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*Marsh Marigolds (Caltha palustris) near the Kzoo River Valley Trail. K.Patrie*

March 2021

# SEEDLINGS

# Wild Ones|Kalamazoo Area Chapter

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

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Pasque Flower (*Pulsatilla vulgaris*) L.Phinney

Dear \*|FNAME|\*,

Spring is officially here, and with it comes a plethora of beautiful flowers and wonderful opportunities! Look carefully under the detritus of last year, and you will find green gems...

An abundance of spring ephemerals is coming our way; don't miss this month's program with Tom Small, and Ilse Gebhard's article below. If you haven't seen the area spring wildflower displays before, you are in for a treat.

More exciting news: Our Annual Native Plant Sale has returned! And there will be ferns. (*I love ferns!*) Be sure to read all the details below, and check out the website for additional info.

I hope you, as I, have been pondering and planning for new additions to your native plantings. If you need some guidance in that regard, be sure to read about our Site Visit program; well worth your time.

Step outside, take a deep breath, and celebrate the signs of spring.

Stay Safe, and Be Well,  
**Kim Patrie**  
*Editor*

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## **Spring Ephemerals: "Nothing Gold Can Stay"**

**Tom Small, Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones**  
**Wednesday, March 24 7pm via Zoom**

For Kalamazoo Wild Ones March program, Tom Small will help celebrate the arrival of spring with a Zoom presentation on “The Beauty of Spring Ephemerals and Their Place in the Sun.” Tom promises that his powerpoint presentation will provide, to lift our spirits, many beautiful images of sunlight and spring wildflowers from his and Ruth’s own yard and other regional habitats.

[Read More](#)



Right: Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)

Below: Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

Photos: T. Small

Nature’s first green is gold,  
Her hardest hue to hold.  
Her early leaf’s a flower;  
But only so an hour.  
Then leaf subsides to leaf.  
So Eden sank to grief,  
So dawn goes down to day.  
Nothing gold can stay.

~ *Robert Frost*



## **Zoom Instructions and Information**

Please join us ONLINE in the [Zoom app](#) this coming Wednesday, March 24 at 7pm.

If you have questions during the meeting, please use the Chat function (tap or click on your screen to find it) as your microphone will be remotely muted. We will collate your questions and direct them to the presenter who will address them after the formal portion of the program.

[Click Here](#) to register for the meeting. An email will be sent to your inbox immediately from Zoom. In the email you'll find a link to the meeting, which you can join a few minutes before 7pm on March 24.

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## **KAWO Annual Native Plant Sale 2021**

**Drive Through Pickup May 21 and 22, 2021      Order Online: April 6-May 15**

Kim Patrie & Alysia Babcock

*It's back!* Our only fundraiser of the year is happening this spring, and we are so excited. Once again we will offer amazing plants, shrubs, and trees to the community at a discount, with the proceeds going to fund the Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones efforts to spread the word about the importance of native plants to wildlife, people, and the planet.

The creative and hard-working folks that have organized the sale this year have put together for us a beautiful new option: A Monarch Pollinator Kit! With nectar and host plants that will bloom all year long, you can't go wrong for \$100. (Individually would cost over \$200; a great savings.)



Downy Sunflower (*Helianthus mollis*)

K.Patrie



Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

K.Patrie

In addition to our staple wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees, we will have ferns this year. Place your order early as the ferns always sell out. Our growers, [Hidden Savanna Nursery](#) and [Wild Type Nursery](#) are working hard to bring you the best plants, and we so appreciate their hard work.

**ONLINE ORDERING** will be available [at This Link](#) starting **April 5** through **May 15**. We will also have the good old paper downloadable form, and a pay by check in the mail option; we've got you covered. Last day to order will be May 15. Drive through pickup, with masks and social distancing, will be on May 21 & 22.

As in years past, at pickup time you will receive as a thank you a coupon for 20% off a \$5 purchase from our host site, [PFC](#) (People's Food Co-op). Keep an eye on the [KAWO website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for up-to-date information about ordering and scheduling a pick-up time. *We look forward to seeing you then!*

***A BIG thank you to our Native Plant Sale 2021 Sponsors: Better World Builders, Citizens Climate Lobby, CTS Telecom, Geum Services, Kalamazoo Nature Center, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, PFC, and The Garden Guru Kzoo.***

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## **Take A Spring Wildflower Walk**

**Ilse Gebhard**      *Photos: S.Hodapp*

When younger I used to take the paths “less travelled” to view nature but with age and reduced nimbleness, slogging through mud, tripping over roots and sliding on wet boardwalks has become less advisable if not downright stupid. So I invite you to take a trail “more traveled” but rivaling any public location in Kalamazoo County with its display of spring wildflowers.

*Below, clockwise from top left: Bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*), Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), Common Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*), Dutchman’s Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*).*





The best stretch for abundance and species diversity of spring wildflowers on the Kal-Haven Trail in Kalamazoo County is between G and F Avenues. You can park at the roadside at either G or F where they intersect with the trail. Round trip it's about 2.5 miles of easy walking but be aware of runners and bicyclists and don't suddenly step into their way. There are even a couple of benches along the way. Sit and listen to the birds.

*Below, clockwise from top left: Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*), Wild Blue Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*).*



While we lump a number of species into "spring wildflowers" they don't all start blooming on the same day or even the same day each year. How early or late they start blooming depends on species, weather, soil temperature, and even how much sun a specific spot gets. Consider taking a weekly walk from mid-April to the end of May and follow the progression of spring. If you start at G Ave.

and approach the 1<sup>st</sup> bend in the trail, look at the very steep hill on the left. If you catch the right week, and you will if you go weekly, the display is spectacular.

