



Wildflowers

President's Column

Inside this issue:

Book Review	2
Grants Information	3
For the Children	4
Natural Mosquito Repellents	5
Alerts from the Nation's Press	6
Invasive Species	7
Restoration of Refuge Gateway	8
25th Annual Conference Info	9

WILDFLOWER ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
WAM



Oh the glorious days of a beautiful summer. My wildflowers

have been exceptional this year. I had lots of bloodroot, lovely Jack-in-the-Pulpits (some almost 1 ½ feet tall), stout Mayapples, a nice patch of forest sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*), Giant Blue Hyssop, and a Red Baneberry that can be spotted 100 yards away, to name a few. Top those off with the best yield of black raspberries ever and this is a season to remember!

I also had the privilege of leading a Rotary International Group Study Exchange Team from our RI District 6290 to District 1800 in Germany. Located around Hanover, one of the highlights of my vocational visit was to an abandoned quarry near Holzminden.

My host family was Wilhelm, a pharmacist and terrific naturalist and his wife Ulrike who participates in bat conservation. Wilhelm took me to the quarry which he said had occasional native orchids in bloom. Well, we hiked in and our jaws dropped wide

open as the floor of the quarry was carpeted with hundreds of blossom stalks encompassing 5-6 species. Scattered amongst those were Blue Bottle Gentians and an unknown *Astragalus* spp. Wilhelm will let me know what it is. Remnants of 2-3 other orchid species past blooming were also evident including "Frauen Schuen" – our Lady's Slipper, and Columbine. It was remarkable to see lots of species that seem identical to our Michigan ones. But then many towns in our state were settled by Hessian troops after our Revolutionary War, who stayed because the territory reminded them so much of home. Ulrike and I counted bats that evening in the tiny hamlet of Grave, where the town church is home (and proudly so!) to about 1000 of an endangered large brown bat species. As we sat on the old churchyard wall at dusk, they "popped" out of a very small hole near the peak of the roof, swooping and circling before scattering for dinner. It was as if a bat "Nerf Gun" was rapidly shooting them out!

Our 25th Anniversary Conference is coming up March 4-5, 2012. This issue of the newsletter has some ad-

vanced announcements of that event and more will follow in the next issue this winter. It is the latter where you will have all of the registration information for the conference.

Enjoy the beauty and bounty of summer in our great state. My family and I will be doing exactly this and a bit more as my youngest daughter, Allison and I put some of the "blackcaps" up as jam and syrup for winter savoring! (By the way I purchased a bottle of the native Aronia berry pancake syrup at the Kirschfest in Naumberg, Germany. It is delicious!) Be sure to read the rest of the newsletter as it contains a lot of valuable information.



Book Review: The Forgotten Pollinators

By Tom Small



Stephen Buchmann is the author of eight books, including two for young people, and over 150 scientific articles. His most popular book, *The Forgotten Pollinators*, co-authored with ethnobiologist Gary Nabhan, explores the vital relationships between plants and the animals they depend on for reproduction—bees, beetles, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, and countless other animals, most of them usually “forgotten” in the struggle to conserve species and habitats.

Called a beautifully told “detective story” by Bill McKibben and a “stunning addition to conservation biology” by Robert Michael Pyle, *The Forgotten Pollinators* was a pioneer in its lively account of both ecological and cultural contexts of plant-pollinator relationships around the globe.

Buchmann is a Research Associate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Arizona. His research includes studies in conservation biology of native bees—especially carpenter, mason, and bumble bees—and the vital importance of bees in restoration ecology.

He serves as the International Coordinator for the Pollinator Partnership and the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (www.pollinator.org).

He’s co-author of *The Bee Tree*, a beautifully illustrated book for children about Malaysian honey hunters, and there’s a new paperback edition for teenagers of his *Letters from the Hive* on the culture of honeybees. A forthcoming TV documentary, “Sacred Bees of the Maya,” is based on his work with Mayan beekeepers in Mexico.

In 1999 Buchmann formed The Bee Works, an independent company creating educational materials and providing consultation on pollinator conservation for both agricultural and wild lands.

Although the central focus of Buchmann’s research and writing is the biology of bees, his work covers virtually the entire range of ecological and cultural relationships between bees, the plants they pollinate, all the other creatures that serve as pollinators, and the human species, whose health and survival depend on knowledge and conservation of “the forgotten pollinators.”

Check our website

www.wildflowersmich.org for additional information as it becomes available. Our next issue of the newsletter will include conference registration information.

**25th Annual
Wildflower Conference**



Preserve the Legacy - Pass it on

March 4 & 5, 2012
Kellogg Center, Michigan State University

Grants' Applications Requested

The Wildflower Association Board of Directors is pleased to announce the availability of funds for support of the 2012 WAM Educational Grant Cycle. Complete information concerning application criteria, submission deadline (**Jan 04, 2012**) and an application form are available on the web site

<www.wildflowersmich.org> .

The monies available come from donations from our business and individual members. All applicants will be notified if they are or are not recipients of awards no later than January 30, 2012.

Awardees will receive their funds at the Awards Luncheon Ceremony on Sunday March 4, 2012 during the WAM conference at the Kellogg's Center on Campus at MSU.

WAM members, if you know of anyone with a project involving the creation of a garden of native

plants at a school or other public space, encourage them to apply. The application process is easy and assistance with it is available. These award dollars are intended to assist in the purchase of native plants and

not infrastructure, equipment etc. If you have any questions, please see the website or contact the WAM grant coordinator Maryann Whitman, listed therein.

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WAM Educational Grant Program

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