

THE DECLARATION

SPRING 2024



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Meet the New Chapter President, Carol Carter

By: Annemarie Abbondanzo, Newsletter Editor

This past year, the VNPS Jefferson Chapter welcomed Carol Carter as the new Board President. A few weeks ago, I caught up with Carol to interview her for the newsletter. She generously answered all my questions about life and native plants. We covered everything from her personal journey to her motivations for taking on the role. Read the full interview inside.

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You're Invited! Spring Potting Party & Annual Plant Sale

By: Phil Stokes, Plant Sale Chair

You're invited to join us Thursday at 1:30 PM on March 28th (rain date Tuesday April 2nd) at Full Tilt Farm to help prepare for the upcoming Jefferson Chapter's Annual Native Plant Sale on April 28th at Ivy Creek.

No special skills required, volunteers will be trained in soil mixing, potting plugs, labeling, and storing flats. Soil, pots, trays, and label making supplies will be provided. This is an opportunity to help provide affordable, native plants to the local community while raising funds for the Chapter. Please join us for this annual tradition, and don't hesitate to bring a friend.

We'll be hosted by Chapter Member, William Hamersky at the beautiful Full Tilt Farm (70 Taylors Gap Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903. Only 2.0 miles west of the I-64 Ivy Exit #114). The event is casual, with volunteers free to tailor their schedule around other commitments.

Other ways to contribute to the success of the sale include donating plants, potting supplies, and volunteering the weekend of the sale. Customer favorites that we need divisions or volunteers of include spring beauty, rue anemone, celandine poppy, Jacob's ladder, green and gold, Robin's plantain, star chickweed, golden ragwort, cardinal flower, blue flag iris, white wood aster, wild blue phlox, wild ginger, foam flower, and Christmas fern. Other natives are welcome – surprise us.

Also on our wish list are twinleaf, ginseng, Jack-in-the-pulpit, goldenseal, and bloodroot. Any container grown natives that are ready to move into sale pots are also welcomed. Please keep in mind that the divisions need to be of sufficient size to become sale ready in 30 days as a \$5 plant. As always, if you have compact pruning shears bring 'em! And we are always in need of 4-inch square pots short and tall.

Thinking about getting involved? Have questions? Contact Phil Stokes, Plant Sale Chair to learn more (philipfs@embarqmail.com | 434.293-4217).

Notes from the Board

We're thrilled to announce the newest addition to our Board! Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Ted Coates, who has graciously accepted the role of Treasurer.

Ted has served as Treasurer for a number of non-profits, including our sister organization, the Ivy Creek Foundation. He brings a wealth of knowledge and a passion for conservation to our organization. We are thrilled to have our finances being handled by Ted's capable hands! And we wish our outgoing Treasurer, Brittney Marshall, all the best in her future endeavors.

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 spring and summer. Chapter meetings are held on Zoom or at the Ivy Creek Natural Area Educational Buildings, as indicated. For plants walks at Ivy Creek, meet at the kiosk.

Field Trips

To register and for details, email dorothy.carney@gmail.com

March 16 – James River State Park near Gladstone in Buckingham County. A day trip to be led by John Holden. Diverse habitat including rich bottomland with lush spring wildflowers. A birding hotspot. Signup required.

April 10 - Walton Tract on the Cowpasture River near Millboro in Bath County. To be led by John Holden. Google-reviewed as “Nature at its finest”, Walton Tract has an abundance of birds, a variety of habitats, and best of all: lots of wildflowers. John has seen colonies of twinflower in prior years. Signup required.

April 16 - The Quarry Gardens at Schuyler in Nelson County. To be led by founder Bernice Thieblot. As their website eloquently says, these gardens are “a landscape carved by industry, renewed by nature.” And we might add, lovingly rewilded by the Thiebolts with the expert aid of Devin Floyd. Come see! Signup required.

May 1 – A private property on the East Branch of the Rivanna River

Limit of six cars, restricted to Jefferson Chapter VNPS members (and their carpool guests).

A casual May Day event especially friendly for small children and senior citizens!

Seven acres of floodplain with trails lined with labelled wildflowers, plus a tiny “museum”. Signup required.

May 4 - Wintergreen Plant Propagation

Limit of twelve visitors, restricted to Jefferson Chapter VNPS members

A tour of the Foundation's greenhouse and propagation areas. Signup required.

