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Black Cherry (Prunus serotina) B. Bradburn

February 2024

SEEDLINGS

Wild Ones|Kalamazoo Area Chapter

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



Hollow Joe-Pye Weed (E. fistulosum) B. Bradburn

Dear *|FNAME|*,

Over the past few decades, native plants have moved from the wings toward center stage; as Tom Small tells us in this issue, a play called *Native Gardens* is one of the most produced in the country right now. Another sign of growing interest in native landscaping can be seen from KAWO's participation alongside other garden organizations in this month's [Birds & Blooms](#) event, highlighted in the January Seedlings. As Professor David Karowe will remind us in our February program, the future will be challenging—for native plants, and for all living beings. Wild Ones will play a leading role in protecting our ecosystems in the years to come.

Beth Bradburn

Editor

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Effects of Climate Change on Native Plants

Wednesday, February 28, 6:30pm-8:00pm on Zoom
with David Karowe, Professor of Biological Sciences, WMU

Our monthly programs continue with a presentation on the effects of climate change on native plants by WMU Professor of Biological Sciences David Karowe. Dr. Karowe will draw on his ongoing research to describe the future climate of the Great Lakes Region under different levels of global warming and to address aspects of climate change that most directly affect Michigan plants and plant communities.

This event is online. You can learn more about it and register for the Zoom link [here](#). View our full program schedule for 2024 [here](#).



Image by andreas160578 via Pixabay

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 Play for Wild Ones

from **Tom Small**



Native Gardens is the play for Wild Ones. The [Farmers Alley Theatre production of Karen Zacarias's play *Native Gardens*](#) has proved wildly popular, resulting in added performances on Feb. 9, 10, and 11. Most other performances have been sold out. If you act fast, you may still be able to get tickets.

Native Gardens follows two sets of couples who live beside each other in a lush, historic D.C. neighborhood. Frank and Virginia Butley are an elderly white couple who've lived in the neighborhood for decades. Frank spends most of his free time perfecting his manicured garden, a pastime he hopes will relieve his chronic stress and win him an award from the Potomac Horticultural Society.

Newcomers next door are Tania and Pablo Del Valle, a Latinx couple in their early 30s. They're expecting their first child and have big plans for their fixer-upper, including a "native garden" made of plants indigenous to the DC environment.

Cultures and gardens clash, turning well-intentioned neighbors into feuding enemies. The clash involves issues of race, gender, politics, class, culture, and property (including fences and "border walls"). It also results in hilarious comedy.

Native Gardens has become one of the top ten most produced plays in the USA. Clearly, this is the play of the year for all Wild Ones.

Asylum Lake Update

The Asylum Lake Preservation Association (ALPA) reports that the recent request for re-zoning of undeveloped land near the preserve has been withdrawn. KAWO members were among the many community voices that came together to help bring this about. We encourage all members to stay in touch with [ALPA](#) for further information and to help protect the preserve for the long term.



Little Asylum Lake B. Bradburn

City of Battle Creek Selling Rain Barrels

from **Patty Hoch-Melluish**, Environmental & Storm Service Manager, City of Battle Creek

The City of Battle Creek and the Battle Creek Area Clean Water Partners are selling rain barrels and composters. The barrels are repurposed food barrels converted into rain barrels. Barrels and composters are purchased online (or via mailed check) and will be available for pick up at the City of Battle Creek's Department of Public Works at 150 S. Kendall Street on Wednesday, April 17, from 4:00-6:00 pm. See all the products available [here](#). For questions, contact Patty at: pjhoch@battlecreekmi.gov or 269-966-3355 ext. 1878.

Follow (Some of) Us on Instagram!



Does Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones have its own Instagram account? No! But a couple of our board members have accounts that focus almost entirely on native plants in the area. Check out beautiful and informative posts from [Quyên Edwards](#) and [Mike Weis](#). If you are a KAWO member looking for a volunteer opportunity and would like to start an Instagram account for KAWO, let us know at info@kalamazoowildones.org.

Tuberosa Spotlight

Mike Weis

One of the most beloved plants for native plant gardeners is Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). This plant is so popular that even the big box stores carry it—a native with mass appeal. Undoubtedly, those bright orange flowers that attract legions of pollinators are gorgeous and unmistakable. They jump out to our attention in a prairie or even at 70 mph from a roadside landscape, perfectly punctuating the more subdued tones of the green grasses around them.

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



Butterfly Milkweed (Asclepias tuberosa) M. Weis

Who Am I?

