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Blue-stemmed goldenrod (Solidago caesia) B. Bradburn

November 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



Aromatic Aster (S. oblongifolium) B. Bradburn

Dear *|FNAME|*,

The bright show of flowers outside the window is over (mostly—I'm looking at you, *Rudbeckia fulgida*), but of course winter bird season is just beginning. Sometimes we'll be sitting on the couch and then notice that we're both watching the goldfinches outside forage on the seedheads instead of whatever TV show we pretended to be interested in. This year along with the usual (but always giddily welcomed by us) dark-eyed juncos and white-throated sparrows, an eastern towhee showed up for the first time. I like to think that word of our little patch is spreading in the sparrowverse.

Beth Bradburn

Editor

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November Program: Ecological Knowledge and Storytelling

Wednesday, November 19, 6:30-8:00pm at Portage District Library
with Dr. Lynne Heasley, Western Michigan University

From home-grown native gardens in Kalamazoo, to critical but underappreciated landforms in the Great Lakes, environmental historian Dr. Lynne Heasley will explore how local ecological knowledge-building can become a powerful form of storytelling. After a few examples derived from her research and from her long marriage to a native plant gardener (Lynne just lives in their home; insect and plant kin own the place), she'll open the floor to audience stories of their more-than-human places. [Learn more](#).



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.

KAWO Officers Election for 2026

The information below was sent to KAWO members by email on October 23.

Our election of officers for 2026 will take place via email, as in recent years. On November 5, 2025, we will send members a link to an online ballot. Members will have until November 18 to vote and we will announce the election results at our November 19 in-person program as well as in the next newsletter.

Nominations will remain open until November 4. If you would like to run for any of the positions described below, please email the secretary, [Kathleen McGoff](#), to be added to the ballot. (If you have already done this you don't need to do it again.)

Please note that if your membership has expired, or expires before November 5, you will not receive a ballot. If you wish to run for an office or vote in the election, please join Wild Ones or make sure your membership is current. You can do either [here](#).

Finally, if you want to volunteer with Wild Ones but don't want to take on an officer position right

now, please [email us](#) and we will help you find a role. You can also email us with general questions about the election or other business.

Elected positions and descriptions:

President. The president helps prepare meeting agendas, presides over executive and membership meetings, represents the chapter to other organizations and to the public (or delegates representation), communicates with the national office, and oversees the annual national report.

Vice President. The vice president acts in place of the president as necessary and should be willing to succeed as president.

Treasurer. The treasurer maintains financial records, including the chapter's savings and checking accounts, prepares a monthly financial report, and prepares and submits an annual financial report to the national office.

Secretary. The secretary helps prepare and circulate meeting agendas and financial reports, transcribes and circulates meeting minutes, collects annual conflict-of-interest statements, and reports election results to the national office.

Member-at-Large. The four members-at-large participate in executive committee meetings, standing committees, and chapter activities.

KAWO Planting Partnerships

Paul Laferriere, Community Projects Chair

Would you like to see a beautiful native perennial plant garden or landscaping installed at your school, library, park, municipal building, non-profit, or other community space?

KAWO Community Projects Committee is seeking committed host sites and individuals to install such plantings. We will provide expert guidance and assistance as needed, and all of the plants **at no financial cost**. You provide the site and two or more people who will prepare, install, monitor, and maintain the site during its early years of establishment.

Typical installations will be full-sun pollinator gardens between 150 and 300 square feet in size. Projects will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis, within our capacity of three to four new projects per year. Site planning can be performed until the ground is snow-covered. Planning for each annual group of projects will be completed by mid-winter, with plantings to occur in early June or early September. For more details, please contact [Paul Laferriere](#).

Silent Auction Continues

Quyen Edwards, KAWO Vice-President



Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones was thrilled to be the beneficiary of a 2024 Kalamazoo Artistic Development Initiative Grant. The Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo accepted a proposal by local artist and illustrator Olivia Mendoza to create a custom insect/host plant illustration in celebration of our chapter's 25th anniversary. Olivia collaborated with KAWO Vice President Quyen Edwards to select the subject of the illustration - a Snowberry Clearwing Moth (*Hemaris diffinis*) with Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*).

The original artwork created for our **2025 Wild Ones Garden Sign** is being offered in a **silent auction** this fall! This is a special opportunity to own a one-of-a-kind piece of art that celebrates our shared mission of protecting and restoring native plants and habitats. Proceeds from the auction will support chapter programming and outreach efforts in the year ahead. Olivia's custom colored pencil artwork is 18x20 inches and comes matted in black in a 25x37 inch black frame.

Silent Auction Details:

- Bidding opened at \$300 at the September KAWO Program at the Portage District Library on September 24th.
- Bidding closes at 6:30pm on Wednesday, November 19th at the beginning of our final KAWO Program of the year.
- There is a paper bid sheet that will be at the November meeting at the Portage District Library from 6:00pm to 6:30pm when bidding closes. You are also welcome to bid via email to info@kalamazowildones.org.

We hope you'll join us in supporting Wild Ones Kalamazoo Area by placing a bid on this beautiful work of art. Your participation helps us continue to grow our impact and share the value of native plants with our community.

More Mentors Needed!

