
Inside this issue:

September Program	2
2nd Look & Learn Tour	2
June Program Recap	3
ICCF Tour / B.V. Fundrsr	4 - 6
Ranger Steve	7
Natives to Know	8
Signing for Pollinators	9
October Program Change	10
Stepping Stones	10

Officers

President- Mike Bruggink
Membership - Gretchen Zuiderveen
Outreach - Carol Phelps
Treasurer - Harriet Bromberg
Secretary - Nancy Bedell

Planning Chairs

Education Chair - Amy Heilman
Garden Chair - Sue Bouchard
Hospitality - Rhonda Reider & Barb Olson
Newsletter - Kim Davidson
Ways & Means - Meribeth Bolt & Sue Bouchard
Web - Roland Bouchard

Advisory Board

Melanie Manion - Natural Resources Manager Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission

Steve Mueller - Environmental Education Consultant and Award Winning Interpreter

Patricia Pennell - Award Winning Environmental Educator, Photographer, Botanist, and Consultant



RIVER CITY CHAPTER - GRAND RAPIDS, MI

Wild Ones is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization that promotes environmentally sound landscaping and the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities.

For more information, please contact:

Mike- 616-803-5353 or president@rivercitywildones.org

Gretchen - 616-240-2181 or membership@rivercitywildones.org

www.rivercitywildones.org / www.wildones.org (National Headquarters)

facebook.com/rivercitywildones

August Program: The What and Why of Green Roofs

Monday, August 18, 2014 - 7:00 PM

10923 2nd Avenue, Grand Rapids, MI 49534-6753

(This is a private residence [Click Here for a Map](#))

Our presenter this month is Erik Cronk, ASLA, LEED AP BD+C, he is the Principal and Green Roof Consultant for [AGA--Advanced Green Architecture](#). We will be meeting at a house that has a green roof, but it's not the typical kind that's covered with sedum. Erik will explain to us how a green roof can be an excellent home for native plants, and that it can even qualify as a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation! Now that's a unique way of using a roof!



(Photos Courtesy of AGA Website)

September Program - Aster and Goldenrod Identification
with Dr. Dave Warners, Professor of Biology, Calvin College
Monday, September 15, 2014 - 6:30 p.m. (Note Early Start Time)
Bunker Interpretive Center - Calvin College - 1750 East Beltline Ave. SE

Join us for a fun night outside at the Bunker Center! [Dr. Warners](#) will teach us tips for identifying the many species of Asters and Goldenrods that grow in Michigan! We will also be collecting seed for upcoming community projects!



(Plant photos courtesy of
Ruth Oldenburg & Amy Heilman)

2nd Look & Learn Program

Tour of Ody Brook Nature Sanctuary - Ranger Steve's Property

Saturday, September 20, 2014 - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Check www.rivercitywildones.org for directions to the Cedar Springs, MI location.



Join us at Ody Brook Nature Sanctuary for a unique field experience. Ranger Steve Mueller, a member of our advisory committee, will give us a tour of his property and discuss plants and their communities. The tour of the property will start at 1:30. Members can continue to explore on their own until 4:00.

Ody Brook Nature Sanctuary is managed to enhance biodiversity. The sanctuary is located in the headwaters for Little Cedar Creek with both upland and wetland habitats. Over 100 bird species, 24 mammals, 11 herps and 51 butterfly species have been documented along with nearly 250 species of plants.

June Program Overview - Michigan's Native Trees - By Ron Cammel

The focus of Wild Ones branched out to native trees June 16 when member Kim Davidson led a tour of the incredible diversity at Aquinas College. The campus offers a garden setting to learn about a huge variety of mature trees.

Kim, a horticulturalist at Ironwood Golf Course and educator for Michigan State University, ventured from identifying features of the trees to tidbits on history, ecology and growth characteristics.

For example, at the huge Kentucky coffee tree that filtered the evening sunlight through its pinnately compound leaves (one leaf includes several rows of leaflets), she told how pioneers used the fruit. With no Starbucks around, they brewed the bean pods as a coffee substitute.

Wildlife still use the similar fruit of redbuds for food. These short-lived legumes growing on edges of woods also fix nitrogen in soil, which other plants can use.

The mighty oaks, however, are the “mother tree for insects.” White oaks with their rounded leaf tips and red oaks with pointy leaves can handle plenty of feeding from critters, which, in turn, become bird food.

Dogwoods fool insects to attract them to pollinate flowers. You don't see petals when those gorgeous blooms unfold in spring. You see sepals modified to look like petals. “It's a trick,” Kim said.

Other fun tour facts:

- Robins can get drunk from gorging on over-ripe service berries.
- The telltale sign of elms and lindens are their lopsided leaves.

- A stand of aspens will often have one set of genes because they are all connected to a Mother tree by underground roots. And in doing so they prevent soil erosion.
- This part of Michigan is the northern-most range for red cedars and the southern-most range for white cedars.
- Straight lines of small holes rounding the trunk of hickories are often the work of yellow-bellied sapsuckers.



