



Growing through Education

Wildflowers

Winter 2009 • Volume 2, Number 1

www.wildflowersmich.org

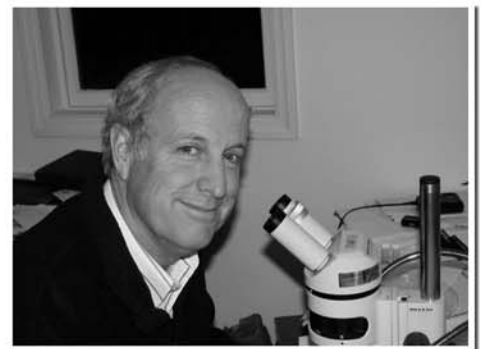
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“Building a Web of Life” with Keynote Speaker Douglas Tallamy

The theme for the 22nd annual Wildflower Conference is inspired by Dr. Doug Tallamy’s book, *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*. (See our Spring 2008 newsletter for a great book review by Nancy Small.) Dr. Doug Tallamy is Professor & Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. His current projects include research on the “Impact of Invasive plants on the Terrestrial Food Chain – quantifying the degree to which alien plant species are reducing populations of native insect herbivores and the animals that depend on them.” We are thrilled that Dr. Tallamy will be providing a presentation on Sunday and the keynote on Monday. He has been described as a very effective speaker with a message that can be understood by all, from the scientist to the recreational gardener and everyone in between. As you will see on the program overview there are a great variety of topics, each chosen to remind us of the interdependency we have with all living things. We have gathered a group of experts, the

majority who live and work here in Michigan, to educate and inspire. Of course there will be an Educators’ Workshop on Sunday and WAM Grants will be awarded at the Sunday lunch. This conference also offers exhibitors to visit, talented vendors who can provide you with a souvenir to take home, and last but not least the opportunity to network with others who share an interest in the natural world. This event is a great value that you won’t want to miss so mark your calendars now and send in your registration. Please support our work at the Wildflower Association of Michigan by attending this sure to be informative and inspirational conference. We look forward to seeing you there!



Douglas Tallamy

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

**22nd ANNUAL MICHIGAN
WILDFLOWER CONFERENCE**
Sunday March 8 and Monday March 9, 2009

BUILDING A WEB OF LIFE

The Michigan Wildflower Conference is open to all who are interested in Michigan native plants and their habitats. A wide variety of vendors will offer high quality arts and crafts, books, photographs and original paintings. The many exhibits will bring educational information about native plants and habitats. Additional information is available at www.wildflowersmich.org

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Kellogg Center, Big Ten Wing

Registration opens at 7:30; a.m. in the Red Cedar Room

Refreshments provided

EDUCATORS' WORKSHOP SESSION

The morning program will provide educators direction on how to approach a project by giving tips on identifying appropriate sites and selecting plants. Presentations will include examples of projects, lessons and activities that can be used on site. Time is scheduled after the Grant Award luncheon for participants to ask questions specific to their project.

Ray Rustem, program chairman, WAM Director

GENERAL SESSIONS

Morning Speakers

Dr. Douglas Tallamy, Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware and Author of the book, *Bringing Nature Home, How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in our Gardens* speaking on ***Building a Butterfly Garden.***

Kay Charter, Executive Director of Saving Birds Thru Habitat and WAM grant recipient, on ***One Yard at a Time: Creating Habitat for Migrating Songbirds.***

Charter's program demonstrates why native plants are crucial to our feathered friends as well as many other life forms and shows how every one of us can make a positive difference for them in our own backyards, regardless of the location or size.

