



Newsletter

May, 2024



Attention: Doug Tallamy Online Today (May 6)

April-Early May: Busy!

So many people have been hard at work in our WOAHA chapter to get out chapter before the public and to make chapter membership a valuable and rewarding experience!

The plant swap at Steele Creek was a great time, with barbecue from Chilhowie's Poe's Pulled Pork and side dishes from members. Plants? Oh, my! I'm not sure what others took home, but my cardinal flower, various sunflower, aster, and goldenrod species, boneset, blazing star, maid of the mist, and milkweed are settling in and happily replacing bits of turf grass in my yard. I hope my Solomon's seal, wood poppy, cup plant, and New England aster are performing well in other member gardens.

Our tabling events at Abingdon's Garden Faire and Earth Day were heavily visited, and we hopefully made many new friends. There are a lot of native plant enthusiasts out there that we'd like to welcome into our chapter. Thanks for stopping by!

Snow Farreniea's garden was breathtakingly beautiful. It was something like a miniature (1-acre) version of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (70-acres). After Friday's rain it could not have looked fresher. Except Snow had her shovel ready for culling and sharing some of her prodigiously productive specimens.

Mark Merz, 2024 WOAHA President

Calendar at-a-Glance

May 6: Doug Tallamy in-person at 5:45 and online at 6:30

June 13: Jeremy Stout, "Ghosts in the Forest" (in-person only) at Steele Creek Park at 7 pm

August TBD: Members Tour of Josh Banks's Garden and Nursery, Johnson City

September TBD: Monical Hoel Tour of Emory & Henry Meadow, Meadowview

October 26: Members' Fall Plant & Seed Share at Steele Creek Park



Connecting people and
native plants
for a healthy planet

WOAHA and Steele Creek Park

Looking through past newsletters, it's clear that our chapter has quite a partnership with Bristol, Tennessee's Steele Creek Park—tabling events, plant swaps, speaker events. Recently, WOAHA was invited to contribute to *Knobs & Knolls*, the park's quarterly newsletter. Here's a link to our article, in case you'd like to read it: "[Giving Nature an Assist](#)." Also, consider becoming a [Friend of Steele Creek Nature Center and Park](#).



WOAH T-Shirts Are Available for Order!

Using former WOAHA webmaster Macey Brown's Get Wild design on the back and the new chapter logo on the front, Anne Tucker and Donna Edwards worked hard together to work out the details on WOAHA chapter t-shirts. There were a surprising number of negotiations involved with the t-shirt vendor and the national Wild Ones organization. Anne and Donna showed incredible patience and persistence to bring this project to fruition!

Selling the t-shirts is a fundraising project for our chapter, which currently has modest expenses (brochures and other promotional materials, honoraria for speakers) but huge ambitions (collaborating with other like-minded organizations to host speakers with national reputations).

It's a nice shirt with a great message. There are so many style and color combinations that you may never see two exactly alike, though they do all have the small chapter logo in the front left pocket area and the large Get Wild design on the back. Prices range from \$26.99 to \$41.99, and it takes 10-14 days for delivery.

Sizing is called unisex, so think "Men's". I ordered XL, and it is sized as expected. My wife's L was a little larger than expected.

Visit the Bonfire website using this link: www.bonfire.com/get-wild-6/, or scan this QR code:

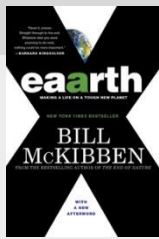


In scanning through previous emails, I only just discovered that Jani Niner is responsible for the "Less lawn, more life" motto. Great job, Jani. It also became clear just how many revisions Macey went through before arriving at the final design for the back of the t-shirt. Many thanks to Macey for allowing us to use her work!



The **pictures** here are from recent events. Ken Moore took the one on the left of our table for **Sustain Abingdon's Earth Day** celebration. I took the two on the right. The top one is from the **plant swap**, and the bottom one is from **Snow Farrenica's tour** of her own "private paradise," as Jani so aptly describes it. Snow has a particular interest in native plants, but she skillfully combines them with favorite non-natives from her long international career in horticulture.





Bookshelf: Review by Mark Merz

Eaarth: Making Life on a Tough New Planet by Bill McKibben

Many of you already recognize Bill McKibben as a writer who, early in the movement to address Climate Change, bring the urgent predictions of climate science to a popular audience. He famously authored *The End of Nature* and was a founding creator of 350.org. This space is typically devoted more specifically to nature appreciation and native plant issues, but I believe it is appropriate for Wild Ones to consider how our efforts mesh with fighting the crisis we face in global warming. What better way than to dive deeply into current (well, the copyright date is 2011) climate data. You will learn from the first half of the book that the situation we face is extremely dire. To explain what may seem to be an odd title, or even a typo on the cover page of a book by a major publisher, McKibben argues that we no longer live on the same planet on which most of us were born, Earth, the planet with a climate that was remarkably stable for something like 10,000 years, the period during which atmospheric carbon dioxide levels were stable at 275 parts per million. It certainly shatters one's worldview to face the grim statistics you will encounter here, but it is irresponsible to ignore them.

The second half of the book explores, with a measure of hope, the ways our culture must adapt to life on Eaarth. Everything will need to be decentralized—renewable energy generation, food production. Solutions to meeting life's most basic needs will necessarily become local (think town and neighborhood), even hyperlocal (think home and yard). I don't recall that McKibben envisioned solutions for how to meet the needs of people globally displaced climate refugees, a problem necessarily requiring solutions involving national governments and international agencies.

It's almost unutterably sad to think that if we had undertaken sooner some of the work that will be required for human survival on Eaarth, we might have enjoyed a longer, richer life on Earth with more of our nonhuman fellow passengers.

<https://billmckibben.com/eaarth/eaarthbook.html>

Oops! I discovered that I failed to include Macey Brown's before and after garden photos in the previous newsletter. They got a lot of attention at Earth Day and were the topic of many good discussions. You can see why!



Event Details

May 6 **Doug Tallamy: “I know You're Very Busy but . . . I want to learn more about nature gardening.”**

Along with apologies for the late notice, Jane Mullins shared this event with us:

5:45 p.m. IN-PERSON Social Event and Zoom

Registration: <https://tiny.utk.edu/Tallamyinperson>

6:30 p.m. ZOOM Only

Registration: <https://tennessee.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0uc-qspz0pHdSx0-0v-Xfo3sSWPDiT7hnx>

<https://tiny.utk.edu/NETMGADoug>

June 13 **Ghosts in the Forest: Prehistory & Ecology in the Southern Appalachians**

All of life occurs in a geological context. This talk will explore the connections between modern distributions of plants and animals across the 4th dimension: Deep Time. Jeremy Stout will instruct attendees on geological forces and extinct organisms and how they affect the modern assemblages we find in the region today.

This event is free and open to the public.

You will be charged \$2 at the gate for parking.

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

Location: Steele Creek Nature Center
4 Little Ln, Bristol, TN, 37620