



Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

Photo: R.Small

April 2019

# SEEDLINGS

Wild Ones|Kalamazoo Area Chapter

What more substantial service to conservation than to practice it on one's own land?--Aldo Leopold

**Medicinal Use of**  
**Michigan Native Plants**  
*Folkloric and Contemporary*

**In This Issue**

Medicine From  
Native Plants



April 24  
 Dr. Bob Kreuger,  
 PhD (pharmacognosy)

Dr. Bob Krueger specializes in [pharmacognosy](#), the study of plants or other natural sources as a possible source of drugs and medicines. His April program will be particularly valuable to those who are interested in folklore, herbology, ethnobotany, and the cultural history of Michigan, especially how native Americans and early settlers used native plants as medicine. [More Info](#)



**Purple Coneflower**  
*(Echinacea purpurea)* w/Monarch butterfly

**Volunteer Project  
 Opportunities**

**Vanessa Butterflies:  
 American Painted Lady**

**Annual Native  
 Plant Sale**

**Plant of the Month:  
 Bloodroot**

**It's Time for  
 Your Site Visit**

**Citizen Science:  
 Monarch Larva  
 Monitoring**

**Quotation For  
 Contemplation**

**Community  
 Events of Interest**

**Contact Wild Ones**



**Upcoming Volunteer Project Dates**

*Learn about native plants in natural settings*

Among the important activities of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones, our project plantings in the community rank very high. We look to provide better resources for wildlife in degraded public spaces, to improve water quality in some of the city's wetlands, ponds and streams, and to make the beauty of native plants visible in areas frequented by many people.

[Click Here](#) for information about how you can observe native plants in their natural settings and work with some of our experienced native plant experts in the field.



*KAWO volunteers at the Axtell Creek site.*

---

## **The Vagaries of Vanessa Butterflies**

Ilse Gebhard

My husband Russ and my earliest entry for finding and identifying an American Painted Lady is in my first butterfly book, one of those Audubon Society Pocket Guides. This entry is not a happy one – 6/10/91, grill, car grill that is – but does remind us of the many ways our modern way of life endangers the other species on our planet.

The first entry for a caterpillar of this species is “front yard prairie, 8/26/99”, which in retrospect is BC, “before caterpillars” became one of my passions. Two years later in mid-August I came across three more of these caterpillars munching away at Sweet Everlasting in the same front yard prairie. By this time it was AC, “after caterpillars” had become one of my passions.

So into the raising jars the inch-long caterpillars went. My supply of Sweet Everlasting, a preferred host plant, was limited to the one I had found them on. But not to worry. By the next day I had found several plants in the area of our property that had been oak savannah before settlement.

The caterpillars were beautifully marked with contrasting yellow-green stripes and red and white spots on black bands and were covered with many black, branched spines. They clearly were late

instar larva since early instars are all black. After five days they attached themselves to the provided sticks and formed tan-brown mottled chrysalises. The chrysalis stage lasted nine days for one and ten days for the other two.



*American Lady upper wing*



*American Lady lower wing*

It always amazes me how different the upper and under sides of the wings of many butterfly species can look and this is certainly the case for the American Painted Lady. The upper sides are mostly orange with various black marks and a few white spots near the apex of the forewing. The underwings are tan and brown, with a pink spot in the forewing and a distinctive cobweb and eyespot pattern in the hindwing. It can easily be distinguished from the very similar looking Painted Lady because it has two large eyespots versus four small ones for the latter.

There are conflicting opinions on what happens to the adult butterflies in winter in northern states. One book says they are not likely to survive, another one says they hibernate successfully and a third states that they migrate south in the fall.

First flight dates for butterflies that are known to hibernate as adults in Michigan are Milbert's Tortoise Shell (3/22), Mourning Cloak (3/21), and Comma (3/22). In contrast, the first flight date for the American Painted Lady is 4/30 and coincides more closely with those of its Vanessa relatives, the Red Admiral (4/23) and Painted Lady (5/16). The latter two are cold intolerant and overwinter in the far South and Southwest and re-colonize the northern regions each year as spring advances. The American Painted Lady, while more cold tolerant than the other two, likely follows the same pattern.

