



June/July 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 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

It's Fair Time in Sevier County!

Tuesday, August 31- Monday, September 6 are the dates of the 2021 Sevier County Fair. The theme of the Fair this year is "Cows, Plows, and Luau's" and each guest will be given a lei when entering the gate! Woo-hoo!!! This Fair won the "Best Fair in Tennessee" in 2019.

The catalog of premiums and entry dates, event schedule, displays, etc. is in printing and will be available on line (seviercountyfair.org) and in print about the second week of July. There are exhibit categories for all interests, from plants to photography, from cattle to table settings. You do NOT have to be a resident of Sevier County to exhibit your handiwork.

You can plan your visit to see a rodeo, "Fairest of the Fair" competition, continuous music and other entertainment, lots of food, and, of course, don't forget the rides! A complete carnival is on site for fun and games.

Our chapter of Wild Ones sponsors the "Best in Class" for Cut Tennessee Native Plants in the Floral Department and awards \$50.00 to the winner. We also maintain a booth within the Floral Area and meet and talk to a lot of nice folks. Please plan on helping out one or two evenings.



Dragonflies

Dragonflies, also known as skimmers, are widespread across the United States, quite common in Tennessee, and can be enticed to visit most yards. They rely on bodies of water for reproduction. The adults lay eggs in the water or on plants at its edge. The nymphs then hatch from the eggs and live under water for months or even years before they mature and fly. Although these insects tend to stay close to their birthplace, they are strong fliers that will explore surrounding lands. Some will even move to new territory. That's why even if you garden only remotely near fresh water or a wetland, the right adjustments to your landscape can lure dragonflies to reside in your yard.

The Benefits of Dragonflies

Why would you want to bring dragonflies to your garden? They're fun to watch, for one thing, but they also play an important role. They are excellent predators of other insects, including mosquitoes and beetles. They have excellent eyesight and they're supreme fliers, being both fast and nimble in the air. They often snatch their prey while in flight and devour it without even landing. Dragonflies themselves are a food source for various birds. Dragonflies don't sting or bite people and rest with their wings open.

How to Attract Dragonflies

Dragonflies need water, so installing a pond or pool is one sure way to attract them to your property. Even a small water feature—the size of a kiddie pool—or a potted water garden in a whiskey half barrel can do the trick. Dragonflies fly best when warm, so put your water feature where it will receive sun at midday. They appreciate rocks in and around the water and throughout the garden, on which they can bask and warm themselves. Dragonflies also need perches from which they can scan the skies for prey. Shrubs and grasses at the water's edge provide perches. A pond should have some plants growing in it where the nymphs can hide and hunt. Avoid adding fish since these would prey on the nymphs.

Even without adding a water feature you can lure dragonflies to your garden if you live in proximity to a body of freshwater, or if you have a naturally boggy area in your yard. Wandering adults will explore the surrounding lands and they can fly quite far. Provide basking rocks and twiggy shrubs, as well as, tall perennials for them to perch on. Bare bamboo stakes are also good perches for dragonflies. Planting flowers that attract prey for dragonflies will bring them to your garden indirectly. Here are some plants you can grow to attract more dragonflies into your backyard for mosquito and pest control.

Land Based

Black-eyed Susan

Joe-Pye Weed

White Yarrow

Swamp Milkweed

Water Based

Arrowhead

Wild/Water Celery

Water Horsetail

Cattail

Plant Invasiveness and the Bradford Pear

When people learn how to identify Bradford pears and their invasive qualities, it's often an eye-opening realization of just how bad the invasion is.

Bradford pear trees, also known as Callery pears, have been a popular ornamental tree for decades. This tree was first introduced to the United States in the early 1900's for development of fire blight resistance in the common pear before being developed as an ornamental.

Bradford pears produce an enormous amount of seed that is dispersed by birds and other small mammals. Seedlings germinate and spread rapidly. Once established, Bradford pears form dense thickets that out-compete native plant species, including grasses, forbs and other woody plants. Ornamental use in urban areas creates a large seed source, prime for invading pastures and wildland areas.

Like other invasive species, Bradford pears reproduce vigorously making them very difficult to manage. Within a few years, one tree can effectively spread into a large thicket. When Bradford pears invade an area, they out-compete native plants that provide valuable wildlife habitat and grazing for livestock. Once they establish in an area, they quickly hopscotch on to other areas, invading them before its recognized as a problem.

Native Alternative Trees to Bradford Pears – Plant These Not Bradford Pears!



Service Berry, *Amelanchier arborea*



Smoke Tree, *Cotinus obovatus*

ATTENTION:

Don't Forget our upcoming meeting on Wednesday, August 4th, 2021 at the Birchfield Room at the King Library in Sevierville at 6:30.



Eastern Redbud, *Cercis canadensis*



Carolina Buckthorn, *Rhamnus Caroliniana*



Green Hawthorn, *Crataegus viridis*



Rusty Black Haw, *Viburnum rufidulum*



Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida*



Mexican Plum, *Prunus mexicana*



Smoky Mountains Chapter

TIPS FOR SWAPPERS

- *Plants should be in a clean container
- *Label the plants with as much info as possible: annual, perennial, size, sun/shade, bloom color, water needs, etc.
- *Dig/Replant your plants a few days in advance, and water well so they have time to recover and look good.
- *Bring trays, boxes or flats to carry your new plants home.
- *Your plants should be well watered and pest and disease free.
- *All seeds and bulbs should be the current crop
- * Additional swap credit for natives
NO invasive plants please!



