

April 14, 2018



Dear Plant It Wild Members and Friends:

Welcome to our 2018 season. This will be our 22nd year! Observing the “native plant movement”, each year the advancements are more exciting than the previous. More research is being conducted on plants; insects, including pollinators and butterflies; root systems, climate change, etc. The various study results demonstrate the high value of native plants in the ecosystem. More landowners are gaining interest in gardening for the environment. Our role is to celebrate the appreciation of Michigan native plants and encourage landscaping with them for beauty and benefit.

This 2018 season, the Plant It Wild calendar is packed with programs and field trips across the spectrum of native plant topics from Shoreline Protection to beneficial and damaging insects. From how others in the USA and abroad are addressing their native plants to incorporating native shrubs and trees into your landscape. There will be four plant sales and many opportunities to get out into the field to experience native plants in their plant communities. Mark your calendars with the PIW dates and bring a friend.

We will host a “Member Only” event this year. The Gross/Richardson garden in Traverse City will be the site for a “Happy Hour in the Garden” on July 21. This landscape transformation began in April, 2015. It is a ‘young garden’ but features multiple gardening practices and many, many native plants. Members and their guests are invited and must RSVP for refreshment planning.

In addition, this season we are working on a redesign of our website to keep it fresh, up-to-date, and accessible. Our membership fees support our speakers and printing costs for educational materials. We are asking for additional donations earmarked for the technical costs of website redesign, we appreciate everyone’s generosity and support. We expect this to be an extraordinary expense that we will not incur for the next several years. Thank you, in advance, for helping with this.

As I write this it is STILL cold and snowy, but I know that just beneath the surface, awaiting warm temps and sunshine, is a landscape eager to burst forth with flower to begin our growing season. I, for one, cannot wait!

Go Wild, Go Native,

Cheryl A. Gross
PIW President