- White pines may be evergreen but they do shed some of their needles in fall (and even more pollen in spring).
- Tulip trees, related to magnolias, have an ancient flower structure that grew amongst dinosaurs.

(Photos courtesy of Amy Heilman)

July Program Overview - River City Wild Ones Native Plant Education Garden at ICCF (Inner City Christian Federation) Celebration & Brewery Vivant Fundraiser

Our RCWO Native Plant Education Garden Celebration at ICCF and Fundraiser at Brewery Vivant on July 21st was a HUGE Event! We had over 150 people attend the celebration and the fundraiser was VERY successful! Thank You to everyone who came out to celebrate and support our local River City Chapter of Wild Ones. With the funds raised we will be able to continue providing support and educational assistance to local schools and other organizations in our community that realize the importance of native plants in our ecosystems!



Everyone enjoyed viewing the garden that had been transformed using a mix of Michigan native and traditional garden plants. Information regarding our chapter and the use of native plants was passed out to attendees. We also had books available for purchase regarding natives and pollinators.

July Program Overview - Continued



Free Milkweed plants were passed out to everyone and there were free raffle drawings for natives. Chapter president, Mike Bruggink, gave a brief talk about the garden transformation and the work that was involved.

July Program Overview - Continued



The important relationship that native plants and pollinators have was also highlighted through educational signs and handouts!



**It was a night full of Looking, Learning, and Libations!
Thanks Again to Everyone that Attended!!**

(Photos courtesy of Nancy Bedell, Kim Davidson, & Amy Heilman)

Ranger Steve's Nature Niche - Isle Royal Discoveries

Time in nature niches has rewards. It allows our minds to free from daily pressures, provides healthy exercise, time with family and friends, and a chance to interact with nature.

When I leave work and home for wild places, it takes three days to stop thinking about work needs and tasks. Getting away from home allows freedom from projects waiting there.

Mogens Nielsen found a Northern Blue Butterfly at Isle Royale National Park but little was known besides it was the first known presence in Michigan. Another flew over the Wisconsin/Michigan border in Dickinson County. Later I discovered a healthy colony in Alger County while conducting rare plants studies in the Upper Peninsula with Dr. Tony Reznicek from the University of Michigan Herbarium and Don Henson.

Tony suddenly called out, "Look what I found". He discovered a plant species not documented for Michigan. It was dwarf bilberry in the blueberry family. I immediately called, "Look what I found". I was focused on butterflies instead of plants and caught a Northern Blue Butterfly. I found a colony with many and this was the first known colony for Michigan.

The Michigan DNR immediately listed both plant and butterfly as Threatened Species and provided me a life history research grant to study the butterfly species. I later collected its larvae on the plant species Tony discovered. The newly known butterfly larvae use that plant as a food plant. We discovered two species with ecological nature niche connections on the same day.

My research took me to various locations where Don Henson found additional colonies of the plant. I was looking for more Northern Blue colonies. The research also took me to Isle Royale NP to where Mo had found the first Northern Blue in Michigan. I wrote an extensive report of my research for the DNR but the rest of this article is unrelated with other discoveries at Isle Royale.

The park provided me with a collecting permit to document new species in the park during my research on

the Northern Blue. I discovered two butterfly species not documented for the park. They were the Common Wood Nymph and the Bog Copper.

Unfortunately, those specimens were set aside and forgotten until this year. I was reviewing my research journals and saw a note to myself stating 'species to be listed later'. I quickly looked in my collection database and saw they were not listed there either. I went to my specimen collection and found them waiting to be processed. I called the national park to inform them of the long overdue discovery report. It has been 25 years but the species were still unknown for the park. Arrangements have been made to place them in the Michigan State University collection as scientific proof of presence at Isle Royale NP.

The park resource manager requested specific collection locations. I provided details. The park service cannot protect or understand the ecological nature niches without knowing the species that live there. The plants, mammal, bird, insect, and other species lists continue to grow. Geology, climate and air quality studies monitor the environment for comparison with our modified human communities. The data helps us understand things that degrade our health and living conditions so we can protect society's health for present and future generations.

Most of us go to national parks to refresh our spirits, physical health and souls. Parks provide society with much more to help sustain our culture's social, environmental, economic health.

Natural history questions or topic suggestions can be directed to Ranger Steve (Mueller) at the odybrook@chartermi.net Ody Brook, 13010 Northland Dr, Cedar Springs, MI 49319-8433. (616) 696-1753

Written for WILD Ones Newsletter Article – August/Sept - Fall 2014.

Natives to Know - Rattlesnake Master (Eryngium yuccifolium)

By Joyce Thuarsky

Although Rattlesnake Master resembles a yucca or other desert plant, it is a true species of the tallgrass prairies of central North America. It is actually a member of the carrot family....and its crushed stems smell like carrot. American Indians used the root to treat rattlesnake bites, hence its common name. However, this plant does NOT provide an effective anecdote for snake bites. Its dried seed heads do sound a bit like a rattlesnake when shaken.

