

Have you ever looked at turfgrass and wondered ‘How can I change that to a healthy habitat for pollinators and wildlife?’ Well, look no further. Over the last year, the WAM board has taken those comments that you all provided to heart. On Saturday, March 1 from 2 -4 pm in the Red Cedar Room at the Kellogg Center, we will have two knowledgeable speakers that will provide their tips on how to get this process started. Not only will they give their tips, but they’ll also talk about their mistakes and help us understand to not repeat.

Seats are limited so be sure to sign up and enjoy these engaging speakers and all their knowledge!

William Kirst, co-owner of Adapt Landscapes, LLC

Title: If You Plant It (thoughtfully), They Will Come: Attracting Humans to Your Native Plant Garden.

Synopsis: Humans are undoubtedly the most important species in any ecosystem. How they relate to and interact with their ecosystem determines whether or not thousands of other species have a place to live. In this lively talk, William will discuss how to (and how not to) use native plants to attract humans to your native plant garden and how to get them (especially the stubborn ones) to relate and interact positively with the natural world.

Biography: William Kirst is the founder of Adapt: Community Supported Ecology a 501(c)3 that trains Community Leaders who offer a variety of free services, and is co-owner of Adapt Landscapes LLC a full-scale garden design and installation company for those seeking larger, elegant native plant and perennial edible landscapes. While not freaking out about running two organizations, he likes to hang out with his children - doing art or playing football, play a variety of musical instruments, sing with Adapt Landscapes co-owner Kat Baskin, read science fiction and pretend that someday he will start running or practicing yoga again.

Mike Weis, owner of Dropseed! Native Gardens and Ecological Restoration

Title: Establishing Native Gardens: Minimizing the Errors in "Trial and Errors"

Synopsis: Whether you are wondering how to get started with native plant gardening or have years of experience, this program is sure to have something for everyone. Experienced native plant gardener and designer Mike Weis will take us through the steps in the first garden he ever installed, starting in 2005. He will present a slideshow of images of this garden through the years to illustrate how some decisions/methods that were used worked well while others did not.

Biography: Mike Weis is the owner of the Kalamazoo-based native plant landscape company [Dropseed! Native Gardens and Ecological Restoration](#). He has been gardening with native plants since 2005. Mike also works seasonally for Hidden Savanna Native Plant Nursery and volunteers as an ecological steward for Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy and Stewards of Kleinstuck. Mike is also on the executive and program committees for Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones, a board member of Stewards of Kleinstuck and he is the representative of KAWO for the Asylum Lake Preserve Council.