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*Wild Ones promotes environmentally-sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities and is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization.*

**For more information, please contact:**

Amy – 616-308-8176 or [president@rivercitywildones.org](mailto:president@rivercitywildones.org)

## May 16th Program: A Walk In The Park

Join us on Monday, May 16 at 7 PM for an informative tour along the riparian habitats of Grand River Park in Ottawa County. This 162 acre park along the banks of the Grand River encompasses upland woods, floodplain forest, restored native grasslands, wetlands and a small lake. Our field trip will be led by Park Naturalist Kristen Hintz – a dynamic and humorous educator who knows her park well! We will explore the native wildflowers that inhabit this particular ecosystem and pick up some tips on how to engage young folks on nature hikes. This will be a great learning opportunity for you Master Naturalists out there, as well as those who have children or grandchildren

you want to help plug in to nature.

Please carpool as much as possible and try to arrive early – the tour begins promptly at 7 PM. There is plenty of parking and we will meet at the picnic shelter building directly to the left as you enter the main parking lot of Grand River Park. The address is: [9473 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. Jenison, MI 49428](https://www.google.com/maps/place/9473+28th+Ave,+Jenison,+MI+49428). (Click the address above or [here](#) for a Google map to the location.)

**Remember to come prepared at these meetings for hiking, possible inclement weather and bring your water or sport drink. As always, some tempting goodies will be provided.**

### Officers

President—**Amy Heilman**  
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**Rebecca Ling** — Landscape  
Designer - River Maid Design,  
Environmental Law Investiga-  
tor

## Annual Plant Exchange to Follow May Program

Directly following our tour of Grand River Park riparian plants, we will adjourn to the picnic shelter building at the park for refreshments and our popular plant exchange. This gets bigger each year as our native gardens grow and we have more plants to share with each other. This is your chance to pick up a few of those plants you have been craving for just that certain spot in your garden.

### **Plant Exchange Rules of Etiquette:**

The purpose of the Plant Exchange is to foster natural landscaping with native plants. Please try to bring plants to share from your garden that you know to be true native species, please no invasive exotics!

**Respect Plants** – Plants may not get planted immediately, pot them up well so they can survive. **Please provide species labels** for the transplants or seeds you bring to share.

**Respect Yourself** – Just starting out? Don't have plants to bring? Of course you may still take plants! In fact, that is one of the main purposes of the Plant Exchange. We all had to get started somehow, and when native plants start doing really well in your yard, bring some back to share. It is the "Plant It Forward" concept!

**Respect Others** – If there are only a few pots of a particular species, please take only one so that others may have a chance to get one, too.

## Upcoming Events

### *KCD Native Plant Workshop*

**Date(s):** Weds., June 1 **Time:** 6 — 8 p **Location:** [3260 Eagle Park Dr NE, Suite 111, Grand Rapids](#)

On June 1, 6-8 pm, KCD will host a workshop on Gardening with Native Michigan Plants. Vern Stephens, owner of Gardening By Nature, will be presenting from 6-8 pm with plenty of time for questions about your garden plans. If you haven't ordered plants, you may place your order the night of the workshop. On June 8, come back to pick up your plants and be sure to browse the extras available for purchase. This sale is open to the public. Call 616.942.4111x100 to register for the workshop. Cost is \$5.

### *Dune Ecology Workshop*

**Date(s):** Saturday, June 4 **Time:** 1 — 5 p **Location:** Zoology Lab at Cornerstone University, Gillette Sand Dune Visitor Center and Hoffmaster State Park

There is still room in this class which is offered through the Kent/MSU Extension Master Naturalist Program. You do not have to be enrolled in the program to attend this supplemental class – so hurry to reserve your spot now! Call the number below for information and to sign-up.

Michigan Sand Dunes are a part of the largest freshwater dune system in the world. Many think a sand dune is just a large sand box. Learn how sand dunes are more than a recreational playground. Learn how sand dunes are structures of change that have formed over many years by mounds of loose sand grains re-arranged by the wind. Learn how a sand dune's ecology can impact a wide variety of plants and animals. Learn what makes a parabolic sand dune so unusual. **Instructor:** Ray Gates, **Cost:** \$ 30. 00, **Master Gardener Recertification credit:** 4 Education hours



*(A Michigan State Park Motor vehicle parking pass will be needed for each vehicle entering Hoffmaster State Park. Participant car pooling will be coordinated as we're leaving Cornerstone University.)*

**Enrollment deadline is three days before class starts.** Contact Ginny Wanty with questions or to sign up—(616) 336-3108 or [wanty@msu.edu](mailto:wanty@msu.edu) A confirmation e-mail will be sent to participants the Monday before the class starts.

