## Volunteer Views
## April 2021

GRNA Volunteers,

The musical song of winter wrens and the delicate blooms of trailing arbutus have returned to the swamp, signaling the beginning of the busy season at GRNA. And we've got A LOT in the works for our fearless volunteers in 2021! We hope to see you at one (or several!) of the following upcoming events the spring.

Cheers!

Emily Burke
Conservation & Education Specialist

## CITIZEN SCIENCE OPPORTUNITIES

**STREAM MONITORING TRAINING**
**Saturday, May 1 - 9:00 am to 11:30 am**
**In person at the Grass River Center**
Twice each year, GRNA monitors several sites along the 3 major streams running through the natural area to assess the health of our waterways. Every year, we train new volunteers to help us collect this data and contribute to keeping GRNA's creeks healthy. If you're interested in learning how to collect this data, join us! Pre-registration is required - email emily@grassriver.org. Please note: most of this training will occur outside, but

masks must be worn inside the Grass River Center.





**SPRING STREAM MONITORING**
**Saturday, May 8 - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**
**In person at the Grass River Center**
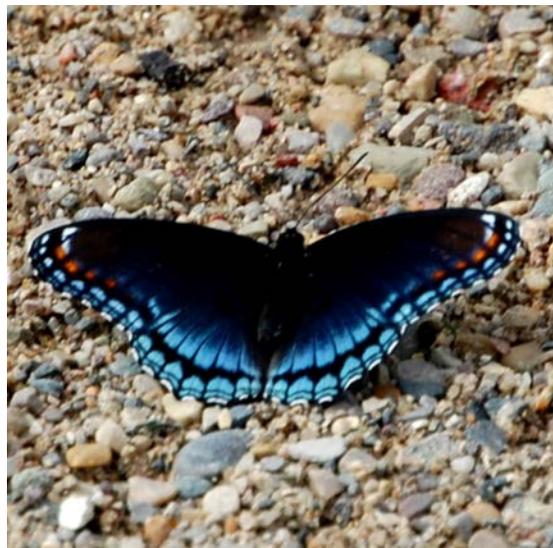New and seasoned volunteers of all ages are invited to join us as we collect data as part of our biannual stream monitoring program. This year, teams will be collecting habitat data and macroinvertebrates (creek "bugs") at three sites along Shanty Creek and then will return to the Grass River Center to sort through their critter samples. For everyone's safety, we will attempt to sort outside under the pavilion, but if we are forced inside due to weather, masks must be worn. Pre-registration is required - email emily@grassriver.org. Note: we highly encourage new volunteers to attend the Stream Monitoring Training on May 1st to become familiar with collection and sorting methods.

**BUTTERFLY MONITORING TRAINING**
**Saturday, May 22 - 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**
**Online training hosted by Kalamazoo Nature Center**
Kalamazoo Nature Center staff will host a virtual butterfly monitoring training for the Michigan Butterfly Network (MiBN). The goal of MiBN is to gather data on the status and distribution of Michigan butterflies using citizen scientists. This free training is open to past and new participants throughout the state of Michigan. Donations are welcome and will help support MiBN's annual operating costs. Register for online training



**here**. GRNA is a regional hub for MiBN, and an outdoor butterfly "field day" will be hosted by GRNA in June for those who have attended this virtual training.

# STEWARDSHIP EVENTS

**SPRING STEWARDSHIP DAY**
**Saturday, May 22 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**
**In person at the Grass River Center**
Care to give our trails a good trimming, spruce up our gardens, or shine up some windows? Come one, come all to help us freshen up our Center and grounds in preparation for the busy summer and fall seasons! No experience is necessary, just a pair of work gloves and an open spirit. Pre-registration is encouraged; email stewardship@grassriver.org. Work will be outside, but masks must be worn if you enter the Grass River Center.



# GENERAL VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING



**VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE**
**Saturday, May 22 - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm**
**In person at the Grass River Center**
If you've never volunteered with GRNA before or want to start volunteering on more projects, this event is for you! We'll be set up on the lawn outside the Grass River Center (weather permitting) with different stations representing our different types of volunteers, including stewardship, education, citizen science, events, and administration. Come anytime during the open house to learn about opportunities as diverse as maintaining the native plant gardens around the Center, assisting naturalists during school field trips, or joining one of our Board committees.

**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, or if you have an idea for a specific topic you'd like covered, contact Emily Burke at emily@grassriver.org.

**dockside**
Torch Lake, Michigan
6340 Old Torch Lake Dr, Bellaire

## SPRING FLING
## IS BACK

Tuesday, May 4
5:00 - 10:00 pm
Dine in or order for take out.
The Dockside is giving 50% of all proceeds
to support GRNA.

GRASS RIVER



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

**Click this box for more info**

## CONSIDER A DONATION

Our financial well being is dependent on programming dollars and donations, and with the former sidelined for the most part at the moment, donations are of paramount importance. Your generous support is always greatly appreciated, but

in these difficult days, your willingness to help us continue our mission with a personal donation promotes you to Nature Warrior status at GRNA.

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.

# DONATE

**Our mailing address is:**
PO Box 231
Bellaire, MI 49615
**Natural area address:**
6500 Alden Highway, Bellaire MI 49615

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