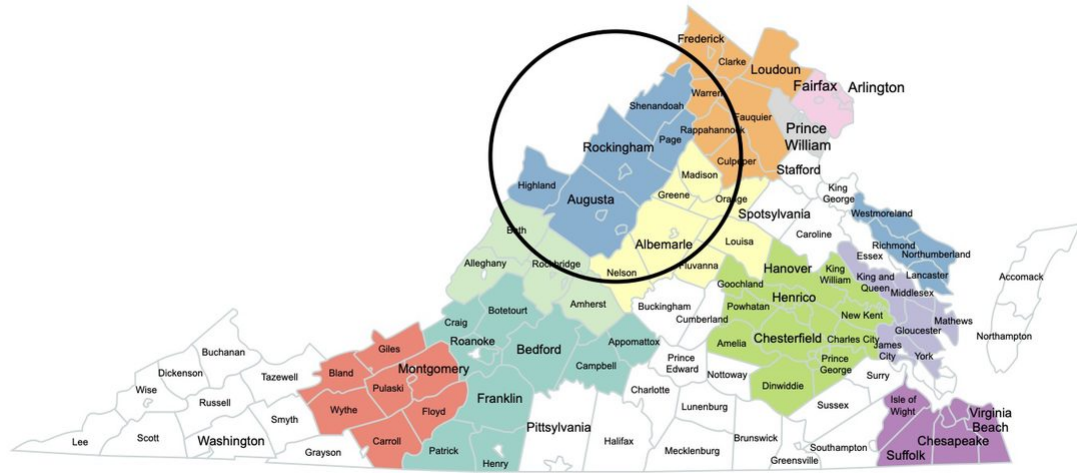


[View this email in your browser](#)



# November News

## Shenandoah Chapter, VNPS

### Great Responses!

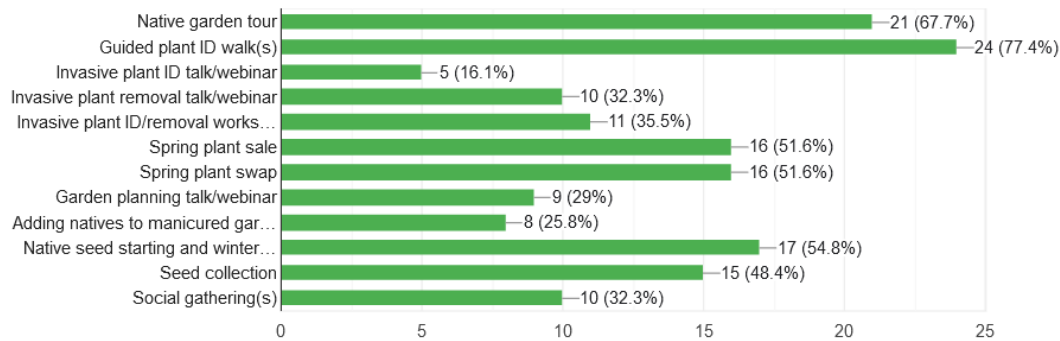
We are so pleased with all the responses to our activity interest survey, which is still open, and can be accessed by clicking the dark green button below.

Below that is an example of some of the information we've gathered. Thanks to everyone who has responded!



year or so?

31 responses



## Plant swap/sale a success!

The Shenandoah Chapter (v. 2.0) hosted our first plant swap in October in Bridgewater, where attendees (approximately 30-40 is our best guess) shared plants, seeds, and tips with fellow native plant enthusiasts. Contributions ranged from butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) seedlings to pawpaw seeds to all kinds of native flowers. Plants were also available for sale from [Little Bluestem](#), an Afton-based native plant nursery that propagates from local genotype native plant populations.

We're already looking forward to the next native plant swap & sale, which will be held April 22, 2023 at Earth Day Staunton. Someone asked if we'd have a food truck at the October event--we didn't get one for the October swap, but there will definitely be food trucks and plenty of other activities at this one!



Thanks to Lora Steiner for the write-up and photos.

## Homegrown National Park

Article and photo by Rae Kasdan

If you garden with native plants, consider putting your garden on the map at [Homegrown National Park](#) (HNP). Signing up just involves creating an account, entering your address, and estimating the size of your natural plantings.

What is HNP? In his book “Nature’s Best Hope”, published in 2020, Doug Tallamy summarizes the state of the land in the U.S., and it’s not pretty report. Among the shocking figures are that “we humans have taken 95% of the natural world and made it unnatural,” and closer to home, that the “Chesapeake Bay watershed has lost 100 acres of forest each day since 1985.” Tallamy’s first, and widely read, book “Bringing Nature Home” did a lot to advance the concept of native gardening and its role in maintaining biodiversity. In his second book, he is more explicit and urgent about what we gardeners can do to help wildlife. The national and other parks that have been set aside for wildlife are not enough land for the survival of many species. It seems that we needed an entomologist (Tallamy) to remind us that saving insect species is not just for their sake, but that biodiversity is a requisite for survival of human species.

gardening for nature is satisfying on a personal level, it's a bonus that we can also be part of an organization that is spreading the good word.

[Additional reading.](#)



Robin eating red chokeberries

## Future plans

We are exploring options for a winter walk of some sort. Thoughts and/or volunteers welcome!

## Mystery solved!

After our first get together, with all the great potluck food offerings, someone asked about the lentils with caramelized onions. Lora tracked down the [recipe!](#)

## Next newsletter

Elaine is going to take the month of December off but be on the lookout for much more news in the new year! As always, send your thoughts and ideas to her!

[Visit our webpage](#)



Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

Grow your business with  **mailchimp**