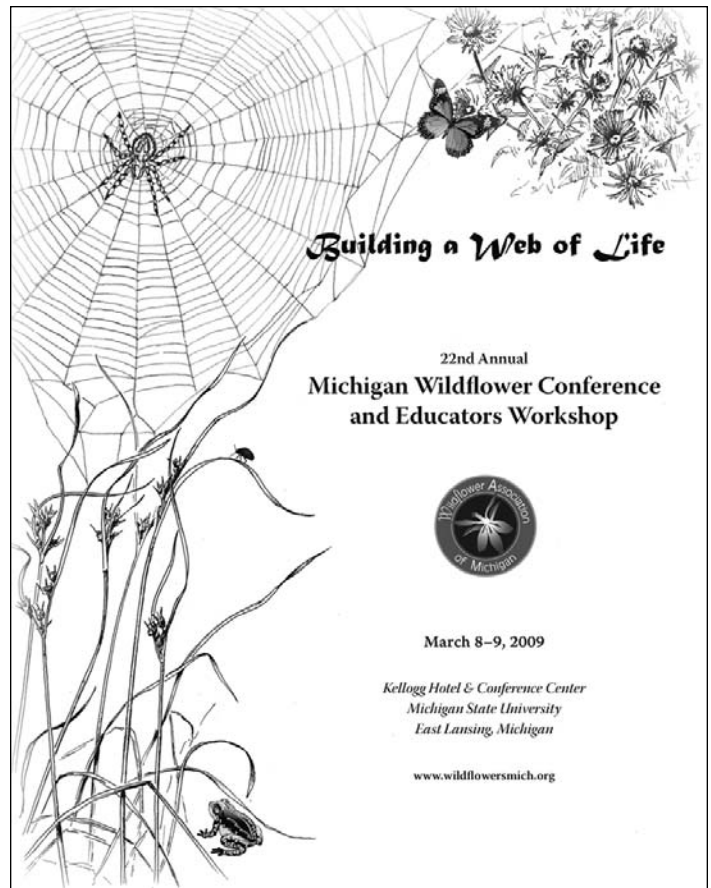
Scott Herron, Associate Professor of Biology, Ferris State University and Adjunct Associate Professor of Ethnobotany at the University of Michigan Biological Station.

On ***Wild Rice Restoration and Preservation: Bringing Awareness to Michigan's Under Realized Aquatic Gardens.*** Learn to identify Michigan varieties of wild rice, understand growing conditions (how you can bring it into your yard) how it is harvested and how restoration efforts have led to habitat improvements for songbirds, waterfowl, aquatic mammals, fish and several threatened migratory birds.

GRANT AWARDS LUNCHEON

Vegetarian meals available

Project presentations and WAM/Glassen grant awards by,
Robert Krueger, Ph.D., WAM Director



AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Mark Carlson/Bob Grzesizk, *Great Lakes Photo Tours* On ***Tools and Techniques of the Nature Photographer.*** A program discussing methods to improve your photography and increase your enjoyment of the natural world. Bob and Mark will show you how to take your photography to the next level, increasing your appreciation of the beauty of our environment.

Anton "Tony" Reznicek, Ph.D., *University of Michigan, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.* On ***Asters and Goldenrods: Michigan's Fall Treasures.*** Tony will examine the diversity of Asters and Goldenrods in Michigan with a focus on the more distinctive species and discuss the plants most suitable for naturalistic landscapes. He will also introduce the new classification of these plants and explain the science behind the name changes.

Ryan O'Connor, *Conservation Scientist, Botany, Michigan Natural Features Inventory.* ***Oak Savannas: Rediscovery and Restoration of Lost Landscapes.*** 200 years ago explorers described vast tracts of savanna in Michigan; today it has all but vanished. Rediscover this unique landscape, the processes that sustained it and how you can help.

Melanie Good, *Stewardship Coordinator, Land Conservancy of West Michigan.* ***Invasive Species: Destroyers of Diversity.*** Melanie will discuss how invasives affect the health and productivity of natural systems; tell the story of a few of the worst invaders and give resources to learn more about invasives and their management.

Evening program (open to all):
WAM annual meeting with election of board members.

MONDAY, MARCH 9

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Kellogg Center, Big Ten Wing

Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. in the Red Cedar Room
Refreshments provided

GENERAL SESSIONS:

Morning Concurrent Sessions

Tom Small, *emeritus Professor of English, Western Michigan University, Co-founder of the Kalamazoo Chapter of Wild Ones and author of The Divine Gift of Good Soil, and WAM director. The life of the Soil and Sustaining It through Native Plant Gardening.* Natural landscaping with Nature's own methods, cycles and "waste" products.

David Karowe, Ph.D., *Associate Professor, Western Michigan University Department of Biological Sciences on Climate Change Consequences*, what have been the observed responses of plants to present climate change and projected consequences of future climate change on wildflowers and trees, with specific predictions for Michigan Trees in each county.

