A chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Summer/Fall 2025

Vol. 46, No. 2

President's Message

Around 2019, a series of storms, a boxwood blight, and some vital information from the Virginia Native Plant Society (VNPS) opened the door for change in my yard. We began the overwhelming task of removing invasive shrubs and vines. The work felt endless—invasive offspring continued to pop up, while deer and groundhogs munched on our young native replacements. So why keep at it?

Encouragement from members and shared information on how to tackle invasive plants certainly helped. As neighbors started stopping to comment on our progress, we found we weren't alone. It was nice to learn that other neighbors were also removing invasives! As our native plants mature, we're greeted with kind remarks from people walking by. A neighbor recently shared how much she enjoys seeing our garden from her window.

I want more people to understand why plants, like the Elaeagnus taking over my neighborhood, should be removed. I've learned some people know, but don't consider it important. They like that deer don't eat the invasives or that they spread quickly. I, too, was guilty of planting what was recommended by local landscapers and garden centers. Hopefully, the actions of a few people will continue to encourage others to try, even if it's just one yard at a time.

As advocates for native plants, we can help by sharing resources with friends and neighbors, respecting their ability and time to manage their yards, offering helpful comments on social media, and advocating with VNPS for continued improvements on the labeling of invasive species.

The journey of converting property to more natives can feel daunting. It's more than just a gardening project: it's a movement powered by a shared commitment to our environment. The journey is easier with a community of support. Our personal stories are what drive our collective mission.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to the members who have been with us for years—your dedication and insights have been a constant source of inspiration. To our newer members, I hope my story resonates with you. It's a reminder that we all start somewhere. Our VNPS/BRWS community is a wonderful place to learn, share, and find support. All are welcome to get involved and I look forward to hearing your own stories of progress! (See photo on page 4.)

- Jennifer

In this issue:

President's Message

page 1

Annual Summer Picnic by Carol Whiteside

page 2

Programs, Speakers, and Field Trips

page 3-4

Field Trip review: "The Ceaseless Caretaking of Stadium Woods" by Lissa Paulson

page 5-6

Sightings: Southern Maidenhair Fern by Sandra Elder

page 7

Welcome New Members! Outreach Spotlights VNPS Annual Meeting

page 8

With Appreciation Request to Membership

page 9

"A Discovered Treasure Trove" by Michael Belcher

page 10

Calendar of Events

page 12

Blue Ridge Wildflower Society & Roanoke Valley Bird Club 12th ANNUAL PICNIC, July 19, 2025

by Carol Whiteside, Chairman

We are very pleased to have had 54 attendees this year, consisting of 26 RVBC members, 11 BRWS members, 14 members of both clubs, and 3 welcomed guests. The Wildflower Society provided barbeque, the Bird Club provided fried chicken, and everyone brought the most delicious sides, salads and desserts. RVBC President Drew Daniels and BRWS Vice President Rebecca Ross graciously welcomed everyone. RVBC member Lilly Tennant won the gift drawing of a BRWS annual membership, and Michael Belcher, who is a member of both clubs, won the RVBC annual membership.

Carol Whiteside displayed a photo-board of our first combined picnic on August 11, 2013, held in Waldron Park, featuring Betty and Butch Kelly, our original combined picnic organizers (see photo). While remembering Butch who passed earlier this year, we were honored to have Betty in attendance with their daughter, Marlene Craig. We missed BRWS President Jennifer McCarthy and greatly appreciate her dedication and devotion to this annual event.

Gratefully, we thank all the volunteers who made this event rewarding, enjoyable and relaxing, especially the committee chairs: Allen and Robin Austin, Mary Lou Barritt, Michelle Buonocore, Iris Daniels, Linda Harrison, Mary Harshfield, Ellen Holtman (who provided the lovely wildflowers for the tables' center pieces), Rodelin Palmer, Rebecca Ross, and all the extensive, tireless volunteers who assembled to set-up and clean-up afterward. We give a heartfelt thank you to everyone in attendance for making this a fun, very successful social event; we're already looking forward to gathering again next year! (photos by Iris Daniels, Rodelin Palmer, and Carol Whiteside)



Fall Programs, Speakers, and Field Trips



PROGRAMS & SPEAKERS

Location:

Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs (RCGC) 3640 Colonial Ave, Roanoke

Schedule of events: 6:00 p.m. Social and business 6:30 p.m. Speaker and program

Program: Monday, September 22nd "Creating Pollinator Pockets: A Road Map for Urban Gardening"

Presentation by Leigh Ann Weitzenfeld, aka "The Bee Lady" & Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Roanoke. Prior to this position, Leigh Anne worked for 7 years as a Water Quality Administrator for the City of Roanoke. She holds a Master's degree in Natural Resources from Virginia Tech, a Master's Certificate in Global Sustainability, and a Botany Degree from North Carolina State University. The Bee City Program is an initiative of the Xerces Society and is sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Garden Club.

