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Trout Lily (Erythronium americanum; yellow flowers & mottled leaves) with Dutchman's Breeches [Dicentra cucullaria] near the Kal-HavenTrail. K.Patrie

April 2021

SEEDLINGS

Wild Ones|Kalamazoo Area Chapter

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



Woodland Phlox (Phlox divaricata) K.Patrie

Dear *|FNAME|*,

Spring is truly here, and boy did we get off to a warm and early start! I'm not complaining (especially given how cold it was last week) but do be mindful that the lovely spring ephemerals are very early this year. If you want to see any of them, get out there soon.

Next week, our April 28 program will feature Phyllis Higman teaching us about how to deal with invasives. And our last Zoom program this spring will be May 26. Read below about how to keep yourself busy between now and September with attention to local preserves and conservation videos.

Our plant sale is off to a booming start; thanks to all of you who have already placed your orders! In case you forgot something, or are taking more time to consider your options, there is still opportunity to order plants through May 15. [Here's a link](#) to get you started.

If you're burned out on Zoom, you can always watch our programs at your convenience on the [KAWO Youtube Channel](#).

Better yet, go out and walk in the world's garden that is outside your door.

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Warm sunshine and soft rains,
Kim Patrie
Editor

Biodiversity Matters:

What's Up With Invasive Species?

April 28, 7pm

Phyllis Higman

Senior Conservation Scientist, Michigan Natural Features Inventory



Phyllis Higman, Senior Conservation Scientist with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, will be our presenter this month on Invasive Species. She will walk us through how to enact a conservation area in our own native gardens, and will explain how our actions will help to keep invasive species under control in our yards and in our communities. Please join us this coming Wednesday, April 28 at 7pm via Zoom.

[More Info](#)

Invasive Garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolata)

Zoom Registration for April 28 Presentation

Please join us ONLINE in the [Zoom app](#) this coming **Wednesday, April 28 at 7pm**. Although this meeting is free (as always!) you must register ahead of time, so we can send you the online meeting information through Zoom.

If you have questions during the meeting, please use the Chat function (tap or click on your screen to find it) as your microphone will be remotely muted. We will collate your questions and direct them to the presenter who will address them after the formal portion of the presentation.

Registration Instructions - Click >>>[Register Here](#)

When you click on the registration link above, it will take you to a Zoom registration page where you will see some meeting details. You will be asked to submit your name, email, and zip code. Then **check your email inbox for the meeting information**, and follow the prompts a few minutes before 7pm next Wednesday.

[Visit Our YouTube Channel](#)

If you've missed any of our previous presentations, not to worry. Visit the KAWO YouTube channel, where you can view our programs at your convenience.

[Click Here to visit our YouTube channel](#)

*You can also click on the small red YouTube icon above,
underneath the Table of Contents.*

[Variegated Fritillary: Uncommon Southern Migrant](#)

Ilse Gebhard *Photos: Ilse Gebhard*



Michigan Butterflies and Skippers by Mogens C. Nielsen lists six species of fritillary butterflies for our area. Four of the species are common (Great Spangled, Aphrodite, Silver-bordered, Meadow), one is endangered (Regal), and one, the Variegated Fritillary (*Euptoieta claudia*), varies in abundance from year to year as it expands its range northward in spring from the southern states where it is found year-round.

Left: Variegated Fritillary butterfly



All six species use violets as host plants, although the Variegated Fritillary also uses passionflowers.

With four species of fritillaries being common in our area, I planted an abundance of violets and spent back-breaking hours each summer checking the violets for caterpillars. As you know, violets aren't exactly tall. Only twice in about 15 or so years did I find fritillary caterpillars, both years the same species, the Variegated Fritillary.

Left: Host Plant: Violets



While the caterpillar of this species is strikingly orange, black and white, the ones of the more common species are all dark and drab. Having seen fritillaries of the common species around the yard every year, I reluctantly entertain the possibility that I missed the drab caterpillars.

