

***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



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

January-February, 2015 — Contents

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***Laurel Ross from Chicago's Field Museum Leads Off
Wild Ones 2015-16 Series on Stewardship with "Urban
Areas: People are the Solution, not the Problem"***

Laurel Ross, recently retired Director of Urban Conservation for Chicago's world-famous Field Museum, will be the leadoff speaker in Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones 2015-2016 series on "Stewardship of the Land."

In her program on Wednesday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m., she'll emphasize the vital importance of urban areas of all sizes in environmental conservation. As planners and ecologists seek to stitch together habitat patches into landscapes extensive and diverse enough to provide maximum resilience in the face of climate change, they're discovering that one of the most valuable conservation assets is the people who live in these largely urban and suburban landscapes. Engaged residents in villages, towns and cities, largely non-conservation professionals, are playing increasingly important roles in ecological restoration and education as stewards of the landscapes where they live.

Laurel, a veteran volunteer steward of urban natural areas and an organizer of volunteers, will tell stories and show pictures of many of the people and places in the Chicago

metropolitan area, which, as “Chicago Wilderness,” has been called an epicenter and model of citizen involvement over the past forty years.

How Shall We Learn Together and Cooperate?

In addition to informing Wild Ones about how the Field Museum and the Chicago Wilderness Coalition are knitting together small backyard and neighborhood restoration projects with larger conservation efforts in Chicago area nature preserves and parks, Laurel will be very interested in learning more about our own conservation involvement in Kalamazoo area backyards, parks, schoolyards, and natural areas.

Two days after her presentation here in Kalamazoo, Laurel will be giving essentially the same talk for an all-day Wild Things Conference in Chicago, to an audience of 1200 to 1500 people, most of them volunteer conservation stewards. Her message there, as in Kalamazoo, is the critical role of urban areas in large-scale landscape conservation and the particularly vital role that volunteers, neighbors, and non-conservation professionals have in that work. For an impressive conference schedule, see <http://habitatproject.org/WildThings2015/schedule.html>

Wild Ones meets at First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park, downtown Kalamazoo. Socializing at 6:30 p.m., program promptly at 7.

Laurel Ross retired a little over a year ago as Director of Urban Conservation at The Field Museum, in the Division of Environment, Culture and Conservation. She coordinated all of the Museum’s external conservation and education programs in the Chicago region.

Ross was among the group of original organizers of Chicago Wilderness, which was launched in 1996 and has grown to be a consortium of more than 260 governmental, business, and environmental agencies and institutions. She oversaw production of the *CW Atlas of Biodiversity* and was a member of the Recovery Plan Task Force which developed the roadmap for the successful conservation of biodiversity in the region.

Until fall of 2004 she served the Illinois chapter of The Nature Conservancy as Director of Conservation Programs. She began at the Conservancy in 1992 in the role of Coordinator of the Volunteer Stewardship Network, a corps of thousands of volunteers who participate in stewardship of biologically significant publicly-owned natural areas. One of her qualifications for that position was her experience as a volunteer



steward and monitor herself.

From 1983 until 1992 she was Director of the North Park Village Nature Center, at that time the only Nature Center in the City of Chicago.

She has been one of the organizers of the Chicago Climate Action Plan, a model for urban response and adaptation to climate change. See www.chicagoclimateaction.org.

She is a board member of Mighty Acorns, a youth stewardship program that she initiated at The Nature Conservancy in 1995 and which now brings over 8000 children annually to local natural areas.

She was instrumental in organizing the important exhibit on “Restoring Earth” in the Abbott Hall of Conservation at the Field Museum.

Laurel is far from idle in retirement. When she recently sent us some information about her talk here in Kalamazoo, she noted that the syntax might be a little “clunky” because she had been up late the night before ringing bells at the Zen temple (she belongs to a Zen monastic order) and rose very early to go birding.

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***Mike and Carol Klug, for Wild Ones February 25
Program, Share Adventures in Stewardship of 80 Acres
in “Sharing the Land: A Ten-Year Saga on the Ridge”***

By Mike and Carol Klug

For 33 years we lived in a tightly knit suburban neighborhood in Richland – 10 minutes from schools and the village center and 20 minutes from work. That had many advantages when we were raising a family. Our small neighborhood yards were highly structured with well delineated borders that were often separated by privacy fences. The emphasis was on human needs and wants with little consideration of the impact of these activities on the coexistent biological community.

