

***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

April, 2017—Supplement—Contents

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Drawing by Amelia Hansen

***Kim Chapman Returns to Kalamazoo for
Wild Ones April Program on Blending
Development and Ecological Restoration***

Kim Chapman, Director and Principal Ecologist with Applied Ecological Services, will bring his long experience with “conservation design” to our April 26 program on “Conservation’s Holy Grail: Ecological Restoration through Development.”

Steve Apfelbaum, the founder of Applied Ecological Services and Kim’s boss, was featured in a segment of the film *Hometown Habitat* which many of us saw in January. Kim and AES specialize in designing and building with nature, whether for housing developments, parks, greenways, preserves, college campuses, or any other rural, urban, or regional development project. They emphasize building and landscaping for a full natural community.

Among people who appreciate nature, there's a feeling that whenever people build on or use land, water and other natural resources, nature suffers. But for a few decades now, some have been figuring out ways to expand the human footprint while actually improving most things in the natural world.

What seems a contradiction--build or upgrade a development or a mine, while also conserving and restoring nature--has happened in hundreds of projects around the country. Kim will show several examples of this type of development, generally called "conservation design," and explain the key principles that separate this style of development from others. He also will lay out the most effective ecological restoration approach for this type of development, with some tips and cautions that ensure a restoration of this type will succeed.

Before he joined Applied Ecological Services as principal ecologist in 2003, Kim worked at The Nature Conservancy in Michigan and Minnesota, taught college, and was a consulting ecologist. His B.A. in biology is from Kalamazoo College, where he studied with Paul Olexia, and his M.A. in biology is from WMU. His Ph.D. in conservation biology is from the University of Minnesota. His field is applied ecology—bringing scientific information and ecological principles to the difficult task of making development fit safely into the natural world while creating economic prosperity.



He has worked around the country, mostly in the Lake States, Midwest, and Great Plains, completing impact assessments and ecological plans at regional and local scales, designing ecologically-grounded projects, developing policies and standards, and participating in regulatory permitting. He lives in St. Paul with his wife, a graphic designer and singer, and has two grown children.

Over the years he's written many articles and co-authored two books: *Valley of Grass*, a Minnesota Book Award winner about how people living in the Red River Valley are striving to balance conservation and

development, and *Nature, Culture, and Two Friends Talking*, a collection of environmental essays and dialogues he co-authored with his longtime friend, poet Jim Armstrong.

One section of the book, "From the Darkness, Light: What an Ecologist and Poet See in an Artist's Work," revolves around the two writers' responses to etchings of Michigan rural landscapes by Kalamazoo-based artist **Ladislav Hanka**, their longtime mutual friend. Hanka will be our speaker in October of this year, on the topic "**Artists, Naturalists, and Natural Communities.**"

We will meet **Wednesday, April 26**, at First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Socializing at 6:30; **program at 7.**

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Tom, Ruth, and Wild Ones Host 25th Annual Spring Plant Exchange: Find New Native Plants, New Friends

THE 25TH ANNUAL SPRING PLANT EXCHANGE will be at Ruth and Tom's house, 2502 Waite Ave., Kalamazoo, on Sunday, May 21, from 1 to 5 p.m. Come help us celebrate this special anniversary of the Wild Ones social event of the season. Over the years many thousands of native plants have found new homes and provided new habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.

The exchange 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 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 stop worrying and simply bring yourself, to enjoy and celebrate.

There will be refreshments, and the house will be open for rest and conversation, and for shelter in the event of rain. As always, we proceed, rain or shine.

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.

Milkweed seeds and seedlings will be available as part of the special “Wild for Monarchs” project of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones, in cooperation with Wild Ones chapters throughout the nation and Monarch Watch, headquartered at University of Kansas.

CORE, Community Organized Regenerative Earthcare, will be a co-sponsor of this special anniversary plant exchange; and members of CORE will be special invited guests. CORE is establishing native-plant, food-forest, and community gardens at the nearby grounds of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), where Kalamazoo Wild Ones used to meet—and always hoped to establish some native-plant gardens.

The purpose of the Plant Exchange is to foster community and 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 five of them, please don’t take two. 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. If you’re bringing plants, *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.

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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Wild Ones Holds Fourth Annual Native Plant Sale at PFC Natural Grocery Saturday, May 27

Once again, friends of Wild Ones and PFC will be able to purchase locally grown, pesticide free, nursery quality native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses at one convenient location in Kalamazoo, the PFC Natural Grocery and Deli, 507 Harrison St. in Kalamazoo. Spring Wildflowers will be especially featured at the sale this year.

