WELCOME
20TH Annual
Michigan
Wildflower
Conference

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Our mission is to promote, coordinate and participate in education, enjoyment, science, and stewardship of native wildflowers and their habitats, including promoting public education of proper principles, ethics, and methods of landscaping with native wildflowers and associated habitats.

WAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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WAM HISTORY

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The Wildflower Association of Michigan traces its roots back to March of 1986, when an exploratory meeting was held during Agriculture and Natural Resources Week at Michigan State University. Eighty individuals from various organizations and agencies, including Michigan Department of Transportation, Michigan State University Department of Parks and Recreation, and Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. (formerly Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan), gathered to discuss wildflower-related programs, challenges and potential, and to formulate a plan. Professor Louis F. Twardzik, MSU, was chairperson and Kim Herman, MDOT, was recorder of this group. The interest generated at this first meeting warranted forming a Wildflower Alliance. Additional meetings were held throughout the remainder of that year.

The first Michigan Wildflower Conference was held March 24, 1987 during ANR Week. After this conference, the group formally organized, creating bylaws and electing officers. Harry Doehne, owner of Michigan Wildflower Farm, presided as interim president. Elected officers were Glenn Goff, President; Kim Herman, Vice President; Betty Dick, Secretary; and Robert Welch, Treasurer.

Because attendees at the 1988 Michigan Wildflower Conference noted an increasing interest in the availability of native Michigan seed, and a lack of commercial growers, the first Wildflower Seed Growers Workshop was held during the 1989 conference. As an outgrowth of this workshop, the Wildflower Association of Michigan received funding to prepare a Wildflower Production Position Paper, presenting the results of a survey on the potential usage of wildflower seed in Michigan. The WAM Seed Committee published this report and sent it to the Michigan Department of Agriculture in January of 1990, documenting the current and future status of Michigan native wildflower seed production and recommendations. The outgrowth of this interest in native Michigan seed and plant production resulted in the formation of the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association (MNPPA) in 2000. Membership has grown to nine firms, with others interested in joining.

The Wildflower Association of Michigan has experienced phenomenal growth since those early years. The Michigan Wildflower Conference, held annually in March, includes the WAM annual meeting and two days of workshops and seminars featuring knowledgeable speakers with expertise in proper principles, ethics and methods of landscaping with native wildflowers and associated habitats on various levels of understanding, from novice to professional. The conference has been host to other groups interested in native plants, including the Michigan Invasive Plant Council, Wild Ones, and the Stewardship Network.

During the conference, WAM sponsors a concurrent Educators’ Workshop to help teachers plan and develop outstanding outdoor educational facilities, improve grant-writing skills, and get feedback on individual projects. At the conference’s grant awards luncheon, educational grants are awarded to qualifying facilities through a partnership with the Hal and Jean Glassen Memorial Foundation. The Glassen Foundation will have given over $40,500 in grants to fund the WAM/Glassen Grant Fund over the past eight years.

Operation Wildflower, the Michigan Garden Club’s cooperative effort with the Michigan Department of Transportation to plant native wildflowers along Michigan’s roadsides, received WAM support while it was active. A newsletter, *Wildflowers*, is published quarterly and features articles on native Michigan wildflowers, habitats, legislative updates, book reviews, upcoming events, and related stories. An official Web site, <www.wildflowersmich.org>, presents the latest information about WAM activities, along with a wildflower library and links to other helpful Web sites. The Wildflower Association of Michigan received 501(c)(3)) status in 2001.
The North American Native Plant Society

Dedicated to the study, conservation, cultivation and restoration of native plants.

The North American Native Plant Society (NANPS) was founded in 1984 by a small group of dedicated conservationists as the Canadian Wildflower Society. It has since grown to include hundreds of members throughout North America.

The beauty of native plants, however, is not confined to its flowers. Sedges, mosses, grasses, and ferns all possess their own elegance and hold important places in the natural order. Native plants provide sustenance and habitat for a wide array of creatures—ranging from invertebrates to large mammals—with which they have co-evolved over thousands of years.

