

February-March Events related to Habitat Gardening

January 25

“Cultivating Change” with author and activist Lorraine Johnson, former president of the North American Native Plant Society. 7 pm. Free webinar, sponsored by Wild Ones. Explore how native gardening can address climate challenges. Learn about the pivotal role of gardening as an act of stewardship in the face of climate and ecological challenges. Discover the profound connections between individual gardens and the broader world and learn how these green spaces can serve as catalysts for positive ecological and social change.

<https://wildones.org/webinar-cultivating-change-with-lorraine-johnson-on-january-25th-at-6-pm-cst/#register>

February 8

Invasive species Management with Rod Walker of Blue Ridge PRISM. 7:00 pm (Eastern)

Free. Sponsored by Appalachian Highlands Wild Ones. Zoom link: **<https://wildones-org.zoom.us/j/86985016622?pwd=bkp3WHIHMEJuWIIINEJVM1RIZGZZdz09>**

February 12

Hybrid Seminar: Native Trees. 6:30 - 8:30 pm (Eastern Time). Bearden Library, 2649 Boyds Bridge Pike, Knoxville, TN, 37914. Live Stream Available. Free; public is invited. Sponsored by Smoky Mountain Chapter Wild Ones. <https://smokymountains.wildones.org/events/>

February 17

Mount Rogers Winter Naturalist Rally. Blue Ridge Discovery Center, 6402 Whitetop Rd, Troutdale, VA 24378. Includes “Introduction to Growing Your Own Native Plants” with Ian Caton, owner of Wood Thrush Native Nursery in Floyd, VA. An introduction to the techniques and challenges of collecting, storing, sowing, and growing your own native plants.

<https://blueridgediscoverycenter.org/mount-rogers-winter-naturalist-rally-2024>

February 17

Roan Mountain Winter Naturalist Rally. Roan Mountain State Park. Speakers, hikes, including Becky Smucker on “Mosses, Liverworts, and Hornworts in Roan Mountain SP” and Dr. Rebecca Fletcher on “Appalachian Foodways: A Seasonal Approach to Farming and Wildcrafting.”

https://www.friendsofroanmtn.org/_files/ugd/3cc564_9dffbd7d8016406ca6815c45e2d25c45.pdf

February 20

“Native Ferns” with John Manion, Education and Outreach Coordinator at Overhill Gardens. 7:30 pm Eastern. Zoom. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by Tennessee Native Plant Society. The link to join this seminar is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88113720929?pwd=cRIIaITv1ZYa1T0nLndtvYV6EXdwn.1>

February 21

The Forest School at the Yale School of the Environment, the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology, and Orion Magazine present “The Poetics of Forests” featuring a conversation between award-winning poet Ellen Bass (“Indigo and Like a Beggar”) and Mary Evelyn Tucker, co-author of “Journey of the Universe” and co-director of Yale’s Forum on Religion and Ecology. 12 pm Eastern. Free.

https://yale.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YKW9V_KzRY-cho7pJXnTRQ#/registration

February 24

Adopt a Tree. Warriors Path State Park. 10 AM - noon. Help plant hundreds of new trees at th Park. For every tree seedling you plant, you will also get one to take home, to plant in your own neighborhood. Come early because supplies of trees are limited! Some digging tools available, but bring your own if you'd like. 423-239-6786, marty.silver@tn.gov. For details see: https://tnstateparks.com/parks/event_details/warriors-path/#/?event=adopt-a-tree-feb-2024

March 2

Weed Wrangle at Warriors' Path State Park: Garlic Mustard Pull. 1 - 4 pm. Garlic Mustard plants choke out native wildflowers and kill rare butterflies. Garlic Mustard is easy to control without using any special tools or toxic herbicides, if we start early in the season. Help the park control this nasty pest by spending a few hours uprooting these nasty weeds along a scenic park trail. https://tnstateparks.com/parks/event_details/warriors-path/#/?event=weed-wrangle-at-warriors-path-garlic-mustard-pull-wpsp-2024

March 14

Native Plant Propagation, Part 2. 7 pm. The Appalachian Highlands Chapter of the Wild Ones online educational Zoom program presented by VHC College Horticultural Professor Ben Casteel. on native plant propagation from the greenhouse at Virginia Highlands Community College in Abingdon, Va. Techniques demonstrated will include division, separation, cuttings, layering and grafting. To participate please use the following link to access the Wild Ones Appalachian Highland chapter's website at <https://appalachianhighlands.wildones.org/> for more information and a Zoom link.

March 21

"Best of the Unknown Native Perennials," with John Manion, Education & Outreach Coordinator at Overhill Gardens in Vonore, TN. 7 pm at BrightRidge Auditorium, 2600 Boones Creek Rd (Hwy 354), Johnson City. Sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS). Free and open to the public. For more info see saps.us or sapsnews@gmail.com.

Tennessee Tree Day is March 16. 2024

Reserve your native trees now through March 4, 2024. You will pick up your trees on March 15 or 16 and plant them on Tree Day, March 16. Tennessee Tree Day is March 16. 2024 To reserve your trees go to <https://www.tectn.org/tennesseetreeday.html>.

Certified Pollinator Advocate Series at Botanical Gardens at Asheville

The Botanical Gardens at Asheville and Bee City USA-Asheville will jointly offer a series of 12 monthly classes covering pollination ecology topics and leading to certification as a Pollinator Advocate. Beginning in January 2024, one session will be held each month at 6 pm at Botanical Gardens at Asheville Visitor Center. All 12 classes will be offered in 2024 and repeated in 2025 so individuals may complete the certification and become a pollinator advocate over 2 years. To become a "C.P.A." individuals will complete 12 classes, plus

complete 2 volunteer opportunities with Bee City USA-Asheville. All C.P.A. classes may also be taken individually. \$25 for individual classes or \$250 (non-member) for all 12 classes. <https://ashevillebotanicalgardens.square.site/classes>

Tennessee Naturalist Program Offered at Bays Mountain Park

Bays Mountain Park will offer the Tennessee Naturalist Certification Program this year from March 1 – May 17. TNP is a set of curriculum designed to introduce adults to the natural history of Tennessee. Graduates join an elite group of Tennessee Naturalist Volunteers who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the appreciation, understanding, and beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their community. Participants receive 40 hours of instruction during 10 separate classes on various topics including geology, flora, wildlife, watersheds, as well as exposure to ecological concepts and conservation issues. Each participant is also required to complete 40 hours of volunteer service and successfully pass a content-based post-course exam to receive certification. Classes will be held on Fridays from 4-8 pm with one Saturday morning class and one evening class. Each class will last at least 4 hours and will include both classroom and field instruction. Course fee is \$350 which includes classes, a field notebook, hand lens, and a flash drive with course materials. Registration deadline is February 16, or when full. Class size is limited. For more info, contact Naturalist Krystal Haney 423-229-9483 or krystalhaney@kingsportTN.gov. <https://tnnaturalist.org/register/>