Director of Plant Conservation at LBJ Wildflower Center to highlight 2003 Wildflower Conference

We are fortunate again this year to have many outstanding speakers for the 16th annual Michigan Wildflower Conference. Flo Oxley, our keynote speaker, is one of 26 coming from as far away as New Hampshire, Texas, Wisconsin, and Minnesota and as close as East Lansing. The topic of Ms. Oxley’s keynote address at the Grant Awards Luncheon on Monday will be Endangered Means We Still Have Time: an overview of plant conservation in the U.S., the wildflower center’s plant conservation program, and suggestions of what we, as ecological citizens, can do to help the situation. She will open the Sunday morning joint session with Gardening and Landscaping with Native Plants: An overview of why native plants are a good choice for home landscapers.

Flo Oxley is the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center’s Director of Plant Conservation, overseeing research on threatened and endangered plant species. She manages the center’s seed bank and herbarium programs as well as writing for the center’s and other publications, and presenting numerous programs.

Flo Oxley, keynote speaker, examines a rice plant growing in one of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center’s beds.

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, located in Austin, Texas, was formerly known as the National Wildflower Research Center. It was founded 21 years ago by First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson, and her friend, actress Helen Hayes. The center’s mission is to educate people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants.

Flo has been a staff member of the wildflower center for eleven years, beginning her career as a research intern in her last year of graduate school. She was hired as the Clearinghouse Coordinator upon graduation and has held many positions at the center including Publications Manager, Public Programs Manager, Acting Director of Education, and Senior Botanist.

Wild Ones Natural Landscapers national president, Joe Powelka, is coming from Wisconsin to chair their first quarterly board of directors meeting on Saturday, March 1 at the Kellogg

Please see “Director of Conservation” on Page 9
In what order do the spring wildflowers appear and in what habitats? I don’t want to miss a single petal!

Lucy in Lake Linden

In your “neck of the woods” (Michigan’s northwestern Upper Peninsula), Lucy, everything happens a little later; in general, though, the order remains pretty consistent. The first harbinger, skunk cabbage (Symplocarpus foetidus), is probably also the least conspicuous. Look for the spathe, containing the spadix, to appear as early as January in wetlands. (The leaves have been there since the previous season.) These fascinating plants have a metabolism that melts the snow and ice surrounding them as they emerge. Their odor, variously described as rotting meat, skunk, and old tires, draws the first pollinators of the season, bees and flies.

In April, check woodlands for round-lobed hepatica (Hepatica americana) with its striking range of blue, pink and white blossoms. The stems and leaves are covered with tiny fuzz-like hairs that protect the plants from the cold, allowing them to survive the frosty nights of early spring.

In early spring woodlands, too, you can find wood anemone (Anemone quinquefolia). As delicate as the plants appear, they are able to withstand blasts of chilly winds due to their stems and growing habits. The stems are pliable and bend easily with the wind, and the horizontal rootstock provides a strong anchor. Wood anemone is often found growing around the roots of trees.

Bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis) is a “blink-and-it’s-gone” flower, so you have to know when and where to be watching for it. Early May is a good time to begin your search in wooded areas. The plants tend to colonize so when you find one, you’ll generally find many—a delightful reward! It’s helpful to familiarize yourself with the leaves, as the flowers close up tightly in dark weather and at night. Dark weather is often an indicator of windy conditions, and windy conditions are tough on the delicate blossoms, which last only a day or two under calm and pleasant conditions. The “closing up” helps preserve the blossoms to help ensure pollination. The blossoms actually contain no nectar, but their appearance lures insects, including some pollen-eaters. (Some researchers theorize that the plants are able to self-pollinate.)

As spring continues, and the weather becomes milder, the stately blossoms of wild columbine (Aquilegia canadensis) appear in open woodlands and rocky outcroppings. The red hues of the blossoms are very attractive to hummingbirds, one of the few creatures able to reach the nectar in the tubular spurs. Some insect cheaters, such as robber bees, often chew through the spurs, gaining access to the nectar, without contributing to pollination.

If you’ve ever seen a woodland or rocky hillside carpeted with Dutchman’s breeches (Dicentra cucullaria), you’re not likely to forget the sight. And, once drawn to take a closer look at the flowers, you’ll never forget the name, an absolutely perfect moniker! The puffy trouser-like blossoms appear in late April or early May on lacy-leaved plants.

What a delight it is, in mid-April, to happen onto trout lily (Erythronium americanum), lover of damp and wetland habitats! The leaves of the plant are easily recognized by their purplish blotches, reminiscent of trout. You may spot the white threads of the “droppers,” produced by corms, along the surface of a colony of trout lily. Each dropper produces a new little corm. The leaves

Please see “I Didn’t Know That!” on Page 9.

Large-flowered trillium (Trillium grandiflorum)
President’s Note

A joyous and healthy New Year to all friends of WAM!

