



Newsletter

April 2025



Since Last Time ...

I would like to thank Stan Tucker for stepping in and managing the newsletter for the last few months. Stan has been a great help, and the Board is most appreciative.

I am happy to report the videos from Laura Young "Restoration of River Canes" and Melanie Smith "Building a Wildlife Pond" are now on the <https://appalachianhighlands.wildones.org/videos/>. I apologize for the delay. The Board had some technical issues to resolve. It's all good now. Check it out.

The Events Committee is so excited to welcome a new member from Tennessee. Jen Skarsaune has graciously agreed to join the committee. This is an important goal for WOAHP to increase our presence in the Tennessee areas. Look for more details in the Events Committee report below.

We have two big events in April: Garden Faire and Earth Day in Abingdon. Please consider donating 2 hours to either project to help at our information table. We still need volunteers. If you feel you don't have enough knowledge about Wild Ones and native plants, never fear. We will pair you with someone who has been in the organization for a few years. Just a quick [email to WOAHP](mailto:wildonesappalachianhighlands@gmail.com) will get you started. <mailto:wildonesappalachianhighlands@gmail.com>

Looking ahead to May, we will be getting together at Steele Creek Park in Bristol for a "Member Only" plant swap. Bring any seeds or transplants you want to share. However, you are welcome even if you are a new gardener and don't have anything to bring. We always have more than enough for everyone to go home with native plants and seeds. And you will have an opportunity to talk with other members who have lots of experiences to share.

We welcome input from the membership if you have any suggestions. Feel free to [email WOAHP](mailto:wildonesappalachianhighlands@gmail.com) with your ideas or requests. An active membership is a happy membership. We need your suggestions. If you volunteer them now, we won't have to do a member survey.

The spring journal is available at wildones.org. You might find information useful for spring gardening.

😊 Happy Spring – Paula Reynolds, WOAHP President

Calendar at-a-Glance

Details on pages 5-6

April 11-12: Garden Faire Southwest Virginia Higher Ed Center

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

April 24: Breaking the Rules:
Ecological Landscape Design
Kingsport Center Higher Ed

April 26: Earth Day
Abingdon Fields-Penn House

May 3: Spring Plant Swap (members only)

Late May: The Cedars Natural Area Preserve

Summer: Mushroom ID Walk

August: Tour of Member's Native Garden

September: Wildflower Walk, Doe Mountain Reserve

WOAHP Merch

Spring means we dress in layers and WOAHP has them all. Short sleeve tees, long sleeve tees, hoodies, sweatshirts, bucket hats and ball caps in many colors! It is the only fundraiser for our chapter.

Visit Get wild. | Bonfire, or scan the QR code below with your smart phone's camera.



Events Committee

The Chapter Events Committee has planned 12 events to provide members tours to see native habitat, talks to learn how to create your native garden, and swaps to provide plants and seeds for your garden. We also have 4 tabling opportunities to spread the word about native plants and recruit members. Check the Website and this newsletter for specifics as we finalize details for some of the events. Jen Skarsuane has joined the committee and graciously agreed to lead a guided nature walk at Doe Mountain Recreation Area to see a variety of native wildflowers in both open and wooded areas. Please send an [email to WOA](#) if you are willing to help with an event or have suggestions for future events.

We have a request from a Johnson City teacher to help several kindergarten classes learn about monarch butterflies. Paula and Loyd Reynolds are planning to meet with the teachers in April, but we still would like a local Johnson City member's help that would avoid Reynold's hour plus drive. [Please consider volunteering for this outreach opportunity.](#)

National Wild Ones Resources for Members

Our Chapter is part of an active and growing National organization. Wild Ones currently has 96 chapters and 36 seedlings in 36 states with over 12,000 members! You are encouraged to explore the Wild Ones National website ([Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes](#)) and, if you haven't, create your Wild Ones account. There are links to the quarterly digital journal (spring issue recently posted), educational resources, garden designs, book reviews, a way to certify your habitat program, and more. The virtual 2025 Annual Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, April 10 at 6:00pm CDT. It includes a review of accomplishments, updates from leadership, and celebration of achievements. Register by logging on to your account.