The sale will be on Saturday, May 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We encourage preorders, at discounted prices. There will be plants available at the sale, but supplies of some more popular species may be limited. Order early; preorders will be filled in the order they are received.

Our plant list and prices will be available by April 7 on our webpage where you can print our plant list/order form: www.kalamazoowildones.org

New this year is our **“Buyers Discount”** with PFC. Anyone with a day-of receipt from the PFC will receive a 10% discount at the plant sale, and conversely anyone with a day-of receipt from the plant sale will receive a 10% discount at the PFC.

Our growers will be Hidden Savanna Nursery and Native Landscapes Nursery. The sale is co-sponsored by Geum Services, Kalamazoo Nature Center, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, Better World Builders, Citizens Climate Lobby, and Pierce Cedar Creek Institute. Some of our co-sponsors will be at the sale.



Proceeds from the sale will help us to continue and expand our activities and programs.

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Calendar of Events for April-May

Wednesday, April 19, 7 to 9 p.m.

**Award-winning documentary “SEED: THE UNTOLD STORY”
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2208 Winchell, Kalamazoo**

This powerful new documentary follows the efforts of farmers, scientists, lawyers, and indigenous peoples to defend the future of our food and the integrity of cultures connected to the land and to the precious common heritage of natural diversity and open-pollinated seed. The film has been called “a symphony of hope” (*Anchorage Press*), “a wonder” (*Village Voice*), and “The most essential, illuminating and enraging film since *Food, Inc.*” (*NYC Movie Guru*).

Part of the **CORE** film series on community. **Free admission.**

Saturday, April 22, 3 to 8 p.m.

Earth Day Celebration in Bronson Park

The first Earth Day in Bronson Park since 2006 will feature speakers, music, art, special exhibits, vendors, food, lots of information. The theme is climate change, and the many co-sponsors include the WMU Faculty Climate Change Working Group, the Kalamazoo Nature Center, and the City of Kalamazoo.

Also free events all day at the Kalamazoo Nature Center (see www.naturecenter.org).

Saturday, April 29

National Mobilization Day and March for Climate Action

The main event will be a march in Washington DC. A local “sister” march will be held in Kalamazoo, beginning from Bronson Park at 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 21, 1 to 5 p.m.

25th Annual Wild Ones Spring Native Plant Exchange

Come help us celebrate the 25th anniversary of the plant exchange, the Wild Ones social event of the season, featuring a wonderful variety of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers, for shade, sun, wet and

dry. Bring what you can. Take what you need. No money changes hands, only native plants. Delectable snacks and refreshments.

Saturday, May 27, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fourth Annual Kalamazoo Wild Ones Native-Plant Sale

PFC Natural Grocery and Deli

507 Harrison St, Kalamazoo

Locally grown, pesticide free, nursery quality native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses at one convenient location in Kalamazoo.

Spring Wildflowers will be featured at the sale this year.

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Spring's the Time to Schedule a Site Visit

By Dave Wendling

It's spring, and that's the time to think about a site visit. If you are 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 are a new member or an established member, we will arrange for a more experienced native gardener to visit your property as a consultant to help you decide on how to use native plants in your landscape. We do not ask for money; our reward is seeing you succeed in creating beauty and native habitat in your yard.

If you have already had a site visit and need more help with your landscape, you can contact me about our mentorship program.

To sign up, contact Dave Wendling at 269-366-8857 or dave.wendling47@gmail.com. Please provide your name, phone number, and email address.

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Quotations for Contemplation

I think Lad [Hanka] presents us with a challenge to stay put, slow down, and notice the detail, and in doing so, preserve ourselves and nature.

--Kim Alan Chapman, "From the Darkness, Light: What an Ecologist and Poet See in an Artist's Work."

Each person, human or no, is bound to every other in a reciprocal relationship. Just as all beings have a duty to me, I have a duty to them. If an animal gives its life to feed me, I am in turn bound to support its life. If I receive a stream's gift of pure water, then I am responsible for returning a gift in kind. An integral part of a human's education is to know those duties and how to perform them.

--Robin Wall Kimmerer (Potawatomi Nation), *Braiding Sweetgrass*.

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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 blitzen.

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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**, will come early in May. **Deadline for submission is Friday, April 28.** 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