

Trouble reading this email? [View it in your browser](#)

|LIST:ADDRESS_VCARD|



Spring Beauty (Claytonia virginica) B. Bradburn

April 2024

SEEDLINGS

Wild Ones|Kalamazoo Area Chapter

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



Common Elderberry (Sambucus canadensis) B. Bradburn

Dear *|FNAME|*,

It must be spring because Seedlings is bursting with information this month. Whether you want to learn, volunteer, do citizen science, connect with other nature lovers, or just look at some beautiful flowers that won't be here long, there is something for you in this newsletter.

Wild Ones sometimes call themselves a native plant "movement." Like any movement, we might hope to push the world steadily and directly toward our ideal. But spring reminds us that nature moves in cycles of renewal, not on a highway straight to the future.

How do I get started? What do we do next? The answers can be multiple, but so is new growth, with its creative energy. I hope that spring inspires you to begin, or begin again, your connection to nature and to native plants.

Beth Bradburn

Editor

In This Issue

From the Editor

**April Program: Hope
in Restoration**

**Field Trip: Spring
Ephemerals**

**Volunteers Needed
for Plant Sale**

**Podcast Hosts Wild
Ones**

**A Natural World
Symposium**

**Who's Afraid of
Virginia Ctenucha?**

**Invasive Species in
Your Yard**

**Native Fauna ID
Quiz**

Community Events

Contact Wild Ones



Botanical Diversity Back from the Dead

Wednesday, April 24, 6:30pm-8:00pm at Portage District Library
with Mitch Lettow, Stewardship Director, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy

At our April program, Mitch Lettow will discuss his work restoring oak savannas and prairie fen wetlands, some of the most biodiverse and yet historically neglected ecosystems in the region. This presentation will expand our ideas of stewardship and strengthen our hope for ecological recovery. Read Mitch's inspiring introduction [here](#).

Please note that **our monthly programs now begin at 6:30 pm**. We'll be there to greet you starting at 6:00, so come early and meet more Wild Ones.



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.

Past issues of Seedlings can be found [here](#), and by clicking the link between the
Facebook and YouTube links above.

View Spring Ephemeral Wildflowers



KAWO has organized a field trip to view spring ephemerals along the Kal-Haven Trail, led by Sue Hodapp, Conservation Steward, Kal-Haven Trail. We are offering the tour four times over two days. Because of limited capacity, we ask that you sign up in advance for your tour.

- Sign up [here](#)
- Learn more about the event [here](#)

Photo: S. Hodapp

And **self-guided tours** can happen any time or season! Twenty-nine native plant ID signs are posted along the trail in this section. If you take a self-guided tour, park along F Ave and walk south on the trail. Visit the [Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail Facebook page](#) for updates on what's in bloom.

Did You Know...

from Sue Hodapp, Conservation Steward, Kal-Haven Trail

. . . that in Michigan State Parks, which includes the Kal-Haven Trail, **state law prohibits** destruction, damage to, or removal of any wildflower, grass, shrub, tree (alive or dead), woody debris, or other vegetation? Per law, only mushrooms, berries, edible nuts, and seeds for your own personal consumption may be foraged. This law exists so that people can enjoy the natural beauty of the parks and prevent ecosystems from being degraded. Please obtain your native plants from Michigan nurseries.

KAWO Plant Sale Fundraiser Needs Volunteers

KAWO's only fundraising event of the year, our annual plant sale, is about to happen! You can place your plant orders online starting April 13. We'll send a dedicated email with instructions and links in early April.

Right now **we are seeking volunteers** to help prepare plant orders for pickup in May. Volunteers are needed at **Hidden Savanna** on

Tuesday, May 21 10:00am to 2:00pm to prepare orders for pickup

Wednesday, May 22, 10:00am to 2:00pm to prepare orders for pickup

Wednesday, May 22, 4:00pm to 8:00pm to distribute orders to buyers

Thursday, May 23, 4:00pm to 8:00pm to distribute orders to buyers

Please email us at info@kalamazoowildones.org if you can help. Thank you!



Wild Geranium (Geranium maculatum)



Native Plant Sale!

