

**Volume 9, Issue 3**

**June - July 2015**

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

**For more information, please contact:**

Mike- 616-803-5353 or [president@rivercitywildones.org](mailto:president@rivercitywildones.org)

Gretchen - 616-240-2181 or [membership@rivercitywildones.org](mailto:membership@rivercitywildones.org)

[www.rivercitywildones.org](http://www.rivercitywildones.org) / [www.wildones.org](http://www.wildones.org) (National Headquarters)



[facebook.com/rivercitywildones](https://facebook.com/rivercitywildones)

June Program: Tour Asylum Lake WMU'S Largest Preserve with  
Steve Keto, WMU Natural Areas and Preserves Manager

Monday, June 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

3836 Drake South Drake Rd., Kalamazoo, MI

<http://wmich.edu/asylumlake/>

Our tour will be lead by the dynamic and knowledgable Steve Keto, whom holds degrees in Wildlife Management and Animal Science. Steve worked as a commercial propagator of N. American Native Plants for 20 years.

The 131 Stadium Drive exit is closed right now, and this is the closest exit to Asylum Lake. So, it will take you a bit longer since you'll have to go through town.

Take 131 south to West Main St, which is exit 38... go east on West Main toward Kalamazoo to Drake Road, and turn right (south). Continue on Drake to Stadium Drive (there's a new Costco on your right). Cross Stadium Drive on Drake and at the top of the next hill, there's a cut over the boulevard to the Drake Road lot of Asylum Lake. Turn left into the lot.

***Reminder: bring your insect repellant, and water or beverage of choice.***



[www.rivercitywildones.org](http://www.rivercitywildones.org)

# You are invited to the 2nd Annual FREE Native Plant & Pollinator Education Garden Tour!

**Monday, July 20, 2015 • 5–7:30 pm**  
920 Cherry Street, Grand Rapids



**Prizes! • Plant Sales! • Book Sales! • Plant Experts!**



**Afterward enjoy a  
craft beer across  
the street at  
Brewery Vivant!**  
925 Cherry St SE



[www.rivercitywildones.org](http://www.rivercitywildones.org)

*Wild Ones is a not-for-profit environmental  
and advocacy organization.*

**J**oin the *River City Wild Ones* for a  
celebration in their beautiful Native  
Plant & Pollinator Education Garden.

- You will see Michigan's native plants in a city garden setting, and learn how you can plant your own.
- Find out the best native plants to add to your own garden!
- Native plant experts will be there to answer your questions and advise you.
- Learn the history of this lovely garden—how it supports native bees, birds and butterflies—and the value it adds to your city.

**WHEN:** Monday, July 20, 2015  
5–7:30 pm

**WHERE:** In front of the ICCF Building  
(Inner City Christian Federation)  
920 Cherry Street, Grand Rapids



**Enjoy a craft beer  
across the street  
at Brewery Vivant!**  
925 Cherry St SE

*Come early, stay late.  
Pub hours are 3–11 pm.*

**For every beer you  
purchase on July  
20th, Brewery Vivant  
will donate \$1 to  
River City Wild Ones.**

**THANK YOU  
Brewery Vivant!**

All proceeds will be used  
right here in West Michigan,  
to provide education  
and create native plant  
gardens at schools and  
other non-profits.

# Six Questions for Georgia Donovan

**By Meribeth Bolt - Vice President**

**1) We're thrilled with the gorgeous artwork you have produced for our Native Plant and Pollinator Education Garden sign. What was the experience like for you to tackle the 24"x36" sign?**

I think creative people like the challenge of something new. I have switched media a lot, from weaving to painting. Watercolor evolved into oil painting that takes a lot of concentration. Now I use whatever medium seems to suit the project, but I am more settled into oils and cut-paper. The cut-paper evolved into designs for shirts, opening up another world of color and possibilities.

For the Wild Ones sign I went back to my roots, botanical art with ink and watercolor, which was a pleasure. It's a technique that allows for fine details which is best for identification. I very much enjoyed doing the artwork for the Native Plants and Pollinators sign.

**2) When did you begin to think about art as a career?**

I was always thinking about art so much that I forgot to have any other career. Actually, I've done a lot of landscaping, but since I'm not getting any younger I've turned more toward art as my main career. I'm not as good at other things, so art just makes sense! The purpose of life is expression. This is why I love doing art & nature-related workshops with kids.