Unfortunately, widespread disturbances of natural areas have resulted in drastic reductions of native plant populations. The natural areas that do remain are increasingly degraded by invasive alien species such as purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, and buckthorn. Exotic species, such as dandelion and Queen Anne’s lace, have overtaken the diverse landscapes of native wildflowers to such an extent that many people believe them to be native. The goal of NANPS is to reverse this trend. Through education and information NANPS aims to inspire an appreciation of North America’s native plants—aiding the restoration of healthy ecosystems across the continent. To find out more about the NANPS or to become a member, check them out on the web at www.nanps.org.
AGENDA—Sunday, March 4, 2007

7:30  Registration Opens — Big Ten A

7:30–8:30  Refreshments — Across from Big Ten C

Morning General Sessions: Rooms Big Ten B/C

8:30–8:45  Greetings and Announcements

8:45–9:45  Where Have we Been, Where Are we Going in the Native Plant Movement?—Steve Keto, Owner of Nesta Perennials

Steve Keto has been commercially growing Native Plants for 19 years and has seen WAM and the Native Plant industry grow and change. Steve shares his experience and thoughts on the past, present, and future of WAM and the native plant movement in Michigan. Join Steve as he celebrates the success, ponders the missed opportunities, and raises hope for the future.

9:45–10:00  Break

10:00–11:00  Practical, How-to Native Plant Gardening for Woodlands, Meadows, and Prairies—Lorraine Johnson, Author and Board Member of the North American Native Plant Society

Over the years, native plants have emerged from a small niche market into a mainstream option in the landscape as gardeners grow more concerned with environmental issues or simply want to find a indigenous style of gardening. Learn to select and successfully grow native plants with low-maintenance by understanding plant needs and choosing ones that are adapted to and ready to thrive in your garden environment.

11:00–11:45  An Historical Perspective: What Has Been Accomplished and Future Possibilities—Tom Smith, Owner of Grass Roots, Executive Director of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation

This presentation takes an historical tour of WAM’s early days, including working with the MDA seed lab to establish native seed collection guidelines, the early pioneers, establishment of core dedicated native plant growers in Michigan, and a look back at some of the projects that set the trend today. Tom will compare and contrast the early challenges with those faced today by native plant producers, promoters and contractors. The future of native plants as an economic and environmental resource will also be addressed.

11:45–12:00  Break

12:00–1:45  Grant Awards Lunch—Big Ten A

Maryann Whitman, Master of Ceremonies

(Reservations are required for this lunch)
AGENDA—Sunday, March 4, 2007

Afternoon General and Concurrent Sessions:

2:00–3:00 Big Ten B
*A Ground Contact: Re-establishing our Relationship with Earth’s Soil and the Native Landscape*—Patrick Judd, Senior Associate and Project Manager at Pollack Design Associates

This presentation encourages us to begin to think systematically about the relationship between the built environment and the natural environment. Instead of examining just individual habitats, we should look at landscape structures or ecological patterns to better understand the impacts and assets for a deeper environmental interpretation. This understanding allows establishing a framework for advancing ecological principals which in turn stimulates health and wellness. Our connection to nature will enhance mood, reduce stress, and promote a higher quality of life.

3:00–3:15 Break

3:15–4:15 Big Ten B
*Invasive Plant and Spotted Knapweed Control*—Dr. Neil Macdonald, Associate Professor of Biology and Natural Resources Management, Grand Valley State University

The presentation will provide an overview of the detrimental effects of spotted knapweed invasions on susceptible sites, and the use of native grasses to alter trajectories toward native species and processes on disturbed sites with heavy knapweed infestations. The initial establishment of native grasses and the use of carefully timed burning to help maintain fire-adapted native plant communities on knapweed-infested sites will be discussed in detail.

4:30–6:30 Annual Meeting & “WAM Birthday Bash!”

Join us for the Birthday Bash to unwind and celebrate WAM’s 20th year! The annual meeting will be short, and cake, snacks, and a cash bar will be available for your pleasure. All this, plus book signing by speakers and drawings for door prizes, so be sure to attend!

