

THE DECLARATION

FALL 2024



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Join the Fall Fun at our Annual Potting Party to Help Prep for the Spring Sale

By: Phil Stokes, Plant Sale Chair

Join us for the Fall Potting Party and help us prepare over a hundred native plugs and bare roots for next April's Annual Native Plant Sale! Bring a friend and meet us at Fran Boninti's home on **Sunday, October 13th at 1:30 PM**. In case of rain, the event will be rescheduled to Monday, October 14th at 9:00 AM.

Fran's garden oasis, located at 2505 Holkham Drive in the Ivy area, is the perfect spot for this event. There is no need to sign up in advance—just drop by! We will have a dedicated potting area set up beside her stunning gardens, and experienced members will be on hand to guide you through the potting process. Don't worry if you can't make it right at 1:30, you're welcome whenever you can join.

We will be potting around ten plug species and eleven bare root species, including beloved varieties like milkweed, as well as some exciting new additions like jack-in-the-pulpit and Dutchman's breeches.

Pots, trays, and labels will be provided, but if you have extra 4" square pots (either deep or shallow) or small gardening shears, feel free to bring them along. To ensure we get everything planted, we need a strong turnout, so come enjoy a relaxing fall afternoon with fellow plant enthusiasts. Together, we'll help supply much-needed native plants for our spring sale. We can't wait to see you there!

Bess Murray's Book *From Worms to Whales* Now Available

By: Mary Lee Epps, Chapter Member

Bess Murray's new book, *From Worms to Whales: Natural History Notes*, is now available on Amazon, offering a deep dive into the fascinating world of plants and animals. Illustrated with color photos of the species discussed, the book comes in a Kindle edition for \$9.95 and a paperback for \$38.95. Best of all, all royalties benefit the Ivy Creek Foundation.

The book features a selection of Bess's five-minute weekly radio broadcasts from WTJU, UVA's radio station, which aired from the early 1990s through 2005. While Murray's notes cover a broad range of natural history, the first of the five sections is dedicated to the plant kingdom. You can even preview some of the plant photos she describes on the Ivy Creek Foundation website.

From Worms to Whales is packed with fascinating facts for plant enthusiasts. For example, you can read how the origin of today's eating apples was tracked to a particular string of mountains in Asia where they began as inedible fruits with edible seeds. There is a Natural History Note on Monkshood (*Aconitum*), a beautiful native flower growing in the mountains and Piedmont of Virginia that has an artichoke-like root that is deadly poisonous. White snake root is another innocent-looking native wildflower that causes milk sickness, believed to have killed Abraham Lincoln's mother. You can also learn about some of our native trees, for example, Osage orange, black locust, and persimmons.

For those who want to explore the book firsthand, a copy is available in the Ed Building Library at Ivy Creek.

Chapter Events & Opportunities

The Jefferson Chapter invites you to attend our Wednesday Chapter Meetings and to join field trips and plant walks hosted throughout the fall. Chapter meetings are held at the Ivy Creek Natural Area Educational Buildings. For plants walks at Ivy Creek, meet at the kiosk. All plant walks are free and open to the public.

Ivy Creek Native Plant Walks

Saturday, 9:00-11:30 am, Oct. 12, 2024 – led by Phil Stokes

On October 12 (note change from third Saturday) join Phil Stokes, Jefferson Chapter Virginia Native Plant Society member, to learn more about identifying Ivy Creek's trees in early autumn. As well as bark and leaf shape, fall color, fruits, and nuts can all be useful clues at this time of year.

