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Violet species near the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail. K.Patrie

February 2021

SEEDLINGS

Wild Ones|Kalamazoo Area Chapter

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



Early Sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*) K.Patrie

Dear *|FNAME|*,

With the return of the sunlight, we look forward with anticipation to the coming days of flowering plants and trees, and the return of spring. I heard a cardinal call early in the morning this week, despite the snow. Hope! And only perhaps 6 weeks until garlic mustard season...

If you're struggling with your native garden plans, Wild Ones has published several regional, and free, garden designs to download. Something for everyone, from beginner to experienced native gardeners. Details below.

There is a lot of important information near the bottom of this email, mainly that the published date of our upcoming Annual Plant Sale has been changed. Take a look, and Hooray for the return of FERNS to our plant sale this year! Ilse Gebhard had the foresight to write an article for us about Michigan's native ferns, which may help you in your plant selection process.

Stay Safe, and Be Well,
Kim Patrie
Editor

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Forests Around Us:

How Urban Forests Bring Value to People, Places, and Wildlife

Jessica Simons, VP for Conservation Stewardship, Kalamazoo Nature Center

Wednesday, February 24 7pm via Zoom

Urban forests are all around us, though we rarely notice them. Join us on February 24 when Jessica Simons will share with us how urban forests affect the planet, wildlife, and people. [Read More](#)



Photo courtesy of Imagine Kalamazoo

Zoom Instructions and Information

Please join us ONLINE in the [Zoom app](#) this coming Wednesday, February 24 at 7pm.

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 program.

[Click Here to join the meeting](#) a few minutes before 7pm on February 24

We appreciate your patience as we navigate this new format. We are learning together with you!

Evergreen Ferns: Add Green To Your Winter Landscape

Ilse Gebhard

If you have a shady spot in your yard you might consider planting some ferns. In Michigan we have 55 species of what we usually think of as ferns (*Polypodiopsida*). Some are quite common, others rare. Some are found all over the state but quite a few are found mostly in the Upper Peninsula (UP). I knew that some are evergreen but it was not until I started browsing *Michigan Ferns & Lycophytes* by Daniel D. Palmer that I realized how many stay green all winter.

While snow does brighten the winter landscape, along with some of our colorful birds, seeing some green among the dead leaves on the ground or peeking through the snow can make a dreary day less

so.

One common evergreen fern in our area is appropriately named Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*). In the wild it is found individually or in small loose clusters. To identify it look for the “ears” with pointed tips on forward-facing pinnule bases. See photo.



Christmas Fern R.W. Smith, Michigan Flora



Evergreen Woodfern R. Schipper

There are 10 *Dryopteris* species (commonly called the wood ferns, male ferns, or buckler ferns) in Michigan, along with around 18 sterile hybrids. Species identification is complicated by the frequent presence of these hybrids but that does not detract from their beauty. Of the *Dryopteris* species 5 are deciduous, 2 have both deciduous and evergreen fronds and 3 are evergreen. Of the 3 evergreen species, Fragrant Woodfern (*D. fragrans*) is only found in the UP. The other 2 are found statewide but Marginal Woodfern (*D. marginalis*) is less common than Evergreen Woodfern (*D. intermedia*). Both Marginal and Evergreen Woodferns hybridize, with at least one hybrid being evergreen.

KAWO Annual Native Plant Sale will have 6 species of ferns for sale. (Details forthcoming; see announcement below.) Christmas Fern and Marginal Woodfern are evergreen, and the others (Maidenhair, Lady, Ostrich, Cinnamon) die back in winter.

Kal-Haven Trail Wildflower Restoration: 10 Years of Garlic Mustard Removal

Sue Hodapp, Conservation Steward, Advanced Master Gardener, Master Naturalist

Photos: S.Hodapp

For ten years now, volunteers have been removing garlic mustard along the Kal-Haven Trail, between F and G Avenues.

I've bicycled the Kal-Haven Trail since 1990. I noticed the high quality, wooded wildflower area that exists between F and G Aves. I noticed a plant spreading in this area, garlic mustard, which was being spread by maintenance equipment.

By 2011, I completed the MSU Extension Conservation Steward course, and had previously certified as an Advanced Master Gardener Volunteer. Extension courses provide knowledge

of native and invasive plants, and how to maintain a natural landscape. Extension allows Master Gardener volunteers to have projects on public land. I obtained permission from Extension and the DNR for a project on the Kal-Haven Trail, between F and G Aves, in 2011. I had the necessary tools and skills to lead a volunteer project to promote wildflower restoration.

This section is primarily a southern mesic forest. It consists of beech, maple, hackberry, cherry, elm and walnut trees. Ash trees were prevalent, but many are gone now. The woodland floor is a haven for spring ephemerals and other forbs, fungi, ferns, sedges, shrubs and grasses that bloom throughout the summer and early fall. Early April through May is when spring ephemerals bloom.



