



Witch Hazel (Hamamelis Virginiana)

November 2018

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

Dear *|FNAME|*,

[In This Issue](#)

Our final indoor program of the year with Dr. David Karowe is coming up soon. Details below, we hope to see you there.

Please take a minute to consider whether you have a few hours a month to join us as a volunteer. If, after reading Paul Olexia's article on the subject you feel inspired, **simply reply to this email with your interest**, and we'll get it to the right person. And thank you!

As the days shorten into celebrations of gratitude and light, we bid you much peace and joy of the season.

Tom Small
Kim Patrie
Co-Editors

Volunteer Concerns

November Program:
Climate Change and
Plants

Plant of the Month

A New Memoir from
Maynard Kaufman

Quotation for
Contemplation:
Thanksgiving

Community
Events of Interest

Contact Wild Ones



We Need Your Help: Volunteer with KAWO

By Paul Olexia

*Ann Klobucar volunteering her time at the 2018
Spring Plant Exchange*

The Kalamazoo Area Chapter of Wild Ones is fortunate in having a number of individuals of diverse talents who are willing to invest their time and energy to serve in a variety of capacities to help the organization function and plan for the future. We also have a membership with diverse talents. However, we have struggled to convince many members to bring their talents, time, and energy to contribute to the vitality of our chapter.

Our Executive Committee serves as a governing body of our chapter. They contribute their time and energy to keep the organization functioning, oversee our



finances, plan for the future, and deal with a variety of issues.

We also have a number of Committees that have specific charges and responsibilities. The skills and talents required for these positions vary. For example, I served as the Secretary of the Executive Committee for a number of years. I can assure you that I have no specific talent that qualified me for that position. But it was a job that needed to be done.

It can be intimidating to volunteer to be a member of the Executive Committee, or any other committee, when one is not familiar with the function, history or ongoing activities of a committee. No one expects a new committee member to step in and take a leadership role immediately. In fact, it often is better to take some time to learn the issues with which the committee is dealing before aspiring to take on major responsibilities.

We have been without a Vice President for two years, and we have two vacancies for “at large” membership position on the Committee. Members of the Executive Committee serve as they are elected officers or Committee Chairs. Others serve because they are willing to help; these are the at large elected positions. The at large positions provide volunteers with an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of our organization and contribute as they gain experience.

There has been relatively little change in the membership of the Executive Committee over that past few years. A number of members have served even longer. It is unreasonable to expect the same people to continue to volunteer their time and energy year in and year out to sustain our activities and progress.

Neil Sikora, the President of the Executive Committee, has served two consecutive terms as President and has indicated that he is willing to serve only one more year in that capacity. Currently we do not have a Vice President to take over that position when his term ends. How (and if) we will be able to function when Neil completes his term remains unanswered. We face similar situations in other positions as well. It will take new faces, new ideas, new talents, and above all new commitments from our members for our organization to continue to function in the future. We would not be the first chapter of Wild Ones to collapse due to the lack of members to commit time and energy for its future success.

What does it take to become more involved and active in KAWO? First, enthusiasm and dedication. Secondly, it takes some time and energy to attend meetings (but not a huge amount). (The average Committee meets approximately once a month on average for about an hour to an hour and a half. Some meet less frequently than that.) Third is that it takes a desire to see progress, what I refer to as being a “pusher”. You don’t need to serve as a guiding light pointing the way for the future of the chapter, you only need to keep pushing your fellow committee members to keep making progress to accomplish their goals and move ahead.

We need you to help fulfill our vision of educating the general population of the importance and benefits of native plants and natural landscapes. If you find our chapter of Wild Ones plays a worthwhile role in your life and you find its programs and publications interesting and worthwhile, it is time to consider becoming more involved.

November Program: Climate Change and Plants; Yearly Elections

Wednesday, November 28, 7pm



Kalamazoo Wild Ones will conclude its programs for this year with a talk and powerpoint slide presentation on November 28 by Dr. David Karowe, on “The Effects of Climate Change on Plant Communities.”

Climate is changing more rapidly that at any time in at least the last 800,000 years. By the end of this century, our planet is likely to be warmer than at any time in the last 55 million years.

