

## Inside this issue:

KCD Plant Sale	2
Wetland Workshop	2
Stewardship Network	3
SFE Grants	3
BONAP Maps	4
Prairie Wolf Park	4
Spring Beauty	5
Calendar	5



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)

## *March 21 Program: Michigan Native Plants—The Facts and Fallacies of their Medicinal Properties*

Dr. Robert Krueger - Professor of Pharmacognosy at Ferris State University and current President of the Wildflower Association of Michigan will share his knowledge with us on this very interesting subject. Members and non-members - please join us at 7 PM at the Bunker Interpretive Center at Calvin College. Dr. Krueger's program is sure to have us laughing and wondering

about the truth, and what we may have believed to be the truth, of the medicinal aspects of some of our favorite native plants. This is your chance to ask those burning questions you must have!

**Location:** The program will be held at 7 PM at the [Bunker Interpretive Center](#) – Calvin College Ecosystem Preserve at 1750 East Beltline Ave S E, Grand Rapids, 49546

### Officers

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Photographer, Botanist, Eco-  
friendly Landscaper

## *Kentwood School Gets SFE Grant*

We are proud to announce that one of the 2011 SFE award recipients is from our own area! **Congratulations** Pinewood Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> graders and teacher Shannon



Goodwin on the development of the Pinewood Peace Garden – a 1,800 square foot raingarden. This project's first phase was implemented in the spring of 2010 with the assistance of River City Wild Ones, Designs By Nature owner Vern Stephens and

Calvin College's own Dr. Dave Warners. The site was designed and prepared for planting by the students. They went on to plant over 400 native plants in 1/3 of the garden space.

Grant monies received this year will fund the second phase of planting which will take place this spring.

Find out more about SFE Grants on pg 3.



## *KCD Spring Plant Sale: Order Your Trees and Shrubs Now*



*Red trillium*

### **Wetlands and Water Quality**

Wetlands provide a multitude of ecological, economic and social benefits. They provide habitat for fish, wildlife and a variety of plants. Wetlands are also important landscape features because they hold and slowly release flood water and snow melt and recharge groundwater. This combined action of slowing and storing water reduces flooding downstream and shoreline erosion. Flooding and high flows in local rivers are becoming worse with increased development pressures which add impervious surfaces, such as driveways and roads, which do not absorb rainfall.

*Find out more at the Wetland Workshop on March 28th!*

The Kent Conservation District's Spring Tree sale is here! Check out new selections and the new "Variety Packs." The Kent Conservation Tree Sale is an excellent source for hard-to-find native trees and shrubs. KCD hopes these healthy native plants help attract wildlife to your property in either a rural or urban setting for generations to come!

**Note that the orders are due April 1 - no fooling!** You may print the whole catalog or only the order form located in the center of the catalog. Please mail the order form in with your check or money order. If you would like to place an order using a credit card, call the office M-Th from 8am to 4:30pm. Catalogs are available for download by clicking here [Tree Sale Catalog - Spring 2011](#). Please help save the District printing costs and provide your email if you would like them to send you a catalog. Gardeners can help provide food,

shelter and the sense of place that our unique Michigan soils and climate have made. Please consider using Michigan Natives for your next planting. If you are looking for a certain species, Please email [administrator@kenconservation.org](mailto:administrator@kenconservation.org) with requests or comments, or call at 942.4111 x 4.

The Native plant and Tree Sale is the Kent Conservation District's largest fundraiser. Many people mistakenly believe they receive operational funding from the state or federal government, but this is not true. Their operational budget has been deleted from the State of Michigan's budget, and hopefully, with our help, the District can maintain a focus on conservation and a presence in Kent County. **They need our help financially, and can also use your donation of time to volunteer!**

## *Wetland Workshop on March 28th*

**Wetland Workshop**  
**Monday, March 28, 2011**  
**6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**  
**Rockford Sportsman's Club**  
**1115 Northland Drive, NE**  
**Rockford, MI 49341**

Did you know that restoring wetlands on your property can put "cash" in your pocket? Do you own property that was historically wet but the natural drainage has been altered by the installation of ditches or agricultural drain tiles? Do you own marginal agricultural land that is often difficult to plant in the spring or harvest in the fall because of wetness? Are you interested in receiving technical assistance and cost-share \$\$ to improve wildlife habitat on your property by restoring wetlands?

