2005 Michigan Wildflower Conference declared a resounding success

One of our all-time favorite speakers, Frederick W. Case, Jr., autographs Trilliums, the book he co-authored with his late wife, Roberta B. Case, for Jan Hunter of Naturally Native Nursery. Fred presented the program “In Search of the American Pitcher Plants” on Sunday morning to a full house.

Can we, ever so modestly, say the 2005 Michigan Wildflower Conference had it all? We certainly had great speakers, great weather, and great vendors and exhibitors! We made some changes to our agenda and, for the first time, placed the keynote speaker during the regular sessions instead of during the Monday luncheon.

All our speakers were extremely well received. C. Colston Burrell talked about ferns on Sunday and gave the keynote address, “Native Plants and Ecological Design: Myths and Realities,” on Monday. Cheryl Lowe came from the New England Wild Flower Society to present “Planting Conservation in the Landscape.” Craig Tufts from NWF, who was our keynote speaker in 1996, returned to give the Educators’ Workshop keynote address, and to present “Backyard Biodiversity: Repairing the Links Using Native Plants,” at the general session. And our own Michigan favorite, Frederick W. Case, Jr., returned to talk about his...
Dear Wildflowers:

I recently heard the term, *vernal pool*, and it made me curious. What exactly is a *vernal pool*, and what makes it newsworthy?

Travis in Traverse City

Dear Travis:

Your question is perfect for the spring issue of *Wildflowers*... and you’ve hit on one of my favorite topics!

Have you ever strolled in the same woods in different seasons and noticed that a pond you saw earlier was there no longer? Lucky you! You have most likely happened onto a very special micro-environment called a *vernal pool*.

The term, *vernal*, means “occurring in the season of spring.” By late summer these pools are usually—but not always—dry. One of the crucial characteristics of a *vernal pool* is that, because it is not permanently wet, it is unable to support fish populations. The absence of fish makes the pool a safe breeding site for the species who inhabit it. These species are referred to as *obligate*, or *indicator* species, and they must be present for a wetland to be categorized as a *vernal pool*.

As explained in *A Field Guide to the Animals of Vernal Pools*, a wonderful little book by Leo P. Kenney and Matthew R. Burke, *vernal pools* are defined as “a wide variety of temporary, fish-free wetlands. In the narrow sense, (they are) temporary wetlands which fill each spring and dry annually. Few of our pools (however), meet this standard; most fill in the fall or winter and many...larger *vernal pools* persist for several years before drying. The (most common definition) of *vernal pool* refers to temporary wetlands, regardless of when they fill or dry—as long as they (support the obligate species).”

In Michigan, generally speaking, the obligate species are the wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*), western chorus frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*), eastern gray treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*), Cope’s gray treefrog (*Hyla chrysoscelis*), American toad (*Bufo americanus*), Fowler’s toad (*Bufo woodhousii fowleri*), fairy shrimp (*Eubranchipus spp.*), and four species of salamander: blue-spotted (*Ambystoma laterale*), small-mouthed (*Ambystoma texanum*), spotted (*Ambystoma maculatum*), and four-toed (*Hemidactylium scutatum*).

*Vernal pools* in Michigan are home to obligate, or indicator, species including frogs, toads, fairy shrimp, and salamanders. This *vernal pool* is protected on property owned by Larry West.

Editor’s note: We have two vernal ponds in the woods back of our house that give us great enjoyment. Very early one morning this spring we watched a great horned owl splashing in the pond taking a bath. After what seemed like an extraor-dinarily long time washing, it flew up to the top of an old stump and preened its feathers. We felt thrilled to witness such an event.

Marji Fuller
Association News & Views

President’s Note

Since the conference, I have started this President’s Note several times. References to the weather, hotter than normal, colder than normal, have gotten me in trouble, since as soon as they were written, the weather changed. Now, spring (or is it more like summer?) has really arrived and the fast forward button has been pushed.

Jewel Richardson and Esther Durnwald, your new 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, respectively, have been hard at work on the 2006 Wildflower Conference. They have an exciting line-up of speakers, including Carolyn Harstad of the Indiana Wildflower Society; Andy Wasowski, author of The Landscape Revolution; our own Dr. Robert Krueger on medicinal plants; plus many more. Mark the dates, March 5 and 6, 2006, now.