Both the magnitude and rate of climate change are likely to present formidable challenges for plants. Dave Karowe’s talk will summarize observed and predicted effects on plants, highlight groups of species that are likely to be particularly vulnerable, and offer solutions that, if implemented soon, would reduce the harmful effects of climate change on Earth’s plant biodiversity.

It’s been several years since Wild Ones last heard from Dave Karowe, and there have been many new developments and new information. As he always does, Dave will bring us up to date with a new program, designed specifically for Wild Ones and our focus this year on plant communities of Michigan.

The evening’s program will conclude with announcement and distribution of the Wild Ones program calendar for 2019 and election of officers and executive committee members to serve in the coming year.

We will meet Wednesday, November 28, at First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., downtown Kalamazoo. Socializing at 6:30; program promptly at 7.

Dr. David Karowe, a Professor of Biological Sciences at Western Michigan University, received his B.S. in Biology from Harvard University and his Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Michigan. Dr. Karowe teaches courses about the causes and consequences of climate change, conducts research on the effects of rising atmospheric CO₂ on plants and higher levels in the food chain, and directs national undergraduate and graduate training programs in climate change research.



Over the course of his career, Dr. Karowe has received numerous grants from the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Department of Defense in support of climate change research and training activities. He has also published many scientific papers, given over 100 public climate change talks, and received several teaching awards.

Plant of the Month: Witch Hazel

by Tom Small

Witch hazel (*Hamamelis Virginiana*), an attractive shrub or small tree, has many unusual features. It's the last flower to bloom in the woods, usually in November. Its ragged yellow flowers cling upside down on already bare branches—or if there are still leaves, sheltering beneath them. It's the only tree in North America to have flowers, ripe fruit from last year's blossoms, and next year's leaf buds on its branches at the same time. Thus its generic name, which means "together with fruit," and another of its common names, "winterbloom."



Yet another common name, "snapping alder," refers to its ability to pop its seeds 10 to 20 feet into the woods. That too, depending on temperature and humidity, takes place usually in November.

Witch hazel has numerous medicinal properties. It's an ingredient in many lotions that cleanse and tone skin. Highly astringent, it can help to close small wounds and soothe razor burn. Our local Potawatomi natives used it in sweat lodges to infuse steam for sore muscles. Chippewa used it as skin lotion and eye medicine, Iroquois as liniment, diarrhea remedy, or a tonic, sweetened with maple sugar. The seeds were used by Menominee as the sacred bead in the medicine ceremony.

Mohegans used its forked branches for “water witching,” to locate underground water, mineral deposits, or even lost objects; in our own day, diviners still use it for all these purposes.

Also much used by wildlife, it’s the host plant for 63 species of Lepidoptera.

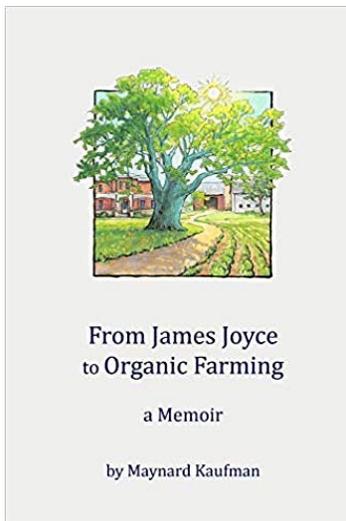
Robin Wall Kimmerer, a writer, scientist, and member of the Potawatomi nation, tells the story of her neighbor in Kentucky, an aged herbalist named Hazel Barnett, who loved witch hazel for many reasons: “That witch hazel,” Hazel said, “it’s not just good for your outside, but inside too. Land sakes, flowers in November. The Good Lord gave us witch hazel to remind us that there’s always somethin’ good even when it seems like there ain’t. It just lightens your heavy heart, is what it does.”

Witch hazel is easy to grow. An understory large shrub or small tree, it’s moderately shade tolerant but will take full sun. A slow grower, it can reach 20 to 30 feet, with a 15-foot spread.

If, like Robin Kimmerer, you cherish a witch hazel kind of day, “a scrap of light, a light in the window when winter is closing all around,” plant some witch hazel in your garden to enjoy as the leaves fall. Then sit by the fire and read Robin’s wonderful essay, “Witch Hazel,” in *Braiding Sweetgrass*.