Diantha Martin, *Senior Naturalist, retired, For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum, on They're Hairy and have Eight Legs!* Come learn about the habits, habitats, biology and adaptations of spiders and some of their kin. Learn the truth about some myths, how some species catch their prey and why they lick their toes.

Chris Mensing, *Fish and Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Michigan's Jack Pine Forest.* When you hear of Jack Pine, many people in Michigan immediately think of Kirtland's Warbler. However, the Jack Pine ecosystem is rich with many other plants and animals and this program will highlight them.

Ray Rustem, *MDNR Office of Communications, State Coordinator for Project WILD and coordinator of the Conservation Stewards Program with Michigan State University Extension, and WAM director. Conservation Stewards: Learning to Volunteer for Conservation.*

Noel Mullet, Jr., *Technical Projects Coordinator for Wayne County's Department of Environment in the Water Quality Division – Watershed Management Unit. Wayne County's Green Infrastructure Strategy.* Re-vegetation with more complex and diverse native vegetation including trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers, known as Green Infrastructure, is arguable the simplest, most cost-effective action that can be implemented to reduce storm water, mitigate the negative impacts and restore a more natural web of life.

MONDAY KEYNOTE LUNCHEON

Vegetarian meals available

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

Dr. Douglas Tallamy speaking on *Gardening for Life*, What we do in our garden landscapes has become crucial to the continuing diversity and survival of plant and animal communities

AFTERNOON SESSION:

Panel on Native Plant Design

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**Early-bird registration deadline is
February 2, 2009**

**Regular pre-conference registration
deadline is February 22, 2009**

On-site registration fees are per-day rates of \$70 members and \$90 non-members. **Does not include lunch.** Conference materials will be available for late and walk-in registrants while supplies last.

If you need confirmation of your reservation, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the registrar.

Payment must be sent with registration to...

**Jean Weirich, Registrar,
3947 E. St. Joseph
Grand Ledge, MI 48837**

NO REFUNDS AFTER FEBRUARY 22, 2009.

Special Needs – If you have special needs, including dietary, mobility or auditory, please indicate these in detail on your registration form, including the best time for the registrar to contact you to discuss them.

Starting time on both days is 8:30 a.m.

**Lunch Menus on both days offer
vegetarian options**



Monarch Butterfly (Danaus plexippus) Caterpillar.

Trees and Shrubs for Winter Interest

by Judy Webber

Winter weather has arrived early this year in Michigan, and many areas are already covered with snow. So now we must look at our trees and shrubs to provide beauty and interest. Of course, conifers immediately come to mind, but one must remember there are many lovely deciduous trees and shrubs too.

The first is the beautiful white birch, *Betula papyrifera*, famous for its lovely white, peeling bark. It attains a height of 12- 20 meters and has many slender branches and twigs of a reddish color, giving it a delicate appearance. Often one sees catkins hanging from the branches too, which adds to its interest. This tree is fast-growing and rather short-lived, although it is more hardy than the European white birch. This tree is found with many other species, especially pines, oaks, and aspens and grows in just about any kind of soil. Its native distribution is most abundant in the northern areas of the state and is more rare in the southern part of Michigan although this does not prevent its being planted there.

The second is the serviceberry, *Amelanchier arborea*, also known as June berry, which is really a tree of year-round interest: beautiful white flowers in the spring, followed by fruit in June, and apricot-colored leaves in the fall. The fruit is edible for birds and humans, tasting a little bit like blueberries. However, in the winter, we can appreciate its beautiful grey bark and its interesting shape. It is not a large tree, only growing 4- 8 meters high, and it is often seen as an under story tree. With the exception of wet soils, it can tolerate most conditions. It is somewhat slow-growing and

quite long-lived and definitely worth having in the yard. Birds really like this tree.

The third is red osier dogwood, *Cornus stolonifera*, which grows just about everywhere and in all kinds of conditions from swampy areas to sand dunes. It is an erect shrub, growing 1- 3 meters high. It is more common in the lower peninsula and rare in the U.P. The bark is a beautiful shade of red, so this shrub is absolutely stunning when seen against a background of snow or against the green of conifers. The redness of the bark is determined by the amount of sunlight it receives, so full sun is recommended. It spreads by stolons, so it is possible to soon have a nice colony of this lovely shrub.