Patti Travioli will be the registrar for the 2006 conference, taking over from Marilyn Case, who is on to other projects. Two new board members, Jean Weirich and Susan Baldyga-Grubb have stepped forward to take the Treasurer and Secretary positions. We are all looking forward to working with them in the coming year.

Please take some time and visit your local nature center—our favorite spring wildflowers are blooming. Many nature centers are having plant sales and you can purchase some of your favorites for your own garden.

Best wishes, Cheryl Tolley

Help Wanted!

We are looking for a Managing Editor and several contributing editors for our Wildflowers Newsletter. This person will be responsible for content—gathering/writing articles—to fill each issue in preparation for type-setting and printing. Kathy and Marji will help through the transition. If you are interested in any phase of publishing our newsletter, contact Cheryl Tolley at cherylt@iserv.net or phone 616.691.8214.

Calendar—Spring/Summer 2005

North Woods Native Plant Society (western U.P.)

June 4 - Haystack Mountain Botany Trip as part of Ottawa National Forest Breeding Bird Census. Doug Welker and Ian Shackelford

June 18 - Round Lake, Price County (near Fifield, WI). Dorringer estate - invasive species, discussion of historical vs. native landscapes. Quita Sheehan

July 9 - Botany and Archeology at Norwich Bluff/Mine, North Country Trail (Ewen, MI). Ian Shackelford, botanist; with archeologist Loreen Lomax; and Norwich Mine expert, Charlene Jordan

July 30 - Plum Lake old growth, vernal ponds (Saynor, WI). Colleen Matula

Aug 20 - Day Lake (Boulder Junction, WI), deep, low-nutrient lake contrasted with last year’s Aurora Lake (shallow, rich marsh), optional cookout. Sandy Engel, Colleen Matula

September 10 - North East Ridge (Bergland, MI), 6-mile off-trail hike with Doug Welker and Steve Garske

September 24 - Public Lands Day—barberry bush removal from Robbins Pond Campground (Watersmeet, MI) with Ian Shackelford 906.358.1330, x-508

For additional information, contact Sherry Zoars at <thezoars@excite.com>.

Other events in which WAM members may be interested:

June 3, 4, 5 - Breeding Bird Census for the Ottawa National Forest - Nesbitt Lake CCC camp near Sidnaw. For more information go to: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ottawa/forest_management/wildlife/index.html

June 4 and 5 - Plants of the Keweenaw workshop with Janet Marr, sponsored by the Gratiot Lake Conservancy. For information go to: http://www.mlswa.org/Gratiot-Lake-1508/Botany05.htm

June 10, 11, 12 - Breeding Bird Census for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. For information go to: http://www.uwgb.edu/birds/nf/news.htm

June 30 – 7:00 pm (Central Time) - Rare Wildflowers of the Ottawa National Forest with Ian Shackelford at the Ottawa Visitor Center, Watersmeet, MI (intersection of U.S. Routes 2 and 45)

Contact Sherry Zoars at <thezoars@excite.com> for more information.

Please see “Spring/Summer Calendar” on Page 7
REGIONAL REPORTS

We're hearing from some of you with information you want to share in Regional Reports, and we'd like to get more of you involved! We'd love to hear from conservation districts, Wild Ones chapters, state and national forest representatives, the DNR and MDOT, local nature centers, 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 (klundjohnson@charter.net) or U.S. mail to 11155 Hastings Point Road, Middleville, MI 49333. We look forward to hearing from you before the next newsletter!

REGION 3 — SOUTHWEST

Mecosta and Osceola-Lake Conservation Districts — Charmaine Lucas reports . . .

The Mecosta and Osceola-Lake conservation districts will hold their annual native plants presentation and sale on Friday, June 3, 2005. Vern Stephens, owner of Designs by Nature, will give the presentation, “Backyard Landscaping with Native Plants,” from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The plant sale will follow, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Both will take place at the Boy Scout Building in downtown Reed City and are being sponsored by the Reed City Garden Club. To receive a detailed flier with plant list and map, call the Mecosta Conservation District at 231.796.0909, ext. 3, or Osceola-Lake Conservation District at 231.832.2950.

The Land Conservancy of West Michigan — Doug Powless reports . . .

