

***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

November Supplement, 2014 — Contents

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Hoary Vervain (*Verbena stricta*)
Drawing by Amelia Hansen,
from *Using Native Plants to
Restore Community*

Looking Back at 2014, Looking Forward to 2015, AND BEYOND

***Kalamazoo Wild Ones Celebrate 15th Birthday at
Annual Meeting and Potluck, Plus Distinguished
Service Award to Ilse Gebhard, Wednesday, Nov. 19***

COME CELEBRATE WITH US at our special **15th annual meeting and birthday celebration** Wednesday, November 19, at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 212 So. Park St., in downtown Kalamazoo.

- We will again begin the evening with a **potluck dinner** and plenty of time for socializing. Please bring a dish to pass, and your own plates, cups, and tableware. We'll provide coffee, tea, and some juices or fruit punch.
- We will have our annual election of officers for 2015. If you have someone that you would like to nominate, you can do so.

- **Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones will present the second Nancy Cutbirth Small Distinguished Service Award to Ilse Gebhard**, a charter member of the Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones, for her extraordinary achievements in support of the chapter's and the Audubon Society of Kalamazoo's activities in establishing educational native-plant gardens; in her tireless working for preservation of milkweeds, monarch butterflies, and their wonderful migration, especially in chairing the Kalamazoo chapter's Monarch Butterfly Committee; in working, together with her husband Russ Schipper, with the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, Wild Ones, and others to establish prairie habitat for threatened grassland birds; and in presenting, year after year, dozens of educational programs on native plants, lepidoptera, and native ecosystems.
- Dave Wendling, President of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones, will give a brief summary of 2014 emphasizing what was new in 2014, and some of the chapter's committee chairs will also give brief reports of their activities, providing an overview of what the Kalamazoo Wild Ones accomplished this past year.
- The programs committee has been hard at work planning our events for 2015, and Dave will let you know what to look forward to for 2015, including another exciting daylong conference we're co-sponsoring with the Kalamazoo Nature Center. Our series of programs for 2015-2016 on "Stewardship of the Land" focuses on ways we can all live closer to the land and contribute to meeting the challenges of climate change, development, and loss of habitat and biodiversity.
- We'll also ask for input from you on what you think we should be doing in the future. What do you like about what the chapter is doing and what would you like to see in the future?
- There will be no silent auction this year since we have had two successful fundraisers already this year.

Please join us for an evening of celebration, reflection, sharing,
and anticipating the future.

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Help Spread the Word About This New Fund
***Nancy Small Memorial Fund Now Receiving
 Applications for Grants to Support Native-Plant
 Gardens and Educational Projects***

The Nancy Small Memorial Fund was established to honor the vision of Nancy Cutbirth Small, co-founder of the Kalamazoo Area Chapter of Wild Ones, Native Plants, Natural Landscapes, and co-author with Tom Small of *Using Native Plants to Restore Community in Southwest Michigan and Beyond*.

The Fund awards grants to projects involving creation of an outdoor classroom or demonstration project with native plantings, enhancement of an existing site, or other educationally directed projects that support the Fund's mission.

The fund's mission is not only to educate Michigan youth and the general public in recognition, preservation, and restoration of endangered and threatened native species, but also to support projects that promote appreciation and respect for Michigan native flora and thus help to ensure their survival in this time of climate instability and great stress on native species and natural systems.

Each applicant may request up to \$500 in support. The application deadline is January 15, 2015. All applicants will be notified if they are or are not recipients of an award no later than March 1, 2015. Successful applicants will receive their funds no later than April 1, 2015.

All proceeds from the sale of Nancy and Tom's book *Using Native Plants to Restore Community* go towards supporting the Memorial Fund. Donations to the Fund are welcome.

For full information about the fund, the criteria for application, and an application form, see the Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones web site, at <http://www.kalamazoowildones.org/nancy-small-memorial-fund-grant-program/>

If you have any further questions pertaining to the grant application process, please contact Tom Small, 2502 Waite Ave., Kalamazoo MI 49008; 269-381-4946; yard2prairie@gmail.com.

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Thousands of Milkweed Seeds & Seedlings

Kalamazoo Wild Ones Monarch Committee Has Busy Year Growing and Distributing Milkweeds to Help Save the Monarch Butterfly and Its Wonderful Migrations

by Ilse Gebhard

The Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones Monarch Committee had a busy year again. Three species of milkweed (Common, Swamp and Butterfly) were grown by KAWO members Mike and Carol Klug, Ilse Gebhard, and Betty Rizzo, and the greenhouses of WMU and Monarch Watch.

A big thank you to Mike, Carol and Betty, and Steve Keto, WMU's Natural Areas and Preserves Manager, and Chris Jackson, Director of WMU's Finch Plant-Science Greenhouse, and Monarch Watch for growing the plants.

The milkweeds were distributed free of charge at many events and for many planting projects listed further down: Van Buren Conservation District native-plant sale, KAWO spring and fall plant exchanges, KAWO native plant sale, KAWO June field trip and August fundraiser, Schoolcraft 4th of July Parade, Oshtemo's Drake House Open House, and Oshtemo Fun Day.

In addition, milkweeds were distributed at three monarch presentations and two Monarch Larva Monitoring Project Workshops. Pierce Cedar Creek Institute received milkweed plants and seedlings for planting in their prairie projects, and the Van-Kal Permaculture group received seedlings to pot up and distribute.

In total ten monarch presentations and workshops were given, and eleven events or meetings were attended with the monarch booth. Monarch conservation materials were also distributed at several other events without a formal booth.

