WILDFLOWER ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN PRESENTS...

30th ANNUAL WILDFLOWER CONFERENCE
MARCH 5 & 6, 2017
KELLOGG HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER • MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

30 years and Still Growing Strong

Lynn Steiner
Keynote Speaker

Ben Vogt
Keynote Speaker

Encouraging the preservation and restoration of Michigan's native plants and native plant communities.
Wildflower Association of Michigan
A nonprofit organization founded in 1986, Lansing, Michigan

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
30th Annual
Michigan Wildflower Conference

ANR Week MSU

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Cover Design by... Craig Elston
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 Doehe, 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 and preservation of our 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 organizations.

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 links to other helpful web sites. The Wildflower Association of Michigan received 501(c)(3) status in 2001.

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Lynn Steiner is one of the Upper Midwest’s best-known garden writers and a frequent speaker at gardening and environmental events. She is the author and photographer of several books advocating the effective use of native plants typical home landscape. Her newest book, Grow Native: Bringing Natural Beauty to Your Garden, published spring 2016 by Cool Springs Press, advocates the use of native plants to create a garden that is not only attractive to its owners, but also to pollinators, butterflies, birds, and other native fauna. Landscaping with Native Plants of Minnesota, the first book designed to identify Minnesota’s native plants and plant communities and to demonstrate how to use them effectively in a typical home landscape, was a finalist in the 2006 Minnesota Book Awards in the Science and Nature Category.


Lynn grew up in northeastern Wisconsin, where she spent many enjoyable hours hiking and camping in the north woods. She has a Bachelor of Science in natural resources from the University of Wisconsin and a master’s degree in horticulture with a minor in agricultural journalism from the University of Minnesota. She is a member of Wild Ones, The Nature Conservancy, The Prairie Enthusiasts, the St. Paul Garden Club, Minnesota Parks and Trails Council, and the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.

For 15 years, Lynn was the editor of Northern Gardener magazine, the official publication of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. Under her direction, Northern Gardener received several Overall Excellence awards from the Minnesota Magazine & Publication Association, and several individual contributors received Garden Writers Association Media Awards. She now writes a column titled “Northern Natives.”

Lynn lives with her husband and two cats on a 120-year-old farmstead in northern Washington County, Minnesota, where she enjoys tending her gardens and watching the progress of her restored prairie, savannah, and oak woodland.

Benjamin Vogt owns Monarch Gardens, a prairie garden design firm in Nebraska. He has published 170 articles for Houzz.com that have been read over 2.6 million times. Benjamin’s writing and photography have appeared in dozens of magazines and books, including Gardening for Butterflies (The Xerces Society), Pollinator Friendly Gardening, and The Tallgrass Prairie Reader. He has a PhD and lives in Lincoln, Nebraska with his wife and a 5,000’ garden. This fall his new book will be released, entitled A New Garden Ethic: Cultivating Defiant Compassion for an Uncertain Future (New Society Publishers).
AGENDA ~ Sunday, March 5, 2017

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

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

9:10 - 10:15  Midwestern Masterpiece: Celebrating Plants and Plant Communities (Keynote Presentation) – Big Ten A
LYNN STEINER, Author and Photographer, Landscaping with Native Plants of Michigan

This program points out the diversity and beauty of our unique Midwestern plant heritage, including the tall-grass prairie, the oak savanna, the Eastern deciduous forest and the Northern coniferous forest. It includes a mini travelogue on places where you can see natural plant communities, as well as restorations. It shows how to use natural plant communities as models for landscapes and gardens. The program includes photos and descriptions of some lesser-known Midwestern native flowers, grasses, groundcovers, ferns shrubs and trees for landscape and garden use.

10:15 - 10:45  Break – Marketplace Shopping and Networking

10:45 - 11:45  Woodland Gardens – An Ecological Design Model (Concurrent Session #1) – Big Ten B
CRAIG LIMPACH, Owner, Genius Loci, Inc.

There is more to a woodland garden than hostas and Japanese Painted Ferns. We have hundreds of great native woodland trees, shrubs and perennials to choose from and a wide variety of woodland expressions that include wetlands, ponds, and dry places that can be adapted to residential settings. We will explore the possibilities using an ecological design model of an old growth beech-maple forest.

Did My Herbicide Do That? – No Way!! Unintended Impacts of Herbicides on Non-Target Plants (Concurrent Session #2) – Big Ten C
DAVID L. ROBERTS, PhD, Senior Academic Specialist, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University

A plethora of herbicides are available on today's market for combating unwanted (weeds) and invasive plants. Regrettably, homeowners and professional applicators, alike, are making serious errors with the utilization of the various herbicides for their intended outcomes....and the problem is growing! When is Roundup not really Roundup? What is Imazapyr and why is it mixed with various glyphosate formulations? If herbicides are misapplied, what can we do to remediate their impacts on desirable plants? These are just a few of the questions we need to ponder before making an herbicide application. Actual field case studies will be presented during this informative session.