The Land Conservancy of West Michigan needs outdoor volunteers to help eradicate garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, European buckthorn, and other non-native invasive plants from our nature preserves this spring and summer. The LCWM works to conserve lands in seven counties of West Michigan (Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, southern Lake, and northern Allegan). We work with local residents and communities to establish new nature preserves, conservation easements, and public parklands. Volunteers for outdoor work should contact Doug Powless, Science & Stewardship Director at doug@naturenearby.org or 616.451.9476.

Muskegon Conservation District—

Rebecca Bieneman reports . . .

The Muskegon Conservation District will be sponsoring the second annual Native Wildflowers, Grasses and Shrubs Consignment Sale to help support the Creating a Natural Landscape Conference and committee. The public is invited to stop in and shop the beautiful wildflowers, grasses, and shrubs in varying sizes and varieties on Saturday, June 4, 2005 from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. (while quantities last) at 1001 E. Wesley Ave. in Muskegon. This is a wonderful opportunity for individual homeowners and gardeners to purchase those hard-to-find Michigan native plant species for use in their landscapes. The event will also prove to be a great opportunity for individuals to network with other gardeners in the area who are already using native plants in their landscapes, and to speak with the Creating a Natural Landscape committee members regarding questions about native plants and landscape design. The plants available will be in a variety of sizes, ranging from individual plug sizes and quart size pots up to one-gallon pots. For more information, call Rebecca Bieneman or Jeff Auch of the Muskegon Conservation District at 231.773.0008.

REGION 4 — SOUTHEAST

Michigan Audubon to offer tours to view endangered bird — Jeanette Henderson reports . . .

Have you ever wanted to see Michigan’s world-famous, endangered songbird—the Kirtland’s Warbler? How about other hard to find native songbirds? The Michigan Audubon Society, in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will be leading free tours to view the Kirtland’s Warbler from the Grayling Holiday Inn between May 15 and July 4, 2005. Tours depart daily at 7:00 A.M. and 11 A.M., and give participants their best chance of seeing this unique bird.

In addition, Michigan Audubon Society will also be leading specialty birding tours to three other destinations in northern Michigan, including Tawas Point State Park, the Grayling area, and the Trout Lake area of the eastern Upper Peninsula. Expect to see warblers, vireos, sparrows, tanagers, woodpeckers, herons, and many other beautiful species. Tours depart every Tuesday through Friday from the Grayling Holiday Inn between May 17 and July 1, 2005. There is a fee for these tours. Tours are led by Caleb Putnum, who recently was hired by the Michigan Audubon Society; for more information, call 231.773.0008.

Please see “Michigan Audubon Tours” on Page 9
Master Naturalist Program, a subset of the Kent County Master Gardener Visioning Team, two years ago set a goal of educating consumers in the area of conservation. One of the developments from this original group was the Master Naturalist Program, which modeled itself after the very successful MSUE Master Gardener Volunteer program.

Goals of this program included increasing awareness of West Michigan's natural environment and how humans impact or change environmental quality. Participants should increase their knowledge of native plants and be able to enhance their own backyard settings with this knowledge as well as recognize the threat of an invasive plant and how non-natives may play a role in the destruction of an ecosystem. Lastly, this program has provided yet another avenue for MSUE Master Gardeners looking for advanced education and additional community volunteer opportunities.

The program offered in 2003 was very much a learning experience. Students were extremely enthused about the what they learned and eight of them were willing to commit to upgrading the curriculum, work with presenters and enhance the evaluation tool in ‘04 to make it even better.

Marketing of this program began in late winter and the first of six sessions (Conservation Theory and Practice) was held on April 10, 2004. Attendance dropped by about one-third this year having only 18 students. The volunteer team was undaunted by the decline in enrollment, citing that a smaller class would enhance the learning curve especially in outdoor labs. The first session was followed by an additional five sessions covering woodland environments and spring wildflowers, woody plants, wetlands, upland prairies, and invasives.

In order for the participants to become certified Master Naturalists and be recognized at the annual Kent-MSUE Master Gardener banquet with a certificate and pin, a total of 30 hours of volunteer service in the area of conservation education needs to occur.

Prior to each session, a brief, six question pre-test was administered to participants. This was repeated as a post-test when the session was completed to gage the level of understanding and to point out any areas that were not covered to the extent we anticipated. All pre/post tests were anonymous. The average gain on pre-post test scores was 31.6%. Interestingly, the lowest gain occurred on invasives indicating that the participants came into the class with a fair amount of knowledge in this area. The highest gain came from the wetlands class with a 51% gain.