May 9 – 9:30 AM - Botanical Garden of the Piedmont

A plant geek visit focusing on botany and plant identification. Bring a loupe!

No registration required.

June 22– 10 AM - Botanical Garden of the Piedmont

An inclusive visit welcoming to families. A general introduction to the Botanical Garden.

No registration required.

Chapter Meetings

[Wednesday, March 13, 7:00-8:30](#) | Chapter Meeting Topic: The Policy & Practice of Stream Restoration (Zoom Meeting)

Rod Simmons is a longtime contributor to the US National Vegetation Classification and has performed hundreds of wetlands and stream assessments. He is a Research Associate with the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, and is the Natural Resource Manager and Plant Ecologist for the City of Alexandria. Rod's background is in biology, geology, and ecology. He has been involved with many stream and wetlands restoration projects in the greater DC region from stream geomorphology and geohydrology to ecological assessments and post-construction plantings.

Plants Walks at Ivy Creek

Meet at the Ivy Creek Kiosk at 9:00 AM for chapter member led plants walk.

March 23 - Mary Lee Epps (4th Saturday)

April 20 - Dorothy Carney

May 18 - Mary Lee Epps

June 15 - Tana Herndon

July 20 - Dorothy Carney

August 17 - to be determined

September (14 or 28) - Tana Herndon (not 3rd Saturday, to be determined)

October 19 - Phil Stokes

November 16 - Nancy Weiss

Tabling Events

We invite you to volunteer this spring and summer at native plant tabling events. Events aim to promote the importance of native plants in sustaining local ecosystems and biodiversity. As a volunteer, you will play a crucial role in engaging with attendees, sharing valuable information about native plants, and inspiring others to embrace sustainable gardening practices.

No prior experience is necessary – just bring your enthusiasm and willingness to learn! This is a fantastic opportunity to contribute to our community's environmental efforts and connect with like-minded individuals. Tabling events happen every couple of months. If you are interested in signing up for an on-call list, please email Carol Carter at rcarter112@aol.com

Potting Party

The Potting Party will take place on March 28, 2024 (rain date April 2) at 1:30 PM. Hosted by William Hammersky at Full Tilt Farm (470 Taylors Gap Road, Charlottesville) about 10 minutes west of Charlottesville. Easy to get to, only one turn to make after getting off I-64 at Ivy Exit. Volunteers may bring plant divisions for potting but need to be robust enough to be sellable by April 28th.

Annual Native Plant Sale

Choose from over 50 species of native perennials, trees, shrubs, wetland plant including spring wildflowers and groundcovers as well as mid/late season flowering species. The plant sale will be held at Ivy Creek Natural Area on Sunday, April 28, 2024.

VNPS 2023 Annual Workshop

Register now for the 2024 Annual Workshop, "Protecting Plants in Virginia Region by Region". Held via zoom on Thursday, March 21, 2024, and Thursday, March 28, 2024. Learn more and register at <https://vnps.org/events/vnps-2024-annual-workshop-zoom/>

Member Contributions

The 2024 Field Trip Kickoff - James River State Park

By: Dorothy Carney, Field Trip Chair



Photo of the Park from a walk in April 2023. Photo By John & Jeannie Holden.

What a great way to kick off our 2024 VNPS Field Trips! We will take a day trip to a prime site for spring ephemerals under the guidance of expert James River advocate, John Holden.

On Saturday March 16 we'll be led by John Holden at the James River State Park in Buckingham County. As a group, we will walk two trails with a lunch break, spending about 4.5 hours at the park.

The walking will be easy with the exception of an optional ten-minute spur with steep descent & ascent.

First, we will walk out and back on the Cabell Trail, a little past the Tye River overlook, featuring a path on the James River floodplain abundant with Spring wildflowers.

Next, we will drive a short distance to Dixon Landing and walk five minutes to the base of riverside cliffs.

Then we will drive to Green Hill Pond, have lunch, and walk a 1.25-mile loop beside the James River and back along the edge of a hardwood bluff.

There will be a variety of habitat with rich flora and fauna. The first zebra swallowtails of the year may be seeking the paw-paws. This state park is a birding hotspot and has resident eagles. Photo ops galore.

Note, there is a small fee (\$5.00) to enter the park. To register and for carpool planning, email Dorothy Carney at dorothy.carney@gmail.com

Intertwining

By: Nicola McGoff, Chapter Member

It's that quiet time of year again, though today the wind is noisily buffeting the branches. Inside the woods it is still. The birds are less vocal. The mammal feet are silent. The snakes are still cold-blood sleeping. Even the babbling brook is silent under a thin icy blanket. I move slowly through the woods trying to stay present within this living room that surrounds me.

