

***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

August, 2015, Supplement — Contents

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

***Kalamazoo Wild Ones and Nature Center Present
Conference on "Pollinators: Perils and Possibilities"
Saturday, October 10, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at KNC***

Kalamazoo Wild Ones and the Kalamazoo Nature Center will present an all-star lineup of experts on what's happening to the vanishing and threatened pollinators of our native plants and food crops, and on what we can all do to help. **Space is limited; so please register early.**

The conference will be held at the Nature Center Saturday, October 10, beginning with registration and coffee at 8:30 a.m. and ending with a reception at 4 p.m.

The keynote speaker, Heather Holm, is the author of *Pollinators of Native Plants*, a very popular, beautifully illustrated handbook on observing and identifying pollinators and beneficial insects and on using native plants to attract and help to protect and restore them.

Other speakers in the morning's program include Lisa Williams, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Jason Gibbs, MSU, on bee responses to pesticides and to habitat enhancement.

The afternoon's programs will include field trips and workshops with Heather Holm and local experts on vegetable farming with pollinators, bee identification, gardening for pollinators, bee hotels and habitats, and the importance of tree species for bees.

Registration fee is \$15 for both KNC and Wild Ones members, \$20 for non-members. Lunch and morning refreshments are included. For more information and to register, please go to

<https://naturecenter.thankyou4caring.org/pollinators>.

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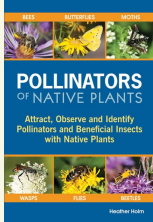
August Field Trip Includes Extensive Plantings at Homes of Two Members and at Skyridge Church

THE WILD ONES AUGUST 8 FIELD TRIP will begin with special native plantings at the Portage homes of two Wild Ones members and conclude at Skyridge Church of the Brethren with native plantings that Wild Ones helped to establish.

Pollinators: Perils & Possibilities


A joint conference presented by
the Kalamazoo Nature Center and Kalamazoo Area Wild ones

Keynote speaker, author Heather Holm
Pollinators of Native Plants





We are happy to bring pollinator and garden specialists from around the Midwest together for presentations and workshops around the challenges our pollinators face.

Learn what you can do to help.



October 10, 2015 from 8:30 am-5:00 pm
Cooper's Glen Auditorium, Kalamazoo Nature Center

For more information and to register, visit
<https://naturecenter.thankyou4caring.org/pollinators>
Register by noon, October 8
Fee: \$15 for KNC and Wild Ones members
\$20 non-members
(lunch included)

The tour will start at 10 a.m. at the home of Rick and Diane Oakes at 7234 Jamaica Lane, near the intersection of Sprinkle Road and Romence Road/Bishop Avenue. After looking at their gardens for about an hour, we'll drive to Ruth Caputo's at 10970 Poplar Bluff Court near Osterhout Avenue and Oakland Drive. Then, after another hour, we'll move on to Skyridge Church at 394 S. Drake Road between West Main Street and West Michigan Avenue. The tour will conclude around 1 p.m.

The tour begins Saturday, Aug. 8, 10 a.m. at the home of Diane and Rick Oakes; we'll be at the home of Ruth Caputo by around 11 a.m. and arrive at the Skyridge Church of the Brethren around noon. See above for addresses. For more information about the sites we're visiting, see July-Sept. SEEDLINGS

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Ilse Gebhard Speaks on "Monarchs, Milkweeds and More," for Wild Ones Meeting November 18

Instead of our usual potluck and review of the Chapter's programs and activities during the past year, Wild Ones will conclude our first year of programs on "Stewardship of the Land" with an illustrated talk on "Monarchs, Milkweeds, and More," by Ilse Gebhard, chair of the Chapter's Monarch Committee.

Ilse has worked tirelessly for many years to restore Monarch habitat and help to preserve the miraculous annual migration of the Monarchs from Mexico to Canada and back. Her work has involved raising hundreds of Monarchs from egg to caterpillar to butterfly, establishing many dozens of Monarch "waystation" gardens, and giving many educational programs for both children and adults.

She'll use colorful photos, mostly from her own observations and research, to illustrate the Monarch life cycle. She'll discuss the nectar and pollination relationships between insects and plants and explain the toxins that Monarchs secrete from milkweed to protect them from predators. In illustrating the habitat requirements of



Monarchs and other obligate milkweed-feeding insects, Ilse will cover all the common milkweeds in Michigan.

Ilse will show us all the stages of the Monarch migration to Mexico and why that migration is seriously threatened by loss of habitat, industrial farming practices, and use of neonicotinoid and other pesticides. We'll learn what more we can do to help protect Monarchs and restore habitat for them.

Ilse Gebhard is a retired research chemist. She's been on the board of the Audubon Society of Kalamazoo and is an active member of the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, the Kalamazoo Nature Center, and the Michigan Botanical Club. She's a charter member of the Kalamazoo Area Chapter of Wild Ones and the chair of its very active Monarch Committee. She participates in a number of Citizen Science projects, including Monarch butterfly related research for the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, Project Monarch Health, Monarch Watch, and Journey North and South.