Side 1

SIXTH ANNUAL PLANT SWAP

Saturday, September 25, 2021
9:00 AM until 12 Noon

Hosted by:
The Wild Ones
Smoky Mountains Chapter,
Co-Sponsored by the
City of Sevierville,
Parks & Recreation Department

At the Gazebo in Sevierville
on Bruce Street
Rain or Shine!

Bring a friend, but not your pet!
This year we will be adjacent to the
Sevierville Farmers Market

For additional information and details:
martiava@hotmail.com
or call Joan at: 1-423-487-2571

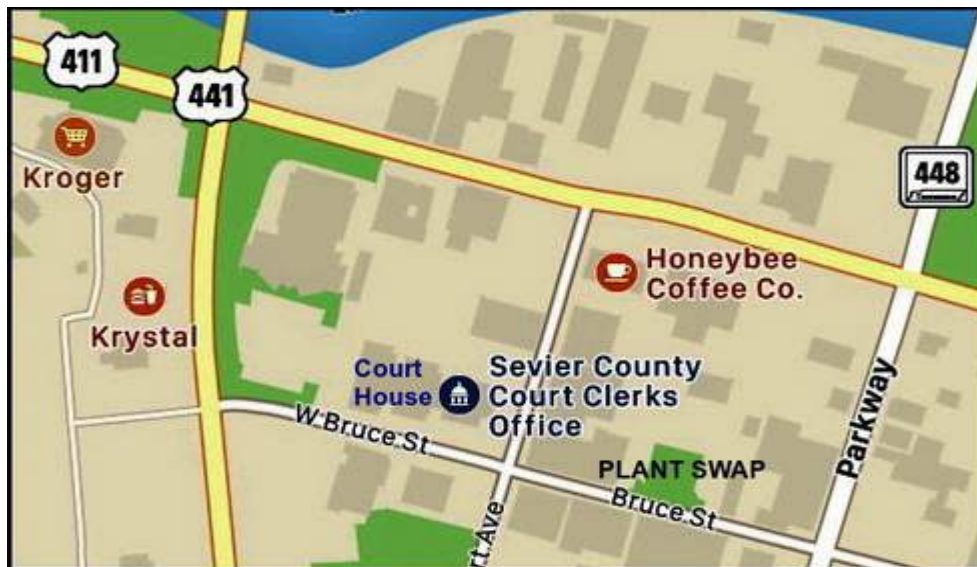
BRING A PLANT – GET A PLANT!
NO PLANTS??? BUY TICKETS TO
BUY PLANTS



Wild Ones Smoky Mountains Chapter Plant Swap Barter Chart

YOU WILL PAY	FOR THIS	YOU WILL GET	
		If Non-Native	If TN Native
1 ticket	Pot 3" or less	1 ticket	2 tickets
2 tickets	Pot 3"-5"	2 tickets	3 tickets
3 tickets	Pot 6"-8"	3 tickets	4 tickets
5 tickets	Pot greater than 8"	5 tickets	6 tickets
1 ticket	Current Crop Seed Packet or Envelope	1 ticket	2 tickets
1 ticket	Current Crop Bulbs	1 ticket	2 tickets
3 tickets	Water Plants	3 tickets	4 tickets
5 tickets	Tree less than 5'	5 tickets	6 tickets
10 tickets	Tree 5'-6'	10 tickets	11 tickets
15 tickets	Tree greater than 6'	15 tickets	16 tickets
1 ticket	Garden Tool	1 ticket	
5 tickets	Garden Equipment	5 tickets	
2 tickets	Gardening Book (soft bound)	2 tickets	
4 tickets	Gardening Book (hard bound)	4 tickets	
1 ticket	Misc. Garden Related Item	1 ticket	
	Show Your WildOnes Membership*	1 ticket	

No Plants? No Problem! Purchase Tickets for \$1.00
 Visit our Wild Ones Information/Membership table before you leave!



Plant Adaptations Scavenger Hunt

Adaptations are special features that allow a plant to survive and thrive in a particular place or habitat.

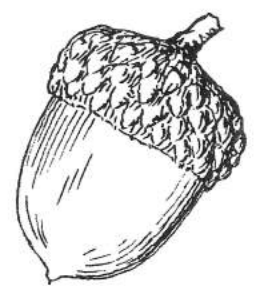
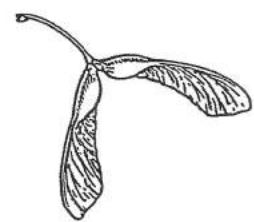
Seasonal Adaptations

- A tree that loses its leaves in the fall.
- A tree that has needle-like leaves.
- A plant that has thick waxy leaves.
- A tree that has thick bark.



Reproductive Adaptations

- A plant that produces spores.
- A plant with colorful seeds.
- A nut-like seed.
- A seed that can fly.
- A seed that sticks like Velcro.
- A seed that springs open.
- A plant with colorful flowers
- A pine cone



Defensive Adaptations

- A plant that has thorns.
- A plant that is poisonous.



Adaptations for Growth

- A plant that climbs.
- A leaf that is bigger than your hand.
- A plant that seems to be "reaching" for the sunlight.

