

***SEEDLINGS, the Newsletter
of Kalamazoo Area WILD ONES,
Native Plants, Natural Landscapes***

=====

August-September, 2012—Contents

- *Wild Ones September Field Trip Takes Us to a Rare, Rich Bog*
- *Wild Ones Fall Plant Exchange September 23. Come! Celebrate!*
- *Creating a “Life Cairn” Continues at Fall Plant Exchange*
- *Wild Ones Community Project Volunteers Continue to Establish and Maintain Native Plant Gardens and Restorations*
- *Record Number of Site Visits in 2012, Reports Dave Wendling*
- *Contribute Items to Help Wild Ones Raise Funds (and Find Something Wonderful for Yourself) at the Wild Ones November Silent Auction and Pot Luck.*
- *Other Items & Events of Interest to Wild Ones*
- *Prairies and Cooperatives As Models of Reality, by Tom Small*
- *Quotation for Contemplation*

=====

***Wild Ones Field Trip September 15 Takes Us
to Mud Lake Bog—Rare, Rich Example of a
True Bog***

Mud Lake Bog is a 66-acre parcel managed by Berrien County Parks Dept. This parcel contains one of the best examples of a true bog to be found this far south in Michigan. From the observation tower one can see all the classic stages of bog succession. The vegetation can be seen up close from the well maintained boardwalk that takes visitors through the bog.

Pat Underwood, a parks naturalist for the Berrien County Parks for 27 years, has an Environmental Studies and Earth Science degree from Western Michigan University. While he enjoys teaching all topics of nature, Pat especially enjoys “The 3Bs”: Birds, Botany, and Bugs. He will explain the history and ecology of the bog, as well as how the area is being restored.

The tour of the bog will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 15. Directions and car pooling information will be supplied in the September supplement to SEEDLINGS and on the Wild Ones web page.

Wild Ones Fall Plant Exchange Sunday, Sept. 23, 1-5; Share Your Bounty, Find New Plants, & Celebrate!

Fall is an ideal time to plant for next season, as well as an ideal time to thin out those crowded plantings and bring your extras to the fall plant exchange at Tom's place, 2502 Waite Ave. in Kalamazoo.

There will be plants available from Nancy's gardens and from many members of the chapter. There will be refreshments and socializing as well as native plants.

We do ask that attenders should bring only plants native to Michigan; and all plants should be potted up carefully and identified with species labels. If in doubt as to whether your plant is a native, call or e-mail to inquire; or simply bring yourself, to enjoy and celebrate.

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

The location is 2502 Waite Ave., one block west of Oakland Drive and one block south of Winchell. We'll block off space near the driveway so you can drive up to drop off or pick up plants; but you may have to park some distance from the house.

Members of Wild Ones will be available to answer questions, help people set out the plants they bring, and choose appropriate plants to take home.

*Copies of Nancy and Tom Small's best-selling book *Using Native Plants to Restore Community in Southwest Michigan and Beyond* will be for sale for \$25, or free to members of Wild Ones, including new members joining at the exchange. This will be one of the last opportunities for members to obtain a free copy; the offer expires October 31, 2012.*

Also available will be copies of the video, "Gardening for Life," a documentary film of the Wild Ones conference that Nancy organized at the

*Kalamazoo Nature Center in 2008, and that featured an address by Professor Douglas Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, and a panel discussion that included Nancy. The cost of the film is \$10, with a special price of \$5 for new members.*

All proceeds from the book and film go to the Nancy Small Memorial Fund, for environmental education and restoration. Donations to the fund are welcome.

The purpose of the Plant Exchange is to foster natural landscaping with native plants. Here's a plant-exchange etiquette guide.

1. Respect and Share with Others

• If you see a special plant, but there are only 5, please don't take 2. Ask the person who brought it, or one of the expert-looking folks hanging about, what the chances are of getting more.

2. Respect Plants: give them the best possible chance of survival

• Plants might not get planted immediately. Please pot them up carefully so they can survive.

• Don't bring junk, which at a minimum includes nonnative invasives.

3. From Each Person According to Ability; To Each According to Need

• Just starting out? Don't have plants to bring? Of course you may take plants. In fact, that's one of the main purposes of the Plant Exchange. We all had to get started somehow, and when native plants start doing really well in your yard, bring some back.

