

HIGHLAND WILD

ROOT MATTER

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 1

"A ROOT CAUSE"

JANUARY 2025

Welcome to the first edition of *Root Matter*, the official newsletter of Highland Wild.

Established in 2024, Highland Wild is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to (re)greening spaces with native and edible plants. Our mission is to encourage local, sustainable food production at the individual and community level, as well as to enhance local biodiversity and improve healthy ecosystems.

Subscribe to our newsletter [here!](#)

CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Highland Wild is an emerging organization in Northeast Tennessee, with a clear and important purpose, mission, and scope of work. We are recruiting passionate volunteers to join our leadership team as we embark on our first full year.

We are eager to connect with community members, and welcome your unique skills. Eager to make a difference? Please consider becoming a part of Highland Wild's leadership team today.

CURRENT CAMPAIGN: OUR FLAGSHIP COMMUNITY GARDEN

Highland Wild recently gained access to a vacant lot near downtown Johnson City, Tennessee. This lot, approximately .25 acres, will be the site of our new (and first!) community garden project. This is a very exciting initiative.

We are in the midst of assessing the lot and developing a master plan. Our next steps will involve collecting the necessary funds to build infrastructure and purchase supplies. If you would like to contribute funds or materials, please reach out to us via email.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

"NO WINTER LASTS FOREVER; NO SPRING
SKIPS ITS TURN." – HAL BORLAND



Photo of Roan Mountain (NC) by Jay Huron, caseSensitive Photos.

SOW YOU KNOW

In January, prepare your garden by cleaning tools, starting seeds, and planning your garden layout.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 8, 2025

Seminar: Raised Bed Gardening
(Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park)

February 15, 2025

Seed Swap (Kingsport Farmers Market)

February 15, 2025

Winter Farmers Market (Jonesborough, TN)

February 25, 2025

Monthly Meeting of the Appalachian Bee
Club of East Tennessee (Jonesborough, TN)



Turkey Crow, Y'all (*Phaseolus vulgaris*)
An heirloom bean from the Appalachian regions of VA, NC, and TN. According to folklore, a hunter extracted a bean from a turkey's craw, later planting and preserving it. Thus the name! It boasts an excellent fresh flavor and fares well in canning.

Learn more about this crop at [Southern Exposure Seed Exchange](#).

Heritage Highlight



Top: Photo by Frances of Faire Garden, East TN.
Bottom: Photo of Buffalo Mountain (TN) by Allan Dearstone.

Local Feature

WE CELEBRATE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN OUR REGION AND THEIR IMPORTANT WORK!



Rural Resources Farm & Food Education Center

Rural Resources is a 15-acre farm located in Greeneville, TN. This non-profit was found in 1993 to help families increase self-sufficiency through food security, wellness, and educational and economic mobility. The organizations provides food and education to reduce food insecurity for people living in low-income communities.



Leadership Note

MEGAN CULLEN TEWELL, FOUNDER

It is an honor and a privilege to address you as Highland Wild's founder. This organization is the result of a long-time dream: to improve our communities, and the world around us, by reconnecting people with food and nature. More than ever, it is crucial that we learn how to sustainably and meaningfully connect with our food sources, our pollinators, and our native wildlife. Join us as we move towards a brighter future!

Have an event or resource to share? Looking to get involved?

CONTACT US

EMAIL: THEHIGHLANDWILD@GMAIL.COM

WEBSITE: HIGHLANDWILD.ORG (IN DEVELOPMENT)