

Meet Heather Pruikma.

After an extensive search for Grow Native’s new Executive Director, we are pleased to welcome Heather Pruikma to this role. The search committee met with many qualified candidates during the hiring process... and Heather stood out from the start.

Heather’s understanding of the importance of native plants to the survival of native wildlife came through degrees in biology and ecosystem management, followed by two decades supporting scientists at Earthwatch Institute. This experience combined with her work at Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve, The Nature Conservancy, and US Fish and Wildlife Service made her the perfect candidate for the role.

“I am really looking forward to getting to work with all the dedicated volunteers and the tireless staff and board. I am so humbled to have been accepted and I’m ready to jump right in,” Heather shared with us upon hearing she’d be chosen for the position.

She also had this to say about the impact of Grow Native’s work, *“When you understand there are threats to the environment, and to the survival of species, you want to be able to do something to help. By growing and supporting native plants, you immediately provide food and habitat for native wildlife that desperately needs it. It’s an actionable solution with tangible results. And it’s pretty fun, too!”*



We are grateful to our founder Claudia Thompson, who conceived of this organization 12 years ago, and generously dedicated herself to developing our programs and operations, and to shaping the respected nonprofit we all love and enjoy. She now serves in an advisory capacity to Grow Native as President Emerita, while continuing to deliver talks on native plants and ecological land stewardship all over New England, and beyond.