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Native forbs and grasses B. Bradburn

August 2025

SEEDLINGS

Wild Ones|Kalamazoo Area Chapter

"There can be no purpose more enspiriting than to begin the age of restoration, reweaving the wondrous diversity of life that still surrounds us."—E.O. Wilson



Michigan Lily (Lilium michiganense) P. Laferriere

Dear *|FNAME|*,

It's been four not-always-encouraging years since Paul and I started planting native forbs and grasses into our suburban lot, but finally this summer we feel we've reached a critical mass of blooms. Every afternoon now the garden pulses with butterflies and bees of all descriptions. We stand out there a long time, looking at them one by one. Ilse Gebhard's poem in this newsletter captures so well the sensory enjoyment that nature provides.

Beth Bradburn
Editor

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Most of our past presentations are available on YouTube to view 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.

Fall Plant Exchange at Crane Park

Start potting up your native plants for the twenty-sixth annual Fall Plant Exchange! Our traditional event will be in a new place this year: [Crane Park](#). We are grateful to the Crane Park Beautification Project members for hosting us and providing tours of the park gardens, including native plant beds, during the event. The exchange will take place **Sunday, September 7, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.**



Native garden at Crane Park B. Bradburn

Plant drop-off begins at 9:00am **on the day of the exchange**. If you need to make other arrangements, email us at info@kalamazoowildones.org and we will try to accommodate you. For more details about the exchange, please [visit our website](#).

******We have heard reports that the invasive Asian Jumping Worm has been found in our area. Please avoid bringing any to the exchange. You can learn more about jumping worms on the [state invasives website](#), or by watching this [KAWO program video](#) from March 2022.

Field Trip: Moraine Meadows



Last year's field trip to Moraine Meadows was so much fun that we're doing it again! The Moraine Meadows 20-acre savanna is a collaborative effort between five neighbors. Paul MacNellis will lead a tour of the restoration project on **Saturday, August 16, at 10:00am**. For more details about the project and directions to the savanna, please [visit our website](#).

Moraine Meadows P. MacNellis

KAWO Supports Complaint about Wetland Destruction

A KAWO member residing in Portage submitted a formal complaint to Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) after development by Portage Public Schools damaged a wetland adjacent to Portage Central High School and ecologically connected to West Lake Nature Preserve.

The destruction occurred through removal of native trees and shrubs, conversion of the wetland into a mowed area, construction of a disc golf course, and installation of a retention pond. These actions have disrupted the hydrology and reduced biodiversity in a legally recognized wetland.



Disc golf basket in former wetland KAWO

After visiting the site, EGLE dismissed the complaint. In response, Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones has submitted a letter requesting that the state reassess the site, consider the complaint more thoroughly, and take meaningful action to protect the wetland and enforce the relevant regulations. You can read the original complaint [here](#) and KAWO's letter in full [here](#). We will keep you updated on this matter.

Poem

Ilse Gebhard

Seeing with All of One's Mind

I creep along the woodland paths,
Hugging the edges with my wheelchair.
My mind is totally focused,
Focused on what covers the ground.
Occasionally I stop, shift focus,
To the birds singing around me.

The ground is covered with plants.
With leaves of many shapes,
Leaves of various hues of green.
Leaves attached to stems,
Alternate or opposite.
All clues to a plant's identity.

I look for leaves with holes,
Leaves folded in half,
Leaves rolled into a tube.
All clues of insect life.
I pry open a leaf,
More often than not, only frass.

I see something very pale green,
Underneath a bramble leaf,
Almost like petals of a flower.
But why only two?
My mind goes wild.
Could it be the tails of a Luna Moth?

I've never seen one up close,
Only high up in a tree, with binoculars.
They have become very rare.
I gently lift up the bramble leaf,
A miracle flutters to the ground.
I am in awe of its ethereal beauty.



Volunteers Help Build Trail at Glen Park



On a very hot and humid July 24, a volunteer group of young professionals from [FUELmi](#) helped build the trail up to the top of the slope in Glen Park by moving logs into place to line the trail. (The logs were cut from trees that had fallen in the park.) These enthusiastic volunteer workers enjoyed the natural beauty of the park and KAWO Community Projects is grateful for their help. Glen Park plans to install a bench dedicated to the memory of Paul Olexia at the top of the slope once the trail is complete.

Photo K. Larsen

KVCC Community Education

The Sustainable Foods, Farm & Gardens program at Kalamazoo Valley Community College is offering several courses this fall that may be of interest to Wild Ones, including sessions on bumble bees, invasives management, gardening for wildlife, and others. Some courses are single-session and others run for several weeks. They begin as early as mid-August. Visit the catalog page [here](#) and scroll down to view all the classes and register.