11:45 - 1:30  Grant Awards Lunch and Break – Big Ten A

1:30 - 2:30  A Reconciliation Ecology Approach to Watershed Restoration: Healing a Creek with Native Plants (Concurrent Session #1) – Big Ten B
DR. DAVID WARNERS, Director for Research, Plaster Creek Stewards, Calvin College

Plaster Creek, running from Caledonia to the Grand River just north of Roosevelt Park in Kent County, is known as the most contaminated waterway in West Michigan. The main problems – high E.coli levels, heavy sediment loads, thermal pollution, and excessive nutrients – are all triggered and exacerbated by storm water runoff. For decades Plaster Creek has been mistreated and neglected, a trend that Plaster Creek Stewards is working to change by focusing on education, research, and on-the-ground restoration activities. One of our recent restoration approaches has been an urban-cut rain garden project. During the summer of 2015 thirteen urban-cut rain gardens were installed in the Alger Heights neighborhood in southeast Grand Rapids. Because this is a relatively novel project and many of the native plants have
never been used in urban restoration projects before, we developed an experimental design to test the relative success at both the species and garden scale. Our research evaluated all 13 gardens planted in 2015 and addressed the following four questions: 1) Which native species survived best in curb-cut rain gardens? 2) Which native species performed best in curb-cut rain gardens? 3) Which gardens exhibited the greatest survivorship? and 4) Which gardens scored highest for performance? From the results of this study we can identify factors that strongly influence urban garden infrastructure projects like these.

**Michigan Eyes on the Forest and Sentinel Tree Monitoring (Concurrent Session #2) – Big Ten C**

**JULIE CRICK, Natural Resources Educator, Michigan State Extension**

This talk will cover the economic and ecologic costs of invasive forest pests, an overview of three invasive forest pests that have yet to become established in our Michigan forest ecosystems and what you can do to support the early detection and rapid response efforts currently underway.

2:30 – 2:45  
**Break – Marketplace Shopping and Networking**

2:45 – 3:45  
**Native Plants for Challenging Situations (Concurrent Session #1) – Big Ten B**

**LYNN STEINER, Author and Photographer, Landscaping with Native Plants of Michigan**

Native plants are well-suited to a wide variety of tough situations such as dry shade; poor, sandy soil; wetlands; etc. In this talk I explore some of the best native flowers, groundcovers, shrubs, trees and vines for these and other challenging situations, highlighting their aesthetic value and attractiveness to native birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects.

**Reversing the Loss of Pollinators (Concurrent Session #2) – Big Ten C**


The Baldwin/White Cloud Ranger District is working with partners and volunteers to reverse the loss of pollinators, including the Federally Endangered Karner blue butterfly, by restoring savannas and other open areas within the Huron-Manistee National Forest. Our District is dedicated to educating the public about the importance of conserving rare savanna species, and encourages native plant restoration on federal, state, and private lands.

3:45 – 4:00  
**Break**

4:00 – 5:00  
**Annual Meeting (Cash Bar Offered) – Red Cedar Room**
8:00 – 9:00  Registration and Refreshments – Red Cedar Room

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

9:10 – 10:15  A New Garden Ethic: Cultivating Defiant Compassion for an Uncertain Future (Keynote Presentation) – Big Ten A
BEN VOGT, Owner Monarch Gardens, Author, upcoming book A New Garden Ethic: Cultivating Defiant Compassion for an Uncertain Future
Why gardening with native plants is an ethical and even moral imperative in a world of climate change and extinction. This talk explores ecology, science, psychology, and philosophy as we ponder how to embrace gardens as places to create social and cultural change benefiting all species.

10:15 – 10:45  Break – Marketplace Shopping and Networking

10:45 – 11:45  Birdscaping in the Midwest (Concurrent Session #1) – Big Ten B
MARIETTE NOWAK, Author, Birdscaping in the Midwest, Past Vice President Wild Ones National
Learn how to increase the variety of birds in your yard by growing native plants offering birds their natural habitat and a yearlong smorgasbord of berries, nuts, seeds, and insects. Gardeners and native plant enthusiasts can play a vital role in restoring and preserving native communities that support not only birds, but also other wildlife including butterflies, bees, and bats.

