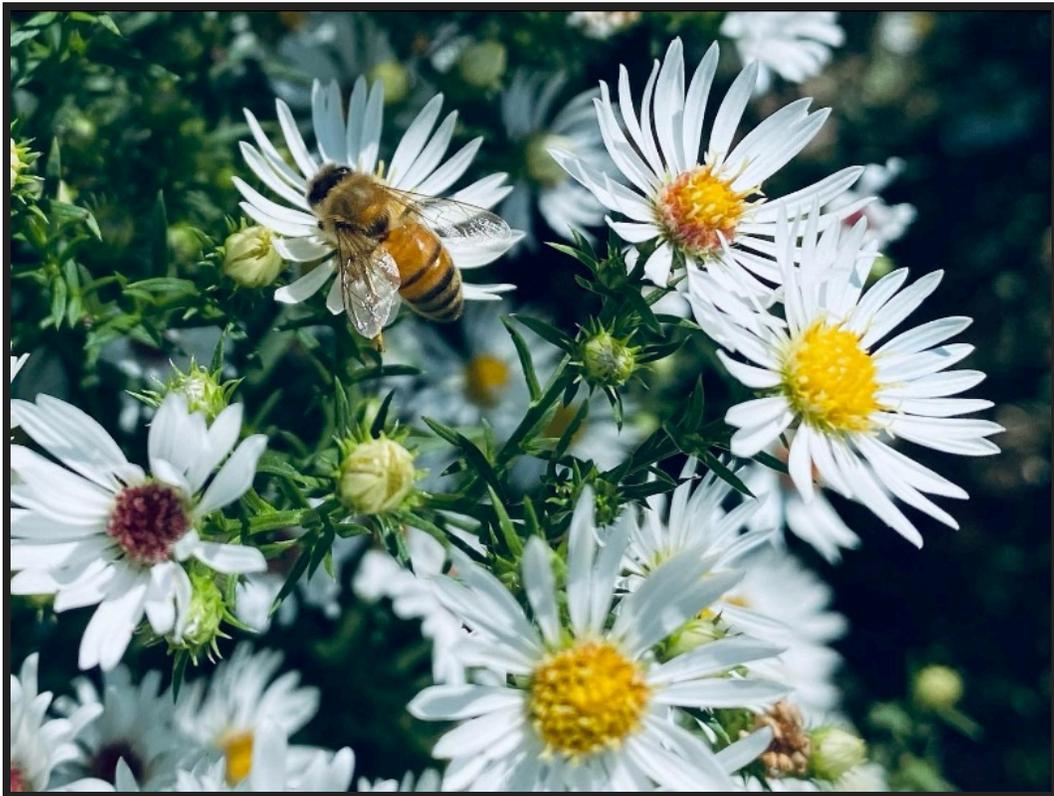


*Trouble reading this email? [View it in your browser](#)*

\*|LIST:ADDRESS\_VCARD|\*



*White aster (*Aster ptarmicoides*) w/bee S.Patrie*

October 2021

**SEEDLINGS**

# Wild Ones|Kalamazoo Area Chapter

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



*K.Patrie*

**Dear \*|FNAME|\*,**

**Ah, Fall!** Apples, cider & donuts, and SEEDS. Seeds? Yes! The Portage District Library's Seed Library is up and running. What a great idea! Read Quyen's article below to learn more.

Don't miss our upcoming October program. Bill Schneider of Wildtype Nursery will be giving us the inside scoop on the past, present, and future of native plant production. October 27, see you on Zoom.

The Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones are pleased to inform you that we have new neighbors! A brand new chapter has been chartered in South Bend, Indiana. Practically next door! We look forward to getting to know them. More information below.

Finally, a reminder to use the best, most available mulch as you put your garden beds to sleep this year: leaves.

Best wishes for a cozy autumn,

**Kim Patrie**  
*Editor*

## In This Issue

**From The Editor**

**Wild Ones Welcomes  
Bill Schneider**

**Share Your  
Native Seeds!**

**A Closer Look at  
Virginia Creeper**

**Wild Ones in  
South Bend, Indiana**

**Uncommon Yarrow:  
The "Warrior" Plant**

**Virgin's Bower  
Haiku**

**Invasive Lanternfly**

**Community Events**

**Contact Wild Ones**



## **Trends in Native Plant Production: Past, Present & Future**

**Presenter: Bill Schneider, Wild Type Nursery**

**October 27, 2021 7pm via Zoom ([Register Here](#))**

Tom Small



The speaker for the Wild Ones program on Wednesday, October 27, is our long-time friend and invaluable advisor, Bill Schneider, founder and owner of Wildtype Native Plants Nursery in Mason, Michigan. His topic is **“Trends in Native Plant Production: Reflections on the Past, Present and Future of Native Plants in the Landscape.”**

