

far flowing water



Grand Haven, Michigan

February 17 - 7:30

Volume 20 ❖ Number 5
February, 2009

From the Cutover to the Coast Guard City: A visual history of land cover change in Grand Haven, Michigan

Dr. Erik Nordman
Dept. of Biology at GVSU

will give a presentation in which he describes the change in land cover in the Grand Haven area from logging times to the present.

Important Members Meeting

Pres. Michael L.

1. Input wanted on programs for 2009-2010. Please think of the kinds of programs you would like the Board to pursue for next year. The Board will circulate a sheet soliciting ideas during the next meeting on Tuesday, February 17.

2. The Board is proposing that OIAS donate \$600 (\$200/yr for three years) to the Ottawa County Nature Education Center at Hemlock Crossing County Park. We will vote on this proposal during the February 17th meeting. Ottawa County Parks Naturalist Chip Franke described this project during the January meeting. More information about the Nature Education Center, go to www.miottawa.org/parks.

Table of Contents

Great Back Yard Bird Count	3
Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative's Ornithological Congress	2
Native Plant Alternatives to Replace Exotic Plants	4
Programs 2008-2009	2
Remodeling	3
Why Native Plants?	5

**United Methodist
Church of the Dunes**
717 Sheldon, Grand Haven, MI

Visit the OIAS homepage at
<http://www.oias.org>

Everyone is invited.
Our programs are free.

Programs 2008 - 2009

**More Directors are needed!!!
If you would like to be a Director,
let Michael L know.
OIAS can have up to nine Directors.**



MARCH 17 — Gray Wolves in the Upper Great Lakes Region: History, Ecology, and Current Status Paul Keenlance - Department of Biology, GVSU

APRIL 21 — Michigan's Important Birding Areas and Update on the Search for the Ivory Billed Woodpecker Caleb Putnam, Michigan IBA Coordinator

MAY 19 — Annual Potluck & Members' "Show-and-Tell" Slide Show

Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative's Ornithological Congress

Tom Funke, Director of Conservation, MAS

Submitted by Michael L

Fellow bird conservationists,

I cordially invite you to the annual Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative's Ornithological Congress, which will be held April 3-5 in Petoskey. This will act as a Regional Michigan Audubon meeting for our Northern Region (Sunday) and the annual meeting for the Michigan Chapter of the Wildlife Society (Thursday-Saturday).

This should be an exceptional year for the congress, as we have many fine presentations and activities lined up, including:

- Tina Phillips from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- Terry Rich from Partners in Flight
- Bill Bowerman, noted Bald Eagle Researcher
- Michael Hutchins, CEO of the Wildlife Society

There will also be a "Citizen Science Fair" on Sunday, that is open to the public. Various conservation groups will be on hand to share ways citizens can gather data for various conservation and research projects.

I really encourage you to attend. If you have questions, feel free to ask.

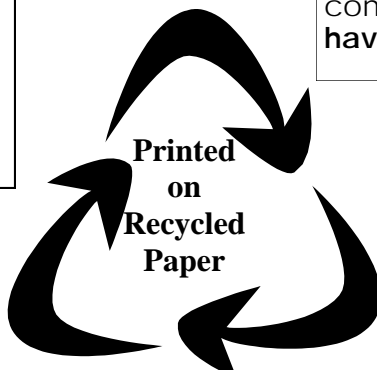
You can get all the information about the congress by visiting www.mibci.org.

One more thing: There is a block of rooms reserved at the Petoskey Days Inn. The rates are very reasonable and the best part is they have a snack bar that is open 24 hours...it is a great place to do some networking.

Far Flowing Water is published eight times per year. If you would like to contribute to the next issue, **please have your articles to me by March 1st**

Join us March 6 & 7, 2009, for the 105th Annual Conference, Michigan's Magnificent Birds <http://www.michiganaudubon.org/>
Tom Funke, Director of Conservation, MAS

Our programs are made possible, in part, by an Emilie Baker Fund for the Environment grant from the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation.



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Remember

- Count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count
- Submit a separate checklist for each new day.
- Submit more than one checklist per day if you count in other locations on that day.
- Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time.
- When you're finished, enter your results through the web page. <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>
- Deadline for data submission is March 1, 2009.

Great Backyard Bird Count FEBRUARY 13-16



J Manning

Spring is right around the corner. Time to think about **REMODELING**. Some of you might be thinking that is a winter project. I am talking about remodeling your yard. Some of you might be thinking you have worked many years on your yard to get it as it now is. How many of you have one native plant? How many have between 5 and 10 native plants? How many have over 10? How many can properly identify 10 native plants? Plants are a little easier than birds to identify. They do not flit here, there, hither and yon. Plants do not hide between emerging leaves in spring, behind big branches or go zooming out of sight.