Order Online
April 13-May 5
kalamazoo.wildones.org

Pick-Up May 22 & 23 at
Hidden Savanna Nursery

Local Podcast Features Wild Ones

To help mark our 25th anniversary year, four KAWO members appeared on the podcast Connecting Communities, a project of the Kalamazoo Earth Day Committee and the Public Media Network. Noel Ocen, Jessica Hagen, Mike Weis, and Quyen Edwards share their own experience with native plants and discuss the wider work of Wild Ones. Listen to the episode [here](#).



City of Kalamazoo Natural World Symposium

The City of Kalamazoo is holding a Natural World Symposium on Saturday, April 27, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Girl Scouts Regional Training Center, 601 W. Maple Street, Kalamazoo. The event, which is co-sponsored by KAWO, includes four talks:

"No Mow May and Native Lawns"

Justin Gish, Sustainability Planner with the City of Kalamazoo

"What We Talk About When We Talk about Invasive Species"

Sara Huetteman, Barry, Calhoun, Kalamazoo Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

"Everything You Wanted to Know about Urban Deer but Were Afraid to Ask"

Don Poppe, Wildlife Biologist, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

"Evolution of a Naturalist: From Lawn Lover to Native Gardener"

Donna Perry Keller, Citizen Naturalist

Local organizations will be tabling between the presentations, and refreshments will be provided. Visit the Facebook event page [here](#).

Virginia Ctenucha—A Day-Flying Moth

Ilse Gebhard

On April Fool's Day a few years ago my husband gave me a present he said I would really like. Seeing what day it was, I was a bit skeptical at first but I really do like fuzzy caterpillars and this was no exception. He had found it while stacking firewood, so it must have overwintered in the woodpile as a caterpillar.

Looking through my David L. Wagner book, *Caterpillars of Eastern North America*, I did not find a caterpillar that matched mine in appearance, except that the legs on the thorax were black and the legs on the abdomen, called prolegs, were reddish, characteristic of a moth called Virginia Ctenucha (*Ctenucha virginica*). The reddish legs were very prominent when it curled into a ball upon being picked up.

A day later the inch-long caterpillar shed its skin and two days later it started eating the grass I had provided, having read that grasses are its host plant. Overall, it still looked similar, only its orange-yellow hair tufts had faded to tan.



Last Instar (Caterpillar Stage). Note reddish legs hiding under hair tufts.

Photo: I. Gebhard

About a week later the caterpillar again shed its skin. Now the black hair tufts were also replaced by tan ones and it resembled more closely the photo of the Virginia Ctenucha shown in the book. Munching grass, the caterpillar grew to about 1.5 inches before it spun a cocoon, incorporating its hair. The cocoon was so flimsy that the pupa could be seen inside when it formed three days later.

It took three weeks for the moth to emerge, indeed a Virginia Ctenucha. Yes, the spelling is correct and I had to look up the pronunciation. The “c” is silent so it is pronounced tenucha. With a wingspan of almost two inches, it is a day-flier and can often be seen on flowers taking nectar. It closely resembles two somewhat smaller moths—the Yellow-collared Scape Moth (*Cisseps fulvicollis*) and the Grapeleaf Skeletonizer (*Harrisina americana*). All three can be seen flying during the day.



Virginia Ctenucha

Note the orange head and sides of collar, forewing with metallic blue sheen at base, white fringe on forewings.

Photo: S. C. Menasian



Yellow-collared Scape Moth

Note orange collar, narrower wings, forewings with no metallic blue sheen at base or white fringe.

Photo: I. Gebhard



Grapeleaf Skeletonizer

Note black head, orange collar, narrower wings, forewings with no metallic blue sheen at base or white fringe. Forewings are semitranslucent and there are tufts of hair at tip of abdomen. Wings held out to the side at rest.

Photo: I. Gebhard

Read Ilse Gebhard's meditation on weeding [here](#).

Why It's Important to Remove Invasive Species from Your Yard

Mike Weis

There's a problem lurking in your yard and it's wreaking havoc elsewhere, whether you know it or not. Invasive species continue to be a major problem for conservation and restoration efforts and most of these invasive plant outbreaks in wilderness areas originate in our yards. Our properties are part of the local ecosystem, so whatever we do on our land impacts the entire ecosystem. What we plant in our yards matters!



Read the full blog post [here](#).

