



Newsletter

March, 2024



Reminder: Propagating Appalachian Natives with Ben Casteel on March 14

WOAH at Work in February

Since February's newsletter, our chapter has accomplished a lot! We hosted Rod Walker's presentation on Prism's work eradicating invasive plants species ([zoom recording 020824 rod walker final revision.mp4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=020824rodwalkerfinalrevision.mp4)), staffed a table and shared seeds at Sustain Abingdon's Randy Smith Seed Swap, made significant progress in creating a starter plant list of recommended native species (Thanks, Dick Olson and other participants!), and hammered out details for offering a WOAH chapter t-shirt (Thanks, especially to Donna Edwards, Anne Tucker, and Macey Brown!).

Another development is that a new member, Josh Banks, volunteered to be the chapter's new Webmaster. He's working, both on his own and with Macey on learning the ropes for that.

Finally, as Macey Brown leaves our chapter, I want to share that we can still follow her native gardening work through her YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@awildapproach/videos>.

Calendar at-a-Glance

- March 14: Propagating Appalachian Natives II**, In Person and Zoom
- April 13: Members' Spring Plant & Seed Share** at Steele Creek Park
- April 20: Abingdon Earth Day Celebration**
- May: Members Only Private Garden Tour**
- October: Members' Fall Plant & Seed Share** at Steele Creek Park



Wild Ones: Loyd and Paula Reynolds

Loyd and Paula Reynolds moved from Louisiana to Virginia in 2011. Once we retired in 2019, we became Master Gardeners. Our interest in native plants began after Gail Olsen's class on meadows/ native habitats during the MG training. We joined Wild Ones in 2022 to expand our knowledge of native plants, ecosystems, managing invasives etc. By this time, Loyd had planted a pollinator garden on the hill behind our house. The next year he planted a monarch garden, primarily milkweed. And then he started smaller meadow sections with wildflowers, which the deer enjoy!

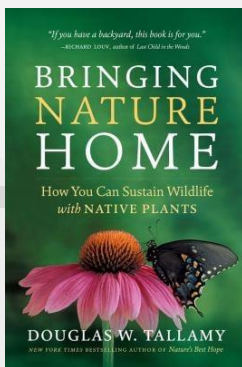
We are constantly researching and adding more native plants to the environment around our home, while still trying to eliminate invasives. Also, we have a major seed saving project this year collecting, sorting, winter sowing with high hopes for lots of native plants to add to the areas where weeds grow now. Another goal is to get some native shrubs planted up on the hill. Looking forward to a new year with new plants.

Wild One: Josh Banks

My wife & I moved to Johnson City from Alabama's Black Belt region in late 2021. I've always had the itch to garden and have been slowly turning our 1/3-acre yard into a meadow and woodland garden. I work as an architect, and regional design is something I think is very important, both in architecture and garden design. I like to plant with native plants because they give a "sense of place," to a landscape (and we really are spoiled here with some amazing plants to choose from). I also have recently started a small backyard nursery and landscaping design business, called Paragraph Designs, because of the frustration at the lack of available native plants and/or unaffordable prices - especially local ecotype plants.

While Josh is a new member, he's already contributing a lot to WOA!

He's accepted responsibility for replacing Macey Brown as Webmaster for our chapter website. Many thanks from our board and members!



Bookshelf: Review by Mark Merz

Bringing Nature Home **By Doug W. Tallamy**

It's no wonder the community of native plant enthusiasts is abuzz with this author's name. With this book and others, in interviews and presentations, through active advocacy, and as co-founder of Homegrown National Park, he's making the powerful case that, collectively, we can make a huge difference in our world by choosing native plants over nonnative ones in our home environments. In the book's preface, Tallamy writes of a concept "so close to our noses we could not see it." The notion that humans can begin reversing the habitat loss we've caused for the wildlife we've displaced by planting native plants is just such a concept. He is passionate and articulate in expressing the urgency for action. He's effective at connecting readers to the science and ecology underpinning his call to action. *And*, the book is beautifully illustrated with sharp, colorful photographs that express the wonder, beauty, and joy that arises from making space for nature in our home landscapes. I've include links to Homegrown National Park (<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>) and an article on Tallamy in *The Smithsonian* (<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/meet-ecologist-who-wants-unleash-wild-backyard-180974372/>). If you haven't yet, catch up with Doug Tallamy!

Event Details

March 14 Propagating Appalachian Natives II

Ben Casteel, Horticulture Instructor and Program Coordinator at the Virginia Highlands Community College invites us to the campus greenhouse in Abingdon to learn about propagation of native Appalachian plants.

Ben will cover Asexual Propagation (division/separation, cuttings, layering, and grafting) of native plant species. This will be the second in a two-part series. Part 1, Sexual Propagation, is available on video:

<https://www.youtube.com/@appalachianhighlandswildones>

Due to limited space, there is a registration required to attend in person. Please, send request to attend (include number in party) to: wildonesappalachianhighlands@gmail.com. You will receive a response that you have been accepted or that the presentation is full.

Time: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm (Eastern Time)

Location: VHCC Greenhouse, 100 VHCC Dr, Abingdon, VA, 24210

Zoom Link for those who would like to attend virtually:

<https://vccs.zoom.us/j/4710139607>

April 13 Members Only Seed and Plant Swap

Benefits of being an official Wild Ones member! This is an opportunity to thin out your flower beds of native plants and bring your labeled plants or seeds to swap and share. Please start to gather your extra plants or seeds and identify them for the swap. If you don't have any extras, just come and take some home!

The Swap will be followed by a potluck and social hour. Please feel free to bring your own nonalcoholic beverage and a dish to share. This will be a great opportunity to learn about natives, get plants, and meet members! You will be charged \$2 at the gate for parking.

When: April 13, 2024, at 3:30 - 6:00 pm

Location: Steele Creek Park • 4 Little Ln, Bristol, TN, 37620 • Civitan Shelter

Event Details

April 20 Sustain Abingdon Earth Day Celebration

WOAH will be one of many organizations sharing informational displays at the Town of Abingdon's Earth Day celebration. Sustain Abingdon will provide "kid's activities, food, fun and informational booths!" at this annual event. Check <https://sustainabingdon.wordpress.com/earth-day/> for up-to-date information on this event.

May 4 WOAHA Members Only Tour of Snow Ferreniea's Garden

Snow Ferreniea is English, learning initially about plants and gardening from her parents, both of whom were avid gardeners. She also received her formal education in horticulture in England. Coming to America in the 70's, she continued to pursue her passion for plants, especially native ones, as a professional horticulturist.

Snow was director of horticulture at Garden in the Woods. She has also worked at the New York Botanical Garden, Holden Arboretum and Wayside Gardens.

On retiring in 2013, she began the creation of her own garden where she blended many of the plants she loves. The garden has a special emphasis on the wildflowers that are so abundant in southwest Virginia.

Over the years she has shared her experiences in the fascinating world of plants, teaching classes and workshops wherever she has worked.

When: May 4, 2024, at 10:30am-12 pm

Location: More specific information will be provided.