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## Shenandoah Chapter, VNPS

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Swallowtail on cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Todd Lake, August.

Photo by Rae Kasdan.

\*Send your native plant photos for possible inclusion in future newsletters to [shenandoahchapter@gmail.com](mailto:shenandoahchapter@gmail.com)

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### **Your chapter board at work!**

Isaac Matlock, Elaine Smith, Lora Steiner and Anna Maria Johnson. Excused due to vacation: Katy Melton Simpson.

Photo by Steven David Johnson. Beautiful frog pond setting by Maggie Johnson.

As we close out our first year as a revived chapter, our membership needs to officially elect the board! Everyone on the current interim board that has served for the first year is willing to continue, but we remain open to other members who are interested in taking a leadership role, so don't be shy about stepping up.

Barbara Brothers and Ivy Makia have agreed to serve on the nominating committee (thank you!) along with current VP Katy Melton Simpson. If you would like to present yourself or someone else as a nomination, please contact [Katy](#).

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## **Chapter Advocacy for Native Plants: The Least Trillium Project**

Some of our members observed this spring that one population of a globally rare Virginia Least Trillium (*Trillium pusillum* var. *virginianum*) on Shenandoah

According to botanist Jimmy Tomberlin with DCR Heritage, this variety of flower is, to put it in technical terms, “scary rare.” Only two populations of this least trillium variety are known to exist in the entire world! Flowers at the other site, which is protected by a gate and large boulders surrounding it, are faring much better. Our members proposed that similar protection be added to the suffering population of Least Trillium. (\*Big thanks to our chapter members Mike Smith and Lynn Cameron who alerted the Shenandoah Chapter board to this problem and suggested we could help.)

After a series of conversations, the forest service has begun working on our request to place several large (1-2 ton) boulders to blockade the area containing the fragile Least Trillium flowers and prevent further damage. Deputy District Ranger Gregg Slezak has sent staff to examine the site and plan out how many boulders are needed. Members of the forest service have also requested funds in their next fiscal budget to fund the project. The fiscal budget begins in October.

Anna Maria Johnson will be working this fall with forest service personnel to craft a formal agreement that will allow Shenandoah Chapter to help support this work as appropriate. Please stay tuned for an opportunity to donate toward the Least Trillium project once we have our formal agreement in place—if additional funds are needed. In the meantime, consider donating to the Shenandoah Chapter as we continue to advocate for and conserve wildflowers and wild places.

[DONATE](#)



*Trillium pusillum* var. *virginianum* located on Shenandoah Mountain

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## Upcoming Events

We have a number of events coming up for you!

First up will be a **nature journaling and botanical art workshop** with Betty Gatewood. This workshop will be held at the Edith J Carrier Arboretum Pavilion on October 23rd. Due to limited capacity, registration for this event will be required.

Our **fall webinar series** will be starting soon! This series of informative webinars taught by Dr. Iara Lacher will be offered the first Wednesday of September, October, and November at 5:30pm. Each of Iara's 45-minute talks will be followed by a Q&A session. The monthly topics are:

- *September*: In Consideration of Native Plants for Our Landscapes- An overview on why native plant gardens matter for the health of our

- *October: Invasive Plants and Native Alternatives*- The typical neighborhood garden store stocks non-native invasive plants that customers unknowingly buy. This talk provides native alternatives for some of the most popular and disruptive non-native plants.
- *November: Designing Landscapes with Native Plants*- An overview of some of the considerations when planning out your own native plant garden, and when to ask for expert help.

Also in October will be our **second annual Fall plant swap and sale**. This free event will take place on October 22nd from 2-4pm at Oakdale Park (shelter #3) in Bridgewater, VA. After the swap, we will hold a short chapter meeting to announce the plants for our logo and to vote on bylaws and the board for the upcoming year. You do not have to bring plants to swap to come! The chapter will have a small selection of plants for sale and there are often leftovers from the swap.

Please keep an eye on the [Events page of our chapter website](#) for registration options. **Registration will be live soon!**

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## New Chapter Logo

New member and graphic designer Patty Sechi and artist/garden designer Anne Elise Lintelman (who drew the Plant Ridge & Valley Natives logo) have volunteered to team up to create our new chapter logo.