Chapter Meetings

Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 7:00-8:30 | Chapter Meeting Topic: Native Perennials for Wildlife: Design and Care

Lily Fox-Bruguiere was born and raised in Charlottesville and has spent her professional career in the world of gardens. Lily worked as a gardener for four years in New York City, receiving her Certificate in Horticulture from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in 2004, then came back to Charlottesville to work in the gardens at Monticello for several years. After receiving her master's degree at UVA in Architectural and Landscape History in 2010, she returned to Monticello for a ten-year position as the Garden and Outreach Coordinator at the Center for Historic Plants. Lily started her own garden design business in 2022 to create naturalistic gardens featuring predominantly native plants that are thoughtful, abundant, functional, and beautiful for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 7:00-8:30 | Chapter Meeting Topic: Native Meadows: Possibilities and Pitfalls

Brian Yoder served as a CH-47 pilot in the U.S. Army then earned a Master of Natural Resources degree from Virginia Tech and returned to work in the natural world where being a plant nerd was more beneficial. Time spent in traditional horticulture, turf care, community garden management, and small-scale agriculture have helped shape a desire to incorporate natural systems into the cultivated landscape rather than excluding and separating them. Brian has been managing the Natural Resources Department at JW Townsend Landscapes since February 2020, and holds certifications in Commercial Pesticide Application, Permaculture Design, and Prescribed Fire Management.

Potting Party

Sunday, October 13, 1:30 PM | Fran Boninti's House

The Potting Party will take place Sunday, October 13th at 1:30 PM. In case of rain, the event will be rescheduled to Monday, October 14th at 9:00 AM. Fran Boninti will be hosting the event at her gardening haven in the Ivy area at 2505 Holkham Drive. Sign up is not required.

Partner Events & Announcements

Charlottesville Invasive Plant Partnership (CHIPP)- Driven by the Community, for the Community “Inspiring Awareness and Action to Protect Native Species & Tree Canopy”

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of city staff, Charlottesville is making a big effort to combat invasive species in local neighborhoods to protect the urban tree canopy. This initiative, currently in its early stages, is a collaborative effort involving Parks & Recreation, the Office of Sustainability, and local partners such as Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards, Blue Ridge PRISM, Charlottesville Tree Commission, ReLeaf, and Rivanna Conservation Alliance. Together, as CHIPP (Charlottesville Invasive Plant Partnership), they are taking a neighborhood-focused approach to tackle a highly visible issue: saving trees from invasive vines.

Charlottesville declining tree canopy is now less than 40%, and invasive vines pose a significant threat to the resilience of the remaining urban canopy. Managing these vines to protect the tree canopy is vital for meeting goals related to public health, energy conservation, climate sustainability, stormwater management, water and air quality, and environmental justice. While the city has long been treating invasive vines on public property, most of the urban tree canopy is privately owned, making it essential for city staff to share resources and collaborate with community members.

CHIPP's targeted approach focuses on surveying neighborhoods to identify properties with trees at risk from invasive vines and then working at the street level to educate and train on low-tech, common-sense vine cutting techniques. Over the next year, the goal is to pilot the program with one or two neighborhoods. With 80% of Charlottesville consisting of small private lots, this work to mobilize community driven efforts is critical for making a visible and long-term impact in protecting tree canopy in our local area.

To learn more and get involved reach out to Steve Gaines (gainess@charlottesville.gov).

Piedmont Master Gardeners

To view full schedule of fall events visit the website at <https://piedmontmastergardeners.org/events/>.

Botanical Garden of the Piedmont

To view full schedule of fall events and to sign up for the newsletter, visit the website at <https://piedmontgarden.org>.

Blue Ridge Prism

Join Blue Ridge Prism at a virtual event or stop by and see Blue Ridge PRISM staff and volunteers in-person. Visit their website for a full calendar of fall events: <https://blueridgeprism.org/events-calendar/>.

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 ecosystems and biodiversity for purposes of enjoyment, enlightenment, sustainable use, and our own very survival.

The Jefferson Chapter serves the counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, Orange, as well as the City of Charlottesville.

Submissions of articles, events, photographs, and other information of interest to the chapter are welcome. Please submit them by email to Annemarie Abbondanzo at: annemarie@ecosystems-services.us with the subject line "Newsletter Submission."

Virginia Native Plant Society, Jefferson Chapter

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Conserving Wild Flowers
and Wild Places