**3) You incorporate animals, landscapes and plants into your art, who or what is the greatest influence on your subject choices?**

My father is not artistic, but he has a great respect for all animals. My mother encouraged playing in the woods and finding plants. So much of the world is taken over by people... I'd rather be a voice for wildlife. I'm very excited that next summer I'll have an art show at the Kalamazoo Nature Center.

**4) What is your art background?**

I have a BFA, but should also credit my babysitter, who showed me how to make paper-farms rather than paper-dolls.

My paintings, paper-art, and shirts have been shown in galleries in northern Michigan and in Montana. My felted "Stone Wall" was featured at Stonybrook, NY, and my paper-art won an award in the 2013 Grand Rapids Festival show.

**5) You had an entry in the very first ArtPrize and you will be back for ArtPrize 2015. Can you tell us about your entry and the venue?**

Some folks know me for creating "Cedar Sapiens" that were in the first Artprize. These living cedar tree-people are found around the GR area, if you want to see them a couple live at 2324 Leffingwell.

This year for Artprize I will be doing a largish paper-cut of Bears along a river, watching as bees turn into the Big Dipper. It's called "Bear Witness." I'll be at the Women's City Club venue.

**6) Tell us a little about the upcoming class you're preparing for our members (date TBD).**

I would like to offer a Botanical Art workshop, later this summer. I can offer some basic tips and suggestions, keeping in mind that no two styles are alike, and yours is best for you. By drawing something, you take its features into your memory, and have a keepsake as a way of honoring a favorite plant or found treasure.





## April & May Program Overviews

*By Ron Cammel - Contributing Member and Amy Heilman - Education Chair*

### ***April - Current Threats to our Great Lakes and Wetlands with Some Solutions - Alan Steinman PhD. (by Ron Cammel)***

At the April Wild Ones meeting, the director of Annis Water Resources Institute laid out some of the most serious problems in the Great Lakes – the sorts of things you come across in the news, but with a broad perspective.

Alan Steinman listed eight major threats to the lakes and adjacent wetlands: land runoff, toxic chemicals, invasive species, climate change, water withdrawal, development, habitat loss and fishing pressure.

Some of the research pulled together at [Annis Water Resource Institute](http://www.aniswaterinstitute.org), a program of Grand Valley State University based in Muskegon, shows the extent of the problems.

For example, local aquifers have dropped by 35 feet in a few decades. Steinman partly blamed drainage systems that move runoff water directly to streams rather than soils.

Harmful algal blooms poisoned Toledo's water for awhile, but in Brazil they have killed people and Michigan dogs have died from lapping the toxic water from lakes. Steinman said levels of toxicity from the blooms in areas of the Great Lakes have been extremely higher than what's considered safe, but the blooms usually have not occurred near sources for drinking water.

The institute has documented 180 invasive species in the Great Lakes, the world's most invaded fresh water. Many are out of sight, such as the quagga mussels which have largely replaced the more noticeable zebra mussels, but they still wreak havoc on the lakes' ecosystem.

Solutions can be expensive, but there are many things that are helping – from

riparian buffers to green infrastructure like rain gardens to best agricultural practices. Steinman said large-scale solutions need to have public buy-in and need to be holistic. Emphasizing the economic value of good water quality can help. Annis plays a role in providing the credible, peer-reviewed science needed for decisions and policies that create lasting solutions, he noted.

### ***May - Annual Garlic Mustard Pull & Native Plant Exchange (by Amy Heilman)***

About 25 RCWO members and friends had a ball on May 18th during the annual Garlic Mustard Fling and Native Plant Exchange. This year's location for community stewardship occurred at Seidman Park just north of Ada. We scoured the area between the parking lot and creek and found very small, isolated patches of garlic mustard. This was the perfect approach for targeting the satellite areas popping up to prevent spread of this invasive species. The work brought in about a dozen bags of garlic mustard which will be added to the Garlic Mustard Challenge tally. We want the West Michigan Cluster of The Stewardship Network to retain the trophy again this year...have you reported your bags pulled yet? If not, go to [www.stewardshipnetwork.org](http://www.stewardshipnetwork.org) to do this.

We also viewed dozens of different native wildflowers and had a nice breeze to keep us cool...and there were no bugs to hamper our efforts. The diverse supply of native plants donated for the exchange enabled everyone to choose a few new species to add to their garden projects. Our new friend, Claire, even traveled from Montague and brought in 4 large flats of milkweed seedlings to share with us!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this event and to Ginny Sines, Volunteer Coordinator for Kent County Parks, for leading this fun program!