Rattlesnake Master grows 2-6 feet tall. Its stiff, narrow, sword-shaped leaves grow up to 3 feet long, tending to form a dense clump near the base of the plant. A few smaller leaves occur along the upper portions of the stems. The leaves have widely scattered, stiff teeth. The entire plant is bluish or grayish green and spreads 2 to 3 feet wide.

From June thru September, Rattlesnake Master produces dense golf ball-like flower heads at the top of stiff stems that rise 3-6 feet above the ground. About one-inch in diameter, each ball consists of numerous tiny white flowers, each flower having 5 petals. Whitish bracts stick out sharply from the flowers, giving the flower head a rough, prickly feel and appearance. As the flowers mature, the showy balls develop a bluish cast. Later, the flower heads turn brown –filled with quarter-inch long brown seeds.

The honey-like scent of Rattlesnake Master flowers attracts many pollinators including butterflies, skippers, moths, long and short-tongued bees, wasps, flies, and beetles. Caterpillars of the rare Rattlesnake Master Borer Moth (*Papaipema eryngii*) bore into the stems and feed on the pith. Nevertheless, deer and other herbivores tend to avoid this plant due to its coarse, prickly foliage and flower balls.

With its unique texture and sculptural overall form, Rattlesnake master can make quite a statement in your

garden! It prefers full sun and sandy soil, but tolerates clay and shallow rocky soil. Tolerant of drought, Rattlesnake Master has no serious insect or disease problems. However, the plant can sprawl if grown in shade or overly fertile soils, and taller plants may need support. Massing this species with other tall plants may be the best solution for this problem.

Because Rattlesnake Master has a deep central taproot, it does not transplant well. However, it is easily propagated from seed. Seeds should be sown outdoors in fall to germinate in the spring. Rattlesnake Master provides interest to the winter landscape. Its fresh or dried flower heads make a distinctive addition to flower arrangements.

For more information and photos:

http://plants.usda.gov/factsheet/pdf/fs_eryu.pdf

<http://wimastergardener.org/?q=RattlesnakeMaster>

<http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/rattlesnakex.htm>



(Photo courtesy of AmyHeilman)

Presidential Memorandum - Signing for Pollinators

From the Pollinator Partnership

Strong commitment to pollinator actions

On June 20, 2014 the [White House](#) announced the first comprehensive pollinator program ever created throughout the federal government. President Barack Obama signed a [Presidential Memorandum](#) to bring federal actions to the pollinator issue that will provide increased collaboration, solid science, practical management, and essential research goals. The Presidential Memorandum works within existing budgets, and through coordinated efforts has the potential to increase efficiencies and effectiveness. The Pollinator Partnership acted as a resource to the White House for many months as the White House Executive Office brought stakeholders together and canvassed federal departments and agencies. Among the directives in the memorandum are actions increasing forage on federal lands, assessing the effects of pesticides including neonicotinoids, including native seeds in post-fire restoration, landscaping federal facilities for pollinators, educating the public about pollinators, and more.

[Read all the details on the White House blog.](#)

For the Pollinator Partnership, the memorandum is the result of a nearly 20-year campaign to increase awareness and all action for pollinators and marks a new dawn of wise land management across the country. The Presidential Memorandum is a first for comprehensive terrestrial conservation and for pollinators – it demonstrates real leadership on the part of the President and his science team; we congratulate them on this great start to a new dawn of land management for pollinators.

**Presidential
Memorandum-
Signing for
Pollinators**



**POLLINATOR
PARTNERSHIP**

Protect their lives. Preserve ours.

October Meeting Update

Member Social, Potluck, & Used Book Sale Fundraiser

As noted in our July newsletter, the Silent Auction is on sabbatical. The new event is a fun social evening with a potluck and used book sale. Catch up on club news, get to know new members, and invite a friend or two to introduce.

Potluck: The Potluck will cover a full range of dishes from appetizer to desserts. Beverages will be provided. More details as the event draws near.



Book Sale: Here's how you can help to make the fundraiser a success!

- * Bring your book donations to the August and September meetings
- * Used books of all genres in hard or soft cover are appreciated
- * Stock up on books for the winter ahead (It could be another long one, snuggle up with a good read!)
- * Arrangements can be made to drop off books, please contact Sue or Meribeth ~
- * Sue Bouchard 450-9429 sue@bouchard.com or Meribeth Bolt 450-3001 meribethbolt@aol.com



RCWO Stepping Stones for Purchase

The initial batch of beautiful Wild Ones Stepping Stones has been sold! More stepping stones have arrived and are ready for your garden. The stones are 9 by 12 inches in size and very substantial. They were handcrafted by a West Michigan artist.

You can add them to your garden for only \$25. Stones will be available at the August 18th meeting. Cash, checks or credit card accepted.

Have you seen a Monarch Butterfly Today??
It's that time of the year!