



PLANT IT WILD

Plant It Wild is an independent, non-profit, native plant group based in Benzie and Manistee Counties.

Winter 2010



The mission of Plant It Wild is to foster greater awareness and appreciation of the fragile natural environment of our region. Through direct efforts we work to preserve, protect, and promote the natural beauty of the area and its plant communities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- President - Carolyn Thayer
- Vice President - Kathleen Hibbard
- Treasurer - Iris Rymers
- Secretary - JoAnn Pope

STANDING COMMITTEES:

- Publicity - Cheryl Gross
- Membership - Iris Rymers
- Programs - Anne Kaminski
- Beulah Gardens - Jane Gary

Contacts:

- Carolyn Thayer - President
(231) 352-6962,
carolynt@coslink.net
- JoAnn Pope - Secretary
jjpope@acegroup.cc

Native Plants...Keep them Spreading

The blanket of snow rests peacefully on our landscape in the north. The native plants look like they are resting but instead behind the winter scenery they are always working. Their branches, needles, berries, and nuts are providing safety from winter winds and top notch healthy meals for wildlife.

Each season has a beauty all it's own. Keep an eye out for the next article by Lily Wood. She will be sharing information with us about plants that have winter interest and wildlife value. These plants can be planted this spring or summer to provide food and habitat for wildlife next winter. Then you will not only enjoy the beauty of the plant but watching the wildlife also.

Plant It Wild had a great 2009 year. A big thank you to all of our members. When looking back on the year it is wonderful to see what our group accomplished in 2009.

Plant It Wild:

- Staffed informational booths at Flowers By the Bay in Frankfort and Nature North in Traverse City
- Led educational plant walks at Nature North
- Hosted programs by Vern Stephens on grasses, Roberta Dow on water quality, and Stu Kogge on native plants in the landscape
- Offered plant sale location at two of our programs
- Viewed plants and birds on a nature hike with Kay Charter
- Tended to the Beulah Welcome Gardens
- Walked around native plant landscapes
- Encouraged Lily Wood to keep writing more educational articles
- Formed a relationship with the new By the Bay Garden Club in Sutton's Bay
- Created written educational handouts
- Ate delicious desserts and snacks!
- Socialized at the annual meeting and ate an incredible harvest meal. Plant people know how to cook!!!
- Developed new friendships through all the events and programs
- Built our membership base

Winter Berries!



Michigan Holly or Winterberry, *Ilex verticillata*

Wow, what a year...Our goal for 2010 is to keep spreading the word about the importance of native plants throughout our area and beyond. **Keep up the great work!**

Educational Opportunities for 2010

Join us to further your education about native plants through attending educational programs, staffing the informational booth at events, maintaining the public welcome gardens in Beulah, rescuing native plants, and providing educational material to the public. We operate on a small budget with a small board so all are welcome to help promote the importance of Michgian native plants and their communities.

The Plant It Wild board currently is working on the events calendar for 2010. Some of the topics, field trips, and booth events are below. If you have any suggestions on programs or speakers please contact Anne Kaminski, program chair at (231) 378-2424.

Programs:

Identification of spring ephemerals

Native shrubs and trees for landscaping

Photography and nature

Field trip to Kay Charter's bird sanctuary, view grassland and discuss migratory birds

Annual Harvest Feast

Booths:

Flowers by the Bay, (Frankfort in May)

Misty Ridge Garden Days, (Mesick in June)

Michigan Audubon, Migration Celebration, (Mansitee in September)

23 rd annual Michigan Wildflower Conference

The annual conference is March 7-8, 2010, at the Kellogg Center on Michigan State University's campus in East Lansing. The keynote speaker will be Bill Cullina, author and plant and garden curator for the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. You can find out more by contacting the Wildflower Association of Michigan at www.wildflowersmich.org, or Jean Weirich – Treasurer at 3947 E. St. Joseph, Grand Ledge, MI 48837.

The Stewardship Network

The Stewardship Network is a grassroots cooperative organization working to protect, restore, and manage Michigan's natural lands and waters. They are hosting a conference on The Science, Practice and Art of Restoring Native Ecosystems, at the Kellogg Center on Michigan State University's campus in East Lansing on January 22rd and 23rd. You can find out more at: www.stewardshipnetwork.org

Grand Traverse Conservation District Workshops

Native Plant and Invasive Species Workshops at the Boardman River Nature Center in Traverse City are being offered this spring. For information see their web site at www.gtcd.org or call (231) 941-0960

Membership

Please renew your membership using the enclosed membership application. We would like to thank you for your donations and membership dues which allow us to host our speakers and provide written information about the importance of native plants.

Reading Material

New Book

Prairies and Savannas in Michigan; Rediscovering Our Natural Heritage, by Ryan P. O'Connor, Michael A. Kost, and Joshua G. Cohen The book looks at prairies and savannas that once covered a significant portion of Lower Michigan. Find out where these were and the important role they served.

Article

Wildflower Association of Michigan Fall newsletter, Wildflowers, has a great article by Kay Charter, executive director of Saving Birds Thru Habitat, "How Do Migratory Birds Fuel Up".

http://www.wildflowersmich.org/assets/docs/09_fnl.pdf

Purchase Native Plants

Where to Get Native Plants

If you would like a "Where To Get Native Plants" resource list let Carolyn know at (231) 352-6962 or e-mail at carolyn@coslink.net. We are always looking for more nurseries that carry native plants to add to our list. Please let us know if you have a recommendations. Keep asking for Michigan native plants at your local nursery. They want your business.

Two regional nurseries that have made the commitment to carry Michigan native plants are:

Misty Ridge, 6171 North 11 Road, Mesick, MI 49668, (231)885-2290 (Paul and Jody Zemsta – owners)

Four Season's Nursery, 7557 E. Harry's Road, Traverse City, MI 49684 (231) 932-7400 (Brian Zimmerman - owner)

Great Lakes Photo Tours

If you enjoy nature photography and want to learn more, then consider attending a field outing with Bob Grzesiak and Mark S. Carlson. These classes are for beginners to the experienced using digital or manual cameras. The field trips range throughout the state including Leelanau County. Bob and Mark were presenters at the WAM 2009 conference and had much to offer in their presentation. To learn more, visit www.greatlakesphototours.com or call Bob @ (517) 230-1655.

Enjoy the Winter and if you're away from the north travel safely and we look for your return in the spring!

- The Plant It Wild Board



PLANT IT WILD MEMBERSHIP FORM

Welcome!

Plant It Wild is an independent, non-profit with 501(c)(3) status, native plant group based in Benzie and Manistee Counties.

We rely on your membership fee and donation to host educational programs for the public about the importance of native plants. Thank you for your contribution!

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ New Member _____ Renewal _____

E-mail _____ Would you like your contact information in our directory? Yes ___ No ___

I can help with: Beulah gardens _____; Plant rescues _____; Mailings _____; Programs _____; Publicity _____;

Membership _____; Snacks _____

Suggestions for workshops/field trips _____

Family \$15.00 _____; Individual \$10.00 _____; Supporting \$25.00 _____; Contributing \$50.00 _____; Other \$ _____

Please return this form, along with your check to "PLANT IT WILD", c/o Iris Rymers, 11721 Mountain Woods Dr., Thompsonville, MI 49683. Membership is for the calendar year.