



# February 2021 Chapter Newsletter

**Wild Ones Mission Statement:** promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities.

**Member Login:** If you are a member, you are entitled to the resources on the national website. To create your website login, go to [www.wildones.org](http://www.wildones.org) and click on the "Member Login" button near the top right corner of the home page. Then click on "Already a member but not registered? Register password for member here". Complete the short form for the Wild Password Registration. **Note:** use the same email you used when completing your registration form to join Wild Ones.

**Membership:** Our Wild Ones chapter is dedicated to educating and advocating for biodiversity in the Great Smoky Mountains. We offer a variety of programs and events throughout the year that teach and encourage sustainable landscaping and gardening practices using plants that are native to Our Smoky Mountain Region. Membership is vital to the ongoing success of our chapter. We invite you to attend our programs and to become a member! To obtain a membership packet, please contact Marti Agler at [martiava@att.net](mailto:martiava@att.net)

**Kroger Community Rewards Program:** Wild Ones members can help raise money for their chapter. One of the ways in which you can do this is through the Kroger Community Rewards program. This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Shopper's Card. Our Chapter's exclusive organization number is XN695. Visit the following link to sign up today:  
<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>.

**The Humorous Side:** How can you tell in winter which trees in a forest are the dogwoods? You can tell by their bark!

**Poisonous plants** are plants that produce toxins that deter herbivores, including people, from consuming them. Plants cannot move to escape their predators, so they must have other means of protecting themselves from herbivorous animals. Some plants have physical defenses such as thorns, spines and prickles, but by far the most common type of protection is chemical. Following is a look at the most common poisonous plants in Tennessee.

## Poisonous Plants of Tennessee



Poison Ivy – *Toxicodendron radicans*

*Toxicodendron radicans*, commonly called poison ivy, is the ultimate weed that no one wants. “Leaflets three, let it be.” It is native throughout the United States in a large variety of locations.

All parts of the plant contain a toxic plant oil called urushiol which can cause significant skin irritations. Greenish-white flowers bloom May to July turning into Waxy, creamy-white to yellowish-white berries. **Can cause significant skin irritation!**



Poison Oak – *Toxicodendron toxicarium*

This is a deciduous shrub (separate male and female plants)(to 3-10’ tall) or climbing vine (to 50’ tall) that features trifoliate leaves with ovate to obovate oak-like leaflets. Leaves emerge with burgundy tinting in spring, mature to glossy green in summer and turn sometimes attractive shades of gold and red in fall. White flowers bloom in spring. Fertilized flowers on female plants give way to white to green-white spherical fruits. **Can cause significant skin irritation!**



Poison Sumac – *Toxicodendron vernix*

*Toxicodendron vernix*, commonly known as poison sumac, is a woody shrub or small tree growing to 9 m tall. This plant is also known as thunderwood, particularly where it occurs in the southern United States.

It inhabits swamps and other wet areas as well as pinewoods and hardwood forests. Poison sumac is considered more allergenic than both poison ivy and poison oak. **Can cause significant skin irritation!**

## Tennessee Poisonous Plants Continued



Poison Hemlock – *Conium maculatum*

*Conium maculatum*, the hemlock or poison hemlock, is a highly poisonous biennial herbaceous flowering plant in the carrot family. A hardy plant capable of living in a variety of environments, hemlock is widely naturalized in North America. It is a herbaceous biennial flowering plant that grows to 5–8 feet tall, with a smooth, green, hollow stem, usually spotted or streaked with red or purple on the lower half of the stem. Hemlock's flower is small and white; they are loosely clustered and each flower has five petals.



Stinging Nettle – *Urtica dioica*

*Urtica dioica*, often known as common nettle or stinging nettle is a herbaceous perennial flowering plant in the family Urticaceae. Originally native to Europe it has become naturalized and ubiquitous in North America. It has many hollow stinging hairs called trichomes on the leaves and stems, which act like hypodermic needles, injecting histamine and other chemicals that cause irritation. The plant has a long history of use as a source for traditional medicine, food, tea, and textile raw material in ancient societies.



Jimsonweed – *Datura stramonium*

*Datura stramonium*, known by the common names thorn apple, jimsonweed or devil's snare, is a plant species in the nightshade family. It is an aggressive invasive weed in temperate climates across the world. The plants contain potent alkaloids, including atropine, scopolamine, and hyoscyamine, and can be fatal if ingested. It is an herbaceous sprawling annuals or short-lived perennials, characterized by large trumpet-shaped flowers. The fragrant flowers can be white, yellow, pink, or purple and produce a spiny capsule fruit with numerous seeds.



## Tennessee Poisonous Plants Continued



### Horse Nettle – *Solanum carolinense*

*Solanum carolinense*, the Carolina horse nettle, is not a true nettle, but a member of the Solanaceae, or nightshade family. It is a perennial herbaceous plant, native to the southeastern United States.

Mature plants can grow to heights of up to 3 feet. The leaves are alternate and the leaf midrib and petiole have sharp prickles.

