

# Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

A CHAPTER OF THE  
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 40, No. 3

Spring Newsletter

February 2020

## Welcome New Members!

Vance Brown, Culpeper, VA  
Lisa Filipy, Luray, VA  
Maria Licher, Blacksburg, VA  
Celeste Waggener, Sperryville, VA  
Emily Zido, Roanoke, VA  
Mary Alice Borner, Crimora, VA  
JoAnn Dunham, Crimora, VA  
Patricia McClain, Vinton, VA  
Sara Sweeten, Blacksburg, VA  
Brenda Bohike, Great Falls, VA  
Ellen Clark, Roanoke, VA  
Elizabeth Kelley, Arlington, VA  
(Lifetime Member)  
Heather Butler, Fincastle, VA  
Jessica Fleming, Roanoke, VA  
Donna Haley, Troutville, VA  
Terry Hall, Vinton, VA  
Kenneth Tennyson, Gainesville, VA



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Next newsletter deadline:  
**April 1, 2020**

## President's Pick!



*The Growing Place*

## SPICEBUSH (*Lindera benzoin*)

Please see the article on page 6

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

## 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 p.m., Fourth Monday of the Month (unless changed)**

Feb. 24 "Tree of 40 Fruits: The Science, Art & Symbolism"  
by **President Michael C. Maxey, Roanoke College**

March 23 "What are plants talking about now?" by **Rafael Castañeda-Saldaña**

April 27 "Native Bees" by **James Wilson, Virginia Agriculture Extension Agent**

May 18 (date changed to third Monday due to Memorial Day being on the fourth) **To be announced later.**

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



## Virginia Native Plant Society

Website: [www.vnps.org](http://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, 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

3410 Overhill Trail, Roanoke, VA 24018



## 2020 Officers

### President

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

### Vice President

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

### Secretary

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

### Treasurer

**Kathy Sink**..... (540) 774-8950  
kathysink@cox.net

### Past President

**Lou Greiner**..... (540) 774-3975  
lougreiner48@gmail.com

## 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

### 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:**

**April 1, 2020**



# Message from your President

Ellen Holtman



Happy New Year, Friends!

I know you join me in looking forward to mild weather and beautiful blooms!

I chose Spicebush to illustrate the newsletter because it reminds me of visits to Arcadia on some of my earliest trips with the BRWS. The shrub's yellow flowers were so pretty in the otherwise dark understory early in spring, and we always scratched a twig to enjoy its spicy fragrance. More than 20 bird species enjoy spicebush berries, and the leaves feed the caterpillars of several butterfly and moth species, including the special spicebush swallowtail, so what's not to love? These are sweet memories of the Ellingtons and the Tolers and Rich Crites.

This year we will dedicate our water feature at the Community Arboretum to these people and to those who founded our club and who led it in its early days. The project has been in the works for two years, and we donated \$2,000 to go toward our fountain. The money covered the pump, plumbing, and electrical lines, but we owe many thanks to Clark BeCraft and Tonya Judd who shepherded the project and literally did much of the heavy lifting. Water is flowing beautifully, and birds are enjoying it. The brass plaques are in place, too, so please visit if you haven't yet. The water feature is in the wildflower garden in the corner of the Arboretum nearest the turn off Winding Way into the campus. Access is almost level and very close to the entrance arbor.

The dedication will be part of the Four Seasons open house at the Arboretum on Sunday afternoon, April 26. We haven't decided what kind of program it will be, but probably it will be short. Let us know if you have suggestions or if you know someone who should be invited. We hope that Paul James will be able to come, and we certainly wish that Frieda Toler and Dawn Gill had lived to see it. Many of our founders are no longer with us, and of course Rich Crites's death led us to create the memorial to those who have gone before us.

The Board has voted to donate \$500 from the club for a brick in the area of the new gazebo in memory of Dawn Gill, a longtime fun-loving active member and biology teacher at VWCC.

Also, the Board voted to donate \$500 dollars to the very exciting 2020 VNPS Fundraiser. This year the project to be funded is the development of a regional native plant marketing campaign for all areas of the state that have not yet started one. That includes our area and the entire mountain region. The campaign will help landowners learn more about native plants and the value of using them in landscaping. It will also engage local garden centers and encourage them to promote the natives they sell and to increase the diversity and supply of natives they carry. The most popular resource of each campaign is a beautiful full-color guide to the native plants of each region. Please consider a donation to the fundraiser, and come up with suggestions for plants to be included in our book.

