



## **President's Report**

**From Lisa Lemza**

**April 25, 2017**

The Tennessee Valley Wild Ones Chapter Board meets quarterly, last on April 17th. The Board was expanded late last year to acquire more member input. The Board consists of the following:

- President (Lisa Lemza);
- Vice President (Sally Wencel);
- Treasurer (Bill Moll);
- Secretary (Lyn Rutherford);
- Membership (Nora Bernhardt/Marcia Stevens);
- Program Committee (John Evans/Richard Clements);
- Public Information (Lucy Scanlon/Ann Brown);
- Symposium Committee (under formation for 2018, see below);
- Certificate of Native Plants Program (Sally Wencel/Lena Hall);
- Landscape Recognition Committee (under formation for 2018);
- Newly formed CHAPP Committee—Chattanooga Area Pollinator Partnership (Sally Wencel/Kristina Shaneyfelt).

The new position of Volunteer Coordinator is filled by Lena Hall, working with Membership Committee. Members-at-large are Lena Hall, Richard Clements, and Kristina Shaneyfelt. The Past President, Marti Owensby, is also an ex officio member.

The chapter is swamped with requests and event support during this spring season. It is challenging and perhaps not possible to manage the many requests. Expanding our volunteer base will greatly alleviate this annual crunch. COULD YOU HELP?

Major points of business at the last meeting included the following:

- Budget  
Following confirmation of Symposium income and expenses, we confirmed the 2017 chapter budget. Although any budget is a snapshot in time, current records project \$3,564 net dollars above and beyond chapter operating expenses. Income is received from memberships, the Certificate in Native Plants, and, some years, Symposium, which this year essentially broke even. We intend to use these funds to support grants and programs directly related to our mission and strategic plan, and not merely 'sit on it.' (see new programs below.)

- Symposium Review
  - Problems with food were significant and difficult to resolve due to the UTC's policy that prevents outsourcing. Other points good and bad were listed, but our sense overall was that the Symposium was highly successful; most found it full of both practical knowledge as well as inspiration.
  - Many, many thanks to Connie Giles and the Symposium Committee for our best attended (210) Symposium to date. Special thanks to Louise Gilley for registration duties, and Marcia Stevens for establishing a publicity/contacts database, a mighty work. Also special thanks to Juan Gonzales for the complex task of assembling survey data.
  - Bill Moll volunteered to co- chair the 2018 Symposium Committee, with Sally Wencel. Tentative date is set for March 17, 2018. Tentative theme will be "Save the Pollinators, Save the World."
  
- Chattanooga Area Pollinator Partnership Committee (CHAPP)  
 For various technical reasons, we have decided to break from our founding website at the Greater Atlanta Pollinator Partnership (GAPP) and establish our own. Our website is up and running at <https://chapollinator.org/>.
  
- Outreach
  - Lyn Rutherford volunteered to lead a working group to (a) examine how TVWO can reach out to non- standard, (i.e., non- gardeners), younger, and diverse populations, as well as (b) establish criteria for like -minded non- profits whose work compliments our own.
  - In that vein, the Board voted to support, among many other organizations, a request to Tennessee's Governor Haslam for a 1% diversion of state funds to preserve forested headwaters, agriculture lands, and historical sites. The latter is called "Forever Green" and can be further researched at <https://forevergreentn.wordpress.com/>
  
- Membership Dues  
 Chapter dues increase from \$37 annual to \$40 in JUNE. RENEW NOW!
  
- Native Gardens Home Tour  
 The Board voted to launch a Native Gardens Home Tour in the fall of 2018. This will be a large scale teaching project showcasing 3 to 4 Wild Ones' gardens for which we will charge entry. Similar to the Food Bank Garden Tour in June, we will donate a portion of proceeds to a cause not yet designated. We intend to make this a teaching tour so WE WILL NEED MANY VOLUNTEERS.
  
- Mission-Support Initiatives  
 The Board also voted to allocate funds [mission-support initiatives](#) as follows:
  - Increase CHAPP budget to \$1,000
  - Establish \$500 scholarship program for Cullowhee Native Plant Conference, open to educators, interns, volunteers and community organizers, and government

- workers. See Bill Moll for application.
- Establish \$500 'seed' money for other groups in the Southeast seeking to establish a Wild Ones chapter. Criteria in progress as of this writing.
  - Establish \$1,000 'Seeds for Education' grants for schools and community based pollinator gardens. This program will be run by the CHAPP committee, and base criteria are posted at <https://chapollinator.org/>
- Speakers at Community Events  
Last, the chapter is receiving a growing number of requests for classes and 'speakers'. We are unsure as of now how to respond; we expect the number of requests to increase. Classic 'speakers bureaus' can be problematic; they certainly require dedicated support. We welcome ideas, suggestions, partial answers, and as always, volunteers to help us resolve how we can help save the world, one yard at a time. Please bring your thoughts, ideas, wild hairs, and genius forward as we struggle with this important issue.

*Lisa Lemza*

President, Tennessee Valley Chapter of Wild Ones

[lemzala@aol.com](mailto:lemzala@aol.com)