Fibrous hairs arise from a central tap- root and from creeping rhizomes. Flowers have five white to pale-violet petals give the flowers their characteristic star shape. The fruits are round greenish yellow berries.

## Upcoming Events and Items of Interest

**The Tennessee Valley Wild Ones Plant Natives 2021! Symposium** will be three half days, March 19-21, with seven major speakers: Doug Tallamy, Drew Lanham, Larry Mellichamp, Benjamin Vogt, Jim Costa, Michael Gaige and Patricia K. Howell. Since it will be an online symposium due to COVID-19, The Tennessee Valley Wild Ones Marketplace Sale will be the following weekend, 9am to 3pm EDT on Saturday, March 27.

The Marketplace on March 27<sup>th</sup> will be in the First Horizon Pavilion, home of the Chattanooga Market, and is going to be an exciting engagement with the larger public. We engaged a large space to address social distancing. Masks will be required of both participants and attendees. For additional information and to register go to:

<https://tnvalleywildones.org/plant-natives-2021/expo2021/>

**Meet the Designers:** Wild Ones recently introduced seven beautiful, professional, ecoregion specific, free, native garden designs including for the regions of Milwaukee and Toledo at [nativegardendesigns.wildones.org](http://nativegardendesigns.wildones.org). We want to share with you how the designers of the Milwaukee plan (Danielle Bell) and Toledo plan (Susan Hall) each approached this project and invite you to join us for a special online "Meet the Designers" event on Tuesday, March 9th 6-7 EST. Visit: [www.wildones.org](http://www.wildones.org) for additional info and to register.

**Sevier County Master Gardeners Plant Show** will be April 24, 2021 and will be a virtual event similar to last year. Detailed information will be forthcoming on Facebook soon.

**Newsletter Glimpse:** Next Month's issue will focus on native plants for butterflies and hummingbirds, as well as articles by some of our members.. Please contact Joanne with any ideas or recommendations you may have for this newsletter. Email: [jko.wildones@gmail.com](mailto:jko.wildones@gmail.com)

**“Making the world a better place one native plant at a time”**

## PineCone Bird Feeder

### How to Make a Pinecone Bird Feeder

#### Materials:

Dried, open pinecones

Peanut butter

Garden wire, twine or ribbon

Mixed birdseed

Plastic containers or bowls, spoons and scissors



#### Instructions:

1. Pick out a pinecone that has dried and opened up.
2. Cut a length of string/wire/ribbon about 16 inches long. Tie around the perimeter at the top of the pinecone and secure firmly.
3. Using a spoon, spread/smear peanut butter into the crevices and all over the pinecone.
4. Pour birdseed into a container. Place the peanut butter-covered pinecone into the seed and toss the seed over top and all around. Pack the seeds into the crevices and stick it to the outsides. The finished product will look like a little seed ball.
5. Hang in a tree or on a nail and watch the birds feast on the seeds.

### A Reminder: Why Plant Natives?

- \*They are beautiful
- \*They nurture pollinators and other wildlife
- \*They reduce pesticide use
- \*They need less water
- \*They prefer our soils
- \*They create a sense of place

## How to Make a Hanging Teacup Bird Feeder

### Materials

Old Teacup and saucer

Ceramic or Gorilla glue

Birdseed

Peanut Butter

Old Chain or Cord



### Instructions

Place the teacup on to the saucer and decide where you want the cup to be placed. Where the teacup goes on the saucer totally depends on the shape of the teacup and how it fits onto the saucer. Add glue to your teacup and place on to the saucer.

Use masking tape to hold the teacup in place, making sure that the handle is sticking straight up. (See photo) This helps it stay in place while the glue cures. I usually allow 24 hours.

Depending on the position and size of your cup you might just want to place your bird seed on it, or like we have you can mix the birdseed with the peanut butter and fill your cup.

Hang in an appropriate place and enjoy watching the birds!

### Native Plants of Tennessee Word Search

E	W	R	T	B	G	N	N	R	I	B	K	J	A
S	L	A	E	L	A	Z	A	E	M	A	L	F	M
O	L	E	Z	A	H	H	C	T	I	W	T	J	E
R	I	R	K	C	Z	T	M	Z	F	P	X	G	R
E	R	D	B	K	G	U	F	N	H	I	W	O	I
R	O	A	Q	E	Z	I	E	Y	F	P	U	M	C
U	N	G	Y	Y	D	T	Z	Q	T	A	G	G	A
T	W	L	J	E	J	H	V	W	Q	Z	M	L	N
S	E	P	F	D	H	H	O	W	O	V	W	H	H
A	E	C	K	S	P	X	B	P	A	Y	R	H	O
P	D	U	M	U	N	R	U	B	I	V	K	H	L
N	R	E	F	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	L
Y	F	F	O	A	M	F	L	O	W	E	R	H	Y
V	J	P	T	N	U	C	X	T	T	C	K	M	F

American holly    Black eyed Susan    Christmas fern    Flame azalea    Foam flower  
 Ironweed    Pasture rose    Viburnum    Witch hazel