The trees have been bare for months now with light streaming in through the canopy. This leaflessness illuminates the American beech off in the distance with its watercolor pale brown leaves, curled tight. The one small hemlock nearby consuming all the light with its dark foreboding foliage. The light and the dark. The white pines flash bright green up high, overhead. Their russet orange bark still sticky with last summer's sap. The mass of trees sway, open armed, in the sharp cold wind. Their canopies blending in a cluster of lines and angles, fractal shapes repeated against the bright blue winter sky.

The vines are clearly visible now upon the tree trunks and in the canopy. Roping, twining, twisting creatures -- using other beings to advance their own height. The hairy poison ivy vine clings tight to the trunk but seldom seeks so much light as to over top the tree. The ropey grape vine hangs loose from the branches way up overhead. Is it true they hitch a ride skyward on the limbs of saplings and so end up swaying freely in the wind like this? The English ivy bunches up around the tree trunk mid-way to the sky. Shiny, green winter leaves sucking up sunlight while they can. It tires the tree out, taking resources from soil, sky, and bark. My feet snag on the Japanese honeysuckle that runs across the forest floor. Clearly visible in winter. The adjacent ancient patch of running cedar holds its own ground and the honeysuckle turns away, seeking an easier path. A small area of vinca spreading out slowly shows the past human use of these woods -- a homestead, a graveyard?

Then I come to the tattered edge of these woods, the sad edge. The disturbed place where vines fight for dominance and mature trees succumb under their fray. In this winter afternoon I cannot identify them all as they intertwine and co-mingle -- some mixture of last year's kudzu over the top of dormant porcelain berry with a hint of Asiatic bittersweet.

Dead branches stick out at odd angles like broken limbs, and it doesn't take any ecological knowledge to feel the imbalance here. This heavily curtained edge darkens the woods, creating a vertical face of light interference. It diminishes the frilly edge that would be in this place; the scrub-shrub forest edge that should run out gleefully to meet the field. This dark curtain is a slow-moving maw taking bites out of the forest. An imminent threat to the peaceful interior I love so much.

I turn away dispirited as this is not my land, therefore not my problem to address. But that doesn't feel right either. In this age of private land ownership and individualism, land stewardship for the communal good doesn't make it onto the cluttered to-do list. What if we could work together as a community, us humans? What if we knew the actual value, not just the cost, of saving what habitats we have left? What if saving the forest from the vine curtains had a quantified positive impact on our property price, on our planet's health? What impetus would it take to switch our minds to a collective-failure or collective-success mindset on this one blue planet of ours? Am I failing in this planet's stewardship if I sit by, knowing what I know, and allow my neighbors land to degrade like this?

This is just one of myriad problems that hurt my heart and head like this. Ecosystem degradation, climate change, biodiversity loss, mental health, childhood obesity, social media, gun violence..... These are all inextricably linked, all symptoms of the one disorder.

As we become more and more disconnected from our roots in the natural world, disconnected from our natural community, we struggle to thrive. We depend on each other, all of us beings -- all of us are a part of nature. Maybe I will call on my neighbor and ask if I can cut some of the vines for them; ask them to use their tractor to help mow the edge sometimes. Take some small steps towards communal good, reaching out a tendril of connection to my neighbors. Intertwining myself in this natural community of plant and human neighbors.



Volunteer Opportunities for the Ivy Creek Pollinator Garden

Article and Photos By: Tana Herndon, Membership Chair

Ivy Creek Pollinator Garden efforts are expanding into the Woodland Garden located in front of the Education Building and into the Bird Feeder Area -- and beyond!

The Woodland Garden behind the stone wall was established over twenty years ago by Jefferson Chapter member Phil Stokes using plants rescued from construction areas and plants from his own property. In the succeeding years, tree root competition, weeds, and soil type have caused nearly half of the wildflower species to disappear or languish. There has been success with Spreading Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium reptans*), Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), and White Wood Aster (*Eurybia divaricata*). The Pollinator Garden Committee has taken on the task of revitalizing the current Woodland Garden and expanding it to include the Bird Feeder Area. Last year, members of the Piedmont Bird Club started an area of woodland plantings for birds adjacent to the Bird Feeder Area; we hope that bird club members will continue to participate in this project with us.