A take-home, final exam was provided that utilized instruction by teachers but also captured other information included in their notebooks. To date (9/30/04) 12 of the 18 exams have been turned in scoring an average of 90-100%. The average score was 97.16%. (Participants may not complete the program if an exam is not turned in.)

Written evaluation comments consistently included items such as: “This class exceeded my expectations and I will use the information again and again.”

“Outdoor lab-type learning is very valuable. Adults learn better this way.”

“This was a fantastic learning opportunity!”

Things that could have been done in addition to the program included: “Hand out notebooks before the first class and assign reading prior to each session.”

“Administer tests that require student to go back the site to identify things.”

“We want more on dune ecology!”

The next major focus for this committee will be to provide this group of students higher levels of continuing education and with opportunities to complete their volunteer time. Students have two full years to complete the volunteer requirements.

To date, six people have graduated from the ‘03 class, with more well on their way for ‘04.

A new initiative was developed between the Kent County Parks Department and our Master Naturalist volunteers. I met with the Parks department Director and determined a list of projects we could implement at our beautiful parks including, education outreach by way of informative bulletin boards, trail management, invasive plant pulls, and weekend docenting. About ten of the volunteers were assigned to specific park locations to do this type of work. Others have been involved in garlic mustard pulls, stream and water quality checks, Anis water quality project, EAB scouting, and facilitating the ‘04 class.

The conservation committee is now going to focus their efforts on helping the students complete their hours. Another run of the Master Naturalist program is slated for the 2006 season.

Editor’s note:
Our own W AM president, Cheryl Tolley, was instrumental in developing and teaching the Kent County Master Naturalist Program.

For information on the next Master Naturalist Program, contact Rebecca Finneran, Kent County MSU Extension, at finneran@msu.edu or call 616.336.3282.
THE GARDENER’S YEAR
by Karel Capek

A classic from the renowned Czechoslovakian writer, Karel Capek, *The Gardener’s Year* has been reissued by Modern Library, with editor, Michael Pollan. This small jewel of a book was first published in 1929 in Czech, and in 1931 in English. Easily read and delightfully enjoyed for its insight, wit and Thüreresque illustrations by the author’s brother, *The Gardener’s Year* finds its way into the soul of the gardener and grows like a seed planted in fertile ground. The text, punctuated by numerous witty essays on such diverse subjects as Seeds, Buds, The Blessed Rain, and my favorite, *On the Beauties of Autumn*, takes the reader through a typical year in a gardener’s life. *On the Beauties of Autumn* contains these lines that resonated with me: “Sometimes we seem to smell of decay, encumbered by the faded remains of the past; but if only we could see how many fat and white shoots are pushing forward in the old tilled soil, which is called the present day; how many seeds germinate in secret . . . .” One easily forgets that the garden is as busy in fall, preparing for the spring, as it is in spring, sprouting for the summer, yet Capek gently and poetically reminds us of this eons-old process, and thereby instills us with hope for the future.

Humor abounds throughout these small essays, as exemplified in the following from *On the Cultivators of Cacti*: “A small collection of cacti looks like the camp of war-like pygmies . . . I tell you, a mother’s pride is nothing to the boasting and bragging of a cactus-man whose cactus has come into flower.”

If you enjoy a book with superbly-chosen words and phrases, do yourself the favor of reading this gem. *The Gardener’s Year* is available online from <www.amazon.com>, or visit your local bookstore in search of it. Then prepare to settle in for a delightful horticultural—and distinctly literary—buffet!

Plant Profile: BORAGE
(*Borago officinalis*)

by Michael Saint

The herb borage is quite surprisingly underused in our gardens. Brilliant, star-shaped, nodding one and a half-inch blue flowers with hairy stems make this plant a real show stopper! Borage will tolerate both sun and shade and isn't hampered by poor soil—it actually works as a soil binder. The herb requires little watering; it is intolerant of flooding. Borage reseeds readily and attracts a multitude of beneficial insects. Folklore states that the flower essence increases courage, drives away sorrow and creates happiness. I guarantee it will create happiness and joy in your garden!

