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New England Aster (Symphotrichum novae-angliae) B. Bradburn

October 2024

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



False Sunflower (Heliopsis helianthoides) B. Bradburn

Dear *|FNAME|*,

After a full summer of garden tours and inspiring field trips, we were delighted to see Wild Ones National praised at length in the real estate section of the New York Times! Follow [this link](#) to read the article by Margaret Roach. And, although we're slowing down a bit in October, there's still more to come this season. Check out the events listed below and [on our website](#).

Beth Bradburn

Editor

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October Program: Invasives as a Resource

Wednesday, October 23, 6:30-8:00pm at Portage District Library
with *George Hedgepeth*, Naturalist, Educator, and Cultural Historian

Join **George Hedgepeth** in a discussion about some of Michigan's most pernicious invasive plants and ways to turn them into something useful. Food, medicine, dyes, and other utilitarian features of a rogues gallery of obnoxious trees, shrubs, and herbs will be explored. Japanese knotweed, black locust, garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, and others will be examined. [Learn more.](#)



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.

Past issues of Seedlings can be found [here](#), and by clicking the link between the Facebook and YouTube links above.

Summer 2024 Garden Tours



Our summer 2024 garden tours were so popular and so much fun that we can hardly wait to do it again next year! Our warmest thanks to the gardeners:

Mel Luna and Haim Kenig
Marie Kramer Johnson
Phil and Mary Johnson
Paul MacNellis
Kira Griggs
Ruth Caputo
Jon Warner
Ann Klobucar
Mike Weis and Michelle Brooker
Phillip Heasley

And special thanks to KAWO Vice President Quyen Edwards for her work organizing these tours.

Common Names of Flora and Fauna Can Be So Confusing: The Case of Three "Underwing" Moths

Ilse Gebhard

Over the years I found, sometimes several times, either the caterpillar, the adult moth, or both, of three species whose common name includes "Underwing." While two of them are in the same family (Locust Underwing, *Euparthenos nubilis*, and Copper Underwing, *Amphipyra pyramidoides*), albeit in different subfamilies, the third one is in a different family (Large Yellow Underwing, *Noctua pronuba*).

The forewings of these three "underwing" moths are patterned like bark in various shades of tan, brown, or gray. There are subtle differences of markings that can be used to distinguish them from each other, and many other moths that look like bark. Their hindwings, on the other hand, are very different from each other. The Locust Underwing's is marked by four orange or yellow stripes alternating with black stripes. The Copper Underwing's is reddish-coppery and that of the Large Yellow Underwing is golden yellow with a black terminal band. But there is a problem with that. The forewings of these moths cover the hindwings at rest. You can gently prod their wings a bit to get a glimpse of the hindwing should they flutter their wings. In my experience they mostly took off like a shot, leaving me no wiser and dependent on the cryptic forewing for identification.

Copper Underwing caterpillars feed on many different tree, shrub, and vine species. David L. Wagner, in his book *Caterpillars of Eastern North America*, mentions that when not feeding “the caterpillar moves away from the leaves upon which it has fed. Hungry birds that focus on damaged leaves as a way to find their quarry are likely to do so fruitlessly.” Clever little beasties.

Copper Underwing B. Csis



Common food plants for Large Yellow Underwing caterpillars are grasses and various low plants. This species is not native to North America as it was accidentally introduced to Nova Scotia in 1979, becoming very common and spreading all the way to Alaska since then. It is not even mentioned in my 1984 copy of the *Peterson Field Guide to Eastern Moths*, by Charles V. Covell, Jr.

Large Yellow Underwing J. Davis



The presence of the Locust Underwing in our yard was not surprising as its host plants are locusts, especially Black Locust. Not native to Michigan, Black Locust is very invasive and not only spreads by seed but clones to form thickets. Such a thicket lined our rather long driveway along one side and on the other side our neighbor had several large trees.

Locust Underwing R. McLeod



We had considered clearing our thicket but it would have been futile as the large trees were a constant source of seeds. We consoled ourselves by enjoying the numerous Silver-spotted Skippers whose caterpillar host plant is, among other legumes, Black Locust.

Silver-Spotted Skippers R. Schipper

Read Ilse Gebhard's blog post on Monarch migration along Lake Michigan [here](#).



Who Am I?

A native flora ID quiz from Ilse Gebhard





Photos R. Schipper, B.S. Walters

Click [here](#) for the answer!



Community Events of Interest

Friday, October 11 - 11:00pm-1:00pm: Conservation in a Changing World Series: What is Climate Resiliency and How Do We Manage for It?, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute. Co-sponsored by KAWO. This event is in-person or virtual and includes optional lunch with reservation. [Learn more and register.](#)

Saturday, October 12 - 10:00am-1:00pm: Michigan Botanical Society Field Trip to Southern Hardwood Swamp, Allegan State Game Area. [Learn more.](#)

Sunday, October 13 - 10:00am-12:00pm: Volunteer Day, Kleinstuck Preserve. Meet at the Maple Street YMCA tennis courts.

Sunday, October 13 - 1:00pm-4:00pm: Reforest Vine Fall Tree Planting, Vine Neighborhood.

[Learn more.](#)

Thursday, October 17 - 7:00pm: Pints and Native Plants, an informal meet-up at [Brewery Outré](#) in Kalamazoo. [Learn more.](#)

Monday, October 21 - 6:30pm-8:30pm: "Gardening for Bluebirds and Other Wildlife," Wild Ones River City event, Grand Rapids. [Learn more.](#)

Wednesday, October 23 - 6:30pm-8:00pm: "Invasives as a Resource," with George Hedgepeth, a monthly presentation by Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones at Portage District Library. [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 November. **Deadline for the November issue is October 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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