Garlic mustard taking over woodland understory, 2011



Bags of garlic mustard ready for disposal

Volunteers began to remove garlic mustard in 2011. For the first 4 years, removal efforts were concentrated in areas that had a high quality mix of wildflowers. Garlic mustard had spread from the trail's edge throughout the entire 50' right-of-way on both sides of the trail. Native plants were being choked out by the garlic mustard. It took a full 3 months of volunteer effort to pull and bag the garlic mustard during those early years. Every passing day meant larger plants to pull and bag. It was very time consuming. The DNR removed the bags for us, and had to caution us about making the bags too heavy for the staff to lift! Garlic mustard is taken to a landfill. It is not composted, as it can continue to grow, even after being pulled up by the roots. Plants may still produce seeds. For more info on garlic mustard, [read this DNR/MNFI document](#).



Left side of log - garlic mustard infestation; right side - garlic mustard removed 4/17/11



Left side of log - garlic mustard infestation; right side - false rue anemone survives! 5/10/11

Ten years later, volunteers are delighted to find much less garlic mustard. It is removed before it gets into full bloom, and is much easier to bag. This allows for more time to botanize! Wildflower patches have returned in abundance. Armed with various references, books and smart phones, volunteers take time to identify plants.

It was noted that dame's rocket, vinca, multi-flora rose and honeysuckle shrubs were also contributing to the wildflower demise. By mid-summer, volunteers concentrate on removing these invasive plants. Volunteers hand prune trees and shrubs that encroach on the trail, in order to retain a natural trail appearance. If not done, the DNR will enlist a brush hog, which can make a natural trail look like a county road. Volunteers weed whack tall forbs that lean into the trail. Plants grow back, but are shorter and still help retain the trail's natural appearance.

Anyone who wishes to volunteer may come out and work along with the Master Gardeners. (We start in March or April.) Our volunteer sessions consist of a mix of people from various organizations and trail enthusiasts, limited to 6 participants per DNR Covid Volunteer Rules. Together, we learn from each other! If you are interested, please [Email Me](#).

Do You Know Your Trees?

Ilse Gebhard (*Adapted from an unknown source*)

Match these questions with the photos below:

1. Which tree a kissing game could play?
2. Which shall we wear to keep us warm?
3. And from their pipes men shake which tree?
4. And on which do children play, with pail and shovel all the day?

5. And to which tree shall we now turn, for goods to wear and stuff to burn?
6. And now divide you one tree more, you've got part of a dress and part of a door.
7. And which call we an Ohio man?
8. Another tree to find just try, for fish and fuel for a fry.



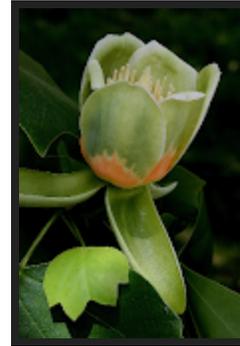
Ohio Buckeye *R.Schipper*



Cottonwood *R.Schipper*



American Beech *B.S.Walters, Michigan Flora*



Tulip Tree *R.W. Smith, Michigan Flora*



Basswood *R. Schipper*



Hemlock *R.Schipper*



Balsam Fir *R.Schipper*



Green Ash *R.Schipper*

*****Annual Plant Sale: DATE CHANGE*****



(C) 2007 by Charles Peirce

Our Annual Plant Sale will be held this year on May 21-22.

This year's sale will be by **Pre-Order ONLY**.
The dates above indicate the Pick-up days.

More information to follow soon. Keep an eye on your inbox and our [Facebook page](#) for forthcoming order details!

Free Native Garden Designs From Wild Ones

Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, Ltd., is proud to introduce seven professionally-designed, native garden plans free for the public to use specific to the ecoregions of Chattanooga, Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Tallahassee and Toledo. An eighth design for Boston is coming soon. The designs can be downloaded from Wild Ones' newly launched nativegardendesigns.wildones.org website.

The designs were created with the premise that using native plants in landscaping can be beautiful, promote wildlife, and be achievable for gardeners of all skillsets in terms of scope and budget. Additionally, the garden designs allow gardeners to take an incremental approach in developing their plan, adding new areas and native plant species as time and funds permit. [Read More](#)



Community Events of Interest

Feb 24 - 7:00pm: “Forests Around Us: How Urban Forests Bring Value to People, Places, and Wildlife”. Jessica Simons, VP for Conservation Stewardship, Kalamazoo Nature Center. *An online Zoom presentation from KAWO, info near the top of this newsletter.*

March 7&8 - Wildflower Association of Michigan Annual [Michigan Native Plant Conference](#), w/Heather Holm and Neil Diboll. Held virtually. [More Info](#)

March 15 - 6:30pm: “For the Birds: Fostering Backyard Habitats to Attract Birds”
Curtis Dykstra, Park Naturalist, Ottawa County Parks *An online Zoom presentation from [River City Wild Ones](#) (Grand Rapids)*

March 24 - 7:00pm: "The Beauty of Spring Ephemerals and Their Place in the Sun" Tom Small, KAWO *An online Zoom presentation from [KAWO](#), more info to come.*

April 19 - 6:30pm: "Native Garden Design" Presented by Landscape Designers Amy Heilman, Owner, The Living Garden, and Rebecca Marquardt, Owner, Revery *An online Zoom presentation from [River City Wild Ones](#) (Grand Rapids)*

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.*

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-March. **Deadline for March issue is March 15.**

[Send Submission](#)

Contributing Editors:

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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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