

## NATIVE PLANT RESCUE DO'S AND DON'TS

As a member of Wild Ones®, you are encouraged to:

- Network with friends who are landowners, real estate agents, contractors, developers and excavators and ask them to notify a Chapter Dig Chair when a site is to be excavated. We would appreciate the opportunity to survey the site for any native plants which can be rescued. Assure them that we will not hold up any scheduled construction.
- Encourage landowners, contractors, developers and excavators to minimize land damage and utilize natural landscaping in their construction projects.
- Contact a Chapter Dig Chair when you become aware of a potential native plant rescue site. Provide the name of the owner or developer and a description of plants if possible.
- Offer assistance to our volunteer Dig Chairs in getting the word out by phoning or e-mailing members in your locality who are on our list of members to be contacted for digs.
- Learn the site requirements of local native plants BEFORE attending digs to improve the survival of our rescued plants. Not all plants will grow successfully on all sites due to differences in soil, moisture, and light, among other factors.
- Plan to attend the annual Dig Training session provided by your chapter, if you are a novice at identifying and rescuing plants. Training will help you learn how to identify plants, what to expect when you participate in a dig, and how to handle the plants once you have removed them from the site.
- Be careful around the plants, when at the dig site. It is difficult to identify trampled plants, and we want to rescue as many of the plants as we can.
- **DON'T BE GREEDY** – especially when there are limited numbers of some species of plants.
- Remember that native plant rescues are a privilege of membership in the Wild Ones. Rescued plants are not to be sold or given away to non-members – that includes relatives and friends.
- Also, remember that Wild Ones is able to rescue native plants at targeted dig sites because we have gotten the permission from the Owner and made certain commitments to the Owner regarding time and date(s), supervision, respect for the site and their ownership, and liability. All participants are expected to sign a Waiver of Liability for the Owner, the Wild Ones and the local Wild Ones Chapter. For this reason, do not share the location of dig sites with family, friends or relatives, and do not return on your own to the property after the rescue. Again, this is a privilege of membership.

- Properly supervise children you bring along to plant rescues. Because the children hold the future for preserving our native plants in their hands, we do not want to keep young people away from our digs. However, we request that only **WELL-SUPERVISED** children participate in our digs to minimize damage to the plants we are there to rescue.

If you have any comments regarding the above, please e-mail your concerns to your Chapter Dig Chair.

The above native plant rescue do's and don'ts have been suggested by Lynn White and Donna VanBuecken of the Fox Valley Area Chapter.

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