*Michael Saint is the owner of Good Earth Landscape and Interior Design in Clarkston, MI. He presents seminars on hardy perennials, and may be contacted at 248.620.7188 or by e-mail at goodearthlandscapeinc@juno.com.*

BORAGE (*Borago officinalis*)
Spring/Summer Calendar
Continued from Page 3, Column 2

Wild Ones, Red Cedar Chapter
July 20 - Field Trip to the farm of retired MSU professor Cliff Welsch, to see his large-scale grassland restorations.
Time TBA.
Contact Mark Ritzenhein for more information at 517.336.0965 or mritz@acd.net.

Michigan Botanical Club, Southwestern Chapter
July 9 – Warren Dunes led by Pam Smith.
August 6 – LeFevre Bog, a Hanes’ study area in southeast Kalamazoo County. Yellow-fringed orchids should be in bloom.
August 27 – Spring Valley Park, Kalamazoo, led by Bill Martinus.
Contact Becky Csia at beckycsia@chartermi.net for more information.

Michigan Botanical Club, Red Cedar Chapter
June 11 – Mushroom and Other Fungi Field Trip, led by Heather Hallen of Michigan State University. Site to be determined.
July 16 – Prairie Restoration Field Trip to the 20 acre project of Clifford Welsch in Dewitt. July is the peak time to see our native prairie flowers!
For more information contact Mary Leys at michbotpress@aol.com.

Calhoun Conservation District
May 20 – Native Wildflower and Grasses Sale – at Calhoun Conservation District office.
June 27 through August 19 – Brandt Woods Day Camp – Weekly themes covering topics such as water, wildlife, survival, and more! Kids 6 through 12 are welcome. Registration is required.
June 4 – Landowner Options Workshop, “How can you protect your land from future development?” This workshop will cover easements, land donations, farmland protection programs, legal aspects, and more!
June 15 – Conservation Programs 101, “What are the basic requirements of USDA Farm Bill, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and DNR cost-share and incentive programs?” How can you enroll and receive funding for your conservation project? Representatives from each organization will discuss their programs and be available to answer your questions.
Contact the Calhoun Conservation District at 269.781.4867, ext. 5, for information on any of these events.

Crawford-Roscommon Conservation District
June 4 – Michigan Native Perennial Plant Sale from 10 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. Contact Barb Stauffer at arb.stauffer@macd.org or call 989.275.5231 for more information.

Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
June 11 – Workday at Sand Creek Preserve, Kalamazoo County, to restore habitat for grassland birds by removing non-native plants and weeds. Wear sturdy footwear and bring work gloves and loppers.
July 16 – Consumers Power Prairie, Kalamazoo County, to help protect the many rare wildflowers of this preserve by removing invasive brush from upland and wetland areas. Wear sturdy footwear and bring work gloves, loppers and handsaws. Wear long pants to protect against poison ivy.
July 30 – Carter Lake Preserve, Barry County, to help improve growing conditions for native wildflowers and grasses by removing invasive brush and spotted knapweed. Bring sturdy work gloves and insect repellent. Wear shoes or boots—they’ll get muddy.
For more information, e-mail Pamela Larson at conserveland@SWMLC.org.

Hiawatha National Forest
May 26 – Spring Wildflower Slide Show/Native Plant Presentation at 6:00 P.M. at the Munising RD conference room.
May 28 – Spring Wildflower Walk at 1:00 P.M. Meet at the Munising RD office parking lot.
Contact Deb Le Blanc, HNF Plant Ecologist, at dleblanc@fs.fed.us for more information.

Missaukee Conservation District
July 16 – Clean Sweep Collection, Missaukee County Road Commission, M-66, one mile north of Lake City. Unused and unwanted pesticides and insecticides will be collected free of charge.
July 16 – Mercury Thermometer Exchange Pick up a safe thermometer at Jerry’s Pharmacy, Lake City, or McBain Pharmacy, McBain, and bring your old mercury fever thermometers to the Clean Sweep site. You will be given a free digital thermometer (maximum of two per car) in exchange and your old thermometer will be disposed of properly.
Thanks go to Michigan Association of Local Public Health, Norman’s Well Drilling, Jerry’s Pharmacy and McBain Pharmacy, for their support of this program.
July 16 – Open House at Log Cabin, 7380 S. Forward Road, McBain. Raffle tickets for the cabin will be available. Now until tickets are sold – Log Cabin Raffle of 3.5 acres of land and newly built 28’ x 40’ two bedroom log home near Falmouth, Michigan. Only 3,500 tickets will be sold. Winner will be drawn October 17, 2005. License #78737.
For more information, visit <www.missaukeecd.mi.nacdnet.org>.

