



February 2025

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES



WONA members met to plan 2025 events in February.

February Meeting, Chapman Weed Wrangle, Panoply, etc

by [Charles Pannell](#) on 1 March 2025

February is a short month, and I'm a day late on getting our newsletter out! While we initially planned a seminar in February, life happens (for ourselves and our speakers), so we took advantage of the sudden opening to focus on a chapter-oriented meeting. There is a lot planned for the first half of the year, so we had a LOT to discuss - so much so, that we ran out of time. While the meeting was not what we originally planned, it was incredibly productive, and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to socialize with fellow WONA (and community) members and plan the next stage of our chapter's journey. Extension agent Holt Akers-Campbell presented an informative short talk on the soils of Alabama, discussed the upcoming Symposium and his planned lawn to prairie conversion project. There was a lot of planning for the WONA's upcoming tabling at Panoply as well as updates on the Resilient Plants Landscape, WONA member hikes and the upcoming Weed Wrangle at Chapman Mountain.



The North Alabama Native Plant Symposium will take place on Saturday, June 7th at the beautiful Monte Sano Lodge. Stay tuned for more information!

If you are interested and available to volunteer at the North Alabama Native Plant Symposium on Saturday, June 7, Extension still needs a few more volunteers to help with the event. Volunteers will be guaranteed a spot at the Symposium. Please contact WONA or lead organizer Holt Akers-Campbell (hza0093@auburn.edu) for details on how you can help.



WEED WRANGLE

Join a community effort to restore natural habitats by removing invasive plants through hands-on habitat restoration activities. Volunteers will learn to identify invasive species, practice effective removal techniques, and support the return of native plants to the landscape.

-  **Saturday, March 8**
-  **9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**
-  **Chapman Mountain Nature Preserve**

- 30-40 volunteers needed
- Must be 16 years or older
- Tools provided
- Register online



Weed Wrangle at Chapman Mountain (March 8th):

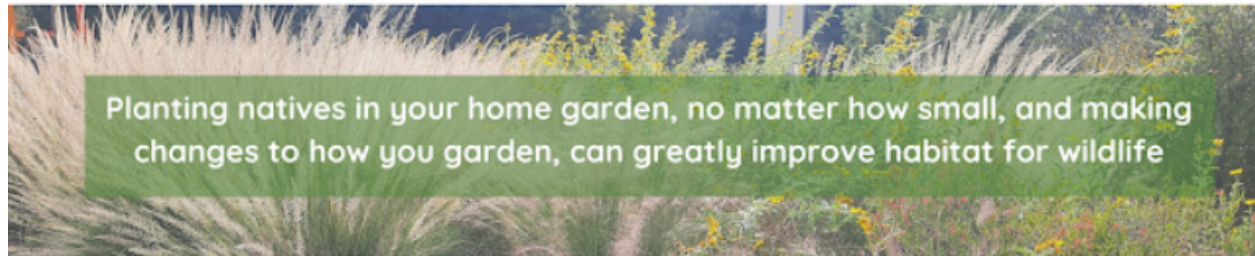
WONA is teaming up with the Land Trust of North Alabama in 2025 to get the invasive plants under control at Chapman Mountain starting next Saturday, March 8th, 2025 from 9 AM - 1 PM. If you are passionate about native plants and ecosystem restoration and want to build experience identifying and removing invasive plants from our public parks and preserves, plan to be there. The Land Trust and WONA are trying to build a Weed Wrangler corps this year, so if you'd like to get involved in the March 8th event, you must [register](#) on the Land Trust's website. [Here](#) is the registration page.



If you are passionate about removing invasive vegetation, join our Weed Wrangle team on Saturday, March 8th, as we begin work at the Land Trust's Chapman Mountain preserve!

Volunteers needed for Panoply (April 25-27)!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Native Gardens Are Beautiful

- The variety of native plants provide a landscape that stands out from common and more traditional gardens
- Neighbors prefer gardens with ~50% native plants when maintained
- Native plants provide interest and color in every season!

Native Gardens have purpose



The header from a beautiful poster created by WONA member Sara Johnson for the WONA display at the Panoply Arts Festival in Big Spring Park April.

