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**RIVER CITY CHAPTER - GRAND RAPIDS, MI**

*Wild Ones promotes environmentally-sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities and is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization.*

**For more information, please contact:**

Amy - 616-308-8176 or [president@rivercitywildones.org](mailto:president@rivercitywildones.org)

**Officers**

President - **Amy Heilman**  
VP - **Mike Bruggink**  
Membership - **Gretchen Zuiderveen**  
Outreach - **Carol Phelps**  
Treasurer - **Harriet Bromberg**  
Secretary - **Betsy Ford**

**Planning Chairs**

Garden Chair - **Sue Bouchard**  
Hospitality - **Rhonda Reider & Barb Olson**  
Newsletter - **Kim Davidson**  
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** - Environmental Consultant, Photographer, Botanist, Eco-friendly Landscaper

**June Program - June 17, 2013 - 7:00 PM**

Muskegon Heights Wetland Restoration Site Tour  
with Brian Majka, Operations Manager, Cardno JFNew

Brian will guide us on a tour of this unique 25 acre site which is located 10 miles inland from Lake Michigan next to the SCA Independent Landfill. Rare coastal plant species germinated after an ancient seed bed was excavated. The site has over 100 native plant species which appeared in 2006 after the first year after excavation. Native seed, trees, and shrubs are also being installed to increase diversity. It has mixed wetland/upland habitat and should be very interesting to tour with Brian as our guide!

**Terrain:** We can stay mostly in the uplands just fine. The terrain isn't terrible--the steepest slope is a ~4:1 or so to get down to the wetland. We can plan on exploring the whole site if there is time. Wear sturdy footwear that can get wet and bring bug dope, camera and plant reference guides. Refreshments will follow program.

**Location:** The gate to the site is at the NE corner of the intersection of E. Broadway Ave. and Brooks Rd. which are east of M31 and Muskegon Heights. There's a long access road that can accommodate a lot of cars--people can park along it, and there are a few spots to do 3-pt turnarounds on it. Look for the Wild Ones directional arrows starting on the east side of 31 North at E. Broadway Ave. Please carpool!

## July Program - Tour of Amway's Habitat Green Space

with Steve Allen, Geum Service Ecological & Native Plant Consulting

July 15, 2013 - 7:00 PM - Amway's Spaulding Plaza - 5101 Spaulding Ave., Ada, 49301

Steve is the Land Management Consultant for this unique site and will be guiding us around the property's trail system as we explore the diversity of native plants that exist here. We will learn the history of the area and how it benefits the employees of Amway as well as the fauna that utilize its various ecosystems. The terrain is mostly level and even. Sturdy walking shoes are suggested. This is a wonderful opportunity to see a beautiful area not normally open to the public.

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## Second Look and Learn Tour of the Year Izaak Walton League Belmont Property

Tuesday, August 6, 2013 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM

**Location** - 5641 Myers Lake Avenue, Belmont, MI 49306 ([Map](#)).



Join us for a tour of the Izaak Walton League (the Ikes) Belmont property. Ike members Barb McGuirl and Tammy Lundeen will be our guides. They will share with us the history and conservation mission of the Ikes and lead us on a walking tour of part of the property.

The property is easy to walk with terrain that is just a slight slope. It is just a short walk to the garden and there are trails that the more adventurous can walk. The lodge will be open for bathroom use.

The Chapter is located about 16 miles NE of Grand Rapids, MI and 5 miles SE of Rockford, MI. To reach the Dwight Lydell Chapter, take Myers Lake Ave. until you reach the intersection of Kreuter Rd. The entrance to the chapter is on the west side of the road. There is a large yellow gate and a gravel driveway leading to the clubhouse. It is about a half mile north of the Cannonsburg Ski Resort.

As always it is recommended that you wear good walking shoes, have bug spray and bring your water.



