

THE RECYCLER

Newsletter of Recycle Rutherford, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Spring 2017

Should We Be Afraid of Those Exotic Invaders?

Are all plants created equally? Some would say yes, that they all serve a purpose, in one way or another and within their native range. That said, we rely on non-native species for most of our food production and many well-behaved non-natives have become our beloved garden favorites. However, the increasingly global nature of modern society has created an unintended consequence: invasive exotic plants. Janie Becker will explore the topic at **Recycle Rutherford's annual meeting on Monday, April 24, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the second floor courtroom of the Rutherford County Courthouse.**

These relocated species, whether by accident or intent, spread aggressively; have few or no natural enemies to keep their spread in check; and have created ecological and economic catastrophes the world over.

A native of Lawrenceburg, Becker is a botanist by training, a horticulturalist by passion, and a fan of all life sciences, from the ground up. She graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in 2005 with a B.S. in biology and was contracted for four years by the Tennessee Army National Guard to manage natural resources on their training lands, statewide. This work included invasive species removal, wetlands delineations, creating restoration plans for at risk species, and stream bank restoration. During this time, she also led the effort to establish American chestnut backcross orchards on two Tennessee military installations.

**Come and learn about
invasive exotic plants that affect our
lives and those of our children**

More recently, Ms. Becker has spent seven years as an extension agent with UT/TSU Extension in Rutherford County. She was responsible for orchestrating the revitalization of the Rutherford County Farmers' Market into the premier "Producer-Only" market in the state, coordinating the Master Gardeners of Rutherford County volunteer program, and providing a

resource to our community for needs as diverse as creating bird habitat in the suburbs to helping new farmers find their marketing niche and improve production techniques. Becker is especially drawn toward topics related to sustainable agriculture, water resources, soils and the uses of cover crops, and finding ways to increase appreciation of our natural world by non-scientists, stressing the point that you don't have to be an expert to have an inquiring mind.

Janie has recently moved to Bell Buckle with Ben, her husband of 13 years, and her four-year-old daughter, Ruby. She has a pointer mix hound, two cats, and a peacock and plans to replenish her flock of chickens this spring. She has a keen interest in mushrooms, mycorrhizal associations between plants and fungi, native plants, and plant taxonomy. She volunteers with the local literacy non-profit Read to Succeed and serves on their Board of Directors. Her reading recommendations are *Big Burn*, by Timothy Egan, and *Mycelium Running*, by Paul Stamets, and she keeps a copy of Michael Dirr's *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* close by at all times.

Where Are All the Bees?

The theme of Earth Day 2017 is "Bees: Nothing Would Sting More than Bee Extinction!" Domestic and wild honey bees are disappearing at an alarming rate, and the ripple effect of their disappearance will touch every corner of the world. Honey bees are a crucial element of our environment.

As honey bees gather pollen and nectar for their food, they pollinate crops such as apple, cranberries, melons, and broccoli. Some crops, including blueberries and cherries, are 90 percent dependent on honey bee pollination. Almonds depend entirely on the honey bee for pollination at bloom time. The Earth Day Celebration will emphasize the declining population of bees and what we can do to prevent their extinction.

**Come to Earth Day on Saturday, April 22,
from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the historic public
square of Murfreesboro.**

2 The Recycler, Spring 2017

Dates to Remember

25th Annual Green Tie Affair—Tennessee Environmental Council:

Friday, April 21, 6 – 9:30 p.m.
Green Door Gourmet, 7007 River Road Pike,
Nashville;
Live bluegrass music, auction, Sustainable
Tennessee Award winners. Tickets \$75;
volunteer for two hours and receive free ticket
<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/TennesseeEnvironmentalCouncil/GTA2017Feb.html>

Earth Day 2017—Murfreesboro:

Saturday, April 22, 2017, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Public Square, Downtown Murfreesboro
**Theme “Bees: Nothing Would Sting More
Than Bee Extinction”**

Spring Annual Meeting—Recycle Rutherford:

Monday, April 24, 2017, 7:00 p.m.
Rutherford County Courthouse Courtroom
No election since all officers continue in office.
**Speaker: Janie Becker; her topic:
“Should We Be Afraid of Those Exotic
Invaders?”**

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, May 13, 2017, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Murfreesboro City Solid Waste Department
4765 Florence Road, Murfreesboro

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.



P.O. Box 1804
Murfreesboro, TN 37133-1804

2016-18 Officers and Board

Recycle Rutherford holds elections each April at the annual meeting; in general, officers and part of the board are elected in even years for two-year terms, and approximately half the board is elected in uneven years, providing for staggered terms.

The officers are listed below with the board members, who are elected each April and serve staggered terms. The date indicates when the term of each ends. The board meets monthly on first Mondays at 6:15 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 210 N. Spring Street.

Rachel Cornett, president
Bonnie Black, vice president
Suma Clark, secretary
Rick Racker, treasurer
Glenn Himebaugh, past president

Board Members:

Gib Backlund, 2018
Linda Hardyman, 2018

**Reminder: To renew your membership,
please go online to the address below.
Dues are only \$25 per year.
We don't want to lose you!**

**For more information, go to
www.recyclerutherford.org**

Like us on Facebook!