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## **Invasive Species Info Links**

**Provided to Environment Kalamazoo by Paul MacNellis**

*Submitted by Ruth Caputo*

[Click Here](#) for an extensive and helpful document full of links to organizations that monitor and offer management strategies for invasive species.

Invasive [mile-a-minute weed](#)

*(Persicaria perfoliata)*



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## **Spring Poem**

Gray lake-effect sky up high  
bending low to cut buckthorn  
black semi-frozen muck sucks boots.

A winter workday  
saving endangered butterflies.  
If the sun would ever appear  
we would look up and cheer.

~Stan Razjac

Photo: Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*)



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## **Site Visits 2021**

Dave Wendling



Site visits will begin in April. We will follow guidelines for face masks and social distancing.

If you are a member and need some advice on native gardening, need to know what is growing in your yard, need to know how to control invasive plants, or need resources, we are here to help.

Whether you are a new member or an established member we will arrange for a more experienced native gardener to visit your property as a consultant to help you decide on how to use native plants in your landscape.

*A backyard landscape K.Patrie*

We do not ask for money; our reward is seeing you succeed in creating beauty and a native habitat in your yard.

To sign up [Email Dave Wendling](#). Please leave me your name, phone number, and email address and I will get back with you to arrange a visit.

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## **Our 2021 Executive Committee**

**Kim Patrie**

Our Executive Committee (EC) is pleased to announce the results of last November's EC election. Below are the current EC volunteer officers serving for KAWO:

President: Jessie Davis

Vice President: Alysia Babcock (appointed)

Secretary: David R.

Treasurer: Margo Rebar

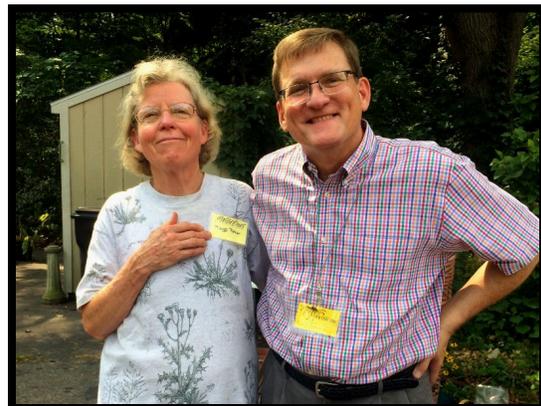
And our Members at Large:

Ann Fraser

Noel Ocen-Gorgone

Jason Ballew

And one open seat...



*Margo & Past-President, Neil Sikora*

Alysia Babcock was elected to the 4th at-large position, but subsequently accepted an appointment to the open Vice President position, leaving one at-large position open.

If you, \*|FNAME|\*, are interested in serving on our EC for the remainder of the year, please [Contact Us at This Link](#), and we'll get right back to you with the details.

Thanks to all who participated in the election. If you would like to vote in this year's election, be sure your membership is up-to-date. [Click Here](#) to find out more about membership opportunities.

***Thank you for your support of Wild Ones!***

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## **Community Events of Interest**

**March 24 - 7:00pm:** "The Beauty of Spring Ephemerals and Their Place in the Sun" Tom Small, KAWO *An online Zoom presentation from [KAWO](#), More info at the top of this email.*

**April 5** - Orders open for the KAWO [Annual Native Plant Sale](#)

**April 19 - 6:30pm:** "Native Garden Design" Presented by Landscape Designers Amy Heilman, Owner, The Living Garden, and Rebecca Marquardt, Owner, Revery *An online Zoom presentation from [River City Wild Ones](#) (Grand Rapids)*

**April 28 - 7:00pm:** "Biodiversity Matters: What's Up with Invasive Species?" Phyllis Higman, Botanist Michigan Natural Features Inventory *An online Zoom presentation from [KAWO](#), More info to come.*

**May 15** - Order deadline for the KAWO [Annual Native Plant Sale](#)

**May 17 - 6:30pm:** "Cultivating Our Schoolyards As Habitats to Grow Scholars Who Will Become Stewards" Sally Triant, Grow Wise Learning *An online Zoom presentation from [River City Wild Ones](#) (Grand Rapids)*

**May 18 - 2:00pm:** Community Garden Workday at KPS Admin Bldg, 1220 Howard St, Kalamazoo. Get hands-on knowledge about maintaining native plants in a garden setting, and improve your community! Please bring your own garden gloves and hand tools if you have them, some tools and supplies may be available to share. [More Info](#)

**May 21 & 22** - Drive Through Order Pickup for the KAWO [Annual Native Plant Sale](#)

**May 26 - 7:00pm:** "How Utility Rights-of-Way and Their Management Can Support Native Plants and Pollinators" Ashley Bennet, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) *An online Zoom presentation from [KAWO](#), more info to come.*

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!

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## **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.

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SEEDLINGS is edited by Kim Patrie. It appears mostly monthly. The next regular issue will arrive mid-April. **Deadline for April issue is April 15.**

[Send Submission](#)

Contributing Editors:

Tom Small

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](http://www.KalamazooWildOnes.org)

and [www.Facebook.com/KalamazooAreaWildOnes](https://www.Facebook.com/KalamazooAreaWildOnes)



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