## April Program Recap

It was a soggy night in April when Ranger Steve Mueller took us into the world of Michigan frogs and toads! We spent the first portion of his presentation inside where we were treated to a wonderful slide presentation complete with sample calls of Michigan's resident amphibians. Then we ventured outside at Bunker in the rain and were delighted to hear the calls of love from Wood Frogs (baby duck quacks), Western Chorus Frogs (nib...nib - like running your hand down a comb), and the very loud peeping of the Spring Peepers - it was almost deafening at times! Steve also talked to us about the citizen science programs such as [Frogwatch USA](#) and the [DNR Frog Survey](#) which anyone can get involved in.

"Wreeeee....Wreeeee!" That's Eastern American Toad for Thanks for a wonderful program Ranger Steve!



**Wood Frog**



**Western Chorus Frog**



**Spring Peeper**

Photos Courtesy of michigan.gov

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## May Program Recap

We had a lovely spring evening in May for our program on Digital Photography. In her usual light hearted style, outdoor enthusiast, Patricia Pennell, helped us become more familiar with our cameras and showed us how to use those intimidating buttons and menus to make our photos look great whether they are taken outdoors or inside! She also told us about some helpful websites for photography ([creativelive.com](#)) and plants ([missouriplants.com](#)) and left us smiling by reminding us all that "We are smarter than our cameras!"



**Now none of us have an excuse for not entering our photos in the [2013 Wild Ones Photo Contest!](#)**

***SAY CHEESE!!***





## Wild Times with Wild Ones!



Spring is always a busy time for our Wild Ones Chapter! Members brought in lots of great native plants from their own habitats for our Annual Native Plant Exchange which took place after our May meeting. On May 16 members also came out to help pull garlic mustard at Rogue River Park and on May 19 Wild Ones had a booth at the Discover! Millennium Park event put on by the MSU Extension Master Naturalist Program and Kent County Parks. Thanks to all of our members who work hard to get the word out about Wild Ones and the importance of native plants!



**Discover!**  
Millennium Park



## Presidents Note:

The following article was written by Elizabeth Harrington, a recent graduate of Grand Valley State University with a B.S. degree in Natural Resources Management. She currently works full-time at P.J. Hoffmaster State Park as a summer ranger and part-time with Ada Township Parks as a Recreation Intern, working in the field of outdoor education. If that were not enough, she also works at the Land Conservancy of West Michigan as a Stewardship Outreach intern! Her dream is to find a permanent outdoor education position. She fell in love with this field in Alaska, where she traveled three times with a leadership and science program called The Alaska Great Lakes Project.

Elizabeth enjoys writing and has offered us this educational article on creating monarch waystations...something we all should consider adding to our own backyards, local schools and other public landscapes.

## Saving the Monarch Butterfly

By Elizabeth Harrington

As the seasons change from winter to spring, spring to summer, Michigan bursts with a spectrum of life. The harmonious choir of birdsong fills the warm air as insects happily pollinate the array of spring flowers that carpet the damp earth. One of the more common insects you may see fluttering throughout your garden or at the park is the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). Characterized by its black veins and vivid orange wings, the monarch is a native Michigan insect. Growing from egg to larvae (caterpillar) to pupa to adult butterfly, these fluttering beauties require milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), a native Michigan plant. Butterflies have only one life cycle, and only two to three weeks as adults. Time is of the essence for these creatures, and they must work quickly to locate nourishing nectar and food so they have the energy to find a mate, reproduce, and seek appropriate shelter. Unfortunately, the number of monarchs is dwindling, as their most valuable food and habitat source is being threatened. Milkweed is often thought of through a narrow lens as nothing but a bothersome weed. Growing in fields, parks, and many backyards, this plant, in all of its varieties, is critical to the success of the monarch butterfly. Monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed, which becomes a food source for young caterpillars (ingesting the plant makes the monarch poisonous to other vertebrates that may prey on the insect). Within a month, the caterpillar forms its chrysalis on the milkweed plant and reemerges as the beautiful black and orange butterfly Michigan residents all know and love. To ensure that this butterfly remains a part of Michigan's natural life, it is important that we take care of and provide the habitat they need to survive. Planting a [butterfly garden](#) is one of the best ways you

can make sure that the monarch returns to Michigan in the spring to lay its eggs and leave behind more pretty pollinators for generations to come.