## Tri County Students “STEM” the Invasion

*By Polly Bolt, 4th Grade Teacher from Tri County School in Sand Lake*

Fourth grade students at Sand Lake Elementary are helping to maintain the Michigan native plant prairie located by the Nelson Township/Sand Lake Library. The prairie area was recently designated a Certified National Wildlife Habitat thanks to the efforts of Laurie Grant, who is also helping to direct this project. The endeavor is part of the school's STEM class, a project-based program that integrates science, technology, engineering and math.

First, students used their math skills to set up a grid. They measured the area and calculated how many stakes would be needed and how much twine should be purchased. Then, 10' x 10' squares were set up. The grid will be used to identify problem areas and to document changes in the number of invasive plant species over time.

Next, Amy Hielman from River City Wild Ones came to teach students about native and non-native plants, and why

some plants are considered invasive. They made observations of leaf edges, texture, and vein patterns to help determine if a plant was one of the targeted invasive species.

Then, with shovels in hand, students went on the offensive, digging up burdock and curly dock that threaten to crowd out the native plants. Each 4th grade class has had the opportunity to participate and have accomplished much. As the saying goes, “Many hands make light work”. Garden Club students will also have the chance to continue to job as summer volunteers. Being a long-term venture, students will visit the area again when they return to school in the fall. This project gives our young people a chance to apply math and science skills in a purposeful way while serving the community and protecting our environment.





## RCWO Plant it Forward Grant Keeps on Giving!

*By Amy Heilman - Education Chair*

Walden Green Montessori School (K-8) in Spring Lake was one of two recipients of our chapter's annual Plant It Forward Grant in 2014. Last fall, Amy Heilman visited the school and met with two educators to view the school's pollinator garden which had been in the works for a couple of years. It was obvious the garden was very important to the teachers, students and the parent green committee that helped tend it. Their goal was to continue to include native plants to encourage butterflies by introducing more nectar and larval plants. The RCWO Board reviewed their grant application and approved the school a \$200 grant to purchase native seed or plants.

Amy provided the school a list of appropriate plants and this spring the school used the grant funds to purchase many milkweed and other species from the Ottawa County

Conservation District Plant Sale. The students had a ball planting and learning about pollinators and what they need to thrive. The photos show them in action! The 2nd and 3rd grade students sent us illustrated letters of thanks for the grant which are a delight to read. These will be available to view at future monthly programs...take a moment to enjoy them...they are quite heart-felt and appreciative. This is just another example of how our membership dues and other fundraising activities help to support native plant education in the area.

*Thank you for your part in these endeavors!*



## Fire, Smoke, and Political Advocacy

*By Darcy J. Dye - Contributing Member*

It started as dirty politics. There was animosity between the Township and the Charter Village within the Township. 12,000 residents in the Township. 2,000 in the Village. Two managers vying for power and domination in their respective municipalities. Then the Township came up with a scheme to settle the odds against the Village: The Township Fire Department needed to replace a pumper truck. It would cost \$400,000. Why not look at a new fire station as well? But where to build? The Township manager actually said, "So we took a map of the Township and put our finger down in the center. There was the ideal location for a new fire station." The problem was that the spot was in the Village, in the heart of a quaint residential neighborhood. The neighborhood was landscaped with a canopy of oaks, pines, and walnut trees, many of them close to 100 years old. How do I know? My husband and I own an historic Artist and Craftsman bungalow on the very spot where the Township finger came down. Our lot has 44 trees, and we have photographs taken in 1917 that show the trees about 3 feet tall.

Here's where the dirty politics begin...The Township secretly purchased the residential parcels to our south and east, about 2.34 acres. Someone told the Township Manager that we had purchased our house just before the real estate crash in 2008. The house was supposedly vacant, and we would probably be glad to unload it. The Township thought that it could buy our property for cheap and have a fire station well under way before the Village could stop them. Never mind that our house was not vacant. I used it as my temporary art studio until we retired and could make the house our permanent home. Never mind that I worked daily in that "empty" space and spent all of my free time in our 1.10-acre yard, getting rid of invasives and Kentucky bluegrass. The plan was to replace things with Michigan native species. The River City Wild Ones put that fire in our bellies!

When I originally spoke with the Township Manager about their "exciting plans for the neighborhood," the plan was to have a fire station built in the next 12 to 18 months. When I asked if our house was a candidate for eminent domain, the Township Manager hesitated and said, "Yesss, but we hope we don't have to go that route." When I asked if the Village knew about the plans, the Manager said, "No," and asked me not to tell.