Review: From James Joyce to Organic Farming: A Memoir

By Tom Small



Many Wild Ones know or at least know of Maynard Kaufman, who has just published a memoir of interest to us all, *From James Joyce to Organic Farming*.

Maynard, a retired WMU Professor of Comparative Religion, a farmer, and a leader in the Michigan organic farming movement, is above all an exponent of an organic, holistic way of life, grounded in the regenerative processes of nature.

His memoir is the story of how his studies of literature and process theology at University of Chicago, his teaching, and his work with his own land near Bangor led to discovery of his true vocation.

Like Wendell Berry’s, Maynard’s farm is the place where he learns how to live in community. It’s the place where he lives off the grid in community with the soil, the crops, the native plants, the trees. The place where, together with an ever-widening circle of friends, associates, and students, he seeks to realize an “earth-centered spirituality” and a “political holistic vision” of life lived according to an “environmental ethic.”

Maynard’s memoir is about transitions, learning from failures, natural process, the Michigan organic movement, food systems “sacred, profane, and demonic,” and “resisting climate change.”

In recent years, he's been working to restore the trees and the native plants on his land. He's a good friend to us, with much wisdom to share.

From James Joyce to Organic Farming: A Memoir, published in September, is [available from Amazon](#) for \$14.95. Or if, like me, you don't like to do business with Amazon, you can get copies from the author, Maynard Kaufman, PO Box 361, Bangor MI 49013. That, Maynard warns, might take longer.

--Tom Small



Photo courtesy of [DanceForAllPeople.com](#)

Excerpts from Thanksgiving Address of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois)

Greetings to the Natural World

The People

Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue.

We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as People.

Now our minds are one.

The Earth Mother

We are all thankful to our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us all that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It

gives us joy that she continues to care for us as she has from the beginning of time. To our Mother, we send greetings and thanks.

Now our minds are one.

The Waters

We give thanks to all the Waters of the world for quenching our thirst and providing us with strength. Water is life. We know its power in many forms— waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the spirit of Water.

Now our minds are one.

The Plants

Now we turn toward the vast fields of Plant life. As far as the eye can see, the Plants grow, working many wonders. They sustain many life forms. With our minds gathered together, we give thanks and look forward to seeing Plant life for many generations to come.

Now our minds are one.

The Trees

We now turn our thoughts to the Trees. The Earth has many families of Trees who have their own instructions and uses. Some provide us with shelter and shade, others with fruit, beauty, and other useful things. Many peoples of the world use a Tree as a symbol of peace and strength. With one mind, we greet and thank the Tree life.

Now our minds are one.

The Enlightened Teachers

We gather our minds to greet and thank the enlightened Teachers who have come to help throughout the ages. When we forget how to live in harmony, they remind us of the way we were instructed to live as people. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to these caring Teachers.

Now our minds are one.

The Creator

Now we turn our thoughts to the Creator, or Great Spirit, and send greetings and thanks for all the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here on this Mother Earth. For all the love that is

still around us, we gather our minds together as one and send our choicest words of greetings and thanks to the Creator.

Now our minds are one.

Closing Words

We have now arrived at the place where we end our words. Of all the things we have named, it was not our intention to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each individual to send such greetings and thanks in their own way.

And now our minds are one.

This translation of the Mohawk version of the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address was published in 1993, and provided courtesy of Six Nations Indian Museum and the Tracking Project. All rights reserved

English version: John Stokes and Kanawahienton (David Benedict, Turtle Clan/Mohawk)
+++++

Community Events of Interest

Upcoming Wild Ones Kalamazoo Events:

January 23, 7pm - Making A Difference: Why We Volunteer A panel discussion with Harry Bird, Ann Klobucar, Carol Klug, Dr. Paul Olexia

February 27, 7pm - Bring Back The Pollinators: Strategies To Support Pollinators In Your Yard And Farm with Dr. Rufus Isaacs, Professor of Entomology, Michigan State University

Other Area Events:

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

SEEDLINGS is edited by Tom Small and Kim Patrie. It appears mostly monthly. The next issue will come early in January. **Deadline for submission is December 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



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|