If you've never tabled at a public event, I promise, it is a lot of fun! WONA needs many more volunteers (~20) to support our table at Panoply (Friday-Sunday) **April 25-27, 2025 in Big Spring Park**. This will be an excellent opportunity to engage the public about the importance of planting native plants and project our message beyond the native plant "choir." Organizers Kelly Cody and Lara Nance need your support to fully staff this 3-day event. Bring your friends, spouses and partners, because this tabling event is not only for WONA members. If you love kids, this is the event for you, and if you don't, come to educate their parents! This is WONA's most critical educational outreach event of the year, and we have the opportunity to shape the views of Huntsville's next generation. Please sign up [here](#) to support this event. We need you!



The Panoply planning committee would like to have an engaging wildflower display at WONA's booth at Panoply. If you have native wildflowers blooming that will make attractive cut or potted displays (or invasive species at any stage of development) that you can donate for the display, please reach out to wildonesnorthal@gmail.com with the details.



WONA Social Hike (March 16)

Alexis Quinn is organizing WONA's first social hike of the year in 2025 at the Land Trust's Wildflower Trail. This hike is free for members and kids 12 and under, and \$5 for non-members. This is a great way to meet and develop relationships with other native plant enthusiasts and learn about the wildflowers of our region. This is an easy (level terrain) hike

that will last ~1.5 h; if you plan to attend, please register [here](#). We will need to carpool because of limited parking availability.

Lawn to Prairie Flip:

AL Extension agent Holt Akers-Campbell is looking for volunteers to trial a lawn to (short grass) prairie conversion in North Alabama for urban or suburban settings. Holt will document the transformation by video (and possibly publication) to educate the public about what methods and plants are effective in our area. Holt is looking for at least 2,000 square feet and will use different kill methods, plugs and native seeds in the project. The project will incur no expenses for the homeowner, but you must be willing to feature your property on video and in print. If you think you have a suitable site and would like to learn more, please email Holt (hza0093@auburn.edu) with the subject line “Lawn to Prairie” to learn more or enter your property in the selection pool. No one has done this kind of work in Alabama (or maybe the whole Southeast), so it will be really interesting to see which of our native plants work best. The project will be a benchmark for future lawn to prairie projects in the Southeast and an educational tool for the wider public.



A native grassland landscape at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas. Let's figure out how to do a lawn to prairie flip with the native grasses and forbs from North Alabama!

NATIVE PLANT SPOTLIGHT

by Lauren Linder

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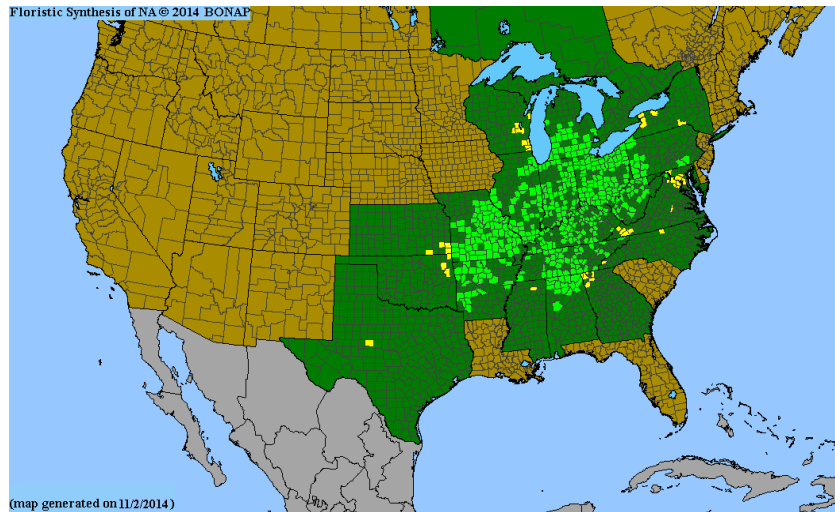
Harbinger of spring in bloom (left) and leaves (right) ([Source](#)).

Harbinger of Spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*)

Harbinger of spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*) is a small perennial that is one of the first wildflowers to appear. This plant is less than a foot tall, so it's very easy to overlook! It is part of the Apiaceae or carrot family. Leaves are alternate and compound with 3 leaflets (ternate) which are further divided into 3 lobes, giving them a somewhat lacey appearance. Its white flowers are arranged in a compound umbel, with flowers closely packed together. The anthers of the flowers are initially red but darken to black with time. This contrast of the black anther against the white flower is the origin of an alternate common name, "pepper and salt plant". Bloom time can range from January to May and harbinger of spring is

usually found in deciduous woodlands, where it is tolerant of shade but needs at least some dappled sunlight. While common in the very northern part of the state, it is less common in the lower half.