Here is what I know: Never ever think that a mama tiger will willingly give up her cub. I hung up the phone that day certain that the Village was going to hear about these plans. I just had to figure out how.

Trained as a researcher at college, I started by gathering "the facts." I went to the Village Hall and read applicable zoning ordinances, the Master Plan, and the comprehensive tree

ordinance that some Village Father had artfully conceived to protect old-growth trees. We checked with our lawyer to find out everything we could about eminent domain. When we had sufficient "facts," I called the Village President, the Planning Commission Chair, and the Chair of the Historic Commission. I did not call the Village Manager, a spot that was filled at the time by an interim who happened to be the Police Chief of a force shared by several municipalities. No point in telegraphing my punches.

Never in 100 years could I imagine what would ensue. Although The Fire Chief's Handbook details a plan for finding a site, researching its suitability, and working with the community in which a new fire station is proposed, this healthy process was ignored entirely. Instead officials chose a campaign of fear and intrigue, telling residents that their property insurance would go up if the station were not on that exact corner and that EMS ambulances might not get there in time to save loved ones. Neither of these things was true.

Since 2012 I have attended at least three meetings a month: the Township Board, the Village Council, and the Village Planning Commission meetings. I have taken copious notes and have learned lots about government, politics, and the people who "lead" in my community. I have visited fire stations throughout the country, interviewed fire chiefs, picked the brains of architects, civil engineers, landscape architects, and arborists. I have written letters, spoken out at public meetings, and gone door-to-door to share what I know. All of this in a neighborhood where people told me frankly that I would never make a difference. Politics were too thick. The system was too corrupt. The politicians were too entrenched. Believe me, some days I wish that I had listened...

There was a stage when the Township tried to get a mega-complex through the Village Planning Commission that included a 5-bay fire station and a 2-story Township Hall. The 19,000-square-foot structure would have dominated the site. What little land was left over would become parking. This meant clear-cutting 172 trees on the Township's two parcels. We would lose 36 of our 44 trees, because their root systems extended across property lines. The oaks and walnuts would not survive excavation, and the shallow roots of the white pines would be smothered by asphalt.

*Continued on the next page...*



## Fire, Smoke, and Political Advocacy - Continued

By Darcy J. Dye - Contributing Member

As of this writing, three years into the fire station politics, a fire station has yet to be built. A nationally known architecture firm with a reputation for artfully integrating fire stations into residential neighborhoods has produced the latest design the Township is trying to get through the Village Planning Commission (because the two Township lots are in the Village and zoned residential, the Township had to get them rezoned Public/Semi-Public, and the ordinance for Public zoning requires Planning Commission approval of any plan for a fire station.). The design is for a single story building, in keeping with the character of our neighborhood. It incorporates many of the features my architect husband and I have insisted on in public hearings so that any construction would comply with international code and fire standards. The proposed fire station is now situated deeper in the site so that our home will no longer live in its perpetual shadow (Yes! We did move in earlier than we had planned, for political reasons!). One portion of the site will become a dedicated park, thus saving about 100 trees on Township property. The Village Planning Commission has said that final approval of plans depends on working out landscape and buffer treatments "with the Dye's." In a recent conversation with the architects, the project engineer, and the Fire Chief, the architects agreed to look at their landscape plans and see if there was a way to move the fire station driveway so that we would not lose 5 old-growth trees on our property. No one could have imagined this kind of communal outcome.

Here are some things we learned along the way:

1. Any time you take on a small scale political fight, be clear about your mission. Ours was two-fold...Work for truth, justice, and community. Advocate for the Earth.
2. Do your research; gather the facts. We had to become quasi-experts on tree growth, fire stations, ordinances, construction, architecture, fire station code, Village/Township processes, etc.
3. Know all the players. Figure out whom you can trust and who is potentially helpful. (Several of the Historic Commission board members went to the press and saved our house from eminent domain by sharing its historic value and talking about the travesty of demolishing it. The Township backed down.)
4. Take time to talk with your "opponents."
5. Decide from the beginning that you are only going to us facts. Leave high-pitched emotions at home. When you are attacked in public by officials and the press, do not respond

no matter how outrageous the charges. If you refuse to respond, then the charges die of their own accord.

