

***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

January-February, 2016 — Contents

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Drawing by Amelia Hansen

***Bill Schneider, Veteran Native Plant Grower, Poses
Tough Questions for Wild Ones in February Program***

BILL SCHNEIDER, OWNER OF WILDTYPE NATIVE PLANT NURSERY, in Mason, Michigan, will pose some difficult questions for our February program, "Re-evaluating Our Goals with Respect to Restoring the Landscape." He intends to share with us some of the many changes his thinking and practice have undergone during the 30 years he's been in the business of growing native plants.

"Since I began working in this field in 1986 in California," Bill says, "our collective understanding about the challenges of restoring the native landscape have very much changed and evolved. It's always easy to get caught up in the conventional wisdom of the day. It's easy, and it's natural, maybe even beneficial. But it's important from time to time to challenge the conventional wisdom and question one's basic assumptions. That's what I find myself doing now.

"I hope to share with Kalamazoo Wild Ones some of the questions I'm asking myself these days, in these times of change and challenge. Here are a few of the questions I hope to raise:

- What is the value of pre-settlement vegetation maps? How should we use them?

- How has the term “native plant” changed over time? How will it continue to change?

- What are realistic expectations with regard to managing invasive species?

- Are the environmental problems we face simply biological, or are they social, economic, even political? I think we’d all agree they’re a combination of factors. When we take a closer look, how does that impact the work we do?

“I’ll have some Powerpoint visuals, but I want to leave a lot of space and time for the entire group to participate in exploring some very basic questions about what we all are doing.”

A native of Michigan, **Bill Schneider**’s interest in agriculture led to a degree in animal science from Michigan State University. After graduating, he worked in an entomology lab before moving to California, where he created an impromptu native plant nursery beside his Menlo Park home, growing trees from acorns he gathered in the wild. He estimates that he grew about 2,500 trees which he gave away to individuals and organizations.

Returning to Michigan, Bill earned a master's degree from U. of Michigan in landscape architecture, specializing in ecological restoration. In 1996 he established Wildtype Nursery, starting with his first love, oaks and a few other tree species. Now, 20 years later, the Wildtype catalog offers the widest variety of herbaceous and woody species of any nursery in the state, from aquatic to wetland to woodland, savanna and prairie. For more information about Bill and Wildtype, see www.wildtypeplants.com.

Wild Ones will meet Wednesday, Feb. 24 , at First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., downtown Kalamazoo. Socializing at 6:30; program promptly at 7
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Help Monarch Butterflies by Supporting a Bill to Make the Monarch Michigan’s Official State Insect

By Ilse Gebhard, KAWO Monarch Committee

Karen Meabrod, a teacher and activist from Keego Harbor, Michigan, has been leading a campaign to have the Monarch butterfly designated as the State of Michigan's insect. Michigan is one of only three states in the U.S. without an official state insect. Official state recognition of the

Monarch would help in the campaign to raise public awareness of the wonder of Monarch migration and the threat that it faces.

Currently, a bill is being drafted in the House. To get the bill passed, we need as many people as possible to show they are in favor of it.

The first thing you can do is sign a petition supporting the Monarch as the official Michigan state insect. And then share the link with your Michigan friends.

[petition: Say Yes Michigan to the Monarch as our Official State Insect !](#)

Then in summer there will be a rally at the State Capital on Tuesday, August 9, at 2 p.m. We'll have more details later; meanwhile, put the date on your calendars and plan to attend if you possibly can.



There is a public Facebook page that anyone can view, and if you have a Facebook account, you can click "going" to indicate you plan to attend the rally. Even if you don't make it to the rally, your signup will help show Michigan lawmakers you support the Monarch Butterfly as our state insect. Please share the news of the rally with your Michigan friends.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1673776919530702/>

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Wild Ones Joins in Sponsoring Symphony of the Soil Film Showing Feb. 17 at Alamo Drafthouse Cinema

Stewards of Kleinstuck are sponsoring a showing of the highly acclaimed documentary film *Symphony of the Soil* Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 6 p.m. at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema, 180 Portage Street. Admission is \$5.00. There will be only one showing.

Drawing from both ancient wisdom and the latest scientific research, *Symphony of the Soil* is an artistic exploration of the mutuality between soil, water, the atmosphere, plants and animals—including us. The film examines the use and misuse of soil in agriculture, deforestation and development, and explains soil's key role in ameliorating the most challenging environmental issues of our time.

Filmed on four continents, featuring esteemed scientists and working farmers and ranchers, *Symphony of the Soil* explores the possibilities for creating a truly healthy soil as the basis for healthy plants creating healthy human beings and a healthy planet.

Co-sponsors of the film showing include Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones and the Audubon Society of Kalamazoo

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Hope for Creation Presents Interfaith Series of Programs on Climate Justice and Faith

The WMU Faculty Climate Change Working Group, in cooperation with a number of Kalamazoo faith communities and churches, is presenting a series of Conversations with Clergy every Tuesday in February from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 321 W. South St., downtown.

The first of these conversations, featuring Fr. Charles Morris of Madonna University and Imam Hafiz Nauman Akbar of the Kalamazoo Islamic Center, took place on February 2. The next discussion will feature Rev. Seth Weeldreyer, First Presbyterian Church, and Rabbi Matthew Zerwekh, Temple B'nai Israel, on Tuesday, Feb. 9.

The Feb. 16 discussion will include Rev. Nathan Dannison, First Congregational Church, Rev. Jerry Duggins, Westminster Presbyterian, and Rev. Ruth Moerdyck, Disciples of Christ.



The final program in the series, Tuesday, Feb. 23, will bring together all participants in the previous discussions in fellowship, sharing both thoughts about climate justice and also information about earthcare activities around the community.

Programs begin at 7 p.m., Feb. 9, 16, & 23, at First Presbyterian Church, 321 W. South St. Enter at the front door or from Lovell St. parking lot behind the church. For more information, visit <http://hopeforcreation.net>, or call First Presbyterian, 344-0119.

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Quotations for Contemplation

“One of the many unintended consequences of the Anthropocene has been the pruning of our own family tree. Having cut down our sister species—the Neanderthals and the Denisovans—many generations ago, we’re now working on our first and second cousins. By the time we’re done, it’s quite possible that there will be among the great apes not a single representative left, except, that is, for us.”

—Elizabeth Kolbert, *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*

Math models reality with numbers just as the poet does with language. But then, of course, math *is* a language . . . Physics may be written in the language of mathematics, but it is a very different thing to say that nature is.

--Curtis White, *The Science Delusion: Asking the Big Questions in a Culture of Easy Answers*

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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: 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 **March-April, 2016**, will come early in March. **Deadline for submission is Friday, Feb. 26, 2016.** 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