Ann Klobucar, Site Visit Coordinator

The site visit/mentorship program did thirty-two site visits this year. This is up from twelve last year. These visits were done by nine of our experienced members. Since, ideally, there should only be two or three members per mentor there is a need for more mentors! All of our existing mentors found this to be a rewarding experience. If you're interested in becoming one of these valuable mentors with only a few hours of your time we'd welcome you to the group. Contact [Ann Klobucar](mailto:Ann.Klobucar@kalamazoo.org).

Area Property with Conservation Easement for Sale

KAWO has learned of a property in Delton, MI for sale with native wildflower gardens on site. The owners would love to sell to someone who wants to keep and care for the gardens. This property also has a conservation easement held by Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy.

[View listing on Zillow](#)

[View on SWMLC website](#) (scroll down)



Who Is Eating My Silky Dogwood Foliage?

Ilse Gebhard

Common names for flora and fauna can be so confusing. Take dogwood sawflies. It is the collective name applied to four species of sawflies in the genus *Macremphytus*. Moreover, sawflies are not really flies but wasp-like insects in the same order as wasps, bees, and ants.

Dogwood sawfly larvae prefer to lay their eggs on shrubby dogwood species like silky (*Cornus amomum*), red-osier (*Cornus sericea*) or gray (*Cornus foemina*). When the larvae first emerge from their eggs, they are an almost translucent, pale yellow-green. These tiny, gregarious larvae skeletonize the leaves, leaving only the ribs behind. 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. As they grow, they consume the entire leaves, including the ribs. Even at later stages they can be gregarious.



Above left: Dogwood sawfly larvae shortly after molting to waxy white stage. Note skeletonized leaves at top and bottom R. Schipper

Above right: Waxy, white stage of dogwood sawfly larva, just before molting to the next stage I. Gebhard

It is at this larval stage, starting in early September, that you are able to readily determine if you have a sawfly larva or a larva of a butterfly or moth. Sawfly larvae have legs along the entire length of their body whereas butterfly and moth larvae have a break between their thoracic legs (front) and their prolegs (back).



Above left: Cecropia moth (Hyalophora cecropia) caterpillar. Note break between front and back legs R. Schipper

Above right: Dogwood sawfly larva. Note no break between front and back legs R. Schipper

Only two of the four species of dogwood sawflies are common in our area—*Macremphytus tarsatus* and *Macremphytus testaceus*. I have not found a way to distinguish between the two species at the waxy, white stage but, according to research grade posts of the two species on iNaturalist, you can distinguish between them at the next larval stage.

I collected several of the white, waxy larvae from silky dogwood shrubs at various locations in the five-acre woodlot at the retirement community where we live. Over a period of several days, as the larvae shed their waxy, white skin, I was able to determine that both species were present. I used SEEK, the iNaturalist nature identification app on my smart phone, and visual comparison of my photos with those of research grade postings on iNaturalist.



Above left: Macremphytus tarsatus larva R. Schipper

Above right: Macremphytus testaceus larva R. Schipper

The mature dogwood sawfly larvae wander about in the fall, seeking soft or decaying wood into which to bore and spend the winter, transform into pupae, and emerge as adults in 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.

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

Who Am I?

A native fauna ID quiz from Ilse Gebhard



Photo K. Csia

Click [here](#) for the answer!

Community Events of Interest

Monday, November 3 - 6:00pm-7:30pm: Wild Mushroom Identification with Mycophile's Garden, Comstock Township Library. [Learn more and register](#).

Thursday, November 6 - 7:00pm-8:30pm: Dessert with Discussion: A Day in the Life of a Seed, Kellogg Biological Station. [Learn more and register](#).

Thursday, November 6 - 7:00pm-9:00pm: City of Kalamazoo Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall. See [Asylum Lake Preservation Association website](#) for background about this meeting.

Friday, November 7 - 6:00pm-7:00pm: "Oak Savannas as a Model for Native Plant Gardens," a talk by KAWO member Mike Weis for the Terra Talks Lecture Series, Portage Parks & Recreation. [Learn more.](#)

Friday, November 7 - 6:00pm-8:00pm: Candlelight Night Hike, Kalamazoo Nature Center. [Learn more and register.](#)

Sunday, November 9 - 10:00am-12:00pm: Volunteer Work Day, Kleinstuck Preserve. [Learn more.](#)

Tuesday, November 11 - 6:30pm-7:30pm: "Restoring the Wisdom of Ancestors and the More-Than-Human Community," a presentation by KAWO founder Tom Small for the Honorable Harvest Lecture Series, 418 E. Walnut St., Kalamazoo. [Learn more.](#)

Thursday, November 13 - 6:00pm-8:00pm: Work Day at Jerico. [Learn more.](#)

Monday, November 17 - 7:00pm: Michigan Botanical Society Program: "Bringing Back the Burn: Inside the Work and the Roadblocks of Prescribed Fire," with Michele Richards, 2708 Wood Hall, Western Michigan University. [Learn more.](#)

Wednesday, November 19 - 6:30pm-8:00pm: "Local Ecological Knowledge and Revised Storytelling for Biodiversity Conservation," with Dr. Lynne Heasley, a monthly presentation by Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones at Portage District Library. [Learn more.](#)

Thursday, November 20, and Thursday, December 18 - 7:00pm: Pints and Native Plants, an informal meetup at Brewery Outré in Kalamazoo. [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 January. **Deadline for the January issue is December 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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