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Prairie Smoke (Geum triflorum) B. Bradburn

June 2025

SEEDLINGS

Wild Ones|Kalamazoo Area Chapter

"There can be no purpose more enspiriting than to begin the age of restoration, reweaving the wondrous diversity of life that still surrounds us."—E.O. Wilson

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Bishop's Cap (Mitella diphylla) B. Bradburn

Dear *|FNAME|*,

Recently I was checking out at that grocery store where they always ask you what you're doing today, and when I said "gardening," the clerk observed that the people who answer this question with "yard work" always seem rather grim while ones who say they're gardening are more upbeat. I don't think either term fully describes our efforts to get *Filipendula rubra* to grow in our suburban lawn, but I took the opportunity to elaborate on "gardening" and found myself preaching to the converted. A passion for native plants is alive in our culture. Let's keep it healthy.

Beth Bradburn

Editor

Most of our past presentations are available on YouTube to view 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.

2025 Native Plant Sale

With almost 2000 native plants sold and more than \$4000 raised to help fund our free-to-the-public programming, KAWO's 2025 plant sale was a resounding success. Our deep gratitude goes to the chapter officers and members who volunteered many hours of organizational and logistical support: Noel Ocen, Quyen Edwards, Cameron Lockwood, Ann Klobucar, Dave Wendling, Beth Bradburn, Ellie Shenker, Paul Laferriere, Cassie English, and Haim Kenig.



Special thanks also to Chad Hughson of Hidden Savanna for supplying us with so many species of beautiful native Michigan plants. We greatly appreciate the more than 25 hard-working volunteers who put together and distributed the orders. And of course, thank you to the over 130 gardeners who showed their support for KAWO and for native landscaping by participating in the sale. We hope you enjoy your plants!



Photos Q. Edwards

A Celebration of Life for Paul Olexia

A celebration of Paul's life will be held on June 21, from 2:00pm to 5:00pm at the Glen Vista Gallery in the [Kalamazoo Nature Center](#), where food, drinks, and stories will be shared.

KAWO Butterfly Walk



Join us for a special summer field trip with Ronda Spink of Michigan Butterfly Network, a community-science-based butterfly monitoring initiative involving partner cities across the state. This free and family-friendly event will be at the Kalamazoo Nature Center on Saturday, June 28 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. At the main entrance, let the attendant know you're there for the Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones butterfly walk with Ronda. Your admission will be free and they'll direct you to the Camp parking lot. Most of the walk is on a mowed path in the Emma Pitcher Prairie.

PDL Monarch Waystation Tour

Join KAWO Vice President and Portage District Library staff member Quyen Edwards on a tour of the library's Monarch Waystation and native plantings on Wednesday, June 4 at 6:30pm. Meet in the lower-level meeting rooms for a presentation about how the library started its Monarch Waystation, the native plants growing on the property, and how you can support butterflies, moths, and other pollinators in your own backyard. We will then go outside to explore what is currently in bloom.

Site Visits for New Members

We offer site visits to new KAWO members! An experienced native plant gardener will visit your land and help you assess its conditions and figure out what to plant, with continuing mentorship available for up to a year. To arrange a visit, please contact [Ann Klobucar](#).

Kalamazoo Becomes a Bee City

Ilse Gebhard

On April 21, 2025 the Kalamazoo city commission passed a resolution to designate Kalamazoo as a "Bee City USA." Kalamazoo joined 230 municipalities across 47 states showing the city's commitment to protecting pollinator habitat and creating a little bit more vibrant ecosystem within the city.

The designation will mean the creation of a bee committee at the city whose charge will be to establish an action plan to protect bees. The focus will be both public and private land improvements. To start, the city is working on [getting more native species into city parks](#).

