



Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

A chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Summer 2026

Vol. 47, No. 2

2026 Annual Native Plant Sale by Heather Butler

Thanks to your support, our annual native plant sale not only provides our region with reasonably priced native plants, including some local ecotypes propagated by members and students at Virginia Western Community College, but also continues to provide the funding necessary to support our programs. The proceeds from the 2026 plant sale were among BRWS's top three. Huge thanks to everyone involved, members and like-minded organizations who came and shared knowledge. The sale also allows us to continue to provide scholarships for Horticulture and Environmental studies students at VWCC, as well as supporting nonprofits and other regional organizations actively promoting and conserving native plants in our region.

I would also like to thank the executive team at VWCC for their continued support in donating us space at their hoop house (pictured below) and all the Horticulture and Environmental Studies students who volunteered their time potting, labeling, and watering the plants at the hoop house (pictured below).

I am already planning for next year's sale since it appears that we need to find new wholesale vendors. If any member is interested in growing native plants from seed or cuttings for the sale, please reach out at HButler@virginiawestern.edu. I think this could be a fun subcommittee!

Thanks again to everyone for helping make this year's plant sale a success. I hope you are all having a wonderful summer outside, exploring our beautiful native plants!



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2026 Annual Plant Sale & *behind the scenes* Potting Party Photos



**Don't miss our Annual Picnic!! RSVP by July 10th
see page 6 for more details**

Fern, tree, shrub & flower scavenger hunt

in Lynchburg

at the Dorothy Crandall Bliss Botanic Garden

Longtime BRWS member and principal gardener Sandra Elder hosted a delightful scavenger hunt for eleven ferns, scientific names of plants that feature our founding fathers to celebrate our 250th, and more, as a novel way for native plant lovers to experience the Dorothy Bliss Botanic Garden (DBBG), its history and current, meticulous and loving maintenance. See photo of founder Dorothy Crandall Bliss below and the link to the garden's website. Spring ephemerals, native trees and shrubs were on full display! This hidden treasure is located off Norfolk Avenue, on Randolph College's campus and open to the public daily from dawn to dusk. Visitors are always welcomed!

Guests were then invited to tour the native gardens at the home of Lissa Paulson, a volunteer at the DBBG, providing an opportunity to compare a well-established garden with a fairly new one.

- Jennifer McCarthy & Lissa Paulson

Carolina rose - *Rosa palustris*



Fringetree - *Chionanthus virginicus*



The late Dr. Dorothy Bliss at the dedication of the Botanic Garden, 2008

photo credit: <https://naturalhistory.gorandolphcollege.edu/the-collection/nature-preserves/dorothy-crandall-bliss-botanic-garden/>

EARTH DAY @ Grandin Village

BRWS member Bill Modica receives award



We want to thank Bill Modica (pictured above, left), Brenda Satchell (above on right) and Rebecca Ross for helping at our Earth Day booth on April 18th. We also want to thank Rodelin Palmer and Ellen Holtman for making seed packets and donating wildflower seeds to distribute. The Clean Valley Council of Roanoke sponsored the event and Executive Director Courtney Carter Plaster recognized our own Bill Modica for his many years of work on the Earth Day celebration, representing BRWS. We are proud of you, Bill! BRWS provided a donation to plant a tree in honor of Bill Modica in recognition of his dedication to native plants, Earth Day, and the environment.

- Linda Harrison, Wildflower Garden Coordinator (pictured above far right)

EARTH DAY @

Old City Cemetery

in Lynchburg

Plant sale and Native tree walk



On April 21th, BRWS partnered with Old City Cemetery (OCC) to celebrate our dynamic Earth! Lynchburg's Urban Forester Nick Meyer gave an expert guided exploration of the Level II Arboretum's native species. Participants gathered at a welcome area to learn more about our native ecosystems with BRWS and CV Master Naturalists and to purchase native plants with vendors Shrader Stone and Southern Piedmont Natives.

- Jennifer McCarthy

New event at Explore Roanoke Park



On April 11th, BRWS members Kathy Sink, Ellen Holtman, and Jennifer McCarthy volunteered at the **Go Wild! Native Plant Fest** at Explore Roanoke, inviting visitors to learn more about the identification and benefits of native plants in our region of Virginia. In addition to educational material, Ellen created a beautiful display of native plants for visitors to enjoy and Jennifer presented a workshop on the basics of flower identification using the Flora of Virginia app. All three ladies are proud Flora of Virginia Ambassadors!

To become a Flora Ambassador, get involved, find an ambassador near you, or learn how to identify native plants using a key, visit the Flora of Virginia Project at <https://floraofvirginia.org>.

- Jennifer McCarthy

SIGHTINGS

Booker T. Washington National Monument's Jack O'Lantern Trail *by Sophia Fonseca*



Pink Lady Slippers -
Cypripedium acaule



Pink Azalea -
Rhododendron periclymenoides

To see a list of current NP species at the BTW National Monument, visit <https://irma.nps.gov/NPSpecies/Search/SpeciesList/BOWA>

Blue Ridge Wildflower Society and Roanoke Valley Bird Club

Cordially invite you to the

Annual Picnic

Saturday, JULY 18, 2026, 5:00 PM

Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs inside facility

3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24018



- Rain or shine, we are inside with unloading in the covered portico entrance
- Please bring a side dish or dessert to share including the serving utensil, and a card with your name and food title or recipe (for allergy inquiries)
- The RVBC will provide fried chicken and the BRWS will provide barbecue
- Drinks and ice are provided, or you may bring your favorite beverage
- Door Prize Drawing

Schedule:

- 5:00 PM Social gathering
- 5:30 PM Welcome and picnic dining

Please RSVP by Friday, July 10, to:

Carol Whiteside

540-774-2143 or

whitesidemules@yahoo.com

With the number in your party attending

See you then and there!



≡Welcome≡

NEW MEMBERS!



Bent Mountain, VA:
Laura Reichenbaugh

Clarksville, VA:
Nancy Linz
Lynne Waltman

Hillsville, VA:
Dorita Reyen

Lynchburg, VA:
Wendy Boatwright
John Paul Jones
Kate Waller
Clare Weaver

Martinsville, VA:
Courtney Bennett

Roanoke, VA:
Georgia Allen
Kathleen Gillmann
Emily Grant
Banafsheh Hosseinian

Rocky Mount, VA:
Meredith Mizell

Redmond, WA:
Laura Painter

Please Share!

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



blueridgewildflowersociety



blueridgewildflower

BEAUTIFUL SLIDESHOW of SMARTVIEW WALK, April 25, 2026

Dr. Bob Pohlad created a presentation of many flowers observed on the Smartview walk. Thank you, Dr. Pohlad!! View [here](#).



Fire Pink (*Silene virginica*) patch and Sophia

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. Club business is presented at membership meetings, followed by a program at 6:30 p.m. Currently, members must be present (in-person) to vote. Our picnic is held in July. 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 <https://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 to 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: Virginia Native Plant Society

- 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](https://www.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

Sophia Fonseca

Advocacy & Outreach Coordinator

vacant

Archive Coordinator

Michael Belcher

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.
Deadline for Fall issue: August 15



Blue Ridge Wildflower Society
P. O. Box 20011
Roanoke, VA 24018

At a Glance: Summer 2026 activities

July 10 th	DEADLINE to RSVP for Our Annual Picnic
July 18 th 5 p.m.	Annual Picnic with Roanoke Valley Bird Club
August 15	Submissions for Fall newsletter due