We will be electing new officers in October to take office in November. Be thinking about who should be on the slate. Maybe you would like to offer yourself for an office! We will need candidates for President, Vice-President, and Secretary. Kathy Sink has graciously agreed to continue as Treasurer. We will be forming a nominating committee in September, so let us know if you are interested in that job as well.

As you can see, Butch has arranged lots of great walks and talks for the spring. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces soon at the membership meeting on February 24.

Meanwhile here are some items for your calendar:

March 14, VNPS Annual Workshop at Piedmont Community College, Charlottesville

April 11, Potting party at Michael Belcher's, noon - 2:30 p.m.

May 9, Annual native plant sale, VWCC, setup at 7 a.m. and sale 9 a.m. – noon

Sept. 25-27, VNPS Annual Meeting and Conference, Abington

Best wishes for a great 2020!



All the best,

Ellen



# Meet A Member

## Brenda Satchell



**F**ifty-two years ago I came to the U.S. from Jamaica. I am from a large family who are scattered around the world in England, Canada and the United States.

I graduated from Crosby High School in Waterbury, Connecticut, and took some fine arts classes at Post Collage in Middlebury, Connecticut. I worked thirty years at a training school for special needs youth, then retired and relocated to Roanoke. I am a Red Cross Volunteer and also a member of the local chapter of AARP.

I have always loved wildflowers, but I knew nothing about them, just that they were pretty. My first experience with BRWS was around eight years ago when I saw an ad in the local paper looking for help potting the plants for the annual Plant Sale. Since the church was just five minutes from my house, I went down and participated. I joined that same month.

I look forward to the field trips, each one is special and a learning experience. I also think we have great trip leaders with Butch, Mike, Linda and others - they are the best! I enjoy the monthly meetings and learn something new from each one.

In my garden I grow mostly cultivar flowers and wildflowers, some of my favorites included Butterfly Weed, Golden Rod, New England Aster, and Bee Balm.



### President's Pick!

#### **SPICEBUSH** (*Lindera benzoin*)



**FROM: THE GROWING PLACE AND W. JOHN HAYDEN OF VNPS**  
**PHOTO CREDITS: GLORIA SCHOENHOLTZ, WILDFOODS, CAROL WHITESIDE**

**S**picebush is native shrub with radiant yellow flowers in early spring (March in Virginia). The flowers emerge before fragrant leaves, followed by showy red berries in fall, including beautiful gold color and fragrant foliage. It blends nicely into natural settings and moist areas with light green foliage throughout the season. The smooth olive green bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Deer do not particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Spicebush will grow to be about 10 feet tall, with a spread of 10 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more. The plants are dioecious, meaning some individuals are male and others are female. It can be tricky to tell which sex

you have until the red berries appear, so you might want to clump 2 or 3 together when you plant them.

This shrub performs well in both full sun and full shade if under deciduous trees. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates.

Spicebush is known for its spicy aroma, and is an important food plant for butterfly larvae, notably the spicebush swallowtail and the eastern tiger swallowtail. At maturity, the bright red fruits are enjoyed by various frugivorous birds in September.



# 2020 Calendar of Events



**Monday, Feb. 24, 7 p.m. Chapter Meeting:** "Tree of 40 Fruits: The Science, Art & Symbolism" by **President Michael C. Maxey** – Roanoke College. Two years ago Roanoke College was given a Tree of 40 Fruits for our campus. The tree is a combination of art and science, but it serves symbolic purposes as well. The tree has 40 stone fruits grafted onto a plum tree. Each of the stone fruits will provide different spring blossom colors, different stone fruit in the summer yield, and finally 40 shades of fall foliage. Sam Van Aken is the artist and scientist. In another 3 years it will be fully producing 40 different kinds of plums, cherries, peaches, apricots, and nectarines. Many of those stone fruit varieties are heirlooms. **Michael C. Maxey** has served Roanoke College for over 35 years, the last 13 in the Office of the Presidency. He is the 11th president in the College's 177-year history. President Maxey is a native of Bassett, Virginia. His higher education began at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in history and Master of Arts in counselor education. He later earned a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study at the University of New Hampshire, and attended the Institute of Education Management at Harvard University. A life-long learner and student of history, counseling and conflict resolution, President Maxey received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. He has held several leadership positions in numerous organizations.

