



Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)

June 2019

SEEDLINGS

Wild Ones|Kalamazoo Area Chapter

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

Plaster Creek

Watershed Tour

*w/Deanna Geelhoed of the
Plaster Creek Stewards*

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Field Trip: Plaster
Creek Watershed Tour



June 29, 2019

As a followup to Dr. David Warner's KAWO March program on reconciliation ecology, Deanna Geelhoed

of the [Plaster Creek Stewards](#) will guide us on a tour of several sites along Plaster Creek in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Considered the most polluted waterway in West Michigan, the Creek flows into the Grand River in Grand Rapids. We will make 6 stops along the creek to observe restoration efforts in a variety of scales from rain gardens to large scale re-vegetation with natives. [More Info](#)



Plaster Creek Stewards

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Plant Sale Success: It Takes A Team

Dave Wendling



Involvement and teamwork are vital to the strength of an organization, and Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones is no exception. This, our fifth Native Plant Sale, was a great success due to the efforts of many individuals and organizations.

I want to take a minute to thank the many Wild Ones members who worked together to make it happen. Listed in alphabetic order are: Harry Bird, Pam Dewey, Gina Frasson-Hudson, Ilse Gebhard, Ann Klobucar, Jennifer LaForest, Kathy McGoff, Catherine Niessink, Paul Olexia, Kim Patrie, Margo Rebar, Neil Sikora, and Jeff Weiss. When one mentions names, there is the risk of omitting someone, and I apologize if this happened.

Our sponsors also played a big part in our success, not only by providing financial support, but also by promoting the sale. They are: Better World Builders, Citizens Climate Lobby, Geum Services, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, Kalamazoo Nature Center, and Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy.

Without native plant producers, we would not have native plants to sell. A big thank-you to Hidden Savanna Nursery and to Native Landscapes Nursery for providing the plants/shrubs/trees for the sale.

And, finally, our special thanks to the PFC Natural Grocery & Deli for not only hosting the sale again this year, but also promoting the sale. They are great partners and help make the sale a success.

It truly **TAKES A TEAM**, and if you would like to become part of the Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones team in any capacity, please [contact Neil Sikora](#), our chapter president.

[Dave Wendling](#), Plant Sale Coordinator

Heraldic Shield Basis for Baltimore Butterfly Name

Ilse Gebhard

One of my favorite butterfly books is an old one that my husband found for me at the Friends of the Library in Kalamazoo. Published in 1919, *Butterflies Worth Knowing* by Clarence M. Weed is more like a book you sit down to read rather than our present-day field guides, which are more like reference books. I found the account of the Baltimore butterfly especially interesting, particularly the part on the early life stages, which I had not had the opportunity to observe.

The Baltimore butterfly is single brooded, even further south, and the flight period in Michigan is late May to early August. It is during this time that the eggs are laid in bunches of one to four hundred on the host plant, which Mogens C. Nielsen in his book *Michigan Butterflies and Skippers* lists as Turtlehead or False Foxglove (in the Figwort family) as the host plants in Michigan.

Three weeks after the eggs are laid the caterpillars emerge at the same time and stay together, spinning successively larger nest in which they feed and molt. After the third instar in late summer the caterpillars stop feeding and remain in the nest all winter. This eight-months fast is broken in early spring when they emerge from the nest and start feeding ravenously on the young leaves.



Baltimore Caterpillar



Baltimore Chrysalis

It is at this stage that I found “Balti” on May 6th in a grassy field. No Turtlehead or False Foxglove in sight, so I brought him home where we have Turtlehead growing at the edge of the pond. Puzzled by the apparent absence of host plants, I looked in Jeffrey Glassberg’s book *Butterflies Through Binoculars*. He states that the usual habitat is marshes or wet meadows with Turtlehead but that in recent times they have been found in large concentrations in dry fields, feeding on English Plantain. On going back to the field, I did find English Plantain and also more caterpillars.

My husband tells me I'm sexist since I tend to gravitate to "he" for caterpillars. Somehow "it" is too impersonal. Maybe the connection is little boys. Whenever I give butterfly classroom presentations I ask who likes butterflies and all hands go up. Fewer hands are raised when I ask who likes caterpillars and comments like "yuk" can be heard from little girls.

But I digress. Balti was 3/4" long with a black head and black, branched spines. He was marked with narrow black bands between orange segments. At first he ignored the plantain leaves, but after shedding his skin, he became quite a glutton as evidenced by the amount of frass. On May 28th he attached himself to the provided stick and a day later formed the chrysalis.



Baltimore Butterfly under wing



Baltimore Butterfly at rest

The chrysalis was white with black and orange markings and on June 18th the butterfly emerged. This is one of the checkerspot butterflies named for their checkered wing markings. It was specifically named for Lord Baltimore because its orange and black colors match those on his heraldic shield. Dazzling with its black background and white and orange checks, the bright orange clubs at the end of its antenna really stand out. It is interesting to note that caterpillar, chrysalis and butterfly all have orange markings.

What is also intriguing to me is that a couple of the books mention not only variability in habitat preference but also in appearance. New England individuals are smallest with wide orange borders on the wings while the Ozark region individuals are largest, with narrower borders.

Don't Spray for Mosquitos

Reduce Populations Instead; Here's How

Spraying for mosquitos also unnecessarily kills native bees, butterflies, and other insects vital to the complex food web on which birds and other wildlife depend.

Download this colorful and informative flyer to learn how to reduce mosquito populations in your yard naturally. [Download Here](#)

Wild Ones National & Chapter Forum

Spring 2019

News from the national office of Wild Ones, including the Strategic Plan, and guidelines for Native Plant Butterfly Garden certification. [Download Here](#)



Mark Your Calendars for the Fall Plant Exchange



Mark your calendars for our
Annual Fall Plant Exchange
Sunday August 25, 2019

More details coming soon!



Community Events of Interest to Wild Ones

June 22 - 10am-12pm [Plants For Pollinators Workshop](#), Kellogg Bird Sanctuary

June 29 - 10am-1pm KAWO [Plaster Creek Watershed Tour](#), Grand Rapids, MI

July 27 - 10:00 am-1:00 pm KAWO [Hidden Pond Preserve](#) Field Trip, Nate Fuller, South West Michigan Land Conservancy

August 25 - KAWO Annual Fall Plant Exchange *Details coming soon*

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!

Our Cancellation Policy: *If Kalamazoo Public Schools or the meeting venue are closed, our Indoor Program will be canceled. Field Trips and Plant Exchanges proceed rain or shine. If the weather is questionably severe, please watch [WWMT Channel 3](#) or our [Facebook page](#) for confirmation. Time permitting there may also be an email cancellation notice.*

SEEDLINGS is edited by Tom Small and Kim Patrie. It appears mostly monthly. The next regular issue will come early in July. **Deadline for July issue is June 15.** 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



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