You could be eligible to receive between \$2,000 — \$5,000/acre for land that is restored to a wetland and protected with a conservation easement!

The Rogue River Watershed Council and

Trout Unlimited, Inc., in partnership with Timberland RC&D, the Kent Conservation District, the Izaak Walton League, and the Department of Environmental Quality, will be hosting a FREE wetland workshop for landowners at the Rockford Sportsman's Club in Rockford, MI. The workshop will highlight programs that assist private landowners to restore historic wetlands on their properties. Landowners that meet federal requirements may be eligible for wetland restoration payments that pay between \$2,000-\$5,000 per acre in Kent, Newaygo, and Ottawa Counties.

Hear from leading wetland experts including representatives from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

If you have an interest in restoring wetland habitat on your property, this is the **FREE** workshop for you!

Please RSVP by March 21, 2011 to Nichol De Mol at [ndemol@tu.org](mailto:ndemol@tu.org) or 231-557-6362.

## *Learn and Grow Opportunities from the Stewardship Network*

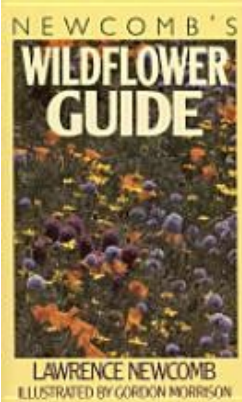
The following workshops have limited seating so [register now](#) if you are interested in attending! You can register for these events online at [www.StewardshipNetwork.org](http://www.StewardshipNetwork.org) or by calling the office at (734) 996-3190:

### **Newcomb's Wildflower Workshop**

**May 4, Wednesday** 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Cost: \$10 + cost of book

*Location: Hager Park, Devries Room, Jenison*



Identifying wildflowers can be a difficult and frustrating task. The Newcomb's Wildflower Guide is unique in that it relies on a simple key using basic plant characteristics to identify wildflowers. This three hour adult workshop will begin at 1:00 pm

at Hager Park (Devries Room) with an indoor session on how to use the plant key followed by an "in the field" practice session on the trails. Hager Park is known for its fantastic spring wildflower display. Newcomb's Wildflower Guide is required and will be available to purchase at the workshop (\$21.19 includes tax). Instructor is Ottawa County parks naturalist Chip Francke.

### **Please, Bug Me! How to promote beneficial insects in your landscape with native plants**

**June 18, Saturday** 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Cost: \$30 for Stewardship Network Members/\$35 for non-members

*Location: Calvin College Ecosystem Preserve Bunker Interpretive Center, Grand Rapids*

Proceeds from this program will be used to help the Early Detection Rapid Response program in West Michigan.

The critical relationship between native plants and insects is an important topic to understand when stewarding natural lands. Join us for this workshop as entomologists teach us about beneficial insects and how we can enhance our properties to promote them. Keynote speaker, Anna Fielder from Michigan State University will begin the discussion with her research on the best native plants to include in your landscape to encourage pollinators. Then, there will be indoor and outdoor presentations on natural predators, butterflies and moths. Plants discussed during the program will be for sale.



