

Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

A CHAPTER OF THE
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 39, No. 1

Spring Newsletter

February 2018

Welcome New Members!

Louise Chagnon, Troutville
Nancy Reid, Roanoke
Michael Canestrari, Roanoke
Carl Absher, Blacksburg
Veronika Winkler, Rockbridge Baths

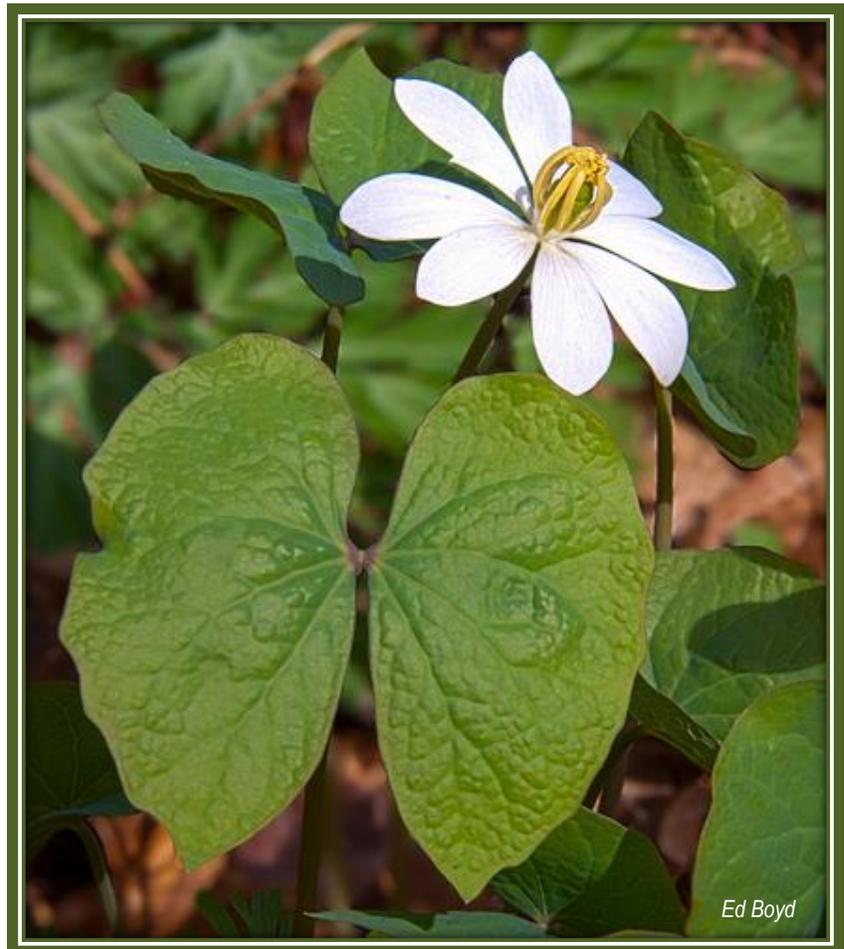


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Next newsletter deadline:
April 15, 2018

President's Pick!



American Twinleaf (*Jeffersonia Diphylla*)

Please see the President's Message on page 3 and Twinleaf article on page 4

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

The Annual Picnic in conjunction with the Roanoke Valley Bird Club
Will be held **August 11, 2018, 4:00 - 6:00 pm**
Roanoke Church of Christ at 2606 Brandon Avenue (Lee Highway)
Look for details in the summer newsletter

BRWS MEETINGS

No chapter meetings in December, January, June, July and August

Meetings will be canceled if Roanoke County Schools close for inclement weather

**Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke, VA
7:00pm, Fourth Monday of the Month (unless noted)**

Feb 26 **Doing it in the dark: the world of nighttime pollinators** by **Tim McCoy** from VA Tech's Entomology Department

Mar 26 **Plants as Puppet Master: How plants hijack animal physiology to rule the world** with **Jason Davis**, an associate professor of Biology at Radford University

April 23 **Floral and Wildlife Art of the Blue Ridge and Beyond, Clay Sculpture** with **Lou Greiner**, BRWS Past President

May 21 **Peter's Mountain Mallow** with **Sam Truslow**, Land Steward for The Nature Conservancy in Virginia (note earlier date due to Memorial Day)



Many thanks to **Connie Crites** for organizing the meeting refreshments and to those who contribute!