Who Am I?

A native fauna ID quiz from Ilse Gebhard



Photos: I. Gebhard

Click [here](#) for the answer!

Stories of Biodiversity Loss and Conservation Solutions

KAWO joins with the League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area to sponsor a talk by Dr. Sharon Gill, Professor of Biological Sciences at WMU. Dr. Gill's talk, "Listening to Birds: Stories of Biodiversity Loss and Conservation Solutions," will take place on Tuesday, May 14, at 7:00 pm in the Kiva Room at Friendship Village, 1400 N. Drake Road, Kalamazoo.

Ground-Nesting Bee Project Seeks Community Participants

A group of researchers from the Entomology Department at Cornell University have built a community science project, "Project GNBees," focused on mapping aggregations of diverse ground-nesting bees. They hope to facilitate the study of the bees' nesting requirements as well as their biology across space and through time. [Project GNBees](#) seeks a broad community of participants to upload observations they have made of ground-



nesting bee aggregations to [their iNaturalist project](#). Download an informational flyer [here](#).

Recording of Doug Tallamy Presentation Available

In February Wild Ones Honorary Director Doug Tallamy gave a virtual presentation on "Nature's Best Hope" through the [Climate Emergency: Spring into Action 2024](#) series organized by the WMU Climate Change Working Group. The recorded presentation is available [here](#).

Community Events of Interest

Wednesday, April 10 - 5:00pm-7:00pm: "The State of the Dunes: A Public Forum on the Sand Dunes of Lake Michigan," WMU Fetzer Center. [Learn more](#) (follow link and scroll down).

Wednesday, April 10 - 6:00pm-8:00pm: Native Garden Planting Party, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute. [Learn more](#).

Thursday, April 11 - 7:00pm: Pints and Native Plants, an informal meet-up at [Brewery Outré](#) in Kalamazoo. [Learn more](#).

Saturday, April 13 - 9:00am-12:00pm: SWMLC Earth Day Volunteer Workday, Bow in the Clouds Preserve. [Learn more](#).

Sunday, April 14 - 10:00am-12:00pm: Volunteer Day, Kleinstuck Preserve. Meet at the Maple Street YMCA tennis courts.

Monday, April 15 - 6:30pm-8:30pm: "Rain Gardens: Improving Water Quality, One Garden at a Time," Wild Ones River City online event. [Learn more](#).

Monday, April 15 - 7:00pm-8:00pm: Michigan Botanical Society Southwestern Chapter Program: "Southwest Michigan Forest Communities," People's Church, Kalamazoo. [Learn more](#).

Thursday, April 18- 4:30pm-6:00pm: "Exploring Edible Wilderness," Kalamazoo Nature Center. [Learn more](#).

Saturday, April 20- 9:00am-5:00pm: KNC Earth Day Celebration with free admission, Kalamazoo Nature Center. [Learn more](#).

Wednesday, April 24 - 3:30pm-4:30pm: "What's in Your Backyard: What's Up with No Mow May?," Pierce Cedar Creek Institute. [Learn more](#).

Wednesday, April 24 - 6:30pm-8:00pm: "Botanical Diversity Back from the Dead: Finding Hope in Oak Savanna and Prairie Fen Restoration," with Mitch Lettow, a monthly presentation hosted by Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones at Portage District Library. [Learn more.](#)

Saturday, April 27 - 9:00am-2:00pm: Natural World Symposium, Girl Scouts Regional Training Center, Kalamazoo. [Learn more.](#)

Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28 - 10:00am-11:30pm and 11:30am - 1:00pm: Field trip to view spring ephemerals on the Kal-Haven trail. [Learn more and sign up.](#)

Thursday, May 2 - 11:00am-1:00pm: Michigan Butterfly Network Virtual Butterfly Monitoring Training, online, hosted by Kalamazoo Nature Center. [Learn more.](#)

Tuesday, May 14 - 7:00pm: "Listening to Birds: Stories of Biodiversity Loss and Conservation Solutions," with Sharon Gill, Friendship Village, Kalamazoo.

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 Beth Bradburn. It appears mostly monthly.
The next regular issue will arrive in March. **Deadline for the May issue is April 20.**

[Send Submission](#)

Contributing Editor:

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



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|*