

***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

**November Supplement, 2016 —
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Drawing by Amelia Hansen

***Jen Lau Concludes 2016 KAWO Programs on
“Restoring Landscapes in a Changing World,”
With Special Emphasis on Climate Change***

On Wednesday, Nov. 16, Jen Lau, Associate Professor of Plant Biology at MSU's Kellogg Biological Station, will speak to Wild Ones on “Restoring Landscapes in a Changing World.”

Dr. Lau is an evolutionary biologist studying how plant populations respond to changing environmental conditions, especially global climate change and rising CO₂ concentrations. She'll demonstrate for us the increasing importance of species and genetic diversity, given the rapid pace of human-caused environmental changes.

The climate is warming, soil fertility has been altered, and new species are invading. As a result, planting restorations with species-rich seed

mixes comprised of species with high amounts of genetic variation may help ensure the success of the restoration both now and into the future. Whether our work is with large-scale native prairie restoration or with smaller “home” landscaping, diversity is important for long-term success of the project and for future benefits to human beings.

Dr. Lau will discuss why we should consider both species and genetic diversity when we restore landscapes, and she’ll present findings from a new large-scale experiment testing how genetic diversity and species diversity influence native-plant establishment both under current conditions and in the warmer environments predicted in the future.

Jen Lau received her Ph.D. in Population Biology from the University of California, Davis, and was a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Minnesota before joining the MSU Plant Biology faculty in 2007. Dr. Lau is based at Kellogg Biological Station (KBS), where she researches how global changes—such as biological invasions, climate change, and nitrogen deposition—affect plants and the microbes, herbivores and competitors with which they interact.

Dr. Lau teaches summer courses in ecology at KBS and graduate courses in plant biology at MSU. Her outside interests include gardening, hiking, and chasing (and being chased by) her two small children.

We will meet **Wednesday, Nov. 16**, at First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Socializing at 6:30; **program promptly at 7.**
Following the program, there will be our annual membership meeting, with election of officers for 2017. (No riots, we promise.)

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Free Member Tickets for January 22 Showing
Hometown Habitat Film Opens 2017 Program Series on “Communities and Connections”

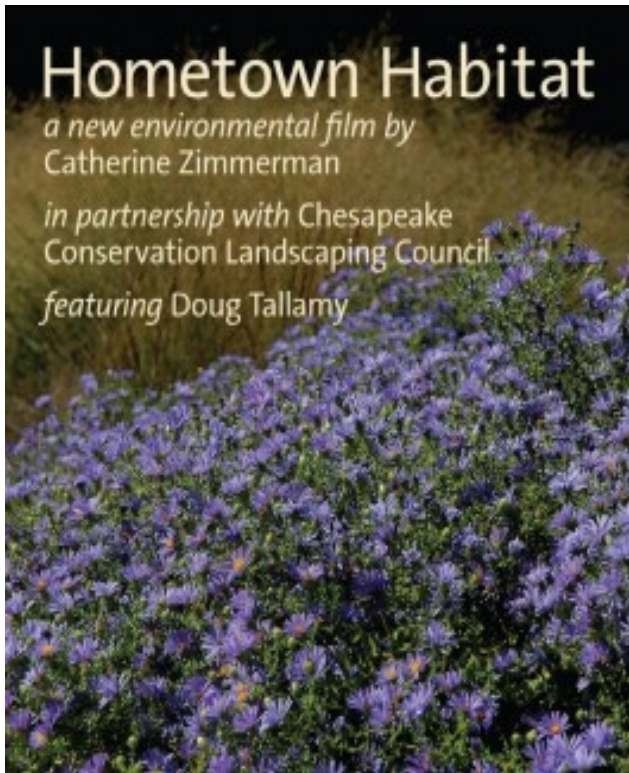
Hometown Habitat, a new documentary featuring Doug Tallamy and directed by Catherine Zimmerman, will open Kalamazoo Wild Ones 2017 series of programs with a showing at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 22.

The film explores how and why native plants are critical to the survival and vitality of local ecosystems. Included are inspiring stories of habitat heroes, all across the country, who are working to bring back nature to their hometowns.