Left: Variegated Fritillary Caterpillar



The chrysalis of the Variegated Fritillary is just as striking as its caterpillar – bright white with black and gold markings and golden spikes. In contrast, the butterfly is a little more muted than its earlier life stages, although the white edging of the wings does stand out. Early flight date for Michigan for this fritillary is May 13, although most sightings are reported from late summer.

Left: Variegated Fritillary Chrysalis

28th Annual Spring Plant Exchange

June 6, 2021 12pm-6pm *Sign-up details below*

Ruth Caputo

Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones is pleased to hold its 28th Annual Native Plant Exchange on Sunday, June 6 from 12 noon to 6pm at the home of Tom and Ruth Small (2502 Waite Ave in Kalamazoo). **Masks and social distancing are required.** Our goal is to encourage the planting of natives for the beauty they offer and to support the wildlife that depends on them.

Foxglove Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*) and Southern Blue Flag Iris (*Iris virginica*) *K.Patrie*



You need not be a member of Wild Ones to participate. (*Regrettably, this will not be the usual social event; please do not bring food or drinks.*)

You must sign up in advance. There are six 1-hour time slots with 15 people allowed each hour. (We've expanded to 1-6pm.) Please [Sign Up Here](#). If you are coming with a friend, please use a separate entry for each person.

If you have plants to bring to the exchange, please bring them to Tom and Ruth's **before the exchange** if at all possible. You can drop off plants the preceding Tuesday through Saturday (June 1-5). **Remember that only native plants are allowed, and they should be carefully potted** (they may not get re-planted immediately!) **and identified.**

There will be 2-3 experts available during each time slot to help with your choices and questions. We will try to apportion plants fairly, so that there will be a good selection of plants available during the entire afternoon.

We look forward to seeing you!

Natives in Containers?

Kim Patrie



If you find yourself in a small space that makes gardening a challenge, consider potting up some natives! Native plants are hardy and will tolerate a variety of conditions that exotic nursery plants will not.

Photo: Bonnie Vastag

I accidentally seeded a pot full of Purple Coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*) one year. I had left a soil-filled pot sitting near a large planting. I never thought about it, and the pot then sat out through the winter. Imagine my surprise when the following spring I noticed that there were several purple coneflower plants filling up the pot.

Instead of moving the plants to a garden, I moved the pot to my deck. They grew and blossomed and were a wonderful attraction for butterflies all summer. Even a small balcony, or a windowsill, can be a lovely addition to your living space and to support local pollinators.

I've collated below a few websites and online documents that have the information you need for success with your own container garden of natives. [Our Plant Sale](#) is still open for orders until May 15, so you have a few weeks yet to plan your native container garden.

Good luck, and happy gardening!

Start Here:

[Growing Native Plants in Containers - Does It Work?](#)

[Container Gardening With Native Plants](#)

Design Ideas from Missouri Botanical Gardens: Two links that provide visual guides to container gardening with natives:

[Visual Guide 1 - Scroll down the page](#)

Summer Opportunities for Uncertain Times

2021 Summer Activities for KAWO

Ruth Caputo

Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones is promoting activities this summer that can be done with varying degrees of social distancing and other safety measures. To do that, we are offering resources available through sister organizations that promote healthy ecosystems based on native plants.

Lupine Trail at Chipman Preserve

K.Patrie



Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy

Consider taking part in [SWMLC's Hike Our Preserves \(HOP\) program](#). It's intended to get children out into nature. If no children are available, enjoy the preserves anyway. Go to ones you particularly like, or try ones you haven't been to before. For descriptions, trail maps, and directions, [Click Here](#). SWMLC preserves that are relatively close by include:

- Black River Preserve
- Bow in the Clouds Preserve
- Chipman Preserve
- Hidden Marsh Sanctuary
- Hidden Pond
- Portman Nature Preserve
- Wau-Ke-Na, William Erby Smith Preserve
- Wolf Tree Nature Trails

The following videos offer previews of Bow in the Clouds and Portman Nature Preserves.