2:00–3:00 Big Ten C
*Attracting Beneficial Insects and Pollinators with Native Plants*—Anna Fiedler, Michigan State University Graduate Student

In addition to enhancing the beauty of natural areas, native plants may also increase the effectiveness of insect biological control by attracting insect predators and parasites. Learn which native plants were found to be most attractive to beneficial insects in research conducted at MSU. Also, learn how we envision that these species, formerly common in prairie and savanna habitats, can be reintroduced in home gardens, landscapes, and fields in Michigan.

3:00–3:15 Break

3:15–4:15 Big Ten C
*Past, Present, & Future of Wildflower Conservation*—Kim Herman, Michigan DNR

Kim will discuss the conservation of wildflowers within Michigan’s Protected Areas and Reserve Systems on Public and Private Land.
HAL AND JEAN GLASSEN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Hal and Jean Glassen were born and raised in Wisconsin. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin, they moved to the Lansing area. It was there that Hal practiced law for 62 years with the firm of Glassen, Rhead, McLean, Campbell and Bergamini. After nearly 60 years of marriage, Hal and Jean established the Glassen Foundation so that the ambitions and goals to which they had dedicated their lives could be continued.

Hal and Jean were lovers of animals and thoroughly enjoyed the out-of-doors. They were avid hunters who believed in the scientific management of wildlife. Lifelong conservationists, they supported research and programs aimed at habitat improvement, sustainable harvest through controlled hunting, and understanding the carrying capacity of land for wildlife. They were very supportive of the natural resource schools at the University of Wisconsin, University of Michigan, and Michigan State University.

It is because of the generosity of the Hal and Jean Glassen Memorial Foundation that the Wildflower Association of Michigan is able to award nine educational grants this year. These grants will be given to educational facilities that have shown their desire to continue the work that the Glassens supported.

Each facility has demonstrated the thought and planning needed to establish or enhance natural areas that will support local wildlife populations, while educating students on the need to protect such habitats. It is through the use of these types of outdoor educational areas that students learn an appreciation and respect for our remaining remnant natural areas and the plant and animal life they contain. Without instilling this admiration in our youth, the future of these fragmented areas is in jeopardy.

The Wildflower Association of Michigan would like to thank the Hal and Jean Glassen Memorial Foundation for its support. We would especially like to thank the foundation board of directors who continue to take the time to review our grant program and meet with us. They are an enthusiastic group of people who are very dedicated to the fulfillment of the wishes of Hal and Jean Glassen.
Many of us, professionals and amateurs alike, have long appreciated the many benefits of landscaping with native plants and using more sustainable approaches as part of our development projects. With enthusiasm and zeal we continue to work to convince others of their value and importance. Is it working? Using Conservation Design Forum Projects as examples, Trish Beckjord will present a personal assessment of our progress toward this important goal.

Ecological Consequences of Global Climate Change—Dr. David Karowe, Associate Professor, Biological Sciences, Western Michigan University

Global climate change has already started to effect plants in natural and agricultural ecosystems by accelerating the time at which they germinate, flower, and fruit, by altering their ability to compete with each other, and by decreasing their nutritional quality for and altering their defenses against herbivorous animals. Several recent studies have suggested that additional climate change in the future may cause widespread extinctions and species replacements around the globe. Dr. Karowe will discuss the potential consequences of climate change for plant communities over the coming century.

The Ecological Effects of Invasive Species—Sherri Laier, Stewardship Director for the Michigan Nature Association

Invasive species do more than just crowd out our gardens, they disrupt natural habitats. Find out exactly what the ecological effects of these plants are.