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 important work by joining.

Bring a Stone to Contribute to a "LIFE CAIRN" at the Plant Exchange, and Let Us Rededicate Ourselves to Restoring Life

[At the spring plant exchange, many attenders participated in a ceremony establishing a "Life Cairn" here in Kalamazoo, in Tom's front yard. There will be another brief ceremony and an opportunity to contribute to the Life Cairn during the fall plant exchange, sometime

around 3 p.m. Here's a repeat of the May SEEDLINGS story about the Life Cairn.]

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. Other, similar cairns are growing elsewhere in the world—a permanent and growing web of Life Cairns.

Tom Small doesn't live on a mountain, but his house is near the highest point for three watersheds: Axtell Creek, Arcadia Creek, and Woods Lake. On Sept. 23, 2012, the day of the Wild Ones fall plant exchange, anyone who wishes to bring a stone may contribute to a Life Cairn here in Kalamazoo, in 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 stone, preferably a light-colored one—one that will reflect light. At about 3 p.m., those who wish to participate may gather to place their stones and observe a moment of silence, to honor those species vanished from the earth, those who are threatened with extinction, and those that we may yet be able to save through our dedication to restoration of species and habitats.

You may also, if you wish, bring a somewhat larger stone, preferably more or less flat on at least one side, to contribute to a spiral pathway leading to the cairn. Tom will use these stones to construct the pathway.

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." We shall, with both the plant exchange and the establishing of a Life Cairn, participate in the grief, the turning, and the eternal hope of flowering.

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 silent remembrance.

Wild Ones Volunteers Continue Busy with Both Thriving and New Community Projects; Come Help with Projects Scheduled for August & September

Tuesday, Aug. 14 - 6 to 8:00 pm

AXTELL CREEK

We'll meet in the parking lot behind the law office at the corner of Crosstown and Howard; we'll work on the last of the purple loosestrife downstream and on other creek invasives. By the way, if you haven't seen the plantings along Axtell Creek, stop to look; the swamp rose mallow and other wetland plants are thriving and gorgeous.

Monday, Aug. 27 - 6 to 8:00 pm

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

We'll meet in the parking lot at the administration building between on Howard St. between Crosstown and Oakland, and we'll work on removing invasive species, preparatory to some replanting and reseeding of a once lovely but sadly neglected native planting (not our project originally).

Tuesday, Sept. 4 - 6 to 8:00 pm

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

We'll continue our work of clearing away for a late fall planting.

Thursday, Sept. 13 - 10:00 am to noon

AXTELL CREEK

We'll meet in the parking lot behind Paris Cleaners at the corner of Crosstown and S. Westnedge, to do some clean up and removal of invasives on one of our most beautiful and successful wetland plantings. We'll gather some seed.

Friday, Sept. 21 - 10:00 am to noon

PLANT EXCHANGE PREPARATION

We'll meet at Tom's house, 2502 Waite Ave., to help with clean-up and preparation for the fall native-plant exchange, coming up two days later, on Sunday, Sept. 23.

Thursday, Sept. 27 – 10:00 am to noon

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

We'll continue our work at KPS, and this time we'll be doing some seeding and some planting of wildflowers and grasses left over from the fall plant exchange.

NEW PROJECTS AND FUTURE PLANS

We've been cooperating with the Kalamazoo Nature Center in establishing a new prairie garden on the grounds of the El Sol Bilingual Magnet Elementary School at the corner of Oak and Vine Streets. Kalamazoo Wild Ones provided part of the funding and volunteer help; we'll continue to help developing and maintaining that planting in the future.

We've also been cooperating in educational programs with the Montessori School on Howard St.; students from first to fifth grades have been helping us with our Axtell Creek plantings. This fall we'll be cooperating with KNC and the Montessori school to begin establishing a prairie planting on city right-of-way at the southwest corner of Crosstown and Howard; some funding will come from Wild Ones from the Montessori School and from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation through KNC.

HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS

There have been quite a few volunteers this spring and summer, doing vital work on our community projects and our plant exchanges, which both spread the word about native plants and make our work and our mission visible in the community. Here are a few names that come immediately to mind. If I didn't remember to include your name, I apologize; and please let me know.