These three are must-haves for any landscape: plant them singly or in groups; plant them with other companion trees and shrubs for a natural look. Hopefully, they are not too difficult to find at local nurseries. Obviously there are many more trees and shrubs which we can have in our landscapes to provide the interest we long for in the long winter months, but with these three you cannot go wrong.

[Reference: Michigan Trees by Burton Barnes and Warren Wagner, Jr.]

Why not make a weekend of it?

You are invited to attend Michigan's Magnificent Birds: Michigan Audubon's 105th Annual Conference scheduled for March 6 & 7th. WAM members may register at Michigan Audubon member rates (WAM is reciprocating for our conference). This conference includes presentations on Avian Botulism, Bald Eagles, Birding & Photography by Kayak, Birding Trails, Common Loons, High Tech Birding, Kirtland's Warbler, Pileated Woodpeckers, and Piping Plovers just to name a few. The Keynote Address, Adventures with Audubon will be given by Brian "Fox" Ellis, who will celebrate the natural history of the birds of North America as seen in the early 1800's through the tales of John James Audubon. Mr. Ellis will bring one of America's greatest naturalists and wildlife artists to life. Ellis has composed an entertaining and meticulously researched monologue drawing on Audubon's journals, essays and letters to friends and colleagues.

For additional information and a detailed schedule of events/registration form, please visit...

www.michiganaudubon.org

WILDFLOWERS NEWSLETTER

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www.wildflowersmich.org

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Down to Earth with Helen Dillon

Book Review by Robert Krueger, PhD

The byline for the title of this text is “Advice and Inspiration from one of the World’s Great Gardeners”. Indeed this volume does just that and in a delightful way. From its opening introduction which starts with “We’ve all done something we shouldn’t have.” (and what gardener hasn’t!) to the last section of ‘Fancy Stuff – The Red Border’ this book is an adventure for the mind and a feast for the eyes. It is not a book about native plants or wild gardens, yet hidden throughout are many favorite natives used in ways one might never had imagined before reading this text.

Now, Ms. Dillon gardens in Ireland, however she states that one of her favorite perennials is Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium rugosum*). A glance through the index reveals many others of our natives, such as Columbine (*Aquilegia vulgaris*), Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Horse tail (*Equisetum hymenale*), Sumac (*Rhus typhina*), Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*), Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), Narrow leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*), and numerous other trees and shrubs. These are set into spaces, and are often the focus of that given space.

While many of us ‘WAMmers’ are purists and seek, rightfully so, MI genetic stock for our native plantings, this book shows one that natives have a place mixed in with non-native plants in the overall garden. This book can give one direction and encouragement to intermingle natives with other cultivars and thereby represents a way of increasing native plant use. I am willing to bet that our native pollinators, birds, and other fauna will be able to find these ‘friends’ and benefit just as much from their presence in a mixed setting as when planted alone.

I highly recommend this book to any gardener, but must confess my favorite section was the one entitled “Dog in the Garden” where hilarity reigns in a brief 2 pages. Here the gardener is advised “What you need is a male dog with very short legs. However valiantly he lifts his leg, it always misses. Not a squirt but a gentle sprinkle. That’s what you want near your choice evergreens!” By the way she has Dachshunds.

This book is published by Timber Press, Portland, OR, 2007, ISBN-13:978-0-88192-859-4, cost = \$29.95



Visit us today at...
www.wildflowersmich.org

BUSINESS MEMBER PROFILE

Designs By Nature

Operating a native plant business was not in our plans over a decade ago. But one person’s enthusiasm can be contagious. We “blame” Steve Keto for inspiring us to start Designs by Nature back in 1997 and owe our beginnings and our continued success to him. Like Steve, we have a passion for our natural resources and although our employment in government gives us an avenue to share that passion, we truly feel a sense of accomplishment with our work through Designs by Nature.

