



Newsletter

April, 2024



Reminder: Members Only Plant and Seed Swap on April 13

WOAH at Work in March

Many things have been happening since our last newsletter. Donna Edwards and Anne Tucker have been hard at work hammering out details on WOAHA t-shirt. Macey Brown's "Get Wild" design is on the back, and our chapter logo is in the pocket area on the front. It's required coordination with both the vendor and the national Wild Ones organization. Donna and Anne have also had to winnow the shirt style and color offerings to a manageable number and are still making size and placement decisions. We can't wait to unveil the final products to chapter members!

WOAH's events committee also hosted the second of Ben Casteel's plant propagation talks from the greenhouse classroom at Virginia Highlands Community College. Zoom recordings are available at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwqZ86tUaORQ8KbWUAEslnQ>.

Dick Olson's group at work on a starter list of recommended native plants has made tremendous progress, and we're excited to see the results of their hard work soon.

Mark Merz, 2024 WOAHA President

Calendar at-a-Glance

April 13: Members' Spring Plant & Seed Swap at Steele Creek Park

April 19-20 Garden Faire at Abingdon's Higher Ed Center

April 20: Abingdon Earth Day Celebration

May 4: Members Only Private Garden Tour

October: Members' Fall Plant & Seed Share at Steele Creek Park



Connecting people and native plants for a healthy planet

The Plant and Seed Swap at Steele Creek Park

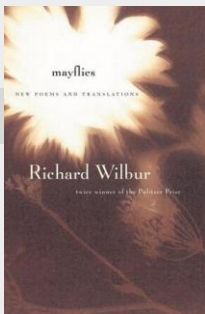
Last fall's plant and seed swap was the first-ever WOAHA event I had ever attended, and I left it impressed with so many positive impressions of the organization. It began with a delicious potluck during which I made new friends and gained a little weight. As dinner ended, plants gradually replaced plates and bowls in the shelter and WOAHA members gathered to the side. Those who brought plants took turns talking about their offerings, and when that was done, members selected until all the plants found new homes. I learned about new plants from some very expert gardeners and added significantly to my native plants at home. So please come! Bring a dish (if you can). Bring labeled native plants (if you have them). Look for more details below.



Wild Ones Journal

The subject of the Wild Ones Journal came up among WOAHA board members more than once last month. One had the thought that it should be featured in our chapter newsletter, which seems like a good idea. Unless you've been exploring the Wild Ones website (which I recommend you do), you might not be aware that you have access to a beautiful periodical that not only publishes useful and interesting information but also connects you to the activities of the national Wild Ones organization. Here's a link to the journal: <https://members.wildones.org/journals/>, which allows you access to both the current issue and the entire archive of past issues.

I enjoyed reading this month's journal. There was a ton of information, nice pictures, attractive formatting, and ideas for online plant vendors, though I will caution you to apply due diligence in finding out whether even the nurseries advertising in the journal operate in accordance with your values. (A board member has concerns about Thomas Nursery.)



Bookshelf: Review by Mark Merz

Mayflies By Richard Wilbur

Did you know that April is National Poetry Month and that April 18th is Poem in your Pocket Day? You can find out more about that here: <https://poets.org/national-poetry-month>, but I thought it would be a good idea to share the title of a volume from a poet who, I think, is one of the most perceptive and affecting nature writers, Richard Wilbur. Not all the poems in this collection are about nature. They're not even all by him: some are his translations of other poets' work. But I think you will respond to the way Wilbur's writing is rooted in the senses—shape, color, smell, touch, sound. Often, even when he's not writing about the natural world, he still makes his subjects tangible through association with plants, animals, forests, wind, and water. Some of his poems work the other way, too, by reminding us of human consciousness and rootedness in nature. Perhaps a good example comes from "Zea". Here are a few short stanzas from the end:

Later there are days/Full of bare expectancy/Downcast hues and haze,
Days of an utter/Calm, in which one white corn leaf,/Oddly aflutter
Its fabric sheathing/A gaunt stem, can seem to be/The sole thing breathing.

Have a poem in your pocket on April 18th!

Thank you to everyone who responded to my request for photos of your gardens, whether you sent them for our Earth Day display or for our newsletter. Your gardens are BEAUTIFUL!

WOAH Gardens



Ken Moore



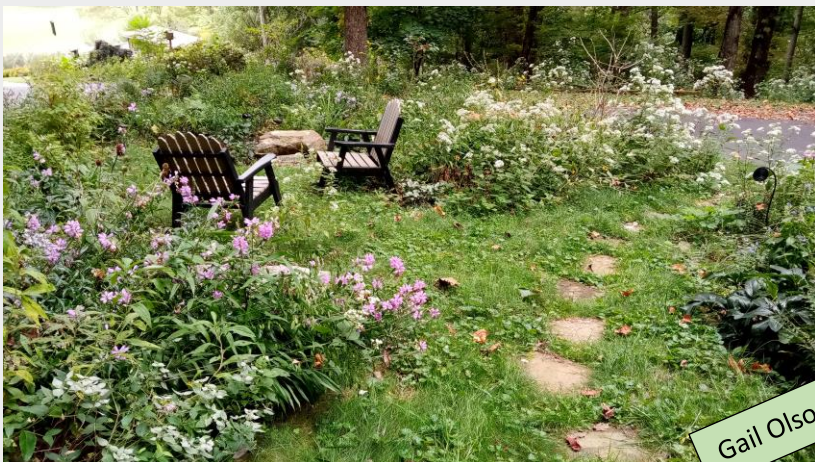
Josh Banks



Macey Brown



Jean Lusardi



Gail Olson



Paula Reynolds

Event Details

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

April 19-20 Garden Faire

Washington County, VA Master Gardeners again host this annual event that features garden-themed vendors, speakers, workshops, tool sharpening, and informational booths from other local organizations. The Appalachian Highlands chapter of Wild Ones will be there, too! For detailed information visit their website:

<http://www.gardenfaire.net/>.

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.

Event Details

May 4

WOAH 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.