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Ivory sedge (Carex eburnea) B. Bradburn

January 2024

SEEDLINGS

Wild Ones|Kalamazoo Area Chapter

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

Dear *|FNAME|*,

As KAWO begins its 25th year, I would like to introduce myself as the new editor of this newsletter. My husband, Paul Laferriere, and I have been Wild Ones members for four years. We began by working with Community Projects, where we learned much about native plants from Paul Olexia, Harry Bird, Margo Rebar, and the other regular volunteers. Paul O. encouraged us to become more involved with KAWO. Now I am a member of the Executive Committee and Paul L. is helping Paul O. to lead Community Projects.

When Mel Luna, the outgoing editor, suggested that I take over the newsletter, I felt inspired. Along with her many other outreach projects for KAWO, Mel has for two years sustained Seedlings as a reliable, substantive, and visually appealing resource for the native plant community in Kalamazoo. I look forward to continuing this work in KAWO's 25th year and beyond.

Beth Bradburn

Editor

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Beth Bradburn and Paul Laferriere



Prairie and Savanna Plants for Pollinator Gardens

Wednesday, January 24, 6:30pm-8:00pm

with Neil Diboll, Prairie Ecologist, Prairie Nursery, WI

KAWO's 25th anniversary year will begin with a presentation on "Prairie and Savanna Plants for Pollinator Gardens" by Wild Ones Lifetime Honorary Director Neil Diboll. Don't miss this online event! You can learn more about the program and register for the Zoom link [here](#). And if you didn't catch November's national Wild Ones webinar with Neil Diboll and Hilary Cox, on their book *The Gardener's Guide to Prairie Plants*, you can see a recording of that event [here](#).

View our full program schedule for 2024 [here](#).



If you've missed any of our previous presentations, not to worry.

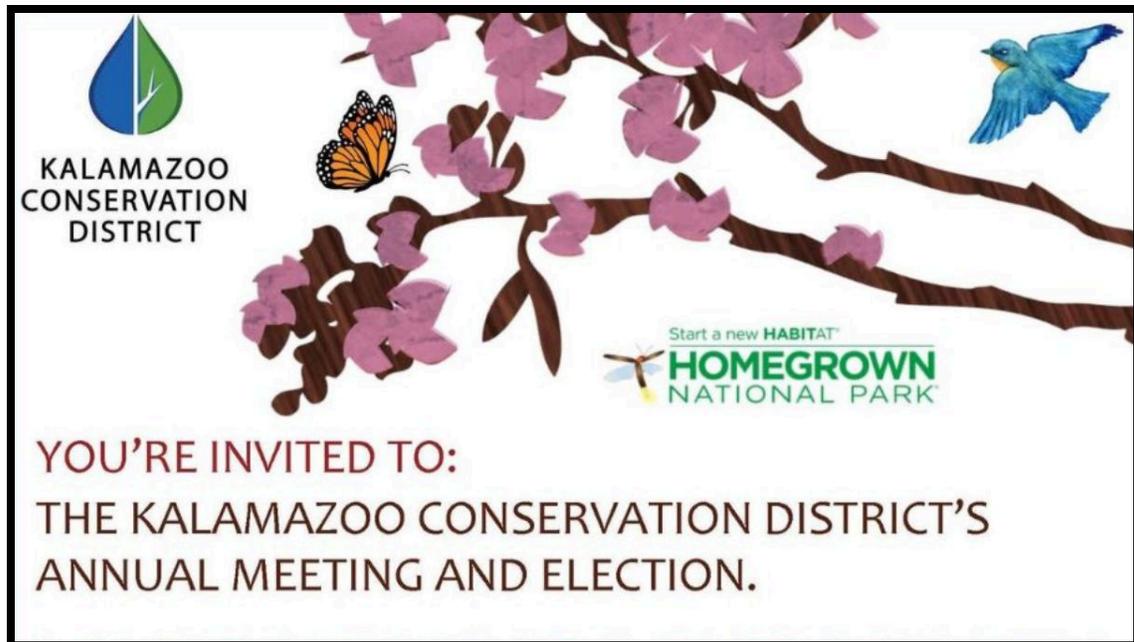
Visit the KAWO YouTube channel, where you can view our programs at your convenience.

[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.

Landscaping for Biodiversity



Kalamazoo Conservation District will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, January 31, at Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Regional Training Center, Kalamazoo. The theme is Landscaping for Biodiversity, and there will be educational speakers, a silent auction, and desserts. The cost to attend is \$5. Preregister and learn more [here](#).

Birds & Blooms at Wolf Lake



Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery will host a family-friendly event to celebrate winter BIRDS & BLOOMS on the afternoon of Saturday, February 17. KAWO is one of several local organizations participating in this event, which will give us a wonderful opportunity to spread the word about native plants and their benefits to birds. You are warmly encouraged to attend! Learn more [here](#).

