



# Wild Ones Middle Tennessee Chapter Meeting

Monday, February 28, 2022, at 7:00 pm CST

See chapter [web page](#) for details and Zoom info

## **Native Plants and Native People** the necessity of including the human element of environmental conservation

*Dr. Eleanor Lopez*



Faced with the harsh and ever more visible realities of climate change and ecological collapse, underlying systemic inequities in our human ecology also become apparent. In the face of daunting crises, there is a desire to connect with nature, to restore balance, to ensure sustainability and health for future generations. I invite us to re-frame the starting point for thinking about environmental stewardship that centers humans as an extension of the natural world. To do this, I believe it is essential to be in right relationship with Native Americans as a human aspect of the natural world that has both the longest relationship with native species, and who continue to thrive and remain at the forefront of protecting our environment despite enduring the human equivalent of ecocide – genocide. Using historical context and modern-day examples I will make a case for what collective land stewardship centered in direct support of Indigenous community, reciprocity, and reparations could look like in Tennessee.

Eleanor Lopez received her Doctor of Plant Medicine degree (DPM) from the University of Florida. She is currently the lead diagnostician at the University of Tennessee Extension plant pest diagnostic lab in Nashville, TN, and is an adjunct professor in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at UT Knoxville.

*Zoom Meeting opens at 6:30*  
*Everyone is welcome!*