Bonus Event: lunch & walk Thursday, October 16th Peaks of Otter, Blue Ridge Parkway (11:00 a.m. carpool, 1:00 p.m. lunch)

Members will start at the Peaks of Otter Lodge and enjoy lunch, then walk around Abbott Lake. Please contact Ellen Holtman or Rebecca Ross to sign up. It is important to contact us due to ongoing construction on the Parkway. An alternate route may be needed. If carpooling, meet at 11:00 a.m. in the lower end of the Walmart parking lot at US 460(4524 Challenger Ave., NE). If driving on your own, meet at the Peaks of Otter Lodge at 1:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIPS

We encourage members to use the Flora of Virginia app on our trips.

Trip leaders' contact info: Ellen Holtman: eholtman@comcast.com 540-797-2350

Dr. Rebecca Ross: wingsross@aol.com 540-855-4713

Saturday, August 30th at 9:00 a.m. Buffalo Farm, Craig County "Late Summer/Early Fall Wildflowers"

Walk along roadsides at Buffalo Farm, Paint Bank in Craig County with Dr. Michael Wise, Professor of Environmental Science at Roanoke College. Meet at the Park and Ride at Exit 140 in Salem at 9 a.m. Bring water, field guides, sunscreen, a sun hat, and insect repellant. Contact Rebecca Ross to sign up.

Saturday, September 13th at 10:00 a.m. Beale Gardens at Hollins University

This historic 20-acre garden was given by alumna Lucy Beale Huffman in honor of her mother, alumna Lucy Preston Beale nearly a century ago. The Garden Club of Virginia has restored the garden, adhering to Albert Farnham's original design. It includes stone walls, walks, benches, bridges, and native plantings. Led by Ellen Holtman and Rebecca Ross. Meet at Hollins University. As you enter campus, take a left and park in the Moody lot. Bring water, field guides, and insect repellant. Contact Ellen Holtman to sign up and for more specific instructions on parking, if needed.

Fall Programs, Speakers, and Field Trips



Program: Monday, October 27th "Sexual Encounters of the Floral Kind"

Presentation by Kathy Fell, editor of the "Native Plants for Virginia's Southern Piedmont" guide. Kathy holds two Master's degrees, one in Electrical Engineering and another in Information Technology. She is a Master Naturalist, Master Gardener, and long time member of VNPS. She was a contributor to "A Guide to Gardening with Southwest VA Native Plants." As a Master Naturalist, she has been involved with The Socrates Project, the Cleopatra Project, and the James River Consortium.

Saturday, September 27th at 9:00 a.m. "Wildflowers & Wetland Plants, South County Library"

Led by Dr. Toni Pepin, retired Professor of Virginia Western Community College.

Autumn is a great time to see wetland wildflowers, sedges, and rushes in bloom. Meet at the library parking lot. Wear comfortable shoes, a hat, and sunscreen. Bring plenty of water. Contact Rebecca Ross to sign up.

Program: Monday, November 24th "Seed Saving, Propagation, and Planting of Native Plants"

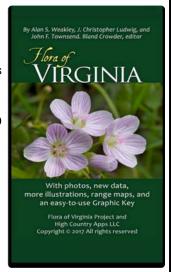
Presentation by Ian Caton, owner of Wood Thrush Native Nursery in Floyd, VA. Wood Thrush specializes in growing and promoting rare and unusual plants native to the Appalachian regions in West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. Previously Ian was a landscaper with Larry Weaner Landscape Associates in Pennsylvania.



Saturday, October 11th at 9:00 a.m. "Virginia's Fabulous Ferns" Falls Ridge Preserve in Montgomery County

Led by Dr. Jordan Metzgar, Professor of Botany at Virginia Tech and Curator of the VA Tech Massey Herbarium. You will see ferns, wildflowers, and a variety of trees and shrubs. Meet at the Park and Ride at Exit 140 in Salem at 9 am. Bring water, field guides, and insect repellant. Contact Ellen Holtman to sign up.

