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 **Wild Ones**[®]
NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES
KALAMAZOO AREA CHAPTER



Harebell (Campanula rotundifolia)

Early August 2020

SEEDLINGS

Wild Ones|Kalamazoo Area Chapter

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



Whorled Milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*)

Dear *|FNAME|*,

I am disappointed to tell you that our Executive Committee has decided to cancel all in person events until further notice, which includes the Fall Plant Exchange, and our scheduled field trip to Sarett Nature Center (re-scheduled for next year.) We certainly hope to be able to facilitate our field trips and plant exchanges again next year; time will tell. Our intention is to keep everyone safe and well.

The good news: Our Program Committee is working with our slated presenters for fall 2020 & winter 2021 to bring you an online experience. As soon as I have details, I'll send them along. I'm excited about the possibilities for these online presentations, and I hope you'll join us.

We are in need of someone who has experience with Zoom meeting facilitation to help with online meetings for next year. If you

In This Issue

**From The Editor:
Cancellations etc.**

**More On The Black
Swallowtail Chrysalis**

**What Are
Local Genotypes?**

A Cottonwood Haiku

**What Happened
When We All
Stopped**

**Webinars From
National**

Contact Wild Ones



We are in need of someone who has experience with Zoom meeting facilitation to help with online meetings for next year. If you

can help, please [contact Ruth Caputo](#). Many thanks!

At the bottom of this newsletter I've shared a short video narrated by Jane Goodall entitled, "What Happened When We All Stopped". Let it bring you hope!

Stay Safe, and Be Well,
Kim Patrie
Editor



One of my favorite gardening companions, with Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*).

The Mystery of Chrysalis Color

Ilse Gebhard

Having traded a friend some dill and cilantro for parsley in spring, I found two half-grown Black Swallowtail caterpillars on the parsley in early September. A good share of the parsley had been eaten, so I brought them inside and switched their diet to the abundant native Golden Alexander. One of the caterpillars was perfectly happy munching on the Golden Alexander but the other one was a finicky eater – only parsley would do.



I could have gone to the store and bought some parsley but while the residual pesticide might be harmless to a human eating a few sprigs, it might be deadly to a caterpillar whose sole diet consisted of parsley.

Luckily there was enough parsley left and both caterpillars formed chrysalises, one on September 10th and the other on September 12th. Both chrysalises were tan/brown. Would this bear out my earlier observations that females emerge from brown chrysalises and males from green ones? Only a long wait would tell while the butterflies over-wintered in their chrysalis stage in a big glass jar in our screened-in porch.

Regardless of the outcome of my theory, I was overjoyed when on May 7th in the morning a male emerged and ten days later in the afternoon of May 17th a female did. You can distinguish the male from the female by more distinct rows of yellow spots on the hindwings of the male, while the females have fewer and less distinct spots and more blue on the hindwings than the males. All three US butterfly guides that we own show very good pictures of both sexes and how to distinguish them from similar looking species. (*Michigan Butterflies and Skippers* by Mogens C. Nielsen, published by Michigan State University Extension; *Butterflies Through Binoculars* by Jeffrey Glassberg, published by Oxford University Press; *Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies* by Robert Michael Pyle, published by Alfred A. Knopf).

Still no answer to my question of chrysalis color difference since it clearly has nothing to do with the sex of the adult as both a female and a male emerged from the tan/brown pupae. Maybe it has something to do with the surroundings as the caterpillar changes to chrysalis. Will have to experiment with that in the future. With some flowers in bloom for nectaring and several plant species in the parsley family coming up as food plant for the caterpillar, I hoped the two butterflies would find each other to grace our yard with the next generation of their beauty. But maybe they should not have, since they might have been brother and sister. Always more food for thought and the need to search for answers to my questions.

Guidelines for Selecting Native Plants: The Importance of Local Genotypes

From the [*National Wild Ones website*](#) Photos: K.Patrie

[These guidelines were initially drafted by Wild Ones Local Ecotype Committee: Pat Armstrong, Lorraine Johnson, Christine Taliga, and Portia Brown; final revisions by chair Mariette Nowak, March 2002; further updated February 2020 by Mariette Nowak, Janice Hand, Denise Gehring, Ellen Folts, and a board review.]

These guidelines, meant to assist your natural landscaping efforts, were developed using scientific literature and consulting with experts. This information is to help you choose native plants for gardens and landscapes that support biodiversity, ecological integrity, and ecosystem health.

Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)



“Native plant”– A native plant species is one that occurs naturally in a particular region, ecosystem and/or habitat, and was present prior to European settlement.

“Local genotypes” are native plants and seeds that originate from local or regional sources with similar environmental conditions. Wild Ones advocates selecting local genotype plants when possible to grow in your planted landscape to sustain biodiversity and ecosystem health.

