

Welcome New Members

Sharon Mohney of Fincastle

Nancy and Bill Fabian
of Fincastle

Joyce Castelli of Vinton

Jeanne Hess of Bedford



Wildflower Club Officers

President..... **Rich Crites**
(540) 774-4518
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Vice President..... **Rudy Albert**
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Secretary..... **Marci Albert**
(540) 774-2279

Treasurer..... **Gail MacFarland**
(540) 380-2150

Historian..... **Betty Kelly**
(540) 384-7429

Membership..... **Butch Kelly**
(540) 384-7429
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Newsletter..... **Michael Belcher**
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Letter from the president

By Rich Crites

This spring has truly been a sight for sore eyes.

Most of the plants and animals are on an early schedule, and what a show mother nature has put on for us to enjoy.

I think the flowering trees have been as full and showy as I ever remember. The redbuds were just stunning along Interstate 81 as we went to Arcadia and Lapsley's Run. The spring ephemerals also have added their beauty to the forest floor.

As one of the former community college chancellors of Virginia used to say, "It's a good time to be alive in Virginia." Although we have had some cold days, April saw some of the more typical summer flowers already in bloom, and the temperatures have hit the upper 80s on other days. So keep on sneezing and wiping those watery eyes as the pollen keeps coming!

We have had some excellent lectures at our monthly meetings. Jerry Borger on

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Saturday, May 12

Time: 9 a.m. - noon

Leader: Rudy Albert

774-2279 and

Marshall Daniels, 721-8304

Meet: Virginia Western
Community College parking
lot behind the arboretum

Saturday, May 19

Time: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Leader: Butch Kelly

Contact: 384-7429

Meet: Bonsack Kroger
on U.S. 460

Monday, May 21

Time: 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Leader: Rich Crites

Contact: 774-4518

Meet: Massengill
Auditorium
at Roanoke College

**Friday-Saturday,
June 22-23**

Leader: Rich Crites

Contact: 774-4518

BRWFS' Annual Wildflower and Native Plant Sale

This is the club's only fund raiser. Each year, the stock of plants varies, but we usually have about 30 different species to sell, including butterfly weed, turtleheads, bee balm, spiderwort, and native ferns. Besides being more beneficial to wildlife than non-native species, many of these plants have evolved to grow in shady areas, to be more resilient to insect damage and to be more tolerant of drought and poor soil. Most plants will cost between \$5-\$7.

Field Trip: Claytor Nature Center

The Claytor Nature Center is a facility owned and managed by Lynchburg College. It provides a varied set of habitats. There are several trails through woodlands, wetlands and meadows. The area has a lot of diverse plant life. There will be a staff person to show us around and share with us the plans for future development.

Wildflowers & Plant Communities of Southern Appalachia

The Blue Ridge Wildflower Society and Roanoke College are proud to host special guest Dr. Timothy Spira. Spira will present a program about his recent book "Wildflowers and Plant Communities of the Southern Appalachian Mountains and Piedmont." We are expecting a large crowd and are thus having the meeting in the Massengill Auditorium at Roanoke College. Unfortunately, there is no close handicapped parking, but people can be dropped off and picked up at the auditorium.

Field Trip: Cranberry Glades, W. Va.

Cranberry Glades Botanical Area covers 750 acres. It is a northern mountain bog in West Virginia. The glades provide an opportunity to view many plants not seen in the Roanoke Valley. It is more like Canada in our back yard. There

Fairfield Inn and Suites:
800-228-2800 (\$75-\$115)

Hampton Inn:
304-645-7300 (\$75-\$115)

Super 8:
304-647-3188 (\$60-\$115)

Dawson Inn:
304-392-6661 (\$36-\$75)

Quality Inn:
304-645-7722 (\$88-\$115)

Relax Inn:
304-645-2345 (\$75-\$100)

Holiday Inn Express:
304-645-5750 (\$115-\$200)

Saturday, July 14

Time: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Leader: Butch Kelly

Contact: 384-7429

Meet: Back Creek
Elementary School

Sunday, August 12

Time: 2 - 4 p.m.

Leader: Rich Crites

Contact: 774-4518

Meet: Roanoke Church
of Christ, 2606 Brandon Ave
SW (our usual meeting place)

Saturday, August 18

Time: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Leader: Rich Crites

Contact: 774-4518

Meet: Orange Market
off I-81's Exit 141 in Salem
at Thompson Memorial Ave.
and Va. 419

are insectivorous plants such as sundew and pitcher plant and several orchids native to their area including rose pogonia and snake mouth orchid. Come prepared for any kind of weather.

If people do not want to spend Friday night in Lewisburg, they can get up early and drive up from Roanoke on Saturday morning. We will leave the Shoney's Parking Lot near I-64 at 8:30 on Saturday morning. We will be going north on W.Va. Route 219 to Beartown State Park. It's at least an hour drive. Then right from Beartown on W.Va. Route 219 to W.Va. Route 39 intersection. Turn left and go to Cranberry Glades Visitor Center at top of mountain.

Each person will need to make their own reservations for this overnight trip.

Field Trip: Blooms & Butterflies

We will travel to Poor Mountain Road on Bent Mountain. Bill Hunley and Mike Donahue are two of the most renowned naturalists in the Roanoke area. They will show us butterflies and summer blooms. This trip could feature anything from birds, flowers, butterflies, dragon flies, etc. If time allows, we will proceed south on the Blue Ridge Parkway to add to our botanizing pleasure. Bring sunscreen, rain gear, a bag lunch and be sure to include binoculars.

BRWFS' Annual Picnic

The picnic will be preceded by a board meeting at 1 p.m. with the picnic festivities beginning at 2 p.m. John and Lou Greiner have agreed to cook the barbeque this year. Bring a dessert, veggies, or cooked dish. Drinks, plates and utensils will be furnished. Also bring a large appetite. If it rains we will have the festivities inside.

Field Trip: Fenwick Mines

Fenwick Mines located in Craig County is a wetland area created by the remnants of an old iron mining industry. The U.S. Forest Service has preserved this area which includes a picnic ground, hiking trails, handicapped fishing facilities, two large ponds and a board walk. We will visit the wetlands, meadows and forests of this area. It features many late summer flowers as well as cardinal flower and wetland plants. Bring rain gear, sunscreen and a bag lunch.

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bee keeping, Butch Kelly on creating habitats in your yard for wildlife, and Melissa Keller on genetically modified foods — good and bad points — have been well attended and enjoyed by those present. Come and join us.

Our field trips have gone very well with good attendance. Come and see what you have missed! Of course we are looking forward to our May 21 lecture at Roanoke College with Dr. Timothy Spira.

While you are looking at the scheduled field trips, please note the plant sale on Saturday, May 12. **WE NEED YOUR HELP AND YOUR PLANTS!**

Please let Marshall Daniels (721-8304), Rudy Albert (774-2279) or me (774-4518) know if you plan to help in some way.

One of the new items to note is the overnight trip to Cranberry Glades in West Virginia. Note the names, numbers and probable MOTEL rates. You are responsible for making your arrangements. Please let me or Butch Kelly know if you plan to be there.

The other item is our picnic, which is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 12, at 2 p.m. at the church building where we have our monthly meetings. The officers board meeting will be at 1 p.m.

See you down the road.

— Rich

Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

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