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

**Contact:** Ellen Holtman, 389-1514

**Monday, March 23, 7 p.m. Chapter Meeting:** "What are plants talking about now?" by **Rafael Castañeda-Saldaña**. The talk will focus on the different ways plants communicate, directly and indirectly. **Rafael Castañeda-Saldaña** received his two bachelor's degrees in Plant Science and Landscape Horticulture from the University of Delaware. His undergraduate research was focused on plant-microbe interactions. The first project looked at a soil dwelling bacteria *Bacillus* and a model plant *Arabidopsis*. The findings of this project suggested the bacteria were able to positively influence plant growth as well as an enhanced plant defense against pathogens. His master's degree has focused on the beneficial bacteria *Sinorhizobium* with legume plant alfalfa. It focused on identifying the mechanisms for the bacterial movement, specifically the proteins involved. His passion has been growing indoor plants such as orchids, bonsai, and tropical trees. Rafael is currently an Instructor at Concord University.

**Meet:** 7 p.m., Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke

**Contact:** Ellen Holtman, 389-1514

**Saturday, April 11, noon - 2:30 p.m. "Potting Party"** at **Michael Belcher's** house. We need about 10 or 12 volunteers to help us pot young plants for our only fundraising sale that takes place Saturday, May 9. We will serve food and drinks afterward. 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:** Noon, Michael Belcher's house, in the Greater Raleigh Court Neighborhood, 2611 Northview Drive, Roanoke, VA 24015

**Contact:** Michael Belcher, 540-989-6384. There will be an alternative/backup date of Saturday, April 18.

**Monday, April 27, 7 p.m. Chapter Meeting:** "Native Bees" by **James Wilson**, Virginia Agriculture Extension Agent. Jim will cover pollination and some of the many native bee species we have locally. With so much focus on honey bees (non-native by the way), it will be interesting to see what nature has to offer here in our own back yard.

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

**Contact:** Ellen Holtman, 389-1514

**Saturday, May 9, 9 a.m. – 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. Please contact **Michael Belcher, 540-989-6384**, if there are questions in pricing. Plan to arrive around 7:00 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 18, 7 p.m. (date changed to third Monday due to Memorial Day being the fourth) Chapter Meeting:** To be announced.

**Meet:** 7 p.m., Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke

**Contact:** Ellen Holtman, 389-1514

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.





## 2020 Spring Field Trips



**Saturday, March 28, 9 a.m., Arcadia** Arcadia is one of the BRWS's old standbys. This area, located in the Jefferson National forest offers a beautiful stream, a waterfall and easy hiking. It offers an early bird view of many of spring's earliest wildflower species. Spring beauty, toothwort, hepatica, trout lily, and many others are regularly spotted here. Many are in great abundance. Be prepared for cool weather, wear sturdy hiking boots, bring rain gear and water. We will walk short distances, but sometimes the footing is tricky. We will be done before lunch.

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

**Meet:** 9 a.m. at Bojangles in the Botetourt Commons off U.S. 220 in Daleville

**Saturday, April 4, 9 a.m., Wildwood Park, Radford, Virginia with John Kell** Some of the plants that might be in bloom are: hepatica, spicebush, bloodroot, toothwort, Dutchman's breeches, large-flowered bellwort, perfoliate bellwort, dwarf larkspur, and large-flowered trillium. Most of the trail is paved. Some of it is slightly hilly, but short. Total walking will be about 1.5 miles. This is a new field trip for our chapter. The plant cover rivals that of Greenhill Park. If people are interested, we can also go to the RU campus to see the **national champion White Basswood**, see article on page 8. John Kell has degrees in Botany from Marshall University (B.S.) and Stephen F. Austin State University (M.S.). He has taught at RU since 1992, mostly teaching introductory biology and human anatomy and physiology.

**Leader:** Terry Lauver 540-685-4173 or tl1945@cox.net. Bring rain gear, lunch and sturdy shoes.

**Meet:** 9 a.m. at the Orange Market on Thompson Memorial Blvd. in Salem off I81 Exit 141 at intersection of Va. 419 and Va. 311. Terry Lauver will lead the caravan to Radford.

**Thursday, April 9, 10 a.m., Green Hill Park, Salem, VA** Green Hill is the Roanoke Valley's prize when it comes to spring flowers. Drive into the park and go as far as the road will take you. There is a parking lot and a picnic pavilion there. The trail is behind the pavilion. See large flowered trillium as you've never seen it before. Canada violet, toothwort, spring beauty and more are found in great abundance. Virginia bluebells is found along the Roanoke River. The walking is short and easy.

