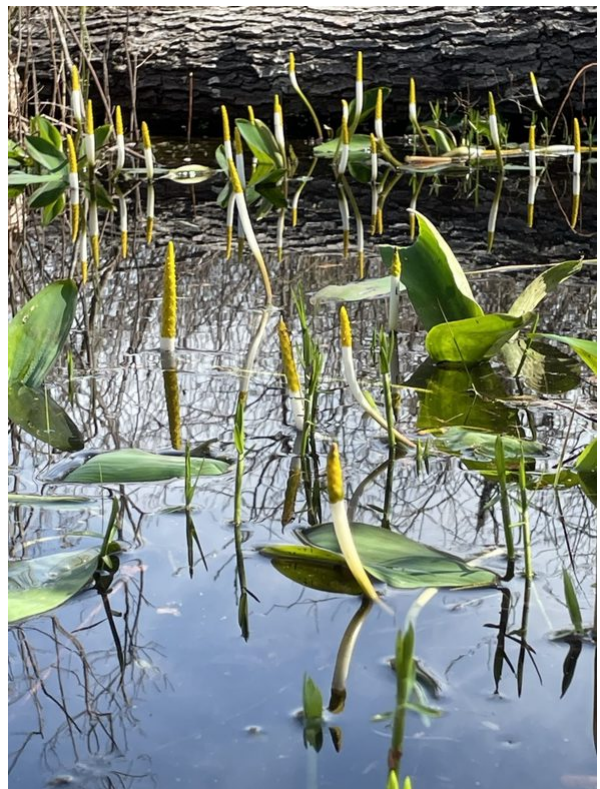




Mike Smith hiked the South River falls trail on March 26th. Lots of wildflowers were in bloom including: Rue anemone, early saxifrage, Canada violet, Dutchman's breeches, blood root, coltsfoot, cutleaf toothwort, & hepatica. The trout lily was in bud.

And Mark Gatewood, along with some PATC folks, went to Maple Flats on April 5th, and saw Golden-Club! A first for Mark.



Spring Native Plant Sales events coming up on April 22 and 29!!!

April 22, 2023 at EarthDay Staunton

sales efforts at either or both events.

We would also love to draw on the institutional wisdom of those who have been part of Shenandoah Chapter in the past and remember running plant sales.

Whether you have energy to volunteer or simply want to share helpful tips, we'd love to hear from you. We would like to build our capacity to propagate native plants to sell and share this spring and into the future.

If you have plants you want to contribute, please add them to this [spreadsheet](#).

Save the date!

Save the date for our upcoming Native Plant Tour on June 10th and 11th! Big thanks to the folks who have already expressed interest in hosting a tour stop. We are still looking for more tour sites featuring both young and mature gardens, as well as meadows, to showcase the different life stages and possibilities of planting with natives.

Meadows and gardens featured on the tour should ideally:

- Be 60-70% native species or more
- Have no intentionally planted exotic invasive species
- Have intention/plans or be in the process of working to eradicate exotic invasive species
- Be predominantly plants native to the ridge and valley region based on state/county level of the Virginia Flora
- Use no pesticides
- Gardens and meadows in the 40-60% native range are welcome if they are in transition towards more native plants

Please consider helping to increase interest and awareness about the beauty, diversity, and importance of native plants. Your plantings do not need to be perfect or pristine! We are hoping this tour will attract not just native plant enthusiasts, eager to see what others are doing, but also novice gardeners, and those interested in learning more about natives. We'd love to showcase a range of planting stages and types from small urban gardens, to fully landscaped yards, those in transition from conventional to native, reclaimed meadows, and everything in between. We would love to have host sites in each of our chapter counties (Augusta, Highland, Page, Rockingham, and Shenandoah) and would be happy to include stops in other nearby parts of the Ridge and Valley Region as well.

[Please fill out this very short survey](#) if you are interested in potentially being a host site. Filling out the survey does commit you to anything.

Chapter but may have a site that would work for the tour. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

- Earth Day Staunton (April 22)
- Riverfest, Waynesboro (April 29)
- Blandy Annual Garden Fair, Mother's Day weekend (May 13-14)
- Native plant garden tour on June 10th and 11th.
- Mile-a-Minute pull on Hankey Mountain on June 3.
- Annual members meeting, with elections, late summer, early fall.

Many more events can be found in this [document](#) which will be updated regularly!



Our 144-page full-color guide to Ridge & Valley native plants appropriate for a home landscape is now complete! A huge round of thanks to everyone who contributed photographs, content, and feedback. Thanks especially to Isaac Matlock, who carefully curated hundreds of photo submissions and chose those that best showed both foliage and flower, when possible. Twenty non-profit organizations have partnered with us to fully fund the printing of the first edition, which will be distributed this spring (in phases, from late April to early May). Mid-Valley Press, located in Verona, will be printing our guide during the next couple of weeks.

The guide includes 150+ native plants found throughout 11 counties of the Virginia Ridge & Valley (also called the “Mountain” region in state publications): Frederick, Clarke, Shenandoah, Warren, Page, Rockingham, Highland, Augusta, Bath, Rockbridge, and Alleghany. The plants were selected for their beauty, ease of growing, and being native to at least six out the eleven counties we are covering.

It is part of a state-wide effort to market native plants for home gardening and landscapes. This effort originated under the leadership of Virginia Witmer from the Department of Environmental Quality in the Coastal Zone as part of the Chesapeake Bay clean-up efforts, and has spread state-wide due to its usefulness and popularity. Learn more at www.plantvirginiannatives.org

The new plant guide is available for [pre-order online for \\$15/copy](#) (including sales tax and shipping).

Organizations and businesses may pre-order a box for the special wholesale price of \$11/copy with a minimum of 40 copies (plus delivery fees). *We've already received pre-orders for 700 copies already! These pre-orders, along with \$10,000 from the VNPS, are sufficient to fund the printing of 2,000 copies.

Follow this effort on the associated Facebook group and [page](#) – Plant Ridge and Valley Native Plants.

During the monthly Chapter Board meeting (on April 4), these ideas were discussed:

- Local meetups. Would you like to host one for Shenandoah Chapter members in your county?
 - Photo contest.
 - Be on the lookout for a new local chapter website, which is in the works! It will link up with the statewide vnps.org website, but will filter the content to just those parts most relevant to our local area.
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