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GRNA Volunteers,

We had our best ever turnout for our Spring Stewardship Day this past weekend, with over 30 of you volunteering your Saturday morning to spruce up our native plant gardens, give the Center windows a good cleaning, and thin the trees in the beaver exclusion zone to prevent Rail Trail flooding. Meanwhile, our Riverfest Committee has been hard at work hammering out the details of this year's event and soliciting silent auction donations, our stream monitoring and vernal pool monitoring volunteers have been braving chilly weather and mucky wetlands to collect important data, and our volunteer docents have been greeting visitors and leading them on guided wildflower walks along our trails.

No matter what your volunteer area of expertise, we continue to be amazed at your dedication to the beautiful place we call GRNA. Thank you for your hard work, your innovative ideas, and the camaraderie that you bring to every volunteer event. Let's keep the momentum going, everyone!

Cheers!

Emily Burke
Conservation & Education Specialist

VOLUNTEER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



ALL YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT TICKS!

Thursday, May 27 - 6:30 pm

Online via Zoom

Rich Keith of Kalamazoo Nature Center and Dr. Jean Tsao of Michigan State University will be giving a talk on ticks for GRNA staff, board, and volunteers. This talk will focus specifically on ticks in Michigan - including the range expansion

of deer ticks into northern Michigan and the link between ticks and wildlife, particularly birds. Rich and Jean have both spent many years researching these critters, so join us for what is sure to be an informative presentation on the most recent updates on ticks in Michigan! No need to register. This talk will last for about 1 hour. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89472028770>

VOLUNTEER TRAINING DAY

Wednesday, June 16 - 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

In person at the Grass River Center

This event is designed to provide our volunteers - whether you're new or seasoned - with new or improved skills to help with the valuable work that you do at GRNA. The event will be a series of breakout sessions covering topics like invasive species ID, front desk/docent training, and much more, so you will be able to choose sessions that are applicable to your volunteer role. You must pre-register for this event. To register, contact Emily Burke at emily@grassriver.org.



STEWARDSHIP EVENTS

SUMMER STEWARDSHIP WORK BEES

Select Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 11:00 am:

June 23, July 7 & 28, Aug 11 & 25

In person at the Grass River Center

Come help us keep the trails and grounds in good shape this summer during our regular stewardship work bees. Activities will vary depending on the week, but may include trimming back branches along trails, spreading wood chips, or pulling invasive plants. Come dressed for the weather.



NATIVE PLANT GARDENS WORK BEES



Dates and times TBD

In person at the Grass River Center

Join the native plant gardening crew, led by veteran GRNA volunteer Julie Hurd, to keep the gardens in tip top shape all summer. GRNA's gardens are comprised of a variety of native plants that promote pollinator and wildlife health, as well as keep the area surrounding the Center looking beautiful. The crew will meet every other week throughout the summer to weed, water, and prune. Come dressed for the weather, and bring gardening gloves if you have them. Specific dates and times are still to be determined. Email Lyn Petty at lynwpetty@gmail.com to be kept in the loop.

A promotional graphic for a native plant sale. At the top, the text "SAVE THE DATE: FRI, JUNE 4th" is written in large, white, bold letters against a background of green grass. Below this, the text "for GRNA's first ever native plant sale" is written in a smaller, white font. The central image shows a row of nine different native plants, each in a small, dark, cylindrical pot, displayed on a dark wooden shelf. The plants vary in height and leaf shape, including some with long, thin leaves and others with broader, more rounded leaves. At the bottom of the graphic, a dark green rectangular button with white text reads "Click this box for more info".

SAVE THE DATE: FRI, JUNE 4th
for GRNA's first ever native plant sale

[Click this box for more info](#)

SAVE THE DATE: THURS, AUG 5th

for the start of the Riverfest online auction! More details to follow.



Grass River Natural Area is a nonprofit organization that has flourished for fifty-one years because of the generous support of people who value our mission "to manage the Grass River Natural Area, conserve and protect its watershed, and provide opportunities that increase knowledge, appreciation and community-wide stewardship of the natural environment".

If you believe in our mission and want to help us fulfill it for many years to come, please click on the Donate button below. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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