Michigan Trees & Shrubs for Homeowners—Mary Ann MencK, Owner of Mary Ann’s Michigan Trees and Shrubs

Native trees in our yard can provide you with beauty, shade, and food. They can also provide wildlife with cover, a home, and food! Use those native trees in the right place and they become a windbreak, a living snow fence, and an assistant to your air conditioner. And if you are lucky enough to have some acreage, they can provide you with a cash crop, too. Find out how native trees can do all of this plus lower the global warming trend.
Afternoon Sessions

1:15–2:15  **Keynote Address:** Big Ten B/C

How Our Gardens Connect to the Broader Environment—**Lorraine Johnson,**
Author and Board Member of the North American Native Plant Society

In this philosophical program, Lorraine Johnson advocates for social awareness of how our gardens connect to the broader environment. It’s about our communities, not just our backyards. She’ll address the social issues that connect to this topic as well.

2:15–2:30  **Break**

2:30–4:00  Big Ten B/C

Panel of Native Plant Maintenance Issues—**Moderated by Bill Schneider, Founder and Owner of Wildtype**

Questions about native plant maintenance issues? Find out what the experts have to say. Trish Beckjord, Esther Durnwald, Shannan Gibb-Randall, Patrick Judd, and Vern Stevens make up this year’s panel, and they’ll be addressing questions pertaining to large projects as well as to homeowners. The group of panelists are of two groups, designers and contractors. However, all individuals work as consultants. Some of the questions will be directed to the designers, others to the contractors, and for some you’ll hear the perspectives from both. This is a presentation you won’t want to miss!

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Celebrating Twenty Years of WAM, Twenty Years of Presidents

Lou Twardzik  
Steve Keto  
Cheryl Tolley  
Marji Fuller  
Bob Welch

1986-87  Harry Doehne (deceased)  
1988-89  F. Glenn Goff (deceased)  
1990-91  Gerald Sosnowski  
1992-94  Kathleen Hilbert  
1995-96  Larry Hill  
1997-98  Louis Twardzik (deceased)  
1999-01  Robert Welch  
2002-03  Steve Keto  
2004-05  Marji Fuller  
2005 -  Cheryl S. Tolley

Thanks for Everything You’ve Done!
“Looking Back Over Twenty Years”
Kim Herman has 25 years of experience in natural resources management focusing on the conservation and protection of threatened and endangered species, native plants and natural areas. Kim began with the State of Michigan in 1982 working as a Botanist for the Michigan Department of Transportation. In 1990, Kim moved to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division as a Protection Specialist and in 1996 she became Stewardship and Natural Areas Coordinator. Kim was reassigned as Wildlife Ecologist for the WUP Management Unit out of Escanaba in 2002 and in 2004 went to the Forest, Minerals, and Fire Management Division to work on Forest Certification. Kim has experience in ecosystem management, old growth/biodiversity, endangered and threatened species, invasive exotic species and native plants, and prescribed fire. She is currently working with FMFM staff on management and monitoring of Ecological Reference Areas and rare species on the 3.9 million acre state forest system.

She, with others, initiated and served on the boards or the steering committees of three organizations: the Michigan Invasive Plant Council, the Southern Michigan Prescribed Fire Council, and the Wildflower Association of Michigan, which promotes and educates the public on conserving and landscaping with native plants. Kim is now the National President of the Natural Areas Association having served on the Board of Directors and as past Secretary and Vice-president. She also coordinated the national level Natural Areas Conference in 1998 on Mackinac Island, MI, which by all accounts, was highly successful with about 600 people attending. Kim received her MS in Botany from Michigan State University in 1979 and since then has been working in the field of natural resource protection and management.

Kim grew up in the Grand Rapids area, eventually landed in Leslie, MI for about 15 years where she kept busy on a prairie restoration in her front yard. Since moving to the UP, Kim keeps busy outside of work: maple sugaring, vacationing in Mexico, fishing and hunting with her husband of 33 years, Michael. Kim and Mike are soon to be first time grandparents. And their son Jonathan, now 20, recently became betrothed. What’s significant of that? Kim was very pregnant with Johnathan at the 1986 meeting, held with Lou Twardzik in the Lincoln Room at MSU Kellogg Center, of the not yet formed Wildflower Association of Michigan.