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Bring a Plant for a Special Project

***Fall Plant Exchange Comes Early This Year, Sept. 6;
Join the Celebration of Summer's Bounty and Beauty***

The Wild Ones fall plant exchange, on **Sunday, September 6, 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.

The location is 2502 Waite Ave., one block west of Oakland Drive and one block south of Winchell.

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 the summer's bounty.

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 McGoff and the Hospitality Committee will appreciate your bringing snacks to supplement what they provide.

Please Bring a Plant to Donate for a Special Project

In addition to what you may already be planning to bring for exchange, we ask that you consider donating at least one plant for a special native-plant project at the nearby Christian Church (where Kalamazoo Wild Ones used to meet).

We expect that partners in the project, involving both native plantings and food gardens, will include Wild Ones, the Kalamazoo Nature Center's Sustainable Food Working Group, the Nancy Small Memorial Fund, Kalamazoo Transition, and neighborhood organizations. Some of the plants will be provided by the WMU greenhouses and Landscape Services.

What we need are plants of short to medium height, suitable for dry-mesic sunny upland. In particular, one or more of the following would be helpful: Pussytoes (*Antennaria neglecta* or *plantinifolia*); Evening primrose (*Oenothera fruticosa* or *macrocarpa*); Purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*); Whorled milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*); Prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*); Prairie smoke (*Geum trilobum*). Call or email if you have questions: (269) 381-4946; yard2prairie@gmail.com.

Planting day at the Church, 2208 Winchell, is set for Saturday, Sept. 26, 10 a.m.
Preparation of the beds will be Saturday, Sept. 19, also starting at 10 a.m.
We'd love to have you join us.

Nancy Small Memorial Fund Now Accepting Applications for Funding for Fall Plantings

The Nancy Small Memorial Fund for environmental education has opened applications for funding for native-plant projects that could be initiated this fall. The fund provides up to \$500 for native plantings open to the public and having significant educational value, including plantings at schools, churches, and public areas such as parks and preserves.

Application forms, guidelines, and criteria for funding are all currently available at the Wild Ones web site: <http://www.kalamazoowildones.org/nancy-small-memorial-fund-grant-program/>. The deadlines listed no longer apply since the trustees for the Fund have recently agreed to accept applications at any time of the year appropriate to the project.

If you know of a group that is considering planting a public native-plant garden this fall or anytime during next year, please pass along information about the Memorial Fund.

For further information or assistance, please call or email Tom Small:
(269) 381-4946; yard2prairy@gmail.com.

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Join Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones for Good Company, Wine, Cheese, and Live Jazz at September Fundraiser

Join us Saturday, September 19, from 4 to 6 p.m., for a summer afternoon of *good company, good wine* and *live jazz* at Mike and Cathy McMinn's beautiful forty-acre site of their Treecology Nursery. Enjoy sweeping meadow views from the deck of their restored barn, or take a stroll through the quiet woods on this pristine property located in southern Barry County. Your donation will help Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones continue to provide projects and programs that enrich our area.

- Saturday, September 19, from 4 to 6 p.m. Rain or Shine.
- Treecology Nursery, 9167 Guernsey Lake Rd., Delton, Michigan.
- Suggested donation \$25.
- **Carpooling** at the Meijer's on Gull Road near Sprinkle. (Meet in the parking lot outside the fenced-in garden center at the northeast corner of the lot. Departure at 3:30 p.m.)

R.S.V.P. to Cathy McMinn at [269-623-5715](tel:269-623-5715) or cmcminn@mei.net.

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Our Vanishing Soil Communities

Wild Ones Adds Extra October Program by Mike Klug to Observe UN's International Year of Soils

Because soil degradation has become such a serious problem internationally and locally and because Stewardship of the Land, our theme for this year's programs, must begin with care of the soil, Kalamazoo Wild Ones has added an extra program for October, "Our Vanishing Soil Communities," with microbial ecologist Dr. Mike Klug.

Serious concerns about the degraded condition of the planet's soils has led the United Nations to declare 2015 as the International Year of Soils. Its purpose is to raise awareness of the impact of soil degradation on the long term ability of soils to support food production.

Mike will focus on the nature of soil communities, the interactions within these communities, and how they contribute to the structure and function of soils. He will also discuss how human activities in the past 100 years have impacted soil communities and how we can minimize these impacts in the future and help to restore healthy soil.

“Our Vanishing Soil Communities” will be on Wednesday, October 28, at 7 p.m. at the **Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2208 Winchell Ave.** This program will be in addition to the previously announced October 10 conference on Pollinators.

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Quotation for Contemplation

The eyes of the future are looking back at us and they are praying for us to see beyond our own time. They are kneeling with hands clasped that we might act with restraint; that we might leave room for the life that is destined to come.

--Terry Tempest Williams, *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place*

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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 you if you are a member. Field trips and plant exchanges are held rain or shine and canceled only in severe weather: 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 **October-December, 2015**, will come early in October. **Deadline for submission is Friday, Sept. 25, 2015.**

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