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*Fall foliage of Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) K.Patrie*

November 2020

SEEDLINGS

Wild Ones|Kalamazoo Area Chapter

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



Wild Geranium (Geranium maculatum) in spring
K.Patrie

Dear *|FNAME|*,

I hope this message finds you well! With Covid-19 numbers on the rise again, I'm thankful that we are able to safely bring quality native plant programming to you online.

Our November 18 program via Zoom will feature Dave Mindell of Plantwise. He's going to help us work out how to keep our native plantings on the low-maintenance side. Registration information is listed below.

We need a Vice-President and a Member-At-Large for 2021. It's folks like you *|FNAME|*, who keep our organization running smoothly. Take a look [Here](#) if you're interested, or to find out more about our standing committees.

Safe and Peaceful Holidays To You,
Kim Patrie
Editor

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Colorful oak leaves K.Patrie

You've Planned & Planted; Now What?

Dave Mindell, [Plantwise](#) November 18, 2020 7pm

Designing and planting native landscapes have their own challenges and rewards, but once they're installed what should we do with them? In this discussion, we'll look at wild and cultivated plantings of all sizes and discuss a variety of management and maintenance approaches, when to use which technique, and why. [Read More](#)



An urban native garden K.Patrie

Zoom Instructions and Information

Please join us ONLINE in the [Zoom app](#) this coming **Wednesday, November 18 at 7pm**. Although this meeting is free (as always!) you must register ahead of time, so we can send you the online meeting information through Zoom.

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 presentation.

Registration Instructions - Click >>>[Register Here](#)

When you click on the registration link above, it will show you some meeting details such as date, time, speaker, title of talk and a description of the content of the meeting.

Finally you will be asked to submit your name, email, and zip code. Then **check your email inbox for the meeting information**, and follow the prompts a few minutes before 7pm next Wednesday.

We appreciate your patience as we navigate this new format. We are learning together with you!

[Did You Miss Last Month's Presentation?](#)

No worries! KAWO now has a YouTube channel, where you can view our programs at your convenience.

In the coming months we'll be adding videos of our upcoming [Monthly Programs](#), as well as curated how-to videos about native plants, natives for landscaping, and pollinators.

[Click Here to visit our YouTube channel](#)

You can also click on the small red YouTube icon above, underneath the editorial.

[Who Is Eating My Silky Dogwood Foliage?](#)

Ilse Gebhard



I usually find Dogwood Sawfly (*Macremphytus tarsatus*) larvae in mid-September on our Silky Dogwood shrubs. It is known to also feed on the other bushy dogwood species common in our area, namely Gray and Red-Osier.

When Dogwood Sawfly larvae first emerge from their eggs they are an almost translucent, pale yellow-green. These tiny larvae skeletonize the leaves, leaving only the ribs behind.

*Left: Adult Dogwood Sawfly (*Macremphytus tarsatus*)*

Photo: BugGuide.net



They next molt into a larva covered with a waxy white coating. At rest these larvae curl up into a spiral reminiscent of bird droppings, which may protect them from predation. This and the last stages feed on the edges of the leaves.

Searching the internet, there does not seem to be a consensus about the appearance of the later instars. I have found very striking black and white larva with yellow legs, and very dark ones with black and tan spots, a black head and orange legs. Don't know if they are the same larval stage or different color morphs of the same stage.

Left: Dogwood Sawfly larvae Photo: Russ Schipper

I brought several dark ones in to raise and the larvae grew to about 1 inch in length, feeding on the dogwood leaves I provided. I had read that mature larvae wander about in fall seeking soft or decaying wood in which to hibernate. So in mid-October when they quit feeding, I added peat moss, into which they burrowed. I put them on the porch for overwintering and checked for pupation several times during the winter, but they remained unchanged. I then forgot about them for a while and when I checked on them in late May, a sawfly had emerged. So at least one of the larvae had pupated in early spring.



Even though the Dogwood Sawfly larvae can cause some defoliation in the fall, their damage is not as bad as it looks.

Photosynthesis has stopped and the nutrients are stored in the roots for next year's growth. The leaves will just fall off soon anyway. No need to use pesticide. Besides, the larvae may supply some nutritious morsels for migrating birds. Nature has its way of balancing the plant-herbivore-predator food chain.

Left: Dogwood Sawfly larvae Photo: Russ Schipper

Plant of the Month: Silky Dogwood: A Shrub for All Seasons

Ilse Gebhard

Starting with the name, what's not to like? Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*) is a large to medium-sized native shrub with creamy white flowers in spring, dark green foliage in summer, burgundy fall color, and reddish/purplish stems that stand out in winter. It is a great 4-season shrub for naturalizing, especially in moist sites like at the edge of wet areas where it can get plenty of sun, as it is shade intolerant.