**Leaders:** Ellen Holtman 540-389-1514, Lou Greiner, Gail McFarland, Linda Ardrey, and Linda Harrison. Bring water, rain gear and sturdy shoes.

**Meet:** 10 a.m. 2699 Harborwood Road, Salem, VA 24153. Drive into Green Hill Park and go as far as the road will take you. There is a parking lot and a picnic pavilion there.

**Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m., Falls Ridge Nature Conservancy, Preserve leader John Ford.** Falls Ridge has been preserved for its unique geologic formations and rare flora and fauna. The twin falls are ever changing due to the eroding and depositing of limestone contained in the stream that forms the falls. The travertine stream with stair step formations is rare in this area. It is home to a beautiful cove hardwood forest with a spectacular display of flowers. Some of the floral species are Ohio buckeye, bladdernut, three leaved sumac, golden seal, hepatica, spring beauty and larkspur. It is home to the rare Addison's leather flower as well. This area can rival the Smokies for the concentrations of flowers. We will walk a short trail (about a mile) that is hilly in some places, but not extremely steep. Wear sturdy boots, a walking stick may be helpful, bring water, rain gear and snack. A camera is a good idea here. Arrive early to buy snacks, gas and for restroom break.

**Guide:** to site is Michael Belcher 989-6384 or michael.belcher@roanoke.com. **The carpool will leave promptly at 9:20 a.m.**

**Meet:** 9:05 am at the Orange Market on Thompson Memorial Blvd. in Salem off I-81 Exit 141 at intersection of Va. 419 and Va. 311.

**Saturday, April 25, noon, Quarry Gardens** (page 7 photo). This hidden gem is privately owned by Bernice and Armand Thieblot, members of our Virginia Native Plant Society. In 1991 they bought 600 acres of post-industrial property in Nelson County and over two decades they have devoted finances and labor to cleaning it up and developing 40 acres around the old soapstone quarries into a beautiful native garden. The loose chain of 34 designed Galleries along the main trails includes prairies, butterfly and pollinator gardens, an amended wetland, three vernal pools, barrens, a fern gully, and a waterside talus. In all, nearly 50,000 plants of 198 species have been integrated into the galleries. We will take an easy one-mile hiking trail covered with wood chips, with benches along the way and time to enjoy the views. Read more: quarrygardensatschuyler.org

**Leader:** Ellen Holtman has arranged a guided tour for 20 people, **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**, Call Ellen Holtman 540-389-1514

**Meet:** noon, Orange Market on 311 at 419 to carpool the two hours to the site. Please bring lunch, water bottles and snacks. Wear hiking boots or sturdy walking shoes, pack rain gear and a sun hat, and bring a walking stick if you think you might need one. Admission is free, but the suggested donation is \$10 per person. There is a 20-person limit.

**Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m., Claytor Nature Center** The Claytor Nature Center is a natural preserve operated by the University of Lynchburg. It features wetlands, hardwood forests and a variety of interesting botanical species including native orchids. We will be led by Professor Nancy Cowden of the school's biology department. Walking will be easy.

**Leader:** Butch Kelly 540-384-7429 or butch2410@msn.com. Bring boots, lunch, water and rain gear.

**Meet:** 9 a.m. at the Kroger off U.S. 460 (Orange Ave) near the car wash.

**Saturday, May 9, Chapter Plant Sale, 9 a.m. – noon, Virginia Western Community College Arboretum** (See details on pages 5 and 8.)

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.



# RECORD-SETTING TREE CALLS RADFORD UNIVERSITY CAMPUS HOME

Report by Sam Wall, *The Roanoke Times* May 28, 2019

Photos by Matt Gentry, *The Roanoke Times*

A national championship trophy is rooted in the heart of the Radford University campus. The white basswood sitting across the quad from McConnell Library is the largest known tree of its kind in the country, according to American Forests, an organization dedicated to advancing the conservation of forests.

It is one of two national champions in Virginia, according to the group's website. The other is a mulberry white in Albemarle County.

Trees are scored based on three different measures: height, circumference and canopy width. A tree gets one point for every foot of height, one point for every inch of circumference, and 1/4 point for every foot of canopy width.