Native Gardening by Design

Mike Weis



M. Weis

It is that time of year when I put down the shovels, augers, and plug trays and pick up my sketchbook and colored pencils. In my non-professional gardening days, I would have never considered design; I figured that practice was for those rigid horticulturalists. However, now that I do this thing for other people for a living I decided that I should probably have a plan. Despite being relatively new at this pro thing, I have created over 100 designs in the past two years and I don't think I will ever go back to my previous "wander-without-a-map" approach.

Design improvisation back then was just randomly picking up a few plants at nursery sales and mindlessly sticking them into my garden with hopes and prayers that they survive. I did that for over 15 years and while I had a thriving garden it never did quite look really exceptional until at least the

10th year!

Even if you're not a professional landscaper, I recommend researching, planning, and designing for your own personal gardens. Not only will this approach give your beds more aesthetic structure but it's a great way to reach establishment and self-sufficiency faster than if you take the conservative approach. Also, having a plant list that you can reserve at the local nursery will save you the grief of sold out stock, not to mention buying bulk in plugs and trays is a lot more cost effective in the long run.

I take a deeper, more philosophical dive into this subject on the KAWO newly launched blog. Read it [here](#).

Twig Girdlers, Twig Pruners, Twig Borers, and More

Ilse Gebhard



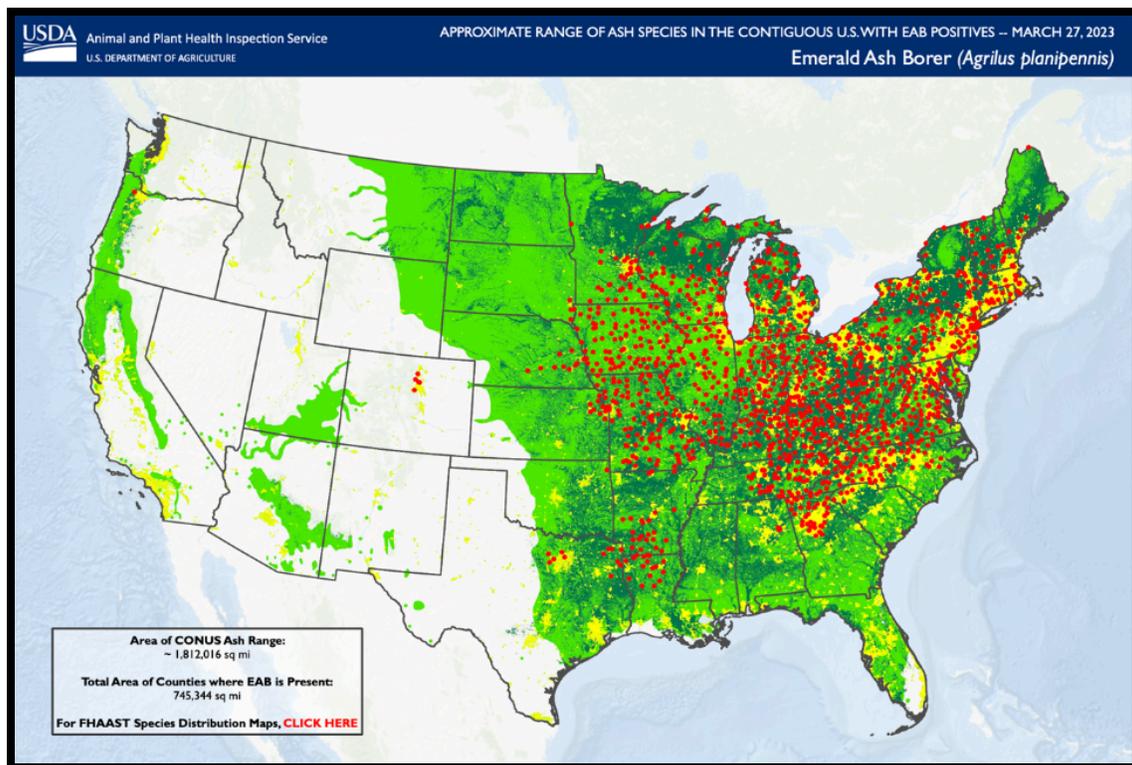
I. Gebhard

Recently I read an article about signs of insects in winter. The article mentioned twig girdlers and twig pruners, small beetles that cause twigs of trees to break off. Since insect life is largely hidden from sight in winter, looking for signs of these beetles seemed like a fun thing to do.

On an unseasonably warm mid-November day I headed to the Friendship Village Woods and in about 15 minutes had found 4 twigs that likely had dropped to the ground fairly recently as there were live leaf buds at the tips of these twigs. The ends of the twigs that had broken off shared similarities and looking under “neatly severed twigs” in my book *Tracks and Signs of Insects* by Charley Eiseman and Noah Charney, I found not only twig girdlers (genus *Oncideres*) and pruners (genus *Anelaphus*) but also twig borers. As it turns out, my broken off twigs looked like the photo of twigs made by a twig borer in the genus *Agrilus*. Therefore, I am speculating a twig borer is about in the Friendship

Village Woods. In all three cases - girdlers, pruners and borers - it is the larva or pupae that overwinter inside the twig.