Another new project is the creation of a groundcover garden under the Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*) just south of the Pollinator Garden. Oaks are keystone species that support numerous butterfly and moth caterpillars. Many of those caterpillars spend part of their life cycle in fallen leaves under the oaks. This project will replace the current sparse lawn grass that needs to be mowed with a "soft landing" area of sedges, ferns, and woodland wildflowers. There is an excellent blog post on soft landings at: <https://www.izelplants.com/blog/soft-landings/>.

Many early spring pollinators rely on woodland flowers. Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), which we hope to incorporate in these new plantings, is visited by early spring pollinators, including a mining bee, *Andrena erigeniae*, that specializes on Spring Beauty flowers. The new projects expand our efforts to support pollinators and birds and to demonstrate ways to aid both.

Additional volunteers will be needed to accomplish these projects! New areas will need to be weeded during the spring, summer, and fall; most new plantings will be made in the fall. The current Pollinator Garden is maintained by volunteers who participate in group workdays and/or weekly monitoring where they set their own schedule during their chosen week(s).

Skilled gardeners and gardening novices are welcome. If you might be interested in volunteering in an Ivy Creek Garden this year, please contact Tana Herndon at tbherndon@gmail.com to get on the email list for garden announcements.

Meet the New Chapter President, Carol Carter

By: Annemarie Abbondanzo, Newsletter Editor



Born in Germany and raised in Northern Virginia, Carol was introduced to gardening at an early age by her parents. She describes her mom, who grew flowers, tomatoes, and lettuces as a practical gardener. And her dad, with his seed starting station and propagations, as the experimenter. There wasn't much talk of native plants at that time and gardening started as more of a chore than a passion.

With a natural interest in the sciences, Carol moved from Northern Virginia to study nursing at UVA. She eventually went onto the Darden School to study health care management. Carol's career in nursing took her to Baltimore, Boston, and the United Kingdom, before landing her in Birmingham, Alabama, where she stayed for fifteen years. It was in Alabama, when she was volunteering for the Botanical Garden that her interest in native plants blossomed. The Cullowhee Native Plant Conference was held at the Birmingham Botanical Garden, and Carol was introduced to people and ideas that redefined her view of gardening. As Carol described, "I always liked ornamental gardening. But my feelings about what's pretty are so different. Now it's all about the connection with insects, birds, and amphibians".

Carol moved back to Charlottesville where she took on raising her three girls and stewarding the family farm. Through her work on the farm, she's been able support the local food movement, advocate for sustainable land practices, and help to reduce invasives in the County. Her general approach to invasives has been to start with the biggest and work incrementally. It's daunting, and hard work, but Carol says, "I'm not ready to live and let live with invasives. I still want to give our natives a fighting chance."

Before joining the VNPS Board, Carol was President of the Piedmont Botanical Garden. After a tour of the garden, her natural instinct to steward the land kicked in and she started working with volunteers to build trails and manage invasives. During her term, Carol worked on several initiatives including obtaining a land lease with the city and raising the garden's first three-million-dollar donation. The momentum and growth have continued, and there are many exciting activities and programming in the garden to check out.

When Mary Lee first approached Carol about joining the VNPS board, she felt intimidated by the wealth of knowledge in the organization and paused to consider whether she would be the best fit. Ultimately, in Carol's words, "when someone like Mary Lee asks you to be President, you don't say no. She's given so much".

Carol's work leading Board meetings and bringing on a new treasurer has made for a seamless transition. During her time as President, she hopes to grow member engagement and strengthen connections between local naturalists. In addition, she'll continue her work with the Dark Skies Movement to support nighttime pollinators. And like her father, Carol will experiment to find new ways to improve the Chapter's sustainability when it comes to sourcing local ecotypes, and best practices for potting and planting. "I think VNPS is a great organization. One of my goals is to get more members on walks and field trips, because they are such a great opportunity to connect and learn. I'd also like to grow local connection between VNPS, the Botanical Garden, Master Naturalists, and others."

To close, I asked Carol what advice she would give to someone just learning about native plants. And her response, "join the Jefferson Chapter of VNPS" was perfect.

