

**SEEDLINGS—The Newsletter
of Kalamazoo Area WILD ONES
--Native Plants, Natural Landscapes--**
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March/April, 2010 – CONTENTS:

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**Wild Ones March Program—Ilse Gebhard
on Attracting Butterflies and Moths**

Ilse Gebhard, a founding member of the Kalamazoo Area Chapter, will present a program on **“Butterflies and Moths: Attracting them to your Yard”** Wednesday, March 24, 7:30 p.m., at the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2008 Winchell, Kalamazoo.

Illustrated with photographs of butterflies and moths taken in Ilse’s own rural Kalamazoo County yard, her presentation will cover the structural features of butterflies and moths and how to tell them apart, their similar life cycles, and the habitat requirements for attracting them to our yards.

Ilse will provide specific examples of butterflies and moths, their behaviors, and their caterpillar food plants. She’ll emphasize the threats to their survival and the importance of our providing proper support for them in our rural and urban yards.

Socializing at 7; announcements and program at 7:30.

Ilse Gebhard received a BA in chemistry from Kalamazoo College and a MS in chemistry from UCLA. She worked for the Upjohn Co. in Kalamazoo for 30 years as a research chemist.

After retiring 15 years ago, she finally had time to pursue her interests in natural history. She’s been on the Board of Directors of the Audubon Society of Kalamazoo for many years. In addition, she’s an active member of the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, the Kalamazoo Nature Center and the local chapters of the Michigan Botanical Club and Wild Ones.

For the last eight years, she has participated in the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, and for two of those years she pursued an individualized research project on Tachinid fly parasitism of the Monarch butterfly.

She and her husband Russ Schipper have wild-scaped their yard with native plants to provide habitat for birds and insects. Beginning six years ago, they established the 116-acre Sand Creek Nature Preserve (SWMLC) on land adjacent to their homestead, for which they

continue as the active stewards. Ilse was instrumental in establishing native plant gardens at Gilkey Elementary School and at the visitor center of the Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery.

She's written natural history essays, mostly on insects, for the Nature's Way column of the Kalamazoo Gazette and for newsletters of various other organizations. She gives bird and butterfly presentations to school classrooms and to adult groups in the area.

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An Urgent Message from the President & the Editor

Wild Ones, celebrating its 30th birthday this year, is having a special membership drive. Any **new member** who joins at the standard \$30 level will receive, free, the recently updated DVD, "Wild About Wildflowers." Also any **renewing member** who renews at the \$50 to \$75 level will receive the DVD.

Our chapter supports this important membership drive because there has been a significant decrease in overall Wild Ones membership, most likely due to the poor economy, and because we don't want to see some of the most important programs and benefits of Wild Ones membership cut back or eliminated.

Most notable among endangered programs is the **Seeds For Education** grant program which supports schools trying to establish native-plant gardens and to educate their students about the importance and beauty of our native plants and how they support our native biodiversity. Another important program threatened by budget shortfalls is the **Wild Ones Journal** that all members receive six times a year.

Fortunately, our chapter has been spared any decline in membership. Nonetheless, the cost of continuing the services that our Wild Ones chapter provides continues to increase. If you receive our newsletter and believe in the Wild Ones mission and have not yet joined, **we're urging that you become a member.** At some point, because of both financial and volunteer-time limitations, we'll have to stop sending our e-mail (and regular mail) letters to non-members and providing other services to them. If you value the information and advice you receive, please join us. A membership is only \$30 (low-income and student, \$20), fully tax deductible. (Most of the membership fee goes to the national organization.)

Membership benefits of joining our local chapter, besides continuing to receive this newsletter, include a new member's packet with a wealth of information on native landscaping in SW Michigan and plants appropriate to our region, and a free site visit where one of our more experienced members will visit your property to advise you on your native landscaping project.

To join, send a check for \$30 (or more) to Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones, P.O. Box 20324, Kalamazoo, MI 49019. Include your name and address and e-mail address. You can also join by going to the Wild Ones web site www.for-wild.org.

--Dave Wendling and Tom Small

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Nearby Events of Interest to Wild Ones

Tuesday, March 9, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

MICHIGAN LAND TRUSTEES (MLT) PRESENTS:

"The Power of Community: Are there lessons we can learn from one country's experience of a severely diminished oil supply?"

Van Buren Conference Center, 490 S. Paw Paw St., Lawrence, MI

This is the second program in the Michigan Land Trustees' Community Potluck and Speakers Series, directed toward raising awareness and building resilient communities in Southwest Michigan. Following a potluck supper, there will be a showing of the film "Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil." Then Dr. Ken Dahlberg (MLT), and Dr. Tom Kostrzewa (WMU) will provide insights and observations about Cuba's experience and possible local actions to prepare for an uncertain future. Question and answer period will conclude at 9:30 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass, your own plates and silverware, and a willingness to network with your neighbors. Drinks will be provided.

More information from Wild Ones members Rita and Norm Bober, 269-624-5501, nbober@mwconnections.com, or visit the MLT website www.michiganlandtrust.org.

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Doug Tallamy's Road Trip Continues Bringing Nature Home

We mentioned in our last communication that our friend Professor Douglas Tallamy is speaking in Columbus, Ohio, March 26. Now the good news is that he'll then be heading north to speak in Grand Rapids.

Monday, MARCH 29, 7:30 p.m.

**Professor Douglas Tallamy
"BRINGING NATURE HOME"**

Ladies Literary Guild - 61 Sheldon Blvd. SE, Grand Rapids

Time 6:30 social & 7:30 PM program

Sponsored by Grand Rapids Audubon, Calvin College Ecosystem Preserve & Biology Department, Land Conservancy of West Michigan, **River City Chapter of WILD ONES**, and West Michigan Stewardship Network

Most of us are already familiar with Tallamy's basic message, and many viewed his presentation at the Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones conference in October, 2008. His research and his book demonstrate powerfully that if we hope to share with other living things the spaces in which we live and work, the first thing we must do is put more native plants into our home landscapes. Plants provide the food that drives all food webs, and native plants will play the key role in restoration of our denuded and degraded landscapes because only natives provide the co-evolved relationships required by insects and most other animals. As Tallamy puts it in his book,

"For the first time in history, gardening has taken on a role that transcends the needs of the gardener. . . . Unless we modify the places we live, work, and play to meet not only our own needs but the needs of other species as well, nearly all species of wildlife native to the United States will disappear."

Doug Tallamy is Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, director of the Center for Managed Ecosystems at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware, and an honorary national director of Wild Ones.

His book **Bringing Nature Home; How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens** was published by Timber Press in 2007, "Updated and Enlarged" in 2009, and awarded the 2008 silver medal by the Garden Writer's Association.

More information at <http://rivercitywildones.org/events.html>

We're very pleased that more Michigan chapters of Wild Ones are helping Doug Tallamy spread his vitally important message. Now Mark Charles reports that **Ann Arbor Wild Ones**, along with Matthaei (U of Michigan) Botanical Gardens, and local chapters of Michigan Botanical Club and Audubon Society are planning to bring Tallamy to Ann Arbor in 2011, possibly in April. Bob Grese, an old and good friend to Kalamazoo Wild Ones (and a founder of the Ann Arbor chapter), is "leading the charge," says Mark.

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Friday, April 2, 7 p.m.

Amy Goodman, host of Free Speech TV's **DEMOCRACY NOW!**

Keynote speaker for WMU Peace Week

Bernhard Center East Ballroom.

Amy Goodman, a tireless campaigner for peace and for the environment, is familiar to many of us as the host for the hour-long in-depth news program broadcast on Kalamazoo and Portage Cable Access TV (Kalamazoo Cable Channel 95, 8 to 9 a.m. weekdays).

Saturday, April 17, 9-5 p.m.

Free-Admission Earth Day at Kalamazoo Nature Center

Environmental information tables (including Wild Ones); naturalist-led nature walks; live animal appearances; art exhibit. Keynote speaker, Nicolette Hahn Niman.

For more information, naturecenter.org.

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***Richard Brewer Leads Wild Ones on Spring's First Field Trip:
"Spring Ephemerals in Big Island Woods"***

For the first field trip of the season, Saturday, April 24, Richard Brewer will lead us into an area new to many Wild Ones, Big Island Woods near Schoolcraft, rich in the spring ephemerals we're longing to see after a long winter.

Emeritus Professor of Biology at WMU, Richard is co-author of the *Atlas of Breeding Birds of Michigan* and author of two widely used textbooks, *Principles of Ecology* and *The Science of Ecology*. His most recent book is *Conservancy: the Land Trust Movement in America*. He's one of the founders of the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy and has played an important role in the founding and life of the Kalamazoo Chapter of Wild Ones.

Please join one of the area's most knowledgeable and most popular field-trip leaders for a wonderful woodland walk into spring.

Early in April, we'll send out more details of the trip, with travel and carpooling directions.

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**DVD of Tallamy's Presentation at the Wild Ones
Conference in 2008 is Now Ready for Showings**

The handsome, informative DVD of the Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones conference at the Nature Center in October, 2008, is finally ready for circulation. Matt Clysdale of HorsePower Pictures, a documentary film-maker, has made an excellent film that Doug Tallamy, the conference's keynote speaker, is very pleased with.

Tallamy's own presentation is the major part of the film, and the rest is an edited version of the ensuing panel discussion with Tallamy, Steve Malcolm of WMU, Tracey Kast of MSU's Kellogg Biological Station, and Nancy Small, of Wild Ones, with Tom Small moderating.

The film was made possible by a generous grant from the Hanes Trust Foundation.
We'll be sending out more information soon about television and public showings, as well as how you can purchase your own copy.

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Sightings and Insights

We hope that more members will contribute brief notes on what they see in their yards or on their walks. Please share with the rest of us the sightings, insights, and considerations that interest you and bring you joy (or sorrow, as the case may be).

Winter Cardinals: Two Haiku

By Ilse Gebhard

Barely visible
Mere shadows in the dawning
Thirteen Cardinals

Again at twilight
Silhouettes against the snow
Cardinals come feed

from Nancy's journal, May, 2008

May 15—Saw 2 Carolina wrens at once. Nest in garage, on shelf over sink, is theirs. Have we disturbed them too much by our comings and goings or are they still using it?

May 16—Oriole still here. First saw him on Sun., May 11—a very rainy day. By then, Tom had put out oriole feeder w/an orange. Oriole is at least as interested in nearby nectar feeder for hummingbirds.

May 17—Carolina wrens left the nest we thought had been abandoned because we'd disturbed them so many times. The first time [we disturbed them], I thought the wren was a chipmunk because it flew so straight and low from the nest to the open garage door. Another time, the bird seemed to drift down like a leaf, before it started to fly like a bird. Today, the birds started making a lot of noise for the first time. By the time we got outside, wrens were everywhere: in the driveway, the brushpile and the branches above the brushpile—and flying in and out of the garage. The chaos was increased by Tom and me and Eleanore in the driveway, trying to see the [new fledglings], stay out of the way, and still get some work done. Eleanore's digging in the dirt seemed to attract the birds, even, because it stirred up insects. Saw 2 babies hopping on the driveway—little gray lumps of fluff—but they must have learned how to fly.

--Nancy Small

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Spring Brings More Site Visits

Spring is coming and I'm starting a list of members who would like a site visit this year. Do you need some help getting started with native landscaping? Already under way but need a little advice? Need to identify what is already growing on your property? We can help by

sending a more experienced member to visit your property to help you with advice and resources.

You can contact me at 269-624-6946 or davewndng@aol.com.

--Dave Wendling, Site Visit Coordinator.

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UN Environmental Programme and CBD Declare 2010 the International Year on Biodiversity

Addressing the official North American launch of the International Year on Biodiversity on 10 February 2010 in New York, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon, stated, "Last year's financial crisis was a wake-up call to Governments on the perils of failing to oversee and regulate complex relationships that affect us all. The biodiversity crisis is no different. We are bankrupting our natural economy. We need to fashion a rescue package before it is too late."

Addressing the recent Symposium in Tokyo, "BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABILITY: REBUILDING SOCIETY IN HARMONY WITH NATURE," Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), stated, "The goals of this historic event in the life of the Convention are to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity, to communicate the human costs of its ongoing loss, and to get people and, in particular youth and children, involved in efforts to conserve and sustainably use our natural heritage."

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Are we all aware that the United States of America is the ONLY NATION ON EARTH that has not ratified the international Convention on Biological Diversity? We signed it in 1993, but the Senate has NEVER RATIFIED IT. My recent letter to Senator Levin elicited a response that clearly indicated his aides had no idea what I was even talking about.]

For more information about biological diversity and the Convention, go to the web site, www.cbd.int. You might also want to learn more about and support an excellent organization that educates and advocates for biological diversity, the Center for Biological Diversity: www.biologicaldiversity.org.