Site Visits for New Members

We offer site visits to new KAWO members! An experienced native plant gardener will visit your land and help you assess its conditions and figure out what to plant, with continuing mentorship available for up to a year. To arrange a visit, please contact [Ann Klobucar](#).

First Michigan Record of the Genista Broom Moth

Ilse Gebhard

Late winter/early spring of 2012 was unusual weatherwise. Several weather systems brought unseasonably warm air up from the south, only to be followed by hard freezes. These warm weather systems pushed some butterfly and moth species north, earlier than usual.

On April 14 of that year, I found Red Admiral caterpillars on tiny Stinging Nettle plants, the earliest ever, and the earliest that I ever found Monarch eggs was on May 2 of that year. Milkweed was just breaking ground in the sunniest, most protected areas in the yard when a desperate female Monarch laid multiple eggs on each tiny plant. Unfortunately, a hard freeze two days later killed the eggs and the above-ground milkweed leaves. The overwintering Monarch population in Mexico the following winter was the second smallest ever, indicating that changes in weather patterns due to climate change can have detrimental effects on insect populations.

It wasn't until June that I realized that the warm weather systems had also brought north a moth never reported for Michigan. On June 18 I found several caterpillars on Blue Wild Indigo (*Baptisia australis*) in the back yard and on Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) in the front yard. Both of these plant species are in the pea family.



Wild Lupine I. Gebhard



Blue Wild Indigo Q. Edwards

In 2012 the best way I knew of to get help with identification of an unknown caterpillar not shown in one of my books was to post it on [BugGuide](#). I was pleasantly surprised to get a quick answer – Genista Broom Moth (*Uresiphita reversalis*).



Genista Broom Moth Caterpillar I. Gebhard

The common name of the moth is named after the genus *Genista*, also in the pea family, with species commonly called broom. I was encouraged to submit the find to the Butterflies and Moths of North America (BAMONA) database, as it was a species with no records for Michigan at that time.

I collected three of the caterpillars and fed them Blue Wild Indigo. Three days later they formed cocoons and three weeks after that, the adult moths emerged, confirming the identification of the species.



Two Genista Broom Moths I. Gebhard

I submitted photos of both the caterpillar and the moth to BAMONA and the records were accepted. There was a second record submitted on July 14 of the same year from the Upper Peninsula.

Wikipedia states that the Genista Broom Moth was probably native to Mexico before spreading north and becoming established in the US. Apparently, the caterpillars store alkaloids from their host plants, making them unpalatable, and even toxic, to mammals, birds and some insect predators. The moth is not expected to survive Michigan winters and become established.



Map from [BAMONA](#)

Read more by Ilse Gebhard [on our blog](#).

Who Am I?

A native flora ID quiz from Ilse Gebhard



Photo R. Schipper

Click [here](#) for the answer!

Community Events of Interest

Saturday, August 9 - 9:00am-11:00am: Spot and Stop Invasive Species Removal, Woods Lake Beach Park. [Learn more](#).

Sunday, August 10 - 10:00am-12:00pm: Volunteer Workday, Kleinstuck Preserve. [Learn more](#).

Saturday, August 16 - 10:00am-11:00am: Footpath through the Prairie: Guided Nature Walk at Drake Farmstead. [Learn more](#).

Saturday, August 16 - 10:00am-12:00pm: KAWO Field Trip to Moraine Meadows Savanna Restoration. [Learn more](#).

Monday, August 18 - 6:30pm-8:30pm: Wild Ones River City Event: Marywood Prairie Habitat

Tour, Grand Rapids. [Learn more.](#)

Thursday, August 21 - 7:00pm: Pints and Native Plants, an informal meetup at [Brewery Outré](#) in Kalamazoo. [Learn more.](#)

Saturday, August 23 - 10:00am-12:00pm: Summer Cleanup, Asylum Lake Preserve. [Learn more.](#)

Saturday, August 23 - 10:00am-12:00pm: Michigan Botanical Society Field Trip to Southern Hardwood Swamp, Jenney Woods. [Learn more.](#)

Saturday, August 23 - 1:00pm-3:00pm: Guided Butterfly Walk, Kalamazoo Nature Center. [Learn more and register.](#)

Friday, August 29 - 8:30pm-10:00pm: SWMLC Bat & Moth Night Hike, Bow-in-the-Clouds Preserve. Limited to 25 participants. [Learn more and register.](#)

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 September. **Deadline for the September issue is August 20.**

[Contact the editor](#)

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



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