As 2003 begins, I cannot help looking back at the past year with some concern—concern for our world, concern for our country, and concern for our families. This concern, while serious, does not overshadow the hopes and prayers I have for the future.

One way I have found to regain some hope is a walk in a native landscape. It need not be anyplace remote or exotic, just a place where the road disappears and the noise is not about people. I find especially serene the land in the depth of winter. The sounds and smells, seeds and stems all remind me of the promise of spring. It is in these special places, where the snow is last to melt, and the flowers are first to bloom that I imagine peace.

While peace is defined as serenity and calm, the peace I imagine is not dead or inactive. The peace of natural systems consists of cycles and balance, germination and death, drought and rain, predator and prey, grasses and forbs, fire and the fresh growth of spring. It is a peace that is hard won and sometimes not visible except over unimaginable periods of time.

I am under no illusion that the natural world is anything but a violent place—organisms must eat, and living things must die. Living things in natural systems exist in an environment of dynamic peace, unencumbered by labels of right and wrong, good and evil. As humans, we are not so lucky. The world can be overwhelmingly dynamic, and unnecessarily complex. The artificial barriers we create make it seemingly impossible for organisms such as us to find a balance...a peace.

It is my hope that the 16th Annual Wildflower Conference will encourage us to seek that elusive peace with our own landscapes. If we work to form a bond with native plants and animals, peace may not be out of reach after all.

I look forward to seeing all of you this March 2nd and 3rd in beautiful East Lansing for another dynamic and informative WAM conference. And I wish all of you success in your search for peace and balance in 2003.

—Stephan Keto, President

Show & Tell — Conference Fun Night

How do you top a successful Birthday Bash? That’s the dilemma conference planners faced this year when scheduling our Sunday evening social event. Feedback from the past two years indicated we needed a fun event like the Birthday Bash but with more room and seating. Snacks and beverages were high on the list, plus an activity to stimulate conversation and networking.

One of the suggestions was a poster session. Some of us had reservations about a traditional poster session because of its formal nature. We didn’t want to have those restrictions. Then someone brilliantly suggested a more fun and relaxed style of a poster session. She called it Show & Tell—Mother Nature’s version of a poster session!

This is how it works... Everyone is invited to bring a poster or scrapbook showing off his/her project. The only restriction is that it must be somehow related to wildflowers or Michigan native plants. If you have a question about your project, feel free to ask a Wild Ones board member. Come and learn something new. And maybe make a new friend along the way!

—Stephan Keto, President

Calendar

16th Annual Michigan Wildflower Conference & Teachers’ Workshop

March 2 & 3 — Kellogg Center, East Lansing. For more information see articles in this newsletter. For registration form go to http://www.wildflowersmich.org and click on Wildflower Conference or contact Marilyn Case at 517.630.8546 or e-mail: MCase15300@aol.com

March 1, 2003 — Wild Ones Natural Landscapers will hold their first quarterly board meeting in conjunction with the Wildflower Conference. Tentative time on Saturday is 1:00 p.m., Kellogg Center conference room 61. More info to come on www.for-wild.org

P.J. Hoffmaster State Park

Call 231. 798.3573 for more information.

January 25, 2003 — 10:00 a.m. Great Lakes Sturgeon by graduate student Pat DeHaan

February 21, 2003 — 7 p.m. Sand Dune Research by MSU professor of Geomorphology Alan Arbogast

March 27, 2003 — 7 p.m. South Fox Island Sand Dunes, Great Lakes Dunes, and Coastal Wetlands by Dennis Albert of the Michigan Natural Features Inventory

March 1, 2003 — WREN Workshop Creating a Natural Landscape. Muskegon area. Call for information: 231.773.0008 or 231.773.0129.

April 13, 2003 — Huron River Clean-up by Canoe — Ann Arbor area. 10:00 to 2:00, participation is limited. Register with David Fanslow at 734.741.2353 or dave.fanslow@noaa.gov

Bee My Valentine!
The annual meeting of the Wildflower Association of Michigan will be held during the annual conference on Sunday afternoon at 3:00 P.M. The election of three members to the board of directors will be of primary importance. Three directors are up for re-election: Amy Sue Anne Yeip, Cheryl Smith Tolley, and Marvin Cooley. Cheryl Tolley and Marvin Cooley indicated they would seek re-election. Amy Yeip has decided not to run this time in order to devote more time to her family.

We would like to thank Amy for all her hard work during the time she has served on the board. She was responsible for negotiating our partnership with the Glassen Foundation and administering the Education Grant Program as well as organizing and coordinating three Teachers’ Workshops. We wish Amy a very happy time with her family.

The slate of candidates for the three board seats as reported by the nominating committee is: Cheryl Smith Tolley, Marvin Cooley, and Robert Krueger. Their biographies follow. Nominations will be accepted from the floor before the election.