6. Communicate with neighbors. They may not show up to most of the regular meetings, but if they are informed, they will come when you need them.
7. Expect a roller coaster ride. Try not to react too much to the intrigue and corruption. The big picture is what matters not the ride.
8. Leave a paper trail. Dirty politics can't continue when the facts are on the table and everyone has a paper copy.
9. Insist on collaboration. You may not find too many inroads at first, but your small contributions will help change the pattern of political power and domination that is destroying American Democracy these days.
10. Keep copious notes. Date everything. Keep careful files so that you can easily re-find crucial information.
11. Find a group of people who will listen, mentor, encourage, and keep you from doing something stupid. Listen to them.
12. Finally, never give up. Never give up. Never give up.

***[My deep thanks to Amy Heilman, former president of the River City Wild Ones and teacher par excellence. My thanks, too, to Sister Lucille Janowiak who, for the past three years, has listened, prayed, encouraged, and mentored me through the fire station process.]***



Image - [www.3clickmedia.com](http://www.3clickmedia.com)



## Ranger Steve's Nature Niche - Upcoming 2015 Butterfly Counts

By Ranger Steve Mueller - Advisory Board Member

### West Michigan Butterfly Association

Read our newsletter at:

<http://www.graud.org/wmba.html>

### 2015 Butterfly Counts

River City Wild Ones are invited to participate in any or all of the butterfly counts. No experience in butterfly identification is necessary. This is an opportunity to get out in the field and learn from the butterfly experts.

There is a \$3 fee for each butterfly count you attend, these fees are sent to the North American Butterfly Association for compiling the national count data.

For additional details contact Ranger Steve at [odybrook@chartermi.net](mailto:odybrook@chartermi.net)

Butterfly Count dates were set to accommodate member needs and expected butterfly flight dates. If you are not a member please join the West Michigan Butterfly Association. The annual membership fee is \$5. Membership information is at the end of the newsletter on the web site.

#### 5 July 2015 (Sun) 9:00 AM Allegan Butterfly Count – Allegan Co.

Leader: Ranger Steve (Mueller)

Meet at the Fennville Unit of Allegan State Game Area, 6013 118th Ave Fennville.

#### 7 July 2015 (Tues) 9:00 AM Newaygo County Manistee National Forest Butterfly Count

Leader: Ranger Steve (Mueller)

Meet at Plum's Grocery parking at the corner of M-82 and M-37 in Newaygo.

#### 11 July 2015 (Sat) 9:00 AM Grand River Park Butterfly Count – Ottawa County Parks

Leader: Dennis Dunlap

Meet at Grand River Park, 9473 28th Ave., Jenison (north of Filmore St.)

#### 12 July 2015 (Sun) 9:00 AM Rogue River State Game Area Butterfly Count

Leader: Ranger Steve (Mueller)

(Kent, Newaygo, Montcalm Counties)

Meet at Howard Christensen Nature Center

16160 Red Pine Dr. Kent City – Welcome Center parking area.

#### 19 July 2015 (Sun) 9:00 AM Muskegon County Butterfly Count – Muskegon Co.

Leader: Dennis Dunlap

Meet Mill Iron Road from M-46 (Apple Ave.) east of Muskegon at second set of power lines that cross the road north of MacArthur Road.

*Ranger Steve's Nature Niche articles can be read weekly on line by Googling Cedar Springs Post, click Outdoors, then click nature niche. They are archived so previous topics of interest can be read. One on Poisons in Life Stream was recently shared. It is a bit out of the ordinary niche because it meanders among fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and chemo chemicals and is longer than normal. Other articles might be of interest to RCWO's membership.*

Ranger Steve (Mueller)

Ody Brook Nature Sanctuary

13010 Northland Dr.

Cedar Springs, MI 49319-8433

616-696-1753



## Natives to Know ~ Blue Wild Indigo (*Baptisia australis*) *By Joyce Tuharsky - C.M.*

**Blue Wild Indigo** is a beautiful native perennial of eastern North America. A member of the pea family, it is prized for its airy foliage and its 3-4 foot-tall spikes of vivid blue flowers that bloom late in spring or early summer.

Rising 3–5 feet from woody stems, Blue Wild Indigo forms an upright, shrubby bush at maturity. The stems are light green with alternate, clover-like leaflets along the entire length of the stems. The leaflets, about 1" long, are egg-shaped with toothless margins and prominent central veins. The root system consists of a deep branching taproot that often forms clonal offsets.

The flowers have a typical pea-like structure, with an upright banner and a pair of forward-projecting wings that enclose the reproductive organs. About 1' long, they can range in color from light blue to deep purple.

The flowers develop into kidney-shaped seed-pods about 2" long and 1" across, with slender beaked tips. When mature, the pods turn black, hardened, and split to release 25-50 small seeds. Long ago, Native American children used the dried pods with loose seeds as rattles.

