

## **Spring Kickoff: Big news!**

Rare Plant Monitors,

I'm excited to share with you the annual Rare Plant Monitoring Program report. Inside you'll find highlights from the 2022 field season, a summary of efforts to relocate 11 plants particularly vulnerable to climate change, the 2023 Species of the Year, a summary of research on the microhabitat of ram's head lady slipper, interviews with volunteers from the Southern Kettle Moraine area, and lots of great photos.

Also, the Rare Plant Monitoring Program is growing! Jessica Ross was recently hired as a Botanist and Program Coordinator and will be a huge help to the success of the RPMP. Our increased capacity will allow us not only to improve the program via better communication throughout the busy growing season but also *expand* the program to potentially include things like group survey events, in-person trainings and more.

Like last year, the RPMP training videos are available online for you to watch at any time. I encourage you to check them out as a refresher and to see how things have changed since you took the training session in person. The videos range from four to twenty minutes and are arranged by topic so you can jump right to whatever you're interested in. Here is the link to all nine videos.

Finally, it's time to get back outside and search for rare plants! Please use the Rare Plant Finder to identify rare plants you'd like to search for, and then email us your requests. Note our new email address in the signature block below.





Thanks for your commitment to rare plant conservation. We're looking forward to another great year!

Sincerely,

Kevin Doyle and Jessica Ross

Rare Plant Monitoring Program

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