

***SEEDLINGS, the Newsletter  
of Kalamazoo Area WILD ONES  
Native Plants, Natural Landscapes***

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What more substantial service to conservation  
than to practice it on one's own land?

--Aldo Leopold



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**Happy New Year to All!  
January-February, 2017 — Contents**

• ***Hometown Habitat*, new film with Doug Tallamy, Opens Wild Ones 2017 Program Series With FREE Showing at Alamo Draft House Cinema, Jan. 22. PLEASE PRE-REGISTER!**

• **In February Steve Keto Returns to Pose a Question for Wild Ones: "What is a Natural Community?"**

Drawing by Amelia Hansen

• **Logan Rowe Speaks to Wild Ones in March on Supporting Pollinators and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants**

• **Michigan Has Fallen Behind Texas in Monarch Waystation Count. You Can Help Us to Catch Up.**

• **Quotations for Contemplation**

• **Events Cancellation Policy**

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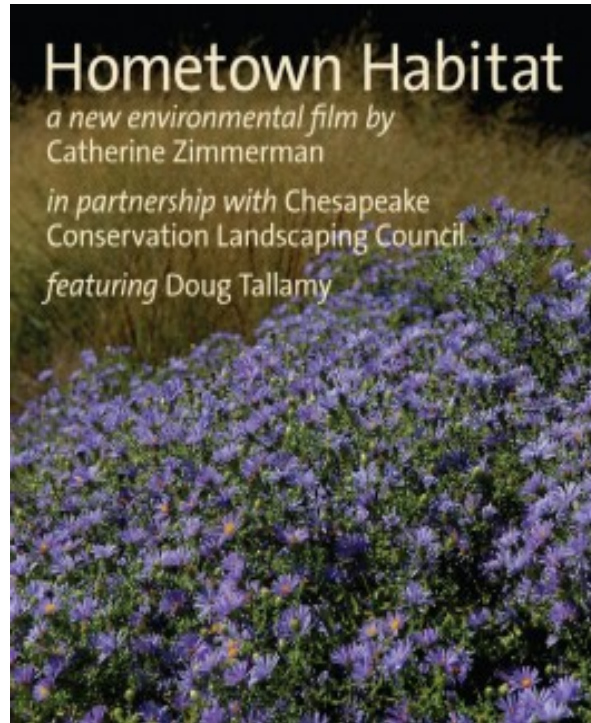
**Free Showing of Film Featuring Doug Tallamy  
*Hometown Habitat Film Opens 2017 Program Series on "Communities and Connections"***

*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 Draft House Cinema at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 22. **Admission is free.**

**Due to limited seating, please pre-register at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com), even if you previously registered at a Wild Ones meeting. When you register, you will receive free tickets by email for as many persons as you say you're bringing. Print them and bring them with you. You can also obtain free tickets at the door on the day of showing, but only if seats are still available (they probably will be). Pre-registering will help us keep count and guarantee you seats.**

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, across the country, who are working to bring back nature to their hometowns.

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 41<sup>st</sup> 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.** Bring friends and neighbors who need some inspiration. And remember, it will help us to know you’re coming and how many are coming with you; so please pre-register and obtain your free tickets at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

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***Steve Keto’s February Program for Wild Ones Poses the Basic Question: “What is a Natural Community?”***

Our good friend Steve Keto will return to us in February as the first speaker of the new year, to lead off our year-long discussion of

“Communities and Connections.” He’ll explore the evolving response to a fundamental question: “What Is a Natural Community?” He’ll also outline a modern land ethic, one that includes people in a cohesive, holistic, “natural” community.

Steve will begin by providing an overview of how the idea of natural community evolves, from the writings of Henry David Thoreau through John Muir, Jens Jensen, Aldo Leopold, on up to Rachel Carson, Sara Stein, Doug Tallamy, and Nancy and Tom Small. Touching on key works by each of these authors, Steve will argue that an ever-greater sense of crisis leads to an ever-broadening sense of what “natural community” must include.

In exploring how people can become truly positive forces in the landscape, Steve will move beyond the native-plant movement into ways its principles and practices can develop synergies with the local food movement, permaculture, and agroecology, including the food-forest gardens being developed in the Kalamazoo area.

What is our future, as a community of people hoping to restore natural systems that have been critically degraded and desecrated? How can we both work with the dominant culture of our times and yet be countercultural, sowing the seeds of community that is truly sustainable and regenerative? How shall we better understand the consequences of what we do—and don’t do? How shall we speak and act in these critical times so that people will listen to our message and work in community with us?