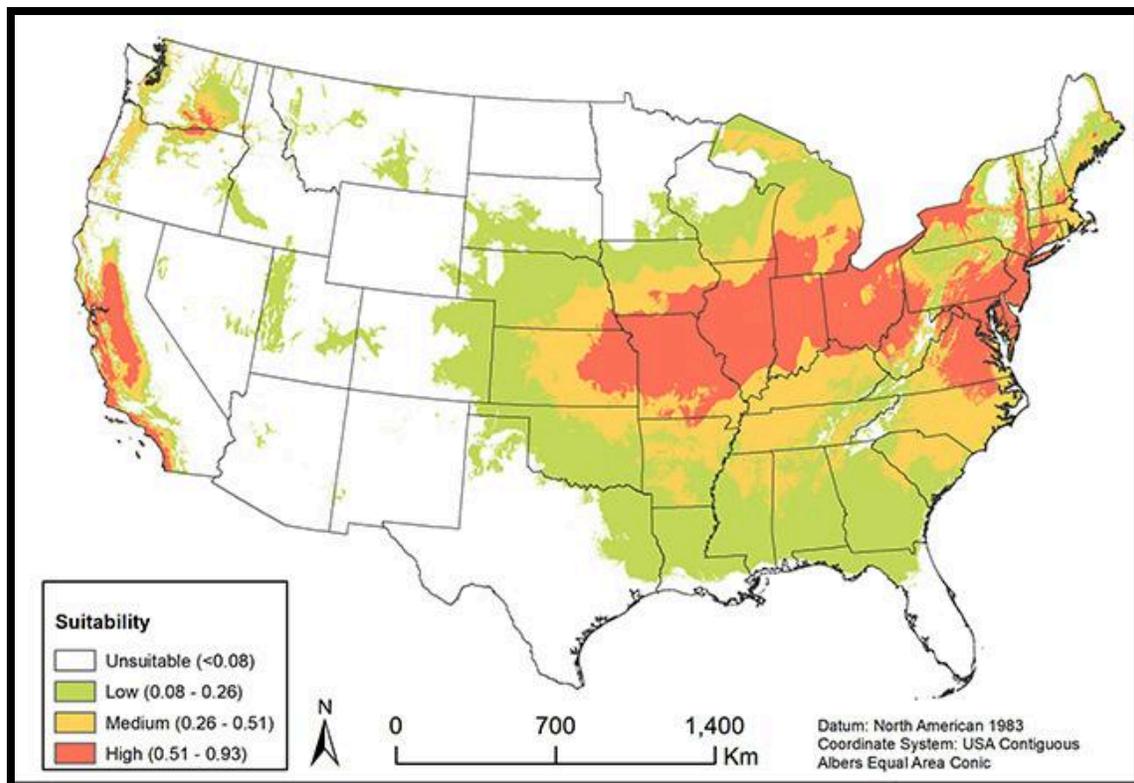
The "Bee City USA" designation is part of [a promotion by The Xerces Society](#) for Invertebrate Conservation, a non-profit organization dedicated to saving insects and other living things that are essential to biological diversity and environmental and human health.



Invasive Bug - Spotted Lanternfly - Now in Michigan

Ilse Gebhard

An article in the December 12, 2024 Kalamazoo Gazette warned Michigan residents that the Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), an invasive species native to China, has become established in Michigan. It was first detected in the state in 2022 in Oakland County and in 2024 it was found in Monroe and Wayne counties. Infestations have been found along our southern border in Ohio and Indiana, and a USDA map shows our area of Michigan as highly suitable habitat.



Female Spotted Lanternflies lay their egg masses in the fall, usually on trees, shrubs and woody vines but also on other hard surfaces. The eggs hatch in spring.

The common name Spotted Lanternfly is a misnomer as they are not flies. Nor are they moths, which they resemble both at rest and with wings spread. Spotted Lanternflies are plant hoppers and they will jump when disturbed. The juvenile stages (instars 1-4) are called nymphs and can walk and jump.



Above: a current-year egg mass beneath an old egg mass on Tree of Heaven E. Swackhamer, Penn State U, Bugwood.org

Below: third (black) and fourth (red) instar nymphs feeding on a Tree of Heaven stem T. Harrison, MSU

The adult stage can walk, jump, and fly, and on their own can disperse 3 to 4 miles. But transportation by human activity is the most common form of dispersal. They are hitchhikers at all life stages, but adults and egg masses are the most common.