When considering a butterfly garden, it is important to think about the kind of plants monarchs are attracted to, when they bloom, where they grow, their height and coloration. Butterflies need a variety of plants to sustain them throughout the months they spend with us in Michigan. Shrubs and trees for shelter, annuals and perennials of various heights, especially those that are red, yellow, orange, and purple, will successfully attract monarch butterflies to your home. Butterflies are cold-blooded, so planting your garden in a sunny spot is ideal. Place a few flat stones around your garden to provide the monarchs with a resting place where they can warm themselves. Butterflies enjoy lapping water from the moist earth, so to quench their thirst, provide a mud puddle or a bucket filled with sand and water. It is also important that you avoid using harmful pesticides in your garden. A natural garden filled with a spectrum of native plants will successfully attract monarch butterflies and ensure they remain a part of Michigan's gardens for many years to come.

Some plants that draw monarchs are hydrangeas, lilacs, butterfly bush, anise hyssop, swamp milkweed, common milkweed, smooth blue aster, New England aster, Frikart's aster, Wood's light blue aster, English lavender, black-eyed Susan, and cut-leaf coneflower.



**MONARCH WAYSTATIONS**

CREATE, CONSERVE, & PROTECT MONARCH HABITATS

[www.MonarchWatch.org](http://www.MonarchWatch.org)

## Natives to Know!

### Purple Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum dasycarpum*)

By Joyce Tuharsky

Purple Meadow Rue is a delightful native perennial, 2-6 ft. high, that features blue-green lacy foliage (somewhat resembling columbine) and wiry-branched sprays of tiny, white flowers which bloom for 2-3 weeks in early summer (late May-July).

The mass effect of the tiny flowers is quite showy! Emerging in loose, large clumps of soft, almost feathery sprays, the flower heads can be a foot or more long, but have no true petals. Mostly dioecious (male/female flowers on separate plants), the male flowers are more fluffy with numerous yellow, thread-like stamens that droop out and become entangled. The female flowers are pollinated by wind and develop into spindle-shaped seeds that turn brown at maturity.

A member of the buttercup family (Ranunculaceae), Purple Meadow Rue has an upright central stem that is unbranched below, but becomes branched above. The stems are usually purplish. The leaves are hairy beneath, alternate and compound: divided into numerous, three-lobed leaflets which become smaller as they ascend the stems.

In the wild, Purple Meadow Rue is found in deciduous riparian woods, damp thickets and ravines, and moist prairies. Bees are sometimes attracted to the abundant pollen of the male flowers. However, this plant is not cross-pollinated by insects as the female flowers do not have nectar. There are a select few insect species that feed on this plant, including some aphids and caterpillars of certain moths. White-Tailed Deer browse the foliage sparingly.

This species is currently being researched; because its seeds are one of the best sources of thalicarpine, a chemical with cancer-controlling properties. Researchers are looking into the use of thalicarpine for leukemia and ovarian cancer.

Purple Meadow Rue can provide contrast and color to any garden. Easy to grow, it prefers dappled sun, well-drained but moist conditions, and sandy to loamy soil. It provides textural interest in designed beds and can be used in naturalized landscapes, around ponds or as a ground cover. It is also good as a cut flower.

A similar species is Waxy Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum revolutum*). However, the leaf undersides of Waxy Meadow Rue are whitened and waxy. When blooming, the crushed foliage of Waxy Meadow Rue has a skunk-like odor, while Purple Meadow Rue is odorless.



Courtesy of wildflower.org

#### More Information and Photos at:

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=THDA>

[http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/savanna/plants/pp\\_mdrue.html](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/savanna/plants/pp_mdrue.html)

[http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=THDA](http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=THDA)



## Have You Heard??

### Grants for Gardens!!

River City Wild Ones Chapter recently awarded two “Plant It Forward” grants to worthy local non-profit organizations; Sparta High School and Marywood Dominican Center. The funds will be used to purchase either native seeds or plants for ongoing work in the 25 acre Sparta High School Prairie and the 1 acre Marywood Prairie Habitat. Both of these sites have already proven to be places of education for both young and young-at heart students of the land.

