

***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



Swamp Aster

Symphyotrichum puniceum

Supplement—September, 2014 — Contents

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Add a Stone to the Earth Cairn

Annual Fall Plant Exchange Will Feature Plants from Ruth and Tom's Garden, Plus Many New Features in the Garden

THE WILD ONES FALL PLANT EXCHANGE, on **Sunday, September 21, from 1 to 5 p.m.**, 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 the 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 simply bring yourself, to enjoy and celebrate the autumn equinox.

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

Kathy McGoff and the Hospitality Committee will appreciate your bringing some snacks to supplement what they provide. Please e-mail Kathy at afscme1677@sbcglobal.net with your selection. There will also be a sign-up list to bring snacks for the October meeting. **All of us** will appreciate your help and your snacks.

Tom and Ruth and Weston Hillier, a new graduate from Western with a double major in biology and environmental studies, have been working diligently to make the yard and gardens more accessible and inviting for the public, and they've added new

features and plantings. They're excited by what they're achieving this summer and would love to show you around.

The location is 2502 Waite Ave., one block west of Oakland Drive and one block south of Winchell. We'll block off some 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.

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.

The Earth Cairn Now Includes an Earth Wheel

At about 3:30 p.m., we'll have a brief ceremony for those who wish to add a stone to the Life Cairn. The cairn is now open to viewing and walking from the street and is encompassed by a stone Earth Wheel that Tom and Weston laid out early this summer.

We'll gather to place our stones and observe a moment of silence, to honor those species vanished from the earth and those now threatened with extinction. We'll also re-dedicate ourselves to saving and restoring as many species and habitats as we can.

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. So far, we have stones from Nepal, England, India, the Himalayas, the Mississippi River, Canada, and many places in Michigan and the U.S.

Many such cairns are growing all around the world—a permanent and growing web of Life Cairns. See <http://www.thelifecairnproject.org/>

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Learning from Nature's Patterns and Processes

Tom Small Will Conclude Wild Ones Two-Year Series on Preserving Biodiversity with Program on Using Nature's Methods to Heal & Restore the Land

How, as urban/suburban gardeners, can we transition to a *no-waste* economy like that of nature herself? For the last program in Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones two-year series on "Saving Native-Plant Diversity," Wednesday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m., Tom Small will present an illustrated program on learning from nature's own patterns and processes.

He will draw on his experience in natural landscaping; his studies of European and American Romantic nature poetry and philosophy; Doug Tallamy and Rick Darke's new book, *The Living Landscape*; and his own recent activism and writings on responding to climate change and extinction of species. He will attempt to illustrate both the broad problems relative to how we think and how we treat the land, and also show the simple processes each of us can put into practice here and now.

"I'd like to develop the implications," Tom says, "of the 16th-century quotation from Montaigne we adopted as our motto when we founded the Kalamazoo Area Chapter of Wild Ones 15 years ago: 'Let us give nature a chance; she knows herself better than we do'."

For more details about Tom's program, stand by for the October-December issue of SEEDLINGS, coming your way in early October.

The program, on Wednesday, October 22, will be at the First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., in downtown Kalamazoo. Socializing begins at 6:30; program begins promptly at 7 p.m., with discussion and announcements to follow.

Tom Small is the co-founder of the Kalamazoo Area Chapter of Wild Ones and co-author of *Using Native Plants to Restore Community in Southwest Michigan and Beyond*, now in its third printing. He's a member of the Board of Directors of the Wildflower Association of Michigan, the steering committee of Quaker Earthcare Witness, and the planning committee of Kalamazoo Transition. He writes extensively for various environmental journals. His latest essay, a review-article on Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy's new book, *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden*, will appear in the next issue of the national *Wild Ones Journal*.

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Other Programs of Interest to Wild Ones

Harvest Fest at Tillers International Sunday, Sept. 21, 11:30 to 5:30

The 11th Annual Southwest Michigan Community Harvest Fest will be held at Tillers Sept. 21. An always popular event, the Fest features musical entertainment, events and fun for the whole family, food, and lots of vendors and information tables (including one for Wild Ones). Admission is \$15 per car, bicyclists free. The Fest is at the Cook's Mill Learning Center, 10515 East OP Ave., Scotts, Michigan. For information about speakers, music, exhibitors and more, visit www.fairfoodmatters.org/harvestfest [We regret the conflict between Harvest Fest and our own fall plant exchange. We didn't count accurately when we did our scheduling a year ago. We hope you'll manage to work both events into your schedule.]

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Quotations for Contemplation

When something has acquired a form it metamorphoses immediately into a new one. If we wish to arrive at some living perception of nature we ourselves must remain as quick and flexible as nature and follow the example she gives.

--Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *The Metamorphosis of Plants* (1788)

Every part not only exists by means of the other parts, but is thought as existing *for the sake of* the others and the whole . . . Its parts are all organs reciprocally producing one another . . . It is an *organized and self-organizing being*.

--Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Judgment* (1790)

All I am saying is that there is also drama in every bush, if you can see it.

--Aldo Leopold, "The Farmer as Conservationist" (1939)

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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 **October-December**, will come early in October. **Deadline for submission is Friday, September 26, 2014.** 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