

Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

A CHAPTER OF THE
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Blue Ridge Wildflower Society; A chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

September 2015, Vol. 36, No. 3

Welcome New Members

Gwyn Gilliam of Roanoke

Kathy Seals of Forest

Robert McGlothlin of Lynchburg



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Letter from the President

By Lou Greiner

Hello to all our wildflower lovers.

Those of you who came to our annual picnic seemed to have a good time. It was great to once again share it with the Roanoke Valley Bird Club because many of our chapter members are also in the bird club. The food as usual was very good, and there was something for everyone! Both clubs have so much in common, we should get together more often.

Butterfly Garden

Our butterfly garden at the Garden Center is progressing nicely. Because we have had more rain than usual recently, some plants have just “melted” into the ground! Later when we mulch, we need to rethink which plants will do better in their place. That’s gardening!

Our Monarch sign is in place in the garden, and our community educational out-

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reach is well underway.

Monarch Butterfly Archway

Our chapter will be making a large arch for display at the Science Museum of Western Virginia. This will be covered by paper monarch butterflies, colored by students, individuals, clubs, church groups, rehab patients, and senior organizations.

Our original goal was at least 1,000 paper butterflies. We have more than 2,000 committed and some have returned early.

We are thankful that the Science Museum and the community have embraced this project. Our hope is that it will allow viewers to experience what it is like when millions of monarchs migrate to their winter homes. This is truly a magical experience.

Our exhibit should help others under-

stand more about what monarchs need to help with this journey. There also will be a display of milkweed and other native plants that are crucial to monarchs.

Bench at the VA Medical Center

A few board members and some founding members gathered together to document the lovely bench with a plaque dedicated to Sam and Dora Lee Ellington, two special members who did so much for our club!

The official dedication will be when the bench is in the therapy garden at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Sandy Lane will speak to us at the September club meeting about this garden for veterans and their families.

Enjoy the rest of summer, and we hope you enjoy the walks and talks for this fall!

Sam and Dora Lee Ellington bench at the Salam VA garden



A few board members and some founding members gathered at the VA Medical Center's Therapy Garden to document the lovely bench with a plaque dedicated to Sam and Dora Lee Ellington , two special members who did so much for our club. From left, standing are: Paul James, Butch Kelly, Ellen Holtman, Linda Harrison, Sharon Hubbell, Stew Hubbell, and Rudy Albert. From left, kneeling and sitting are: Lou Greiner, Frieda Toler, Esther Atkinson, and Betty Kelly.



Saturday, Sept. 12

Time: 9:00 a.m. -

Leader: Lou Greiner

Contact: 774-3975

Meeting Place:

Cave Spring Middle School
front parking lot off U.S. 221

Poor Mountain Autumn Wildflowers and Butterflies

Poor Mountain puts on a great show of composites including sunflowers, asters, black-eyed Susans, iron weed, coreopsis as well as other plants. Many of the plants attract a wide variety of butterflies. Come join Lou Greiner for a close up look at the flora and lepidoptera. Bring lunch and water. Walking will be minimal. Mostly it will be in and out of the car botanizing.

Saturday, Sept. 26

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Bill Hunley

Contact: 774-2397

Meeting Place:

Orange Market off Thompson
Memorial and Va. 311.

Fenwick Mines Autumn Splendor

Fenwick Mines is a recreation area in the Jefferson National Forest. It contains a wetland and waterfall. In the past we have seen coreopsis, goldenrod, Turk's cap lily, cardinal flower, buttonbush, jewelweed, as well as many wetland shrubs and trees. If you have never been on a field trip with Bill Hunley, then you are in for a treat. Bill is a birder and a terrific naturalist. He will share lots of information about the interaction of plants and critters of the forests and wetlands. Bring lunch and water. Walking is easy. Mostly it is on a board walk through the wetland.

Monday, September 28

Time: 7 p.m.

Leaders: Lou Greiner

Contact: 774-3975

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

**Meeting: Therapy Garden Program
at Salem Veterans Affairs Medical Center**

Sandra Lane will give us an overview of the Horticulture Program and development of the Therapy Garden. Her staff and volunteers provide plants for our spring sale. Come and learn more about this local venue.

For safety and environmental reasons, please leave all pets at home during field trips.

Monday, October 26

Time: 7 p.m.

Leaders: Lou Greiner

Contact: 774-3975

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

MEETING: “Photographing Wildflowers”

Mary Lindhjem will present a program on an interpretive approach to photographing flowers and plants. Join us for an inspirational program. Mary has been a professional photographer for 25 years. She is new to Roanoke so let's give her a warm welcome as she shares her passion with our group.

Monday, November 23

Time: 7 p.m.

Leaders: Lou Greiner

Contact: 774-3975

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

MEETING: History of the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

Ever wondered when this club started and where they did field trips, etc. Come join Paul James, one of the original founders, to learn who, what, where, and when this group started this amazing interest in native plants.

Our monthly meeting will be canceled if Roanoke County Schools close for inclement weather.

We want your ideas and help for field trips and meetings!

By Butch Kelly

We have more than 100 members in our wildflower society, and we want to hear your ideas.

Where would you like to go on a field trip?