The genus *Agrilus* is notable for having the largest number of species (about 3000) of any single genus in the animal kingdom. Only some are twig borers. An infamous member of this genus of beetles, boring through the bark into the interior of the tree, is the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) native to northeastern Asia. The Emerald Ash Borer was first identified in Canton, MI in 2002. It is suspected that it was introduced from overseas in shipping materials such as packing crates. From Canton it has spread in all directions (see map). Every North American ash species is susceptible, killing most trees within 10 years. Some isolated trees are known to survive and one has done so in the Friendship Village Woods.

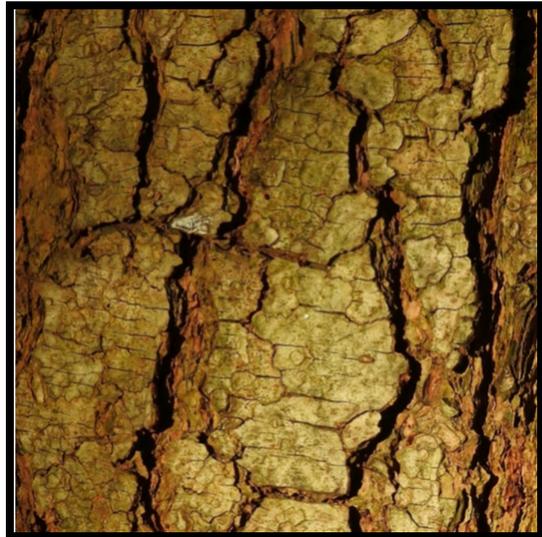


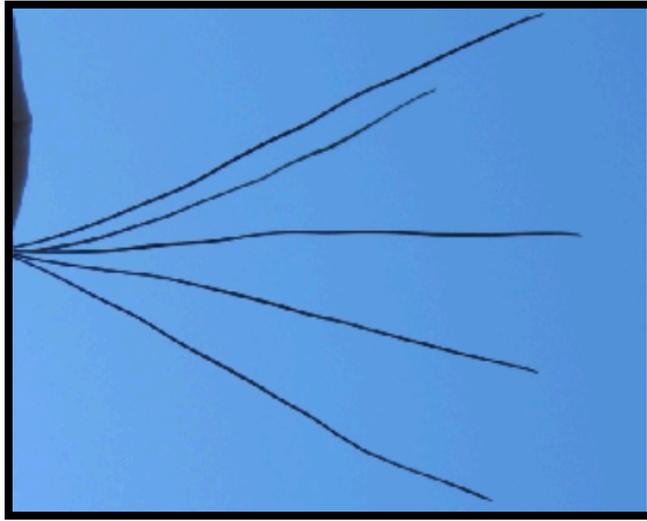


Emerald Ash Borer (Agrilus planipennis) Forest Service (Public Domain)

Who Am I?

A native plant ID quiz from Ilse Gebhard





Photos by R. Schipper

Click [here](#) for the answer!

Recommended Reading

from the editor



As I finished Christienne L. Hinz's essay "[Letter to America: A Rewilding](#)," I felt both challenged and inspired. Her account of creating a native landscape in an Illinois suburb shows how deeply the cultural, the material, and the natural are intertwined. You can read it free of charge in the online journal Terrain.org by following the link above.

If you want to recommend any readings, please use the submission link below to let us know.

Community Events of Interest

Thursday, January 11 - 7:00pm: Pints and Native Plants, an informal meet-up at [Brewery Outré](#) in Kalamazoo. [Learn more.](#)

Sunday, January 14 - 10:00am-12:00pm: Volunteer Day, Kleinstuck Preserve. Meet at the Maple Street YMCA tennis courts.

Monday, January 15 - 7:00pm-8:00pm: Michigan Botanical Society Southwestern Chapter Program: Floodplain Forests, People's Church, Kalamazoo. [Learn more.](#)

Saturday, January 20 - 6:00pm-8:00pm: Lantern Lit Trails, Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery. [Learn](#)

[more.](#)

Wednesday, January 24 - 6:30pm-8:30pm: "Prairie and Savanna Plants for Pollinator Gardens," an online presentation by Neil Diboll hosted by Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones. [Learn more.](#)

Saturday, January 27 - 10:00am-11:30am: Returning and Reskilling: Elderberry Syrup Crafting, Kalamazoo Nature Center. [Learn more.](#)

Sunday, January 28 - 2:00pm-4:00pm: Elderberry Syrup Workshop, People's Food Coop. [Learn more.](#)

Wednesday, January 31 - 7:00pm-9:00pm: "Landscaping for Biodiversity," the Kalamazoo Conservation District's Annual Meeting and Election at Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Regional Training Center, Kalamazoo. [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 February. **Deadline for the February issue is January 20.**

[Send Submission](#)

Contributing Editors:

Ilse Gebhard

Mel Luna

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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