

***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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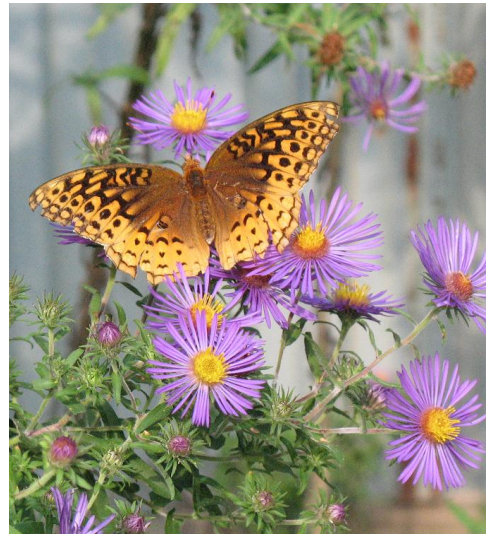


***Wild Ones March Program Focuses on  
Choosing the Best Native Plants to Support  
Beneficial Insects and Pollinators***

Logan Rowe, a graduate student in the Entomology Department at Michigan State University, will speak to Wild Ones Wednesday, March 22, 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 Wild Ones field trip on Saturday, July 22, to a study site for beneficial insects near Pullman, Michigan. More 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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## ***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.

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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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## ***Overwintering Population Down As Monarchs Begin Migration North; Our Help in Planting More Milkweed and Natives Will Be Critical***

By Ilse Gebhard

The size of the 2016/17 overwintering monarch population in Mexico is, as expected, down from last year, but not as much as had been feared. (See the graph, below).

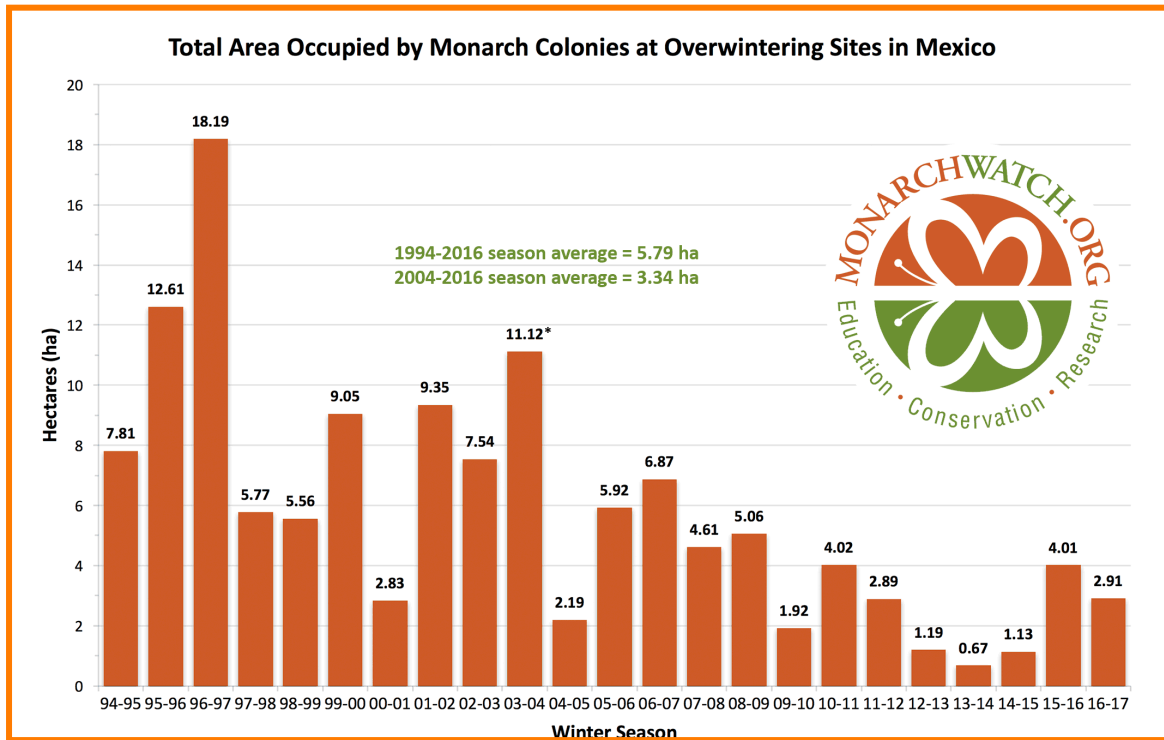
The 2015/16 numbers had at first shown a very welcome increase of population over the very low numbers of the previous three years. Unfortunately, a bad storm hit the overwintering sanctuaries in March, 2016, just before the northward migration of the monarchs, killing a large number of them and doing considerable damage to the forest in which they overwinter.