Tickets cost \$5.00, but current members of Kalamazoo Wild Ones will be admitted free (voluntary donations welcome). This is an important film for spreading our message. Help us spread the word! Bring friends! Buy a ticket and popcorn for your neighbor, the one with the Scotts lawn and the cute little riding mower.

Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, and Catherine Zimmerman, author of *Urban and Suburban Meadows: Bringing Meadowscaping to Big and Small Spaces*, collaborated in the making of the film.

Zimmerman is celebrating her 41st year as a documentary filmmaker. Her environmental films include global-warming documentaries for CNN and NY Times Television, *Freshfarm Markets*, *Wildlife Without Borders*, *Connecting People and Nature in the Americas*, and *Save Rainforests/Save Lives*.



Kalamazoo Wild Ones 2017 program series, on “Communities and “Connections,” will develop many of the themes and stories covered in the film. So put the showing date on your calendars, **Sunday, Jan. 22, at 2 p.m.** You need not have tickets in advance. We’ll provide, at the door, free tickets to current members and \$5 tickets for non-members.

Stand by for more information about this excellent new film and our 2017 programs in the January issue of *Seedlings* and at the November KAWO meeting.

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2016 KAWO Milkweed Seed Project Collects Half Million Seeds for Monarch Restoration Projects

By Ilse Gebhard

As in previous years, volunteers from Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones, Audubon Society of Kalamazoo and several other monarch conservationists participated in the milkweed seed collecting and processing project. In all, 20 people collected common, swamp and butterfly milkweed pods and 18 people helped in separating the seeds from the pods and the floss.

The majority of the common milkweed seedpods were processed using shop vacs at the Kalamazoo County Land Bank's red barn at Riverview Launch in two afternoon sessions. This resulted in just under ten pounds of common milkweed seed to be shipped to Monarch Watch for monarch habitat restoration projects in our eco-region.

In addition, more seeds of common, swamp and butterfly milkweeds were separated by hand and kept back for growing milkweed plugs in local greenhouses this winter and for milkweed seed packets to be given out during the coming winter, spring and summer at various events.

A big thank you to all the volunteers and to Riverview Launch for letting us use the red barn. The barn is unheated but we lucked out with the weather. The first afternoon, when most of the seed was processed, the temperature was a pleasant 70 or so, with a light breeze



254 seeds in one pod

to carry the escaped fluff out the open barn doors. The second afternoon it was a bit cooler but everyone stayed warm, being used to dressing for the outdoors in all kinds of weather.

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Quotation for Contemplation

Explainers speak of the “stratification” of the forest: the tops of the tallest trees are “the canopy,” then comes “the understory” of smaller trees, below these is “the shrub layer” of tallish woody bushes that are not trees, below those is “the herb layer” of ferns and flowers. Of all the strata above the ground the lowest is “the litter layer” of dead and decaying leaves, tree-fragments, fallen trees.

These terms are useful, even true. And yet the forest does not stand still to be thus diagrammed. The tallest trees are found, at various ages, in every layer—to speak of one additional complexity. And yet all of the forest’s parts, named or unnamed, known or unknown, are the forest.

We must include also the vagrant ferns, the fungi, mosses, lichens, vines, the creatures willfully mobile who crawl, walk, run, climb, glide, and fly, who pose to be pictured, described, and studied most readily when dead, whose needs and purposes, moods and motions all are contained, never extraneous or strange, within the ever-forming form.

--Wendell Berry, from “A Small Porch in the Woods,” *A Small Porch: Sabbath Poems 2014 and 2015, together with The Presence of Nature in the Natural World* (2016)

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Events Cancellation Policy

If the weather is questionable and you’re wondering whether a Wild Ones indoor program is canceled, please watch WWMT Channel 3 for a cancellation announcement of our program. If time permits, an e-mail cancellation notice will also be sent to members.

Field trips and plant exchanges are held rain or shine and canceled only in severe weather: i.e., raining cattails and dogwoods, mit donner und blitzten.

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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**, will come early in January. **Deadline for submission is Thursday, December 29,**

2016. 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