I find I am digressing to birds. Back to plants. Native plants (flowers, shrubs, trees, grasses) are very important to our birds, butterflies, bees, mammals, humans, etc. Plants are food to everything as well as pretty to gaze upon. Did you know almost all birds feed their young insects from birth until fledged? Did you know many, many non-native plants do not offer anything to entice insects. Soooooo, it is much better for the birds that may be nesting in or near your yard to offer them a varied buffet of plants to search among and select different insects for their young to provide them a well-rounded breakfast, lunch, snack, and dinner. Help the winter birds with berry bushes like

Michigan Holly.

Back to yard remodeling. If you do not have any native plants in your yard, there is no better time to plant some than now. If you already have some, now is an excellent time to add more. Adding native plants to your yard helps fill in major gaps in the native plant corridor migrating birds, mammals, and insects use for food and rest during migration. Habitat destruction from one reason or another has eroded this important corridor. As homeowners add native plants, it helps the migrants.

Another important reason to plant native plants that are adapted to your conditions and they require no pesticides and less water or fertilizer after the first year. Many non-native plants become invasive and eradicate the important native plants that used to live in your area.

Remember, purchase native plants or join a club like WildOnes (now with a new chapter in Grand Rapids) that promotes native plants and where you can trade plants. **DO NOT REMOVE PLANTS FROM EXISTING AREAS.**

Judi Manning



J Manning

Native Plant Alternatives to Replace Exotic Plants

Judi Manning

Excerpts and Quotes

Plants on the list of invasive exotic plants may surprise you. English Ivy smothers wildflowers and topples shade trees. Japanese honeysuckle strangles shrubs and small trees. Many exotic plants leave your garden with the help of birds, mammals, or the wind and wreck havoc on natural areas by outcompeting the surrounding natives.

In the Mid-Atlantic region the invasive plants leaves appear earlier in the spring and drop them later than native plants. This extended growth gives them a significant advantage over native species. The exotics have no natural enemy – neither insect nor disease – and quickly produce lots of offspring. Many invasive plants are unpalatable to deer and quickly take over where deer are abundant.

Before choosing a native plant alternative, what characteristics of the invasive plant you are replacing did you like. Using Japanese honeysuckle as an example, its sweet fragrance or vining habit might be the desired characteristics. So, get rid of the honeysuckle and replant with fragrant summer bloomers like sweetbay magnolia, *Magnolia virginiana*, a tree, and add the summer-blooming leatherflower vine, *Clematis viorna*, if you like the vine habit. The new combination gives you everything you liked about the honeysuckle without its devastating weediness.

Native Plant Alternatives

I have excerpted a few problem plants and alternatives in the chart to the right. PLEASE CHECK THE REFERENCE WEBSITE FOR THE COMPLETE LIST.

Reference:
Kick the Invasive Exotic Gardening Habit with Great Native Plant Alternatives, <http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/nativegardening/alternatives.shtml>

Problem Plant	Desirable Characteristics	Great Alternatives
Japanese Wisteria	showy flowers, fragrance	woodland phlox, <i>Phlox divaricatus</i> sweet azalea, <i>Rhododendron canescens</i> coast azalea, <i>Rhododendron atlanticum</i> American wisteria, <i>Wisteria frutescens</i>
Japanese Honeysuckle	fragrant flowers	leatherflower, <i>Clematis viorna</i> Carolina jasmine, <i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i> trumpet honeysuckle, <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> sweetbay magnolia, <i>Magnolia virginiana</i> purple passionflower, <i>Passiflora incarnata</i>
English Ivy	Drought Tolerant Evergreen	plantain-leaved sedge, <i>Carex plantaginea</i> marginal woodfern, <i>Dryopteris marginalis</i> woodland aster, <i>Eurybia divaricatus</i> alumroot, <i>Heuchera villosa</i> creeping mint, <i>Meehania cordata</i> Allegheny spurge, <i>Pachysandra procumbens</i> creeping phlox, <i>Phlox stolonifera</i> Solomon's seal, <i>Polygonatum biflorum</i> Christmas fern, <i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>
Autumn Olive	Drought Tolerant	strawberry bush, <i>Euonymus americanus</i> wax-myrtle, <i>Myrica cerifera</i> meadowsweet, <i>Spiraea latifolia</i> mapleleaf viburnum, <i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>
Barberry	Cheap/Nice Fruit	strawberry bush, <i>Euonymus americanus</i> shrubby St. Johnswort, <i>Hypericum prolificum</i> winterberry, <i>Ilex verticillata</i> deerberry, <i>Vaccinium stamineum</i> mapleleaf viburnum, <i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>
Miscanthus species	Strong Vertical and Fall/Winter Interest	split-beard bluestem, <i>Andropogon ternarius</i> switchgrass, <i>Panicum virgatum</i> sugarcane plumegrass, <i>Saccharum giganteum</i> little bluestem, <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> Indiangrass, <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>
Burning Bush <i>Euonymus</i>	Fall Color	fringed bluestar, <i>Amsonia ciliata</i> Hubricht's bluestar, <i>Amsonia hubrichtii</i> witch-alder, <i>Fothergilla gardenii</i> oak-leaf hydrangea, <i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> fetterbush, <i>Leucothoe racemosa</i> swamp haw, <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> arrowwood viburnum, <i>Viburnum nudum</i>