Ten years ago we moved to an 80-acre parcel in a sparsely populated area in southern Barry County which was in an existing SWMLC conservation easement. The hundreds of undeveloped contiguous acres with few fences or other barriers was a stark contrast to our former property in Richland. Although we still interact with our human neighbors, our more consistent daily interactions are with the billions of organisms with which we now share the land. We are now immersed in a far different community – one that was unfamiliar to us when we first arrived. “What is that?” became a common question spoken between us, and the number of animal and plant guidebooks on our book shelves grew exponentially.

Our challenge has been to be stewards of this land in a manner that allows us to be good neighbors to our shared biological community while still providing our needs (and some

wants) from the land. Learning to grow vegetables, fruit and berry crops with limited impact on our community has been a continuous process. We have also become more aware that in relation to evolutionary time we will only be stewards of this land for a short period of time. We will share with you some of our past activities and what we hope to accomplish in our remaining years as stewards of this land.

Carol and Mike Klug are past co-presidents of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones. Mike is the retired director of MSU's Kellogg Biological Station and a Professor of Microbial Ecology. Carol has B.S. and M.S. degrees in microbiology from Univ. of Iowa, and worked in research labs at U. of Iowa and U. of Illinois before coming to Michigan, where she was the first co-ordinator of the mentorship program at the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center. Carol and Mike have been spending their retirement working to remove invasive plants and establish new native plantings on their property. They've given many programs in the area on Michigan native plants and soil ecology.

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Messages from the Wild Ones Chapter President

By Dave Wendling

Now that the holidays are over, it's time to look forward to the New Year. We have an ambitious set of programs and events for 2015, the first year of our new two-year series titled ***Stewardship of the Land***. Thanks to our Programs Committee, our brochure for 2015 is complete and on our Webpage www.kalamazoowildones.org, where it can be downloaded and printed. Check it out!

We will again be co-sponsoring an all-day conference with the Kalamazoo Nature Center on Saturday, October 10. This will take the place of our regular October Membership Meeting. The title of the conference is **Pollinators: Perils and Possibilities**, with keynote speaker Heather Holm, from Minnesota and the author of ***Pollinators of Native Plants***, along with many other speakers and workshop leaders from our area. Learn why our pollinators are in great jeopardy any why this threatens our native plants as well as our food supply. Find out what you can do to help pollinators in your own yard as well as on a larger scale.

We will also have our second annual plant sale on May 23 at the Peoples Food Co-op and our second Wine and Cheese fundraiser on September 12. The money from both of these fundraisers will be used to continue and improve our programs and promote our vision *"To restore and sustain biodiversity through education and the practice of landscaping with native plants."*

Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones Needs You!

In order to get our message out and promote our vision, we need people with social media and communications skills. If you are able to help us in these areas, please contact me. Dave Wendling at dave.wendling47@gmail.com or 269-624-6946.

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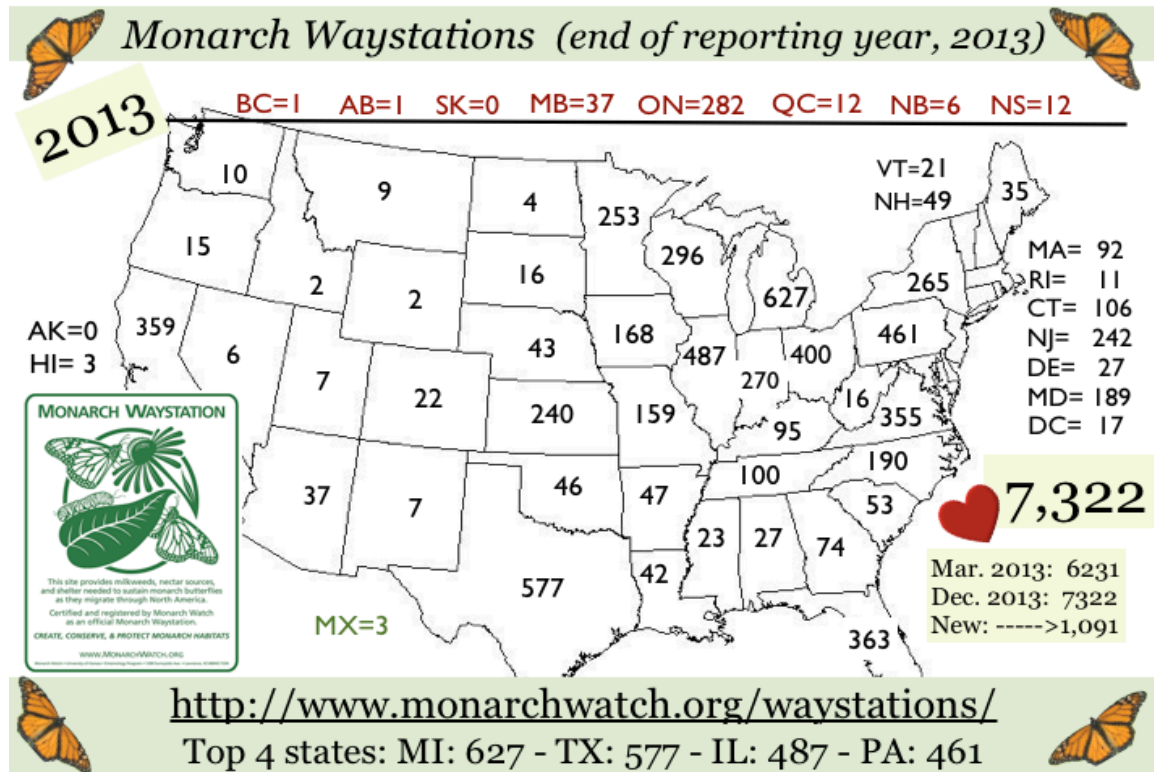
Texas is Catching Up; Help Michigan Stay in First Place!