The Spotted Lanternfly's preferred host is Tree of Heaven (*Alianthus altissima*), but it also feeds on other trees, including fruit trees, as well as on woody vines and even on some non-woody agricultural crops.



The beaks of instars 1-3 are not strong enough to penetrate woody tissue, so they mostly feed on the tender new growth of the year. Fourth instars and adults have stronger beaks and can actually penetrate the trunks of trees.

Adult Spotted Lanternfly perched on a branch of Tree of Heaven D. McCullough, MSU



While most trees, including fruit trees, seem to suffer little damage from Spotted Lanternfly feeding, both wild and cultivated grapes are an exception.

Adult Spotted Lanternfly with extended wings

L. Barringer, PA Dept of Ag, Bugwood.org



As the lanternflies feed on the sap of the host plant, they excrete droplets of sticky honeydew that coat vegetation, or anything else, beneath the infested trees. Black sooty mold can grow on the honeydew, a combination that reduces the ability of plant leaves to capture light for photosynthesis, stressing the plant. And should the black, hard-to-remove coating fall on grapes, it makes them unmarketable.

In its native range, Spotted Lanternfly populations are kept in check by parasitic wasps. In Michigan the main focus at this point is detection. If you think you have found eggs, nymphs, or adults (1) take a picture, (2) note the address, location or GPS coordinates, and (3) if possible, capture one or a few of them in a jar or a plastic bag with a zip closure. Photos and specimens allow scientists and agency personnel to positively identify them and track new infestations. Suspect specimen can be reported to the Midwest Invasive Species Network at <https://www.misin.msu.edu/> or the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at <https://www.Michigan.gov/SpottedLanternfly>. When Spotted Lanternflies are detected, surveys are conducted to determine the extent and severity of the local infestation. Results from those surveys inform decisions about further management and regulatory activities.

While Spotted Lanternflies can feed on many tree species, Tree of Heaven is the preferred host. Tree of Heaven is in itself an invasive from China and should be removed or controlled from spreading on its own account. With the arrival of the Spotted Lanternfly, this becomes even more important. Both immature nymphs and adults have higher survival rates, and adult females produce many more eggs, when feeding on Tree of Heaven compared to other trees species.

Tree of Heaven can be confused with native species like sumac and walnut but can be distinguished from those by looking closely at the bark, leaves, flowers, and seeds.

Further resources: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/a-tale-of-two-invaders-tree-of-heaven-and-spotted-lanternfly>.

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

Who Am I?

A native fauna ID quiz from Ilse Gebhard



Photo Q. Edwards

Click [here](#) for the answer!

Community Events of Interest

Sunday, June 1 - 1:00pm-4:00pm: KAWO Spring Plant Exchange. [Learn more.](#)

Wednesday, June 4 - 10:00am-12:30pm: Summer Fern Hike, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute. [Learn more and register.](#)

Wednesday, June 4 - 6:30pm: Monarch Waystation Presentation and Tour, Portage District Library. [Learn more.](#)

Sunday, June 8 - 10:00am-12:00pm: Volunteer Workday, Kleinstuck Preserve. [Learn more.](#)

Monday, June 16 - 6:30pm-8:30pm: Wild Ones River City Event: "Friendship Park-A Nature-Focused Community Space," Grand Rapids. [Learn more.](#)

Thursday, June 19 - 7:00pm: Pints and Native Plants, an informal meetup at [Brewery Outré](#) in Kalamazoo. [Learn more.](#)

Saturday, June 21 - 9:00am-1:00pm: Woods and Wetlands Paddle, Allegan State Game Area. [Learn more and register.](#)

Saturday, June 21 - 10:00am-2:00pm: Field Trip to Poor Conifer Swamp, Waterloo State

Recreation Area. [Learn more.](#)

Saturday, June 28 - 1:00pm-3:00pm: KAWO Butterfly Walk, Kalamazoo Nature Center.

Free. [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 July. **Deadline for the July issue is June 20.**

[Contact the editor](#)

Contributing Editor:

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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