Recommended app for all smartphone users for use on BRWS field trips for one time download fee of \$20



A vivacious stand of Cutleaf coneflower (Rudbekia lacinata) at the McCarthy's (see article on page 1)

Field Trip Review: The Ceaseless Caretaking of Stadium Woods

text and photos by Sara Lissa Paulson

On April 6th, members and friends of the BRWS visited Stadium Woods, the old growth forest adjacent to Lane Stadium on Virginia Tech's campus, famous for its successful struggle against an university development plan in 2012.



Beth Umberger, who led the walk, grew up on VA Tech's Chicken Hill. She lived on one of the dairy farms that used to dot the campus and has known these woods since she was a child.

Her later life's work has focused on restoring Stadium Woods. It has been used for decades as a site for parties and picnics on the way to football games, and was once slated for removal to provide a site for an indoor athletic training center. In the end, thankfully, due to fierce opposition, the training center was built very close to Lane Stadium, on 530 Stadium Road, but not on top of the predominantly White oak (Quercus alba) old-growth forest.

Old growth forests are defined by various characteristics. They must contain trees of all ages as well as dead ones: growing trees, mature trees, dying trees, trees dead and fallen which we recognize as logs, and trees dead but left standing, known as <u>snags</u>. Both logs and snags provide essential habitat for animals. The National Wildlife Federation warns that "the removal of dead material from forests can mean a loss of habitat for up to one-fifth of the animals in the ecosystem." Deadwood in Stadium Woods is not hauled away. It is considered housing.

When Beth started this work, in addition to logs, tipped-over trees, and pits and mounds created from the displaced root balls of naturally felled trees, she recounted incredulously and repeatedly how the forest floor was covered and smothered by English ivy, Oriental bittersweet, and Wintercreeper. Beth with various faculty and several organizations have worked with student volunteers to remove invasives and reintroduce native plants, shrubs, and trees.

We learned on the tour that a key aspect of restoring a forest ecosystem is to preserve what's underground, the soil structure, which has irreplaceable and unique mycorrhizal networks. Beth also emphasized how removing invasives unleashes the forest seed bank. What seeds are hidden there, dormant, and suppressed by the invasives?

Beth shared that once the invasives were removed, after years of cutting them back, a veritable kingdom



The Ceaseless Caretaking of Stadium Woods" (cont.)

of Mayapples appeared. And we were there at the right season to witness it! It was an amazing sight. Mayapples were thriving in every quadrant of the forest we visited, just about to bloom. Imagine thousands of six-inch green, living, undulating double-umbrellas providing cover for a white flower, ambulant box turtles, and a quantity of ground-dwelling insects! It felt like a celebration of 2025's Wildflower of the Year. There was also an abundance of Cut-leaf Toothwort (Cardamine concatenata) and Star Chickweed (Stellaria pubera) which Beth explained were also present within the latent seedbank and have been blossoming yearly since the initial invasive species removal. Beth noted that invasive species removal is an ongoing process of weeding, and though the hard work of initial invasive removal without disturbing the unique soil was a difficult phase of work,



it is near completion. Also in blossom, we saw native species planted by Beth such as Bloodroot, Virginia bluebells, and Golden ragwort.

Though protected, these woods are not yet permanently preserved with a conservation easement. There is still work to be done. As a member of the BRWS, I am heartened that we are supporting the mission of Stadium Woods by celebrating this rare remnant of urban old-growth forest, accessible to so many people because of its urban setting. We were dazzled by the endless Mayapples and approximately 20 other native species, including many 250-300 year-old white oaks, native apple trees (*Malus coronaria*), and forest critters such as garter snakes and yellow warblers, all seen on the short walk and recorded by BRWS Program Committee member Ellen Holtman.

For those not able to attend the field trip, please visit this rare and delightful 11.5 acre urban old-growth forest. If you would like to donate to their endowment, volunteer, or join the Friends of Stadium Woods, contact them at https://savestadiumwoods.com/how-you-can-help/. Thank you to Beth for an eye-opening tour!

MAYAPPLE - 2025 Wildflower of the Year



The winner of the illustration contest was Nick Garnhart of Front Royal, VA!