“Environmental conditions” include soil characteristics, drainage, pH, sun/shade, prevailing wind direction, temperature range, precipitation, elevation, aspect (such as north/south slope).

Key Reasons to Choose Local Genotypes:

1. To preserve the genetic diversity and integrity of native plants.

Whether in landscaped or natural areas, an all-important concern is preserving not only a diversity of plant species, but also the genetic diversity within each species. Native species vary genetically in their adaptation to their environmental conditions and ecological relationships where they grow. This results in various genotypes for the same species over its range.

2. To help support other species.

Pollinators, other insects, birds, mammals, and other wildlife have co-evolved with local genotype plants and depend upon them for seasonally available food and shelter in a well-functioning habitat.

3. To ensure the greatest success in your landscaping efforts.

Take your cues from nature. The more closely you match your environmental conditions with the plant species' naturally occurring habitat, the better your native plants will thrive. Complex interactions develop between species within a habitat. Similar to companion plants, try growing a few more native species from the same habitat for optimal growth.

In encouraging the use of local or regional sources for your native plant materials, we mean those defined by ecological, not political boundaries. When you can't get suitable local native plants, select plants or seeds from your ecoregion in a nearby state, rather than plants from your state from a different ecoregion with dissimilar environmental conditions. U.S. ecoregions are well delineated by the U.S. EPA's Ecoregions of North America, Level III map. (Also, see our paper titled "[Ecoregions, Native Ranges, and Hardiness Zones Explained.](#)")

Pale Indian Plantain (*Arnoglossum atriplicifolium*)



Until there is definitive research, choosing local genotypes can help ensure greater long-term success for your garden and for sustained ecosystem health. An example: Compare butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) growing in the Great Lakes region with a 35" average annual precipitation, to butterfly weed from the Southwest with 12" per year. Snowbirds may be tempted to bring butterfly weed seeds from their northern gardens for their southern winter garden. While the same species, the genotype from Great Lakes states is not adapted to the hot, arid growing conditions of the Southwest— where plants typically have a thick cuticle and reduced leaves with deep stomata to withstand drought. An exception: Endangered and threatened species from fragmented habitats with small, isolated populations may have reduced genetic fitness or lack a large enough population to reproduce. Over time, they can become locally extinct. Often, their long-term survival can be improved by an infusion of genetic variation from plants of the same species but from an unrelated or disjunct population. Work with such species should be conducted only with permission of state and federal agencies that have jurisdiction over them.

Local Genotype and Climate Change

Changes in our climate are affecting our native (and non-native) plants. Some ecologists support assisted migration (moving plants to other locations) to help them migrate in concert with changing climates, such as moving a species from a southerly location that is getting hotter to a more northerly location. This is a controversial topic and ecologists can be found on both sides of the debate. The main rationale for assisted migration is to avoid species extinction.

Black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*)



Two drawbacks: the possibility of the translocated species becoming invasive at the new site, and/or bringing pests to the new site. Research on assisted migration has been limited so far, showing mixed results, as some species benefit and some do not.

Until further research clarifies this issue, the best course is a “no regrets” approach—plant local genotype species, but consider favoring those species from the warmer parts of your region. Encourage green corridors to enable species to move on their own through neighborhoods and along streams, rivers, railroads, power lines, for example. If you have the time to deal with a potential invasive, you might try experimenting by using some species from adjacent regions.

How to Find Your Local Genotypes

First, check with Wild Ones chapters nearby. If you want to expand your research, you can also connect with native plant organizations and your state’s natural resources department to find reputable sources. Nature centers and nurseries dealing exclusively with native plants likely have local genotype stock. There are several on-line databases that can help you find native plant species for your zip code: websites of the [National Wildlife Federation](#), [Audubon Society](#), and [Xerces Society](#).

Important: Ask questions to confirm the seeds or plants originated from within your ecoregion and that your locale is included in the species’ native range. Beware of plant material dug from the wild or plants that are “nursery grown” in pots after being dug from the wild. Plants should instead be “nursery propagated” from seed or cuttings, not collected from intact habitats. It is environmentally unethical and contrary to Wild Ones’ mission to buy plants dug from our last remaining natural areas in order to naturalize your yard. An exception: Plants may be rescued from a site slated for development. Every effort should be made first to conserve the habitat. If a rescue is imminent, be certain to get formal

permission before the rescue, and keep records of the site location and its habitat. We recommend using straight native species grown from seedling stock originating from natural sources. While certain cultivars of native plants have been shown to be used by pollinators and herbivores, they are still propagated clonally and have no genetic variability. As Dr. Douglas Tallamy, University of Delaware entomologist, states, “Loading our landscapes with plants that have no genetic variability is a not a good plan ever, but it is particularly bad in the age of wild climate swings.” If you do choose to use some cultivars, select only those for which research has proven equal to or better than native plants in their value to wildlife, knowing that they nonetheless lack genetic variability. See Wild Ones paper, “Nativars (Cultivars of Native Plants): Where do they fit in?” for details. (*No longer available - Ed.*)

