

Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

A CHAPTER OF THE
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 38, No. 2

Summer Newsletter

April 2017

Welcome New Members!

Diana Weaver of Gloucester
Marsha Mood of Roanoke
Rodelin Palmer of Roanoke
Deborah Ehrenfried of Suffolk
Cindy Martin of Christiansburg
Forrest Moore of Roanoke
Mary Roby of Roanoke
Connie Stone of Salem



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**Next newsletter deadline:
August 1, 2017**

The BRWS Annual Picnic in conjunction with the Roanoke Valley Bird Club
Will be held **August 12, 2017, 4:00 - 6:00 pm** at
The Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Avenue
Please bring a dish to share!
See Calendar of Events page 6 for more info

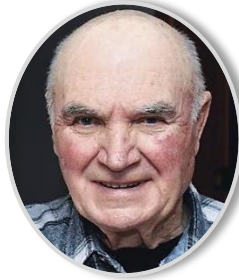


Multiple petaled Large Flowered Trillium, *Trillium Grandiflorum*
Located in Green Hill Park 2016, photo by **Betty Kelly**
(Reminder of our field trip to GHP on April 18!)

Please submit your photos to Editor, Carol Whiteside. Thank you!

Paul Cowins

Longtime loyal member passed away



Paul Cowins of Lynchburg passed away on March 17, 2017. Paul was retired from the U.S. Postal Service and the Virginia National Guard. He reached the rank of Colonel in the Guard and commanded his unit.

Paul is survived by his wife, Lucille, and three children as well as several grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. Paul enjoyed traveling, gardening, wildflowers, hunting, and bee keeping.

Paul was a commanding figure, yet he had a very quiet manner. One always felt relaxed around him. Paul and Lucille hosted several chapter picnics at their mountain farm near Big Island. They always had lots of cardinal flowers for our fall sale in Lynchburg. He was a hard worker for our chapter. We have lost a friend and great chapter member. Paul will be missed.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to the Sarah Lindsey Gupta Charitable Trust, 9245 Old Church Road, New Kent, VA 23124 or Meals on Wheels.

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, in order to sustain for generations to come the integrity of the Commonwealth's rich natural heritage of eco-systems 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:

- 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
- Conducting the annual meeting with speakers and field trips provided

Local level, Blue Ridge Chapter:

- To present meetings in spring and fall that offer informative programs concerning a variety of areas and plants they support
- To lead free field trips to a wide variety of local habitats spring through fall
- To conduct an annual native plant sale in May at VA Western Arboretum
- To provide outreach to public groups in the way of speakers and guided walks
- To donate money to local conservation

Blue Ridge Wildflower Society Chapter

Counties of: Appomattox, Bedford, Botetourt, Campbell, Craig, Franklin, Henry, Patrick, and Roanoke

Cities of: Roanoke, Salem, and Lynchburg

There are no chapter meetings or newsletters in June, July and August

Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

1934 Deyerle Rd.SW, Roanoke, VA 24018



2017 Officers

President

Ellen Holtman..... (540) 389-1514
eholtman@comcast.net

Vice President

Cathy Lauver..... (540) 685-4173
cjl1954@cox.net

Secretary

Ellen Scott..... (540) 344-4423
hoos1902@aol.com

Treasurer

Stew Hubbell..... (540) 774-8676
stew22xtra@cox.net

Past President

Lou Greiner..... (540) 774-3975
louart.min@rev.net

Committee Chairmen

Field Trips, Programs

Butch Kelly..... (540) 384-7429
butch2410@msn.com

Garden Coordinator

Linda Harrison..... (540) 343-2783
lindaharrison29@hotmail.com

Historian

Betty Kelly..... (540) 384-7429
bettykelly918@gmail.com

Membership

Terry Lauver..... (540) 685-4173
tl1945@cox.net

Plant Sale

Michael Belcher (540) 981-3237
Michael.Belcher@roanoke.com

Newsletter

Carol Whiteside..... (540) 774-2143
whitesidemules@yahoo.com

Refreshments

Connie Crites..... (540) 774-4518
cardinalisr@cox.net

CONTACT US!

The BRWS Newsletter is published three times annually: spring, summer and fall. Photos and articles are gladly accepted for publication as room allows, and may be sent electronically, by mail, or delivered in person with a prompt return.

Thank you!