Stewarding the Butternut Tree

Article and Photo By: Jill Trischman-Marks, Chapter Member

Few people are familiar with the butternut tree (*Juglans cinerea*). It is a large tree of the eastern forest related to Black Walnuts, with edible nuts and a history in furniture making. The reason it is not well-known today is because of its increasing rarity due to butternut canker disease. This disease was first found in the U.S. in 1967 but spread quickly throughout the butternut's range, causing bark-splitting, trunk die-back, and eventual death. In some areas, the butternut population has declined by 80%, and there is no cure for the disease.

Back in 2019 in the early days of stewarding the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont (BGP) site, two butternut trees were released from the invasive vines that were covering the trunks and limbs and completely obliterating their species and their significance. When the bark was exposed and their identity determined, Bartlett Tree Experts were on hand to make every effort to ensure the trees would not just survive but would thrive. All of the vines were cut off of the trees, the dead wood was removed, and a hole was cut into the canopy to allow for more sunlight. A few years later, these trees are now bearing fruit.

Tours of BGP include a stop at the butternut trees, and word of their existence made its way to T'ai Roulston who is a Curator at State Arboretum of Virginia and a Research Associate Professor at the University of Virginia.

In his role at the State Arboretum, T'ai is participating in a national program, the North American Fruit Nut Tree Crop Wild Relatives Working Group, to determine, for all agricultural native fruit and nut trees, how well they and their close relatives are represented in living botanical collections.

One of their goals is to strengthen the collection with specimens that come from particular wild areas to make sure that much of the genetic diversity of the species is represented in living collections. This will preserve a strong genetic pool to draw from in the face of disease and climate change.

For this program, butternut is T'ai's key species, and he is trying to acquire collections from a wide area in Virginia to grow at the Arboretum and to provide to other arboreta and botanical gardens. Because of butternut canker and butternut decline, he is also taking notes on tree health to see how the species does over time.

T'ai has visited BGP several times and has collected nuts from their trees. These nuts are now in outdoor stratification in preparation for spring germination. In return, the State Arboretum will provide BGP with seedlings when they are ready to plant trees. Thus far in his research, T'ai considers the more mature of the two butternut trees at BGP to be the largest and healthiest specimen he has encountered in his travels throughout the Commonwealth.

Free public tours are offered at BGP the first Saturday of the months March - November where you can see the trees and learn more about the Garden: www.piedmontgaredn.org If you know of wild locations for butternut in the mid-Atlantic region, please contact T'ai at tai.roulston@virginia.edu. Despite their recent decline, butternut trees are still found producing nuts in many areas. It is time to document, assess, and undertake efforts toward conserving them, and BGP is proud to be participating



Photo of a butternut tree provided by Jill Trischman-Marks, Chapter Member

What is Alpha-gal and why should I care?

By: Carol Carter, Chapter President

Alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) is a type of allergy that causes people to have an allergic reaction to mammal meat and sometimes other mammal products such as dairy and gelatin. It starts with a tick bite from the Lone Star tick, so named for a star shaped mark on its back.

Diagnosis isn't always easy because sometimes people don't realize they've had a tick bite, and often don't see the tick itself. It is also complicated because the reaction doesn't occur immediately after eating meat. Generally it takes place about 2-6 hours later. Symptoms vary widely and can include anaphylaxis, hives, nausea, diarrhea, difficulty breathing, dizziness or stomach pain. These symptoms vary from person to person.

So this is yet another reason to avoid tick bites. Always check yourself and clothing for ticks carefully after a session in the woods or fields. It is worth checking pets and gear too. DEET isn't really credited with being effective for ticks, but permethrin is effective, and some clothing is pretreated with it.

As someone who has been bitten several times with the Lone Star tick, I have personally given up on mammal meat. Fortunately, poultry and fish do not trigger any reaction. And we are all supposed to be eating lower on the food chain anyway, right? I call myself the Reluctant Vegetarian, because AGS started it all, but there is actually nothing reluctant about it anymore!

Be alert for unexplained reactions after eating mammal products if you think you may have been exposed. The UVA health system has excellent clinicians who can test for this!

Ode To Acer Rubrum

By: Dave Hirschman, Chapter Member

To the One in My Yard
I don't mean to be crass
But I raked near a ton of your biomass (off of my grass)
At that yellow scarlet time of year
Now I can see all of your bones
And the squirrels in their treetop homes
It is your genius that lets winter's solar gains
Spill through my southeast window panes
But on a hot summer Commonwealth day
You shield those panes from the rays
For this alone, you have my affections
I relish your love and protections

A Haiku for Spring

By: Marjie Giuliano, Chapter Member

Haikus can be fun!
Five syllables, then seven
And five again, then done!