Buy a t-shirt to support VNPS's statewide initiatives at https://www.bonfire.com/store/vnps/





SIGHTINGS SOUTHERN MAIDENHAIR FERN



Southern Maidenhair fern now spreading to the base of the pond's stone edge (see above and close up on left)



Southern Maidenhair fern, as originally planted on the bank

Southern Maidenhair Fern (Adiantum capillus-veneris) by Sandra Elder, founding gardener at Randolph College's Dorothy Bliss Botanic Garden in Lynchburg

The Southern Maidenhair fern, not to be confused with the more common Northern maidenhair or Five-fingered fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), first appeared on the Dorothy Crandall Bliss Botanic Garden plant list back in 1997. It was planted about 20 feet from the pond (see photo above).

Eventually some of its spores found their way to the crevices between the stones surrounding the pond. Here it has flourished probably due to the lime in the mortar. This exquisite fern, with gracefully arching fronds on ebony stalks and bright green fan shaped leaflets, is cultivated as a popular garden fern or house plant.

It is native throughout the world in tropical to temperate regions including South America, Europe, Asia and Africa. In the US it is uncommonly found throughout the southern states. Although widespread it is very site specific, growing only on moist calcareous rocks. It is rare in Virginia, only known from a single historical collection in Wythe County.

In April 2002 on a trip to Big Bend National Park in Texas, we hiked to Mule Ears Spring. There at a spring surrounded by the Chihuahuan Desert I saw my first Southern Maidenhair Fern growing in the wild. This encounter was unexpected and very exciting.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Maryellen Janosko, Roanoke, VA
Jane Davis, Troutville, VA
Jim Watkins, Charlotte Ct House, VA
Eleanor Miller, Austin, TX
Joanne Spetzler, Roanoke, VA
Patricia Wagemaker, Lynchburg, VA
Juanita Daugherty, Lynchburg, VA
Kendra Ingle McClellan, King, NC
Amy Hanson, Roanoke, VA
Randy Jenkins, Troutville, VA
Katherine Carpio, Roanoke, VA
Julia Carter, Roanoke, VA
Jesse Williams, Chester, VA

We look forward to seeing you at programs, walks, and other chapter events!

Please Share! We'd love to see what you're seeing.

Post fun finds from a walk or field trip, garden successes, and tips on nurturing natives. Find us at:



blueridgewildflowersociety



<u>blueridgewildflower</u>

VNPS announces 2025 annual meeting at SML!

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Virginia Native Plant Society will take place September 19-21 at the Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake. Registration will begin soon. Alan Weakley of UNC-Chapel Hill will be the Saturday Saturday keynote speaker and Bradley Simpson Nature Forward present Friday evening. Both will lead or participate on field trips.

Advocacy & Outreach Spotlights

Lynchburg Grows Pollinator Garden

Thanks to the support from our annual native plant sale, BRWS is able to provide funding to local organizations that promote the education and use of native plants. This year, one of the organizations we were pleased to assist was Lynchburg Grows, providing funds for the expansion of their pollinator gardens. Lynchburg Grows is a 7-acre urban farm that uses organic methods to provide fresh, local produce to the Lynchburg community. They also create purposeful jobs for individuals with disabilities.

Implemented by CSA Manager Jennifer Porter, the pollinator gardens (photo below) are a key part of their farm. They rely on local, native plants to support their crops, and we're proud to have them as a partner in our mission.



To learn more about their program, please visit www.lynchburggrows.org.

North Cross School Monarch Waystation

Unsold plants from the annual native plant sale were donated to the Monarch Waystation at North Cross School, Roanoke. Amy Hanson, 3rd grade teacher and BRWS member, has been working with students on the Monarch Waystation. She and her students happily provided our plants a lovely new home.

With Appreciation!

I'd like to extend a huge thank you to a few people who are volunteering to ensure our programming seasons are interesting and successful!

Ellen Holtman and Rebecca Ross consistently line up engaging programs and field trips. No matter the weather, last-minute speaker changes, or equipment challenges, they always deliver an event for our members to enjoy. They welcome your input and invite you to join them!

In May, Heather Butler and her committee pulled off a fun and well-stocked native plant sale that generated record sales, thanks to the support of our members and community gardeners. This one-day event is months in the making and wouldn't be possible without the volunteers who help with planning, potting, and sale-day activities.

How does our garden grow? Linda Harrison and her garden committee water, weed, and organize work days for the club's native garden, located in front of RCGC, to the right of the driveway. Linda also assists with tabling events and hospitality. She also makes a point to welcome new faces to BRWS!

