

Tennessee Valley Chapter of Wild Ones Presents

# Wild Wander: Plant Natives Weekend 2024

April  
12

April  
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April  
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Reflection Riding



# Wild Wander: Schedule of Events

## Friday, April 12, 2024 | Finley Stadium | 1826 Reggie White Blvd, Chattanooga, TN

- 9:00 - 10:00 Byron Brooks: The Homeowners Introduction to Invasive Species Management
- 10:00 - 11:00 Diana Gennett: Bees and Trees and Other Wild Things
- 11:00 - 11:15 Break
- 11:15 - 12:15 Jordan Argrett: Robinhood in the Southeast: The Untapped Potential of Parasitic Plants in Grassland Conservation
- 12:15 - 1:30 Lunch Break - Go out to eat or pack your own lunch
- 1:30 - 3:00 Laura Blackman and Mary Priestley: An Introduction to Nature Journaling
- 3:30 - 4:30 Lyn Rutherford: Warner Park Bioretention Gardens - Native Plantings as a Tool for Outreach and Stormwater Management
- 5:00 - 7:00 Social | Southside Social | 1818 Chestnut Street, Chattanooga, TN

## Saturday, April 13, 2024 | First Horizon Pavillion | 1826 Reggie White Blvd, Chattanooga, TN

- 9:00 - 2:00 Native Plant Marketplace & Expo  
Kid Friendly Activities: Seed Bomb Workshop, Nature Sun Catchers, Tree Trunk and Ink Prints

## Sunday, April 14, 2024 | Various Locations

- 9:00 - 10:30 Wild Wander Walk with Squeaky Boots - Kid Friendly Hike | Stringers Ridge
- 9:00 - 10:30 Field trip to view endemic spring wildflowers of the limestone glades | Little Cedar Mountain
- 11:30 - 1:30 Rain Garden Workshop with the City of Chattanooga and WaterWays | East Brainerd Residence
- 2:30 - 4:00 Interpretive Wildflower Walk with Mary Beth Sutton, WaterWays | Wildflower Trail, Pocket Wilderness
- 5:00 - 6:00 Botanical Illustrations Workshop with Katie Sutton | Naked River Brewing



# Seminars and Workshops | Friday, April 12th

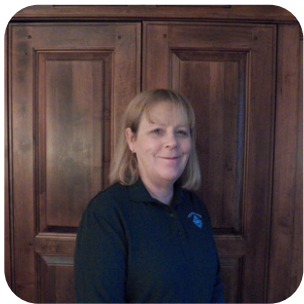


*Byron Brooks*

## **The Homeowner's Introduction to Invasive Species Management | Byron Brooks | 9:00 - 10:00**

A short presentation that will define the problem of invasive species and give information about what a homeowner can do to manage the invasives typically occurring in their own landscaping. Byron welcomes your questions about invasives management and apologizes in advance for all the bad jokes!

Byron Brooks is an Invasive Species Management Specialist with more than 20 years of experience battling the bad guys in natural areas and in the built environment. He has a BS in Environmental Science/Geology from UTC, 2001. He has worked for nonprofit organizations, state and municipal government agencies, and as an independent contractor. He holds a Category Six Commercial Applicator Certification and is a Certified Prescribed Burn Manager in the state of Tennessee. He is a board member of the Tennessee Invasive Plant Council. Byron enjoys learning new things, especially those floral and faunal, and is the world's mediocre-est guitar player.



*Diana Gennett*

## **Bees and Trees and Other Wild Things | Diana Gennett | 10:00 - 11:00**

Learn from Diana Gennett as she talks about pollinators, forestry, and other wild things.

Diana Gennett is a seasoned professional with over four decades of experience in forestry and environmental conservation. Graduating from West Virginia University in 1979, Diana began her career as a Management Forester for the Tennessee Young Adult Conservation Corps, overseeing Chuck Swan State Forest/Wildlife Management Area. She subsequently held roles at Mead Paperboard and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency before founding Gennett Forestry Consulting LLC in 1998. Diana's expertise extends to serving as a Technical Service Provider for the Federal Agency of Natural Resources Conservation in Tennessee and Georgia since 2008. Currently, she chairs the Kentucky/Tennessee Society of American Foresters, South Tennessee Section, and serves as a Tree Farm Inspector while also contributing as a board member and forester for the Chattanooga Audubon Society. With her extensive background and unwavering dedication, Diana enriches our conference with invaluable insights into sustainable land management practices.



*Jordan Argrett*

## **Robinhood in the Southeast: The Untapped Potential of Parasitic Plants in Grassland Conservation | Jordan Argrett | 11:15 - 12:15**

Jordan will be providing a history of our understanding of parasitic plant ecology, its impacts on complex ecological systems, and the important role that parasitic plants may play in the restoration of the historic southeastern prairies.

