

***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

---

---

**March/April, 2018  
Contents**

- **Dave Wendling Traces the Evolution of Early Land Plants, Beginning with Bryophytes, for the Wild Ones Program March 28**
  - **Nate Fuller, Conservation Director for SWMLC, Warns Us of "Invasive Plants on the Move: What's New for Kalamazoo" for Wild Ones Program April 25**
  - **Sue Hodapp Follows Up Her Fall Program on Kal-Haven Trail Native-Plant Restoration with Field Trip for Spring Wildflowers on Saturday, May 5**
  - **Join in the Fun, the Learning—and the Work—with the Community Projects Committee. Here's a schedule of this summer's action days.**
  - **Some Extra Protein with Your Veggies? By Ilse Gebhard**
  - **Quotations for Contemplation**
  - **More Events of Interest to Wild Ones**
  - **Events Cancellation Policy**
- 
- 



***Dave Wendling Provides Evolutionary Overview of Early Land Plants, Bryophitic Ancestors of All Flowering Plants***

For the Wild Ones March program, Dave Wendling will speak about the natural history of the earliest land plants, the Bryophytes, and their place in our current gardens and natural areas.

The ancestors of our Bryophytes (Liverworts, Mosses, and Hornworts) were the first land plants. They appear to have arisen from a single colonization of the land surface around 450 million years ago by freshwater green algae called the Streptophytes.

In order for plants to survive on land several evolutionary innovations had to occur. Dave will discuss some of these early innovations and successive innovations that occurred in the bryophytes themselves (Liverworts, Mosses,



BRYOPHYTES: a liverwort (*Pellia epiphylla*) and moss blooming on a stone

---

and Hornworts). Then he'll illustrate what had to happen for the spore-bearing vascular plants, the Pteridophytes (Lycophytes and Ferns), to evolve. These evolutionary innovations did not stop there but continued over millions of years, resulting in our seed plants and our flowering plants. Dave will cover some of the reasons why they became the dominant plants on land.

Dave will continue by illustrating the structure and reproduction of the Bryophytes and Ferns, with the basics of how to identify them. He'll conclude with a photo gallery of some of the more common Bryophytes, many of which we will see on the **Wild Ones June 23 field trip to Dowagiac Woods**, which Dave will lead.

---

**Dave Wendling** is a retired family physician, a grandfather, and an amateur naturalist. Ever since childhood he has been interested in the natural world. In addition to native plants his current interests are the Michigan native turtles, frogs, ferns, and mosses. As a physician he spent his time healing people, but now he hopes to spend the rest of his time "healing the earth" and is a member of the Citizens Climate Lobby.

He is a volunteer with many local and regional conservation groups including the Michigan Nature Association, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, and Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones. He has been a member of Wild Ones since the year 2000 and served as the Kalamazoo chapter's president for six years. Currently he's president of the Michigan Botanical Club, Southwestern Chapter. His interest in native plants was influenced by

Sara Stein's book *Noah's Garden*, and he has been gardening with native plants for about 20 years.

We will meet **Wednesday, March 28**, at First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., downtown Kalamazoo. Socializing at 6:30; **program promptly at 7.**

+++++

## ***Nate Fuller Tells How to Prevent Spread of Some Nasty New Invasive Species Wednesday, April 25***

For our last indoor program this spring, on April 25, Nate Fuller, the Conservation and Stewardship Director for the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, will show us "Invasive Plants on the Move: What's New for Kalamazoo."

While most people are familiar with garlic mustard and many other common invasive plants, new ones are on the way to our region. Some pose a threat to wildlife, such as black swallow-wort, which kills monarch caterpillars. Others, like Japanese stiltgrass and lesser celandine, threaten to overwhelm natural communities. Some, like wild parsnip, pose health risks to unwary gardeners. Nate will share the latest news of what invasives are coming our way and how to prevent their spread. He'll also catch us up on the latest developments regarding invasives we're already familiar with.



Nate will also lead the Wild Ones field trip to the Conservancy's **Bow in the Clouds Preserve Saturday, June 5**, as a follow-up to his talk on new local threats from invasives.

The sap of Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), a Eurasian invasive, causes painful burning

---

**Nate Fuller** is the Conservation and Stewardship Director for Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy. He works with partners and volunteers to develop and implement conservation and restoration projects throughout southwest Michigan. He is a graduate of Northland College and Western Michigan University, with degrees in biology and geography with an emphasis in environmental and resource analysis. Nate has 20 years of experience



working for conservation organizations providing environmental stewardship and education.

