

## What's Happening In April

*Jalen Prater*

Spring is in full swing at the nursery, and April will be a strong month of growth and community engagement. Our native plant selection is now available at Midtown Nursery and Urban Earth, and we hope you join us to help Urban Earth celebrate Flicker Fest on April 11th. You can also find us every Saturday at the Cooper Young Farmers Market as the season continues to build.

This month also marked the addition of new team roles, including Conservation Specialists and Landscaping Technicians, as we expand our impact.

COHORT AT FRAYSER NURSERY



In celebration of Earth Month, we are hosting a community workshop at Works Urban Farm April 14th, focusing on habitat conservation and temperature-controlled agriculture. We'll close out April with a tree planting along Nonconnah Creek on April 25—volunteers are encouraged to sign up and join us.

*Volunteer Sign-up >*



## Partnership Spotlight: Lichterman Nature Center

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## Partnership Spotlight: Lichterman Nature Center

by Jalen Prater

The work we're doing at Memphis Native Tree Works would not be possible without strong partners, and the Lichterman Nature Center has been a steady and impactful one for us. Their support has come at critical moments, helping us continue to grow and expand our work when it mattered most.

From their deep expertise in plant cultivation and habitat preservation to their commitment to community engagement and native plant education, Lichterman has been a valuable resource and collaborator. Their plant sales, programming, and stewardship efforts continue to strengthen the broader ecosystem we're all working within, and we're grateful to be building alongside a partner so aligned in mission and impact.



MARY AT LICHTERMAN NATURE CENTER



## Roots on the Ground Finale

KAYLA WITH ROOTS ON THE GROUND COHORT

by Jalen Prater

We're proud to celebrate the completion of our latest Roots on the Ground cohort and recognize Kayla for her leadership, along with all 17 graduates for their dedication and hard work throughout the program. This cohort brought real energy and commitment to the field, and we're excited to share that three graduates have already stepped into roles with The Works as a Nursery Associate, Landscape Technician, and Farmers Market Associate.

We also want to thank the partners who helped make this experience possible, including Lockard's Produce and Black Seeds Urban Farm for hosting us on-site, and arborist Wesley Hopper for an unforgettable tree climbing demonstration. This group played a meaningful role in our operations, helping us stay on track with plant installations and deliveries during a busy season. Their impact is already being felt, and we're excited to see what they do next.



GARRETT HARVESTING CHIVES

## Last Frost Behind Us

*by Jalen Prater*

It looks like we've reached our last frost earlier than expected this year, and April is shaping up to be warm and dry—giving us an early start to the season while requiring careful water management as crops come online. The farm is fully transitioning into production mode, with tomato, pepper, and eggplant starts hardening off in the hoop houses as they prepare for field planting. Early spring crops like chives, escarole, and mixed greens are already thriving, and we're continuing to bring additional hoop houses online.

Spring planting is well underway, and tools like the paper pot seeder are helping us stay efficient and stay on schedule as we increase production. Across the farm, signs of the season are everywhere—fruit trees are among the first to bloom, and our apple and pear orchard at Knight Arnold Farm is now in full bloom in its second year. With healthy growth so far, we're optimistic about the season ahead. As the farm fills out, both produce and plant availability will continue to expand. You can find us every Saturday at the Cooper Young Farmers Market, where we'll have fresh harvests and seasonal plant offerings available. For those interested in wholesale, please reach out directly at [jalen@theworkscdc.org](mailto:jalen@theworkscdc.org) to receive our weekly availability list and stay updated as new crops come online.

## Maintaining Native Landscapes & Reclaiming Brownfields

by Jalen Prater

Long-term success of native landscapes is critical to building resilient ecosystems and sustainable urban environments. Planting is only the first step—without consistent maintenance and stewardship, even the best-designed habitats can fail to establish or deliver their intended impact. That’s why investing in the tools and capacity to manage our own sites matters. With the addition of two new zero-turn mowers and a second trailer, Memphis Native Tree Works is strengthening its ability to maintain native spaces efficiently, respond quickly to site needs, and ensure these landscapes continue to support biodiversity, improve soil health, and contribute to stronger green infrastructure across Memphis.

This investment also reflects our role as an urban planning and workforce development hub. By building internal capacity, we’re creating jobs, developing skills, and expanding our ability to identify and transform brownfields across the community—vacant, underutilized, or degraded land that often results from disinvestment, industrial decline, and gaps in long-term land stewardship. Memphis has a high number of these spaces due to historic patterns of development and economic shifts that have left parcels unused or neglected. These sites represent both a challenge and an opportunity. Through intentional planning, maintenance, and native habitat installation, we are working to convert these areas into productive, ecologically functional landscapes that support neighborhoods, improve environmental health, and create lasting value for the community.



TREE CLIMBING WITH ARBOSIT WES

MARCH 2026

## Volunteer Report

by *Tori from Volunteer Odyssey*

Saturday, April 25 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

2900 Lakeview Road, Memphis, TN

Register [here!](#)

Celebrate Earth Day by helping restore and protect the natural beauty of Nonconnah Creek. During this hands-on event, you'll work alongside fellow volunteers to plant native trees along the creek's riverbanks and wetlands, supporting a healthier ecosystem, reducing erosion, and improving water quality for years to come.

Whether you're passionate about environmental stewardship or simply looking for a meaningful way to spend your morning outdoors, this is a powerful opportunity to make a visible impact while connecting with others who care about the planet

Volunteers should always come prepared for outdoor work: wear weather-appropriate clothes, closed-toe shoes, and sunscreen; bring water and consider a hat for sun protection.

Lets grow something great together!



*VOLUNTEERS AT KNIGHT ARNOLD FARM*

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.” — Muhammad Ali

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