Cheryl Smith Tolley
Cheryl Tolley has been a charter member since 1988. She joined the board of directors in 1993 and became conference chairman in 1995, continuing up to the present. Cheryl has attended every conference since 1987 except for the one held in Detroit. She collected and counted the votes for the state wildflower campaign started by Marty Hair in 1997. Personal information: BA in Psychology/Spanish from Western Michigan University; MBA from Aquinas College, Grand Rapids; employed as a professional gardener for 10 years; owns and has operated Sandhill Farm for 6 years; former director Operation Wildflower for Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan; past president of two Kent County garden clubs; former Director of Kent County Conservation District; Grattan Township Planning Commissioner, Wetlands and Stormwater Sub-committees; Advanced Master Gardener, Kent County, with 750 volunteer hours; coordinated the planting of the Harry and Elin Doehne Wildflower Meadow at the Frederik Meijer Gardens.

Robert Krueger
Bob Krueger joined WAM in 1996 and has attended four annual conferences. He is a professor of pharmacognosy in the College of Pharmacy at Ferris State University, joining the faculty in 1975. He has a BS in Pharmacy (U. Conn.) and earned his PhD from the U. of Iowa. His teaching encompasses natural product medicinal agents, botanical and other dietary supplements, and toxic plants. He is the director of the FSU Kazerovskis Medicinal Plant Garden and Greenhouse. His research is in alkaloid and enzyme production in plant cell cultures, the investigation of Amazonian plants for bioactive compounds, and most recently has completed with Steve Ross a survey of the plants found along the White Pine Trail (rails-to-trails linear park) in Mecosta County. He is the director of the FSU Kazerovskis Medicinal Plant Garden and Greenhouse. His research is in alkaloid and enzyme production in plant cell cultures, the investigation of Amazonian plants for bioactive compounds, and most recently has completed with Steve Ross a survey of the plants found along the White Pine Trail (rails-to-trails linear park) in Mecosta County. He has numerous publications and presentations to his credit and is a member of a variety of professional/scientific/service organizations, currently serving as an officer in several of these. He and his wife Beth live in Big Rapids and have two adult daughters; Laura, a UM grad and entomologist on the west coast, and Allison, an MSU grad and entomologist on the west coast, and Allison, an MSU grad and entomologist on the west coast, and Allison, an MSU grad and entomologist on the west coast, and Allison, an MSU grad and entomologist on the west coast, and Allison, an MSU grad and entomologist on the west coast, and Allison, an MSU grad and entomologist on the west coast. He served as Supervisor of Federal Aid’s Pittman-Robertson Project for development and management of state game and wildlife areas in project documentation, recognizing threatened and endangered plants and animals and their habitats, in management and development. Marvin is a long-time member of the Greater Lansing Orchid Society, currently serving on the Conservation Committee concerned with orchids and their habitats, rescuing plants, and establishing demonstration gardens of native orchids at several Michigan nature centers. He helped develop the Beautification Committee for Bath Township/Clinton County, serving as president for several years. He is now actively involved with the Bengal Nature Center in Bath.

Marvin Cooley
Marvin Cooley earned a B.S. degree from Michigan State College (now M.S.U.) in Forestry and Wildlife Management in 1940. He then continued with graduate studies in Zoology Wildlife Management. He was employed for 45 years in the Game/Wildlife Division of Conservation, DNR, as a wildlife biologist in General Wildlife Management and Wildlife Research.

We welcome your comments and ideas. If you have an item you would like discussed at this annual meeting, please send it to our secretary by February 14, 2003: Val Reed, 8265 White Rabbit Road, Battle Creek MI 49017 or e-mail to vfrrabbit@aol.com.
REGIONAL REPORTS

We’ve heard from Regions 1, 3, and 4 for this issue of Regional Reports and we’d like to get all of you involved! We’d love to hear from your conservation districts, Wild Ones chapters, state and national forest representatives, the DNR and MDOT, etc.—as well as private individuals. We know exciting things are happening everywhere—we just need someone to tell us about it! Please send your reports to Kathy Johnson by e-mail (kathy@voyager.net) or U.S. mail to 11155 Hastings Point Road, Middleville, MI 49333. We look forward to hearing from you before the spring newsletter deadline of March 15!

Correction
Lauri LaBumbard (Marquette Conservation District) contacted the editors requesting a correction in her report (Fall 2002 issue). All seed collected in the Hiawatha National Forest is used for restoration within the forest. Seed offered for sale through the conservation district is from local growers.

Region 1—Upper Peninsula
Lauri LaBumbard, Central U.P. Wild Ones
The Central Upper Peninsula Chapter of Wild Ones, Natural Landscapers, held its annual meeting in December. We featured a presentation of our year in review, handed out some awards, and began planning for 2003!