We have had 33 people cast their votes for the Shenandoah Chapter logo. Currently, Shale Barren Goldenrod (*Solidago harrisii*) is leading the pack with Hoary Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum incanum*) in second. Third, fourth, and fifth are all quite close with Field Thistle (*Cirsium discolor*) leading, followed closely by Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), and New England Aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*) and White Bergamot (*Monarda clinopodia*) tied for fifth. Additionally, a plurality of respondents (33.3%) would like to see an insect included in the logo.

cast your vote before the end of the month. [You can vote here.](#)

The plants listed below are being considered for the new chapter logo:

New England Aster -*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*

Mountain Andromeda -*Pieris floribunda*

Shale Barren Goldenrod -*Solidago harrisii*

Bur Oak -*Quercus macrocarpa*

Black Cherry -*Prunus serotina*

Big Leaf Aster - *Eurybia macrophylla*

Field Thistle -*Cirsium discolor*

Queen of the Prairie -*Filipendula rubra*

Hoary Mountain Mint - *Pycnanthemum incanum*

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## **Plant Ridge and Valley Native Plants! Marketing Initiative**

The *Plant Ridge & Valley Natives* guide, now in print and widely available, has received wonderful from individuals and our partner organizations. We are planning now to revise this winter and release a second edition in spring 2024.

During fall 2023, the state-wide native plants campaigns will focus on encouraging folks to plant more native trees and shrubs. Now that the print guide is complete, chapter member Barbara Brothers has agreed to coordinate the Ridge & Valley campaign going forward. Anna Maria will continue to help, but Barbara will be the lead contact person to work with garden centers, volunteers, and others who want to collaborate on promoting the use of native plants in



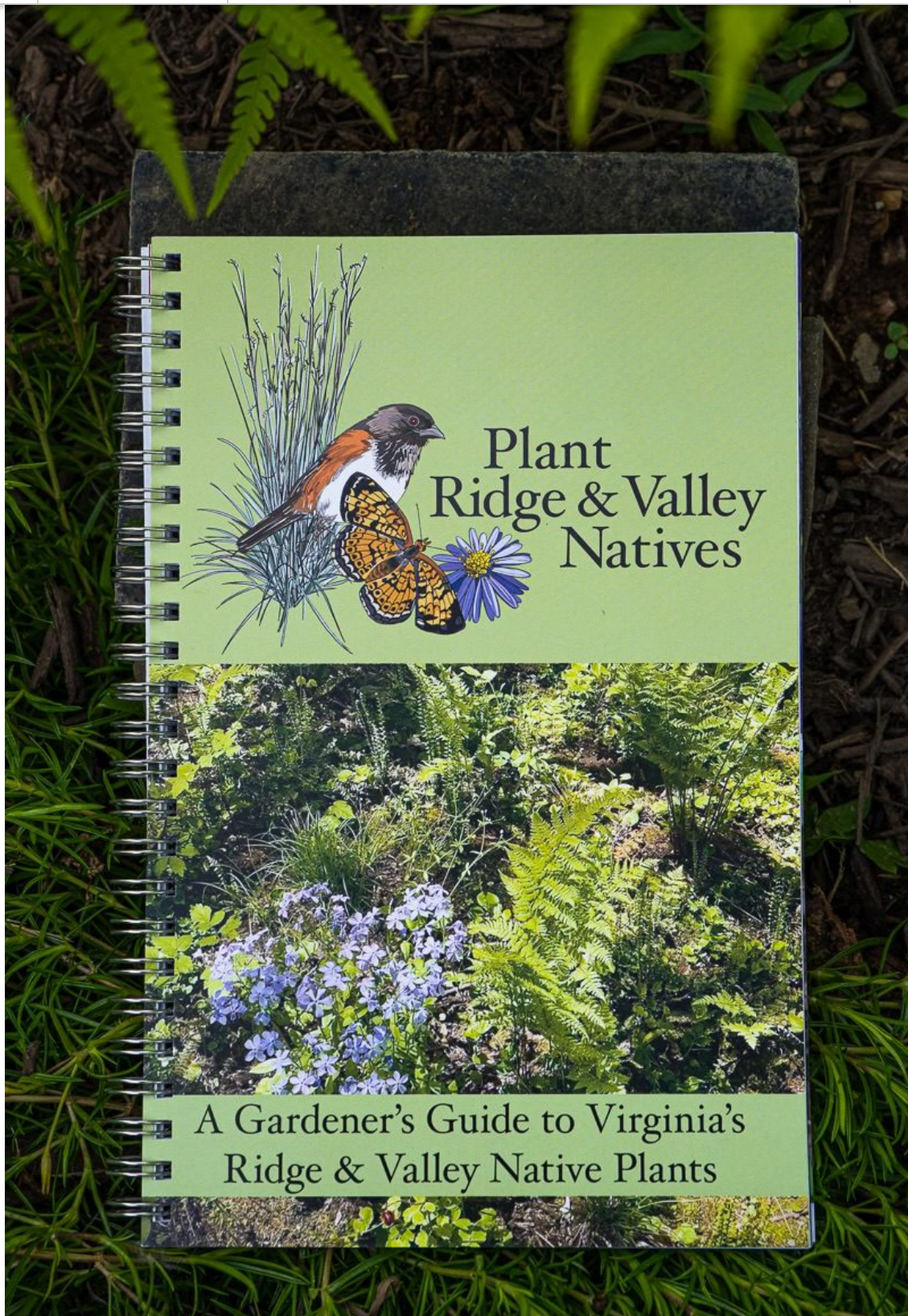
The regional Plant Ridge & Valley Natives campaign includes not only the five counties included in the Shenandoah Chapter but size more. The Virginia Ridge & Valley (also called the “Mountain” region in state publications): Frederick, Clarke, Shenandoah, Warren, Page, Rockingham, Highland, Augusta, Bath, Rockbridge, and Alleghany.

