of potential locations for planting milkweeds next spring, as well as groups and organizations that could partner with the Chapter to do the actual planting. Some members, such as Carol and Mike Klug, have expressed interest in growing milkweeds in their greenhouses, for spring planting. Other members have already collected and processed milkweed seeds this fall, to be planted starting this winter.

Kalamazoo College is interested in growing milkweeds for planting next year at the College's Lillian Anderson Arboretum. Steve Keto, landscaping supervisor at WMU, will grow milkweeds in the University's greenhouses for planting at the Asylum Lake and Kleinstuck Preserves.

For more information, and an informative interview with Ilse Gebhard, see the *Kalamazoo Gazette* article and video at Mlive:
http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2012/10/bring_on_the_milkweed_to_bring.html

WHAT CAN OUR MEMBERS DO AS INDIVIDUALS?

- Many of you have already planted milkweed in your yards and have registered your yards as Monarch Watch Waystations. If you haven't, this would be a great time to do so. Milkweed seeds and information on how to establish and register a waystation will be available at Chapter meetings, or you can go to www.monarchwatch.org
- If you're willing to grow milkweeds in plug flats for later planting, there will be seeds and instructions available at meetings; or you can contact Ilse Gebhard at gebhard.ilse@gmail.com.
- Let us know if you're interested to work with a committee to plan and carry out this important project. We'll need help, not only with planting in the spring but also with ideas and projects for getting more people to plant milkweed. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Ilse Gebhard.

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IT'S HAPPENING!

***Yes, Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones Is on Facebook;
You Can Join the Exchange of News & Information***

Join us--and "Like" us--at www.facebook.com/KalamazooAreaWildOnes. Our new Facebook site will be a great place to share photos, information and helpful links with your Kalamazoo Wild Ones comrades. (Note: the site is open to all; it's easy to join and free.)

A simple “tutorial” is included on the Chapter’s web page if you don’t already have a Facebook membership.

<http://www.kalamazoowildones.org/its-happening-kawo-is-on-facebook/>

The tutorial will take you, step by step, through the process of joining Facebook and then accessing the Chapter’s Facebook page.

There’s already quite a bit of information on the page, and it will be easy for you to contribute. You can share native-plant news and information, ask questions (such as how to indentify a “mystery” plant), share your enthusiasm for a book, provide a link to an interesting article, or share a photo of your latest project or a lovely plant.

Please note that if KAWO is your only “Friend,” you will see only our posts, not a whole bunch of other stuff.

So please join up, check the Chapter’s Facebook page frequently, and contribute to the conversation.

And please thank **Jim Krause** for his good work in setting up this Facebook page for us. Jim recently joined Kalamazoo Wild Ones and is already very generously contributing to our work and our future.

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Quotations for Contemplation

Think about this: plants see you.

In fact, plants monitor their visible environment all the time. Plants see if you come near them; they know when you stand over them. They even know if you’re wearing a blue or a red shirt. They know if you’ve painted your house or if you’ve moved their pots from one side of the living room to the other.

--Daniel Chamovitz, *What a Plant Knows: A Field Guide to the Senses*. Scientific American / Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012

In the human spirit, as in the universe, nothing is higher or lower; everything has equal rights to a common center which manifests its hidden existence precisely through this harmonic relationship between every part and itself.

--Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as People.

Now our minds are one.

--from the *Thanksgiving Address: Greetings to the Natural World*. Mohawk version of the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address (Six Nations Indian Museum)

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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 January-February, 2013**, will come early in January. **Deadline for submission is Friday, Dec. 28, 2012.** Please send submissions, comments, and suggestions to Tom at yard2prairy@gmail.com.