Silky dogwood in spring Photo: Russ Schipper

The flowers of Silky Dogwood are insect pollinated and are called "perfect", which means that they have both male and female parts (stamens and pistils) in the same flower. While perfect flowers can self-pollinate, they also depend on insects to cross-pollinate them by carrying pollen from flower to flower as they search for nectar.



Fall foliage of silky dogwood

Photo: Russ Schipper

Silky Dogwood's blue to bluish white fruit on red-purplish stems is quite striking and is called a drupe. Think of a fleshy fruit like a cherry or peach with a stone inside, inside of which is the seed. They ripen in late summer/early fall but disappear quickly as they are a favorite of migrating birds.



Silky dogwood drupes Photo courtesy of [Michigan Flora](#)

Compared to many berries that birds might eat, these drupes have a high fat content, which supply birds with the energy they need for their long-distance flights. Gray, Round-leaf and Red- Osier Dogwoods have similarly high fat content drupes. Dogwood Sawfly larvae are an added bonus. The perfect larder for birds – fat, carbohydrate and protein.

While the bark of Silky Dogwood is not as bright red as that of Red-osier, it does give some color to the winter landscape, and in at least our yard, seems more deer resistant than flowering dogwood.

2021 Programs & Events

Mark your calendar!

Don't miss our informative & educational programs.

Note: With the uncertainty of the Covid-19 virus, please always check [Facebook](#) or our [Website](#) for up-to-date meeting information.



2021 PROGRAM SERIES & EVENTS

KALAMAZOO AREA WILD ONES is a non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration and support of biodiversity through education and the practice of landscaping with native plants.

OUR FREE, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS can help you make a difference, no matter the size of your outdoor space.

As of this printing, our indoor programs are scheduled as online experiences via Zoom.

Please check our Facebook page or www.KalamazooWildOnes.org for up-to-date information about registration for Zoom meetings or in-person locations.

Everyone Welcome!

KalamazooWildOnes.org

Info@KalamazooWildOnes.org



Wednesday, January 27, 7pm: *Bumble Bees, Blossoms and Boots on the Ground: Propelling Pollinator Conservation Through Citizen Science.....Zoom meeting*

Wednesday, February 24, 7pm: *Forests Around Us: How Urban Forests Bring Value to People, Places, and WildlifeZoom meeting*

Wednesday, March 24, 7pm: *The Beauty of Spring Ephemerals and Their Place in the Sun.....Zoom meeting*

Wednesday, April 28, 7pm: *Biodiversity Matters: What's Up with Invasive Species?.....Zoom meeting*

Wednesday, May 26, 7pm: *How Utility Rights-of-Way and Their Management Can Support Native Plants and PollinatorsZoom meeting*

Saturday, May 29 9am-3pm
7th Annual Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones Plant Sale
.....see Facebook or website

Sunday, June 6, 1-5pm: 28th Annual Spring Plant Exchange, Tom & Ruth Small residence
.....see Facebook or website

June, July, & August: Featured Online Selection: Educational, Online videos.....see Facebook or website

Sunday, August 29, 1-5pm: Annual Fall Plant Exchange Jesse & Bill's residence.....see Facebook or website

Wednesday, September 22, 7pm: *The Language of Trees*
.....see Facebook or website

Wednesday, October 27, 7pm: *Reflections on the Past, Present and Future Use of Native Plants.....see Facebook or website*

Wednesday, November 17, 7pm: *Native Gardens Come in All Shapes and Sizes.....see Facebook or website*

Download the above flyer at [Our Website](#)

Community Events of Interest

Nov. 18th - 7:00PM: "You Planned and Planted: Now What?" David Mindell of Plantwise, Ann Arbor MI. An online Zoom presentation, info near the top of this newsletter

Jan. 27th - 7:00PM: "Bumble Bees, Blossoms and Boots on the Ground: Propelling Pollinator Conservation Through Citizen Science" Nikoli Nickson, Nicole Bailey, and Ann

Fraser of Kalamazoo College. *An online Zoom presentation, more info to come.*

Feb. 24th - 7:00PM: "Forests Around Us: How Urban Forests Bring Value to People, Places, and Wildlife" Jessica Simons, VP for Conservation Stewardship at the Kalamazoo Nature Center *An online Zoom presentation, 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!

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 Kim Patrie. It appears mostly monthly. The next regular issue will arrive mid-January. **Deadline for January issue is January 10.**

[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

and www.Facebook.com/KalamazooAreaWildOnes



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