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

No chapter meetings in December, January, June, July and August

Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

1934 Deyerle Rd.SW, Roanoke, VA 24018



2018 Officers

President

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

Vice President

Cathy Lauver..... (540) 685-4173
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hoos1902@aol.com

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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

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Next newsletter deadline:

April 15, 2018

Meet A Member



Betty Kelly

BRWS Historian

Betty grew up on a farm on the Mason-Dixon Line in Maryland. Her mother had a large garden with many flowers which developed Betty's love of flowers at an early age. It was sparked again when she took a wildflower class offered by Rich Crites.

Some of Betty's local favorite places to visit wildflowers are Green Hill Park and the Peaks of Otter in spring; in the fall she favors Bent Mountain. She always enjoys field trips to new places and sharing her love of nature with others. Betty thinks the BRWS is a great group of people that share her love of the outdoors to gather for activities.

Betty met Butch in his senior year of high school. They have four kids and six grandchildren. She loved her job and retired as a special educator with preschoolers. Reading, walking, and visiting new areas to see birds and flowers are also of interest, including the butterfly gardens in their yard.

Butch Kelly

BRWS Programs and Field Trips Chairman

Butch grew up at the foot of Camp David in Thurmont, Maryland. He is the oldest of four children. After taking a class in botany at West Virginia University, his love for wildflowers began to develop.

Over thirty years ago Butch became involved with the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society. He was drawn by the field trips he took with Betty when she attended Rich Crites' class. Now Butch enjoys sharing his passion for botany and natural history with others as he leads field trips for our Society. He loves the Blue Ridge Parkway, exploring local areas and finding new places to share.

Butch is a retired educator and Interpretive Ranger for the Blue Ridge Parkway. He has established a Natural Wildlife Federation pollinator and quail habitat on their land. Other hobbies and interests include hiking, reading, and the Civil War.

Message from your President

Ellen Holtman



Hello friends!

I have it on good authority that spring is coming and flowers will bloom again. While we wait for that first hepatica bloom we have lots of good things coming up, starting with our February meeting. Tim McCoy from Tech's entomology department will be speaking about nighttime pollinators, and Butch and I can vouch for the fact that it is a fun and informative talk. Put it on your calendar for February 26! And invite a friend to the meeting - I'm sure you know somebody who has cabin fever!

The calendar shows the wonderful speakers Butch has arranged for spring meetings. I'm especially excited that in April our own Past President Lou Greiner will be telling us about her natural history art and showing some pieces!

Walks will take us to some old favorite spots including Cascades in Giles County and Roaring Run in Botetourt County, and also to some sites that will be new for the club: Peter's Mountain in Giles County and Explore Park nearer to home.

There are opportunities to help the club too. You are invited to help with the cleanup of our garden at RCGC in March and to help staff our booth at Earth Day in April. We can always use help leading walks, too, especially the children's walk on April 4 and the Explore Park walk. And Carol always welcomes your contributions to the newsletter - articles, photos, art, or whatever you'd like to contribute.

Stay warm and dream of spring ephemerals!

Ellen



President's Pick!

American Twinleaf

(*Jeffersonia Diphylla*)



Jeffersonia diphylla, commonly called twinleaf, is a somewhat uncommon spring woodland wildflower that is native from New York to Wisconsin south to Alabama and Virginia. It is usually found in limestone soils in rich damp woods. It is a clump-forming plant that typically grows to 8" tall when in flower in early spring, but continues to grow thereafter eventually reaching 18" tall by the time its fruit ripens. Features long-stemmed, blue-green basal leaves (to 6" long) which are deeply divided into two lobes that give the appearance of being two separate leaves, hence the common name. In early spring (April), white cup-shaped flowers (1" diameter) bloom singly atop rigid leafless stalks to 8" tall. Each flower has eight petals. Flowers are somewhat reminiscent of bloodroot, but the plants are unrelated and in different families. Fruit is an interesting pear-shaped dehiscent pod with a lid.