Activities for 2002 included a Garden Design workshop (over 60 attended!), plant rescue (mostly blazing star), invasive plant pull (mostly St. John’s-wort), tour of native gardens, a canoe/kayak trip down the Escanaba River to view alvar ecosystems, and establishment of several native garden sites in the cities of Gladstone and Escanaba.

Awards were given to Kip Ahola (Special Recognition), Erica Tauer (Youth Award), and out-going chapter president Jim Lempke (Leadership Award).

We brainstormed many ideas for activities in 2003, including a youth conservation camp, “day camp” for adults, a Web site, demo garden, and a number of field trips. At our January meeting, we’ll whittle the ideas down to an actual schedule.

Region 3—Southwest L.P.
Monica Rappaport, Barry Conservation District
We’re pleased to announce that we have hired a new ground water technician, Kim Walton, who will serve both Barry and Eaton Counties.

In other news... The BCD Endowment is growing. Contributions can be made through the Barry Community Foundation, earmarked for the conservation district. We’re busy developing a new Landowner Kit, which will provide landowners with resources to help them enhance their property value through best management practices. And we’re continuing to build and strengthen the Barry County Resource Alliance, an alliance of organizations within the county that has as its mission to make a positive influence on land-use, natural resources, agriculture and economic development.

Steven J. Royer, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve
Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve has received the first installment of $12,500 from the Hanes Trust Foundation to help start a biodiversity study of its nature preserve. This will be the first time in its 40-year history that Fernwood has attempted to systematically inventory the vegetation of its 55-acre preserve. The purpose of the study is to help address management of conservation of natural areas as well as the threat of invasive species.

On March 22, Fernwood is hosting a Wildlife Encounter, sponsored by MUCC, entitled Valuable Wetlands. This event will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Space is limited, so please call ahead to reserve your seat—269.695.6491.

Tom and Nancy Small, Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones
Wild Ones, Kalamazoo Area Chapter, are naturalizing their own yards and helping the Kalamazoo Audubon Society and Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy care for lands under their protection. Wild Ones are also working, often in conjunction with others, on several community projects. These include a demonstration plot in Kalamazoo’s Crane Park, a wetland planting along Axtell Creek (with Kalamazoo Greenspaces, the City of Kalamazoo, and a federal watershed-management project), planting and maintenance at the Southwest Michigan
Susan Holmes, Senior Educator, NWF Great Lakes Natural Resource Center will present “ Widening the Classroom's Walls: Schoolyard Wildlife Habitats and other National Wildlife Federation Resources for K-12 Educators.” This presentation offers a unique perspective on how student-driven schoolyard habitats and other conservation action projects inspire, excite, and build student pride in their accomplishments and their communities. Case studies, recommended strategies and educational resources will be introduced.

Dan Keto, Nature Up Close Camp Director, Kalamazoo Nature Center

In this session, we will explore the ways natural areas can be used as fun learning stations. See the magic that happens when you combine a popular children's book with your natural area. Play with props that bring the plants alive. Spend time brainstorming creative ways to use your schoolyard habitat successfully. Pick your school subject and get ready to learn!

Marilyn Wyzga, author of Project HOME, will keynote Teachers' Workshop

Keynote speaker for the Teachers' Workshop is Marilyn Wyzga, coordinator of “Project HOME,” the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department’s award-winning schoolyard habitat program. Ms. Wyzga authored the curriculum guide, Homes for Wildlife, and developed the training program that has engaged schools in wildlife habitat practices for the past 12 years. Her passion for native plants drew her to study with the New England Wild Flower Society and to accept a seat on the board of Wild Ones Natural Landscapers.

Project HOME is a program for wildlife habitat enhancement in the schoolyard. At its core is student action for wildlife. Students learn while in the landscape of their school grounds, have a positive impact on wildlife and habitat, and carry these experiences forward as they become the voting citizens of the future. Project HOME grew out of demand from New England teachers who wanted guidance for more real-life activities—centered on wildlife and habitat—and schoolyard based. The resulting program consists of the curriculum guide, Homes for Wildlife, and a training workshop for teachers and community members. Together, these provide the specific information, tools and resources to support a school's habitat enhancement efforts.

Project HOME emphasizes a team approach; this partnership for wildlife forms the essential structure that defines the success of such a large-scale undertaking. Members of the broader school community participate in the workshop and follow-up sessions. More livable communities are created through increased awareness of the benefits of healthy habitat, and the actual enhancement of habitat on the school grounds. This usually entails incorporating native vegetation and water sources onto the site. Community members share their wildlife expertise with the schools; many are then inspired to enhance their own lands. Improved wildlife habitat extends to the school's children, staff and neighbors.

Jeannine Palms and the Super Swampers are coming to our Teachers' Workshop to tell what they learned about storm water and how to manage it. “Those kids know more about water quality than most adults,” says Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner Janis Bobrin, who will also speak at the conference on Sunday afternoon.

