

***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

October-December, 2014 — Contents

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Hoary Vervain
(*Verbena stricta*)

Drawing by Amelia Hansen,
from *Using Native Plants to
Restore Community*

Learning from Nature’s Patterns and Processes

***Tom Small Will Conclude Wild Ones Two-Year
Series on Preserving Biodiversity with Program on
Using Nature’s Methods to Heal & Restore the Land***

How, as urban/suburban gardeners, can we transition to a *no-waste* economy like that of nature herself? For the last program in Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones two-year series on “Saving Native-Plant Diversity,” Wednesday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m., Tom Small will present an illustrated program on learning from nature’s own patterns and processes.

He will draw on his experience in natural landscaping; his studies of European and American Romantic nature poetry and philosophy; Doug Tallamy and Rick Darke’s new book, *The Living Landscape*; and his own recent activism and writings on responding to climate change and extinction of species. He will discuss the relation between how we think and how we treat the land, and he will also illustrate simple processes each of us can put into practice here and now.

“I’d like to develop some of the many implications,” Tom says, “of the 16th-century quotation from Michel de Montaigne we adopted as our motto when we founded the Kalamazoo Area Chapter of Wild Ones 15 years ago: ‘Let us give nature a chance; she knows herself better than we do’.

“Perhaps,” Tom continues, “our basic problem is that we think ourselves more intelligent than plants and invertebrates, so we wind up treating them in ways that are just plain stupid. As part of my program, I’ll develop an inclusive, holistic notion of intelligence.”

The program, Wednesday, Oct. 22, will be at First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., in downtown Kalamazoo. Socializing begins at 6:30; program begins promptly at 7 p.m., with discussion and announcements to follow.

Tom Small is co-founder of the Kalamazoo Area Chapter of Wild Ones and co-author of *Using Native Plants to Restore Community in Southwest Michigan and Beyond*, now in its third printing. He’s a member of the Board of Directors of the Wildflower Association of Michigan, the steering committee of Quaker Earthcare Witness, and the planning committee of Kalamazoo Transition. He writes extensively for various environmental journals. His latest essay, a review-article on Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy’s new book, *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden*, will appear in the next issue of the national *Wild Ones Journal*.

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Help Spread the Word About This New Fund

Nancy Small Memorial Fund Now Receiving Applications for Grants to Support Native-Plant Gardens and Educational Projects

The Nancy Small Memorial Fund was established to honor the vision of Nancy Cutbirth Small, co-founder of the Kalamazoo Area Chapter of Wild Ones, Native Plants, Natural Landscapes, and co-author with Tom Small of *Using Native Plants to Restore Community in Southwest Michigan and Beyond*.

The Fund awards grants to projects involving creation of an outdoor classroom or demonstration project with native plantings, enhancement of an existing site, or other educationally directed projects that support the Fund’s mission.

The fund’s mission is not only to educate Michigan youth and the general public in recognition, preservation, and restoration of endangered and threatened native species, but also to support projects that promote appreciation and respect

for Michigan native flora and thus help to ensure their survival in this time of climate instability and great stress on native species and natural systems.

Each applicant may request up to \$500 in support. The application deadline is January 15, 2015. All applicants will be notified if they are or are not recipients of an award no later than March 1, 2015. Successful applicants will receive their funds no later than April 1, 2015.

Although the Fund’s mission is the same as that of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones—*“To restore and sustain biodiversity through education and the practice of landscaping with native plants”*—there is no financial or legal connection between the Fund and the national organization of Wild Ones or its Kalamazoo Area chapter.

All proceeds from the sale of Nancy and Tom’s book *Using Native Plants to Restore Community* go towards supporting the Memorial Fund.

For full information about the fund, the criteria for application, and an application form, see the Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones web site, at <http://www.kalamazoowildones.org/nancy-small-memorial-fund-grant-program/>

If you have any further questions pertaining to the grant application process, please contact Tom Small, 2502 Waite Ave., Kalamazoo MI 49008; 269-381-4946; yard2prairie@gmail.com.

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Looking Back at 2014, Looking Forward to 2015, and Beyond
Kalamazoo Wild Ones Celebrate 15th Birthday at Annual Meeting and Potluck Wednesday, Nov. 19

COME CELEBRATE WITH US at our special **15th annual meeting and birthday celebration** Wednesday, November 19, at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 212 So. Park St., in downtown Kalamazoo.

We will 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.

A few of our wonderful volunteers will provide an overview of what the Kalamazoo Wild Ones accomplished this past year. Then we’ll have a look into the future: our series of programs for 2015-2016 on “Stewardship of the Land” and ways we can all contribute to meeting the challenges of climate change, development, and loss of habitat and biodiversity.

Please join us for an evening of celebration, reflection, sharing, and anticipating the future.

