

***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



Nov/Dec Supplement, 2015 — Contents

- Ilse Gebhard Presents “Monarchs, Milkweeds, and More” at November 18 Wild Ones Meeting
- Climate-Change Activists Lead March at December Art Hop to Support Paris Climate Action
- Quotations for Contemplation
- Events Cancellation Policy

+++++

Ilse Gebhard Speaks on “Monarchs, Milkweeds and More,” for Wild Ones Meeting November 18

Instead of our usual potluck and review of the Chapter’s programs and activities during the past year, Wild Ones will conclude our first year of programs on “Stewardship of the Land” with an illustrated talk on “Monarchs, Milkweeds, and More,” by Ilse Gebhard, chair of the Chapter’s Monarch Committee.

Ilse has worked tirelessly for many years to restore Monarch habitat and help to preserve the miraculous annual migration of the Monarchs from Mexico to Canada and back. Her work has involved raising hundreds of Monarchs from egg to caterpillar to butterfly, establishing many dozens of Monarch “waystation” gardens, and giving many educational programs for both children and adults. She’ll use colorful photos,



mostly from her own observations and research, to illustrate the Monarch life cycle. She'll discuss nectar and pollination relationships between insects and plants and explain the toxins that Monarchs secrete from milkweed to protect them from predators. In illustrating habitat requirements of Monarchs and other obligate milkweed-feeding insects, Ilse will cover all the common milkweeds in Michigan.

Ilse will show us all stages of Monarch migration to Mexico and why that migration is seriously threatened by loss of habitat, industrial farming practices, and use of neonicotinoid and other pesticides. We'll learn what more we can do to protect Monarchs and restore habitat for them.

Our November meeting will be at First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park, in downtown Kalamazoo. Socializing at 6:30 p.m., program promptly at 7. Following the program we'll have election of officers for 2016 and announcement of the 2016 programs and field trips

Ilse Gebhard is a retired research chemist. She's been on the board of the Audubon Society of Kalamazoo and is an active member of the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, the Kalamazoo Nature Center, and the Michigan Botanical Club. She's a charter member of the Kalamazoo Area Chapter of Wild Ones and the chair of its very active Monarch Committee. She participates in a number of Citizen Science projects, including Monarch butterfly related research for the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, Project Monarch Health, Monarch Watch, and Journey North and South.

+++++

Climate-Change Activists and Scientists Join in March to Kalamazoo Mall on December 4 in Support of Local Follow-Up to the Paris Climate Conference

By Tom Small

Members of the WMU Climate Change Working Group are organizing and **leading a march in support of the Paris Climate Change Conference**. Our goal is to raise awareness of the importance of the talks and to suggest and promote follow-up actions at the national and local level.

The March will begin at the **First Congregational Church** (345 W Michigan Ave.) at **6:00 p.m. on Friday, December 4th** (art hop). Following a brief orientation, we will march to the Kalamazoo Mall

(where many people will be gathered for the art hop) to distribute flyers providing information about the Paris climate-change talks, and how to contact local elected officials regarding implementation and follow-up to whatever agreement the nations of the earth are able to arrive at in Paris between Nov. 30 and Dec. 11.

The Paris conference may not be “the last chance to save planet Earth” (*The Nation*, Nov. 23-30. 2015), but as the UN’s climate chief Christiana Figueres emphasizes, it must be not the destination but the “departure station” for a movement to “very, very deeply decarbonize” the world economy.

A number of local environmental organizations will be participating in the march, including the Citizens Climate Lobby. Please join us for the march, to help inform and become better informed, and then stay on to enjoy the Art Hop. We’ll conclude our march by around 6:30 p.m.

+++++

Quotations for Contemplation

We are living in the midst of an ecological catastrophe . . . All memory is convulsed in an upheaval of violence. There is a fire burning over the Earth, taking with it plants and animals, cultures, languages, ancient skills, and visionary wisdom. Quelling this flame and reinventing the poetry of diversity is the most important challenge of our times.

--Wade Davis, *Shadows in the Sun: Travels to Landscapes of Spirit and Desire* (1998)

Thanksgiving Address

Greetings to the Natural World

The People

Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as People.

Now our minds are one.

The Earth Mother

We are all thankful to our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us all that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she continues

to care for us as she has from the beginning of time. To our Mother, we send greetings and thanks.

Now our minds are one.

The Waters

We give thanks to all the Waters of the world for quenching our thirst and providing us with strength. Water is life. We know its power in many forms—waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the spirit of Water.

Now our minds are one.

The Plants

Now we turn toward the vast fields of Plant life. As far as the eye can see, the Plants grow, working many wonders. They sustain many life forms. With our minds gathered together, we give thanks and look forward to seeing Plant life for many generations to come.

Now our minds are one.

--From a translation of the Mohawk version of the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address, provided by Six Nations Indian Museum and the Tracking Project.

For the full text of the Thanksgiving Address, see

http://www.americanindian.si.edu/environment/pdf/01_02_Thanksgiving_Address.pdf

+++++

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 you if you are a member.

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 **January-February, 2016**, will come early in January. **Deadline for submission is Monday, Dec. 28, 2015.**

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