Many thanks to the Events Committee for their continued hard a work to provide a full schedule of educational and entertaining events for the Appalachian Highlands Chapter. Please review the upcoming events posted in detail in the last pages of the newsletter and on the website.

Book Review Plus “Music of Nature”

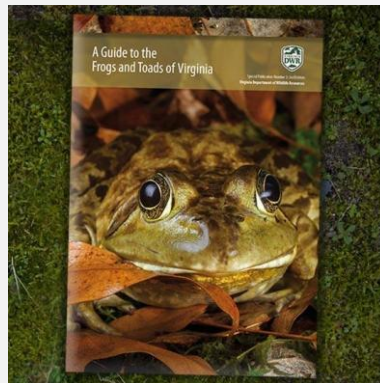
Many of you already know that WOAHS Vice President Melanie Smith is, in addition to everything else she does as a Virginia Master Naturalist, WOAHS board member, and FrogWatch USA affiliate, is a school librarian in Smyth County. Following her March zoom presentation “Building a Wildlife Pond” she sends us a new recommendation.

For some folks, nothing is more telling of the changing of the season than spring peepers, those tiny little frogs with a big, big sound.

In fact, frog mating calls are in a distinct phenological pattern—wood frogs in February and March, peepers in March through May, gray tree frogs in May through July and on and on. Just like plants, frogs do their reproducing on a biologically determined timeline, which rarely varies. (Except due to climate change, which is a whole other subject!)

So, what are you hearing out there? The **Guide to the Frogs and Toads of Virginia** is a comprehensive guide to the ecology, distribution, and behavior of Virginia’s frogs and toads. It’ll work for eastern Tennessee, too. It’s full of interesting facts and is an excellent identification guide with range, habitat and behavior of each species. There is also a section on amphibian conservation and information concerning species with limited or endangered populations. This paperback booklet is available from the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) for \$16.95 at <https://dwr.virginia.gov/shopdwr/>

OR get your free copy by attending the Hungry Mother State Park Frog Watch USA Training on April 5, 2025 in Chilhowie, VA. (For registration of more information, please email mellie5263@gmail.com.)



You can also begin learning to identify these mating calls from the following websites. Happy Frogging!!

<https://musicofnature.com/calls-of-frogs-and-toads-of-the-northeast/>

<https://www.virginiaherpetologicalsociety.com/amphibians/frogsandtoads/>

There Are Many Ways to Get Involved!

Volunteer: Wild Ones does not require formal training classes, volunteer work hours, or continuing education hours for membership. However, the Chapter has events that do require volunteer member help. Tabling events such as the April 11-12 Garden Faire are opportunities for introducing the public to WOA. We will pair new volunteers with a Board member. If you can volunteer even an hour or two please send an email to wildonesappalachianhighlands@gmail.com. There is a WOA Board that meets a little less than once per month, and our chapter also has various committees. Perhaps you'd like to serve on one! Let us know with an email to the above address.

Newsletter: Your fellow WOA members would love to hear from you!

Send in your own member profile. As you've seen over the last several months, your profile can take many forms. It can be as simple as telling a little about yourself and how you got involved with native plants, or you can include photos and go into more detail as a few others have done in previous newsletters.

Write about your garden. What are you hoping to accomplish, what resources did you use, what strategies did you employ? Do you have before and after pictures that show what you've done?

Have you read a good nature book that you'd like to review?

Email your text and photos to [WOAH here](#).

Take Cover from the Summer Sun with Our WOA Merch

<https://www.bonfire.com/get-wild-6/>



Local Source of Native Plants

Fellow members have provided a few suggestions of local sources for native plants. WOA does not provide recommendations of specific vendors.

Carolina Native Nursery
Burnsville, NC

Josh Banks, Paragraph Design Nursery
Johnson City, TN

Kimberly's Greenhouse,
Tazewell, VA

Ian Katon, Woodthrush Natives
Floyd, VA

Mulberry Mobile Nursery
Johnson City Farmers Market

Shy Valley Farm
Fall Branch, TN

Event Details

April 11-12

Washington County Master Gardeners Garden Faire

This event features: a garden marketplace with perennial and annual plants, **native plants**, garden art, supplies, all things gardening; plus, multiple speakers and workshops and tool sharpening. The link below will guide you to the full schedule of speakers and workshops.