The mission of Designs by Nature is to provide native plants and education about our native flora and fauna to communities and individuals throughout Michigan. We saw a need to convey the importance of native plants and help people understand how to establish them in a variety of conditions. We took that idea and established a program to work with conservation organizations around the state. These organizations sponsor native plant sales and workshops – we provide the plants and the presentation. Last year we worked with 20 organizations conducting two dozen sales and workshops. If it sounds like a lot of work, it is. But it’s worth it. We watch as people realize the connection between themselves, their surroundings and our natural environment. And by providing the tools, information

Continued on page 6



New England Aster (Symphyotrichum novae-angliae)

BUSINESS MEMBER PROFILE

Continued from page 5

and resources to help them establish a native landscape, there's little left to prevent them from getting started.

Our beginnings were painfully simple. We started with a horse barn and converted it into a greenhouse. We didn't even live on the property until 2002, when we finished building our home. We have been fortunate to grow steadily over the past 10+ years which has allowed us to upgrade our rudimentary system. Now underground water and electrical lines have replaced above ground hoses and electrical cords. A new greenhouse will be erected by spring next to our old converted horse barn. But our proudest addition was our son Zachary, who blessed our life on June 25, 2007. He's a big helper in the greenhouse and loves to join us on the road!

Besides Steve, there are two other growers that have been very supportive and helpful during our journey in the native plant business. Cheryl Tolley and Esther Durnwald have always been there for us and our appreciation goes beyond words. We also would like to thank all the conservation districts, nature centers and non-profit conservation organizations that have selected us for their native plant sales, projects and presentations. They have created successful native plant programs and are championing native plants at the grassroots level.

As we look back over the last 10+ years, we are grateful for the opportunity to create a business that is so exciting, so rewarding and so challenging. We look forward to continuing to be a part of the native plant community and are committed to using our business to make a difference for our environment. In a sense we are helping to protect our natural heritage "one landscape at a time".

Sue Tangora and Vern Stephens own and operate Designs by Nature in Laingsburg, Michigan, approximately 20 miles northeast of Lansing. They also work for the Department of Natural Resources and have been members of the Wildflower Association of Michigan for many years.

Report of the NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee reports that the following candidates are up for re-election and have agreed to be nominated...

Esther Durnwald, *current WAM President*
Chad Hughson, *current 2nd Vice President*
and Suzie Knoll



OFFICERS

President	Esther Durnwald
1st Vice President	Robert Krueger, Ph.D.
2nd Vice President	Chad Hughson
Secretary	Susan Baldyga-Grubb
Treasurer	Jean Weirich

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Baldyga-Grubb	Robert Krueger, Ph.D.
Esther Durnwald	Ray Rustem
Trish Hacker-Hennig	Nancy Cutbirth Small
Darwyn Heme	Cheryl S. Tolley
Chad Hughson	Jean Weirich
Suzie Knoll	Maryann Whitman

PAST PRESIDENTS

Cheryl S. Tolley	Larry R. Hill
Marjorie A. Fuller	Kathleen Hilbert
Stephan Keto	Gerald Sosnowski
Robert J. Welch	Dr. F. Glenn Goff
Louis F. Twardzik	Harry Doehne

The quarterly meetings of the Board of Directors Are usually in April, July, October and January. Check the website for dates and times.

www.wildflowersmich.org

SEND REGISTRATION TO: Jean Weirich, 3947 E. St. Joseph, Grand Ledge, MI 48837

2009 MICHIGAN WILDFLOWER CONFERENCE
AND EDUCATORS' WORKSHOP

Please mark sessions you plan to attend:

Sunday, March 8, 2009

- General Conference
 Educators' Workshop

Monday, March 9, 2009

- General Conference

NAME (as it should appear on name tag) _____ PHONE (DAY) _____ (EVENING) _____

ORGANIZATION, SCHOOL OR BUSINESS _____ ARE YOU A: VENDOR OR EXHIBITOR

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

E-MAIL _____ FAX _____

SCHOOL (IF REGISTERING FOR EDUCATORS' WORKSHOP) _____ ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE) _____ COUNTY _____

NOTE: FOR THIS CONFERENCE ONLY, MI AUDUBON SOCIETY AND MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS QUALIFY FOR THE WAM MEMBER RATES.

I am a member of MI Audubon Society Michigan Garden Clubs and will register at the WAM Member rate.