By Ilse Gebhard

Soon after the start of Monarch Watch's Waystation initiative in 2005, Michigan pulled ahead of Texas in the number of waystations in the state and has been #1 in the nation ever since then. That may soon change.

Texas monarch conservationists are working hard at creating monarch habitat and are registering a lot of monarch waystations. This is a really good thing for monarchs as the Eastern US monarch population funnels through Texas in the fall to reach their Mexican overwintering sanctuaries. On their fall migration monarchs need rich nectar sources to fatten up for the long winter ahead. And in March when monarchs return to the US, Texas is the first state they encounter to lay their eggs on native milkweeds.

While I applaud the efforts in Texas, I can't help but feel a little competitive and would love to see Michigan keep its #1 position. I know monarchs will find your milkweed and native nectar plants regardless of waystation status, so the most important thing is that



you have created monarch habitat. But I would like to encourage you to go one step further – register your habitat as a Monarch Waystation this winter. Registration does cost \$16, and you have to fill out a form. If you need help with that, please contact me at

gebhard.ilse@gmail.com. The Waystation Application form is on-line:
<http://shop.monarchwatch.org/store/p/1200-Waystation-Certification-Application.aspx>.
Don't worry if you don't have a lot of the nectar sources listed. Just list some of your native plants under "Other."

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Other Events of Interest to Wild Ones

January 5 - March 12, 2015

Exhibit: Petals and Paws, Selected Flora and Fauna Resources

The A. M. Todd Rare Book Room
Upjohn Library Commons, 1200 Academy St., Kalamazoo
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 1-3 pm
Also during the Art Hop on Friday, February 6

Wednesday, January 21, noon

The Historical Context of Energy Resources, Energy Demand, & the Need for Alternatives

Lecture/Discussion by Dr. Lynne Heasley, Dept. of History and Environment &
Sustainability Studies

Lee Honors College Lounge, WMU campus

This is the first in a semester-long series of programs on SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
FUTURE, every Wednesday noon from Jan. 21 to April 8 (except March 11).

Second in the series, on January 28, is Dr. Dave Karowe, Dept. of Biological Sciences,
on *What's at Risk? 2° vs. 4° Warming*.

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Statistics for Contemplation (and Action)

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) has announced that 2014 was the hottest
year in more than 120 years of record-keeping — by far. NOAA is expected to make
a similar call in a couple of weeks and so is NASA.

If you're wondering how 2014 could be the hottest year on record when it wasn't
particularly hot in the United States (if we ignore California and Alaska), there's a
whole planet out there that has been very warm indeed:

- **Europe was the hottest it's been in 500 years.**
- **California had record-smashing heat**, which helped create its most severe drought in
the last 1200 years.
- **Australia broke heat records** across the continent (for the second year running).
- **Much of Siberia defrosted in spring and early summer** under temperatures
more than 9°F (5°C) above its 1981 to 2010 average. This is the second
exceptionally hot summer in a row for the region, and scientists now think the huge
crater discovered this year in the area was probably caused by thawing permafrost.

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Quotations for Contemplation

Nothing is new except what has been forgotten.
--Marie Antoinette (1755-1793)

Nothing gets lost,
nothing is created,
everything transforms.
--Antoine Lavoisier (1743-1794)

Marie Antoinette, Queen of France and Navarre, and Lavoisier, considered the founder of modern chemistry, both died at the guillotine.

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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.

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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, 2015**, will come early in March. **Deadline for submission is Friday, February 27, 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.