One other consideration in your plant selection is whether the grower uses neonicotinoid treatments. This is a class of pesticide used to control insect damage. The problem is that these pesticides are very long-lasting in the food chain and have been implicated in pollinator and other beneficial insect die-off. These substances are “systemic,” meaning that they become a part of affected plants, cannot be washed off, and persist in soils. Neonicotinoids work by killing insects such as bees and butterflies by disrupting their nervous systems.

Hoary Vervain (*Verbena stricta*)



When you purchase plants, ask the provider which sprays were used. Do not purchase the plants if the answer is any of these: acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, nitenpyram, nithiazine, thiacloprid and thiamethoxam.

Seed Collection

Prior to collection, it is imperative that you have permission from the land owner, as wild collection is not permitted in many natural areas or preserves. If you are collecting native seeds, gather only fully ripe seeds from many individual plants within a population of each species (rather than taking seeds only from the biggest plant, for example), and do not take all the seeds from any plant. A good rule of thumb is to take no more than 20-30% from a common native species; for uncommon species and annuals, take no more than 10%. This will help preserve the original population and foster genetic variation.

Document Your Project

Keep records of your native plant and seed origins. This is particularly important for natural area or habitat restorations, especially those at nature centers or other educationally focused sites. Documentation supports records of the natural history of the area, records what is growing naturally from the seed bank, and helps to understand plantings' success or failure so you can adapt future plant selection strategies. Such record-keeping may become increasingly important given climate changes, too.

A Cottonwood Haiku

Ilse Gebhard



**It's snowing in June
Cottonwoods shedding their seeds
Prolifically**

What Happened When We All Stopped

Written by Tom Rivett-Carnac, Directed by Avi Ofer, Narrated by Jane Goodall

An animated poem exploring how the Covid-19 pandemic has reminded us of the importance of living in harmony with nature.

[Watch directly on Youtube Here](#)



As millions around the world shelter at home, the smog melts away, the birds sing, and the waters run clear. What if we used this moment in our lives and in history as an opportunity to jumpstart the rebirth and rewilding of our planet when we go back to work and school? This moment can lead us to a healthier, cleaner, greener future, if only we grasp it. [Tom Rivett-Carnac](#) tells the story of what happened when we all stopped. Written by Tom Rivett-Carnac, directed by Avi Ofer. Narrated by Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, Founder - the Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace. Created in partnership with <https://www.janegoodall.org.uk/> and <https://www.rootsnshoots.org.uk/>

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.

Webinars from the National Office:

Sept. 24, featuring Heather Holm - Wild Ones Honorary Director Webinars

This past July Dr. Doug Tallamy, Honorary Director of Wild Ones, presented an outstanding webinar that outlined some of the major points in his new book, Nature's Best Hope. (If you missed it, you can [watch it on YouTube.](#))

The next National Wild Ones Honorary Director webinar will be presented by new Honorary Director, Heather Holm. A biologist, horticulturalist and award-winning author, she is a leading educator about native bees and native plants. Heather is VP of the Wild Ones Prairie Edge chapter (MN). Find program details and link for free tickets in the Fall *Wild Ones Journal* and the [National website](#).

We hope you reach out through your chapter to encourage members to attend, bring a friend, family member, neighbor or past member. Looking forward to meeting up with you (online!) at these informative presentations!

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### **Looking for Advanced Learning Opportunities?**

Wild Ones National is excited to announce that they are sponsoring a national webinar series in conjunction with New Directions in American Landscapes during the months of July and August. This is a live webinar series for landscape practitioners throughout the United States including landscape architects and designers, restoration ecologists, and horticulturists. **The webinars are open to anyone who wants to learn more about landscaping.**

Douglas Tallamy, Ph.D. (Wild Ones Lifetime Honorary Director), Larry Weaner, FAPLD, Chad Adams, AICP, and a diverse group of expert instructors will discuss a variety of topics from the art of naturalistic design to science-based native meadow creation. Sessions are categorized as: design, plants, field. [Learn more about the webinars Here.](#)

*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!*

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**SEEDLINGS** is edited by Kim Patrie. It appears mostly monthly. The next regular issue will come in late August. **Deadline for September issue is September 10.**

[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!**

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and [www.Facebook.com/KalamazooAreaWildOnes](https://www.Facebook.com/KalamazooAreaWildOnes)



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