Kim’s Highlights

- Participated in the Department’s Native Plant Committee which developed a native plant policy for use by DNR natural resource managers.
- Participated in an interagency Native Plant Initiative with the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (lead), Natural Resources Conservation Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Department of Agriculture, and Michigan Native Plant Producers.
- Served on three federal recovery teams for Great Lakes endemic plants – dwarf lake iris, Houghton’s goldenrod, and Pitcher’s thistle
- Over the years, coordinated and assisted in the development of annual Wildflower Association conferences.
- Re-initiated “Operation Wildflower” by working cooperatively with the MDOT Roadside Development Program, Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan, and the Wildflower Association of Michigan.
- Was on WAM’s first Native Seed Committee which accomplished a survey and report on the status of native plant production in Michigan.
- Co-founded the Wildflower Association of Michigan (WAM), helped develop the by-laws, served as two-term Vice President and was on the Board of Directors for many years.
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We congratulate WAM on their 20th anniversary.
Thank you for all your support.
Trish Beckjord

Project Manager, Landscape Architecture & Planning for Conservation Design Forum, Inc., Trish is a landscape architect with a strong scientific and natural resource background. These strengths are complemented by her passionate commitment to sustainable development, environmental conservation, and restoration. Trish also has broad management experience in for-profit and not-for-profit business environments where she has developed exceptional skills in project facilitation, team leadership, and interpersonal communication. Trish is the former President of the Ann Arbor Chapter of Wild Ones and continues to be active in the promotion of ecological design and natural resource conservation.

Dr. Shari Dann

Dr. Shari L. Dann is an Associate Professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University as an Extension Specialist. She directs outreach and environmental education relating to the human dimensions of fisheries and wildlife management. The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife strives to meet the global challenges that threaten the sustainability of our ecosystems.

Esther Durnwald

Esther and her husband Bill are the owners of The Michigan Wildflower Farm, which was founded in 1988 by Harry and Elin Doehne. Esther oversees the operation of the farm’s wildflower and prairie grass seed production as well as the consulting, preparation, installation, and management of native landscaping projects in southern lower Michigan. She received a B.S. Degree in Forestry from Michigan Technological University and is currently 2nd Vice President of the Wildflower Association of Michigan as well as Secretary of the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association.

Anna Fiedler

Anna Fiedler is a Ph.D student at Michigan State University in Doug Landis’ Invasive Species Ecology and Biological Control lab. Her Masters research focused on using native Michigan plants to provide nectar and pollen to beneficial natural enemy insects. She is interested in the potential for applications of this project to enhance the effectiveness of insect biological control in crops, orchards, vineyards, and gardens. If this concept is implemented by growers across Michigan, native plants have the potential to increase sustainability of agriculture and the Michigan landscape as a whole.

She has experience with establishment and support of community gardens through work for the Waukesha County University of Wisconsin Extension as a Horticulture Assistant. She also learned about sustainable agriculture and food systems during work at Growing Power, a community food center and urban agriculture promoter in Milwaukee, WI.

Ilse Gebhard

Ilse Gebhard received her BA in Chemistry from Kalamazoo College and an MS in Chemistry from the University of California, Los Angeles. She worked for the Upjohn Co. in Kalamazoo, MI for 30 years as a research Chemist in Medicinal Chemistry. After retiring 12 years ago, she finally had time to pursue her interests in natural history. She has written natural history essays for the past 6 years, mostly on insects, for the Nature’s Way column of the Kalamazoo Gazette and for other newsletters. She also gives presentations to school classrooms and to adult groups in the area.

She has been on the Board of Directors of the Audubon Society of Kalamazoo in various positions for the past 18 years. In addition, she is an active member of the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, the Kalamazoo Nature Center, and the local chapters of the Michigan Botanical Club and the Wild Ones. She participates in a number of Citizen Science projects like Bluebird Trail Monitoring, counting birds at feeders and in the field, and in the last 5 years has participated in the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project. For the past 5 years she has pursued an individualized research project on Tachinid fly parasitism of the Monarch butterfly.

Wild-scaping her yard with native plants, she and her husband have provided habitat for birds and insects. Expanding on this 3 years ago, she and her husband established a 116-acre nature preserve adjacent to their homestead for which they are the active stewards.