John Kell [pictured] — a Radford University biology professor who has been cataloging and mapping the campus' trees since the early 2000s — said the basswood is approximately 91 feet tall and has a circumference of 15 1/2 feet. It garnered 296 points when it was named a national champion in September, 30 points more than the tree at a botanical garden in Missouri that it unseated.

The white basswood is indigenous to Southern Appalachia and the Midwest along the Ohio River, he said. Kell said that before last summer, the tree hadn't been measured since 2008. At that point, it was a runner-up to the champion. But a few years later, varieties of trees started to be recognized in addition to species.

In the summer of 2018, Eric Wiseman, a Virginia Tech professor who specializes in urban forestry and curates Virginia's Big Tree site, contacted Kell and said he'd like to remeasure the tree, as they like to do that every 10 years, Kell wrote in an email. "Wiseman thought it had a possibility of being a national champion," Kell wrote. He was right. In September the tree was given the distinction of national champion for its variety and will remain so until a bigger tree comes along.

Wiseman said the tree's growth will slow as it ages but that it likely will get a bit bigger both in height and width. Kell said it is likely that there's a bigger version of the tree out there somewhere, but believes the tree will retain its honor for the foreseeable future.

"It's a good feeling. It's nice for Radford to have something like this. There are a lot of people interested in this," he said.



## QUARRY GARDENS Field Trip Saturday, April 25, noon, (please see page 6)





# Volunteers and Plants Needed For the Plant Sale

Contact: Ellen Holtman 540-389-1514 or Michael Belcher 540-989-6384

**We** need lots of volunteers for this year's plant sale, so please mark your calendar for **Saturday, May 9, 9 a.m. – noon.**

We have ordered plants from three local wholesale nurseries and an online supplier. *If you want us to order a particular species, please let me know right away.* Most of the plants are in gallon or quart containers, but some are in six-packs and will need to be re-potted. **The Potting Party will be Saturday, April 11, noon – 2:30 p.m. with an alternative/backup date of Saturday, April 18.** The location is Michael Belcher's house, 2611 Northview Drive, SW, Roanoke, VA 24015, 540-989-6384. We also need volunteers with trucks, vans or trailers to take plants home for babysitting until the sale.

As always, we need donations from your gardens at home, too. With "homegrown" plants, we keep 100% of the sale price! Specifically we need volunteers to bring Mayapples, Jack in the Pulpits, Lily of the Valley, Wild Ginger, Spiderwort, Christmas ferns, Ostrich ferns, Wood ferns, Celandine Wood Poppies, Mints, Butter and Eggs, Herb Robert, Galax and any sun loving plants that you can donate.

Please "save the date" for the sale on **May 9.** We'll have plenty of jobs for everybody that day!