The re-colonization of the northern regions by Red Admirals and Painted Ladies is highly variable in numbers and dates and likely depends on weather. For example, 2001 was a very good year for Red Admirals in our area, starting in early spring, while I never did see one in 2002 and only a few in 2003. I did not record any Painted Ladies in 2003 until mid-September when in a two-day period I recorded them for Kalamazoo, Barry and Van Buren counties.

There is some data that indicates a southward migration of the Vanessa butterflies in fall. In the fall of 2003 there were a number of reports of Painted Ladies doing so. As a matter of fact, as my

husband and I were driving southwest through Illinois one day in late September, we observed this phenomenon.

---

## 6th Annual Native Plant Sale

Local, Pesticide-Free Native Plants

May 18, 2019

*Sneezeweed (photo, right)*

Find locally grown, pesticide free, nursery quality native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses, and ferns at one convenient location in Kalamazoo. Native plant experts will be at the sale to help you select your plants.



Preorders are encouraged but plants can be selected at the sale. **The deadline for sending in your order is May 13.**

[More Info](#)

[Download Plant Order Form](#)

[Download Tree & Shrub Order Form](#)

---

## **Plant of the Month: Bloodroot** *(Sanguinaria canadensis)*

Tom Small



The tightly furled buds, pushing aside crinkled, brown oak leaves, unfold first a leaf, then a pure white blossom, exultant in the chill winds of mid-April. For me, that's the most startling, exciting sign of spring renewal. Bloodroot.

The name itself is startling. What power stirs in those roots and stems, with their orange-red juices, pushing upward at the first signs of warmth and despite the freezing nights?

*Photo: R.Small*

The plant also has other names, suggesting its rich cultural past: Indian paint, for its use by the native Americans to paint their faces and dye their baskets and clothing; puceon, signifying any plant used as a red dye (from the Algonquian word pak, meaning blood); tetterwort, for its early use to treat skin diseases (such as "tetter"); sweet-slumber, because, like other members of the poppy family, it induces sleep; and snake-bite, from its toxic, poisonous character.

The only member of its genus, *Sanguinaria canadensis* contains a toxic extract called sanguinarine, which may be in your toothpaste or mouthwash because its antibiotic power kills the bacteria that cause plaque and therefore gum disease. Don't put the raw juices in your mouth, however; they taste awful and will likely make you very sick.

Bloodroot produces large amounts of pollen, a welcome treat for early bees such as halictids, adrenids, and bumblebees. Its reproduction, however, is not dependent on pollinators since it readily self-pollinates in those chilly April winds, and clones itself as well. Its seeds are dispersed by ants, who store them for food.

All in all, it's a plant of memorable beauty and power. Enjoy its beauty and hardy delicacy while you may. If the weather is unusually calm, dry, and neither too cool nor too warm, each bloom can last as long as a week. But given the vagaries of Michigan spring weather, that rosette of pure white is unlikely to last more than a couple of days. The beautiful leaves however, will endure, slowly growing larger, sheltering other, later plants and flowers.

---

**[Time For A Site Visit? Sign Up Now](#)**

Dave Wendling

It's spring so it's time to start thinking about a site visit! If you are a member and need some advice on native gardening, what is growing in your yard, how to control invasive plants, or need resources, we are here to help.

Whether you are a new member or an established member we will arrange for a more experienced native gardener to visit your property as a consultant. We'll help you decide how to use native plants in your landscape. We do not ask for money; our reward is your success in creating beauty and a native habitat in your yard.



To sign up contact Dave Wendling at 269-366-8857 or [dave.wendling47@gmail.com](mailto:dave.wendling47@gmail.com). Please leave your name, phone number, and email address.

---

## **Citizen Science: Monitor Monarch Larva**



You are invited to attend a training workshop on how to participate in the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project.