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Thousands of Milkweed Seeds & Seedlings

Kalamazoo Wild Ones Monarch Committee Has Busy Year Growing and Distributing Milkweeds to Help Save the Monarch Butterfly and Its Wonderful Migrations

by Ilse Gebhard

The Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones Monarch Committee had a busy year again. Three species of milkweed (Common, Swamp and Butterfly) were grown by KAWO members Mike and Carol Klug, Ilse Gebhard, and Betty Rizzo, and the greenhouses of WMU and Monarch Watch.

A big thank you to Mike, Carol and Betty, and Steve Keto, WMU's Natural Areas and Preserves Manager, and Chris Jackson, Director of WMU's Finch Plant-Science Greenhouse, and Monarch Watch for growing the plants.

The milkweeds were distributed free of charge at many events and for many planting projects listed further down: Van Buren Conservation District native-plant sale, KAWO spring and fall plant exchanges, KAWO native plant sale, KAWO June field trip and August fundraiser, Schoolcraft 4th of July Parade, Oshtemo's Drake House Open House, and Oshtemo Fun Day.

In addition, milkweeds were distributed at three monarch presentations and two Monarch Larva Monitoring Project Workshops. Pierce Cedar Creek Institute received milkweed plants and seedlings for planting in their prairie projects, and the Van-Kal Permaculture group received seedlings to pot up and distribute.

In total ten monarch presentations and workshops were given, and eleven events or meetings were attended with the monarch booth. Monarch conservation materials were also distributed at several other events without a formal booth.

KAWO members participated in the Do-Dah Parade, giving out



about 1000 milkweed seed packets with monarch conservation information and about 900 monarch bookmarks. Two interviews on monarchs were given, one with WMUK and one with Howard Meyerson.

Monarch larvae were given to the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery in July and August for their Monarch Exhibit. Milkweed seed packets and monarch conservation materials were provided for distribution to visitors. In early September monarch larvae were given to eleven teachers in six schools for their classrooms, with raising instructions and monarch conservation information, as well as monarch bookmarks for more than 300 students.

In addition to the already mentioned milkweeds, the WMU Greenhouse grew a number of other native plant species for the creation of new Monarch Waystations or for plant diversification of already established ones. KAWO members also donated native plants for these waystations. Some waystations only required guidance, others needed help weeding and planting to get them established.

Eight new monarch waystations were created: Den Adel Court and Oak St. Community Gardens, Woodward and Edison Elementary Schools gardens, Schoolcraft and Plainwell Libraries, the Kalamazoo County Land Bank's Riverview Launch and downtown Plainwell gardens.

Plants were added for diversification to the following waystations: Wall St. Community Garden, Kellogg Bird Sanctuary pollinator garden, Crane Park Master Gardener butterfly garden, Skyridge Church raingarden, Willard St. raingardens, and five non-waystation curb-corner gardens in the Vine Neighborhood.

A total of eleven new waystations were registered at no cost to non-profit entities, and the KAWO Monarch Committee paid for eight waystation signs and posts from donations earmarked for the committee.

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In January Laurel Ross Will Lead Off Kalamazoo Wild Ones Two-Year Series of Programs on "Stewardship of the Land"

Laurel Ross, the recently retired Director of Urban Conservation at Chicago's Field Museum, will lead off Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones new two-year series of programs on "Stewardship of the Land." Her topic will be "Conservation of Urban Landscapes: not the Problem, the Solution." She'll speak about the critical role of urban areas in landscape conservation, and the vital role that volunteers, neighbors, property owners, and other "stewards of the land" must play in the work of conservation.

Laurel Ross is particularly qualified to provide an introductory overview for the entire two-year series on "stewardship." During her 12 years with The Nature Conservancy in Illinois, she organized their Volunteer Stewardship Network, a corps of thousands of volunteers who participate in stewardship of biologically significant publicly-owned natural areas. She was among the original organizers of Chicago

Wilderness, which was launched in 1996 and has grown to be a consortium of more than 260 agencies and institutions concerned with urban conservation.

Her work at the Chicago Field Museum involved coordinating all of the Museum's conservation and education programs in the Chicago region. Not just an administrator, she has plenty of hands-on experience as a steward for natural areas and as an organizer of neighborhood native-plantings as part of the Chicago Climate Action program.

The Programs Committee has been hard at work gathering speakers and unusual field trips for 2015, to follow up on Laurel's introduction. The Committee will announce details of the full year's programs at the November annual meeting.

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Quotations for Contemplation

The more one tries to rule the garden according to one's arrogant designs, the more the citizens require special support or undue suppression.

--Sara Stein, *Noah's Garden*

It is inimical to life to look at sustainability as a goal to be achieved . . . As an attitude of mind, sustainability would entail wholeheartedly embracing an uncertain journey.

--Craig Holdrege, *Thinking Like a Plant*

You can make an effort to dance well, but a great dance just happens. We can only practice, we can only act; practice is our prerogative, but the results are beyond our control.

--Satish Kumar, *Earth Pilgrim*

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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, 2015**, will come early in January. **Deadline for submission is Friday, January 2, 2015.** 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