Best if grown in moist, humusy, well-drained, limestone soil in part shade, but tolerates full shade. Plants are best suited under the canopies of large deciduous trees where they will receive part sun in spring before the trees leaf out, but are well-shaded throughout the heat of the summer. Soils must not be allowed to dry out, and they appreciate a summer mulch to help keep the roots cool.

Genus name honors Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), third President of the United States, plants man and patron of botany with a deep interest in horticulture and farming.

Missouri Botanical Garden
Jackie Bailey Labovitz photo



Large-flowered Trillium



Chickweed



Yellow Iris



Fire Pink



Crested Dwarf Iris



Wild Columbine

Photos by **Drew Daniels**

April 27, 2017, Smart View on the Blue Ridge Parkway mp154.5

Drew and Iris Daniels

As you enter the gate at Smart View a little way in on the right is a wet-weather trickle coming off the ridge, trillium are just inside the woods line as well as other little white flowers, chickweed. After viewing the trillium, proceed a little farther, almost to the traffic triangle there is a bog on the left with some wild yellow iris. Now drive to the right of the triangle, up the hill into the picnic area, notice on the left the dwarf irises growing in large groups of blue. They are rather profuse around the picnic area. As you pass the picnic shelter at the top of the hill, you will notice the Selene fire pinks' blooming in bunches all the way down to the end of the picnic area. Just look for red and all of a sudden, they are everywhere. As you start down the hill out of the picnic area, on your left you will see some wild columbine, reddish-orange and yellow blooms.

Note: Prior to visiting the Blue Ridge Parkway, check (<https://go.nps.gov/brp-map>) for real-time current road closure and condition information.

2018 Calendar of Events



January 26 – March 30 The Paper Blooms Project, Olin Gallery, Roanoke College

The Paper Blooms Project is a collaborative based exhibition that will be composed of hand-made paper flowers to create a community garden. The flowers have been made by local and regional volunteers to unite and support the community through art. The installation will cultivate an educational experience with a bold and colorful display of a wide range of plants labeled with their botanical names. Upon the conclusion of the show, flowers from the Paper Blooms Project will be made into bouquets and donated to areas of need within our locality. The Paper Blooms Project is an art installation created by our community to be enjoyed as a public space, and returned to support the community.

Monday, February 26, 7:00 pm Chapter Meeting: **"Doing it in the dark: the world of nighttime pollinators"** by **Tim McCoy** from VA Tech's Entomology Department. Some insects have evolved to take advantage of the overnight hours for their pollinating activity. What drove those adaptations? What can we do to help these nocturnal visitors?

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

Contact: Ellen Holtman, 389-1514

Wednesday, March 14, 10:00 am, "Wildflower Garden Maintenance" at Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs

(Rain date March 22, 10:am) Please join us for weeding, mulching and checking the plant signage to celebrate the arrival of spring! Bring water, gloves, clippers, loppers, and any of your favorite tools. Some tools and snacks will be provided.

Meet: 10:00 am, Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke

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

Monday, March 26, 7:00 pm Chapter Meeting: **"Plants as Puppet Master: How plants hijack animal physiology to rule the world"** Plants are the behind-the-scenes rulers of the animal kingdom. Through some frankly amazing manipulations of our biochemistry, plants have evolved the ability to turn potential predators into servants. In this talk **Jason Davis** will discuss how plants can control what, when, and where we eat, make us carry their baggage, kill their competitors and generally rule our lives. **Jason Davis** is an associate professor of Biology at Radford University and a big believer in integrative biology. He holds BS's in Biology and Anthropology from the College of Charleston and a PhD in Neuroscience & Animal Behavior from Emory University. In his work with the students of Radford's Ecophysiology research laboratory, he studies the mechanisms and means by which organisms adjust to dynamic, often hostile, environments. He also serves as associate director of Radford's honors academy and coordinator of the Radford Amazonian Research Expedition. He is a frequent contributor to Virginia Wildlife Magazine.