Shannan Gibb-Randall

Shannan Gibb-Randall is an associate at InSite Design Studio, Inc. based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She completed her undergraduate work in Art History at the Residential College at the University of Michigan. She then worked for Michigan State University’s Biological Station, gaining more background in botany and ecology, which moved her towards her masters in Landscape Architecture from the School of Natural Resources at the University of Michigan. There she deepened her understanding of ecological processes and their interaction with site design. Her background in both art history and ecology inform her work in sustainable landscape architecture.

Kim Herman

Please see Kim’s biography on page 10

Lorraine Johnson

Please see Lorraine’s biography on page 2

Patrick Judd

Patrick Judd, ASLA, Senior Associate and Project Manager at Pollack Design, is well-versed in the areas of Michigan native plant species and rainwater management design, grading, and BMPs. His work experience includes a wide variety of projects...
Steve Keto, grower and owner of Nesta Prairie Perennials, is just returning from his honeymoon in Ireland. When you see him congratulate him, he is with his brother Steve Keto who has a native plant business in County. Interest in native plants has been cultivated by Dan’s years he supervised an outdoor education facility in Oakland naturalist for Baraga State Park for two summers, and for three children ages 3 to 17 each summer. Dan has also worked as a Up Close Summer Camp he coordinates works with about 1000 the Kalamazoo Nature Center for the last 10 years. The Nature dr. david karowe Dr. David Karowe received his Bachelor’s degree in Biology from Harvard University and his Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Michigan, and is currently an Associate Professor at Western Michigan University. Together with others, Dr. Karowe has received over $6,500,000 from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study the effects of rising atmospheric CO2 on plants and their insect herbivores, and to create and run a doctoral training program and an undergraduate research program in global change ecology. Dr. Karowe has also published numerous papers in scientific journals, and is currently on sabbatical leave to write a book on climate change and its ecological consequences.

Dan Keto
Daniel X. Keto has been the Director of Camp Programs at the Kalamazoo Nature Center for the last 10 years. The Nature Up Close Summer Camp he coordinates works with about 1000 children ages 3 to 17 each summer. Dan has also worked as a naturalist for Baraga State Park for two summers, and for three years he supervised an outdoor education facility in Oakland County. Interest in native plants has been cultivated by Dan’s interest in wildlife and their habitats as well as frequent contact with his brother Steve Keto who has a native plant business in Southwest Michigan. When you see him congratulate him, he is just returning from his honeymoon in Ireland.

Steve Keto
Steve Keto, grower and owner of Nesta Prairie Perennials, is a writer, lecturer and foremost, an educator. His enthusiasm is infectious and he has been an instructor since his college days at Michigan State University where he earned his B.S. and M.S. in Poultry Science. Steve joined Van Bochove’s Greenhouse Direct in 1986 and switched from chickens to native plants. He has extensive experience propagating and growing native plants and is willing and eager to share his knowledge. Steve is a past president of WAM and has contributed many hours to the organization.

Sharri Laier
Sherri Laier is the Stewardship Director for the Michigan Nature Association, the oldest land preservation group in Michigan, whose mission is to preserve unique native habitat and the rare species that inhabit those areas. She oversees the management of over 8,500 acres across the state on 164 sanctuaries in 54 counties.

Dr. Neil MacDonald
Dr. Neil MacDonald is an Associate Professor of Biology and Natural Resources Management at Grand Valley State University’s Department of Biology. He has his BS in Natural Resources from the University of Michigan, his MS in Forestry from Michigan State University, and his PhD in Forest Soils and Ecology from Michigan State University. Some of the courses he teaches include Resource Measurements and Mapping, Watershed and Wetland Management, Forest Ecosystem Management, and Land Reclamation. Neil’s research interests include soil processes, air pollution effects on forest ecosystems, watershed restoration and management, and restoration of disturbed sites.

