



Club officer elections

We will present and accept nominations at the September meeting for the following officers: president, vice president, treasurer and secretary.

The club will vote on the officers at the October meeting.

These officers will serve two years and begin their terms with the November meeting.

For more information about what the jobs entail or for volunteering or nominating someone, contact the nomination committee: Sharon Hubbell at 774-8676 or Betty Kelly at 384-7429.

Great line up for fall

By Michael Belcher

The club has a great line up of events and speakers this fall.

On Sunday, September 21, Mike Donahue will lead a butterfly walk through the Bent Mountain Butterfly Garden as part of their 20 year anniversary of community gardening.

The next day, September 22, Dr. Toni Pepin, a professor of biology at Virginia Western Community College will give a presentation about the connection of fungi and native woodland orchids. With all of the rain that we have had lately, we have all seen how fast mushrooms can sprout up in our yards and gardens.

In October, Cordi Diggins, a doctorate student at Virginia Tech, will talk about ongoing research to restore and protect flying squirrel species in our neck of the woods by restoring native spruce forests in timbered and mined areas.

And then in November, we have book author and Birds and Blooms field editor and writer, Marlene Condon talking about how to work with Mother Nature in your garden, instead of fighting her.

(Please note that this meeting will take place a week early because of the Thanksgiving holiday.)



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Sunday, September 21

Time: 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Meet: Bent Mountain Center
 10148 Tinsley Lane
 Bent Mountain, Va. 24059

Rain Date: September 28

Field Trip: Bent Mountain Butterfly Garden celebrates 20 years of Community Gardening

Mike Donahue of the U.S. Forest Service will be the guest speaker and lead a butterfly walk through the gardens. Mary Beth Coffey and Nancy Reid will provide music and there will be a special recognition of donors and the former students of Bent Mountain Elementary School. The garden was the recipient of a 1994 National Gardening Association Youth Garden Grant and has been a project of The GFWC Bent Mountain Woman's Club since 1995.



Monday, September 22

Time: 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Leader: Lou Greiner

Contact: 774-3975

Meet: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Ave.

Meeting: What Do Native Woodland Orchids and Wetland Plants Have in Common?

Fungi are essential for the survival of native woodland orchids and most plants including many wetland species. In addition to pretty pictures of orchids and wetland plants, learn about mycorrhizal associations (between fungi and plants)



that are going on out-of-sight below the soil's surface and help these plants to survive.

Dr. Antoinette ("Toni") Pepin is Professor of Biology at Virginia Western Community College and heads the Integrated Environmental Studies Program. Her PhD is in Environmental Biology and Public Policy

from George Mason University. She studied the effects of hydrology and soil on wetland vegetation restoration. She has worked as an environmental educator and consultant. Toni earned a Master's degree in Biology/Ornithology from Utah State University. She is proud to have earned her B.S. in Biology from Virginia Tech.

Monday, October 27

Time: 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Leader: Lou Greiner

Contact: 774-3975

Meet: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Ave.

Meeting: Rehabilitating timbered forests and mining sites to restore flying squirrels

Corinne “Cordie” Diggins, a PhD student at Virginia Tech, is working with Dr. W. Mark Ford and the USGS Virginia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Her research focuses on two subspecies of northern flying squirrel that occur in the Appalachian Mountains: the recently delisted Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel (*G. s. fuscus*) and the Carolina Northern Flying Squirrel. These two subspecies inhabit high-elevation spruce-fir forests, which are Pleistocene relicts from the last ice age. The squirrels’ habitat has been reduced and degraded by industrial logging and spruce decline in the 20th century. Climate change is also a threat to this unique ecosystem, which occurs on high-elevation peaks and ridgelines in the Blue Ridge Mountains and Allegheny Mountains. Cordie will talk about habitat use and bioacoustics surveys of both subspecies, which will help guide habitat management (e.g., spruce restoration) within squirrel-occupied habitat.



Flying squirrel
Glaucomys sabrinus fuscus

Monday, November 17

Time: 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

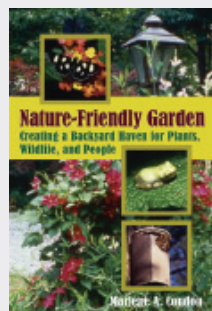
Leader: Lou Greiner

Contact: 774-3975

Meet: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Ave.

Meeting: The Nature-Friendly Garden

(Note: This meeting is taking place a week early to avoid the holidays)



Nature-Friendly Garden:

Creating a Backyard Haven for Plants, Wildlife and People

Many people approach gardening as a constant struggle against the outside world. They're perpetually at war with nature, investing in chemical treatments to fight off mammals, birds, and insects in an effort to preserve their garden as a pristine, unspoiled patch of earth.

Naturalist Marlene A. Condon proposes a radically different method of gardening: What if, instead of battling the natural world, we invite it into our yards? The result is a nature-friendly garden which attracts and meets the needs of common creatures while maintaining a thriving and varied landscape of flowers and other plants.

Join Marlene (author/photographer of *The Nature-friendly Garden: Creating a Backyard Haven for Plants, Wildlife, and People*) for an eye-opening 45-minute slide presentation on how wildlife works for you! Some of you may already be familiar with Marlene from her work as field editor for *Birds and Blooms* magazine and as a newspaper nature columnist for *The Crozet Gazette*, *The Roanoke Star*, and *The Villager*. She is also naturalist program speaker in Shenandoah National Park.

BRWS trip to Flora of Virginia Exhibit and Lewis Ginter Gardens

By Judy Kniskern

On July 18-19, seven members of our BRWS enjoyed a visit to the Flora of Virginia Exhibit at the Library of Virginia and the Lewis Ginter Gardens in Richmond.

Lou Greiner organized the trip which included viewing three of her own beautiful polymer clay works in the library's exhibit.

Bland Crowder, the editor and associate director of the Flora of VA project and curator of the exhibit, gave us an overview of the development of the new (2012) Flora book and the works we were viewing.

We saw the 1754 edition of Natural History, an early book of VA flora (in Latin) by artist and naturalist Mark Catesby who worked with John Clayton, the "Father of Virginia Botany."

The merging of art and scientific study of botany was on display with original artwork from

past and present. Lou's delicate polymer sculptures of wildflowers and animals were a central feature. Another artist was Bessie N. Marshall, who painted detailed and beautiful watercolors of the plants in a Petersburg herbarium during the 1930's. The exhibit demonstrated the continued interest and usefulness of botany over the centuries in Virginia. Both Carter and Lou made the exhibit more alive and relevant to us – we even got to create a leaf out of clay polymer with Lou!

The next day we explored the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden which was a beautiful experience for any wildflower enthusiast. We saw a diverse display of plants and trees in many habitats including aquatic and forest; gardens of herbs, Asian plants, orchids, lilies and roses – and a large butterfly conservatory to top off the visit.

Those who participated were Lou and John Greiner, Judi Langenhorst, Joyce Castelli, Mary Ann Maurelli, Linda Harrison and Judy Kniskern.

Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

P.O. Box 20385

Roanoke, Va 24018