Carol Whiteside

6487 Shingle Ridge Road • Roanoke, VA 24018
whitesidemules@yahoo.com 540.774.2143

Next newsletter deadline:

August 1, 2017.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT ELLEN HOLTMAN



Hello, fellow wildflower people!

It is now officially the most wonderful time of year for many of us. I hope you have visited your favorite local wild area to see what's in bloom. My special Salem spot, Green Hill Park, never disappoints, and the hillside is already full of hepatica, bloodroot, bluebells and twinleaf as I write this on the last day of March! My friend, Esther Davis, took the photos below. Come out and walk with us on the 18th if you can, and on any of the other spring walks. The board has scheduled activities for each month this summer, too, so be sure to read the schedule and mark your calendar!

I want to report on the March VNPS workshop in Richmond because it was so fabulous and because only two of us were there from BRWS! Toni Pepin and I were spellbound by each of the four talks we heard, and it might be the most interesting meeting I've ever attended. The speakers were all active researchers who were excited about learning, and wow, did they have a lot of new things to share. The topics included plant effects on animal physiology as well as mosses and lichens. (Did you know that lichens are now considered multispecies symbionts because we know that they have a bacterial partner along with the fungus and the alga? and some lichens have yeasts too!)

Mary Jane Epps from Mary Baldwin University spoke about relationships between fungi and plants, and it turns out that every single plant species yet examined is host to fungal endophytes that can live in leaves, flowers, or roots. We are just learning that they are there, and we already know they can have profound effects.

- It has recently been discovered that ectomycorrhizal fungi connect trees of different species in a forest-- Douglas fir and paper birch in northern forests actually share food through these networks. In summer the first are more shaded and they received more food from the birches, while in the fall birches do less photosynthesis and they receive food from the firs!
- Fava bean plants infected with aphids produce a defensive volatile chemical to repel the aphids and attract aphid enemies such as parasitic wasps. AND they send messages to other bean plants on the fungal network alerting them to produce the chemical even though they don't have aphids!
- And walnut trees not only produce juglone in the soil that kills certain other plants, but they also use mycorrhizal fungi to distribute the toxin further in the soil.
- One reason garlic mustard is such a horrible invasive is that it produces mustard oil, glycosinolate, that destroys the mycorrhizae in the soil that support other plants. It slows the growth of trees such as sugar maple, red maple and white oak so it could have long-term effects on the composition of our forests.
- It was a great talk, and Dr. Epps will be the speaker at our May meeting, so we should all plan to be there and bring a friend!

Watch for the announcement of next year's workshop, and maybe we can have a large delegation in 2018!



See you on the trail,

Ellen



Meet A Member



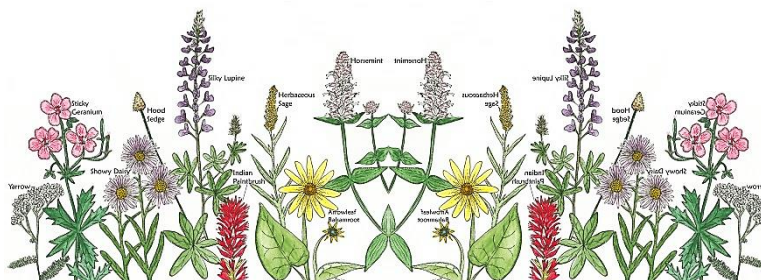
Stew Hubbell

BRWS Treasurer

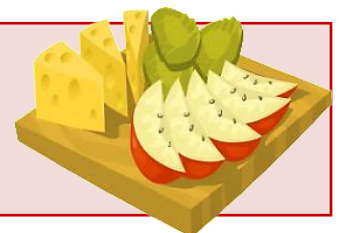
My wife, Sharon, and I have two wonderful, married daughters, one in Raleigh and one in Denver. We have one granddaughter and a grandson on the way. Our three small dogs, who love to walk on the wildflower trails, live with us in SW Roanoke City. I am a professional civil engineer, having worked at Mattern and Craig for most of my career before retiring.