Consequently, the number of monarchs arriving in Texas last spring was low, which resulted in low numbers moving north into the summer breeding area. Many people noticed their absence in our area during the

summer. Southward migration last fall also appeared low. So most observers expected very low numbers of monarchs to be overwintering in Mexico.

The weather last fall may have helped boost the expected low numbers. As you may recall, it was a very mild fall and migrating monarchs were observed much later than usual. Did those late-migrating monarchs make it to the sanctuaries? Did the mild weather allow for another generation to develop in the southern states? There is much still to be learned about this great phenomenon of the migratory monarch.

In less than one month the monarchs will be leaving the sanctuaries in Mexico, hopefully without another decimating storm. At the moment,



Texas, where most of them will reproduce, is not in a drought, which is positive, and we should be getting reports soon as to the availability of milkweeds upon their arrival.

While KAWO members have been working hard over the years getting milkweed established, we are still losing ground, literally, to crop monocultures, lawns, pavement. **Please don't let up on planting more milkweed and nectar plants.** More than ever, individual action counts.

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## ***Calendar of Events for March-April***

**Sunday, March 19, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

### **Celebration of the Spring Equinox**

**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2208 Winchell, Kalamazoo**

You're invited! Join **CORE** (Communities Organized for Regenerative Earthcare) for a gala celebration of the Spring equinox. There will be music and dancing with the Brook Farm String Band; Native American storytelling and pre-settlement cultural history of the area, with Larry Plamondon and Pat Lynn; Steve Keto telling about pre-settlement natural history of the neighborhoods; activities for children, and dialogue about future plans for the 5-acre Church property.

**Sunday, March 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

### **Vedanta, Ecology, and Ancient Wisdom, East and West**

**Sambodh Center, 6363 N. 24<sup>th</sup>., Kalamazoo**

The third of six monthly programs by **Ruth and Tom Small**. In this program, Ruth will present a Powerpoint program and lead discussion on "**Forest Wisdom of Ancient India: Reflections for Our Time.**"

**Wednesday, March 29, 7:00 p.m.**

### **Climate Ready Kalamazoo: Climate Action Planning**

**Schneider Hall, WMU Haworth College of Business**

Hear from Michigan cities that already have Climate Action Plans; talk with Kalamazoo officials and planners about planning for our city. More information at <http://hopeforcreation.net>.

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

### **Award-winning documentary "SEED: THE UNTOLD STORY"**

**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2208 Winchell, Kalamazoo**

This new 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, all day**

**Earth Day Celebration** (cont'd next page)

Events at Kalamazoo Nature Center and at Earth Day in Bronson Park. For details, see [kalamazoonaturecenter.org](http://kalamazoonaturecenter.org). Stand by for more details about Earth Day in the Park, with several co-sponsors.

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## *Quotations for Contemplation*

Communities and individuals across America are experimenting with techniques based on principles of self-reliance and local control. Examples abound: buying fruits and vegetables in season from nearby growers, revitalizing brownfields made worthless and discarded in a previous fit of economic endeavor, preserving green space amid congestion, valuing and conserving the plants and animals that elevate a mere city or farm to an intriguing bastion of biodiversity, and so forth. Really, this is nothing more than a return to the “Neolithic village” of our origins, where everything you valued was of necessity found within traveling distance on foot.

--Kim Chapman, *Nature, Culture, and Two Friends Talking*

Touching the earth is the first step toward peace.

--Satish Kumar, *Earth Pilgrim*

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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](mailto:yard2prairy@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)