- [“Nature in the City: A Video Celebrating 50 Years of Earth Day at Bow in the Clouds Preserve”](#) (21 minutes)
- [“The Incredible Biodiversity of Portman Nature Preserve”](#), (3.5 minutes)

Kalamazoo College’s Lillian Anderson Arboretum

- [“The Arboretum](#) is comprised of 140 acres of marsh, meadow, pine plantation and second-growth deciduous forest in Oshtemo Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. The Arboretum was established in 1998 as a resource for the Kalamazoo College community, Kalamazoo-area residents, and visitors to the area.”

Pierce Cedar Creek Institute

Pierce Cedar Creek Institute is sharing a series of talks by Ellen Holste that focus on a variety of native plants and the insects that rely on them. As of now, that includes:

- [“Virtual BioBlitz: The Golden Rules of Goldenrod”](#) (55 minutes)
- [“Virtual BioBlitz: Do You Like Lichen”](#) (1 hour)
- [“Virtual BioBlitz: Mysterious Mushrooms”](#) (1 hour)
- [“Virtual BioBlitz: Dragonflies and Damselflies”](#) (1 hour 5 minutes)

Other programs available through PCCI include:

- [“Wild Rice Restoration Project at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute”](#) (10 min)

Have a safe and fun-filled summer with native plants!

A Home For Us All

A Video by Lena Song



Please join us in congratulating Lena Song, a student at Oakton High School, Vienna, Virginia, as the recipient of the 2021 One Earth Young Filmmakers Contest “Wild Ones Environmental Sponsorship Award” for her stop motion film “A Home For Us All!”

Click the photo to view.

Community Events of Interest

April 28 - 7:00pm: "Biodiversity Matters: What's Up with Invasive Species?" Phyllis Higman, Botanist Michigan Natural Features Inventory *An online Zoom presentation from [KAWO](#), More info to come.*

May 15 - Order deadline for the KAWO [Annual Native Plant Sale](#)

May 17 - 6:30pm: “Cultivating Our Schoolyards As Habitats to Grow Scholars Who Will Become Stewards” Sally Triant, Grow Wise Learning *An online Zoom presentation from [River City Wild Ones](#) (Grand Rapids)*

May 18 - 2:00pm: Community Garden Workday at Axtell Creek, Kalamazoo. Get hands-on knowledge about maintaining native plants in a garden setting, and improve your community! Please bring your own garden gloves and hand tools if you have them, some tools and supplies may be available to share. [More Info](#)

May 21 & 22 - Drive Through Order Pickup for the KAWO [Annual Native Plant Sale](#)

May 26 - 7:00pm: "How Utility Rights-of-Way and Their Management Can Support Native Plants and Pollinators" Ashley Bennet, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) *An online Zoom presentation from [KAWO](#), more info to come.*

June 6 - 12:00pm-6:00pm - KAWO 28th Annual Native Plant Exchange on Sunday, June 6 from 12 noon to 6pm at the home of Tom and Ruth Small, 2502 Waite Ave in Kalamazoo. **Masks and social distancing are required.** [Click Here](#) to sign up for a time slot. [More details](#)

June 21 - 6:30pm-8:00pm - "Go Beyond Beauty" Shelly Stusick, Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network *An online Zoom presentation from [River City Wild Ones](#) (Grand Rapids)*

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!

What's Happening at the National Office

Check out our [National Office web site](#)

To read the most recent reports from the board of directors,

[Log In to the Member Only Area.](#)

Thank you for your interest and support of Wild Ones!

Not a member? [Click Here](#) for information on how you can support Wild Ones.

SEEDLINGS is edited by Kim Patrie. It appears mostly monthly. The next regular issue will arrive mid-May. **Deadline for May issue is May 15.**

[Send Submission](#)

Contributing Editors:

Tom Small

Ilse Gebhard

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
and www.Facebook.com/KalamazooAreaWildOnes



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