



Photo by Rae Kasdan of her heated water bowl and a cardinal.

The bowl is simply an outdoor heated dog dish!

Winter Tree ID Walk

Join Mary Jane Epps at Maple Flats on January 22nd at 2pm for a winter tree id walk! Back-up date, in the event of bad weather is January 29th. Please sign up at this [site](#). Mary Jane will talk about the broader ecology of the area as well as leading the hunt for interesting trees, like [shingle oak](#), *Quercus imbricaria*. Range map below.



We hope to limit participants to about 20. Please sign up at this [website](#) and consider carpooling.

Upcoming Events

- Blue Ridge PRISM [Workshops](#) on invasive plant ID and management.
- Piedmont Landscape Association's annual seminar. Thursday, February 2, 2023. The Paramount Theater, Charlottesville. Go to this [site](#) for registration and pricing.
- Workshop on plant propagation with Ben Kessler of Little Bluestem (date/time, TBD).

Headwaters Master Naturalist Annual Meeting

Our very own Isaac Matlock will be presenting to the annual meeting of the Headwaters Master Naturalists on January 28th.

From our president, Anna Maria Johnson, regarding an upcoming Zoom meeting for the Ridge and Valley Native Plant Guide project.

Dear Plant Friends,

This is a reminder of our upcoming Zoom meeting on Thursday January 12, 4 - 5:30pm. Below are the notes from our previous couple of meetings for those of you who are new or rejoining us.

Agenda for Thursday:

2. Jen Coluzzi (a new addition to our project—welcome, Jen!) will have a couple of versions of icon sets for us to look at.

3. Isaac Matlock has three versions of templates we can choose from to display each featured plant along with its information. We will want to make the final decision about which information to include for each plant.

4. Figure out how to tweak the final version of featured plants: the last step is to make sure we have a sufficient diversity of plants that are suitable for home gardens. **We need to make sure that every featured plant will be a crowd-pleaser in a garden setting, is reasonably easy to grow, AND is available commercially** (so that people are not tempted to wild-collect). We also need to make sure we have a good variety of niches represented. Suggestion: maybe a Saturday in-person collaboration day at my house in Broadway with a handful of people to go through the list together in detail (tentatively Saturday, January 21?) I can provide soup and snacks.

5. This month, volunteers will be needed to: a. Fill in any missing information for each plant, b. Fact-check information, c. Add relevant notes such as growing notes, wildlife value, etc. to make our guide as valuable as possible. d. Begin promoting the guide and raising awareness via social media and word-of-mouth. e. Think of what needs to be done that I/we haven't thought of yet.

6. TIMELINE:

January—complete any missing content; begin final layout in Design

February—complete layout in InDesign and create proofs

last week of February—final copyediting of proofs and fixing mistakes

March—printing

April—distribution

ZOOM LINK for Thursday:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://jmu-edu.zoom.us/j/82037273994>

Meeting ID: 820 3727 3994

Please send Elaine Smith any items for the next newsletter, coming in February!



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