Last month, Carol Whiteside and her committee created another beautiful picnic. Details and photos are included on page 2 of this issue.

Wondering how you hear about all these wonderful BRWS activities? It's thanks to Rodelin Palmer, our membership chair, and Lissa Paulson, our newsletter editor. They constantly gather and share information through emails, our newsletter, the VNPS webpage, and our Facebook and Instagram accounts, keeping everyone up-to-date on what's happening!

Behind the scenes, Kathy Sink manages our funds, monitors the budget, pays bills, and keeps us in compliance with state and federal requirements.

We invite you to participate on the board or a committee. You don't need to be an expert in native plants to participate. Learning is the fun part!

For more details, please email info.blueridgewildflower@gmail.com, or call me at (434) 941-3236.

Gratefully, Jennifer

Love Native Plants? Talking to folks? Creating Historical records?

Are you a person who loves to chat about native plants at local festivals and events? We're looking for a friendly and enthusiastic

Outreach Coordinator to join our board!

This is a great opportunity to make a real impact on our advocacy efforts. You'll help boost our presence in the community by:

- Building a network of volunteers to staff our table
- Pinpointing the best 2-3 annual events in each area
- Ordering and distributing all the VNPS materials needed for events
- Planning creative giveaways like seeds, plant plugs, and more

Our chapter covers a wide area, including the counties of Appomattox, Bedford, Botetourt, Campbell, Craig, Franklin, Henry, Patrick, and Roanoke, plus the cities of Lynchburg, Roanoke, and Salem.

Not your cup of tea?

We also have an opening for **Secretary**. You will take notes and prepare the minutes of our board and membership meetings, which become the history of the organization, a position with understated importance.

If you are interested in either position,
please email President
Jennifer McCarthy at
info.blueridgewildflower@gmail.com

We want to meet you!

Please introduce yourself at upcoming meetings & trips, & consider volunteering at:

Spring garden clean-up Native Plant sale Summer Picnic Community events



A Discovered Treasure Trove & Call for Volunteers who can Type by Michael Belcher

A treasure trove of field trip notes, club documents and photographs going back to 1982 has recently been found. But what good is a treasure if it is locked away and no one can access it? The Blue Ridge Wildflower Society wants to make this information available to everyone who is interested in native plants and we need your help.

We need volunteers to help digitize the information so we can publish it on our portion of the Virginia Native Plant Society's website. Don't worry, we are not asking anybody to learn web design, coding, or a new computer program. You only need three basic skills. You are a perfect candidate for volunteering if you can:

- 1. Type on a keyboard
- 2. Receive and send emails
- 3. Download and attach a pdf to those emails

First, a big thank you to Betty Kelly. She and her late husband, Butch, stored these documents for years. They kept them safe and dry and used up a fair amount of personal space in their home to do so.

Projects in need of volunteers

Field Trip Records

Included in the collection are well organized notes from Sam and Dora Lee Ellington. The Ellingtons and Bob and Freida Toler were some of the original founders of the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society. In the early days of the club, the four often took trips in Southwest Virginia, North Carolina, and West Virginia. The hand-written notes include plant lists of field trips from 1983-1996.

Club History

We have several notebooks containing our earliest newsletters and scrap books which we think also came from the Ellington's. We hope to digitize these with some home scanners.

Blue Ridge Parkway

There are two three-ring binders about the history of the Blue Ridge Parkway, including its geological and environmental make up.

Native Orchids

There are a couple of three-ring binders filled with notes, pamphlets and news, and articles about native orchids in Virginia. We are not sure who the orchid aficionado was, but he or she or they were thorough.

Photographs

Lastly, there is a nice collection of photographs of flowers and field trips. There are also five labeled trays of photographic slides used for years in club presentations. These items were likely Butch Kelly's. As each batch is typed up, scanned or otherwise converted to a digital format, we will send the information to the Virginia Native Plant Society.

If you are interested in helping with any of these projects, please contact
Michael Belcher at hedlinr96@gmail.com.

Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

Meetings held at Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs Headquarters 3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke, VA 6:00 p.m. Social & Business / 6:30 p.m. Program

Meetings are generally held on the fourth Monday during the months of March, April, May, September, October, and November. unless changed or canceled due to holidays, inclement weather and/or other related closures. Our picnic is held in July. Club business is presented at membership meetings, followed by a program beginning at 6:30 p.m. Currently, members must be present (in-person) to vote. We welcome and encourage members to bring guests to club activities. Membership is open to everyone!