Three students, an adult volunteer, and Palms will use their PowerPoint presentation to show the teachers attending the workshop how the Buhr Park Children’s Wet Meadow in Ann Arbor was created and is maintained.

The group of 25 youths who call themselves “Super Swampers,” range from preschoolers to early high school students, all of whom are currently attending or are alumni of Palms’ Blossom Home Preschool. They meet twice a month, stay in regular touch by e-mail, and have been featured in two Detroit Free Press articles (to read the articles go to http://www.freep.com/features/living/palms30_20021230.htm). According to an article by Free Press Garden Writer Marty Hair, “They have presented talks and skits at churches and schools, including the University of Michigan, to teach others how their wetland garden collects and filters rain and snow so it trickles more slowly into the groundwater. That process has reduced the amount and velocity of water draining into nearby Malletts Creek and, ultimately, the Huron River.”

The wet meadow was started ten years ago when Palms led the students on a walk from her preschool, adjacent to Buhr Park, to Malletts Creek. The youngsters picked up litter and talked about the plants and animals that lived there. On subsequent visits they learned why the water was muddy after it rained. By talking with nearby residents they learned about a wet meadow that used to be there. One thing led to another and eventually, through much fundraising, hard work, many volunteer hours writing grant requests, and getting city approval, the wet meadow was started. The project was so successful that their goal now is to expand this wet meadow and build two more.

The presentation on The Buhr Park Children’s Wet Meadow Project will include an overview of the history and purposes of the project; how it has evolved and continues to grow; who has been involved, the impacts on those involved, the community and the environment; and possibilities for replication with particular emphasis on ways teachers can involve students in related environmental projects. Time for questions and answers will be included.
Book Review by Cheryl Smith Tolley


William Cullina
Houghton Mifflin Company NY 2002
Approximately $40.00

Those of you who heard Bill Cullina speak on propagating wildflowers at last year’s conference are familiar with his pleasant, informative style. His new book follows the same format as his previous book, Growing and Propagating Wildflowers. In it, the author shares his personal relationships with the plants we all love. Describing humorous scenarios, he tells the reader of his experiences, positive and negative. The first section of the book gives an overview of the basics -- light, soil, temperatures, transplanting, pruning and diseases -- with descriptions easy enough for a beginner to understand, welcome “refreshers” for the more advanced gardener.

The second section is an extensive encyclopedia of plants, including growth requirements, native range and ornamental characteristics, along with fascinating “nuggets” of information about each plant. The third section thoroughly details the information necessary for successful propagation.

Appendices include site suggestions and uses; alternatives to invasive species; sources of nursery-propagated plants; and native plant societies, including our very own Wildflower Association of Michigan. As I was reading this book, I felt that I was back at last year’s conference having another delightful chat with the author. The book is very easy reading, while jam-packed with information. Be sure to look for it for sale at one of the booths at the WAM conference!

Update from MIPC
(Michigan Invasive Plant Council)

By Libby Rice

Our first Michigan Invasive Plant Council newsletter was sent out in November; then next will go out in March or April. The second annual MIPC Symposium, which took place in January, was held in conjunction with the Michigan Landscape and Nursery Association’s Great Lakes Exhibition. We had three informative days of sessions on invasive plant issues of concern to people in the nursery, landscaping, and plant grower sectors of Michigan’s “green industries.” This venue allowed us to interact with members of the $250 million green industry, to share information and experience vital to the challenge of dealing with invasive plant concerns in Michigan, and to encourage participation by that industry in the MIPC.

We at MIPC would like to call attention to “National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week,” sponsored by the North American Weed Management Association. This event will be held in Washington D.C. February 24th – 28th for organizations and individuals who support invasive weed management and ecosystem restoration. For more information log on to www.nawma.org then click on the NIWAW link.

We invite anyone with an interest in invasive plants to attend the MIPC’s quarterly meetings. Our upcoming schedule:

March 13 in Mt. Pleasant, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

June 24 in Gaylord, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (to include a field trip to a leafy spurge site)

For details, contact me at (517) 438-5641 or elizabeth.rice@mngb.army.mil

For MIPC membership information, please visit our web site http://forestry.msu.edu/mipc/

Michigan Badboyz
Top 11 Invasive Plants in Michigan

Bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculatus)
Buckthorn, common (Rhamnus cathartica)
Buckthorn, glossy (Rhamnus frangula)
Dame’s rocket (Hesperis matronalis)
Garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolata [officinalis])
Honeysuckle (Lonicera spp. [tartarica])
Periwinkle (Vinca minor)
Phragmites australis (Phragmites australis)
Purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria)
Sweet-clover, white (Melilotus alba)
Sweet-clover, yellow (Melilotus officinalis)

To see photographs of these invasive plants, go to the MIPC Web site at http://forestry.msu.edu/mipc/MI-badboyz/Directory.htm
Regional Reports
Continued from Page 6, Column 2

Land Conservancy office, and plantings at the Keka Preserve east of town. Preserve owners, Jim and Lois Richmond, have generously given our chapter use of part of the preserve for native plantings, storage of rescued plants, and field trips. We’ve gone to semiannual, as opposed to annual, plant exchanges; the next one is scheduled for May.