We will meet **Wednesday, April 25**, at First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., downtown Kalamazoo. Socializing at 6:30; **program promptly at 7.**

+++++

## ***Join Sue Hodapp for Spring Ephemerals Field Trip on Kal-Haven Trail Saturday, May 5***

Join Sue Hodapp, Master Gardener, Conservation Steward, for a nature walk down the Kal-Haven Trail. This two-hour trek will offer participants a view of spring ephemerals and wildlife on an old abandoned railroad right-of-way, commencing in a wetland at the foot of the Kalamazoo Moraine, traveling up the moraine, and concluding in a southern mesic forest. Come, test your skills at identifying plants and trees, right from the trail's edge.

Here are just a few of the many possibilities of what, depending on the weather in the next few weeks, we're likely to see in bloom: trillium, blue



Here's just a sampling of the rich variety of spring flowers and leaves we're likely to see on the Kal-Haven field trip. Note also the rich variety of plant and leaf litter that fosters these plants.

cohosh, bellwort, woodland phlox, both true and false Solomon's seal, false rue anemone, and alternate-leaved dogwood. These and many other spring flowers will be about to bloom, blooming, or just past blooming and still displaying beautiful seedheads, colors, and leaf forms.

This trip will provide a follow-up to Sue's talk for Wild Ones last September and also for the spring ephemerals portion of Tom Small's February program.

The walk will start at the F Avenue crossing of the Kal-Haven Trail. When parking, please pull off the road as far as possible, and exercise caution when crossing the street, as traffic emerges from a blind curve here. Wear comfortable walking shoes or boots, and remember to bring your camera and binoculars. **The walk begins promptly at 10 a.m., Saturday, May 5; it should conclude by around noon.**

---

**Sue Hodapp** has been a member of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones for ten years. She's been a Master Gardener since 2005 and a Conservation Steward since 2011. She has a passion for history, natural history, and railroads. She's currently working with the DNR to designate the Kal-Haven Trail as a Michigan Heritage Trail, with informative signage about the towns along this 34-mile linear park, as well as its history and its natural features.

+++++

## ***How About Some Protein with your Veggies?***

By Ilse Gebhard

I know Cabbage White butterflies are not native to the U. S., but when one suffers, as I do, from CCB (Caterpillar Compulsive Behavior), and monarchs are all gone for the season, one stoops to raise even Cabbage Whites. Introduced from Europe, they seem some years to be the most abundant butterfly in our area.

As the name implies, this butterfly with a wingspan of about one inch is white above, with the male sporting one black spot on the forewings and the female two. Both sexes have a dark area at the tips of their forewings. Interestingly, in early spring these markings are greatly diminished to almost invisible. When the butterfly is at rest, you can see that the underside of the hind wing has a yellowish cast. Its flight is fairly strong but erratic.

The caterpillar's major food source is both wild and cultivated crucifers, like cabbage, brussels sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower, kale. Unless you grow your

own food organically, you are not likely to find the caterpillars on your veggies. They are only about one inch long when fully grown, and their green color provides them excellent camouflage.



The caterpillar, chrysalis, and adult of the Cabbage White butterfly

Last fall friends gave us a much appreciated batch of kale which harbored two of these caterpillars. If I missed any on washing the kale, well, we would have had some extra protein. I saved some of the kale to feed them. After a few days they pupated, and they are now spending the winter in their deli-container homes in our screened-in porch. I think the chrysalis is fully as attractive as the monarch one. Together, we await the spring.

+++++

## ***Put These Dates on Your Calendar and Come Join in the Joy of Spreading Native Plants in the Community***

A friendly, happy crew of Wild Ones gets together a few times in the summer to help maintain and spread public native-plantings in the community.

Join us to learn, have some fun, and help in the essential work of natural landscaping.

**Thursday, May 24, 2 to 4 p.m.**

Kalamazoo Public Schools Administration Building

1220 Howard St.

Spring clean-up, assessment

**Thursday, May 31, 2 to 4 p.m.**

Tom and Ruth's house, 2502 Waite Ave.

