



Volume 31 No. 3

Fall 2010

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**September 4**

**Field Trip, "Fungi and Wildflowers".**

Join Rebecca Rader of the Science Museum of Southwest Virginia for a look at the ecological relationships of fungi and native plants of our local forests. Many forms of fungi have symbiotic relationships with plants. Rebecca will give us a close up look at mushrooms and autumn wildflowers. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Bojangles Restaurant at Daleville's Botetourt Commons, located off U.S. 220. Bring a snack, rain-gear and sturdy walking shoes. There will be some walking, but it will not be strenuous. For information call Butch Kelly at 384-7429.

**September 27**

**General Membership Meeting, 7:00 p.m.** Roanoke Church of Christ at 2606 Brandon Ave. This meeting will feature Diana Christopolas and her program "*Section Hiking the Appalachian Trail From Beginning to the End*". Diana will share her slides and music showing lots of scenery, flowers and stories about her adventure. Her photos are stunning. It should be a very pleasing program.

**October 9**

**Work Day at Dorothy Crandell Bliss Botanic Garden at Randolph College in Lynchburg. 2-4 p.m.** Bring work gloves and help clean up this garden. The garden was dedicated to our long time member, Dorothy Bliss. She built the garden and it is beautiful. Bring water and a snack. Directions: Take U.S. 460 east to Lynchburg and take U.S. 29 north to Main St. Take Main St. to Rivermont Ave. and then right onto Norfolk Ave. The garden is beside the Martin Science Building. Park in the open lots near the building. For information contact Sandra Elder at (434) 525-8433.

**October 23**

**Field Trip, "Why Are Poplars Yellow and Gum Trees Red?"**

Join co-leaders Rich Crites and Butch Kelly for a trip down the Blue Ridge Parkway for a look at the autumn splendor of the Blue Ridge Mountains. We will look at trees up close and at a distance and discuss why some are red and others are orange or yellow. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the parking lot at Cave Spring Middle School, located off U.S. 221. There will be very little walking. For information call Rich Crites at 774-4518.

**October 25**                    **General Membership Meeting, 7:00 p.m.** Roanoke Church of Christ at 2606 Brandon Ave. The Program is "*The Flora of Virginia Project*". Former president and current VNPS vice-president Nicky Staunton will present a slide program on the status and history of the Flora Project. This project has been supported by our chapter each year. Come see the exciting work that is being done on the writing of this book. Soon this book will be available to all interested in the vast array of plants in our state.

**November 14**                **Lynchburg Area General Membership Meeting, 2:00 p.m.** in Lynchburg at the Martin Science Building on the campus of Randolph College in room 225. *Note this is a Sunday afternoon.* For directions see the October 9 activity. The program will be "*Wildflowers Through the Seasons Along the Blue Ridge Parkway*", presented by Butch Kelly. Butch spent 13 seasons as an interpreter on the Parkway. There will be a short discussion of the BRWS activities and how we can get the folks in Central Virginia more involved in the chapter.

**November 22**                **General Membership Meeting, 7:00 p.m.** Roanoke Church of Christ at 2606 Brandon Ave. *Join us for an evening of shared memories and seed exchange.* Bring a few of your favorite slides or digital photos to share with friends and guests. Bring seeds to share with others as well.

*Refreshments are served at all meetings. Visitors are always welcome. All field trips are free to anyone anxious to learn about wildflowers and the diversity of life we are fortunate to have surrounding us.*

### **Letter from the President – August 2010**

Another summer is almost history. It seems like it has been one of the most brutal of all summers. It has been so hot with many records broken and in many places the lack of moisture is significant. Many plants have suffered. The flowers of some species are fewer and in some cases smaller. How many seed settings will occur is still to be determined. Some of my milkweeds hardly bloomed and the seed pods are very small. One of the trillium seed cases did not finish development, but simply shriveled up along with the plant. I'm sure there will be and have been many arguments whether this hot summer is due to global warming. However, this is only one year's weather. The weather over many years makes up the climate of an area. Over the years, we can look at the trends and see which way the weather graphs are moving. Then we look at various factors that can have an effect on climate and see if there are any graphs of these factors that correlate with the graphs of climate change. If there is, then science has more investigations to do concerning these parallels. Certainly, there is correlation between CO<sub>2</sub> change (increase) in the atmosphere and temperature increase. What factors increase CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations? Maybe the industrial revolution is one. This is for your investigation. However, there is no doubt environmentally and biologically that the overall global temperature has increased. Changes in glaciers, many plant and animal range distributions have changed. The tundra and perhaps weather extremes are good places to look.

It is now the time of year when cardinal flower, ironweed, joe-pye weed, goldenrods and asters along with many other composites cover our roadside ditches and open moist areas in some fields. All of these attract bunches of butterflies. I really want to encourage you to go on our field trip to Paint Bank, where you will be treated to an interesting restaurant and a beautiful valley with buffalo and lots of wildflowers. It is truly a great trip for late summer and early fall. Hopefully the weather will change and be more conducive to getting out and enjoying nature.

Rich

**Sharing Wildflower Joy**  
**By Betty Kelly**

While strolling with my three year old granddaughter, Hannah, this summer, I casually started naming and pointing out flowers on our property. Our land has a house surrounded by a vegetable garden, butterfly garden and hay field. Also, there is a shaded area behind a retaining wall where, hopefully, spring ephemerals will bloom next year.

I started with Queen Anne's lace and she repeated the name. This flower is in great abundance this year. As I reflect on choosing this plant to be her first one, I realized it was my mother-in-law's favorite. When she visited us, she loved to walk around and enjoy the blooms. Another of her loves was black-eyed Susan. That was Hannah's second flower to learn. Then on a walk with her grandpa, he taught her red clover.

I continued to be amazed when she remembered bee-balm a week after seeing it in our butterfly garden. The real joy is hearing her whisper the flower names as if she knows grandpa and I feel a reverence for them. We are hoping another wildflower enthusiast has been born.

**BRWS Elections**

Nominations for a slate of officers will be taken at our September 27 meeting and elections will be held at our October 25 meeting. The offices open include: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian. If you would like to nominate someone or offer your own services you can call Rich Crites at 774-4518 or present your nominations from the floor at the September meeting. We, also, need one or two folks to volunteer to chair a refreshment and greeting committee.

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<i>Rich Crites, President</i>	<i>Butch Kelly, Editor</i>	<i>Blue Ridge Wildflower Society</i>
<i>(540) 774-4518</i>	<i>(540) 384-7429</i>	<i>P.O. Box 20385 Roanoke, VA 24018</i>