Kathy Evans, Muskegon Conservation District
The Muskegon Conservation District coordinates a lot of hands-on activities that involve native plants. We also work with a number of organizations on the annual Creating a Natural Landscape conference, to be held this year on March 1 at Muskegon Community College. (You must pre-register by calling the conservation district office at 231.773.0008 or 231.773.0129 – please do not call MCC! There are no walk-ins.) The keynote speaker, Dr. Jerry Wilhelm, of The Conservation Design Forum, will discuss native plants and land development in the context of the laws of our natural world. Jim Meunick will discuss edible native plants, including nutritional and medicinal qualities and ease of growing. Conference break-out sessions will include changing your lawn to a natural landscape, managing stormwater with rain gardens, organic landscape management, and using trees and shrubs. (Beginning next year, the conference will be held in the fall.)

MCD’s 63rd annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale is currently underway. Contact us at the above phone number by February 3rd to request a catalog; orders may be placed until March 1st. April 19 is MCD’s annual Tree Day. Between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. visitors can pick up their orders or purchase native tree and shrub seedlings, native seeds and other planting materials. Natural resource professionals will be on hand to discuss questions and land management topics. Exhibits, free information, as well as free testing for nitrates and atrazine in groundwater by the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship drinking water lab. For more information, please call 231.773.0008.

Pamela Larson, Development Specialist
Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy has, to date, protected over 3,200 acres—a huge milestone! We’re planning a major outreach along the lakeshore this summer to reach the people who live and vacation there. We’ve got many workdays and field trips planned this year. And we’re available for presentations to garden clubs and other groups—we’ve got five presentations already lined up for February and March. Call us at 269.324.1600 for more information on upcoming workdays and field trips. On April 24, we’ll hold our annual meeting, the SWMLC Conservation Celebration, on the campus of Kalamazoo Valley Community College, at 6:30 p.m. We’ll have an exciting speaker at that event who will address land use issues, among other topics.

Region 4—Southeast L.P.

Jason Frenzel, Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation, Natural Area Preservation Division
Go native and create a natural community in your own backyard! A new supply of general native landscaping brochures geared toward Southern Michigan, Your Landscape and Our Natural Areas, and four detailed brochures are available from the Natural Area Preservation Division of the Ann Arbor Department of Parks and Recreation. Written with the home landscaper in mind, each brochure provides tips and useful information on creating a native plant garden. Along with descriptions of native plants, information is included about natural habitat, site tolerance, plant height, bloom time, color and other ornamental features.

Brochures are $1.00 each and can be purchased from the

Individual natural landscaping brochures include Native Shrubs; Native Trees; Native Vines, Grasses, Sedges, and Ferns; and Native Wildflowers.

Leslie Science Center, the Ann Arbor City Hall or by phone. Call 734.996.3266 for information and an order form.

The Ann Arbor Volunteer Park Stewards have received the MRPA Award, a community service award from the Michigan Recreation and Park Association! Their combined 800 hours of service to Ann Arbor’s parks, as well as the assistance they have given to Natural Area Preservation, the Parks Department, the city, and other park users is an inspiration. They are owed a much-deserved pat on the back, thank you!

Please see “Regional Reports” on Page 11
Director of Plant Conservation

Continued from Page 1, Column 3

Center. WAM is pleased to welcome Wild Ones to our conference and host this meeting. Mr. Powelka will address the joint session on Sunday with his presentation Why Natives, Why Wild Ones.

Federal Highway Administration restoration ecologist Bonnie Harper-Lore, another long-time advocate for native plants—especially along our nation’s roadsides—is coming in from Minneapolis. Bonnie, a landscape architect, has been advocating the use of native plants and wildflowers along our federal highways and in federally funded projects for ten years. She will present The Practical and Political World of Roadsides: The need for an integrated vegetation management approach to the care of roadsides on Sunday. Monday she will lead off the joint session with Native Wildflowers on Roadsides, Why Not? This will include native wildflowers, Lady Bird’s intent, what really happened and why, and where to in the future. Her duties with the FHA Department of Transportation include reviewing landscape plans; performing site reviews of upcoming highway construction to offer recommendations for plantings; and reviewing landscape, revegetation, erosion control planting specifications. Bonnie also edits Greener Roadsides Newsletter. She is co-editor of Roadside Use of Native Plants, 2000. Island Press. ♥

Show & Tell

Continued from Page 3, Column 2

project, e-mail or call Cheryl Tolley at cherylt@iserv.net or 616.691.8214. Typical subjects might be landscaping, gardens, propagating plants, preparing ground for a garden or prairie, planting or maintaining a prairie, and ground cover projects. Are you involved in a natural habitat at your child’s school? What better way to show that off than with a picture presentation? Examples of less typical projects that would be acceptable would be making a quilt using wildflower designs or images, photographing wildflowers, or even painting wildflowers. Be creative!