Sharon and I have been members of the BRWS for six years, drawn to the club by a love of nature, hiking in the woods, and love of wildflowers. I am in my third year of being the BRWS treasurer and a board member, and so participate in many meetings, walks, budgeting, and in the plant sale each spring. I enjoy all wildflowers, but the Virginia Bluebell is probably my favorite. They can be found along the Roanoke River Greenways and along creeks in Craig County. One of our favorite places to see wild flowers is in Paint Bank, along the roads. We grow wildflowers at home, generally favoring ones that attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

I have been a member of the Mid Week Crew, of Pathfinders for Greenways for seven years, helping create trails that sometimes open new areas for wildflower viewing. Photography is my favorite hobby: family, wildlife, scenic shots while traveling, and wildflowers.



Refreshment Committee Volunteers
are earnestly sought for our meetings' snack prep!
Please contact:
Connie Crites 774-4518



2017 Calendar of Events



Tuesday, April 18 Field Trip: "Parents, Teachers, Scout Leaders and Kids Spring Break Walk at Green Hill Park"

Green Hill Park in Salem offers the most spectacular show of floral splendor of anywhere in our area. Look forward to seeing large flowered trillium, Canada violet, toothwort, wild ginger, Virginia bluebells and many more. This is a great opportunity for parents, teachers, and scout leaders to introduce children to the world of wildflowers.

Meet: 10:00 am, picnic pavilion at Green Hill Park, which is located at the end of the road in the park

Leaders: Ellen Holtman, Connie Crites, Lou Greiner, and Gail MacFarland

Contact: Ellen Holtman at 389-1514.

Saturday, April 22, 9:00am – 2:00pm Earth Day in Elmwood Park

Earth Day is a fun Family Festival to celebrate the earth. Exhibits, music, food, crafts and children's activities are included. We will have an exhibit under a tent with tables full of handouts about BRWS and VNPS and about wildflowers and wildflower gardening. Please let Butch know if you can sign up to help at the booth for an hour between 9 and 2:00.

Contact: Butch Kelly 384-7429 or butch2410@msn.com

Monday, April 24, 7:00pm Chapter Meeting: "Gardens for Pollinators"

Ellen Holtman, a retired biology teacher and the current president of our chapter, gardens for pollinators in her yard, at the Salem Museum, and in our group's butterfly garden at the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs. Ellen's program will talk about gardening to provide the needs of honeybees, bumblebees, butterflies and other pollinators so that you can keep these beautiful creatures in your garden all summer.

Meet: 7:00 pm, Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke

Contact: Ellen Holtman, 389-1514

Saturday, May 6, 9:00 am Field Trip: "Peaks of Otter and North Creek"

These two areas host many plants throughout the spring months. If you missed some things in April in the Roanoke Valley we should see some of them in the higher elevations of the Peaks area. The featured plants will be fire pink, yellow lady slipper and turkey beard. There will be little walking. Most of the plants are adjacent to the roads we will travel.

Meet: Kroger store on U.S. 460 in the gas station parking lot at 9:00 am. Bring a lunch, water and rain gear.

Leader: Butch Kelly 384-7429 or butch2410@msn.com

Saturday, May 13, 9:00am – noon, BRWS Annual Plant Sale: Virginia Western Community College Arboretum

The BRWS Plant Sale will be at the parking lot next to the Virginia Western Community College Arboretum greenhouse. We expect to have at least 50 species of native plants for sale. Some of the more popular varieties will be Solomon's Seal and Plume, bleeding heart, Virginia bluebell, cardinal flowers, fire pink, Green and Gold, Goldenseal and Wood Betony to name a few. All plants will be in pots ready to take home and plant. There will be folks on hand to help advise where the plants will do best. If members have plants to bring for sale, please have them potted and labeled and arrive around 8:00 am. All help is welcome. Volunteer for an hour or help for the whole sale.

Meet: 9:00 am - noon, Virginia Western Community College Arboretum

Leader: Michael Belcher, 989-6384

Monday, May 22, 7:00pm Chapter Meeting: "Remarkable Pollination Biology of Flame Azalea and the Natural History of the Insects that Visit Its Flowers"

Mary Jane Epps is an assistant professor of biology at Mary Baldwin University, where she teaches both botany and conservation biology. Following a bachelor's degree at Duke University she earned her Ph. D. at the University of Arizona in 2012. As an ecologist with a strong emphasis on natural history, her research investigates a wide range of interactions between plants, fungi, and insects. In addition to studying the pollination of native azaleas some of her current projects explore the ecological effects of invasive species and how fungal-insect interactions respond to climate change.

