WILDFLOWER ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN PRESENTS...

Becoming Native to the Place

27TH ANNUAL WILDFLOWER CONFERENCE

MARCH 2 & 3, 2014

KELLOGG HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Encouraging the preservation and restoration of Michigan’s native plants and native plant communities
Mission Statement…By increasing awareness and knowledge, the Wildflower Association of Michigan encourages the preservation and restoration of Michigan’s native plants and native plant communities.

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WELCOME
27th Annual
Michigan Wildflower Conference

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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., 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, founding member 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.

The Wildflower Association of Michigan awards grants annually to fund projects involving the creation of an outdoor classroom, the enhancing of an existing site, or other educationally directed projects that support the WAM Mission. It is our goal to reach as many of Michigan's youth and citizenry as possible through the use of our grant program. It is our desire not only to educate Michigan's students in the areas of recognition, preservation and proper procedures for the repopulating of endangered, threatened and/or special concern native species, but also to support projects that pass on the appreciation and respect for our native flora that will ensure survival of these species in the future.

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 past conferences, WAM has sponsored 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.

Operation Wildflower, the Michigan Garden Club's cooperative effort with the Michigan Department of Transportation to plant native wildflowers along Michigan's roadways, received WAM support while it was active. WAM's newsletter, **Wildflowers**, features articles on native Michigan wildflowers, habitats, legislative updates, book reviews, upcoming events, and related stories. An official website, 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.
RICK DARKE

Rick Darke is a widely published author, photographer, lecturer and consultant focused on regional landscape design, planning, conservation, and enhancement. Blending art, ecology, and cultural geography, Darke is dedicated to the design and stewardship of livable landscapes. He has studied and photographed North American plants in their habitats for over 30 years, and this work is reflected in his articles and books including *The American Woodland Garden: Capturing the Spirit of the Deciduous Forest*, which received the American Horticultural Society’s Book Award, the Garden Writers Association Golden Globe Award for book photography, and the National Arbor Day Foundation’s Certificate of Merit. A broadly knowledgeable horticulturist, Darke has traveled extensively in both hemispheres, exploring diverse ecologies and cultural landscapes in search of ideas to enrich the global garden.


8:00–9:00  Registration and Refreshments — Red Cedar Room

9:00–9:10  Greetings and Announcements — Big Ten A

9:10–10:15  **The Richness of Layers (Keynote Presentation) — Big Ten A**

RICK DARKE, Rick Darke LLC, Photographer, Author, and Coauthor of *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden*

The richness of life in any landscape is linked to the richness of its layers, and this is true for both people and wildlife. Landscape designer, photographer, and author Rick Darke will look at landscape layers from ground cover to canopy and will describe how to create and manage them in home gardens that are beautiful, biologically diverse, and eminently livable. Darke's presentation will illustrate and describe a practical, ecologically sound approach to layering he calls “spacemaking with organic architecture.”

10:15–10:30  Break

10:30–11:30  **(Concurrent Session #1) — Big Ten B**

Growing Native Plants: America’s Roots in Your Garden

STEVE KETO, Natural Areas and Preserves Manager, Western Michigan University

Over the last 30 years, gardening with native plants has gone from a niche hobby to mainstream landscape design. Steve will draw on his 26 years of experience propagating native plant species to help gardeners avoid pitfalls and capitalize on the potential of native plants in the garden. Steve will highlight how growing native plants can bring rich history, pharmacology, aesthetic, and wildlife value to every garden space.

**(Concurrent Session #2) — Big Ten C**

Beekeeping for Pollination

BOB WILLIAMS, Architect

Do you want to increase pollination in your yard or natural area? How would you go about getting a beekeeper to set up hives in your area or for you to be a beekeeper yourself? What is the difference between beekeeping for harvesting honey and beekeeping for pollination? Which flower species do honeybees pollinate? How much time does beekeeping take? How would a person get started? These and many more questions related to beekeeping will be answered.

11:30–1:30  **Grant Awards Lunch and Break — Big Ten A**
AGENDA ~ Sunday, March 2, 2014 (continued)

1:30–2:30  (Concurrent Session #1) — Big Ten B
Sharing the Beauty of Our Regional Landscape: The Story of the Great Lakes Gardens at Matthaei Botanical Gardens
BOB GRESE, Director of Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, University of Michigan, and SHANNAN GIBB-RANDALL, RLA, InSite Design Studio
Recently, Matthaei Botanical Gardens created a new collection of conservation gardens, celebrating the unique beauty and flora of the Great Lakes Region. Represented within the gardens are many of the habitats found in our region—sand dunes, limestone bluffs and pavement, prairies, oak openings, and deciduous forests. With a series of accessible pathways, boardwalks and overlooks, visitors will be able to see plants up close that they might never have a chance to see in the wild. Creating a series of gardens like this brings a unique set of challenges from the physical design through implementation. Though these new gardens are still not fully planted, this talk will provide the story of their conception, development, first phase of construction and their plans for the future.