We will gather Sunday evening in room Big Ten A—where we have our luncheons and exhibits—to display our projects. Each participant will have a table on which to display the poster or scrapbook. Then the rest of the group will wander around visiting each table networking and learning about these great projects.

The posters can be placed flat on the table or propped up with the aid of an attached cardboard easel. Or use a 3-pack of 20 x 30 inch foam board, taped together to form a triangle, eliminating the need for the easel stands. Several manufacturers make restickable glue sticks that work very well to hold pictures to a poster board or foam board. These panels will fold into each other to protect photos and make for an easy-to-carry package. You must provide your own easels or other means of propping up your poster.

Snacks will be provided. Your only cost will be for purchases from a cash bar. We hope to learn a great deal from each other at this event and have a fun time doing it! ♥

I Didn’t Know That!

Continued from Page 2, Column 3

that appear from these non-flowering, immature corms provide the developing corm with food. The threads are valuable to the environment, in that they help to provide structure to the woodland floor.

Marsh marigolds (Caltha palustris) give a golden glow to swamps and wet area mid-April to mid-May. These plants have an amazing ability to grow in the middle of streams. They put down solid roots before the rising of stream waters, and are thus prepared for the onslaught of late spring’s rushing waters.

I love to see the looks on people’s faces when they see Jack-in-the-pulpit (Arisaema triphyllum) for the first time! The plant, an arum, can be found in April and May in wooded areas. The spathe (“pulpit”) holds the spadix (“Jack”). In August and September the mature, female plants produce a cluster of vivid red-orange berries, savored by woodland birds.

Most people recognize the trio of leaves, petals and sepal of large-flowered trillium (Trillium grandiflorum). Blossoms appear on these graceful woodland plants in late April to mid-May. On many occasions I’ve been lucky enough to see large colonies of large-flowered trillium brightening up the wooded roadsides along Route 77 between Blaney Park and Seney—what a treat!

I hope you find this information helpful in your search for Michigan’s phenomenal bounty of spring wildflowers, Lucy. Happy hunting!

—Kathryn Lund Johnson

Please e-mail your questions to Kathy Johnson at kathyj@voyager.net
Business & Organization Member Directory

Ann Arbor Parks Department, Natural Areas Preservation Div. Dave Borneman, 1831 Traver Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Phone: 734.966.3266, e-mail: dborneman@ci.annarbor.mi.us. Publications: Native Plants and Your Landscape & Natural Areas brochures for southeast Michigan.

Creekside Herbs & Art
Wendy Wagner, Les Cheneaux Islands, 753 N. Blindline Road, Cedarville, MI 49719. 906.484.2415. e-mail: creekside@cedarville.net. Family-owned business in U.P. Renovated barn, display gardens, and nature trails along creek in ancient white pines. Creekside strives to provide education, market hand crafted items by local artisans, supply earth-friendly products and herbal plants. Features Michigan plants and artisans when available. <www.creekside-herbs.com>.

Edison Environmental Science Academy
924 Russel Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. 269.337.0550. K-6 public magnet school in partnership with the Kalamazoo Nature Center providing an integrated environmental science curriculum in three science labs, a year-round greenhouse, and many different outdoor learning areas.

Gaia Grass
Jean and Craig Weirich, 3947 E. St. Joe, Grand Ledge, MI 48837. 517.627.7927, e-mail: weirichj@aol.com. Early stages of native grass seed production.

J.F. New & Associates and J.F. New Native Plant Nursery
Ed Spanopoulos, Client Relations, 708 Roosevelt Road, Walkerton, IN 46574 574.586.3400 (office), e-mail: espanopoulos@jfnewcom or 574.586.2412 (nursery). Fax: 574.586.3446. Ecological Restoration Specialists: wetland scientists and environmental engineers for creation, restoration and enhancement of natural areas, wetlands, prairies, and woodlands. <www.jfnewcom>

Kalamazoo Nature Center
Randy Grey, 7000 N. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49004 • 269.381.4682, e-mail: rgrey@naturecenter.org. The mission of this not-for-profit organization is to inspire people to care for the environment by providing experiences that lead them to understand their connection to the natural world. Each year the Nature Center reaches nearly 200,000 individuals through its many programs in education, research, and conservation both on and off-site. <www.naturecenter.org>.

Kinross Correctional Facility
Neil Moran, 16770 Watertower Drive, Kincelhoe MI 49087 • 906.495.2282

Michigan Meadow Perennials
Natalie Hockamier, 2074 Brook Trails Court SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508-2654. 616.451.2732, e-mail: nhockamier@aol.com. Native Michigan wildflowers and grasses. Plants available at Fulton Street Farmer’s Market in Grand Rapids.