Meet: 7:00 pm, Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke

Contact: Ellen Holtman, 389-1514

Continued on next page

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

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

There will be no chapter meetings or newsletters during June, July and August, see you in September!

Saturday, May 27, 10:00am - 1:00pm Field Trip, "Blue Ridge Parkway North"

Join Butch Kelly for a trip up to the higher elevations of the Blue Ridge Parkway for a look at Catawba Rhododendron and some late spring flowers that we may have missed in the lower elevations. We should see some great views and many flowers. Bring a camera. We will be up as high as 4000 feet so be prepared for cool weather. Walking will be minimal. **If you are interested some of us will meet at the Peaks of Otter Lodge for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. This buffet is a good way to start the day!**

Meet: Peaks of Otter Visitor Center Parking Lot. Bring lunch, sun screen, binoculars (good birding), camera, and rain gear.

Leader: Butch Kelly 384-7429 or butch2410@msn.com

Wednesday – Friday, June 28-30, Field Trip, "Cranberry Glades in West Virginia"

Cranberry Glades is one the most unique areas in West Virginia. This should be one of the best field trips we've scheduled in years. *Please see the article below for details.*

Deadline to register is June 1.

Leaders: Betty and Butch Kelly 384-7429 or butch2410@msn.com

Saturday, July 22, 8:00am - noon, Field Trip "Blooms and Wings in Montvale Park"

Join Linda Harrison for a close up look at a new site in Bedford County. We are leaving early to beat the heat. Montvale Park has 4 miles of trails that are fairly flat and easy walking. Some are wooded and some are open. This a butterfly mecca so bring your binoculars and field guides. We will not walk the entire 4 miles.

Meet: Kroger Parking lot near the car wash on U.S. 460 near Bonsack. Bring lunch, water, bug juice and rain gear.

Leader: Linda Harrison 343-2783 or lindaharrison29@hotmail.com

Saturday, August 12, 4:00 - 6:00pm, Annual Picnic

Mark your calendars for the chapter picnic with the Roanoke Valley Bird Club. Bring a side dish or a favorite dessert. We will provide barbecue and the Bird Club will provide fried chicken. Come and share your outdoor memories with fellow nature lovers.

Meet: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke

Contact: Ellen Holtman, 389-1514

CRANBERRY GLADES FIELD TRIP JUNE 28 – JUNE 30

Our chapter is planning a field trip to Cranberry Glades in West Virginia on **Thursday, June 29**. Since it is a fairly long drive (approx. 2.5 hours) we are driving up on **Wednesday, June 28 and returning Friday, June 30**.

Cranberry Glades Botanical Area is a series of bogs much like the "muskeg" of the far north. The area is 3400 feet in elevation and covers 750 acres of bog lands. Its natural history traces back over 10,000 years. The area is covered in peat moss and many plants found only in New England and Canada. The glades are accessed via a boardwalk that winds through both forest and open areas.

The glades harbor many plants not seen in the Roanoke valley. There are several species of insectivorous plants, orchids and a wide variety of shrubs. Black bears, beavers, and many neo-tropical song birds call the glades home. Prior to the glade visit we will visit the Cranberry Glades Mountain Nature Center. This center offers lots of information and superb displays which provides a good introduction to the area. After lunch we will take a ride on the Highland Scenic Highway. This roadway offers little traffic, several vistas from 4500 feet and several short trails through the spruce forest. On departure day, Friday, June 30 we will stop at a very enchanting place called Beartown State Park. The boardwalk through the sandstone formations illustrate what a tough struggle for life can be. Someone once said it reminded them of the "Hobbit." The trip will include some walking; however, most of the walking will be on board walks.

Travel and Lodging: We have 10 rooms with two queen beds reserved at the Quality Inn in Lewisburg, West Virginia. The cost is \$94.50/room. The trip is limited to no more than 18 participants. The first 18 folks to contact us will be on the list. Anyone who calls after the trip is full will be put on a wait list. In order to reserve your space for the trip **contact Butch or Betty Kelly at (540) 384-7429 or e-mail butch2410@msn.com by June 1**. Details on motel reservations and trip itinerary will be e-mailed to you as soon as you register.

Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 13, 9:00am – noon

Virginia Western Community College Arboretum

Michael Belcher, Chairman 989-6384

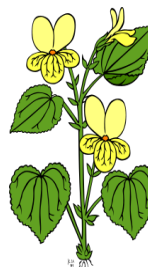


The BRWS Plant Sale will be in the parking lot next to the Virginia Western Community College Arboretum greenhouse. All plants will be in pots, ready to take home and plant. There will be volunteers to advise where the plants will do best. This is our only fund raiser, so please plan to support the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society by purchasing the ideal wildflowers for your garden.

Members, your assistance is welcome for an hour or for the entire sale; please volunteer! Look over the left list below to see if you have any of these essential plants for donation to the sale. Please dig up and transplant your donation plants 4-6 weeks ahead of the sale for acclimation to the pot after being transplanted; also, plan to arrive around 8:00 am with your potted and labeled donated plants. Contact Michael (989-6384) to volunteer, donate plants or your time. Thank you!

What we need from members:

Jack in the Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)
Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*)
Twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*)
Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria Canadensis*)
Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum.*)
Lily of the Valley (*Convallaria majuscula*)
Wood Poppies/Celandine (*Stylophorum diphyllum*)
Wild Ginger (*Asarum caudatum*)
Spiderwort (*Tradescantia pallida*)
Christmas Ferns (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)
Ostrich Ferns (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)
Wood/Shield Ferns (*Dryopteris marginalis*)
Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*)
Galax (*Galax urceolata*)
Appendage Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum appendiculatum*)
Goldenrod (*Solidago*)
Purple Coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*)
White Coneflowers
New York Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*)
Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
Joe-Pye Weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*)
Native Clematis/ Virgin's Bower (*Clematis virginiana*)
Mints
Butter and Eggs (*Linaria vulgaris*)
Carolina Allspice bushes (*Calycanthus floridus*)
Spicebushes (*Lindera benzoin,*)
Dogwood saplings (*Cornus*)
Redbud saplings.(*Cercis Canadensis*)



Quantity of nursery plants available for sale:

15 American Beautyberry bushes (*Callicarpa americana*)
15 Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)
15 Wild light purple Bee Balm/Bergamot (*Bergamot*)
15 Pink Creeping Woodland Phlox (*Phlox stolonifera*)
15 Spiderwort (*Tradescantia pallida*)
5 Passion Flower vines (*Passiflora*)
50 Columbines (*Aquilegia Canadensis*)
50 Blazing Stars/*Liatris*/*Gayfeatehrs*
50 Cardinal Flowers (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
50 Red Bee Balms/Bergamots (*Mondarda*)
70 Jacob's Ladders (*Polemonium caeruleum*)
50 Fire Pink (*Silene virginica*)
50 Green and Gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*)
50 Common Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
72 Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias Incarnata*)
72 New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)
72 Black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
50 Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)
50 Wild Geraniums (*Geranium maculatum*)
50 Hepatica (*Anemone americana*)
60 Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)
50 Goldenseal ((*Hydrastis canadensis*))
50 Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum odoratum*)
50 Solomon's Plume (*Smilacina racemose*)
50 Red Trilliums (*Trillium erectum*)
50 White Trilliums (*Trillium grandiflorum*)
50 False Rue Anemone (*Enemion biternatum*)
50 Blue Flag Iris (*Iris versicolor*)
75 Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)
50 Black Cohosh (*Actaea racemose*)
50 New York Fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*)

Any other native plant that you think will sell and can spare.



Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

1934 Deyerle Road, SW
Roanoke, Virginia 24018

Membership **New** **Renewal**

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Membership dues:

- Individual \$30 Family \$40 Student \$15
 - Life \$500 Patron \$50 Sustaining \$100
 - Associate \$40. Organization _____
- (Also, please name your delegate above.)
- Additional, nonvoting chapter memberships, \$5 each.
- Chapter _____

Please enroll me as:

- Member of **Blue Ridge Wildflower Society** Chapter
- Member at Large (no local chapter affiliation)
- Gift Membership. Please send a card in my name: _____

I wish to make an additional contribution to:

- Chapter. Amount _____
- State office of VNPS. Amount _____

Credit card payments:

- MasterCard Visa Discover

Card # _____
Expiration Date _____
Amount: _____
Date: _____
Signature _____

- Do not list me in the chapter directory.

VNPS does not exchange member information with other organizations.

Please make your check out to VNPS and mail it to:

Memberships
Virginia Native Plant Society
400 Blandy Farm Lane, Unit #2
Boyce, VA 22620

For Office use only
Check No. _____
Date rec'd _____
Amount rec'd _____