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

Contact: Ellen Holtman, 389-1514

Wednesday, April 4, 9:00 am 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 blue bells and many more. This is a great opportunity for parents, teachers, and scout leaders to introduce children to the world of wildflowers. Children should be old enough to be respectful of the plants.

Meet: 9:00 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 7, 9:00 am Field Trip: "Cascades" Hike to the Cascades in the Jefferson National Forest in Giles County. This is an all-day event. Pack a lunch and bring plenty of water, sturdy hiking boots and a walking stick would be helpful. Trail length is 4 miles round trip. This is not a walk for the timid. The trail is not particularly steep; however, it is rough in spots with lots of up and down steps. With our usual snail's pace gawking at the floral beauty it should not be too difficult. The trail follows Little Stony Creek for two miles to culminate in a spectacular view below a 69 foot waterfall. The return trail is along an old carriage road and is pretty much downhill. This area is one of the most diverse wildflower spots this side of the Smoky Mountains. with many plants and lots of each. Canada violet and the three species of trillium, along with others, are expected.

Meet: 9:00 a.m. at Orange Market on Thompson Memorial in Salem off exit 141 off I-81

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

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 December, January, June, July and August.

Saturday, April 15, 2:30 pm Field Trip: "Explore Park" We will seek out pockets of wildflowers at Explore Park, walking a bit along the river trail and a bit more in the forest. This is part of Explore Park's Grand Opening weekend that looks like fun-- there are also a bird walk with the RVBC at 9:00 am, and two events led by Master Naturalists, one about trees at 10:30 am, and one on Forest Ecosystems at 1:00 pm.

Meet: 2:30 pm Parkway Visitor Center at Explore Park.

Leaders: Ellen Holtman, 389-1514, Butch Kelly, 384-7429 or butch2410@msn.com

Saturday, April 21, 10:00am – 3:00pm Earth Day in Grandin Village

Volunteers are needed for one hour shifts. We will offer handouts and a children's activity (to be decided). Also, we may be selling or giving away plants.

Meet: Grandin Village

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

Sunday, April 22, 1:00 pm, "Potting Party" Mike Belcher's house, 2611 Northview Drive, SW, Roanoke, VA 24015. We need lots of volunteers to help us pot young plants for the plant sale that takes place in May. With more than 300 pots, we are looking to store and transport about 24 trays. The club will provide the plants, soil, fertilizer, pots and labels, but we need your hands. Please wear clothes that can get dirty and bring work gloves. We also need volunteers with trucks, vans or trailers to take the pots home and store them on the ground to grow until the May sale.

Meet: 1:00 pm, Mike Belcher's house, 2611 Northview Drive, SW, Roanoke, VA 24015

Leader: Ellen Holtman (540) 389-1514

Monday, April 23, 7:00 pm Chapter Meeting: "Floral and Wildlife Art of the Blue Ridge and Beyond," Clay Sculpture by Lou Greiner, Past President of the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society. A passion for flowers and small wildlife has led to interesting adventures when she worked to capture a part of nature in clay. Lou majored in sculpture at VCU and worked in many mediums. She still prefers clay and miniature scale. Lou has exhibited in miniature and wildlife shows on the East Coast and some out west. Her work can be found in permanent collection at the Virginia Natural History Museum and the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum. Come hear the stories behind the art and see a few on site. (Photos are Lou's clay creations)



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

Contact: Ellen Holtman, 389-1514

Saturday, April 28, 9:00 am Field Trip: "Roaring Run & Hopalong Cassidy Pass" Roaring Run is a recreation area in the Jefferson National Forest in Botetourt County. It includes views of old iron furnaces and a one mile walk along Roaring Run Creek and a very pleasing waterfalls at the end. Some of the flowers found at this time should be fairy wand, columbine and hoary puccoon, pink lady slipper, and gay wings. This a good birding area so bring binoculars. Hopalong Cassidy Pass is a shale barren. It is a good place to see dry land species. Species such as birds foot violet, bowman's root, ebony speenwort and shale barren bindweed are featured. Between the two areas over 70 species of plants were identified on a 2011 field trip. This is an all day trip so bring, water, rain gear, boots, and lunch. The walking is fairly easy.