Please see “Spring/Summer Calendar” on Page 9
search of the American pitcher plants. Fred’s colleague, Dr. Larry Mellichamp, came from the University of North Carolina to teach us how to understand and grow bog plants.

Concurrent sessions were limited to the Sunday agenda and included “Prairie Birds—Bigger is Better” by Ray Adams from the Kalamazoo Nature Center; “Ecological Reclamation of a Sand Mine Using Native Plants at Grand Mere State Park” by Glenn Palmgren from MDNR Parks and Recreation Bureau; “Understanding and Using the Circa 1800s Vegetation Map” by Michael Kost from Michigan Natural Features Inventory; and a most interesting presentation by Master’s Candidate, Kim Smith, on her research into “Native Plantings: Competition Effects of Weeds and Cover Crops.”

The Grant Awards Luncheon was moved to Sunday to enable more teachers to attend on the weekend. WAM Glassen Grants were awarded to seven educational units. Those sharing the $6,500 grant monies were Immanuel-St. James Lutheran School, Kent County; County; and the University of Michigan-Dearborn Henry Ford Estate, Wayne County.

A special $500 WAM grant was also awarded to Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park for additional native plants to be put in the Children’s Garden.

Karen Marzonie, Project Coordinator, and Richard Simek
U. of M. Henry Ford Estate
University of Michigan-Dearborn

Julie Francke, Curator of Horticulture Education
Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Denise Maska, Project Coordinator
Britton-Macon Area School
Lenawee County
Britton, Michigan

Kathy Rogers, Project Coordinator
Helen R. Ealy Elementary School
Muskegon County
Whitehall, Michigan

Cherie Hood, Project Coordinator
Immanuel-St. James Lutheran School
Kent County
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Janet Dickerson, Native Plant Consultant
Saving Birds Thru Habitat
Leelanau County
Omena, Michigan

Patricia Osburn, Project Coordinator
Otsego Conservation District
Otsego County
Gaylord, Michigan
2005 Michigan Wildflower Conference
Continued from Page 8, Column 2

A total of 20 vendors attended this year’s conference. Of those, six were new to our group. Booth Committee co-chairman, Kathy Johnson, reports she was thrilled with the caliber of all the vendors. “They just keep getting better and better every year!” she observed.

New vendor, Durwood Coffey, and his business partner, Carole Vallimont were well-received by conference attendees. Durwood brought his art from Westland, Michigan to sell at the 2005 Michigan Wildflower Conference.

On the whole, comments received on the evaluation forms about conference changes were positive. We are wrapping up the compilation of all the remarks and should be able to report more definitively in the next 2006 Wildflower Conference update.

Michigan Audubon Tours
Continued from Page 4, Column 2

Cornell University to search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Putnum spent nearly two weeks floating in swamps in southeast Arkansas in search of this bird, which has eluded ornithologists for over 50 years, until recently.

People come from all parts of the globe to view the critically endangered Kirtland’s Warbler, which only nests in a small area near the towns of Mio and Grayling and no where else. Discounts are available; get details at <www.michiganaudubon.org/specialty_tours.html> or phone the Michigan Audubon office at 517.886.9144. More information about Kirtland’s Warbler-only tours is available at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/EastLansing/documents/tour.html>.

Contact: Jeanette Henderson 517.886.9144

Spring/Summer Calendar
Continued from Page 7, Column 2

Hidden Lake Gardens of Michigan State University, Tipton
June 4 – Frogs and Salamanders with John Skinner 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. A hands-on experience with native Michigan frogs and salamanders is great for all ages. Old shoes or waterproof boots are encouraged. There will be a charge for this activity.

June 4 – Stone Troughs with Randy and Barb Lippins 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Learn how to create a beautiful, durable, lightweight gardening container with hypertufa. Dress to make a mess. There will be a charge for this activity.

June 14 – Made for the Shade with Karen Gentry 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This class will address the challenges of shade gardening. There will be a charge for this activity.