### *KCD Native Plant Sale*

**Date(s):** Weds., June 8 **Time:** 4 — 7 p **Location:** [3260 Eagle Park Dr NE, Suite 111, Grand Rapids](#)

On June 8, from 4-7 pm, Kent Conservation District (KCD) will be hosting its annual native plant sale. The sale will feature Michigan wildflowers, grasses and rescued woodland plants. Themed garden flats (i.e. rain gardens, sunny, shady or butterfly, etc.) will be available for purchase to make garden planning easy. Log on to [www.kentconservation.org](http://www.kentconservation.org) to view the plants. The order form can be printed and mailed in to the office. Preorders will be taken until June 1.

## Community Stewardship—Pitch In and Pull!



Okay Wild Ones – you know we love native plants and you KNOW how destructive invasives species like garlic mustard are to our native plant communities right? Now is the time to help DO SOMETHING about it. Please commit to joining at least one of the organized garlic mustard pull events happening this month and next. Go to: [www.stewardshipnetwork.org](http://www.stewardshipnetwork.org) and click on “Garlic Mustard Challenge” for a more comprehensive list of sites – there is sure to be one located in a park or natural space near you! Be the change you want to see in the world.



*Source: The Stewardship Network*

### *We Need Your Help!*

#### Busy in the Garden

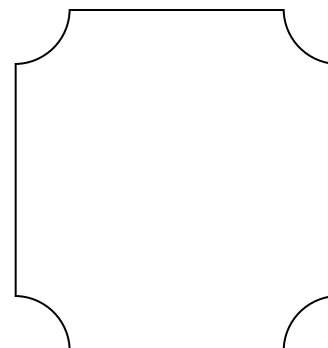
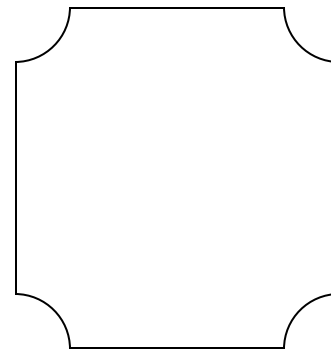
*By George Shannon*

- Dig a little.
- Dig a lot.
- Dig a brand-new garden spot.
  
- Plant a little.
- Plant a lot.
- Plant the seeds and bulbs you bought.
  
- Wait a little.
- Wait a lot.
- Wait much longer than you thought.
  
- Pick a little..
- Pick a lot.
- Share the best bouquet you've got.

Do you like to take pictures of the plants in your garden or while out on a hike? Are you a poet or do you like collecting nature poetry? We are in need of poems and pictures, quotes and puzzles to help make our monthly newsletter even better. They can be silly or serious, fun or thoughtful—the more contributions we can get from our members the more colorful and personal our newsletter will be.

We also would love to have any ideas for articles that you may have—and, of course, if you are willing to help write them!

If you would like to contribute anything, please send it by the first of each month to Rachel Ford, the Newsletter Planning Chair, at [newsletter@rivercitywildones.org](mailto:newsletter@rivercitywildones.org). Please identify any plant pictures, if possible. (If not possible, that's fine too—we may run it as a "What Is This?" photo.) Thanks so much!!



*Your pictures here!*

### *2011 River City Wild Ones Calendar*

**All programs (unless otherwise specified) will begin at 7 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month, February – November. Non-members are always welcome! Find more information for each event on our website.**



**Wild Ones**  
NATIVE PLANTS. NATURAL LANDSCAPES

Grand Rapids Chapter  
River City Wild Ones

[rivercitywildones.org](http://rivercitywildones.org)  
[www.for-wild.org](http://www.for-wild.org)  
(National Headquarters)

Date	Speaker/Topic	Location
May 16	Kristen Hintz/Field Trip to Grand River Park	Grand River Park 9473 28th Ave.. Jenison, MI 49428
Jun 20	Carol and Fritz Rottman/Native Prairie	11300 Hart St Greenville, MI 48838
Jul 18	Nathan Haan/Plaster Creek Watershed	Ken-O-Shay School 3155 Kalamazoo SE Grand Rapids, MI 49507
Aug 15	Cedar Creek Institute	701 W Cloverdale Rd Hastings, MI 49058
Sep 19	Dr. David Dornbos/Invasive Woody Shrubs	Bunker Interpretive Center 1750 East Beltline Ave. SE Calvin College, Grand Rapids
Oct 17	To Be Announced	TBD
Nov 14	Fifth Annual Auction	Bunker Interpretive Center 1750 East Beltline Ave. SE Calvin College, Grand Rapids