Bill Schneider

Since receiving his Master’s Degree in Landscape Architecture from University of Michigan in 1994 and founding Wildtype in 1996, Bill has specialized in growing plants native to Michigan from Michigan wild-gathered seed. The name of his nursery, Wildtype, borrowed from the genetic term “wild type,” reflects both the objective of Bill’s nursery operation and his concern about the future of native-plant nurseries. [Read More](#)

---

### **Visit Our YouTube Channel**

If you've missed any of our previous presentations, not to worry. Visit the KAWO YouTube channel, where you can view our programs 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.*

---

## **Share Your Native Seeds with the Portage Seed Library**

Quyên Edwards

Summer has ended and it's seed ripening season. Now is the time to collect native seeds to share with your community.

The Portage District Library has started a Seed Library to do just that. Here's how it works:

***Borrow - Grow - Save - Return***

Interested in seeds to "borrow"? Seeds are shared with the community; you do not need to live in the PDL service area to participate. Community members can select up to 10 packets of seeds per week.

Interested in sharing seeds? Fill out one donation form per seed type and bring it to the library's temporary location at 5528 Portage Road. [Learn more.](#)

Milkweed (*Aesclepias*) Q.Edwards



---

## **Virginia Creeper Deserves a Closer Look, Maybe**

**Ilse Gebhard**

Of course I know Virginia Creeper when I see it! Or do I? Do I look at it closely to see if it is Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) or Thicket Creeper (*Parthenocissus inserta*)? When I found out that what I was calling Virginia Creeper could really be two species, I decided not all plants are meant to be identified as to species, Linnaeus or not. Quite often Virginia Creeper, with its 5 leaflets, is mixed in with 3-leaflet Poison Ivy and to confuse the issue further, in young Virginia Creeper plants the leaves have only 3 leaflets.



Both *Parthenocissus* species have leaves that are divided into 5 coarsely toothed leaflets. The inconspicuous greenish-white flowers of both species are insect pollinated, mostly bees. Both species have dark blue berries that have a high fat content and are favorites of many bird species, especially during fall when they need to fatten up for the rigors of migration.

Photo courtesy of [Cold Stream Farm](#)

Generally, *P. quinquefolia* climbs trees and *P. inserta* sprawls more over the ground and low shrubs but this is not definitive. Several references agree that *P. quinquefolia* has adhesive discs at the ends of the tendrils that allow it to climb surfaces like bark. Neither vine kills trees and the leaves of both make a splendid bright red to purple display in the fall.

Virginia Creeper is an important host plant for a number of insects. *Caterpillars of Eastern North America* by David L. Wagner alone lists it for a number of moths species of which, in addition to the Eight-spotted Forester, I have found and raised 3: Grapeleaf Skeletonizer (*Harrisina americana*), Pandorus Sphinx (*Eumorpha pandorus*) and Copper Underwing (*Amphipyra pyramidoides*).

Tendrils: a slender, twining organ used to grasp support for climbing.

---

## **NEW Wild Ones in South Bend, Indiana**

\*[FNAME]\*, please join us in welcoming the new South Bend, Indiana Wild Ones chapter.

Our neighboring South Bend Chapter officially launched on August 10, 2021. This seedling is growing fast and already has the ten members required to charter.

Next spring, our Kalamazoo chapter will be joining the South Bend chapter for a joint field trip to the Love Creek Nature Center to view the spring ephemeral flowers. It will be a great opportunity to meet the members of the South Bend chapter.

Congratulations to co-founders [Barbara Kerby and Jodi Magalski](#) for planting the seeds of Wild Ones' mission in north central Indiana.

---

## **Uncommon Yarrow: the "Warrior" Plant**

**Tom Small**

Common-place, unassuming, overlooked, weedy. Such is the status, for most wildflower gardeners, of common yarrow, *Achillea millefolium*. But oh, how the mighty have fallen. Until recent times, yarrow has been, for temperate cultures worldwide, a plant of great power and virtue, accorded a place of honor.



*Achillea millefolium* T. Small

Fossil records reveal yarrow pollen in Neanderthal burial caves, indicating its ancient ceremonial value. More recently, yarrow has been used to disperse evil spirits and divine the future in many systems of folklore. In the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, a woman found possessing yarrow could be burned as a witch. According to ancient Greek legends, Thetis, goddess mother of the Greek warrior-hero, Achilles, dipped her infant son in a vat of yarrow to render him invulnerable. At Troy, Achilles himself treated his wounded soldiers with yarrow to staunch bleeding and promote healing. Thus Linnaeus's name for the plant's genus, *Achillea*.

