



Allegheny Monkeyflower (*Mimulus ringens*), seen at Cowbane Prairie
on July 10, 2023, photo by Rae Kasdan.

Member Meeting July 8, 2023



Photo by Isaac Matlock

We want to thank all of our chapter members who joined us on July 8th for our inaugural members' meeting, and send a recap for those of you who weren't able to join us.

You can view the presentation [here](#) – if you have questions about anything covered in the presentation, reach out to any of the board members directly at the emails listed in the presentation.

We wanted to highlight two areas in particular:

Ways to get involved: There are many ways you can support the work of the Shenandoah chapter: participate on social media; help with plant sales (growing, labeling, volunteering at the event); lead hikes and present workshops/lectures in your area of expertise (or recommend other experts who might be interested in sharing their knowledge with us); invasive species removal; design educational materials; express an interest in serving on the board or a committee for a specific initiative; donate to a special project (see the Least Trillium project, below).

Resolution. By September, chapter membership needs to elect an interim board.

Everyone on the current interim board that served for the first year is willing to continue. We need to choose a logo, and the full chapter will vote on approving the bylaws. This process will be conducted by email, so no trip to the polls required.

Barbara Brothers and Ivy Makia have agreed to serve on the nominating committee (thank you!) along with Katy Melton Simpson. If you would like to make a nomination, please contact Katy.

As we've worked together this past year, our underlying goals have always been collaboration, transparency, and fun—we're grateful to everyone who has contributed time, energy, and knowledge to this work, and we appreciate your input as we continue to forge ahead.

Chapter Advocacy for Native Plants: The Least Trillium Project

-Some of our members recently observed that one population of a globally rare Virginia Least Trillium (*Trillium pusillum var. virginianum*) on Shenandoah Mountain is getting trampled by off-road vehicles and inappropriate campsites. Another population, which is protected by a gate and boulders, is faring much better. Our members have taken action to propose that similar protection be added to the suffering population of Least Trillium.

-Thanks to advocacy by some of our members, the forest service has agreed to a plan to place 8-10 large (1-2 ton) boulders to blockade the area containing the fragile Least Trillium flowers and prevent further damage.

-They are asking for funds (~\$1,500) since their budget is too small to purchase and place the boulders. They manage 600,000 acres with very few staff, and they are doing their best. Contributions to the boulder placement project can be made through the Shenandoah Chapter. Please write "Least Trillium Project" in the memo line. We are excited about this opportunity to partner with the forest service to protect these very special wild flowers.



Upcoming Events

- Blue Ridge PRISM Landowner Training and Volunteer Workday. Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 9am - 1pm. Ridgeview Park, Waynesboro. Registration required. More information and link to register [here](#).
- Fall plant sale/swap in late October. Oakdale Park, Bridgewater. Stay tuned!

New Chapter Logo

The following plants are being considered for the new chapter logo. The design will probably include three plants and possibly a critter. Chapter members will get an email soon with a link to vote for our new logo!

New England Aster -*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*

Mountain Andromeda -*Pieris floribunda*

Shale Barren Goldenrod -*Solidago harrisii*

~~Black Cherry - Prunus serotina~~

Big Leaf Aster - *Eurybia macrophylla*

Field Thistle - *Cirsium discolor*

Queen of the Prairie - *Filipendula rubra*

Hoary Mountain Mint - *Pycnanthemum incanum*



Update on the Ridge and Valley Native Plant Guide project

-Feedback has been wonderful from individuals and our partner organizations.

Full campaign will focus on trees and shrubs.

-Member Barbara Brothers has agreed to coordinate the Ridge & Valley campaign going forward (Anna Maria will still help).