News and events are posted on our chapter webpage at www.vnps.org/chapters. We also share updates via email and post information on our Facebook page. Members are invited to post pictures, share sightings, helpful tips, and other fun facts, related to native wildflowers in our area, on our Facebook page or submit them for our newsletter.

BRWS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Virginia Native Plant Society

Website: www.vnps.org

The Virginia Native Plant Society (VNPS), founded in 1982 as the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society, is a nonprofit organization of individuals who share an interest in Virginia's native plants and habitats. The Society and its chapters seek to further the appreciation and conservation of this priceless heritage.

Our Mission: The Virginia Native Plant Society is dedicated to the protection and preservation of the native plants of Virginia and their habitats, to sustain for generations to come the integrity of the Commonwealth's rich natural heritage of ecosystems and biodiversity for purposes of enjoyment, enlightenment, sustainable use, and our own very survival. To this end, we advocate and follow practices that will conserve our natural endowment, and we discourage and combat practices that will endanger or destroy it. We are committed to do all we can to slow the accelerating conversion of natural landscape to built and planted landscape and to reduce its damage to natural ecosystems.

Our Purpose and Services

State Level:

- Working for measures to protect endangered plant species, and preserve habitats and plant communities of special interest;
- Learning and teaching about native plants and their special needs;
- Encouraging the appropriate use of nursery or home propagated native plants in public landscapes and private gardens;
- Assisting in writing and updating Flora of Virginia;
- Providing money for graduate botanical research;
- · Working with nurseries to protect native species;
- Offering a spring workshop on timely botanical subjects;
- · Offering field trips state wide and some in surrounding states; and,
- Conducting the annual meeting with speakers and field trips provided.

Local level: Blue Ridge Wildflower Chapter

Counties of Appomattox, Bedford, Botetourt, Campbell, Craig, Franklin, Henry, Patrick and Roanoke, and the cities of Lynchburg, Roanoke, and Salem

- To present meetings that offer informative programs concerning a variety of areas and native plants they support;
- To lead free field trips to a wide variety of local habitats spring through fall;
- To conduct an annual spring native plant sale;
- To provide education and outreach to individuals and public groups by way of speakers, guided walks, and community events; and,
- To donate money to local conservation and related education efforts.

Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

P. O. Box 20011, Roanoke, VA 24018

A chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Follow us on Facebook at Facebook.com/blueridgewildflowersociety

Member inquiries, events, submissions: brws.membership@gmail.com

General information and requests: info.blueridgewildflower@gmail.com

Officers and Board Members

President

Jennifer McCarthy, Lynchburg

Vice President

Rebecca Ross, Roanoke

Treasurer

Kathy Sink, Roanoke

Secretary

vacant

Advocacy & Outreach Coordinator

vacant

Field Trips and Programs

Ellen Holtman, Salem Rebecca Ross, Roanoke

Garden Coordinator

Linda Harrison, Salem

Membership/Digital outreach

Rodelin Palmer, Roanoke

Newsletter Editor

Lissa Paulson, Lynchburg

Picnic Coordinator

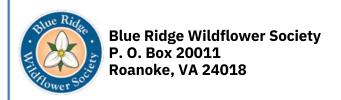
Carol Whiteside, Roanoke

Plant Sale Coordinator

Heather Butler, Fincastle

The BRWS newsletter is published three times annually: spring, summer and fall. Photos and articles for publication are welcome and encouraged. Please send them via email to brws.membership@gmail.com.

Thank you!



At a Glance: Summer/Fall 2025 activities

August 30th 9 a.m. Late Summer/Early Fall Wildflowers in Craig County

September 13th 10 a.m. Beale Gardens at Hollins University

September 22nd 6 p.m. "Creating Pollinator Pockets: A Road Map for Urban Gardening"

September 27th 9 a.m. Wildflowers and Wetland Plants at South County Library

October 11th 9 a.m. Virginia's Fabulous Ferns, Falls Ridge Preserve

October 16th 11 a.m. Field Trip & Lunch at Peaks of Otter Lodge, Blue Ridge Parkway

October 27th 6 p.m. "Sexual Encounters of the Floral Kind"

November 24th 6 p.m. "Seed Saving, Propagation, and Planting of Native Plants"