Why Native Plants?

Judi Manning

Native plants evolved naturally in North America over 1,000's of years before humans introduced plants from distant places. In eastern and central North America, native plants typically grew in communities with other species of plants, animals and microorganisms which are adapted to similar soil, moisture, and weather conditions. The natural balance keeps each species in check, allowing them to thrive in conditions where they are suited. Some of the widespread communities included are oak-hickory-chestnut and beech-maple forests, tallgrass and shortgrass prairies, and freshwater marshes. Other communities inhabiting specialized niches include savannahs, fens, bogs, flood plains and alpine areas.

Planting native plants helps preserve the existing diversity of native vegetation and wildlife. It is estimated that by 2050, 25% of Michigan's native plants will be extinct from loss of habitat due to development and invasion by aggressive, non-native plants. This estimate does not include possible effects of global warming. Because of the disappearance of natural habitat, our yards and rural properties become crucial to the survival of species.

Native plants have distinctive foliage, graceful forms, colorful flowers, and fruits. They are used to replicate prairies, woodlands, or wetlands. Native shrubs and trees provide a variety of heights, shapes and textures in the landscape. Many native plants provide winter interest through their bark or seed pods.

Native plants are vigorous and hardy and easy to grow and maintain because they are adapted to our soils and climate and can survive winter cold and summer heat. Once established, they will thrive without fertilizer and are resistant to most pests and diseases. Many native plants help to enrich the soil. Landscaping with native plants lowers water use and improves water quality. Native plantings - prairie and woodland gardens or rain gardens - are much more effective than lawn grass in slowing down stormwater and filtering out chemicals contained in it. The deep root systems of many native species are able to absorb, hold, and gradually release this water. If not gradually released, the water would rush into nearby bodies of water, eroding their banks and delivering pollution. Native plantings also help recharge groundwater.

Native plants support wildlife better than non-native plants. Providing food and shelter they attract:

- (1) butterflies - nectar and host plants for their caterpillars
- (2) birds – right kinds of berries and insects at the right times of the year
- (3) other desirable wildlife



Native plants are able to store carbon in their deep and extensive root systems permanently removing carbon from the air. A “remodeled” yard that has replaced all or most of the lawn uses less fossil fuel and produces less carbon dioxide than a yard with lots of grass that requires frequent use of power equipment and petroleum products.

“Native plantings will give children a place to play where they can become aware of the workings of the world around them. Research suggests that rural children may think differently from their urban counterparts. Rural children explain other's behavior mainly with references to characteristics of situations (the outer world has impact – you interact with it), while urban children spoke in terms of internal intentions and beliefs. Native landscaping allows us to explore nature within our children's frame of reference.” <http://www.for-wild.org/landscap.htm>

Native plants have a historical and cultural interest. Some plants played a significant role in Native American culture, or in the European exploration and settlement. Many species are used as food or medicine. Others have been used for cordage, textiles, dyestuffs, or similar domestic purposes.

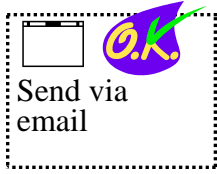
References:

Why Landscape with Native Plants? Wildflower Association of Michigan, <http://wiildflowersmich.org>, 1/27/09; What Are Native Plants, Craig Tufts, Chief Naturalist for the National Wildlife Federation, <http://www.for-wild.org/landscap.htm>

Consumers in the United States buy vast amounts of **illegally imported swordfish** each year, unintentionally harming both marine mammals around the world and domestic economic interests. **Help end U.S. support of destructive fisheries** by telling the National Marine Fisheries Service to enforce the Marine Mammal Protection Act, a longstanding law that bans such imports until the country providing them proves that their fisheries meet U.S. standards for protecting marine mammals.

Visit http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/2167/t/5243/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=26435 to take action.
Rick B

2008-2009 OIAS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION



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PLEASE FORWARD
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

February Dr. Erik Nordman

**February 13—16
Great Back Yard Bird Count**