

***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

May-June, 2017—Contents

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 - **Tour of Church and Non-Profit Native-Plant Gardens Saturday, June 17**
 - **25th Annual Spring Plant Exchange Sunday, May 21, 1-5 p.m. Join the celebration!**
 - **Bring a stone to contribute to the Life Cairn**
 - **4th Annual Wild Ones Plant Sale at PFC Saturday, May 27, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
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Drawing by Amelia Hansen

***Saturday, May 13 Field Trip to Black River
Sanctuary Features Rich Forest, Rare Species***

John Bagley, the Michigan Nature Association's Regional Stewardship Organizer, will lead Wild Ones, on our first field trip of the season, Saturday, May 13 to the MNA's Black River Nature Sanctuary. Located near the village of Breedsville, the sanctuary protects 100 acres of richly forested land along the Black River. Together with a neighboring property, this forest block is considered the highest quality remaining forest in the Black River watershed.

The sanctuary itself includes a variety of vegetation types, and it's largely free of invasive species. Consisting of some massive White Pine, Tulip poplars, Sycamore, Oak, and Hemlock trees, the forest provides habitat for many sensitive and rare species, including an active Blue Heron rookery. Other species recently documented include Spotted turtle, Blanding's turtle, Showy

Orchis, Cerulean warbler, Yellow-billed cuckoo, Louisiana waterthrush, and Black rat snake, with still others likely to be discovered.

John Bagley's bio: "I grew up on a dirt road in rural Eaton County. I lived outdoors. Every day I explored the countryside around our home. I became somewhat of a butterfly expert, and I even put together my sister's senior biology class insect collection when I was 8 years old (she got an A). I worshiped National Geographic, watched Wild Kingdom and Jacques Cousteau.

I went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Western Michigan University. After college, I began working in the corporate world and had a 15-year career in sales and management that ended in 2008 with my being laid off. That was my opportunity to exercise a passion in conservation. I began by volunteering in the wildlife rehab center at Blandford Nature Center, and in June of 2008 I discovered the MNA and began volunteering for them. My work prior to my current position as Regional Stewardship Organizer for the MNA included crew leader for the LCWM, seasonal ecologist for the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, and contractor for MNA."

The field trip is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Car pool**, from the Meijer parking lot on West Main (M-43), **leaves promptly at 9:15 a.m.** The address of Black River Sanctuary is 55281 County Road 380, Grand Junction, MI 49056.

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Tom, Ruth, and Wild Ones Host 25th Annual Spring Plant Exchange: Find New Native Plants, New Friends

THE 25TH ANNUAL SPRING PLANT EXCHANGE will be at Ruth and Tom's house, 2502 Waite Ave., Kalamazoo, on Sunday, May 21, from 1 to 5 p.m. Come help us celebrate this special anniversary of the Wild Ones social event of the season. Over the years many thousands of native plants have found new homes and provided new habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.

The exchange will offer numerous plants from Tom and Ruth's gardens, as well as plants brought by other Wild Ones members and supporters. In keeping with principles we've always emphasized, it's not necessary to bring a plant in order to take one; and no plants will be for sale.

We do ask that attenders should bring ***only plants native to Michigan***; and **all plants should be potted up carefully and identified with labels.** If in

doubt as to whether your plant is a native, call or e-mail to inquire; or stop worrying and simply bring yourself, to enjoy and celebrate.

There will be refreshments, and the house will be open for rest and conversation, and for shelter in the event of rain. As always, we proceed, rain or shine.

Several members of Wild Ones will be available throughout the afternoon to answer questions and to help people set out the plants they bring and to choose appropriate plants to take home.

Milkweed seeds and seedlings will be available as part of the special “Wild for Monarchs” project of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones, in cooperation with Wild Ones chapters throughout the nation and Monarch Watch, headquartered at University of Kansas.

The purpose of the Plant Exchange is to foster community and natural landscaping with native plants. Don’t have plants but want to bring something? *Some refreshments would be welcome.*

If you’re not already a member of Wild Ones, please consider supporting our work by joining.

Please provide species labels for your plants. For questions about the exchange or about native species, please call Tom at (269) 381-4946, or email yard2prairie@gmail.com.

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Bring a Special Stone to Add to the “LIFE CAIRN” at the Plant Exchange, and Let Us Rededicate Ourselves to Restoring Life

On May 22, 2011, a group of people gathered on Mount Caburn, in East Sussex, England, to place the first stones of a “Life Cairn,” to commemorate and to mourn all the species, over the entire planet, driven to extinction by human violence, development, and carelessness.

Since that time, many people have made the gentle climb up the mountain to place a stone, participate in a ceremony, or simply to meditate, grieve for a particular species or all species, and dedicate themselves to preservation and restoration. Many other similar cairns are growing elsewhere in the world—a growing web of Life Cairns.

Anyone who wishes to do so may bring a stone and continue to build the Life Cairn that we began in 2012 in Ruth and Tom's front yard, easily visible and accessible from the street.

Please bring a stone from someplace familiar and important to you, preferably a small, light-colored one that will reflect light. **Around 3 p.m. during the plant exchange, those who wish to participate may gather to place their stones and observe a moment of silence or read some favorite poem or passage about the natural world,** to honor those species vanished from the earth, those threatened with extinction, and those we may yet be able to save through dedication to restoration of species and habitats. Let's celebrate the sixth anniversary of the first Life Cairn and the 25th anniversary of the plant exchange.

As Martin Prechtel said at the dedication of the first Life Cairn, "This is a time of turning grief into beauty and the harsh confusion of these times into a possibility of a flowering earth."

If you don't attend the plant exchange or bring a stone, you will be welcome at any time to contribute a small stone to the cairn and to observe your own moment of remembrance.

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Wild Ones Holds Fourth Annual Native Plant Sale at PFC Natural Grocery Saturday, May 27, from 9 to 3

Once again, friends of Wild Ones and PFC will be able to purchase locally grown, pesticide free, nursery quality native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses at one convenient location, the PFC Natural Grocery and Deli, 507 Harrison St. in Kalamazoo. Spring Wildflowers will be especially featured at the sale this year.

The sale will be on Saturday, May 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We encourage preorders, at discounted prices. There will be plants available at the sale, but supplies of some more popular species may be limited. Order early; preorders will be filled in the order they are received.

Our plant list and prices are available on our webpage where you can print our plant list/order form: www.kalamazoowildones.org.

New this year is our “**Buyers Discount**” with PFC. Anyone with a day-of receipt from the PFC will receive a 10% discount at the plant sale, and conversely anyone with a day-of receipt from the plant sale will receive a 10% discount at the PFC.

Our growers will be Hidden Savanna Nursery and Native Landscapes Nursery. The sale is co-sponsored by Geum Services, Kalamazoo Nature Center, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, Better World Builders, Citizens Climate Lobby, and Pierce Cedar Creek Institute. Some of our co-sponsors will be at the sale.

Proceeds from the sale will help us to continue and expand our activities and programs.



Please note: The order form for the plant sale incorrectly stated the plant sale is Saturday, May 28. It is on **SATURDAY, MAY 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

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June 17 Field Trip Features Native-Plant Gardens at Five Faith Communities in Kalamazoo Area

Wild Ones have been involved in a number of native-garden plantings at churches and faith communities throughout the area. Our June field trip, on Saturday, June 17, will feature visits to five of these plantings, most of them guided by the Wild Ones members who have helped to establish and maintain them.

The Church Native Garden Tour is a “scramble,” which means that participants can start anywhere, include as many or as few gardens as they wish, and go north, south, or in a circle, as best suits their needs and personalities.

Brief description of each planting and our suggested routes (which can be north to south or south to north) are as follows. These routes avoid backtracking. This starts from the north, but works from the south as well;

just reverse the directions. **There will be a guide at each garden location from 10 am to 1 pm.**

People's Church Unitarian Universalist, 1758 N. 10th St., Kalamazoo. Go to North 10th St., which is off W. Main 1 block west of US-131, and turn right (north) and go about 6/10 of a mile. The church is on the right (east). The native garden is a labyrinth surrounded by native plants, with about 60 different native plant species. The labyrinth garden is up the hill to the left of the church as you face the church. This is a walking meditation garden.

Skyridge Church of the Brethren, 394 S. Drake Rd., Kalamazoo. Go east from 10th St. to Drake Road, turn south on Drake, and go until the first light. Keep going and look on your right - Skyridge is on your right (west). This native planting is a rain garden, with upland plantings on the margins. The mission of the Church is "to care for creation cooperatively with mother nature in such a way as to increase biodiversity" and provide a meditation "oasis" for Sunday school classes, the neighboring community, and patients at Progressive Alternatives, a rehabilitation center for brain injuries located next door to the Church.

Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, 2208 Winchell Ave., Kalamazoo. From Skyridge go south on Drake to Stadium Drive and turn east on Stadium. Follow Stadium to Rambling Rd. (True Value Hardware is on the corner) and turn right on Rambling. On Rambling go up to the stop sign and turn left, which is Winchell. On Winchell go until you see the church on the left (north) (it is big and hard to miss), Christian Church, Disciples of Christ. This is the newest of the gardens, and it will be interesting to see how it will progress. It includes plantings for a permaculture Food Forest Garden and new beds for community vegetable gardens.