Invasive Species Management in West Michigan (Concurrent Session #2) – Big Ten C
DREW RAYNER, West Michigan Cooperative Species Management Area (CISMA) Coordinator
This presentation will focus on both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species work being conducted in West Michigan. In this talk, Drew will discuss many invasive species that are an issue not only in West Michigan, but throughout the State of Michigan. In addition to discussing some of these species, we will also focus on some of the responses that are happening and the efforts of the West Michigan CISMA to combat these species.

11:45 – 1:30  Lunch and Break - Door Prize Drawing – Big Ten A

1:30 – 2:30  Grass River and the Field Guide to Northwest Michigan (Concurrent Session #1) – Big Ten B
JAMES DAKE, MA Science Education, Education Director Grass River Natural Area, Bellaire, MI, Author, Field Guide to Northwest Michigan: Its Flora, Fauna, Geology and History
James Dake takes you on a virtual tour of Michigan flora and fauna while discussing what makes this region unique. Through a photographic presentation and interactive participation, you will explore the history and opportunities at Grass River Natural Area and the creation of the Field Guide. Get inspired to enjoy the outdoors while protecting our local landscape.

Meadow Medicine (Concurrent Session #2) – Big Ten C
JIM MCDONALD, Herbalist, Owner, Herbcraft
Meadows, fields and prairies offer an abundance of medicine. Alongside their innate beauty, they provide habitat for a diverse array of medicinal plants, whose leaves, roots, and blossoms can address a number of common concerns. Join herbalist Jim McDonald in a discussion of the practical use of these plants which can readily replace an excess of lawn.

2:30 – 2:45  Break – Marketplace Shopping and Networking

CONTINUED
Climate Change Effects on Native Plants (Concurrent Session #1) – Big Ten B
JEN LAU, Evolutionary Ecologist, Dept. of Plant Biology Michigan State University and W.K. Kellogg Biological Station

Restoring landscapes to diverse native prairies can provide many benefits to humans. More recently, scientists also have considered how intraspecific genetic diversity (within species diversity) might provide increased human benefit. Both species and genetic diversity may be increasingly important given the rapid pace of human-caused environmental change. The climate is warming, soil fertility has been altered, and new species are invading. As a result, planting restorations with species rich seed mixes comprised of species with high amounts of genetic variation may help ensure the success of the restoration both now and into the future. I will discuss why we should consider both species and genetic diversity when we restore landscapes and present findings from a new large-scale experiment testing how genetic diversity and species diversity influence native plant establishment under current conditions and in the warmer environments predicted in the future.

Moths, Our Nocturnal Pollinators (Concurrent Session #2) – Big Ten C
ILSE GEBHARD, Monarch Watch Conservation Specialist, Chair of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones Monarch Committee

Colorful Photos document the diversity of moths found in rural Kalamazoo County. Both moths and/or their caterpillars are shown along with the native plants that host them. Also discussed is the significance of insects both to plant pollination and as a food source for birds.

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2017 SPEAKER PROFILES

Julie Crick
Julie Crick began her career as Natural Resources Educator with Michigan State University (MSU) Extension in November 2013. Her work is focused on forest health, forest management, youth forestry education, and non-timber forest products. Originally from Indiana, Julie obtained both her Bachelors of Forestry, and her Masters of Science, from Purdue University.

James Dake
James Dake is the Education Director at Grass River Natural Area in Bellaire, MI and holds a MA in Science Education. He is the author of "Field Guide to Northwest Michigan," a regional guide with over 400 color photographs of local plants and animals.

Ilse Gebhard
Ilse received BA and MS degrees in Chemistry from Kalamazoo College and UCLA respectively. She then worked as a Research Chemist in Medicinal Chemistry for 30 years at the Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo, Michigan. After retirement in 1995 she has had the time to pursue her life-long interest in nature.

Ilse began working with butterflies and moths in 1999 when she collected a monarch chrysalis from her yard. She participates in Monarch Citizen Science projects which requires fieldwork and hence an opportunity to study other butterflies and moths.

Ilse not only contributes to monarch research but also is dedicated to improving habitats to sustain pollinators in general. In addition to her yard landscaped with native plants she has established or helped others establish native plant gardens, which have become registered Monarch Waystations.

Ilse shares her passion for nature by giving presentations to classrooms and adult groups. She leads natural history field trips and tours of the gardens she has established and attends area events with a booth promoting monarchs.