Michigan Wildflower Farm
Esther Durwold, 11770 Cutler Road, Portland, MI 48875. 517.647.6010, fax: 517.647.6072, e-mail: wildflowers@voyager.net. Producers of premium native Michigan wildflower and grass seed. Consulting and installing services available. Call for free seed catalog. Member MNPPA. <www.michiganwildflowerfarm.com>

Native Connections
Jerry Stewart, 62791 Shaffer Road, Constantine, MI 49042 • Cell: 269.580.4765, Home/Fax: 269.435.2208, e-mail: jerry/nativeconnections.net. Professional Native Plant Establishment and “Seeding Specialists” 15+ years experience: seeding services—Truax no-till and bare soil seeding. Planning and site management—analysis and prep, species selection, management plans, prescribed burning. Wetland enhancement—seeding and plugging, mitigation, pond edge vegetation, detention/retention basins. Shoreline stabilization—pond, stream and shoreline, vegetation, biologs, vegetated seawalls, and on-site consultations and coaching.

Native Plant Nursery
Mike Apel and Greg Vaclavek, P.O. Box 7841, Ann Arbor, MI 48101 • 734.994.9592. E-mail: plants/nativeplant.com or www.nativeplant.com. Native perennial plants, native plant landscaping and ecological restoration. Member MNPPA.

Nativescape LLC
Chris Leh, P.O. Box 122, Manchester, MI 48158 • 517.456.9696, e-mail: chris@nativescape.net. Michigan genotype native seed—catalog available. Natural landscape design, ecological consultation, restoration, habitat creation and land management; presentations and slide shows. <www.nativescape.net>.

Nesta Prairie Perennials
Stephan Kerno, Van Bochove’s Florist & Greenhouse, 1019 Miller Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49001 800.233.5025 or 269.343.1659. Fax: 269.343.0768. Native perennial plants. Unselected native genotypes from the Great Lakes Region. Specializing in prairie, savanna, wetland grasses and forbs. Plug flats, quarts, and larger sizes available. Member MNPPA.

Overby Farm
Nursery at 3375 E. Overby Rd., Lake Leelanau, MI 49653. Contact: Robert Adams, 248.594.9187, Box 101, Bloomfield Twp., MI 48313. E-mail: adamgarden@comcast.net.

R. Vix Kennedy, Inc.
Vix Kennedy, 7362 High Hill Drive, Brighton, MI 48816. 810-231-3419, e-mail: mdvk@ismi.net. Landscape design and consultation in all areas of horticulture and arboriculture, <www.horthelp.com>.

Raven Hill Discovery Center
Cheri and Tim Leach, 04737 Fuller Road, East Jordan, MI 49727. 231.536.3369, fax: 231.536.0132, e-mail: rhdc@voyager.net. Hands-on museum with emphasis on science, history and the arts. Ravin Hill offers school field trips, special events for all ages, professional development for teachers, summer classes, scout activities, and is open to the general public.

Sandhill Farm
Cheryl Smith Tolley, 11250 10 Mile Road, Rockford, MI 49341. 616.691.8214, fax: 616.691.7872, e-mail: cherylt@iservnet.com. Call for free mail order catalog. Open by appointment. Licensed Michigan Native Plant Dealer. Michigan native forbs—woodland & wetland, and grasses. Member MNPPA.

Truax Company, Inc.
Jim Truax, 4821 Xerxes Avenue, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430. 763.537.6639, fax: 763.537.8353, e-mail: Truax@pclink.com. Manufacturers of native grass and wildflower seeding equipment. Customized grass and grain drills to meet your needs and site
Wildflowers Newsletter

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Regional Reports
Continued from Page 8, Column 2

Huron River Clean-Up Day is a good excuse for some canoeing! This annual event will be held on Saturday, April 13. Volunteers will travel by canoe in teams to collect trash from the river. The planner of this event, David Fanslow, is a local scientist, canoeist, and fisherman. He has been cleaning up the Huron and helping others do so for the past decade.

Dolph Nature Area To Grow! Thanks to a $688,000 grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, an additional 18.2 acres surrounding Second Sister Lake in Ann Arbor will soon be added to the 57.5-acre park. This will protect the remaining undeveloped land surrounding Second Sister, and provide for a trail connection between Dolph and Lakewood Nature Areas. It will also greatly increase access to Second Sister Lake, and provide access to Dolph from Liberty Road. This is the second time the city has submitted an application for this parcel. We’re thrilled at the chance to make this valuable addition to the park system. We’ll let you know when the deal is complete and the land is available for use by the public.

Hepatica (Hepatica americana)

Photo by Kathryn Lund Johnson
The next quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors is Wednesday, January 29, 2003, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., Hancock Turf Center (Farm Lane and Mt. Hope), Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. Members are always welcome.

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