*The lovely ladybug*

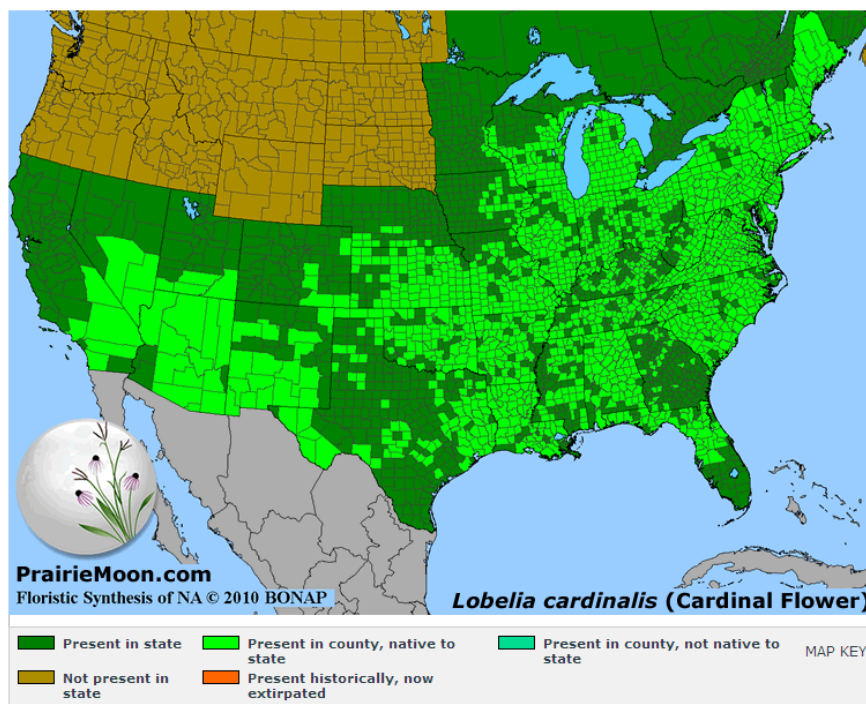
### **2011 SFE (Seeds For Education) Grant Winners**

SFE National Director Mark Charles is pleased to announce the winners of this year's grant program for 2011. The award-winning projects range from the nation's capitol to the islands of Hawaii, and encompass children and youth from early childhood to high school. The projects encompass butterfly gardens, prairies, savannahs, and woodland understories. The SFE Grant Program is supported by the donations and energy of Wild Ones members, staff and volunteers.

Watkins Montessori School	Washington DC	Partner-At-Large
Halau Ku Mana Public Charter School	Honolulu, HI	Partner-At-Large
Conyers Learning Academy	Rolling Meadows, IL	Greater DuPage
Irons Oaks Environl Learning Center	Olympia Fields, IL	Partner-At-Large
Lake Forest Open Lands Association	Lake Forest, IL	Lake-To-Prairie
O'Neill Middle School	Downers Grove, IL	Greater DuPage
Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum & Grdns	Rockford, IL	Rock River Valley
<b>Pinewood Middle School GR</b>	<b>Kentwood, MI</b>	<b>River City-Grand Rapids Area</b>
Royal Oak Nature Society	Royal Oak, MI	Southeast Michigan
Woldumar Nature Center	Lansing, MI	Red Cedar
Dowling Urban Environ Elem School,	Minneapolis, MN	Twin Cities
New City School	Minneapolis, MN	Twin Cities
Niagara Falls Public Library	Niagara Falls, NY	Niagara Falls & River Region
Maria Early Learning Center	Toledo, OH	Oak Openings Region
St. George Village Botanical Garden	Frederiksted, VI	Partner-At-Large
Royal School District	Royal City, WA	Partner-At-Large
Timber-Lee Christian Center	East Troy, WI	Milwaukee SE-Wehr



## BONAP Maps on Prairie Moon Nursery Website



Thank you to RCWO Member Ruth Oldenburg for sharing this information which is now available on Prairie Moon Nursery's website: [www.PrairieMoon.com](http://www.PrairieMoon.com)

Here is a great source for finding out if a particular plant species is native to our state or other states! Click on the green colored link to Prairie Moon above and search a category to find plant species maps.

From Prairie Moon's website: *Dr. John Kartesz and The Biota of North America Program (BONAP) have graciously allowed us to publish their range maps on our website. We want our customers to have the opportunity to see where the plant species we provide grow wild, without human assistance. Furthermore, the maps indicate states and provinces where a species is native and those where it has been naturalized beyond its native range.*

## Prairie Wolf Park: Prairie Establishment Project

### Note from the President:

*Wild Ones member and owner of Fen.View Design, llc Mike Bruggink presented this stewardship opportunity during our February program. This is a great chance to learn more about the establishment of native species, seed collection methods, plant I.D. and invasive species control – please consider volunteering some time on this project!*

Gaines Township is planning a prairie establishment project to introduce native forbs and warm season grasses in approximately 11 acres of Prairie Wolf Park in southern Kent County. The park can be described as a forty-five acre passive use park for the enjoyment of young and old alike. The park utilizes a trail system that links together an old orchard, fallow open farm fields, and some native woodland. A couple of ponds and a small creek reside within the unique hilly landscape.