Birds at the feeder
Greedy and ready for spring
Know it's coming soon

A haiku for spring
Can help get through the doldrums
Of dreary winter

Field Trips 101- A Brief Overview of Chapter Outings

By: Dorothy Carney, Field Trip Chair

Why be a member of the Virginia Native Plant Society (VNPS)?

One of the perks is access to hikes and outings sponsored by the Jefferson Chapter of VNPS. Some of these events are open to the general public, but events with limited capacity are member-only.

How can I find out about these events?

Hikes and outings are advertised in the chapter newsletter (which you are reading this article in!). Emails are periodically sent to members announcing events. Also, events are posted on the chapter's Facebook account. Monthly walks at Ivy Creek Natural Area are posted on their website and in their emails.

Do I have to register for hikes?

When an RSVP is required, it will be indicated in the advertisement. There is currently no registration required for the Saturday walks at Ivy Creek. Some events are restricted due to limited capacity. Registration enables better communication about details such as car-pooling and weather issues.

Is there a fee for hikes?

Generally not. If it is at a state or national park, there may be an entrance fee. Some locations are non-profits which would appreciate a voluntary donation.

Are beginners welcome?

Yes. Our field trips are learning experiences. There will be attendees with different interests and levels of knowledge.

If you have never been on a chapter outing, Ivy Creek Natural Area at 1780 Earlysville Rd, Charlottesville is a great place to start. The first walk of 2024 will be Saturday March 23 at 9 AM led by Mary Lee Epps. Walkers meet at the kiosk near the parking lot.

What if I have mobility issues?

Most of our hikes are moderate terrain. If the trail includes a steep grade, stream crossing or (gulp) a boulder scramble we will indicate that in advance. A hiking pole can be helpful.

Our outings are not suitable for a wheelchair or rollator unless that is explicitly stated in advance.

Can I bring my dog? My children? My grandma?

Dogs are not allowed on our hikes.

Children and other family members are welcome unless it is a limited capacity walk. Some walks will be more family-friendly than others and that will be noted in the ads.

Are there bathrooms?

In the case of Ivy Creek, yes, there are facilities at the trail head. Some of the places we go lack toilet facilities.

What if it rains?

If there is severe or threatening weather, the hike will be cancelled. If you registered, you will be notified by the host if there is a weather cancellation. Always use your best judgement.

How should I dress? What should I bring?

Closed shoes with good tread are recommended. Long pants are protective. It is wise to use a tick-repellent spray during tick season (April-September for sure). Lots of us wear sun hats.

Bring a water bottle. A snack is good. A hiking pole if it helps. Set your cellphone to "silent".

You don't need to bring a field guide or loupe, but they may be handy.

Can I forage?

Not on our walks. Also, our hike leaders will not be able to definitively tell you which mushrooms are safe to eat.

Partner Events

Volunteering in the Ivy Creek Pollinator Garden

Do you enjoy gardening with native plants or wish to learn about native plant gardening? The Ivy Creek Pollinator Garden could use your help! This native plant garden is maintained by volunteers who participate in group workdays and/or weekly monitoring where they set their own schedule during their chosen week(s).

Skilled gardeners and gardening novices are welcome. If you might be interested in volunteering in the garden this year, please contact Tana Herndon (tbherndon@gmail.com) to get on the email list for garden announcements.

Rivanna River Resilience Project

This spring, a community-based, collaborative effort called the “Rivanna River Resilience Project” is getting underway. Led by the Rivanna Conservation Alliance (RCA), the project aims to improve riparian forest health through the management of high-risk invasive plants and the planting of new native trees. This April and May, community volunteers will be needed to assist with field assessments in Riverview, Darden Towe, and Penn Park. Field assessments will involve walking through predetermined areas in the three parks and collecting information on native tree canopy and invasive plants. Interested volunteers should submit information to RCA at <https://forms.gle/pJE1v1MMKKmNitF47> and plan to attend a training either in the evening on April 11th, or in the afternoon on April 14th.

Botanical Garden of the Piedmont

Free public tours are offered at BGP the first Saturday of the months March - November where you can see the trees and learn more about the Garden: www.piedmontgaredn.org

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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Contact:

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Conserving Wild Flowers
and Wild Places



Photo of the Spring 2023 Potting Party courtesy of Phil Stokes, Plant Sale Chair