



November 2024

Hello fellow members of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of Wild Ones,

Exciting news! Our upcoming Annual Meeting on November 16th is when we implement the new Chapter By-Laws with regard to our incoming Board. To those who haven't done a deep dive into the new by-laws, members are now recruited to the nine-member Board with a one-year commitment. Committee Chairs, who collectively have a Board vote as well, are appointed based on their interest, with a one-year commitment. The new Board members will then select who will be Officers (Pres., VP., Sec., Treas.) before we begin the new year in January. This gives everyone a little time to learn about their new roles.

Thank you so much to our current Board members who have supported the mission of our Chapter over this past year. Beverly Inman-Ebel, President, Jenny Hetzler, Vice President, Randi Schlosser, Secretary, Sally Wencel, Treasurer, Lena Hall, Volunteer Coordinator, Charlotte Freeman, Member at Large, Bill Moll, Member at Large, Angela Dittmar, Lisa Pouncey, Rosy Harpe, CHAPP Co-Chairs, Lena Hall, Charlotte Freeman, CNP Co-chairs Pam Sohn, CNP Manager, Erin Thurman, Bianca Pratorius, Marketing Co-Chairs, Sherri Kent, Joyce Youngblood, Ann Brown, Membership Co-Chairs, Bill Moll, Gayle Tucker, Programs Co-Chairs, and Rosy Harpe and Jared O'Dell 2024 Wild Wander (Symposium) Co-Chairs. It takes a village to make all of our Chapter Events happen each year and this large leadership team has kept us rocking, rolling, and showing up throughout 2024!

Have your vote count this Saturday. See the Annual Meeting details here and in the member update. Members who have volunteered their time for the 2025 Board are **Sherri Kent, Bill Moll, Erin Thurman, Sally Wencel, Lena Hall, Sarah Henley, Holli Richey, and Charlotte Freeman**. Beverly will continue to serve as Past President. We will also have bios at the meeting and encourage everyone to attend and get to know each other!

If you are interested in serving on any of our committees, please reach out to [tvalleywildones@gmail.com](mailto:tvalleywildones@gmail.com) or use our [SignUp](#) link.

Many thanks and see you on November 16th!

Kristina Shaneyfelt

Past President



### **Board Member Bios:**

**Sherri Kent** – Even though information technology was Sherri’s chosen career (retired 2021), her favorite hobby has always been gardening. At a young age, she helped her mother in the family vegetable and flower gardens. As an adult, Sherri’s passion became perennial gardening and landscape design. Her current home garden space is a prime area for pollinators and Wild Ones highlighted her garden in a LIPs event in 2022.

She is a Master Gardener and CNP certificate holder and volunteers at Reflection Riding and McCoy farms. It was at Reflection Riding that she learned the value of planting natives and also where she was introduced to the Wild Ones organization.

She truly believes in the Wild Ones mission of using native plants and environmentally sound landscape practices. She served on the Public Information and Membership Committee this past year and would like to continue serving as a board member.

**Bill Moll** - has been active in putting together programming for Wild Ones (Monthly Programs, Propagation Workshop, Grass ID Workshop), as well as serving as Treasurer (2016-19), Co-Chair of the Programs Committee and Symposium Co-Chair. Bill is a retired operations management consultant for PricewaterhouseCoopers, served as treasurer for 4 years on the National Stereoscopic Association, bringing the organization back to IRS good standing, and was treasurer for the Southern Bicycle League to fix the SBL’s IRS problems. He was the Chairman of the Summerville (GA) Better Home Town Committee which organized Down Home Farm Days, Pets in the Park, Menlo Balloon Festival, and similar events. He founded The Friends of Sloppy Floyd State Park, served as its president for 4 years, obtaining funding for projects. He served as 5 years as Chairman of the Northwest Georgia Regional Development Center Bike-Ped task Force, developing educational programming and training for city and state personnel, gave mini-grants for bike-ped projects and supported developing federal and state grant proposals. He is currently the Sierra Club’s local Chapter Conservation Chair and has served on the Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee. He is also on the Tennessee Invasive Plant Council Board.