Bruce Alden, Gail Bell, Vicki Berglund, Harry Bird, Ruth Caputo, Eleanore Chadderdon, Kristi Chapman, Aedin Clement, Judy Dircks, Maggie Ebrite, Fran Galow, Ruth Harring, Liz Henderson, Chad Hughson, Elizabeth King, Carol and Mike Klug, Kathy McGoff, Catherine Niessink, Paul Olexia, Dave Wendling.

+++++

RECORD NUMBER OF SITE VISITS IN 2012

***by Dave Wendling,
Site Visits Coordinator***

This has been and continues to be a record year for the Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones, with record numbers of chapter members—192 as of last count (we're now the second largest chapter in the nation). Along with this is the record number of site visits that were completed this year, most of them to our new members. We have completed 32 site visits!

I want to thank Carol and Mike Klug, our co-presidents, for all their help in organizing these visits. Many of our members have stepped forward the help complete the site visits including: Tom Small, Harry Bird, Chad Hughson, Lynn Steil, Paul Olexia, Laura Strehlow, Ruth Caputo, Eleanore Chadderdon, and Maggie Ebrite. That is team work!!

Most years, I invite everyone who receives a site visit to visit my property and gardens. Unfortunately, with the record drought and heat this year, most of my perennials did not set bloom in spite of being deep rooted, so this is not the year to show my gardens. The plants will not die but they are conserving their energy and will be back next year.

ITEMS & EVENTS OF INTEREST TO WILD ONES

Please Donate Items for the Kalamazoo Wild Ones Silent Auction

at the Members' Meeting and Birthday Celebration in November

By Judy Dircks

Here's a gentle reminder that our November annual members' meeting will feature a pot luck AND a silent auction. Keep looking for things this summer suitable for the silent auction.

You can use your talents to make something such as birdfeeders, bee boxes, pottery, art work, etc. You may want to donate something that you no longer need. You may want to purchase something you really like and use and think someone else would also treasure.

Try to find something you think someone else would like to keep or something they would like to give as a gift during the holidays or year ahead. It would be nice to have everyone bring one or more items and also purchase something at the auction.

All proceeds of the auction will go to supporting the work of the Kalamazoo Chapter. We'll be very grateful for your support.

“Big Stuff” ON SALE at Mary Ann’s Michigan Trees and Shrubs

By Mary Ann Menck

On Saturday, September 8, there will be a sale at Mary Ann’s Michigan Trees and Shrubs. When the business first opened, most customers wanted stuff “bigger.” Well, you can only grow trees and shrubs so fast. But now I do have more large trees and shrubs than small. If I move these to the next size pot, I’ll have to charge more. They also take up more space, and I’m being crowded out of the small space that I have. So, the following trees and shrubs are on sale for 50% off from now through September 8. On September 9 I’ll be at Pierce Cedar Creek to sell and talk. On September 10 we leave for our annual trip out west.

<i>TREES</i>	<i>SHRUBS</i>	<i>Non-natives</i>
<i>American Mountain Ash</i>	<i>Buttonbush</i>	<i>Ginkgo</i>
<i>Wafer Ash</i>	<i>Meadowsweet</i>	<i>Red Chokeberry</i>
<i>Basswood</i> <i>(shrub)</i>	<i>Steeplebush</i>	<i>Yellow Twig Dogwood</i>
<i>Wild Black Cherry</i>	<i>Black Haw Viburnum</i>	<i>Honey Locust</i>
<i>Red Oak & White Oak</i>		<i>“Gobbler” Oak</i>

Please call if you would like to visit before September 8, so we will be home for you. On the 8th we will be open 10 am to 5 pm. I hope to see you sometime soon.

I do still have a couple of people interested in buying the business.

Some Items of Useful Information from Judy Dircks

At the tour of Mike & Carol Klug's property last month, some people were interested in propagating Jack-in-the-Pulpits. Carol mentioned the process they used, which was complicated. I also mentioned that the process was discussed in an issue of the Wild Ones Journal. For those who asked for the reference, the article is in the Sept/Oct/Nov, 2010, issue, pp. 6-7. It outlines a lengthy process but also states: "The easy way is to collect ripe berries, scatter them on the ground where you want them to grow, and trample them into the ground with your foot. . . . The seeds usually

germinate the following spring and produce a tiny but recognizable leaf."