What subject would you like to learn about from a speaker at one of our monthly meetings?

Would you like to volunteer to lead (or help lead) a walk or give a presentation?

Do you have ideas on how to improve our plant sale or our picnic?

We also need folks to give off-site programs to other groups and school children.



We are planning on getting together a series of digital slides that can be used by anyone.

We have many knowledgeable and talented folks in our group.

Please be active and share those ideas, wishes, and thoughts by calling, emailing or talking with any member of the board of officers.

Remember, it's your seeds of ideas that produce the rich fruits of our club.

Check the forecast and projected time for trips to plan accordingly with rain gear, snacks and meals.

Long-time member Malcolm Black passes away

By Butch Kelly

The BRWS has lost one of its valued and long-time members. Malcolm Black, of Bent Mountain, Va, died on August 1, 2015, at the age of 93.

He was born December 5, 1921, in Clinton, Indiana, the first child of L.M. and Viola Nickel Black.

Malcolm taught visual arts in the public schools in Indiana for 35 years. He married the love of his life, Jimmie Katherine James, on August 21, 1947.

He was a World War II veteran, having served in the Eighth Air Force, where he completed twenty-nine flights over enemy territory as a radio operator gunner in B17's.

In 1948, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Indiana Central College, now the University of Indianapolis, and in 1949 received a Masters of Fine Arts from the Universidad Escuela de Bellas Artes in Mexico.

Upon retiring, he and Jimmie moved to Bent Mountain. Retirement allowed him to be actively involved in environmental projects with the Appalachian Trail Club, The Nature Conservancy, Roanoke Greenways, and craft work with the Virginia Mountain Craft Guild.

As an active member of the "Wednesday Crew" of the Appalachian Trail Club, he and

others spent many an hour digging and hauling dirt and rocks to repair and build trails throughout the Roanoke Valley.

When he was not working on trails he was monitoring the Nature Conservancy's Bottom Creek Gorge.

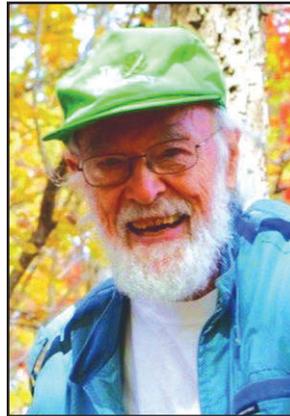
The plant sales of our own BRWS will never be the same. We could always depend upon Malcolm to bring plants. He would bring free tree seedlings for the children who attended the sale. He loved nature and enjoyed sharing it with others. Malcolm will surely be missed by all.

Malcolm Black is survived by his wife of 68 years, Jimmie K. James Black of Texas; sons, Kevin Black of Bent Mountain, Va., and Karl (Jean) Black of Boone Mill, Va; daughter, Marsha (Sam) Allen of Bettendorf, Iowa.

If you want to help carry on his legacy, memorial donations can be made to the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club or the VA Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

Be on the lookout for a celebration of Malcolm's life which will be conducted at a later date.

Much of the information for this notice came from the obituary that ran at www.swvatoday.com



MALCOLM BLACK
1921-2015

Would you like to help with the Food Committee?

The Blue Ridge Wildflower Society has created a food committee to be made up of our club members for our monthly meetings.

Don't worry, it isn't a lot of work, it won't cost you anything, and it isn't a lifelong commitment. You don't even have to be able to bake or cook? Nor do you have to attend every meeting to serve on the committee. All that is required is a little bit of your time, the ability to drive and the free time to attend at least one of the fall meetings.

The club is seeking 2 or 3 volunteers to help pro-

vide snacks for our meetings.

The club will provide the money for the snacks. Sharon Hubbell has graciously volunteered to chair the food committee.

The food committee members can split the responsibility of shopping among themselves and take turns so no one member has to attend every meeting.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Sharon Hubbell at shubbell@cox.net or at (540) 774-8676.

Blue Ridge Wildflower Society Officers

President **Lou Greiner**
(540) 774-3975
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Newsletter **Michael Belcher**
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Refreshment chair **Sharon Hubbell**
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Treasurer **Stew Hubbell**
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Secretary **Judy Kniskern**
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Plant sale coordinator **Rudy Albert**
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Historian **Betty Kelly**
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Membership **Butch Kelly**
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Virginia Native Plant Society 2015 fundraiser

The Virginia Native Plant Society is trying to raise \$20,000 to help purchase additional land at “The Cedars, ” a Virginia natural area preserve in Lee County.

“The Cedars” is a flat limestone area. It resembles a “cedar glade” landscape which is found further west and south of Virginia.

There are 9 rare species in the preserve, including some globally rare species found there in recent years.

The additional land will help protect these and other unique species, which is one of the missions of VNPS and the BRWS.

Our chapter board has voted to donate

\$600 to this project.

As a member, will you help with this worthwhile project?

When you get your letter in the mail from the VNPS, please don't toss it.

If you can, help out with a donation of any size.

If you have lost your letter and would like to donate, write a check to VNPS and write “The Cedars fund” on the notation line.

You can send it to:

VNPS

400 Blandy Farm Lane, Unit #2

Boyce, VA 22620.

Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

P.O. Box 20385

Roanoke, Va 24018