June 15 – Frogs in Bogs for Preschoolers 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. We will explore the pond and some of the creatures that live in shallow waters. Children will create toad abodes to take home with them. There is a charge for his activity.

June 23 – Living on the Edge: Stewardship Practices for Shoreline Property Owners with Cecelia Govrik 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Learn to assess pollution and health risks around your home and determine the best ways to preserve water quality. The workshop will cover waterfront turf management, septic system maintenance and shoreline landscaping. $3.00 per person.

July 9 – Fairy Houses 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. We will collect objects in the woods to create these magical and enchanted houses, using pinecones for trees, milkweed pods for beds and leaves for roofs. We will sample fairy food and create fairy people. Designed for children 5 and older with adult participation. Popular program; register early! There will be a charge for this activity.

For more information, contact Karen Gentry at 517.431.2060 or e-mail: gentry@hlg.msu.edu.

Wild Ones, Kalamazoo Chapter
Continued from Page 4, Column 2

Michigan Audubon Tours

Cornell University to search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Putnum spent nearly two weeks floating in swamps in southeast Arkansas in search of this bird, which has eluded ornithologists for over 50 years, until recently.

People come from all parts of the globe to view the critically endangered Kirtland’s Warbler, which only nests in a small area near the towns of Mio and Grayling and no where else. Discounts are available; get details at <www.michiganaudubon.org/specialty_tours.html> or phone the Michigan Audubon office at 517.886.9144. More information about Kirtland’s Warbler-only tours is available at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/EastLansing/documents/tour.html>.

Contact: Jeanette Henderson 517.886.9144

Wild Ones, Kalamazoo Chapter

June 15 - Shoreline-planting and shoreline-stabilization projects - 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Kellogg Biological Station near Richland. Jane Herbert, Land and Water Specialist, will lead the tour showing what strategies work and how to carry them out on banks and in shoreline wetlands. This tour should be especially helpful to folks interested in wetland species for ponds or stream banks, in pond maintenance, and in restoration work. If time permits, we’ll also take a look at the KBS prairie restoration. For the hungry, we can conclude with a meal at the Gull Lake Café.

For more information, contact Tom and Nancy Small at yard2prairy@aol.com.
**Ada Township Parks Dept.**
Wendy Tatar, P.O. Box 370, Ada MI 49301, 616.676.6320, E-mail: parkwendy@ada.mi.us

**Ann Arbor Parks Dept, Natural Areas Preservation Division**
Dave Borneman, 1831 Traver Road, Ann Arbor MI 48105. Phone: 734.996.3266, E-mail: dborneman@ci.annarbor.mi.us.

**Benzie Conservation District**
Mary Pitcher, P.O. Box 408, Beulah MI 49617. Ph. 231.882.4391, Fax: 231.882.9767 E-mail: mary.pitcher@charterinternet.com

**BorNeman Consulting**
David Borneman, 1123 Mixtwood Street, Ann Arbor MI 481103. Phone 734.994.3475, E-mail: dborneman@ci.annarbor.mi.us.

**Brian Zimmerman & Associates**
434 Monroe Street, Traverse City MI 49684. Ph. 231.929.7400, Fax: 231.929.5918, Steve Cooreman, 2360 East Delhi Rd., Ann Arbor MI 48103. Phone 734.355.0884, Fax: 734.663.0588, E-mail: stevea@prairiesmoke.com.

**Creekside Herbs & Art**
Wendy Wagoner, Les Cheneaux Islands, 752 N. Blindline Road, Cedarville MI 49719. Ph. 906.484.2415. E-mail: creekside@cedarville.net. <www.creekside-herbs.com>.

**Designs By Nature**
Vern Stephens and Sue Tangora, 9874 Chadwick Rd., Laingsburg, MI 48848 Ph. 517.651.6502, Vern’s pager: 517.251.8585. E-mail: designsbynature@hotmail.com

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**JF New & JF New Native Plant Nursery**
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**MCC Gardening Association**
Mott Community College, Rebecca Gale, Advisor. 1401 East Court Side, Flint MI 48503. Phone 810.762.0455, E-mail: rgale@mcc.edu, Fax: 810.762.0454 For information, go to <http://www.mcc.edu/clubs/gardening/garden_index.shtml>

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**Northern Wild Plant & Seed Cooperative**
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Giant white trillium (Trillium grandiflorum)

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