Meet: 9:00 a.m. at Bojangles at the Botetourt Commons off U.S. 220 one mile off I-81

Leader: Terry and Cathy Lauver, 685-4173 or tll194@cox.net

Saturday, May 12, 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 five species of native ferns, Solomon's Seal and Plume, bleeding heart, Virginia bluebell, cardinal flowers, fire pink, and milkweed, to name a few. All plants will be in pots ready to take home and plant. There will be people on hand to advise where the plants will do best. If members have plants to sell, please have them potted, labeled and priced, plan to 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, Roanoke

Leader: Ellen Holtman, 389-1514

Monday, May 21, 7:00pm Chapter Meeting: "Peter's Mountain Mallow" by Sam Truslow, Land Steward for The Nature Conservancy in Virginia. He will talk about the Narrows Preserve in Giles County, home to the only known population of the Peter's Mountain Mallow. Sam will discuss the discovery of the plant, the establishment of the preserve and the restoration work being done by the Conservancy and other organizations. Sam has a degree in Environmental Science from the University of Virginia and has worked for The Nature Conservancy for over 10 years. His primary interests are prescribed fire, public access and spending time out of doors with his wife and two young children. [Note: change from May 28 Memorial Day to May 21]

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

Contact: Ellen Holtman, 389-1514

Volunteers and Plants Needed For the Plant Sale

Contact **Ellen Holtman** (540) 389-1514

We need lots of volunteers for this year's plant sale! Because we have lost our main source of plants we have reached out and purchased plants from three local nurseries. Most of the plants are in gallon or quart containers, but some are in six-packs and will need to be re-potted.

We will need to re-pot the small plants a few weeks before the sale, so I hope you will come and get your hands in the dirt on the afternoon of Sunday, **April 22**. Mike Belcher's house, 2611 Northview Drive, SW, Roanoke, VA 24015, will be the location of the potting party. We also need volunteers with trucks, vans or trailers to store the potted plants at home until the sale. And then, of course, we need volunteers to donate plants from home for the sale.

If you volunteer to store plants at home, the plants **SHOULD NOT be stored indoors, on picnic tables, shelves or patios**. They need to sit on the ground in the same kind of environment in which they would naturally grow. So woodland plants should be stored on the ground under deciduous trees and sun-loving summer plants should be stored on the ground in sunny areas.

There is no need to mulch the plants or to actually bury them in the ground. Don't worry about cold spells or snows either. These plants evolved for just that kind of weather. Mother Nature should take care of the watering, but if we get less than an inch of rain a week, please water.

We ask that you only volunteer to store the plants if you have your own way of transporting them from the potting party to your house in April, and from your house to the plant sale in May. The individual pots (4"x4" x4") will go in 15-pot trays that are 13" X 21." With more than 300 pots, we are looking to store and transport about 24 trays.

If you normally bring lots of plants from your property to the sale, it may be better not to volunteer to store plants because then you would be limited in what you could bring from home.

We also need plants from your homes as well. Specifically, we know we need volunteers to bring: Mayapples, Jack in the Pulpits, Lily of the Valley, Wild Ginger, Spiderwort, Christmas ferns, Ostrich ferns, Wood ferns, Wood Poppies, Celandine, Mints, Butter and Eggs, Herb Robert, Galax and any sun loving plants that you can donate. **If you can help with storing the plants, please call Ellen Holtman (540) 389-1514.**

Please "save the date" so you can be at the sale on **May 12**. We'll have plenty of jobs for everybody that day!





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 _____