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

Organizations and businesses may order a box for the special bulk price of \$11/copy with a minimum of 10 copies (plus delivery fees).

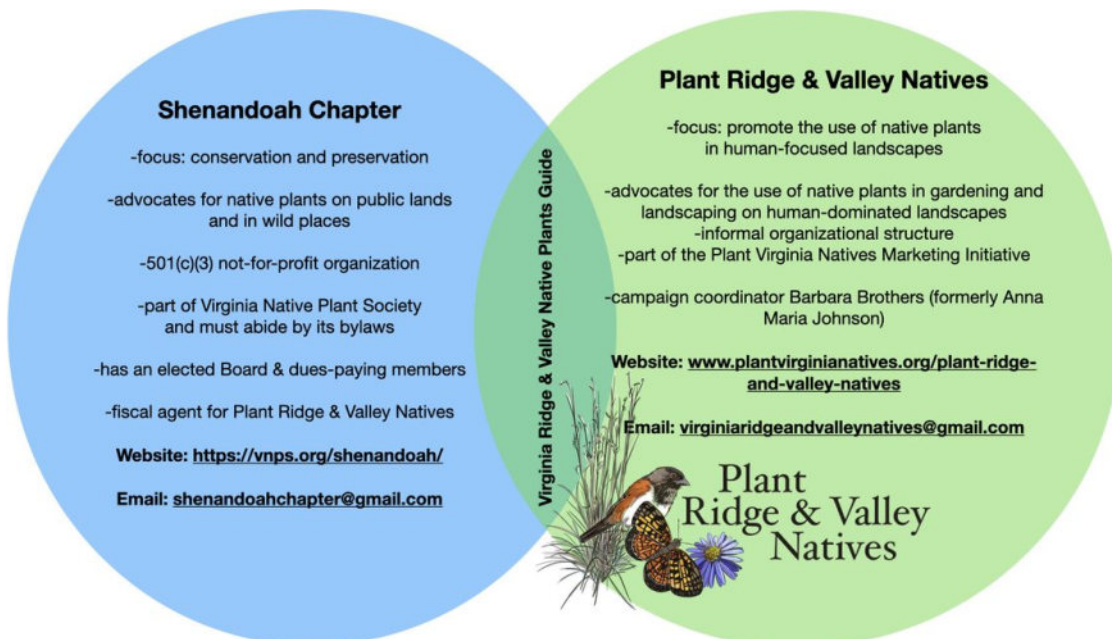
Follow this effort on the associated Facebook group and [page](#) – Plant Ridge and Valley Native Plants.



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

- 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

**In case you are wondering, “what’s the relationship between Shenandoah Chapter and Plant Ridge & Valley Natives?” — here is a visual aid.**



not-for-profit organization with an elected board and a set of bylaws. VNPS works on conserving wild flowers and wild places. Learn more about the Virginia Native Plant Society at [VNPS.org](http://VNPS.org). You can reach the Shenandoah Chapter board at [shenandoahchapter@gmail.com](mailto:shenandoahchapter@gmail.com). The current president is Anna Maria Johnson.

Shenandoah Chapter serves as the fiscal agent for the **Plant Ridge & Valley Natives Marketing Initiative**. The Plant Ridge & Valley Natives marketing initiative is an informal partnership between public, private, and government agencies all working to promote native plants in gardens, public spaces, landscapes, garden centers, and elsewhere. Learn more about Virginia's regional native plants marketing initiative at <https://www.plantvirginianatives.org/virginia-regional-native-plant-campaigns-guides>. During the past two years, Anna Maria has served as the coordinator for the Plant Ridge & Valley Natives marketing initiative, but now Barbara Brothers is taking on that role. Anna Maria will continue to help Barbara with the plant guide and other activities, but Barbara will be the lead contact person for garden-related activities. You can reach her at [barbarabroth@gmail.com](mailto:barbarabroth@gmail.com).

Please send [Elaine Smith](#) any items for the next newsletter! And if anyone is interested in helping with the newsletter, please let her know!



*Shenandoah Chapter*  
*Conserving Wild Flowers and Wild Places*

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