Heather Keough
Heather is a wildlife biologist with 15 years of natural resource management experience working for or in association with federal or state wildlife programs including: California State Water Resources Control Board; Beale Air Force Base in Yuba County, California; California Department of Fish and Game; Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office; and Huron-Manistee National Forest, Baldwin/White Cloud Ranger District. Since 2006, she has managed the Karner blue butterfly recovery program for the Huron-Manistee National Forest. As a member of The Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery Team and Michigan Karner Blue Butterfly Working Group, I provide technical advice and assistance concerning savanna restoration strategies and monitoring protocols, and help coordinate recovery actions across the United States.

Jen Lau, PhD
Dr. Jen Lau received her Ph.D. in Population Biology from the University of California, Davis and was a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Minnesota before joining the MSU Plant Biology faculty in 2007. Dr. Lau is based at Kellogg Biological Station (KBS) where she researches how global changes, such as biological invasions, climate change, and nitrogen deposition affect plants and the microbes, herbivores and competitors with which they interact. Dr. Lau has won several national and university awards for her research and teaching, including the American Society of Naturalists Young Investigators’ Prize and the MSU teacher-scholar award, and she serves on the executive board of the American Society of Naturalists and on several awards committees for the Ecological Society of America. Her outside interests include gardening, hiking, and chasing (and being chased by) her two small children.

Craig Limpach
Craig did his undergraduate work at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks in ecology/psychology and began a twelve year career stint as a consulting field biologist specializing in birds. He worked in seventeen states after a life altering experience doing research in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge on Alaska’s north slope. Employers included the US Fish and Wildlife Service, The National Park Service, US Forest Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences and various other private organizations. After the successful founding of a non-profit river advocacy group led him to the field of ecological restoration he returned to school full time at Ohio State University to study landscape architecture at the age of thirty-six. The discovery of the discipline of ecological design while in school inspired him to found his present business; Genius Loci Inc. where he practices for the last twenty years. His work ranges from private residential projects, the design of new housing developments to restoration agriculture transitions on farms. All, of course, with the exclusive use of native plants. He is currently on the board of directors for the Ohio Wetland Association and the Center for Ecological Culture.
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2017 SPEAKER PROFILES (continued)

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 manic wildcrafter and medicine maker, and has been an ardent student of the most learned teachers of herbcraft... the plants themselves.

Mariette Nowak
Mariette Nowak is the author of the book Birdscaping in the Midwest. She is also the past director of the Wehr Nature Center in Milwaukee County, where she served for 18 years.

An avid birder, she is a board member and newsletter editor for the Lakeland Audubon Society and past board member of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology. In addition, she is Founder and President of the Kettle Moraine Chapter of the Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes. She has also served as a past vice-president of the national organization. In Walworth County, she serves on the Park Committee.

Drew Rayner
Drew graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife with a concentration in Conservation Biology. After graduation, Drew worked for 2 years with the Department of Natural Resources AIS Response Team where he mapped and treated high threat aquatic invasive plants around the State of Michigan. Drew has been the West Michigan Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) Coordinator for the past two field seasons.

David Roberts, PhD
B.S. and M.S degrees in Plant Pathology from The Ohio State University.
PhD in Botany and Plant Pathology from Michigan State University (1982).
Director of MSU's Plant & Pest Diagnostic Clinic from 1984-1998 (>14 years).

Current position is Senior Academic Specialist in the Deans office at MSU's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources serving Michigan's Nursery and Landscape Industry.

Dr. Roberts has worked on many plant issues for more than 40 years. In the 1980's, his research led to the discovery of the first bacterial wilt disease of turfgrasses in North America. Subsequently, his discovery of a Xanthomonas bacterium that controls the weed grass, annual bluegrass, on golf courses resulted in several patents with MSU. His research interests also include Herbicide Toxicity to Plants, Dutch Elm Disease, Oak Wilt, Trellis Rust and a number of other issues such as Phomopsis canker on spruce, which he discovered in the late 1980's.

In 2001, Dr. Roberts began work on ash decline in southeast Michigan. His research led to the discovery of the Emerald Ash Borer. He has published 100's of articles in peer-reviewed journals, trade magazines and MSU Extension publications. As part of his Michigan State University duties, Dr. Roberts presents many lectures and workshops around Michigan and nationally.

David Warners, PhD
Dr. Warners grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan and graduated from Calvin College with a major in biology and chemistry in 1985. Dave earned a Master's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a PhD in Botany from the University of Michigan. Between graduate degrees, Dave and his wife Teri lived and worked for the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee in Tanzania from 1990–1992. He has been teaching ecology, botany and research courses at Calvin for 20 years while doing research with students in conservation, restoration, and plant evolution. Recently he helped start Plaster Creek Stewards, an initiative at Calvin College focused on inspiring the local community to become involved with improving the health of their urban stream and its surrounding watershed, work that has included reintroducing native habitats into urban and industrial areas.

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