A native fauna ID quiz from Ilse Gebhard



I. Gebhard



R. Schipper

Click [here](#) for the answer!

Some Parasitic Plants Found in Michigan Forests

Ilse Gebhard

Photosynthesis is the process by which green plants use sunlight to synthesize food from carbon dioxide and water. Most plants do just that. But there are some plants that are parasitic on tree roots, either directly on the roots, or parasitic on fungi that are connected to tree roots and that shuttle nutrients from the tree to the parasitic plant. I can just see the overworked fungus syphoning off for itself some of the nutrients that the tree provides and passing the rest on to the parasitic plant, while in return providing the tree with the nutrients it needs. The parasitic plant just sits there, not even looking like a plant. While they may not look like plants, they truly are plants, with flowers that are pollinated and produce seeds. They are not the fruiting body of fungi, which reproduce by spores.

In your wanderings in Michigan woods, you may come across some of these parasitic plant species. For ease of searching the [Michigan Flora website](#), I am using the common names used there. Common names can be very confusing. For example, *Monotropa uniflora* is called Indian-Pipe or Ghost Pipe, and *Orobanche uniflora* is called Cancer Root or Ghost Pipe. It gets even more confusing with *Conopholis americana*, known as Cancer-Root, formerly known as Squaw-Root, and now by the ethnically more sensitive name of Bear Corn. All our wildflower books are outdated in this regard, except *Wildflowers of the Midwest* by Michael Homoya and Scott Namestnik, published in 2022. (By the way, this is a great book, although a bit heavy to carry in the field.)



Indian-Pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*)

It is often associated with Beech trees. Parasite of fungi in the Russulaceae family. Often mistaken for a strange mushroom.

A. Fraser, R. Schipper



Cancer Root (*Orobanche uniflora*)

Local, at edges of conifer thickets along dunes; even more local inland, in both dry to moist sandy open areas and rich forests. Although this species has been reported [throughout its range](#) from a diversity of hosts, asters (*Symphyotrichum*) and goldenrods (*Solidago*) seem to be the only verified ones in Michigan.

A. Schneider



Pinesap, False Beech-Drops (*Hypopitys monotropa*)

Found in coniferous or deciduous forests or even conifer swamps. Parasite of fungi.

R. Schipper



Pine-Drops, Giant's Bird's-Nest, (*Pterospora andromedea*)

Always in habitats with conifers, especially pines but also hemlock, spruce, fir, white-cedar. Parasite of fungi.

R. Schipper



Beech-Drops (*Epifagus virginiana*)

It grows and subsists on the roots of American beech, its only known host plant. It is antipollinated.

R. Schipper



Bear Corn, aka Squaw-Root (*Conopholis americana*)

In deciduous or mixed forests, wherever there is oak, including beech-maple, oak-hickory, or northern hardwoods stands. The only known host is oak, especially Red Oak in Michigan. A large woody gall is formed where the parasite's root is attached to the oak root.

R. Schipper

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

Community Events of Interest

Thursday, February 8 - 7:00pm: Pints and Native Plants, an informal meet-up at [Brewery Outré](#) in Kalamazoo. [Learn more](#).

Sunday, February 11 - 10:00am-12:00pm: Volunteer Day, Kleinstuck Preserve. Meet at the Maple Street YMCA tennis courts.

Wednesday, February 14 - 12:00pm-1:00pm: Farming with Nature, a seminar at Lee Honors College, WMU. [Learn more](#).

Friday, February 16 - 6:00pm-8:30pm: Candlelight Night Hike, Kalamazoo Nature Center. [Learn more](#).

Saturday, February 17 - 12:00pm-4:00pm: Birds & Blooms, Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery. [Learn more](#).

Monday, February 26 - 4:00pm-5:30pm: Nature's Best Hope, a virtual presentation and discussion with Doug Tallamy. [Learn more](#).

Monday, February 26 - 7:00pm-8:00pm: Michigan Botanical Society Southwestern Chapter Program: Restoration of Oak Savanna at Hampton Creek Wetland–Gourdneck State Game Area, People's Church, Kalamazoo. [Learn more.](#)

Wednesday, February 28 - 6:30pm-8:00pm: "Effects of Climate Change on Native Plants," an online presentation by David Karowe hosted by Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones. [Learn 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 Beth Bradburn. It appears mostly monthly.

The next regular issue will arrive in March. **Deadline for the March issue is February 20.**

[Send Submission](#)

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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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