Jordan is passionate about understanding the interactions between plants, microbes, and their shared environment. As a graduate student at the University of Georgia, Jordan studies how parasitic plants influence plant competitive dynamics, litter decomposition, and soil microbial community structure in the Colorado Rockies. While his research is based out west, Jordan is keenly interested in understanding the impact of parasitic plants in the Southeast, especially in regard to their potential for use in grassland restoration.

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SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE  
FIELD TRIP

SOCIAL

# Seminars and Workshops | Friday, April 12th



*Laura Blackman*

## **An Introduction to Nature Journaling | Mary Priestley and Laura Blackman | 1:30 - 3:00**

Laura and Mary will give an overview of nature journaling, beginning with some famous journalers from the past. They will cover setting up the journal, composing a page, things to include, favorite media, and reference materials. They will offer exercises in drawing plants and animals, and share ideas for setting up and maintaining a nature journaling group.

Laura Blackman is an artist who resides on Monteagle Mountain and primarily paints in oils. She is a certified Tennessee Naturalist and enjoys sketching nature and botanical water coloring with the Sewanee Herbarium's Nature Journaling Group.



*Mary Priestley*

Laura Blackman is an artist who resides on Monteagle Mountain and primarily paints in oils. She is a certified Tennessee Naturalist and enjoys sketching nature and botanical water coloring with the Sewanee Herbarium's Nature Journaling Group.

Mary Priestley is a botanist and coordinates the Sewanee Herbarium's Nature Journaling Group. She has authored several books about people and plants and teaches classes in botany and ecology. Both she and Laura enjoy leading nature journaling workshops



*Lyn Rutherford*

## **Warner Park Bioretention Gardens: Native Plantings as a Tool for Outreach and Stormwater Management | Lyn Rutherford | 3:30 - 4:30**

It may surprise you to learn there is a native plant oasis in the middle of a large parking lot for the Zoo and Fitness Center! But stormwater managers would tell you this is a great way to reduce flooding and urban water pollution through green infrastructure. And as a high visibility community hub and tourist destination, this is also the perfect place to do native plant and environmental outreach. Come learn about some of the City's recent educational initiatives including projects with UTC and the Zoo. Let's take a walk around the Warner Park bioretention gardens and see what's growing.

Lyn Rutherford studied Biology at Warren Wilson College. She has done trail work, conservation and habitat restoration, invasive plant management, fine gardening, and, most recently, stormwater management through green infrastructure plantings. Lyn's work for the City of Chattanooga as a Natural Resources Supervisor has given her particular expertise in the intersection of native plants and stormwater management in urban watersheds. Through her service to the City's Public Works and Parks departments, and volunteering with the Tennessee Valley Wild Ones, she has been an advocate, educator, and hands-in-the-dirt worker for native plants on public lands.

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# Native Plant Marketplace & Expo | Saturday, April 13th

## Native Plant Nurseries

Reflection Riding Arboretum &  
Nature Center

Eucler Meadows Nursery

Overhill Gardens

Native Plant Rescue Squad

Tennessee Naturescapes

The Azalea Farm

Thomas Nursery

## Vendors

The Cat & The Crow  
Apothecary

Green Grace Chattanooga

## Exhibitors

Waterways

City of Chattanooga Parks and  
Outdoors

Lookout Mountain  
Conservancy

Tennessee Native Plant  
Society

## Kid Friendly Activities

Seed Bomb Workshop  
with Chattanooga Area Pollinator Partnership  
(CHAPP)

Nature Sun Catchers  
with Squeaky Boots, LLC

Tree Trunk and Ink Prints  
with River Gorge Forest School

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# Workshops and Hikes | Sunday, April 14th

## **Wild Wander Walk | with Squeaky Boots, LLC**

*A family friendly guided walk in the woods encouraging curiosity and adventure in all ages at Stringers Ridge.*

**9:00 - 10:30**

## **Adult Hike at Little Cedar Mountain | with Stephan Eselgroth**

*Field trip to view endemic spring wildflowers of the limestone glades at Little Cedar Mountain*

## **Rain Garden Workshop**

*presented by the City of Chattanooga and WaterWays*

**11:30 - 1:30**

## **Interpretive Wildflower Walk**

*with Mary Beth Sutton, WaterWays at the Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail, Pocket Wilderness*

**2:30 - 4:00**

## **Botanical Illustrations Class**

*with Katie Sutton at Naked River Brewing*

**5:00 - 6:00**

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RAIN GARDEN PLANTING

WILDFLOWER WALK

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATIONS  
CLASS

