

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

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Supplement for September, 2012 – Contents

- **Directions for Wild Ones September Field Trip to a Rare, Rich Bog**
- **REMINDER: Wild Ones Fall Plant Exchange September 23. The 20th Year.**

Come! Celebrate!

- **REMINDER: Creating a “Life Cairn” Continues at Fall Plant Exchange**
 - **In October, Mariette Nowak Provides Inspiration on “Birdscaping With Native Plants” and a new edition of her wonderful book, *Birdscaping in the Midwest***
 - **Quotation for Contemplation**
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***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, our guide for this field trip, has been a parks naturalist for the Berrien County Parks for 27 years. He 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. Boots will not be necessary since there is a boardwalk.

Directions to Mud Lake Bog and for Car Pooling:

The trip takes one and one half hours from Kalamazoo.

Carpooling. Dave Wendling will be at the park and ride at the Mattawan exit of I-94 with maps for car pooling. We’ll leave Mattawan at 8:45 AM. Note that there is a roundabout at the Mattawan exit now and the park and ride is still on the northwest corner next to the gas station/truck stop.

Driving Directions. From Kalamazoo take I-94 west to exit 30 and go south on US-31 about 22 miles (Note, you will go east on US-31/Napier Ave for 1.7 miles before you turn right to stay on US-31 South). Use exit 3 from US-31 towards Sturgis/New Buffalo. Turn right (west) on US-12/Pulaski Hwy for 3.7 miles. Turn right (north) on Bakertown Rd for 1 mile and turn left (west) on E. Galien Buchanan Rd for 2.7 miles.

Turn right (north) on Wells Rd for 1 mile to E. Elm Valley Rd. The Bog will be directly to the north of that intersection. Parking is available there.

Using Map Quest. If you want to use Map Quest for directions, put in E Elm Valley Rd and Wells Rd, Buchanan, MI 49107. The Bog is directly north of this intersection.

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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.

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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.

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Mariette Nowak, Author of Birdscaping in the Midwest, Brings Her Native-Plant Message & Experience to Wild Ones in Oct.

Mariette Nowak brings her popular program on “Birdscaping with Native Plants” to Kalamazoo for our first Wild Ones fall program, Wednesday, October 24, 7 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church. Her program coincides with the reprinting, by University of Wisconsin Press, of her wonderful book ***Birdscaping in the Midwest: A Guide to Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds***, with a foreword by Peter Raven, former President of the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, one of the foremost botanical gardens in the world (Tom and Ruth visited it last month, and report that it’s truly wonderful.)

Mariette’s book and her powerpoint program demonstrate how to create outstanding bird habitats with native plants that offer food, cover, and nesting sites for birds. Her book is packed with color photographs, sage advice, detailed instructions, and garden plans. It features nine different habitat gardens for hummingbirds, bluebirds, wintering birds, migrant birds, and birds that frequent prairies, wetlands, lakes, shrublands, and woodlands, along with advice about maintaining your plantings and augmenting them with nest boxes, birdbaths, misters, and perches.

The information on recommended plant species includes their native ranges in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin; the birds they attract; their visual characteristics; and their cultivation.

Mariette also describes how gardeners featured in this book have gone beyond their own garden gates to work for the protection and restoration of bird habitat in their neighborhoods and communities. One of the gardens featured in a special section and frequently mentioned elsewhere in the book is Tom and Nancy’s native-plant garden here in Kalamazoo.

Birdscaping in the Midwest provides many sources of further information, including publications, web sites, organizations, and native plant nurseries.

This program should be of special interest to birders, birdscapers, and members of the Audubon Society. Here's what Stephen Kress, vice president for bird conservation of the National Audubon Society, says about Mariette's book: "This excellent guide to bird gardening in the midwestern states provides abundant detail about how to improve the quality of backyard habitats through examples and practical plans. Mariette Nowak demonstrates that even small steps can improve local bird habitats in meaningful ways."

And here's an excerpt from another rave review: "As much a guide to reconnecting people with the natural world as it is to providing habitat for birds. The great detail of information on plant/bird relationships will go a long way to benefiting birds and native plant species, as well as a multitude of other wildlife."—Jim Steffen, ecologist, Chicago Botanical Garden.

Mariette Nowak is the former national Vice-President for Wild Ones and remains an active leader and volunteer for Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes and the Lakeland (Wisc.) Audubon Society. Earlier this year, she established a new chapter of Wild Ones in her area, the Kettle Moraine Chapter (and she reports that it's "doing well.") She speaks widely on landscaping, native plants, and birding. Before her retirement, Mariette was director of the Wehr Nature Center, a unit of the Milwaukee County Parks in Wisconsin.

Please remember that all our indoor programs are now at the **First United Methodist Church**, 212 So. Park St., Kalamazoo (directions on our new web site: www.kalamazooildones.org). Socializing at 6:30; **Program begins promptly at 7:00 p.m.**

Mariette will bring copies of her book with her and will be happy to sign copies of the new edition or of the old one if you already have one. If you wish to obtain a copy in advance, you should be able to get it on special order from local booksellers (we recommend Kazoo Books). To order directly from U. of Wisconsin Press, call [800-621-2736](tel:800-621-2736) or [773-702-7000](tel:773-702-7000) between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Central Time, Monday through Friday (these are numbers in Chicago, Illinois), or order online from <http://uwpress.wisc.edu/books/2686.htm>

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Quotation for Contemplation

Practically speaking, a life that is vowed to simplicity, appropriate boldness, good humor, gratitude, unstinting work and play, and lots of walking brings us close to the actual existing world and its wholeness.

-- Gary Snyder, *The Practice of the Wild*

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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 Monday, Oct. 1.*** Please send submissions, comments, and suggestions to Tom at yard2prairy@gmail.com.