Native Americans also used this plant as a source of blue dye for clothes. Early European settlers copied this practice, since the true indigo plant (*Indigofera tinctoria*) from India was expensive. That is why this plant is also commonly known as "Blue False Indigo."

Blue Wild Indigo can be found in wet meadows, along tree lines of open prairies, and bordering riparian areas. It prefers full sun, and gravelly or sandy well-drained soil. It will adapt to fertile loamy soil in gardens, but in natural settings, has

difficulty competing with other plants. Occasional wildfires probably help this plant by reducing competition.

Bees are the primary pollinators of the flowers. Other insects feed on the leaves and developing seeds, including the larvae of butterflies, moths, and weevils. In fact, Blue Wild Indigo often has difficulty seeding itself due to weevils that enter its pods and drastically lower the number of viable seeds. Seeds collected from the wild should be sorted before bringing indoors. Mammals rarely graze on this plant because of its somewhat toxic foliage.

In its first years, Blue Wild Indigo develops mostly underground and may not flower for 2-3 seasons. As the plant matures, the blossoms get showier and the shrub form becomes more developed. Once established, this plant is long-lived and very drought-tolerant. Like many legumes, its roots bind nitrogen to the soil, thus requiring no fertilizer. The blue-green foliage makes a nice backdrop for other flowering plants throughout summer. In late fall, the plant turns silvery-gray and features its attractive seed pods. Frost hardy, this plant is often green well into November.

### For more information and photos:

[http://www.plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/cs\\_baau.pdf](http://www.plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/cs_baau.pdf)  
[http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/bl\\_indigox.htm](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/bl_indigox.htm)

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=b660>



Photos Courtesy of - [www.clemson.edu](http://www.clemson.edu)



## Another Seductive Beauty - Devil in the Garden *By Meribeth Bolt - Vice President*

This spring, RCWO member Sue Bouchard discovered ***Ficaria verna***, a pretty little plant growing happily among her native spring ephemerals. The common name for this plant is **Fig buttercup**. The flower is a glossy iridescent golden butter yellow, the foliage is shiny green and it looks glorious in the spring garden, but beware!

Sue posted a photo online for help with identification. Two members responded they have experience with this seductive beauty. It was identified as a quick growing invasive plant and the advice was to get rid of it quick!

Tiny cream colored bulblets are produced in stem axils and become apparent later in the flowering period. Abundant fingerlike tubers are produced by the roots and are easily visible when plants are pulled up. The abundant tubers and bulblets ensure this invader spreads by every means possible.

Generally speaking, most herbaceous invasive plants like this one can be pulled by hand as long as the entire plant including the roots, tubers & bulblets is removed to prevent re-growth. This is almost always recommended for individual plants or small patches.



*Photo Courtesy of - [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)*

Read more about ***Ficaria verna*** here - <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/five.htm>

Learn more about invasive plant species at the Midwest Invasive Plant Network here - <http://mipn.org/>

## RCWO Provides Education at Kent/MSU Plant Sale

*By Meribeth Bolt - Vice President*

This collaboration has been in the works for over a year and on June 5th and 6th it happened! River City Wild Ones members Nancy Bedell, Meribeth Bolt, Amy Heilman and Gretchen Zuiderveen provided native plant education for the annual Kent/MSU Master Gardener plant sale. This is the very first event that RCWO has partnered with the Master Gardeners. We were invited to have our award winning display board and to help shoppers choose the best native plants for their garden situation. We also distributed our brochure and invitations to our July 20th Annual Garden Tour that also includes our own plant sale.

Thirty minutes prior to the start of the sale an enthusiastic crowd queued-up eager to get first pick. Several shoppers

rushed directly to the native plants with lists in hand to find plants not usually offered in local nurseries. The first plant to sell out was *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed) and people were still asking for it on the second day of the sale!

Only 10 native plants remained at the end of the sale and they were given to us for use in our on going community projects.

River City Wild Ones is invited back again next year when the plant sale coincides with the 2016 Master Gardener College. The number of native and non-native plants will be doubled for this exciting event.

*No one could make a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little.*

*Edmund Burke (1729 - 1797)*

National Honey Bee Day  
August 22, 2015

[www.nationalhoneybeeday.com](http://www.nationalhoneybeeday.com)

Deadline for August/September Newsletter Articles: **July 31** (Email to [Kim Davidson](mailto:Kim.Davidson@rivercitywildones.org))