Mary Ann Menck
Mary Ann Menck is the owner of Mary Ann’s Michigan Trees and Shrubs, a member of Michigan Native Plant Producers Association, the Vice-President of the Kalamazoo Chapter of Wild Ones and an Advanced Master Gardener. Previously, she was an elementary and a middle school teacher, a middle school counselor, and an elementary counselor. She developed an interest in native plants when she initiated the Landscaping Club at the elementary school. The students wanted to attract the butterflies and birds they studied. The Kalamazoo Chapter of Wild Ones assisted along with Steve Keto of Nesta Prairie Perennials. When she could not find locally grown native trees and shrubs

2007 SPEAKER PROFILES
she was sent to Bill Schneider’s Wildtype. He indicated a need for someone to grow and sell native trees and shrubs on the west side of the state, so she decided to do that when she retired. She has been in the native tree and shrub business for four years.

**Mariette Nowak**

Mariette Nowak is the author of the upcoming book, *Birdscaping in the Midwest, a Guide to Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds*. She was the former director of Wehr Nature Center, Milwaukee County for 18 years and served on the national board of directors of Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes 2000-4 where she was national Vice-President in 2002 and 2003. Mariette is also a board member of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology.

**Raymond Rustem**

During the last 13 years, Ray has supervised the Michigan Department of Natural Resource’s Wildlife Division, Natural Heritage Unit. The programs in this unit include the Nongame Wildlife Fund, Endangered Species Program and the Natural Areas Program. One of the projects initiated during Ray’s tenure has been the Schoolyard Habitat Program. As part of the small grants program, the Natural Heritage Unit offers funding to Michigan schools to support the development of school habitat sites. Prior to his work with the Natural Heritage Unit, Ray served as the division’s Wildlife Education Specialist. Ray also serves on the WAM Board of Directors.

**Bill Schneider**

Bill Schneider is the founder and owner of Wildtype Designs, Native Plants & Seeds, Ltd. Established in 1996, Wildtype provides ecological design and consulting services for public, commercial and residential projects focusing on restoration and preservation of native landscape. Wildtype also operates a nursery growing over 200 species of native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses. Prior to founding Wildtype, Bill received his MLA in 1994 from the University of Michigan SNRE- Landscape Architecture Program and his BS in 1980 from Michigan State University – College of Agriculture.

**Tom Smith**

Tom Smith is the Executive Director for the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. He has served as President of Grass Roots, Inc. since 1982. In 1999, Tom joined the Michigan State University staff as an Adjunct Faculty. He has also taught at the MSU Evening College and Lansing Community College. Tom has authored and co-authored a number of Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service Bulletins. Tom was also on the Board of Directors for WAM.

**Vern Stephens**

Vern Stephens obtained his bachelor’s degree in Zoology from Michigan State University. He currently works for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as a senior wildlife assistant. His main responsibility is coordinating the production of Michigan native genotype grass seed for the release to private growers throughout the state. Vern and his wife Susan live on a 40-acre farm in Laingsburg where they operate Designs By Nature, LLC, a native plant nursery and native landscape consulting company. Each year they help over a dozen conservation groups throughout Michigan host native plant sales and workshops. Vern is a member of the Wildflower Association of Michigan and served on the Board of Directors for several years.

**Pete Stobie**

Pete Stobie “Mr. Pete” is the Outreach Program Director for the Kalamazoo Nature Center. He has worked for the Kalamazoo Nature Center since 1996. Traveling to schools, libraries, and other community groups of Southwest Michigan, Mr. Pete has delighted audiences of all ages with his creative interpretive programs and his quest to connect you with nature.

**Sue Tangora-Stephens**

Sue Tangora obtained her bachelor’s degree in zoology from Michigan State University. She currently works for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as a wildlife biologist. Her main responsibility is coordinating the Landowner Incentive Program, a program that provides financial and technical resources for private landowners who want to improve habitat for threatened and endangered species. She and her husband live on a 40-acre farm in Laingsburg where they operate Designs By Nature, a native plant nursery and native landscape consulting company. Each year they help over a dozen conservation groups throughout Michigan host native plant sales. She is a board member for the Michigan Invasive Plant Council and member of the Wildflower Association of Michigan.
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