



Winterberry (Ilex verticillata)
Photo: B. Bricault, MSU Extension

January 2019

SEEDLINGS

WILD ONES

Kalamazoo Area Chapter News
Native Plants, Natural Landscapes

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

In This Issue

**Making A Difference:
A Panel Discussion**



Find the Pollinators

There are 3 bumble bees feeding on the Monarda plants above.
Can you spot them?

Read about urban gardens and bumble bees in the below article, "All The More Reason To Landscape With Native Plants."

Also join us for our February program, "Bring Back the Pollinators" Wed. Feb. 27. More info below.

Milkweed Thanks

**Bring Back The
Pollinators**

All The More Reason...

**Quotations for
Contemplation**

**Community
Events of Interest**

Contact Wild Ones





Above: Wild Ones volunteers at the Kalamazoo Public Schools administration building.

Making A Difference: A Panel Discussion

Wednesday January 23

Featuring Harry Bird, Ann Klobucar, Carol Klug, & Dr. Paul Olexia

By Ruth Caputo

Why do they do it? Why do otherwise sane, well-rounded people spend so many hours volunteering for projects supported by Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones? Come to the January 23 meeting to find out. A panel of volunteers will talk about projects they work on and what they personally get from volunteering. Those attending the meeting will find out how much volunteers learn, how much fun they have, and how much they appreciate the friendship of interesting people working on interesting projects. And it counts as exercise too!

Our Discussion Facilitators:

Harry Bird - Harry's interest in native plants began with a spring ephemeral collection for a high school biology class. He became a Conservation Steward in 2009, but had been volunteering for the Kalamazoo Nature Center and guiding field trips for elementary schools before then.

He joined Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones about ten years ago, and he's now on the Projects Committee and a member of the Executive Committee. He also helps with plant sales and the plant exchanges.

Harry also does restoration work with the Michigan DNR, and volunteers for the Michigan Nature Association and Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy. He works over 100 hours a year on

stewardship work. He also participates in Feeder Watch, a citizen scientist program that monitors bird populations in the US and Canada.

Ann Klobucar - Ann helps with plant sales and plant exchanges for KAWO, and is currently serving on the KAWO Executive Board. She helps with the welcome table at meetings and is on the Monarch Committee. She was instrumental in establishing a native plant garden at Schoolcraft United Methodist Church and assisted with establishing a pollinator garden at the new Schoolcraft Library.

Ann has served as an officer in the local Medical Technology Society, for her church's United Methodist Women and other groups within her church, and for the Log Cabin quilting group (including making quilts to give away for charity). And she drives for Shephard's Center, an organization that provides rides to those needing them.

Carol Klug - Carol has been working with native plants for over 20 years. She is a past co-president of the Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones chapter and has been a member of its Monarch Committee for several years. She and her husband Mike grow milkweed plugs for use in Monarch Watch projects and for distribution to the general public. Carol is the project coordinator for the Gilmore Car Museum gardens.

She has also served as a counselor in the Tax Aide program for almost 20 years.

Paul Olexia - Paul is a past president and past secretary of KAWO and has served as co-chair of Community Projects for over 15 years. As part of Community Projects, he's worked on at least 6 projects including those at Axtel Creek, the Kalamazoo Public School Administration Building on Howard Street, and the wetland near Paris Cleaners (corner of south Westnedge Avenue and Crossroads Boulevard). He's been on the Program Committee since KAWO began, and on the Hospitality Committee and Community Projects almost as long. He has also served on the Executive Committee for the past few years.

Paul has also been active with the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy as a "Wednesday Warrior" and other stewardship activities.

Our discussion panel will be held on **Wednesday, January 23** at Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church (FUMC), 212 Park Street, downtown Kalamazoo. Socializing at 6:30 p.m., program at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank You, Milkweed Seed Collectors!
from Ilse Gebhard

I would like to thank Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones (KAWO) members who, along with members of the Audubon Society of Kalamazoo (ASK) and Kalamazoo and Van Buren County Master Gardeners, collected and processed milkweed seeds for the KAWO Monarch Committee projects.

In all, I received milkweed seeds of 6 species from 19 people. As in the past four winters, KAWO members Mike and Carol Klug will again be growing milkweeds for us in their hoop house.



The WMU greenhouse will be growing some for us again as well. And of course we will have milkweed seed packets for distribution and some seed to share with Monarch Watch or organizations in our area that are creating Monarch Waystations.

