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## Shenandoah Chapter, VNPS

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### Attracted!

Eunice Sill got this nice shot of a hummingbird clearwing moth (*Hemaris thysbe*) attracted to a potted plant at the Riverfest plant sale!

April 22, 2023 at EarthDay Staunton

April 29, 2023 Riverfest, Waynesboro

Our two plant sales raised over \$2,000 for native plants in two weekends! Thanks to all of you for donating plants, volunteering, and answering a million questions from the public!!!

It's great to see the demand for native plants in our region. We learned so much about how to present plant information to the public, and we have good ideas for next time around. We'll be eager to collect more volunteers for additional plant sales in the fall.



Photos above of Lucy Ivey and Lora Steiner, and Lora Steiner and Anna Maria Johnson at Riverfest taken by Nancy Sorrells.

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## Native Plant Garden Tour in June

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:

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

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. Right now tour sites are predominantly in Rockingham and Augusta counties.

To get more information about potentially hosting a tour stop, [fill out this very short survey](#).

If you are ready to commit to being a tour stop, [submit your information here](#).

Please forward this information to anyone you know who is not in the Shenandoah Chapter but may have a site that would work for the tour. Thank you!

Contact [Katy](#) with any questions about the tour.

## Help us grow!

Our monthly newsletter has 258 subscribers. The Shenandoah Chapter of VNPS has 103 members.

This means there's a chance that you, dear reader, are not officially a member of the Shenandoah Chapter.

There are many ways you can support our work:

**Join us!** If you're not yet a member of the Virginia Native Plant Society or let your membership lapse, you can become a member [here](#). Make sure you select the Shenandoah Chapter for your affiliation; a percentage of your dollars come directly to the chapter and support local initiatives.

(Want 100 percent of your dollars to come to the Shenandoah Chapter? Donate [here](#).)

**Update your chapter affiliation!** If you are a member of VNPS but not sure if you're affiliated with the Shenandoah Chapter, you can check by logging in to the [member portal](#) or by emailing [Lora Steiner](#).

You can update your chapter affiliation when you renew your membership, or email Karen York ([vnps.org@gmail.com](mailto:vnps.org@gmail.com)) to request the change.

**Like, comment, share!** We know it's not always possible to financially support every initiative you love. You can help us spread the word by interacting with us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Every like, comment, and share helps grow awareness about native plants and furthers our mission to turn more lawns into meadows—and maybe even a few forests.

Whatever path you choose, we're grateful for your support!



# WANTED

## Have you seen this plant?



This native legume was noted in Fort Valley as late as the 1960's by local botanist, Lena Artz.

Name: Ozark Milkvetch, a.k.a. *Astragalus distortus*

Likes sunny steep shale slopes. Known associates are Shale Barren Ragwort & Moss Phlox. Flowers during April-May. Could be confused with Crown Vetch but blooms earlier and is smaller.

We are looking to sample small amounts of leaf material for a nation-wide genetics study of this species at George Mason University and would greatly appreciate any leads.

Email Andrea at [aweeks3@gmu.edu](mailto:aweeks3@gmu.edu)

### Upcoming Events

- Native plant garden tour on June 10th and 11th.
- Mile-a-Minute pull on Hankey Mountain on June 3.
- Annual members meeting, with elections, **July 9th at BRCC**. Stay tuned for more details.

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



### **Update on the Ridge and Valley Native Plant Guide project.**

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 partnered with us to fully fund the printing of the first edition, which will be distributed this spring. Mid-Valley Press, located in Verona, has printed all the pages and sent them off to their partner to be wire-bound.

Although there have been some unavoidable delays given the size and scope of the project, we expect the books to be shipped out by the end of this month (May).

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.plantvirginianatives.org](http://www.plantvirginianatives.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).

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

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Please send [Elaine Smith](#) any items for the next newsletter, coming in June!



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