**Sally Wencel** - I'm a lifetime member of Wild Ones since 2014, co-founder of the Tennessee Valley Chapter, former chapter president and vice-president, past president and vice-president of the Wild Ones national board, current Wild Ones Finance Committee Chair among other national board and chapter committee positions. I am offering to serve as chapter treasurer to help continue evolving the chapter financial accounting structure to make the position easier to perform in future years. Native plants and natural landscaping is my advocacy; law and for-profit executive management was my vocation.

**Erin Thurman** - Born and raised in Chattanooga, I grew up in a neighborhood known for its manicured lawns, HOA regulations, and awards like Yard of the Month for its pristine, non-native

azaleas and chrysanthemums. My perspective on landscapes shifted after a friend introduced me to Wild Ones, leading me to join in 2019 and take on the role of Marketing Co-Chair in 2020. Thanks to TVWO's public programs, symposiums, and a re-education in native landscaping, I've developed a deep appreciation for sustainable practices that make the most of our local ecosystems. Now, living on seven acres of farmland in Rocky Face with my partner, Lena, we're focused on creating ecologically beneficial spaces around our home.

**Lena Hall** – is from Rocky Face, Georgia. She graduated from The University of Georgia with a degree in Biology in 2002. Lena served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in rural Guatemala from 2004-2006. She joined Wild Ones in 2013 after attending *The Mystery and Magic of Monarchs*. Since then, she has been transforming her property into a habitat for all wildlife, using primarily native plants, removing invasives, and mowing as little as possible. Lena completed her Certificate in Native Plants in 2016 and has been continuing to plant, learn and observe all the biodiversity that has been attracted to her 'habitat' from these practices. Her latest obsession is collecting Monarch eggs from milkweed, raising the caterpillars, tag the adults, and sending the data to Monarch Watch.

**Sarah Henley** – is a data analytics consultant in the sporting goods and transportation industries. A Master Gardener and long-time volunteer at Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center's native plant nursery, she is also pursuing a Certificate in Native Plants.

Growing up in Memphis near her family's soybean farm, Sarah spent her childhood in her parents' flower and vegetable gardens and started her own as soon as she had the space. After discovering how native plants align with her low-maintenance gardening style while benefiting the environment, she joined Wild Ones to connect with like-minded enthusiasts advocating for and educating others about native plants and natural landscapes.

In her free time, Sarah and her spouse enjoy camping, hiking, and kayaking. They're also working to restore the landscapes around their homes in Red Bank and on the Hiwassee River, with the goal for them to qualify as Certified Native Habitats.

**Holli Richey** – has lived in St Elmo for 12 years and is slowly rewilding her backyard, which is on a formerly-farmed, terraced slope adjacent to the Lookout Mountain Conservancy Land Trust and St Elmo Trail. Since 2009, Holli has led botanical walks around the Southeast region focusing on ethnobotany and the medicinal and edible properties of local plants. Holli earned a Master of Science degree in Herbal Medicine (2008), is a Registered Herbalist with the American Herbalist Guild and is a Clinical Social Worker who incorporates botanical medicine and ecotherapy into her psychotherapy practice. Holli participated in Wild Ones events and gave walks and lectures several years ago. She is excited to reconnect with such a dedicated group for educating the Tennessee Valley about the importance of gardening with native plants.

**Charlotte Freeman** – Charlotte serves on the Certificate in Native Plants Committee and also as a CNP instructor. She has a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Emory University and a Master's degree in Zoology with a minor in Ecology from University of Florida. She taught biology at the university level and secondary school level for 38 years. She received the National Association of Biology Teachers Award for Outstanding Biology Teacher in the State of Tennessee in 1986. She received the Distinguished Teacher Award at Girls Preparatory School in 1989. She was named a Master Teacher after attending a summer teaching institute sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. Charlotte became an advocate for native plants about 25 years ago and has received her Certificate in Native plants from the Tennessee

Valley Chapter of The Wild Ones. Her passion is converting her yard to native plants and propagating them as space allows. She has been instrumental in starting several other native wildflower gardens in the Chattanooga area. Other interests include travel and painting and enjoying her children and grandchildren.