Our chapter is proud to help support projects such as these and encourages other organizations that have similar sites they want to enhance or develop, to check the Education Gardens page on our chapter website [www.rivercitywildones.org](http://www.rivercitywildones.org) and download an application form.

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### WAM Grants' Applications Requested

The Wildflower Association of Michigan (WAM) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the availability of funds for support of the 2014 WAM Educational Grant Cycle. Complete information concerning application criteria, submission deadline Dec. 6, 2013 and an application form are available on the website at [www.wildflowersmich.org](http://www.wildflowersmich.org). The monies available come from donations from business and individual members. Applicants may request up to \$500 in support. All applicants will be notified if they are or are not recipients of awards no later than January 30, 2014. Awardees will receive their funds at the Awards Luncheon Ceremony on Sunday, March 2, 2014, during the WAM conference at the Kellogg's Center on Campus at MSU. WAM members, if you know of anyone with a project involving the creation of a garden of native plants at a school or other public space, encourage them to apply. The application process is easy and assistance with it is available. These award dollars are intended to assist in the purchase of native plants and not infrastructure, equipment etc. If you have any questions, please see the website or contact the WAM grant coordinator Maryann Whitman, listed therein

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### Mary Ann's Trees has a New Owner!

Mary Ann's Michigan Trees and Shrubs have moved to Native Landscapes. Mary Ann Menck's native plants are now being sold on consignment by Randy Counterman at his new business, Native Landscapes. Native Landscapes is located at 33081 E. Red Arrow Hwy, just east of Paw Paw. Randy is a biologist, who has recently retired from the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy. He is now very interested in assisting you in restoring and/or landscaping your yard or your acres.

You can find out more about Native Landscapes and the sales dates by going to [www.native-landscapes.org](http://www.native-landscapes.org). You will also find articles from Mary Ann on native plants. Mary Ann will be attending Native Landscapes sale days throughout the year. So she will have the opportunity to do what she loves – talk with you about native plants. She will also be available to talk to groups about those native plants and their importance in our environment. You can still contact her at [mamenck@mei.net](mailto:mamenck@mei.net) or 269-598-6219. This is her second retirement, so it may take a day or two to return your call!

## 2013 River City Wild Ones Remaining Program Calendar

**All programs (unless otherwise specified) will begin at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Monday of each month, February - November. Non-members are always welcome! Find more information for each event under “Wild Events” on our website**

Date	Speaker / Topic	Location
June 17	Brian Majka / Cardno JFNew - Exploration of shoreline native plants growing 10 miles inland!!	Muskegon Area Location - See First Page for Directions
July 15	Steve Allen - Owner, Guem Service Ecological & Native Plant Consulting / Tour of Amway's Private Green Space	Amway Spaulding Plaza 5101 Spaulding Ave., Ada, 49301
Aug 19	Jamie Krupka - Program Manager, Outdoor Discovery Center / Guided hike through a 12 acre grassland ecosystem	Outdoor Discovery Center 4214 56th Street, Holland, 49423
Sept 16	Nick Gressick - GVSU Professor & Botanist / Guided hike through a Coastal Plain Marsh Ecosystem <b>*This program will start at 6:30 PM*</b>	Five Lakes Muskegon Nature Sanctuary - Located near Fruitport
Oct 21	7th Annual “Not So Silent” Auction <b>Doors open at 6:30 PM, Auction begins at 7:00 PM</b>	Bunker Interpretive Center 1750 East Beltline Ave. SE Calvin College, Grand Rapids
Nov 18	Georgia Donovan - Local Landscape Designer and Certified Natural Shoreline Professional / Discussion of lake-friendly and environmentally sound shoreline management solutions	Bunker Interpretive Center 1750 East Beltline Ave. SE Calvin College, Grand Rapids



### Pollinator Week is June 17 - 23, 2013

Click [here](#) to learn more about how you can make a difference for pollinators!

In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous