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Shenandoah Chapter, VNPS

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Great Spangled Fritillary with *Asclepias tuberosa* (Butterfly Milkweed), photo by Barbara Brothers

Happy Juneteenth!



Big Success!

The inaugural Native Plant tours were a HUGE success!

Thanks to all the hosts AND guests! Please let us know, as hosts and/or guests, what you liked, and what we can do better next year!

Native Plant Tour!!!

Enjoy the photos below of happy people and plants.



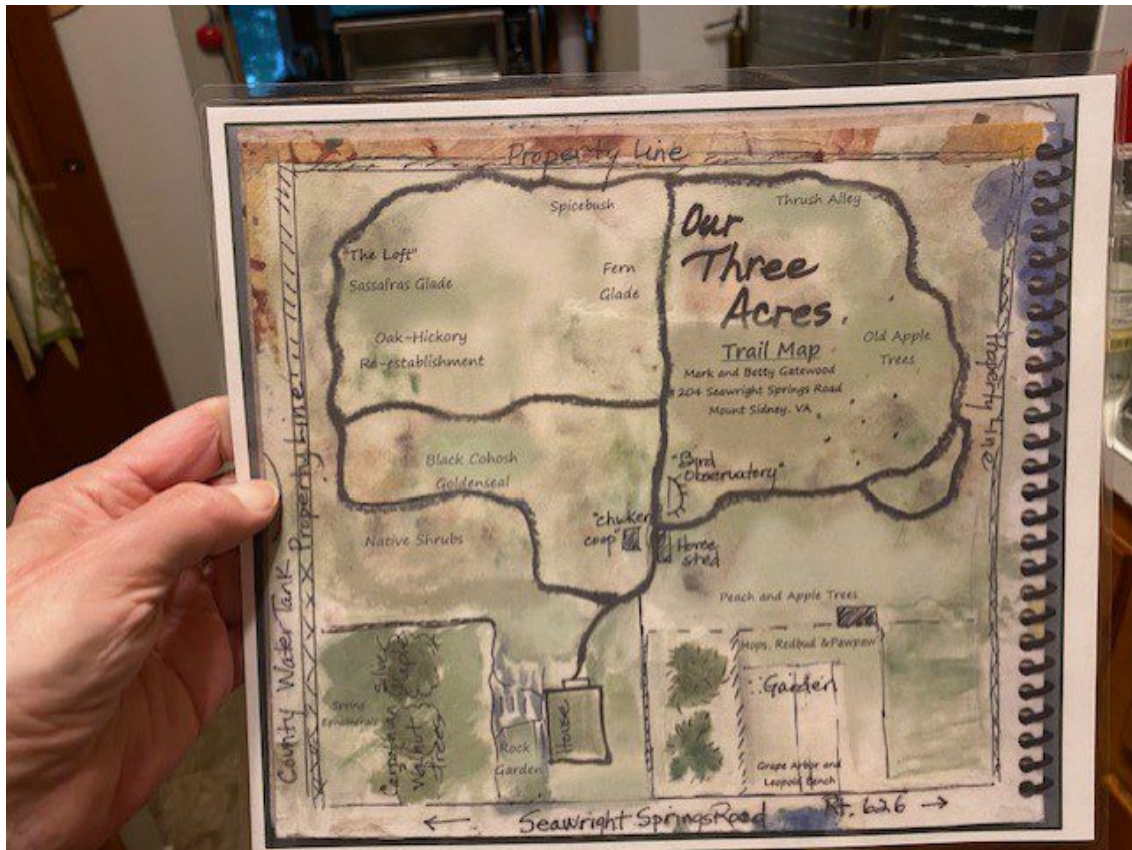
Photos above at Lucy and Kean Ivey's of Lora Steiner and Lucy Ivey, and Scott Jost and guest taken by Eunice Sill.



Photos above at Barbara Brothers', on left taken by Elaine Smith and on the right taken by Lora Steiner.



Photos above at the Kasdan's.



YOU ARE INVITED: Members Meeting July 8

Due to a conflict with the Headwater's Master Naturalist chapter, we have rescheduled the members' meeting to **July 8th from 12:30 to 3pm at Blue Ridge Community College, Room 186 in the Houff Student Center, Building G**. We hope you will attend this fun and informative meeting. After a potluck and socializing with fellow plant enthusiasts from 12:30 to 1:15pm, we will discuss our chapter logo and upcoming events, nominate board members, have Ridge & Valley Native Plant Guides for sale, and generally have a good time!

[Sign-up sheet](#) for potluck. Please note if the item you are bringing is vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free, etc. Please bring your own dishes, utensils and paper products.

* This meeting is for members only (meaning you have joined the chapter via the Virginia Native Plant Society website and paid dues). Non-members are welcome to attend with annual dues paid at the door. If you are not sure if you are a member, please reach out to our member coordinator Lora Steiner or email shenandoahchapter@gmail.com *

Upcoming Events

- Annual members meeting, with elections, **July 8th at BRCC**.
- Fall plant sale/swap in October. Stay tuned!

Native Plant Brown Bag, Edith J. Carrier Arboretum, by Elaine Smith

On June 14, Anna Maria Johnson gave a great presentation on gardening with native plants at the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum at JMU. The room was packed with attentive listeners.

Maria started with a plug for the native plant gardening guide. Then she advocated for thoughtful use of the land, in order to share it with all the other “people” (plants, animals, bugs etc.).

Key points she covered included:

Ecological Gardening, which means choosing plants that feed and shelter wildlife, improving the soil and protect the water, as well as redefining “beauty” to include less pristine specimens.

Some considerations: removing invasive species; using straight species vs cultivars; maximizing diversity; considering eco-regions; “mild, styled or wild” options of approaches, and not needing to be perfect.

She discussed four kinds of diversity: species, structural, functional and genetic. She also urged us to “learn and edit our landscape, rather than trying to control it.”

All in all, it was a wonderful presentation to a large, receptive audience!



Photo of Anna Maria Johnson (with Lora Steiner in the audience at the right) by Elaine Smith.



Update on the Ridge and Valley Native Plant Guide project.

Hot off the presses!

Our 144-page full-color guide to Ridge & Valley native plants appropriate for a home landscape has been distributed throughout the region! Thanks to Barbara Brothers, Lora Steiner, Jan Smith, Anita Tuttle, Isaac Matlock, and many more volunteers who have delivered pre-orders to our 20 partners (see full list below). Thanks also to the many small businesses that have recently purchased copies in bulk, and to every individual who has ordered a copy through the VNPS website. Believe it or not, we may need to run a second printing soon!

The guide includes 150+ native plants found throughout 11 counties of the Virginia Ridge & Valley (also called the “Mountain” region in state publications): Frederick,

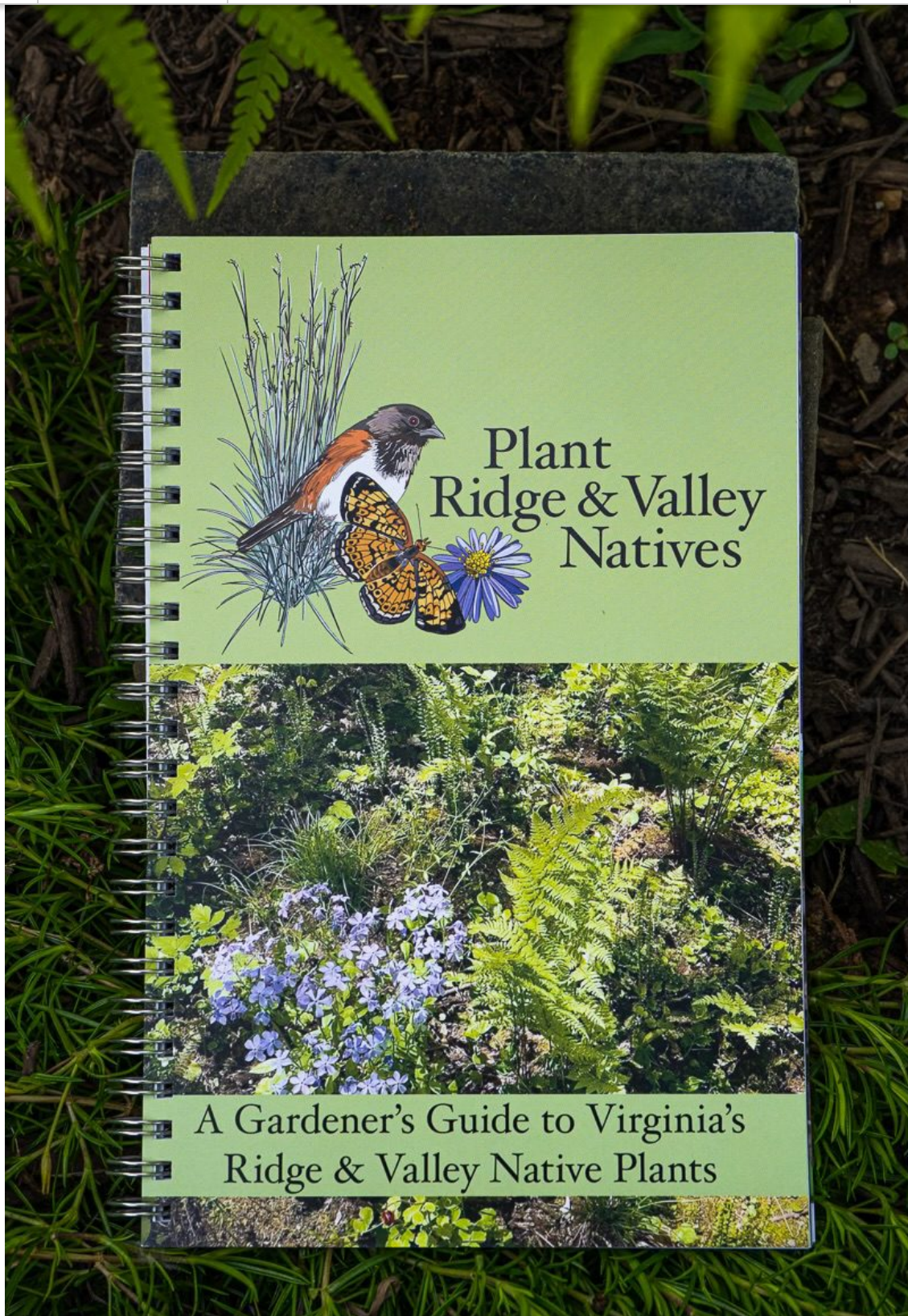
rockridge, and integrity. The plants were selected for their beauty, ease of growing, and being native to at least six out the eleven counties we are covering.

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

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 bulk price of \$11/copy with a minimum of 10 copies (plus delivery fees).

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



Our Partners (whose pre-order contributions supported the cost of our first printing)

Alliance of the Shenandoah Valley

Augusta Bird Club

Central Valley Master Gardeners
Edith J. Carrier Arboretum
Friends of the Middle River
Foundation of the State Arboretum of Virginia (State Farm at Blandy)
Headwaters Master Naturalists
John C. Myers Elementary School
Plains Elementary School
Rockbridge Area Master Gardeners
Valley Conservation Council
Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
Virginia Museum of Natural History Foundation
Virginia Native Plant Society (VNPS)
Piedmont Chapter, VNPS
Shenandoah Chapter, VNPS

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



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