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*New England Aster w/bee (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)*

September 2019

SEEDLINGS

Wild Ones|Kalamazoo Area Chapter

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

In This Issue



History of Local Forests with Larry Cornelus

Wed. Sept. 25, 6:30pm

Larry's presentation will look at both the ecological and cultural impacts on our region's forests over the last 15,000 years, which includes climate change at both ends of that time frame, native peoples' land care, a great re-wilding, and European exploitation. He will finish up with a focus on southern Michigan and southern Ontario indigenous "Carolinian " tree species. [*More Info*](#)



**History of
Local Forests**

**Loaves & Fishes &
Wild Ones**

**YOU Could Be
* President ***

**Caterpillar Webs in
Autumn**

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Success**

National Office News

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Contact Wild Ones

Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes Pollinator Garden &

Monarch Waystation Planting

Ilse Gebhard

Please join Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, Monarch Joint Venture and Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones in a collaborative day of presentations and planting of a NEW native plant garden at the KLF building. Activities for kids in the afternoon!



Where: Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, 901 Portage St. Kalamazoo. Parking on Jackson St. across from KLF.

When: Saturday, September 28, 2019

10:00 - 11:30 AM, Presentations:

1. Monarch Conservation and Project Introduction, Kyle Kasten, Monarch Joint Venture
2. Landscaping with Native Plants, Tom Small, Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones

11:30 – 12:00 PM, Lunch Break, MJV and KAWO Information Tables

12:00 PM, Planting begins

There will be kids crafts and games in the afternoon. This event is Family Friendly!

Volunteers are needed for planting. Lunch will be provided to volunteers who attend the morning presentations. To volunteer please contact Ray Kuerth, KLF's Volunteer Coordinator, at: ray@kzoolf.org or 269-488-2617, ext. 209.

Event coordinated by [Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones](#). Garden design and planting supervision by Steve Allen of [Geum Services, Inc.](#) Funding provided by [Monarch Joint Venture](#), [The Nancy Small Memorial Fund](#), and [Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes](#).



What Does It Take to Be A President?

Neil Sikora, KAWO Exec. Committee President

When you were a child, didn't you say you wanted to grow up to be President? Well, here's your chance. Our chapter is looking for a President (and a Vice-President who will move up to be President in the future). Don't think you can do it? Yes, you can. It's not as hard as you may think. Below are the highlights for a job that you can do to keep our chapter active and viable:



- Our President doesn't do everything. The executive committee and committee chairs see that the work is spread around to many willing and able members who want to contribute to keep KAWO going.
- The role is flexible. While one President is typical, in the past, we have had co-Presidents who shared the workload. Sometimes, another member is a better representative for KAWO on a topic, and the President can defer to them on that topic.
- The President doesn't have to know everything about native plants. An interest in KAWO and its mission is the important thing, as KAWO has a very knowledgeable pool of talent that can provide information and answer questions about native plants.
- The President does some basic things, like prepare the agendas for the membership and executive committee meetings; oversee the ongoing operation of the chapter and its committees; seek the fullest possible involvement of all members in the decisions and activities of the chapter; represent the chapter to other organizations and the public; and communicate with the national office. How these things are accomplished is flexible and can be adjusted to match the President.
- The time commitment adjusts to the President.
- Finally, if running the membership meeting, being up there in front of the group, is an issue for you, don't let that stop you from being President. Finding someone else to run a meeting is a minor portion of the job that could be delegated to someone else, if needed.

Please consider the opportunity to be President. It's not as hard as it may seem, and it is also the way to ensure our chapter remains active and viable.

For more information about the President or Vice-President position, please contact current President Neil Sikora, any of our recent past-Presidents or co-Presidents (Dave Wendling, Mike Klug, Carol Klug, and Paul Olexia), or any of the executive committee members (David Riggs, Margo Rebar, Ann Klobucar, Sharon Dever, Noel Ocen-Gorgone, and Kim Patrie). Or simply [Reply to This Email](#); we'll get your message to Neil.