(Concurrent Session #2) — Big Ten C
Native Scents: The Therapeutic Properties of Aromatic Plants
JIM MCDONALD, Herbalist
Aromatic plants are of paramount importance in herbal traditions the world over. The overarching qualities of aromatic herbs and the specific applications of several native species will be discussed.

2:30–2:45  Break

2:45–3:45  (Concurrent Session #1) — Big Ten B
On the Rocks: Great Lakes Alvars as Repositories of Unique Plant Diversity
TONY REZNICEK, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan
Alvars (glaciated limestone pavements) are unique environments in the Great Lakes region. They offer treeless habitats, but with much more extreme conditions than prairies—often with little or no soil, extreme drought susceptibility, and highly calcareous substrates. Extreme habitats generate endemism, and alvars are one of the few habitats in the Great Lakes region noted for endemics (plants that occur nowhere else). Alvars may also be old habitats—continuously treeless since they formed—making it possible for suitably adapted species to survive long-term on them.

(Concurrent Session #2) — Big Ten C
Experiencing the World Around You: Thoughts of a Naturalist
CRAIG ELSTON, Naturalist for the City of Hudsonville
Proper plant identification and keen observation of nature are learned skills that are critical to understand, appreciate, and interpret our natural surroundings. Craig will share his lifelong passion and show how you can improve your naturalist skills.

3:45–4:00  Break

4:00–5:00  Annual Meeting (Cash Bar Offered) — Red Cedar Room
AGENDA ~ Monday, March 3, 2014

8:00–9:00  Registration and Refreshments — Red Cedar Room

9:00–9:10  Greetings and Announcements — Big Ten A

9:10–10:15 The Art of Observation (Keynote Presentation) — Big Ten A
RICK DARKE, Rick Darke LLC, Photographer, Author, and Coauthor of The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden
Rick Darke believes the ability to see deeply is the most important skill any of us can bring to the enjoyment, understanding, and stewardship of private and public landscapes. This presentation will employ examples of diverse habitats and cultural landscapes to explore the art of observation and the inspiration to be found in celebrating the unprogrammed qualities of everyday places.

10:15–10:45  Break

10:45–11:45  (Concurrent Session #1) — Big Ten B
A Local Cooperative Weed Management Approach to Address Swallow-wort in Northwest Oakland County, MI
BRITTANY BIRD, Natural Resource Planner, Oakland County Parks
Beginning in 2010, under the umbrella of the Stewardship Network, public and private land managers and conservancy interests launched a multi-year project to combat invasive swallow-wort, *Cynanchum spp.*, in northwest Oakland County. An overview of swallow-wort, its impact on natural communities, and an example of a local, cooperative, public-private management effort will be reviewed. Recommended next steps and challenges facing continued progress will also be discussed.

(Concurrent Session #2) — Big Ten C
PATRICK JUDD, LLA, ASLA, Principal Landscape Architect, Conservation Design Forum
Farm practices have remained unchecked across much of North American agriculture for well over a century, and now a customized approach to assisting farmers on how to look at revenue and expense projection in the development of a whole farm business plan is underway. Every whole system farm plan solution must be tailored to take advantage of the multiple opportunities afforded by the combination of natural resources, including the context of its watershed and cultural factors unique to each place.

11:45–1:30  Lunch and Break — Door Prize Drawing — Big Ten A
1:30–2:30  
(Concurrent Session #1) — Big Ten B  
From Start to Finish: The Importance of Proper Site Preparation and Maintenance  
TONYA HUNTER, LLA, MNSP, CA, Landscape Ecologist with Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.  
This presentation will focus on the importance of proper site preparation and maintenance techniques and how they relate to a successful seeding project.

(Concurrent Session #2) — Registration required — Room 106  
Providing Backyard Habitat for Native Bees: Native Bee Nest Box Workshop  
RUFUS ISAACS, Professor and Extension Specialist, Department of Entomology, Michigan State University, and EMILY MAY, Graduate Student, Department of Entomology, Michigan State University  
Native bees provide essential pollination services to commercial agricultural crops, wildflowers, and backyard gardens. Rufus and Emily will give a short presentation on the native bees of Michigan, their importance for pollination and ecosystem functioning, and how we can support and enhance their populations by providing nesting and foraging habitat. The talk will be followed by a hands-on workshop assembling native bee nest boxes. Each participant will bring home a nest box to provide nesting habitat for native bees in their yard or garden this coming season.

2:30–2:45  
Break

2:45–3:45  
(Concurrent Session #1) — Big Ten B  
The Fascinating Lives of Butterflies and Moths  
BRENDA DZIEDZIC, Author of *Learn About Butterflies in the Garden*  
Explore the lives of butterflies and moths as Brenda takes you on a journey of their life cycle. See some of the dangers they encounter and how to protect them by raising them inside.