Check registration category and boxes below:	MEMBER RATES	NONMEMBER RATES	AMOUNT DUE
Early-Bird Special—DEADLINE IS 2-03-09			
Sunday Only	<input type="checkbox"/> \$55.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75.00	
Monday Only	<input type="checkbox"/> \$55.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75.00	
Sunday and Monday	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$140.00	
Regular Registration—DEADLINE IS 2-22-09			
Sunday Only	<input type="checkbox"/> \$65.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85.00	
Monday Only	<input type="checkbox"/> \$65.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85.00	
Sunday and Monday	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$160.00	
Lunch is included in the registration fee. Check this box for a Vegetarian lunch: <input type="checkbox"/>			
I am joining WAM to take advantage of the member rate. <input type="checkbox"/>			
WAM Membership <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renew <input type="checkbox"/> Household \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Organization \$60			
Donation to WAM (tax deductible)			
I can receive the WAM Newsletter online rather than by US Mail: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
PAYMENT METHOD—Please make checks and P.O.s payable to WAM Please note: No Refunds After 2-22-09			
<input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase Order Attached # _____ for TOTAL of \$			
<input type="checkbox"/> I will need a receipt			
<input type="checkbox"/> For confirmation, include a self-addressed stamped envelope			

**Mail check or purchase order with registration form to: 2009 WAM Conference,
c/o Jean Weirich, Registrar, 3947 E. St. Joe, Grand Ledge MI 48837.
Questions or specific needs? Contact Jean by e-mail: jeanweirich@gmail.com or phone 517.627.7927.**



2009 WAM CONFERENCE
c/o Jean Weirich, Registrar
 3947 E. St. Joseph
 Grand Ledge, MI 48837

www.wildflowersmich.org

REGISTRATION FORM

**2009 Michigan Wildflower Conference
 & Educators Workshop**

March 8 & 9, 2009

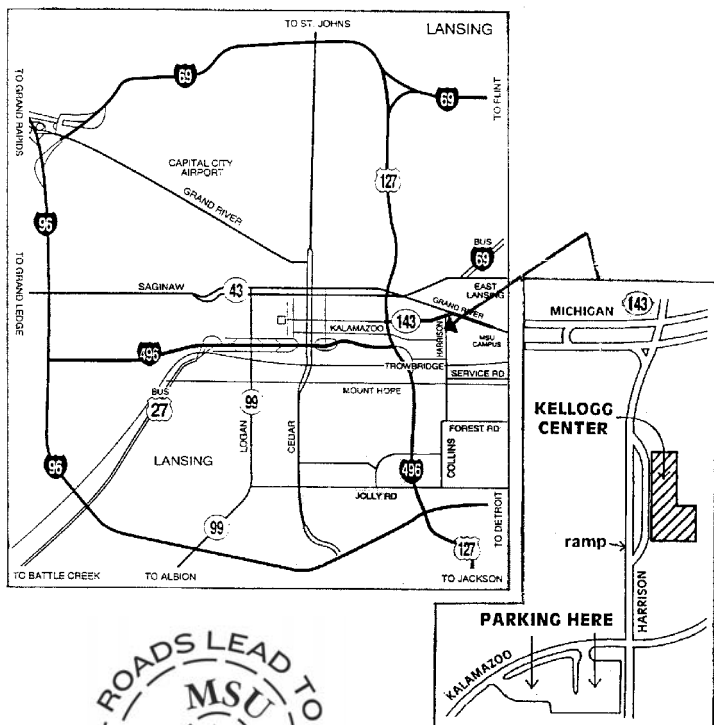
**Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center
 Michigan State University**



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**Your WAM membership expires on the date
 Above your name. This is the only notice you
 Will receive. IF IT IS TIME, PLEASE RENEW.**

**Stay with us at the
 Kellogg Center!**



Save the stress and hassle – come early and stay at the Kellogg Center Hotel and Conference Center. Be there for coffee and bagels at 7:30 a.m. Sunday.

The Kellogg Center Hotel is holding a block of rooms for WAM at the special ANR Week rate of \$85.00 per night. Call the Kellogg Center Hotel early and tell them you are attending the ANR Week Michigan Wildflower Conference. This ANR Week rate is guaranteed until February 5, 2009, after which is subject to availability.

**KELLOGG CENTER
 1-800-875-5090**