



The Wildflower Rescue Committee Chair was contacted for help in dividing two Large-flowered Yellow Lady's-slippers clumps (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*).

Flourishing in Suttons Bay for over a decade as near bed centerpieces, this Rescue Sale pair had outgrown their area. It was decided to delay division until fall dormancy being both clumps were in full bloom.

In September volunteers divided the larger *Cypripedium* clump. Mimicking an archeological dig, the mulch and topsoil cover was removed to expose the rootmass. With the almost three foot diameter root ball defined, an encircling trench was dug allowing shovels and gentle hands to carefully dislodge the clump en masse.



Three large multi-node sections with copious rooting were separated, replanted onsite after refreshing the area with a coir / compost / vermiculite blend. The remainder graciously donated to the Conservancy.

Three volunteers experienced in *Cypripedium* division were onsite. None had ever worked on a larger or more root-bound specimen.

Normally a gentle twisting motion will easily divide a *Cypripedium* clump. This method proved impracticable given that this specimen more resembled a tree burl than a Hardy Native Orchid.

The remainder was transported to a Volunteer's residence equipped with a potting table. The clump was cut in half allowing four pairs of hands to continue what became a tedious, hour-long surgical process.





Our Volunteers' efforts will be on full display at the *2024 Wildflower Rescue Sale*. Though some divisions will require an additional year of TLC, various sized and priced specimens will be offered for sale.

For those with grounds too dry to support Hardy Native Orchid, a limited number of the largest divisions have been potted in 2.5gallon containers that are also an artificial water table. Planting and care instructions for this method included.

[image right]

An informational packet on growing this *Cyripedium sp.* is also available.

Email **[add NEW email address]** if interested in adding this "Bragging Rights" Leelanau Native to your grounds.