The [Monarch Larva Monitoring Project](#) is a Citizen Science project that aims to better understand the distribution and abundance of breeding monarchs and to use that knowledge to inform and inspire monarch conservation.

The training is free and open to the public. It will take place on Wednesday, June 5 from 6:30-8:30pm at the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery Visitor Center, 34270 County Road 652 (Fish Hatchery Road), Mattawan, MI 49071 (200 yards south of M-43, about one mile west of the Kalamazoo County line)

Contact Ilse Gebhard at [gebhard.ilse@gmail.com](mailto:gebhard.ilse@gmail.com) by May 31, 2019 if you would like to attend.

---

## Quotation for Contemplation

"Plants are our relations and our original teachers, but we have forgotten the language. Relearning that language will bring us to the path of healing and a sustainable future for all of us."

*Jeff Grignon, Restoration Forester for the  
Menominee Nation and Reservation,  
Wisconsin*



---

## Community Events of Interest to Wild Ones

**Natural Features Protection Meetings** - [April and May meeting info Here.](#)

**Through May 1 - Westminster Art Festival: a Celebration of Art, Earth Care & Faith.**

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1515 Helen Ave., Kalamazoo. This year's theme is "Migration: Traveling Mercies," including both the forced migrations of displaced and suffering peoples and the migrations of creatures threatened by loss of habitat and climate change. More information: [www.westminsterartfestival.org](http://www.westminsterartfestival.org); 269-344-3966.

**April 13 - 10:30 a.m. "Building a Monarch Waystation in Your Backyard,"** a program by Chad Hughson, owner of Hidden Savanna Native-Plant Nursery. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1515 Helen Ave., Kalamazoo. This program is part of the Westminster Art Festival and its "migration" theme. [www.westminsterartfestival.org](http://www.westminsterartfestival.org)

**April 20 - 1-5pm Earth Day Celebration** at Bronson Park, Downtown Kalamazoo

**May 11 - 9am-3pm Backyard Bird Habitat: Landscape Design for Birds** by MI Audobon Society, Okemos, Michigan.

**May 18 - 9am-3pm KAWO Annual Native Plant Sale**

**June 2** - KAWO Annual Spring Plant Exchange

**June 5 - 6:30-8:30pm** [Monarch Larva Monitoring Project training](#); also see info above

**June 8 - 9am-12pm** [Wild Edibles Workshop](#) at Kellogg Bird Sanctuary

*Editor's note: If you know of any local events pertaining to native plants that you feel may interest our readers, please send them along to us at the address below. Thanks!*

---

**Our Cancellation Policy:** *If Kalamazoo Public Schools or the meeting venue are closed, our Indoor Program will be canceled. Field Trips and Plant Exchanges proceed rain or shine. If the weather is questionably severe, please watch [WWM Channel 3](#) or our [Facebook page](#) for confirmation. Time permitting there may also be an email cancellation notice.*

---

**SEEDLINGS** is edited by Tom Small and Kim Patrie. It appears mostly monthly. The next regular issue will come early in May. **Deadline for May issue is April 15.** Please send submissions to Tom at [yard2prairie@gmail.com](mailto:yard2prairie@gmail.com) or Kim at [safiraraks@gmail.com](mailto:safiraraks@gmail.com)

**To share comments and suggestions, simply reply to this email. We look forward to hearing from you!**

Find more information and news at [www.KalamazooWildOnes.org](http://www.KalamazooWildOnes.org)  
and [www.Facebook.com/KalamazooAreaWildOnes](https://www.Facebook.com/KalamazooAreaWildOnes)



Copyright © \*|CURRENT\_YEAR|\* \*|LIST:COMPANY|\*, All rights reserved.  
\*|IFNOT:ARCHIVE\_PAGE|\* \*|LIST:DESCRIPTION|\*

**Our mailing address is:**

\*|HTML:LIST\_ADDRESS\_HTML|\* \*|END:IF|\*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

\*|IF:REWARDS|\* \*|HTML:REWARDS|\* \*|END:IF|\*