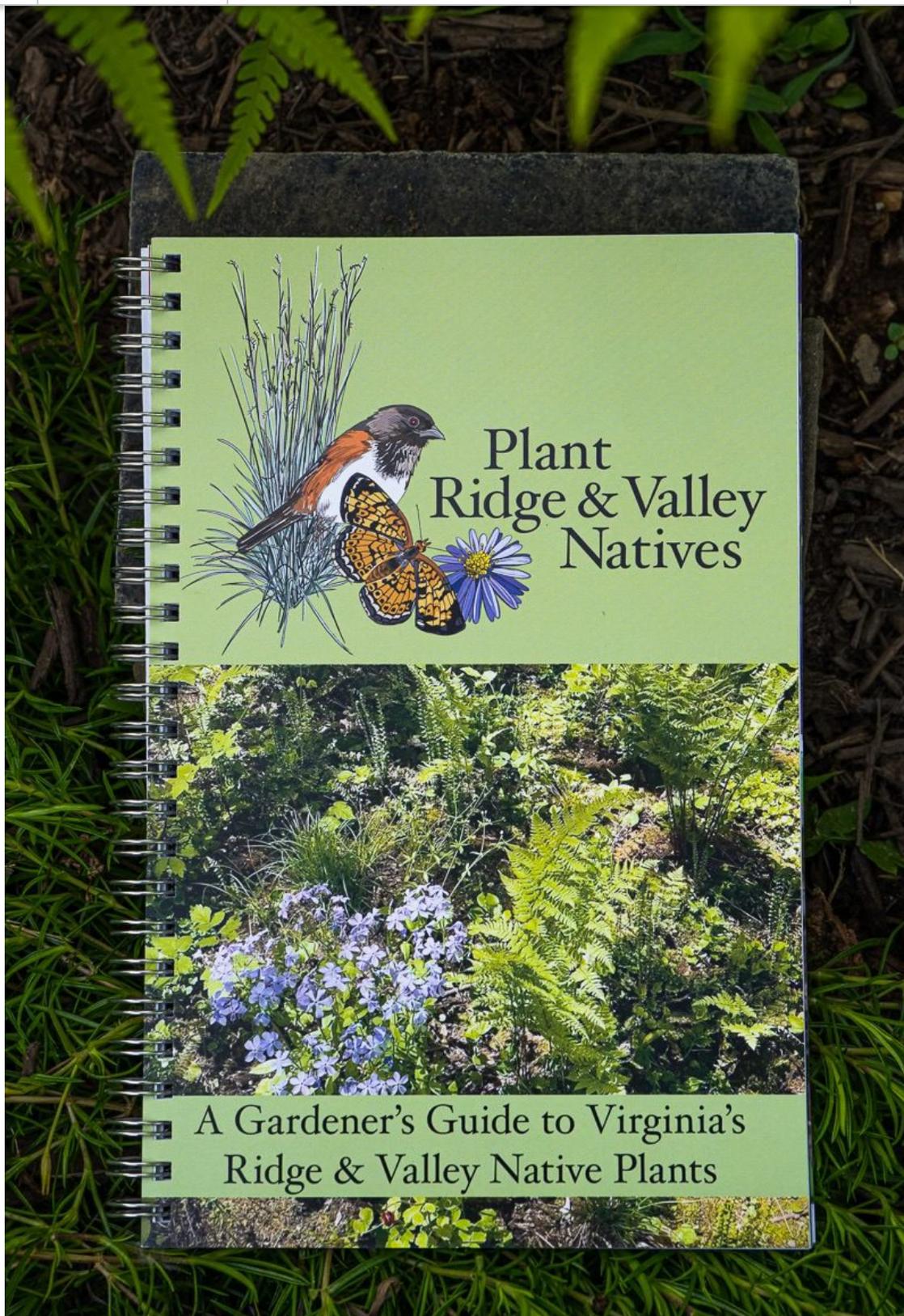
The guide includes 150+ native plants found throughout 11 counties of the Virginia Ridge & Valley (also called the “Mountain” region in state publications): Frederick, Clarke, Shenandoah, Warren, Page, Rockingham, Highland, Augusta, Bath, Rockbridge, and Alleghany. The plants were selected for their 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.plantvirginianatives.org

The 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)

August Bird Club

Blue Ridge PRISM

Blue Ridge Wildlife Center

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

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Conserving Wild Flowers and Wild Places

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