The key methods of establishment include:

- prescribed burns by the Dutton Fire Department in March
- three applications of herbicide during the growing season to eliminate weed

plants

- collection of native seed throughout the growing season
- planting of the native seed in the fall
- occasional weeding

Each of these steps will be carried out for a 1-2 acre parcel for the next 10 years to complete the project scope. One of the goals of the project is to get local school and youth groups involved in the process and to utilize the prairie as an 'outdoor learning lab'. Wild Ones members are encouraged to participate in the collection and planting of the native wildflower and grass seed. Seed collection will be done twice during the summer months. Seed planting is scheduled to take place mid to late November. Wild Ones members are also encouraged to participate in the annual Garlic Mustard Pull to be held this year on May 7. Please contact Kathy VanderStel (Park Committee) [kvanderstel@dndbuilding.com](mailto:kvanderstel@dndbuilding.com) or Mike Bruggink (Fen View Design) [mike@fenview-design.com](mailto:mike@fenview-design.com) for participation details.



## Spring Beauty Pollinator Monitoring



*Claytonia virginica*, also known as Spring Beauty (photo: U of M Herbarium)

*We received this informative email regarding a pollinator monitoring program for the Spring Beauty. This seems like a pleasant, useful and time-limited project. Both species of Spring beauty grow in Michigan: Claytonia virginica in the southern counties, and C. caroliniana in the northern L.P. and U.P.*

This spring, I am enlisting the help of interested volunteers to observe local pollinators of spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica* and *Claytonia caroliniana*). I thought you all might be interested in observing and learning about the pollinators of these native plants!

This project aims to document changing pollinator populations - by monitoring the insects that visit spring beauty throughout the eastern US, we can determine how pollinator communities change depending on the year, the location, and the season. This information will help us better understand the biology of native pollinators, as well as help us determine the best way to evaluate their value for native plant reproduction. At the same time, you will learn more about the native bees and flies visiting our early spring

flora, and spend some time outdoors during the lovely spring weather.

To help, you need to be able to get to a patch of our study plants, *Claytonia virginica* and *Claytonia caroliniana*, which are easily found throughout the Eastern US and southeastern Ontario. We'll help you learn to distinguish the plants and pollinators, and assist you with questions along the way. We ask for about 2 hours of observations over the course of three weeks, all during sunny weather. As you observe, you'll fill out data sheets (which we will provide), which you will then mail or email to us along with any comments or concerns. For more information, visit <http://springbeauties.wordpress.com>. To volunteer, please email [spring.beauty.pollinators@gmail.com](mailto:spring.beauty.pollinators@gmail.com) with your name and location. We'll get in touch with you soon with more information!

Thank you very much,

Alison Parker

University of Toronto

Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology



Grand Rapids Chapter  
River City Wild Ones

[rivercitywildones.org](http://rivercitywildones.org)

[www.for-wild.org](http://www.for-wild.org)  
(National Headquarters)

Date	Speaker/Topic	Location
Mar 21	Dr. Robert Krueger/Michigan's Native and Medicinal Plants	Bunker Interpretive Center 1750 East Beltline Ave. SE Calvin College, Grand Rapids
Apr 18	Mary McKinney Schmidt/An Exploration of the Eastern Shore of Lake Michigan	Bunker Interpretive Center 1750 East Beltline Ave. SE Calvin College, Grand Rapids
May 16	Kristen Hintz/Field Trip to Grand River Park	Grand River Park 9473 28th Ave.. Jenison, MI 49428
Jun 20	Carol and Fritz Rottman/Native Prairie	11300 Hart St Greenville, MI 48838
Jul 18	Nathan Haan/Plaster Creek Watershed	Ken-O-Shay School 3155 Kalamazoo SE Grand Rapids, MI 49507
Aug 15	To Be Announced	TBD
Sep 19	Dr. David Dornbos/Invasive Woody Shrubs	Bunker Interpretive Center 1750 East Beltline Ave. SE Calvin College, Grand Rapids
Oct 17	To Be Announced	TBD
Nov 14	Fifth Annual Auction	Bunker Interpretive Center 1750 East Beltline Ave. SE Calvin College, Grand Rapids