Portage Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, 7028 Oakland Rd., Portage, MI. From Disciples of Christ turn east (left) on Winchell, go to Oakland Drive and turn right (south). Keep on Oakland south past I-94, and keep going on Oakland to Romence Rd. The church is on the southwest corner of Romence and Oakland. This church shows a planned native garden as well as native plants used in a variety of difficult spots (slope too steep to mow, patch of lawn taken over by crab grass, etc.)

Schoolcraft United Methodist Church, 342 N. Grand St., Schoolcraft. From Portage Chapel Hill UMC go on Oakland south to Center St., turn right on

Center (west) and go to US-131. Go south on US-131 to Schoolcraft. Schoolcraft UMC is in downtown Schoolcraft on the left (east) side of the road. This 12-year-old garden is probably the largest of the gardens, and has shrubs, trees, a prairie, and a community garden. It's widely used by members of the community.

The Church Native-Garden Tour will be followed up by a panel discussion, "Having Faith in Native Gardens," at our final meeting of the year, November 15. Participants in the panel include four Wild Ones discussing their work with faith communities and the ways in which these gardens have become gathering centers for both members of the congregation and their neighbors.

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Calendar of Events for May-June

May 1-June 30

Kalamazoo Nature Center, 7000 N. Westnedge

Art exhibit by Lad Hanka

Lad will present the Wild Ones program on October 25, on the topic "Artists, Naturalists, and Natural Communities." His special KIA exhibit will include a large selection of the artworks in which he's been collaborating with honeybees. "Curtains of honeycomb partially obscure my etchings and drawings which I place in the beehives. I never know what they will do with it, but the contribution of bees is always a breathtaking addition." The exhibit will include forty or more of Lad's mostly new collaborative works with bees, about a dozen etchings of the spring birdlife now migrating through, plus an impression of *Kalamazoo River Songlines*, a large etching (8 by 3 feet) which traces the course of the Kalamazoo River and plays with images of the many



Kalamazoo River Songlines, etching by Ladislav Hanka

birds, bees, frogs, ferns, flower, snakes, roots, and animal tracks we might encounter in the watershed we live in and of whose molecules we too are composed." This etching is in major collections, including the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Grand Rapids Art Museum.

Friday, May 19, 7 p.m.

Sacred Shaman, Fundraiser Concert

for Standing Rock Sioux and Water Protectors

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

A concert of music from a variety of native traditions: Native American, African, Celtic, and Asian Indian. There is no admission charge, but all voluntary donations will go to the Water Protectors Legal Collective, acting in concert with the National Lawyers Guild to provide legal defense for water protectors at the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and in defense of native American treaty rights.

Sunday, May 21, 1 to 5 p.m.

25th Annual Wild Ones Spring Native Plant Exchange

Home of Tom and Ruth Small, 2502 Waite Ave., Kalamazoo

Come help us celebrate the 25th anniversary of the plant exchange, the Wild Ones social event of the season, featuring a wonderful variety of **native** trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers, for shade, sun, wet and dry. Bring what you can (MICHIGAN NATIVE PLANTS ONLY, PLEASE). Take what you need. No money changes hands. Delectable snacks and refreshments. Co-sponsored this special anniversary year by **CORE**. For more information, see www.kalamazoowildones.org. or call Tom Small, 269-381-4946.

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Spring's the Time to Schedule a Site Visit

By Dave Wendling

It's spring, time to think about a site visit. If you're a member and need advice on native gardening, need to know what is growing in your yard, need to know how to control invasive plants, or need resources, we are here to help.

Whether you're a new or an established member, we'll arrange for a more experienced native gardener to visit your property as a consultant to help you decide on how to use native plants in your landscape. We don't ask for money; our reward is your success in creating beauty and native habitat in your yard.

If you have already had a site visit and need more help with your landscape, you can contact me about our mentorship program. To sign up, contact Dave Wendling at 269-366-8857 or dave.wendling47@gmail.com. Please provide your name, phone number, and email address.

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Quotations for Contemplation

There is a flow of information, a network of relationship conveyed in the rising sap of cedars, in tree roots grafted to fungi, and fungi to orchids, orchids to bees, bees to bats, bats to owls, owls to bones, and bones to the soil of cedars. This is the language we have yet to learn and the stories we must hear, stories that are simultaneously material and spiritual. The archive of this language, the sacred text, is the land itself.

--Robin Wall Kimmerer, "Interview with a Watershed,"
in *Forest Under Story* (U. of Washington Press, 2016)

Suppose that mind is not some private power that each of us contains but rather a field of awareness that contains us—and likewise encompasses birds, bees, ferns, trees, salamanders, spiders, and dragonflies, and all living things, permeates mountains and rivers and galaxies, each kind offering its own degree and variety of awareness, even stars, even stones.

--Scott Russell Sanders, "Mind in the Forest," in *Forest Under Story*

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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 **July-September**, will come early in July.

Deadline for submission is Thursday, June 29. 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