Fall Plant Exchange Success!

Noel Ocen

We want to say a big “THANK YOU” to everyone who made the Fall Plant Exchange such a success. The variety of plants donated was *impressive*, and being able to discuss the plants with the gardeners who grew them makes this event unique. Virtually all of the plants were adopted by guests during the exchange, and the few remaining were given to neighbors and friends who are expanding their native gardens.



Wild Ones members and non-members alike joined together for this fun event. We encouraged non-members to join Wild Ones and participate in our monthly educational programs and field trips, while they develop friendships with others who are vitally interested in our environment.

We’re looking forward to hosting this event next fall and expect another enthusiastic turnout. Several participants appreciated the informative labeling on some plants, and we hope to expand on this next year. More to come on that.

If you have any other suggestions or comments about the Fall Plant Exchange, please [email Noel Ocen](#)

Caterpillars That Spin Webs in Trees & Shrubs in the Fall

Ilse Gebhard

While the Eastern Tent caterpillars spin their webs in spring, the Fall Webworm caterpillars spin their messy webs in leaves and branches of their host trees in late summer or fall. By then the webs of the tent caterpillar have broken down and disappeared, battered by wind and rain and picked apart by birds looking for a meal.



Fall Webworm nests have been found on more than 400 tree and shrub species. They are much bigger than the ones from the tent caterpillars and enshroud whole branches or even entire trees. The caterpillars feed communally inside the webs and David L. Wagner in *Caterpillars of Eastern North America* states that when disturbed, the larva often wag in unison, providing a curious collective display.

Heavy feeding in summer can damage the host trees but with light or fall feeding the harm to trees is minimized as photosynthesis has largely stopped and the nutrients are stored in the roots for next year's growth. The leaves will just fall off soon anyway.

By spring the webs have broken down for much the same reasons as those of the tent caterpillar. I'm sure many bird species predate the webs, but once the leaves have fallen off, the birds I see most often poke around in the webs are titmice. Parasitic flies and wasps also find the caterpillars irresistible as more than 50 species are known to parasitize and kill them.

The color of the webworm caterpillar is highly variable ranging from pale yellow, to green to charcoal, with an abundance of long, silky hairs called setae, which can be white to yellow. Most setae clusters have at least one very long seta twice to three times the length of the others. In most color forms a cream subdorsal stripe borders the darker area on the middle of the back. A 2nd more developed stripe runs below the spiracles, which are white. The bumps, called setal warts, from which the setae arise are black on the middle of the back and the ones above and below the spiracles are usually yellow or orange.

The Fall Webworm overwinters at the pupae stage and the moth emerges in spring or summer. In the north its wings and abdomen are white, while in the south the forewings and abdomen can show grayish brown spots. With a wingspan of 1 to 1.5 inches, it is one of our medium sized moths.

What's Happening at the National Office: August Report

Check out our [National Office web site](#). To read the August report from the board of directors, [log in to the member only area](#). Thanks for your interest and support of Wild Ones!

Community Events of Interest to Wild Ones

September 20 - 12:30-6:00pm - [Global Climate Strike Kalamazoo](#), WMU Campus

September 25 - 7:00pm - History of Great Lakes Forests, speaker Larry Cornelius at [KAWO September indoor program](#).

September 29 - 11:30am-12:30pm - [Climate Change In The Great Lakes Region](#) w/Dr. David Karowe, First Presbyterian Church, Kalamazoo

October 4-5 - [Bailey Conference](#) - Bailey Museum & Gardens, South Haven, MI

October 26 - [Climate Slam](#), sponsored by PeaceJam Foundation, WMU campus. Speakers and Student Mentors needed, [contact Todd Bannon](#) for more information.

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!

SEEDLINGS is edited by Tom Small and Kim Patrie. It appears mostly monthly. The next regular issue will come early in September. **Deadline for October issue is September 15.** Please send submissions to 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



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