Previously, for lack of seed, we were limited to growing only common, swamp and butterfly milkweeds but this year we will be able to grow small amounts of poke, whorled and purple milkweeds as well. Below the amounts received:

Common Milkweed – 64.5 oz

Swamp Milkweed – 7.0 oz

Butterfly Weed – 12.1 oz

Poke Milkweed – 0.6 oz

Whorled and Purple Milkweed – less than 0.1 oz

There are about 3150 seeds in 1 oz of common milkweed and about 254 in one seedpod. So the 64.5 oz of common milkweed represents just a tad over 200,000 seeds!

Bring Back the Pollinators - w/Dr. Rufus Isaacs

Wednesday February 27



Dr. Rufus Isaacs, Distinguished Professor of Entomology, Michigan State University, is internationally recognized for his research on berry crop pollination and insect pest management. The specialty crop industry in the US which produces the fruits, vegetables and nuts recommended by the USDA for a healthy diet, all require pollination. With the decline in pollinator numbers, especially honey bees, new strategies need to be developed.

Dr Isaacs and his collaborators across the country are addressing critical questions which will lead to alternatives beyond honey bees. Establishing native plants in crop lands to encourage native bees and beneficial insects is one of those strategies. Which native plants are the most attractive to the most economically valuable pollinators is one of the research trusts in this program. Developing habitat management practices to improve and encourage pollinators is being conducted at various sites around Michigan and across the United States.

Dr. Isaacs will discuss the ongoing research, especially that which relates to native plants and their associated pollinators and beneficial insects. Although his research is primarily devoted to agricultural systems, the principles that are being developed can equally be applied to our own yards and gardens.

This our February 27 program will be held at Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church (FUMC), 212 Park Street, downtown Kalamazoo. Socializing at 6:30 p.m., program at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

All The More Reason to Landscape w/Native Plants

By Ilse Gebhard



Recently I came across an interesting study on bumblebees. While the study was done in England, the same principles might apply right here in Kalamazoo County. I don't see much hope for us to influence Big Ag to do much for pollinators. But we do have control over our own yards and we can help create habitat in public places and encourage our friends and neighbors to create habitat in their yards. Below, the abstract of the paper:

Samuelson AE, Gill RJ, Brown MJF, Leadbeater E. 2018 **Lower bumblebee colony reproductive success in agricultural compared with urban environments**. Proc. R. Soc. B 285: 20180807. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2018.0807>

Urbanization represents a rapidly growing driver of land-use change. While it is clear that urbanization impacts species abundance and diversity, direct effects of urban land use on animal reproductive success are rarely documented. Here, we show that urban land use is linked to long-term colony reproductive output in a key pollinator. We reared colonies from wild-caught bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*) queens, placed them at sites characterized by varying degrees of urbanization from inner city to rural farmland and monitored the production of sexual offspring across the entire colony cycle. Our land-use cluster analysis identified three site categories, and this categorization was a strong predictor of colony performance. Crucially, colonies in the two clusters characterized by urban development produced more sexual offspring than those in the cluster dominated by agricultural land. These colonies also reached higher peak size, had more food stores, encountered fewer parasite invasions and survived for longer. Our results show a link between urbanization and bumblebee colony reproductive success, supporting the theory that urban areas provide a refuge for pollinator populations in an otherwise barren agricultural landscape.

~ Quotation for Contemplation ~



...the efforts that I find most helpful are largely the work of individuals, households, and small associations of people. All of these ventures, scattered among thousands of places, add up to a vast ferment of imagination, inquiry, and labor devoted to creating a durable way of life.

--Scott Russell Sanders

Image designed by [Freepik](#).

Community Events of Interest to Wild Ones

February 9, 1-4pm [Winter Tree ID Workshop](#) at Kellogg Bird Sanctuary

June 8 - 9am-12pm [Wild Edibles Workshop](#) at Kellogg Bird Sanctuary

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!

SEEDLINGS is edited by Tom Small and Kim Patrie. It appears mostly monthly. **Deadline for submission for the February issue is January 20.** Please send submissions to Tom at yard2prairie@gmail.com or Kim at safiraraks@gmail.com

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



Copyright © **|CURRENT_YEAR|* *|LIST:COMPANY|**, All rights reserved.
|IFNOT:ARCHIVE_PAGE|* *|LIST:DESCRIPTION|

Our mailing address is:

|HTML:LIST_ADDRESS_HTML|* *|END:IF|

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

|IF:REWARDS|* *|HTML:REWARDS|* *|END:IF|