At least 58 Native American tribes use yarrow for a wide variety of purposes, both ceremonial and medicinal. The Teton Dakota people call yarrow "medicine for the wounded"; and "warrior plant" is a common name among North American native peoples. Its ritual use involves both opening the spirit and protecting it. According to the ancient "doctrine of signatures," yarrow's minutely divided lance-shaped leaf, like a serrated knife, reveals its powers. It "cuts to the bone," to heal deep wounds, both physical and psychic.

Tolkien's "athelas" plant appears to be the Middle-earth version of yarrow: the hound Huan brings athelas to Lúthien to staunch Beren's wound. In China, yarrow sticks were used to rouse spiritual power when divining with the *I Ching*. The plant balances yin and yang forces and unites heaven and earth.

Closer to home, the Potawatomi used yarrow flowers, smudged on live coals, to revive comatose patients and to repel evil spirits. The Ojibwe smoked the florets for ceremonial purposes. According to the Cherokee herbal, yarrow is a plant of the East, associated with open doorways, birth and rebirth, energy, and elemental fire. Its many uses include bitter tonic for cleansing, stimulating immune system, calming the heart, and easing menstruation.



Inflorescence *T. Small*

What accounts for this potency of such an unspectacular plant? Yarrow contains over 120 powerful organic compounds, including Nature's anti-inflammatory analgesic, salicylic acid (aspirin). Its powers are also antimicrobial, expectorant, antiviral, antipyretic, and diaphoretic. It carries the three least common of the six classical tastes: bitter, pungent, and astringent, all of them essential to healthy diet. So yarrow tea aids digestion. Yarrow's strong aroma makes it a good insect repellent. Swedish brewers used yarrow in place of hops, making their beer, according to Linnaeus, more intoxicating.

Common names for yarrow recapitulate many of these powers: soldier's woundwort, nosebleed plant, staunchweed, sanguinary, bloodwort, devil's nettle, stenchgrass, old man's pepper, *Herba militaris*.

Common yarrow has many virtues for uncommon gardeners: drought-resistance; flowering from May to October (still blooming in our yard on October 1); unattractive to deer and rabbits; good groundcover in full sun, forming dense, feathery mats (divide every 3-4 years). Herbalists report that yarrow planted near other herbs increases their flavor and potency. For vegetable gardeners, yarrow is a green manure, enriching the soil.

So, if you haven't already, find an uncommon place in your garden for wild (white) yarrow, and reconnect with your indigenous and cultural heritage.

---



Fiber by fiber  
The Goldfinch gleans the tiny seeds  
Of Virgin's Bower

*Haiku by Ilse Gebhard Photo: K.Patrie*

---

## **A Reminder About Invasive Lanternfly**



Be on the lookout for invasive lanternfly.

The insect continues to encroach into the Midwest, state officials say.

Read the full article + photos from the [Michigan Department of Natural Resources](#).

---

## Community Events of Interest

**October 16 - 10:00am-2:00pm** - Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy (SWMLC) is hosting a Sneak Peek of the future Armintrout-Milbocker Nature Preserve! **Social distancing and masking is encouraged.** [Details](#)

**October 16 - 7pm-9:30pm** - Wild and Scenic Film Festival lands in Hastings, MI. Enjoy thirteen different short films that speak to the environmental concerns and celebrations of our planet. [More details](#) on the festival and the films. [Register](#) to attend in-person or virtually.

**October 18 - 6:00pm-8:30pm** - "Soil: The Hidden Secrets Beneath Your Feet," an in-person presentation from River City Wild Ones (Grand Rapids). **Masks are required indoors for all attendees.** [Details](#)

**October 20 - 6:00pm CDT:** "WASPS: Their Biology, Diversity, and Role as Beneficial Insects and Pollinators of Native Plants." Heather Holmes, Wild Ones Honorary Director, will be sharing from her new book, WASPS. This webinar is free and open to the public. [Register Here](#)

**October 27 - 7:00pm:** Don't miss our monthly program, "Trends in Native Plant Production: Reflections on the Past, Present, and Future Use of Native Plants in the Landscape" presented on Zoom with Bill Schneider, founder of Wildtype Native Plant Nursery. [More Info](#)

**November 17 - 7:00pm:** KAWO monthly presentation on Zoom.  
Watch for upcoming details [here](#).

**November 15:** River City Wild Ones hosts their Annual Meeting/Potluck. Location and program information forthcoming.

*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-November. **Deadline for November issue is November 1.**

[Send Submission](#)

Contributing Editors:

Tom Small

Ilse Gebhard

Layout: Mel Luna

**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)



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|\**