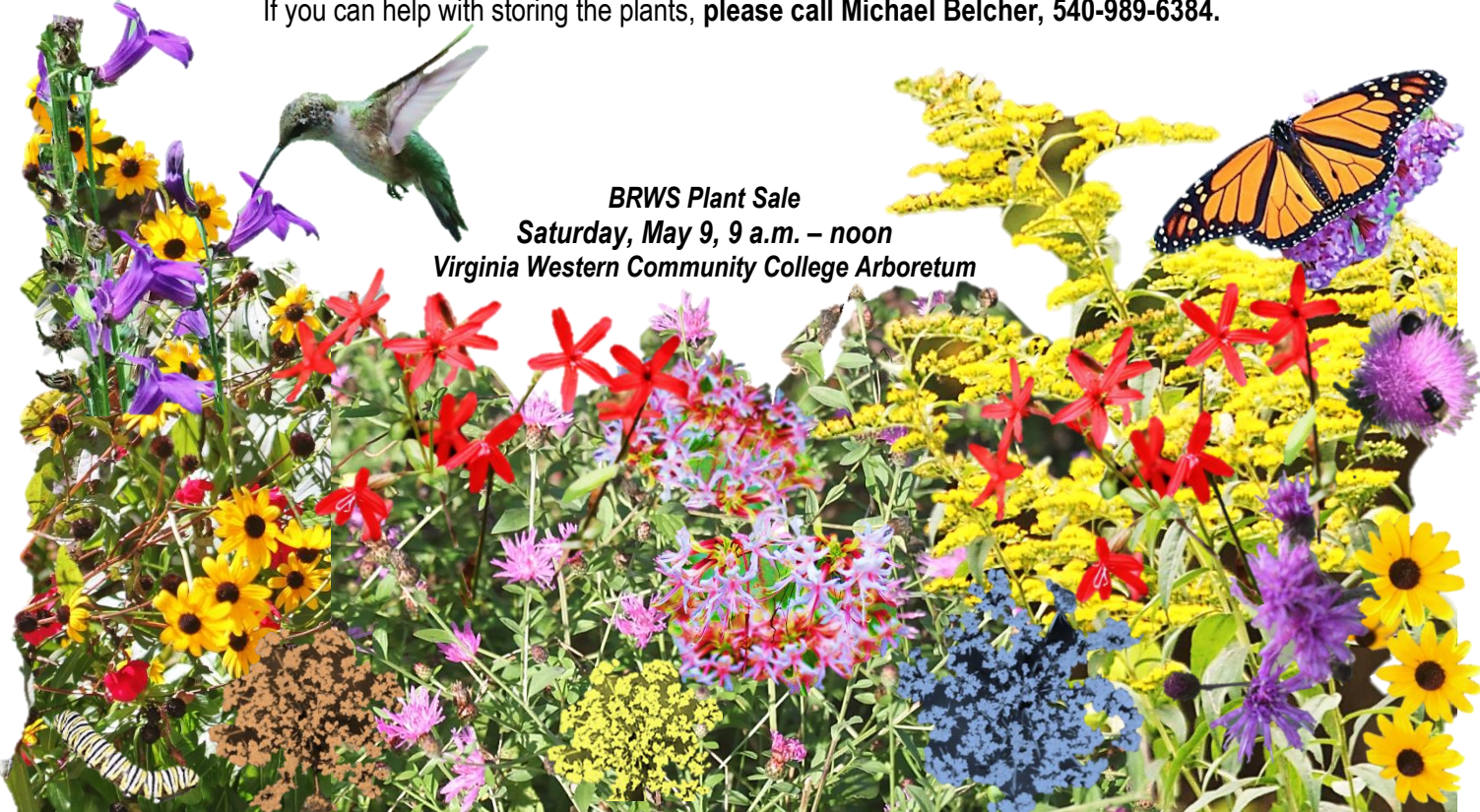
## Instructions for storing the plants at home

**P**lants **SHOULD NOT** be stored indoors, on picnic tables, on shelves or on 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, 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 volunteer to store the plants **ONLY** if you have your own way of transporting them from the potting party to your house 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.

If you can help with storing the plants, **please call Michael Belcher, 540-989-6384.**



**BRWS Plant Sale**  
**Saturday, May 9, 9 a.m. – noon**  
**Virginia Western Community College Arboretum**



# BRWS LOSES TWO LONGTIME MEMBERS

*Fondly remembered by Butch Kelley*

## **Frieda Toler**

Frieda died on Dec. 24, 2019. Frieda was married to Paul Martin who gave the ultimate sacrifice for his country in Korea. She had one son and a grandson. Frieda was married to a local photographer Bobby Toler. Frieda was 89 years old at the time of her death.

Frieda was a longtime member of the Roanoke Orchid Society and the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society. As a matter of fact, she was a charter member of our chapter. Frieda took meticulous notes on every field trip she participated in. Her notes on where certain flower species are found locally and even in West Virginia are still used in field trip planning today. She served as secretary and historian for many years. She and her husband, Bobby, presented lots of programs over the years to our chapter. Frieda would narrate programs using Bobby's slides. Bobby and Frieda were well known for their study of orchids. Bobby was a master photographer and designer. He designed our chapter's logo which is still used today. They traveled far and wide to see and photograph orchids. We can thank the Toler's for our Blue Ridge Wildflower chapter being what it is today. We will miss you Frieda.



## **Dawn Gill**

Dawn passed away on Dec. 20, 2019. She was 92 years old. Dawn was the widow of Frank Gill. She left behind a daughter and a son and four grandchildren. Dawn earned a bachelor's degree in biology at Mary Washington and a master's in Botanical Ecology from Radford University. Along the way she was trained as a physical therapist, which she used while serving in the U.S. Army. Dawn's love was biology and wildflowers. She spent 26 years as a biology professor at Virginia Western Community College.

Dawn was very fond of wildflowers and the VWCC Arboretum. She belonged to several bird clubs, the Horticultural Club, BRWS, VNPS, the Bedford Historical Society and several other groups.

Dawn had a great sense of humor and always greeted folks with a smile. She will be missed.





## Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

6487 Shingle Ridge Road  
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 \_\_\_\_\_