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Looking closer at Joe-Pye Weed (Eutrochium sp.) in a KAWO member's yard. M. Luna

August 2023

SEEDLINGS

Wild Ones|Kalamazoo Area Chapter

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



Sneezeweed (Helenium autumnale) with Boneset (Eupatorium perfoliatum) in my rain garden. M. Luna

Dear *|FNAME|*,

This short and sweet newsletter is to remind you about our upcoming [plant exchange](#) next month. It gives a big shout out to Mike and Carol Klug on behalf of all of us, and shares some insights into the lives of leafcutter bees. At the bottom you will find many enticing events to educate and delight.

Enjoy the bugs, berries, and blooms of August,

Mel Luna
Editor

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Annual Fall Plant Exchange!

September 9, 1pm-5pm at Jessie and Bill's Home

Early fall is the perfect time to pot up plants that have spread for others to enjoy, and expand your plantings with new additions before it gets cold. I know it's hard to think about the cold in August, yet our fall exchange is right around the corner. There are no official programs this month, so mark your calendars and join us for this always festive sharing of the plants in September! [Details here.](#)



Fall Plant Exchange in 2021 M. Luna

In keeping with 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. In mid-late August, if you would like to dig plants for yourself from an established native garden or help pot up plants for the Fall Exchange, please contact member Ann Klobucar via Facebook to arrange a time to help at her Texas Corners property.

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.

A Big Thank You to Mike and Carol Klug

Ilse Gebhard



Monarch Butterfly on New England Aster Q. Edwards

In the March/April 2014 issue of Seedlings I said:

“While my seeds still are dormant, seedlings are already up and being transplanted from seed trays to plug flats by Mike and Carol Klug in their greenhouse. These milkweeds will be ready for planting by spring when Wild Ones will give them away at the plant exchange, as well as at our first ever native-plant sale, and other spring events.” **That was 10 years ago!!!**



Ilse and Carol giving away Milkweed M. Luna

For the past ten years Mike and Carol have been growing thousands of milkweeds to be given away. Many of you received and planted these free plants. Many others were planted in public gardens around the county. Butterfly, Swamp, and Common Milkweeds were grown all ten years, and a couple of times seeds of Whorled and Poke Milkweeds were also grown and available.

While some of the cost of growing all these milkweeds was born by KAWO, much of it was covered by Mike and Carol. Except for some help transplanting seedlings into pots, most of the labor was also theirs. This year alone, about 1,500 plants were given out so far - with about the same number of milkweed seed packets distributed. **Wow!!!**



Monarch Butterfly on Common Milkweed M. Luna

While some of the cost of growing all these milkweeds was born by KAWO, much of it was covered by Mike and Carol. Except for some help transplanting seedlings into pots, most of the labor was also theirs. This year alone, about 1,500 plants were given out so far - with about the same number of milkweed seed packets distributed. **Wow!!!**

A **Big Thank You** to Mike and Carol and the many volunteers who collected and processed the seeds, helped transplant seedlings and make up seed packets, and helped with the distribution of both plants and seed packets. Getting milkweed in the ground is one of the critical steps for the survival of the migratory monarch.

Hmm, What Insect Made Those Holes?

Ilse Gebhard

One way to find the larval stages of insects is by looking for holes in the leaves of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. For most insect species that are herbivorous at the larval stage you can't tell by the type of hole what insect it might be. One exception is the characteristic chewing pattern of the first larval stage of the monarch butterfly. If you find this feeding pattern on a milkweed leaf, you know that a monarch caterpillar fed on it.



First Instar Monarch Caterpillar Feeding Pattern I.Gebhard

While most holes in leaves are made by larval feeding, there are exceptions. There is a small redbud tree next to a wooden railing at the entrance to a 5-acre second growth woods at Friendship Village where we now live. In late June I noticed an unusual pattern of holes in some of its leaves. I faintly remembered seeing a photo of such a pattern and it being ascribed to leafcutter bees. My book *Tracks and Sign of Insects and Other Invertebrates* by Charley Eiseman and Noah Charney quickly confirmed my recollection. Looking at neighboring trees and shrubs, a small maple sapling had so many holes in the leaves that it was hard to tell its identity.



Maple Sapling R.Schipper

Leafcutter bees are in a group of solitary bees in the genus *Megachile* and are important pollinators as they feed on nectar and pollen of flowering plants and not on the tiny discs that they cut out of leaves.



Leafcutter Bee Holes in Maple Leaf R.Schipper

Starting in late spring and into late summer, leafcutter bees build their nests in wood cavities, typically rotten wood, or in tunnels carved into hollow stems, or in cavities dug in the ground. They typically look for pre-existing cavities; these bees are happy to make their nests in tunnels made by beetles or other insects, as well as cracks and holes in man-made structures.

