

Possible Chapter

Projects 2023



Some of these projects are already underway, but could use more help. Other projects are just ideas at this point.

Form a Speaker's Bureau — make a publicly available list of members who give presentations about native plants and related topics. For each member, list each presentation titles.

Plant Rescues — Our chapter has done only a few (~6) plant rescues since its formation in late 2018. There is much room for growth with this project. The Georgia Native Plant Society has a very active program we could study.

Invasive-Free Certification for Nurseries — Award nurseries an invasive-free certificate and signage if they carry no plants listed as invasive by the Tennessee Invasive Plant Council. This gets a little complicated now that some invasive species have “environmentally friendly” cultivars, so we would need a small committee to form policies and oversee the certification. A similar idea would be to have a pesticide-free certification or a neonicotinoid-free certification.

Native Plant Books in Local Libraries — Most counties and a few cities have local libraries that accept suggestions for book purchases from municipality residents. We could form a committee of members from different municipalities to annually review the native plant library holdings and recommend new purchases. Our chapter book list could be a starting point for recommended books:

<https://middletennessee.wildones.org/resources/books/>.

Native Plant List for Middle Tennessee: This project has begun with a few Board members, but others may want to assist, make suggestions, proof read, etc.

Local Genotype Seeds: This project would expand the chapter's capacity to collect local genotype seeds to use for sale and propagation.

Dwarf Chinkapin Oak Project: This project was started by a couple of chapter members two years ago. The idea was to introduce *Quercus prinoides* into the Nashville area as an oak tree that everyone has room for. It is a small tree and it can produce acorns in 3-5 years. While this has not been an official chapter project, everyone can assist in this by reporting any native population they know of. The tree is not common in Tennessee (native populations in perhaps only five counties).

Bigtooth Aspen Project: This is another stand-alone project started by a chapter member. *Populus grandidentata* is also not common in Tennessee being at the southern edge of its range. Like *Quercus*, the *Populus* genus is one of the top genera for support of biodiversity. The Cottonwood tree is the most common member of the genus in Middle Tennessee. Chapter members can help with this project by reporting

any known populations of Bigtooth Aspen in Middle Tennessee. The goal here is to harvest root cuttings from local trees to propagate the species to help re-establish the species here.

Awarding Grants: In this project, the chapter could replicate the national Wild Ones program Seeds for Education. We could invite applications once or twice per year from selected groups, like schools, to educate children about the importance of native plants by starting a native garden. This would require a committee to formulate a grant application process, evaluate submitted grant proposals, make awards, and assist in the design and installation process.

Writing Grants: To help fund awarding grants, we would want to write grants proposals to request funding assistance. Many corporate entities have community grant programs to help support such efforts. This could be done by an individual member working in concert with the Board, or by a small committee.