



Wildflower Rescue Digs & Potting

On the day of a dig, the volunteers will meet at 9:15am at the Leland Village Green for dig location assignments from the WFR committee members.

Digs are tentatively schedule for Monday, Wednesday & Fridays April 25-May 20, weather dependent.

Digs will be approximately 1 hour at the dig site (not including travel time)

Following the Dig, volunteers will all meet at the potting area at Swanson Preserve to pot and organize plants dug that day.

It is important to participate in both the dig and potting process to balance the workload. Please plan for 2-4 hours for a dig and potting session.

Thank you for being part of this great program to save the native species of plants and flowers of Leelanau!

Before helping the Wildflower Rescue, please do the following on our website:

- Register to Volunteer with the Leelanau Conservancy Volunteer questionnaire
- Sign the Volunteer Waiver
- Consider Becoming a member of the Leelanau Conservancy



Photo by Susan Hayes

Preparing For the Dig:

- **Dress for the conditions.** A long-sleeved shirt and long gloves to protect your wrists from poisonous plants (like poison ivy) and insects are good ideas. Waterproof boots or sturdy shoes are essential. A spare pair of shoes and socks is also recommended. Plastic surgical gloves are particularly helpful, or garden gloves.
- **Please bring your own tools and have them tagged with your name.** We recommend a 4 ft. shovel with a “D” handle, available at most hardware stores. Be sure to mark it with your name and phone number, in permanent ink, in case it gets lost or someone else picks it up. On the site, always “plant” your shovel when not in use. Do not lay it on the ground – it is easily lost. Trowels are usually not effective except with small plants.



Leland Village Green, Bosmeier Photo

THE SITE DIG

- Meet at the Leland Village Green. Dig groups will depart promptly at to 9:30am sites.
- Follow the buddy system. This is a MUST. Some sites may be very large, and we don't want you and your plants getting lost. Also, wear an identification badge if possible.
- Plant grouping is important. When digging, put like plants together in a flat, box or plastic bag. Small plants are best in flats or boxes, large ferns are best in sturdy plastic bags. Be sure to get all the roots or tubers since many plants grow deeper than you think. Committee members and seasoned volunteers can guide you with proper digging of the various plants.
- Leave the woods looking as undisturbed as possible. Do not leave large holes. Take all your items and tools with you including extra flats, boxes or bags. No one should be able to tell that you were there.
- Pace yourself by digging one flat and taking it to your vehicle at a time. Never dig more than you can carry to your vehicle or put into it.
- Lunch or snacks, water bottles, first aid kits, insect replant and Swiss Army knives with tweezers are good things to have.

AFTER THE DIG/Potting

- Transition from the dig site to potting site when the leader asks you to. Be thoughtful of your fellow diggers and depart with the group. Usually, one hour at the site is allotted for digging.
- Potting and watering plants will take time after your digging adventure. Allow plenty of time so that all the plants will be properly cared for. You are responsible for what you dig. If you cannot finish potting or planting your plants, make sure that someone will look after your plants.
- When potting, it is important to place the plant in the pot at the same depth it was growing in the woods. Ferns must not have their crowns covered with soil. When in doubt, please ask.
- Thoroughly wash your hands and face immediately after your dig to minimize inadvertent or casual contact with poison ivy. Avoid exposing your skin to plant irritants. Always wear gloves since some poisonous plant roots look like other plants. Even when potting, wear gloves.



Thank you for being a rescuer of the wildflowers!

The Leelanau Conservancy appreciates your time and energy in this project. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to call Committee Chair, Erika Ferguson 231-228-4039 (land line) or email Volunteer Manager, Lindy Kellogg at lkellogg@leelanauconservancy.org
We will be happy to help!