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## VNPS Chapters Across Virginia



# Reviving the Shenandoah Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

[Visit our webpage](#)



## Our First In-Person Event was a Success!

Our great thanks go to Lucy and Kean Ivey of Waynesboro for hosting about 35 of us for our first in-person gathering of the reviving Shenandoah Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society on August 2, 2022. Attendees included 7 guests from the original Shenandoah Chapter, who encouraged us greatly.

Potluck items included yummy gluten-free vegan dishes, a large platter of fried chicken, so many fresh summer salads, fruit platters, delicious desserts, and more. (By the way, someone wants to know who made the delicious lentil dish with caramelized onions in it?)

Thanks to Isaac Matlock, one of our botanists, who led guided tours of the native gardens.

Welcome to Katy Melton Simpson who volunteered to join our steering committee as prepare to formally petition VNPS to officially reinstate Shenandoah Chapter.

Pictured above is our inspiring brainstorming session. In addition to partnering with many other groups to create the Ridge and Valley Native Plant guide, participants suggested several other initiatives we can pursue:

-a fall native plant swap/sale (scheduled for Saturday, **October 15, 2-4 p.m. at Oakdale Park, Shelter 3, in Bridgewater**)

-work with VDOT in Rockingham County and surrounding areas to reduce mowing and instead leave milkweed standing,

- conduct a plant survey of the Shenandoah Mountain Crest,
- visit the Augusta Landfill Pollinator Garden and advocate for more of these kinds of projects,
- promote the sale of more native plants at local businesses,
- provide education about converting lawns to meadows,
- partner with farmers to improve wildflower management practices,
- conduct a garden tour of local native plant gardens,
- educate the public about how the Department of Soil and Water Conservation can help them with ecologically beneficial projects.

We've created a Google Doc where you can sign up for one or more of the above projects that interest you (click the gray button below). As a chapter, we'll prioritize the projects with the most energy behind them.

[SIGN UP FOR PROJECTS](#)



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Meiton Simpson (looking on) volunteered to join the steering committee.

## How to Officially Join as Members . . . and pay dues : )

Some of you have expressed a wish to officially join and pay dues. The best way to do that right now is to go to the Virginia Native Plant Society website and join there. You can select Shenandoah Chapter as your primary affiliation.

According to the VNPS bylaws, all dues go first to the state level of the Virginia Native Plant Society, then a portion of the dues (35%) are distributed to the designated chapter.

[Join VNPS](#)

## Register to Attend the VNPS Annual Meeting at Natural Bridge, Saturday, September 17, 2022

Speaking of the Virginia Native Plant Society, you are invited to join us for the Annual Meeting at Natural Bridge. Register at <https://vnps.org>. (Same gray button as above)



## Next Steps . . .

The Steering Committee has been hard at work behind the scenes studying the VNPS bylaws, writing our local chapter's bylaws, filing for 501(c)(3) status, and setting up a bank account. Now that all these administrative tasks are complete, we will be able to formally petition the Board of the Virginia Native Plant Society to (re-) establish us as a Chapter "with all the responsibilities and privileges that entails."

We will keep you updated!

Thanks for your support,


Anna Maria, Isaac, Elaine, Lora, and Katy



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