

# NEW RIVER

chapter

VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



## 2023 Report of Chapter Events and Activities

### Monthly Meetings (2nd Tuesday)

Feb 14	David Bellangue, Graduate Student, School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, VT	Propagating Native Plants
March 14	Jordan Coscia, School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, VT	Recognizing and Restoring Virginia's Northern Piedmont Grasslands.
April 11	Bernd Blossey, Natural Resources and the Environment, Cornell	Managing Deer
May 9	Victoria Ferguson, American Indian and Indigenous Community Center, VT	Indigenous Knowledge, Survival Practices of the Eastern Siouan
July 8	Chapter Potluck	Mid-County Park, Christiansburg
Sept 12	Grant Recipients	Floyd, Pulaski, Wythe Counties
Oct 10	Pika MacDougal, Restoration Ecology PhD student, VT	Small Whorled Pogonia - Fire and Fungi Wild Harvesting Traditions and Economies in the Forest Botanicals Region of Central Appalachia"
Nov 14	Shannon Bell, Dept of Sociology, VT	
Dec 12	Holiday Party, Member Slideshow	

### Field Trips

April 23	Blue Ridge Discovery Center	Troutdale, VA
April 29	Hungry Mother state park	Smyth county
5/6/2023	Wood Thrush Tour	Floyd county
May 27	Kiwanis Park	Montgomery County
April 30 and May 8	Falls Ridge Preserve	Montgomery county
June 24	Heritage Park in Pulaski with Friends of Peak Creek to see their pollinator gardens	Pulaski county
July 29	Liatris Fields	Montgomery county

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### **Tabling (Publicity) Events**

March 25	Bare Root Distribution	Blacksburg, Radford, Pulaski, Christiansburg
April 29	SEEDS spring festival	Blacksburg
June 10	Our native plant sale	Blacksburg
June 24	Our national forest appreciation day	Pandapas Pond
July 15	Peak Creek kids day	Pulaski, Heritage Park
August 19	Heritage Day (at our native plant sale)	Christiansburg
September 7	Wildwood Park Nature Lecture Series	Radford
October 7	Hokie Bugfest	Blacksburg
October 14	PawPaw festival	Radford

### **Ongoing Community Volunteer Work Days:**

Plant SWVA Natives Propagation Center at Hale Community Garden, Monthly, seasonal  
Old Growth Forest, Sunday and Tuesday from 3 to 5  
Montgomery Museum Garden, Monday, Wednesday and Fridays  
Kiwanis Park and Depot Park are as time allows.

### **Plant Distribution Efforts:**

Bare Root Distribution March 25, 2023  
Chapter Native Plant Sale June 10, 2023  
Christiansburg Heritage Day Plant Sale,  
Tree Tube Sale

### **Outreach/Diversity Efforts**

The New River Chapter represents a very large, rural, and hard-to-access area encompassing seven counties. One of the major challenges our chapter faces is representing and recruiting members outside of our most-populated county (Montgomery County). We commit to expanding field trip opportunities and advertising our zoom monthly meetings in our less represented and populated counties (ie. Bland, Carroll, Wythe...) to make native plant education more accessible to residents in the New River Valley. The Chapter is committed to other efforts to reach community members and groups so we better reflect the diversity in our region. We sponsor volunteer opportunities for adults and college students, have a presence at community festivals, run a grant program for school and public native plant gardens and collaborate with local organizations. We are committed to continuing and expanding our outreach efforts in 2024.