If the lady who mentioned at the Dircks' home that she wanted some buckets would contact Judy (384-2059), she has 5 buckets for her.

Manitou Arbor Ecovillage: Seeking Residents

Manitou Arbor Ecovillage is an eco-spiritual community in the process of forming in Southwest Michigan. We are dedicated to caring for People and the Earth by living and demonstrating a sustainable culture appropriate to our bioregion. If you feel intrigued, join us for an orientation and tour on Thursday, August 30, from 4 to 7 at the ecovillage site at 28th St. and East Main. If you would like to receive updates on Manitou Arbor Ecovillage developments, please e-mail us. Please peruse the ecovillage website and read the covenant.

Smarter, smaller, greener community living in SW Michigan.

Now selling sites! From \$40K to \$68K.

www.manitouarbor.org | 1-800-354-0382 | mail@manitouarbor.org

Prairies and Cooperatives as Models of Reality

By Tom Small

[This article will appear in the September issue of the Coop Scoop, the quarterly newsletter of the People's Food Co-op. It's the third in a series of Tom's articles informing Co-op members and supporters about aspects of the prairie and wetland plantings that Kalamazoo Wild Ones helped to establish at the site of the new Co-op market, and that we continue to help maintain. If you haven't seen the plantings, do go have a look, at the PFC site, 507 Harrison, Kalamazoo. If you aren't a member of PFC, please consider joining.]

Last month I spent a week at Schumacher College in England, in a seminar called "Earth Pilgrim," led by Satish Kumar, author of a book by the same name. Himself a pilgrim, Kumar has journeyed over much of the Earth, first as a monk, then as a follower of Gandhi, invoking the sacredness of all life, teaching and practicing peace, nonviolence, and care for the earth.

In Kumar's lead editorial in the July-August issue of his wonderful journal, Resurgence: at the Heart of Earth, Art, and Spirit, he celebrates the UN's International Year of Cooperatives and "networking." He invokes cooperatives as models and manifestations of the "true nature of reality," the way Earth and Nature actually work as "mutually supportive networks."

"Reality," writes Kumar, "is not a thing in itself—reality is a network of relationships between things. And relationships are enhanced through cooperation, mutuality and reciprocity."

Those are the ideals—and the reality—of a cooperative such as People's Food Co-op. And that's the reality of a native prairie ecosystem such as the one that surrounds, in miniature, the Co-op.

In a native prairie, every species and individual plant is interdependent with all the rest. The grasses are rooted deep into the soil, as deep as 15 feet. Their massive roots store water and channel it, slowly releasing it to support more delicate wildflowers. Roots of all the plants release sugars to soil organisms, which in turn provide other nutrients and water to the plant. Taller plants provide shade for shorter ones, establishing a system of vertical layering that provides microhabitats for a wonderful diversity of creatures. Decaying plant material slowly forms rich soil. Everything is recycled. Together, the plants form an interdependent community that is resilient in the face of drought, flooding, and all but the most violent of hazards and changes.

It would be well were we to learn resilience, shared sacrifice, and mutual aid from a prairie and practice it in and through a cooperative.

Quotation for Contemplation

So this is where we begin—by acknowledging that our times confront us with realities that are painful to face, difficult to take in, and confusing to live with. Our approach is to see this as the starting point of an amazing journey that strengthens us and deepens our aliveness. The purpose of this journey is to find, offer, and receive the gift of Active Hope. . . .

Since Active Hope doesn't require our optimism, we can apply it even in areas where we feel hopeless. The guiding impetus is intention; we

choose what we aim to bring about, act for, or express. Rather than weighing our chances and proceeding only when we feel hopeful, we focus on our intention and let it be our guide.

*--Joanna Macy and Chris Johnston, **Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in Without Going Crazy** (New World Library, 2011)*

[Editor's Note: Although I'd read earlier books by Joanna Macy, I wasn't familiar with this more recent one until it was highly recommended by Peter Owen Jones, one of the teachers and field-trip leaders for the "Earth Pilgrim" seminar I took at Schumacher College in England this past month. It's an important book.]

SEEDLINGS is edited by Tom Small and appears five times a year, with a few additional brief supplements. The next regular issue, for October-December, will come early in October. Deadline for submission is Wednesday, Oct. 31. Really. Please send submissions, comments, and suggestions to Tom at yard2prairy@gmail.com.