(Concurrent Session #2) — Registration required — Room 106  
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BRITTANY BIRD
Brittany serves as the Natural Resources Planner for Oakland County Parks and Recreation. She coordinates the ecological management of over 6700 acres of parkland in Oakland County, MI. Her responsibilities involve the development and implementation of management plans for locally and regionally significant natural communities, serving as a liaison to local and regional conservation partners and community governments, managing program budgets, providing contractor oversight, and providing grant application assistance. Brittany holds a B.S. in Resource Ecology and Management from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; and an M.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from The University of Florida, Gainesville.

BRENDA DZIEDZIC
I am the author of Learn About Butterflies in the Garden, owner of Brenda’s Butterfly Habitat, a co-founder and past president of Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SE MBA), a member of Association For Butterflies (AFB), North American Butterfly Association (NABA), and the Wildflower Association of Michigan (WAM). I’m an Advanced Master Gardener and was awarded “Master Gardener of the Year 2007” for Wayne County by Michigan State University Extension. The Master Gardener Association of Wayne County awarded me the MGAWC 2008 Dean Krauskopf, Ph.D. Educational Outreach Award. My yard is certified by SEMBA as a Native Butterfly Garden, Monarch Watch as a Monarch Waystation and the National Wildlife Federation as a Wildlife Habitat. From 2002 through 2012, I have raised over 4000 butterflies from eggs I have found in my small backyard.

CRAIG ELSTON
Craig is the naturalist for the City of Hudsonville and a freelance naturalist and photographer. He has been leading interpretive hikes at the Hudsonville Nature Center since the mid 1990s. He has also led walks and presented lectures or slide programs at other nature centers, including Hoffmaster State Park’s Gillette Visitor Center, Frederik Meijer Gardens, the Michigan Botanical Club, various events for MSU County Extensions in west Michigan and other garden clubs or nature organizations. As a member of the Hudsonville Parks and Grounds committee since 1988 and having been the naturalist for the City since 2001, he was involved in planting a tall grass prairie in the nature center. He has earned the Advanced Master Gardener from Ottawa County. In 2003 he was privileged to be a part of the Kent County MSU Extension’s Master Naturalist program from its inception, developing and writing the Prairie Environments segment which is now a four and a half hour class with time both indoors and in the field for first hand personal experience.

Craig is currently working on a book on butterfly gardening for Michigan which focuses on plants suited for our state with an emphasis on natives. He is currently serving on the Gillette Nature Association Board and as a Director-at-Large for the Michigan Botanical Club State Board of Directors.

Nancy Stark, past President of Michigan Garden Clubs, at the 2013 conference.
2014 SPEAKER PROFILES (continued)

Shannan Gibb-Randall, RLA, MLA, ASLA
Shannan is principal of InSite Design Studio, Inc., a landscape architecture firm located in Ann Arbor. Her background in both art history and graduate work in landscape architecture at the University of Michigan form the scaffolding of her design approach. Shannan’s body of work has focused on ecologically-sensitive design—from stormwater management, conservation planning, to native plant design. Her work lives in highly urbanized settings to rural landscapes, each uniquely tailored to the ecological opportunities, design parameters and distinct visual preferences of each client. She is a frequent public speaker on stormwater management throughout the state.

BOB GRESE, MSLA
Bob is the Theodore Roosevelt Chair of Ecosystem Management and Professor of Landscape Architecture in the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan. He also serves as the Director of the University’s Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum. He is a native of Tennessee and studied landscape architecture at the University of Georgia and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a strong advocate of ecologically-based design and has researched the work of early landscape architects who advocated such an approach to design, especially the work of O.C. Simonds and Jens Jensen who worked throughout the Midwest and were known for the “Prairie style” of landscape gardening. He is the author of Jens Jensen: Maker of Natural Parks and Gardens and wrote the introductory essay for republishing O. C. Simonds’s book Landscape Gardening. He has recently compiled a collection of essays and writings about land conservation and stewardship from the 19th and early 20th centuries that has been published as The Native Landscape Reader by the Library of American Landscape History. Other research work includes efforts to restore and maintain prairie and savanna habitat and social research into the benefits of volunteer stewardship efforts.