We need volunteers to help at the Chapter information table. Volunteers will talk about WOA to those that stop and hand out free seed packs. We will pair new volunteers with experienced Board members. It is a great opportunity to get to know WOA members and learn about Chapter activities and our vision. Admission \$6 but **Volunteers will get in free!** Two-hour shifts will start at 9:30, 11:30, 1:30 and 3:30 each day. Please send an email to wildonesappalachianhighlands@gmail.com and indicate times you can participate (you will only be signed up for one).

Time: 9:30-6:00 Friday; 9:30-4:00 Saturday

Location: Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Interstate 81 Exit 14, One Partnership Circle, Abingdon, VA

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

April 24

“Breaking the Rules: Ecological Landscape Design and Traditional Landscape Methods” presented by Larry Weaner

Using native plants requires more than simply expanding conventional design practices. Based on observation of how native plants develop in nature, we can create new design, implementation and management techniques, many of which are diametrically opposed to traditional practice. This presentation examines how alternative approaches on everything from selecting, arranging and spacing plants to the simple act of weeding can yield a more easily maintained landscape that still expresses the beauty and richness of our native flora. This presentation from SAPS (Southern Appalachian Plant Society) is free and open to the public.

Larry Weaner, FAPLD, founded Larry Weaner Landscape Associates in 1982 and the educational program series New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL) in 1990. Since then, NDAL has been a pioneering influence in this field and continues to educate landscape architects, landscape designers, horticulturists, and the gardening public. Weaner's nationally recognized work combines horticulture, landscape design, and ecological restoration and spans more than twenty U.S. states and the U.K. He has received the top three design awards from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. An active guest lecturer for horticultural and environmental organizations throughout the U.S, his book, *Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change*, received an American Horticultural Society Book Award in 2017.

Time: Thursday, April 24, at 7 pm.

Location: Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 300 W. Market Street, Kingsport, TN 37660

Event Details (continued)

April 26, 2025

Earth Day, Abingdon VA

The Sustain Abingdon Committee will host the annual Earth Day 2025 Celebration on Saturday, Apr 26, including Wild Ones and many other informational booths plus kid's activities, food, free rain barrels (limited), and free recycling with a theme of Air, Atmosphere & Climate. Please consider enjoying the event and volunteering to help man the Wild Ones booth. We will pair you with someone who has been in the organization for a few years. A quick email to [WOAH website](#) will get you started. Shifts will start at 9:00 and 11:00.

Time: 9:00 – 1:00

Location: Fields-Penn House (Abingdon Visitor Center) / Corner of Main and Cummings

May 3

Spring plant swap (members only)

The Chapter Spring Plant and Seed Swap is on Saturday, May 3rd at Steele Creek Park in Bristol. It is an opportunity to get native plants for your garden, donate extra plants and seeds, win a door prize, learn about native plants, and get to know Chapter members. We are working on getting plant donations from nurseries, WOAHA provided a nice tote bag and notebook, and we have a \$50 gift certificate from Shy Valley nursery to give away.

Bring any seeds or transplants you want to share. However, you are welcome even if you are a new gardener and don't have anything to bring. We always have more than enough for everyone to go home with native plants and seeds. And you will have an opportunity to talk with other members who have lots of experiences to share.

The Swap will be followed by a potluck dinner and social hour. Please bring your own beverage and a dish to share. There is a \$2 charge at the gate for parking.

Time: 3:30 pm

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

Late May

The Cedars Natural Area Preserve

Walk with Laura Young DCR to see this extraordinary natural community of dry, limestone glades and woodlands in southwest Virginia. There will be attendance limits with priority given to WOAHA members.

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/natural-area-preserves/thecedars>

Summer:

Mushroom ID Walk

August 9:

Tour of Member's Native Garden

September:

Wildflower Walk, Doe Mountain Reserve