KAWO members participated in the Do-Dah Parade, giving out about 1000 milkweed seed packets with monarch conservation information and about 900 monarch bookmarks. Two interviews on monarchs were given, one with WMUK and one with Howard Meyerson.

Monarch larvae were given to the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery in July and August for their Monarch Exhibit. Milkweed seed packets and monarch conservation materials were provided for distribution to visitors. In early September monarch larvae were given to eleven teachers in six schools for their classrooms, with raising instructions and monarch conservation information, as well as monarch bookmarks for more than 300 students.

In addition to the already mentioned milkweeds, the WMU Greenhouse grew a number of other native plant species for the creation of new Monarch Waystations or for plant diversification of already established ones. KAWO members also donated native plants for these waystations. Some waystations only required guidance, others needed help weeding and planting to get them established.

Eight new monarch waystations were created: Den Adel Court and Oak St. Community Gardens, Woodward and Edison Elementary Schools gardens, Schoolcraft and Plainwell Libraries, the Kalamazoo County Land Bank's Riverview Launch and downtown Plainwell gardens.

Plants were added for diversification to the following waystations: Wall St. Community Garden, Kellogg Bird Sanctuary pollinator garden, Crane Park Master Gardener butterfly garden, Skyridge Church raingarden, Willard St. raingardens, and five non-waystation curb-corner gardens in the Vine Neighborhood.

A total of eleven new waystations were registered at no cost to non-profit entities, and the KAWO Monarch Committee paid for eight waystation signs and posts from donations earmarked for the committee.

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In January Laurel Ross Will Lead Off Kalamazoo Wild Ones Two-Year Series of Programs on “Stewardship of the Land”

Laurel Ross, the recently retired Director of Urban Conservation at Chicago’s Field Museum, will lead off Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones new two-year series of programs on “Stewardship of the Land.” Her topic will be “Conservation of Urban Landscapes: Not the Problem, the Solution.” She’ll speak about the critical role of urban areas in landscape conservation, and the vital role that volunteers, neighbors, property owners, and other “stewards of the land” must play in the work of conservation.

Laurel Ross is particularly qualified to provide an introductory overview for the entire two-year series on “stewardship.” During her 12 years with The Nature Conservancy in Illinois, she organized their Volunteer Stewardship Network, a corps of thousands of volunteers who participate in stewardship of biologically significant publicly-owned natural areas. She was among the original organizers of Chicago Wilderness, which was launched in 1996 and has grown to be a consortium of more than 260 agencies and institutions concerned with urban conservation.

Her work at the Chicago Field Museum involved coordinating all of the Museum’s conservation and education programs in the Chicago region. Not just an administrator, she has plenty of hands-on experience as a steward for natural areas and as an organizer of neighborhood native-plantings as part of the Chicago Climate Action program.

The Programs Committee has been hard at work gathering speakers and unusual field trips for 2015, to follow up on Laurel’s introduction. The Committee will announce details of the full year’s programs at the November annual meeting.

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Other Events of Interest to Wild Ones

Monday, November 17, 6:30 p.m.

Michigan Botanical Club

Joshua Cohen, An Overview of the Forested Systems of Northern Michigan
People’s Church, 1758 N. 10th St.

In January Don Dickmann took Club members on a tour of Michigan’s southern forests and talked about forest ecology. As a continuation of this journey, Joshua Cohen will talk to the Botanical Club about our more northern forests in his program titled “An Overview of the Forested Ecosystems of Northern Michigan.” Josh is Michigan Natural Features Inventory’s specialist in classifying and inventorying Michigan’s natural communities.

He will present a comprehensive view of Michigan’s northern forests and talk about their ecology and the threats that continue to affect our beautiful forests. He will also talk about an exciting new book to be released by the MNFI titled *A Field Guide to the Natural Communities of Michigan*, available from MSU Press in December.

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Quotation for Contemplation

The problem of sustainability is simple enough to state. It requires that the fertility cycle of birth, growth, maturity, death and decay — what Albert Howard called “the Wheel of Life” — must turn continuously in place, so that the law of return is kept and nothing is wasted. For this to happen in the stewardship of humans, there must be a cultural cycle, in harmony with the fertility cycle, also continuously turning in place. The cultural cycle is an unending conversation between old people and young people, assuring the survival of local memory, which has, as long as it remains local, the greatest practical urgency and value. This is what is meant, and is all that can be meant, by “sustainability.” The fertility cycle turns by the law of nature. The cultural cycle turns on affection.

The primary motive for good care and good use is always going to be affection, because affection involves us entirely.

--Wendell Berry, *Temenos Academy Review*, 2012

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A thought for Thanksgiving from Tom and Ruth

At our house and at some communal gatherings, we often say a Buddhist grace provided by Gary Snyder in the final paragraph from his book *The Practice of the Wild*:

We venerate the Three Treasures [teachers, the wild, and friends]
And are thankful for this meal
The work of many people
And the sharing of other forms of life.

As Gary observes, “Saying some sort of grace is never inappropriate. It is a plain, ordinary, old-fashioned little thing to do that connects us with all our ancestors.” He also observes that *Grace* is “the first and last practice of the wild”; and that’s a thought which asks for some contemplation.

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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 **January-February, 2015**, will come early in January. **Deadline for submission is Friday, January 2, 2015.** Please send submissions, comments, and suggestions to Tom at yard2prairie@gmail.com. For more information and news, check us out at www.kalamazoowildones.org and www.facebook.com/KalamazooAreaWildOnes.