Steve will bring his usual energy and his ever-deepening sense of urgency to a presentation that both follows up on the message in our January film, *Hometown Habitat*, and sets the stage for the rest of the year’s programs and field trips. This is a program you won’t want to miss!



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**Steve Keto** graduated from MSU with a M.S. degree in Poultry Science and B.S. degrees in Wildlife Management and Animal Science. During his 20 years as owner of **Nesta Prairie Nursery**, Steve was a major propagator of native plants for the Kalamazoo area and for the entire state. He has been the native-plant provider and mentor for many of us. Without him, the Kalamazoo Area Chapter of Wild Ones might never have happened and would certainly be much the poorer. He is now the Natural Areas and Preserves Manager for WMU. **For a fine story about Steve, see the latest issue of *Encore*:**

<http://www.encorekalamazoo.com/steve-keto>.

We will meet **Wednesday, Feb. 22**, at First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., downtown Kalamazoo. Socializing at 6:30; **program at 7.**

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### ***Wild Ones March Program Focuses on Supporting Beneficial Insects and Pollinators with Native Plants***

Logan Rowe, a graduate student in the Entomology Department at Michigan State University, will speak to Wild Ones in March about some of the current efforts in Michigan to support beneficial insects.

Beneficial insects provide very important pollination and pest management services in agricultural and restored landscapes, yet their populations are declining in many of these landscape types. Understanding the factors that contribute to these declines and developing strategies to support beneficial insects have become increasingly important as landscapes continue to be altered to meet human demands. More and more of the efforts to restore or enhance landscapes are focusing on providing resources for beneficial insects.

Rowe will focus his presentation on a collaborative project to assess the relative attractiveness of more than 50 native plant species to pollinators and the natural enemies of crop pests. He will also explain some of the pollinator habitat enhancements that he and his colleagues have successfully established on farms in Michigan. Finally, he will introduce the audience to a variety of beneficial insects, using powerpoint photos and preserved field collections.

Rowe will follow up this indoor program with a field trip On Saturday, July 22, to a study site for beneficial insects near Pullman, Michigan. Stand by for further information in later editions of *Seedlings*.

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Logan Rowe’s studies in the Department of Entomology at MSU focus on pollinator conservation and habitat restoration. His research involves developing plant-selection strategies to support pollinators in managed landscapes.

We will meet **Wednesday, March 22**, at First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., downtown Kalamazoo. Socializing at 6:30; **program at 7.**

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## ***Michigan Has Fallen Behind in the Monarch Waystation Count. Can We Catch Up with Texas?***

By Ilse Gebhard, Chair  
Kalamazoo Wild Ones Monarch Committee

Well, Michigan has dropped to the number two position in the Monarch Watch waystation count. Texas is now number one with 1225, Michigan has 1160, and Illinois is catching up with 1103.

Michigan held the lead for a number of years, but Texas is really the most important state for monarch conservation. All of the monarchs east of the Rockies funnel through Texas on their way to the Mexican overwintering sanctuaries, and nectar sources are of utmost importance for southbound monarchs. And then in March, when the monarchs move north ready to lay eggs, milkweed becomes essential. If monarchs don't find sufficient milkweed in Texas, there won't be many offspring to recolonize the northern range.



Waystation Sign at Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery

Of the 1160 Michigan waystations, 128 (11%) are in Kalamazoo County. By contrast, Kent County with a population about 2.5 times the size of Kalamazoo County, has less than 2% of the total number of waystations.

Of the 128 waystations in Kalamazoo County, 97 have a Kalamazoo address. Some are in the City of Kalamazoo and others are in outlying areas but have Kalamazoo as their mailing address.

Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones has been the driving force behind the creation of many of these waystations, and I hope many more have been planted but just not registered yet or are in the planning stage. To register your waystation go to:

<http://shop.monarchwatch.org/product/Waystation-Certification-Application/125589>

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## ***Quotations for Contemplation***

We do not know where the forces of reaction are taking us, but we will do our work from wherever we are. --Emma Goldman

If we surrendered to Earth's intelligence, we could rise up rooted, like trees. --Rainer Maria Rilke

When the capabilities of vegetative beings become known, and their emotional lives and needs are recognized, then the way we treat plants will gradually change as well.

--Peter Wohlleben, *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate*. Greystone Books, 2016.

What's the use of a fine house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on? --Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

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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 **March-April**, will come early in March. **Deadline for submission is Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017**. Please send submissions, comments, and suggestions to Tom at [yard2prairie@gmail.com](mailto:yard2prairie@gmail.com). For more information and news, check us out at [www.kalamazoowildones.org](http://www.kalamazoowildones.org) and [www.facebook.com/KalamazooAreaWildOnes](http://www.facebook.com/KalamazooAreaWildOnes)