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Plant of the Month: Red Osier Dogwood

By Sally Rutzky

[Sally is a member of Ann Arbor Wild Ones who does a "Plant of the Month" feature for the AA chapter's e-mail listserve. She has graciously consented to our using her feature plant for March in the hopes that this will stimulate some Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones to contribute brief notes and observations on their own favorite plants for future issues of SEEDLINGS.]

Red osier dogwood, *Cornus sericea*, a.k.a. *Cornus stolonifera*, glows against the white snow, gray sky and dull everything else. This is a plant for all seasons, with white flowers and berries, and red fall foliage.

http://www.wnps.org/landscaping/documents/Red-osier_Dogwood.pdf

It forms bird-friendly thickets, and controls erosion on wet banks. The fruit is eaten by at least 18 species of birds. <http://www.for-wild.org/land/wibirdpl.html>

You can distinguish red osier dogwood by its white berries and white pith from silky dogwood (*Cornus amonum*) with blue berries and brown pith.

<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/plants/mnplant/cost.htm>.

And, this shrub is easy to grow! Hardwood cuttings collected before bud break in April and early May root readily without treatment. It grows best in full sun (as long as it doesn't get too hot and dry) but can do well in partial shade.

http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/trees/plants/ro_dogwood.htm

It's beloved by deer, who will cut it for you to produce new red stems.

http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=COSE16 .

Strengths are also weaknesses. It can be invasive, reproducing by suckers, spouts and root shoots. http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/fact/wetshrubs_red.htm

I have a small pond with no interesting native shrubs far from the house. To plant or not to plant, that is the question! Any thoughts?

Sally Rutzky -- sr@rwfamilylaw.com

[There's often an extended exchange of further thoughts and information from other members of the listserv. Here's one from Marta.]

I planted several 3 or 4 years ago on a wet and sunny place, and they have stayed small - they are snuggled in among other natives, so maybe that prevents suckering? And we have tons of deer, so that may be the explanation. They are certainly beautiful, and I just put some in our riverbank, which I am trying to restore (we removed an old sea-wall - tons of erosion), hoping they will be good for soil stability and small critters, and keep the bloody geese off the lawn! I love the plant.

--Marta

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KALAMAZOO AREA WILD ONES PERSONNEL—2010

Here's the official list of officers and committee members for Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones, the volunteers who keep the chapter going. Please contact us if you have questions or concerns or if you're interested in **helping with one of these committees**.

Executive Committee – Eleanore Chadderdon (Treas.), Carol Klug (V.P.), Mike Klug (at large), Mary Ann Menck (Sec.), Paul Olexia (past President), Judy Packard (at large), Dave Wendling (President)

Community Projects – David Bills, Catherine Niessink, Paul Olexia (co-chair), Tom Small (co-chair)

Hospitality – David Bills (chair), Maggie Ebrite, Fran Galow, Kristin Hughson, Paul Olexia, Judy Packard

Kalamazoo Environmental Council Representative – Eleanore Chadderdon (delegate); Tom Small (alternate)

Membership Coordinator – Chad Hughson

Newsletter Editor – Tom Small

Programs – Tyler Bassett, Chad Hughson, Paul Olexia (chair), Tom Small

Publications Editor – Tom Small

Publicity & Outreach: Speakers Bureau – Judy Dircks (coordinator)
(There is no committee chair for Publicity and Outreach)

Site Visits Coordinator – Dave Wendling

Steering Committee – Executive Committee + chairs, editors, and coordinators, as follows:
Membership, Newsletter, Programs, Publications, Publicity & Outreach. (The full Steering
Committee meets only as occasion arises.)

Ad hoc committees:

Nominating (for 2009 only—must be re-appointed or replaced for 2010) – E. Chadderdon,
J. Dircks, T. Small

Plant Exchange – E. Chadderdon, P. Olexia, T. Small

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QUOTATIONS OF THE MONTH

“The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over
to the next generation increased and not impaired in value.” -- President Theodore
Roosevelt, in a statement enshrined in the wall of the American Museum of Natural History.

AND HERE’S AN IRISH BLESSING FOR ST. PATRICK’S DAY & MY IRISH ANCESTORS
(with thanks to the newsletter of the Kalamazoo Film Society)

May those who love you, love you,
and those who don’t, may God turn their heart,
and if he cannot turn their heart,
may he turn their ankle
so you will know them by their limp

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SEEDLINGS is edited by Tom Small. Wild Ones welcomes comments, information, and
submissions at yard2prairy@aol.com. Deadline for submissions for the May/June issue is
Friday, April 30.