Helping to prepare for the Spring Plant Exchange on Sunday, June 3

**Tuesday, June 12, 2 to 4 p.m.**

Kalamazoo Public Schools Administration Building

1220 Howard St.

Weeding, replanting

**Tuesday, June 26, 2 to 4 p.m.**

Axtell Creek streambank planting behind Paris Cleaners  
508 Crosstown Blvd. at S. Westnedge Ave.  
Spring clean-up, assessment

**Thursday, July 12, 9 to 11 a.m.**

Axtell Creek streambank planting behind Paris Cleaners  
508 Crosstown Blvd. at S. Westnedge Ave.  
Control of invasives, maintenance

**Thursday, July 26, 9 to 11 a.m.**

Axtell Creek streambank planting behind Paris Cleaners  
Continuation of the July 12 actions

**Thursday, August, 9 to 11 a.m.**

Kalamazoo Public Schools Administration Building  
1220 Howard St.  
Weeding, maintenance

**Thursday, September 13, 2 to 4 p.m.**

Tom and Ruth’s house, 2502 Waite Ave.  
Helping to prepare for the Fall Plant Exchange (on Sunday, Sept.16)

**Thursday, September 25, 2 to 4 p.m.**

Kalamazoo Public Schools Administration Building  
1220 Howard St.  
Fall clean-up

+++++

## ***Quotations for Contemplation***

No matter what you do to nature, burn it, scrape it, scorch it, clear cut it, extract it, poison it, the moment you stop, life starts to regenerate. There’s nothing you can do about it. It’s the default mode of life.

--Paul Hawken, author of *Blessed Unrest*

Nature did it right for millions of years until we came along and boogered things up.

–Greg Judy, self-styled “microbe farmer” from Missouri

The Lord created medicines out of the Earth, and he that is wise will not despise them.

–Ecclesiasticus 58:4

+++++

## ***More Events of Interest to Wild Ones***

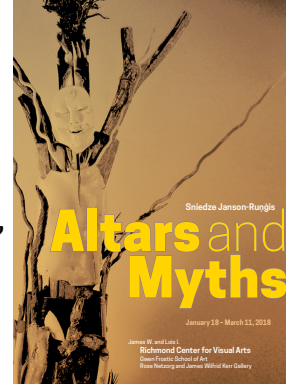
### **Altars and Myths**

**Through March 11**

**An Exhibit of “Enchanted Forest” Sculptures by Sniedze Janson-Rungis  
James and Lois Richmond Center for the Visual Arts, WMU campus**

Many of us know the Richmonds, and some of us know Sniedze Janson-Rungis. She’s put together an exhibit of 22 sculptures, constructed of tree trunks and branches, bones, shells, masks, and found objects. Together, in the confined space of the gallery, the sculptures create a strange, endlessly evocative “enchanted forest.” Take the time to see it. Admission is free.

Gallery hours: Tuesday-Thursday 10 a.m.-6p.m., Friday 12-9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 12-6 p.m.



### **“Protecting Michigan’s Rare Plants and Animals”**

**A Program of the Michigan Botanical Club—Southwest Chapter**

**Monday, March 19, 7 p.m.**

**People’s Church, 1758 N. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Kalamazoo**

Andy Bacon, from the Michigan Nature Association, will be the speaker.

Socializing at 6:30. Program at 7 p.m.

### **2018 Foodways Symposium**

**April 6 and 7**

**Kalamazoo Valley Museum and KVCC’s Bronson Healthy Living Campus,  
in downtown Kalamazoo**

The second annual **Foodways Symposium** will include two days of speakers, panels, exhibits, demonstrations, workshops, and food. Two members of **Wild Ones** will present programs on Saturday, April 7 (time TBA): Ruth Small will speak on “Food As Medicine: Ayurvedic Approaches to Food, Diet, and Maintaining Optimum Health,” and Tom Small will speak on “Restoring the Health of the Whole Community,” a discussion of permaculture and natural landscaping as they pertain to food systems for all creatures—including us.

### **Earth Day in Bronson Park: “Make a Promise”**

**Saturday, April 21, 1 to 7 p.m.**



Earth Day is a wonderful opportunity to join together as a community to recognize and protect our beautiful planet. The theme is “**Protect Our Water.**” The event will include **live music • food & drinks • vendors • fun activities for families and kids • speakers • educational exhibits & displays.** This event is organized by the Kalamazoo Earth Day Committee supported by Kalamazoo Nature Center, the City of Kalamazoo, and Western Michigan University Climate Change Working Group.

**Wild Ones 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Sale**

**Saturday, May 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**PFC (People’s Food Co-op) 508 Harrison, Kalamazoo**

Stand by for more news in the next issue of SEEDLINGS. Meanwhile, put this increasingly popular event on your calendars.

+++++

**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.

+++++

**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, 2018**, will come early in May.

**Deadline for submission is Friday, April 27.** 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](https://www.facebook.com/KalamazooAreaWildOnes)