Sources: [Illinois Wildflowers](#), [Flora of the Southeastern United States](#), [Wildflower.org](#)



Range of *Erigenia bulbosa*. Image courtesy of [BONAP](#).

INVASIVE SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

by Lauren Linder



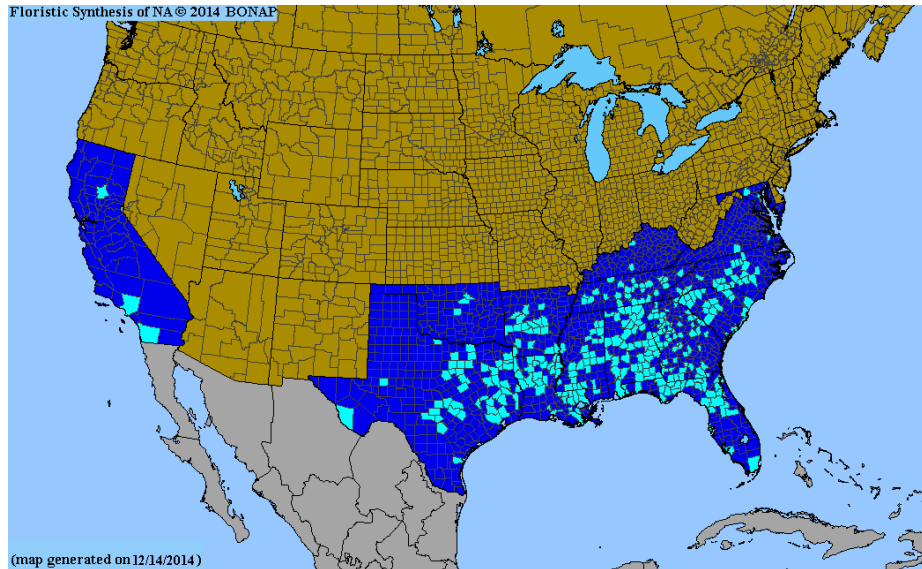
Nandina domestica bush with berries ([Source](#))

***Nandina* (*Nandina domestica*)**

Commonly referred to simply by its genus, *Nandina domestica* is also known as heavenly or sacred bamboo. However, it is not actually bamboo! It is in the barberry family, *Berberidaceae*. Semi-evergreen, it is native to China and Japan and usually 4 to 8 feet tall and half as wide. Leaves can range from reddish on new growth to deep green and are pinnately compound. *Nandina* is very common in landscaping designs, partly due to the attractive red berries that last into the winter and because it is tolerant of both shade and sun. However, like all invasive species, it does not stay where it is planted. It spreads both via rhizomes and the dispersal of seeds. Not only does it push out native plants, but the leaves and berries are both poisonous. There are so-called “sterile” cultivars or berries can be removed before they ripen, but it is best to remove the plant entirely--or never plant it in the first place! Removal can be done via mechanical or chemical methods, but simply mowing is not recommended. Triclopyr applied to cut stems and foliar use of glyphosate

can work. While cut branches can be left in place, be sure to put berries in the trash (not compost).

Sources: [North Carolina Extension](#), [Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden](#)



Map of *Nandina domestica* (invaded) range. Image courtesy of [BONAP](#).

CLASSIFIEDS

Job opening

WONA member Lisa Moore wants to hire a part time gardener as a groundskeeper and native plant gardener to help her with rewilding projects around her property on Chapman Mountain. She needs someone who can work on the property for about 15-20 h/week all year-round. If you or someone you know is looking for a part-time job, is passionate about rewilding, wants to learn more about gardening with native plants and wants to spend a lot of time working outdoors, please contact wildonesnorthal@gmail.com with the subject line "Rewilding groundskeeper." I'll connect you with Lisa, who can provide additional details on her specific needs and compensation.

CONNECT WITH US!

FACEBOOK MEMBER CHAT

Facebook member chat

If you are new to WildOnes and would like to join our **members-only** Facebook group, please search for [WildOnes North Alabama Member Chat](#), where you can post gardening and landscaping questions, coordinate with other members, request seeds or plants, or ask for help to identify native and invasive plants.



Wild Ones North AL Member Chat

Our member-only Facebook group was created to improve communication and coordination for all our educational and volunteering opportunities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For the latest information on all our events, please check out WONA's [Events](#) calendar.

Look for the prefix "WONA" to filter for all the upcoming chapter events.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



Native Plants, Natural Landscapes