RUFUS ISAACS, PHD
Rufus studied Biology as an undergraduate at the University of London in England, continued there for a Ph.D investigating aphid chemical ecology, spent two years in Tucson, investigating aphid chemical ecology, spent two years in Tucson, AZ, as a post-doctoral researcher working on whitefly pest management, and then came to Michigan in 1997. He is currently a Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Entomology at Michigan State University where he leads the Berry Crops Entomology Lab. His research program includes studies related to pest management and pollination in berry crops, as well as others exploring the implications of different biofuel crops for beneficial insects. Recent pollination studies have identified the bee fauna visiting blueberry fields, estimated the relative contribution of honey bees and native bees to the state’s blueberry production, and investigated whether provision of habitat for bees can help increase fruit crop pollination. Rufus is also an active extension specialist, having contributed to the nativeplants.msu.edu website and various other information delivery routes to get research results into the hands of practitioners. Working with Art Cameron at MSU’s Horticulture Department, Rufus has also helped to turn the idea of a pollinator garden into a reality as part of the MSU demonstration gardens.

TONYA HUNTER, LLA, MNSP, CA
Tonya has over 10 years of experience working as a landscape ecologist for Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. She has an educational background in biology and landscape architecture and applies her knowledge of native plants, landscape design, and the construction process to a wide range of projects including wetland delineation and mitigation design, green infrastructure implementation, wildlife management plans, interpretive trail systems, storm water master plans and the enhancement of native habitat. Many of her projects incorporate native plantings to improve storm water quality, control erosion, and improve wildlife habitat. She is involved throughout the design process from initial concepts through construction documents and construction oversight. She is a Licensed Landscape Architect with a background in biology, a Michigan Certified Natural Shoreline Professional with the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership, a Certified Arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture, and a MDEQ Construction Site Storm Water Operator.

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Continued on Next Page
PATRICK J. JUDD, LLA, ASLA

Patrick is Principal Landscape Architect at Conservation Design Forum and a Director for Solutions In The Land, a consulting firm that assembles all the necessary competencies to gather information, build partnerships, and design and implement whole systems farm plans. His work experience includes site planning, design and construction administration for corporate and public sites, recreation facilities, stream and wetland restoration, and whole-system farm plans. Patrick is well versed with Midwest native plant communities, natural systems stewardship and progressive rainwater management. Patrick brings a pragmatic eye to the planning and design process; the combination of his knowledge about habitat design and places for people, and his ability to translate that knowledge into planning criteria for sustainable systems integration is critical for a project that must respond to the needs of both the environment and people.

Patrick is Board Member Emeritus of the Wildflower Association of Michigan, and past Board Member and Project Development Co-chair for the Southeast Michigan Sustainable Business Forum. He has been a guest lecturer on a range of topics including sustainable landscapes and rainwater management. Patrick represents both major state institutions, receiving a BLA from Michigan State University and an MLA from the University of Michigan with a focus on historical Native American cultural practices of managed landscapes.

STEVE KETO

Steve is a graduate of MSU with M.S. degree in Poultry Science and B.S. degrees in Wildlife Management and Animal Science. He has worked as a commercial propagator of North American Native Plants for 20 years before joining the Western Michigan University Landscape Services Department as natural areas manager. He is a frequent speaker on many environmental topics and provides tours and educational programs for customers of all ages.

EMILY MAY

Emily is a graduate student in the Berry Crop Entomology lab at Michigan State University. Her research focuses on native bee ecology and conservation in the Michigan highbush blueberry agroecosystem. As an undergraduate at Middlebury College (VT), she designed and installed an educational pollinator garden filled with pollen and nectar-rich native plants to support native bees on campus. At MSU, she has worked on projects investigating the effects of wildflower plantings on native bee diversity in agricultural landscapes, the on-farm nesting preferences of soil-nesting bees, and the effects of pest management on native bee communities in highbush blueberry. Her goal is to develop management practices that support sustainable and diverse pollinator populations in a variety of landscapes.

JIM MCDONALD

Jim has been practicing the art of herbcraft since 1994, and offers a knowledge of herbalism that blends western folk and indigenous views of healing with the Vitalist traditions of 19th century western herbalism. He has taught classes and workshops throughout the Great Lakes bioregion and the US, hosts the website www.herbcraft.org and is currently writing (alternately) A Great Lakes Herbal and Foundational Herbcraft. Jim is a community herbalist, a manc wildcrafter and medicine maker, and has been an ardent student of the most learned teachers of herbcraft... the plants themselves.

TONY REZNICEK, PHD

My research specialties include sedges, especially systematics and evolution of the large and complex genus Carex. My interests here encompass the New World, and I have a special focus on Mexico at this point, as well as on the Great Lakes region. I am also interested in the phytogeography of the northeastern North American flora, concentrating on the Great Lakes region. My primary interests here are plant migration and colonization, the origin and persistence of relict plant species and communities, and the determining factors of species richness in plant communities. I conduct numerous workshops on plant identification, especially sedges. I am also an avid gardener with varied interests, but including native plants and ecologically sustainable gardening.

Thank YOU for attending the 27th Annual Wildflower Conference!

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Bill Schneider leading the very popular seed starting workshop at the 2013 conference
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