Upon locating a suitable cavity, the female begins cutting the discs and lines the cavity, overlapping the pieces and sealing them with a secretion until they form individual cells. A typical nest consists of a dozen or more of these cells, packed tightly together. After provisioning each cell with food, a paste of nectar and pollen, and laying a single egg in each one, the final task of the female leafcutter bee is to close the nest with a seal made of chewed up leaves. This protects the developing bees through the winter until they are ready to emerge as adults in the spring.

Logic told me that the well-weathered wooden railings on either side of the entrance to the woodlot might have enough nooks and crannies suitable as leafcutter bee nest cavities. And indeed, the railings show signs that wood-boring insects have made cavities that leafcutter bees might use, including a fresh hole. It would take a person more patient than I to watch for a bee in action.

Hole in wooden railing. I. Gebhard

A promotional poster for an event. The background is a lush green field with yellow and purple flowers. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark blue rectangle. At the top right is a QR code. At the bottom left is the NDAL logo. At the bottom right is a green banner with white text. The photo credit 'Photo by Susan Day' is at the bottom right.

IN THE FIELD:
Ecology-based Landscape Practice
at University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum

Thursday, August 10th, 2023

Explore the Darrel Morrison-designed Native Plant Garden as well as prairie and savanna landscapes, where extensive restoration has been in progress for over a decade.

NDAL New Directions in the American Landscape

Limited Registration! [NDAL.org](https://www.ndal.org)
CEUs available

Photo by Susan Day

[NDAL](https://www.ndal.org) is holding an in-person field session on ecology-based landscape design August 10 at UW-Madison Arboretum. Participants will visit the 73-acre Curtis Prairie and the 47-acre Green Prairie, two of the most renowned achievements in the history of ecological restoration; as well as the Darrel Morrison-designed Native Plant Garden and the Grady Savanna near Greene Prairie, where extensive restoration has been in progress over the past decade. There is so much to learn there!

This event is cosponsored by Wild Ones. Members receive 10% off the registration fee (they can email info@ndal.org for the discount code). CEUs are available for landscape professionals, as well as student pricing. View more details about the program and register [here](#).

Community Events of Interest

August 2-September 6 - 6:00pm-8:00pm: First day of the six-part Field Botany series at Kellogg Bird Sanctuary. [Read more.](#)

August 2 - 5:30pm-7:30pm: Garden Walkabout with the River City Wild Ones chapter in Grand Rapids at member Marti MacArthur's house. [Learn more.](#)

August 3 - 6:30pm-8:30pm: Field Station End of Summer Celebration at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute. [More info](#)

August 5 - 9:00am-12:00pm: Volunteer workday with Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy at Portman Nature Preserve. [Read more.](#)

August 11 - 10:00pm-12:00pm: Volunteer with KAWO's Community Projects at Axtell Creek removing invasive Purple Loosestrife. [Read more.](#)

August 11 - 3:00pm-5:00pm: "Expanding Our Knowledge of Bumblebee Conservation in Michigan" an in-person event hosted by the West Michigan Conservation Network at the Bunker Interpretive Center in Grand Rapids. [More info.](#)

August 17 - 5:30pm: Social hike with Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy at Hidden Pond Preserve. [Read more.](#)

August 18 - 9:00am-5:00pm: 2023 Native Plant Symposium: Celebrating Biodiversity and Native Plants of the Great Lakes Region. [Read more.](#)

August 20 - 9:00am-5:00pm: Free admission at the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary. [More details.](#)

August 23 - 10:00pm-12:00pm: Volunteer with KAWO's Community Projects cleaning and weeding at Northglade School. [Read more.](#)

August 24 - 5:00pm: Green Elk Rapids is hosting Doug Tallamy at Historic Elk Rapids Town Hall (HERTH) where he'll be presenting on the Homegrown National Park initiative. [Read more.](#)

August 26 - 10:00am-12:00pm: The Prairie Fen Promenade is part of the Learning the Land Hiking Series at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute. [Read more.](#)

September 2 - 9:00am-12:00pm: Volunteer workday with Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy at Spirit Springs Sanctuary. [Read more.](#)

September 9 - 1:00pm-5:00pm: Annual Fall Plant Exchange hosted by Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones. [Read more.](#)

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 Mel Luna. It appears mostly monthly.

The next regular issue will arrive in September. **Deadline for September issue is August 20.**

[Send Submission](#)

Contributing Editors:

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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