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Check out our new logo above! Many thanks to Anne Elise Lintelman for the plant illustrations and to Patty Sechi for the logo design.

It also comes in green!

[Visit our website](#)

## Spring Continues!



*Pycnanthemum muticum*, Clustered Mountain Mint, by Michelle Gooden.





Eastern carpenter bees on *Mertensia virginica*. Photo by Steven David Johnson.

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

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## Spring Native Plant Tour

Please join us on April 28th to tour two beautiful properties:

...and the rhododendrons. This year will include several ecoregions, including a woodland, savanna, wildlife corridors, and meadows, one of which was planted over a geothermal installation. There are two projects involving American Chestnuts and there will be discussion and examples of various experiments such as killing Autumn Olive without poisons, the use of plants as “nannies” for protection from deer, the use of prescribed fire, and the creation of planting areas without spraying herbicides. The tours will start every half hour from 10am to noon and last about an hour.







- Barbara stewards 20 Augusta County acres of dry, upland forest, consisting primarily of Oaks (White, Chestnut, Black), Mockernut Hickory, White Pine, Mountain Laurel, and various understory trees and shrubs. Over her 25 years on this property, she has added more native understory plantings, including both sun and shade-loving native and non-native perennials. The woodland gardens near the house consist primarily of native ephemerals, such as various Trilliums, Bloodroot, VA Bluebells, Rue Anemone, Twinleaf, Black Cohosh, Pinkster Azalea, etc. Open from 11am to 2pm.











Both properties are located in Augusta County about 15 minutes apart. [See our events webpage for further details](#) including addresses.

## Wild About Natives

by Bree Hersch (Garden/Outdoor Education Coordinator, Bessie Weller Elementary School, Staunton)

Bessie Weller Elementary School has a fantastic woodland trail for learning and exploration! This spring, fourth grade students are using library time to research the right native plants for the right places. Students were asked to choose a spot along the trail where they would like to grow a plant. After inventorying light, moisture, soil, and competition, students will research native plants, from a provided list, that will thrive in the location they have chosen. The school now has 15 copies of the Plant Ridge and Valley Natives guidebooks that students are using as their primary resource! Students will also have the opportunity to "make a case" for a plant that is not on the list, but in the guidebook. If it looks like a good fit, we will try to source it for that student. Once their research is completed, plants will be acquired, and students will get to plant the native plant that they researched! In addition to the students, insects and animals will greatly enjoy this project!



## Native Plant Sale at Gypsy Hill Park, Earth Day Staunton, April 20

Our chapter will have a table of locally grown native plants at the Shenandoah Green “[Earth Day Staunton](#)” from 11am to 3pm. If you are able to donate plants for the sale, for more information, or with questions please [email Barbara Brothers](#). Our table was very popular last year, so we need and welcome your contributions! We will also have stickers with the new chapter logo available! Also, please let us know if you are interested in helping at the sales table; we need help with both sales and answering questions about growing native plants.

On April 6th several members of the chapter board got together to pot up plants for the sale! We’ve got a lot of cool things for you!





photos by Katy Melton Simpson

## Action Items

Callery Pear Exchange Program: the Virginia Department of Forestry is launching the Callery Pear Exchange program to promote the removal of these invasive trees from the urban landscape to reduce their ability to spread within our natural areas. This program encourages the removal of invasive Callery pear trees by providing Virginia landowners with a replacement native tree to plant. For more information go [here](#).

## Events

We have a number of events coming up for you! Plant sales, tours, walks, webinars and more! Be sure to keep an eye on our [Chapter Events Page](#)!

**Guided walk at Maple Flats** with John Holden to see azaleas in bloom and other spring flora on Sunday, April 21st. This free walk is limited to 12 participants. [More information and a registration link here](#). \*Walk full, waitlist available\*

**Guided walk at Madison Run** fire road with Mark and Betty Gatewood to (hopefully) see lupines in bloom among other spring botanical beauties on Saturday, April 27th (rain date May 4th). This free walk is limited to 12 participants. [More information and a registration link here](#). \*Walk full, waitlist available\*

Our **Spring Native Plant Tour** is Sunday, April 28th, see above or the [chapter events page](#) for details.

Early Summer Walk on Thursday, June 20th (rain date Thursday, June 27th). This free walk is limited to 12 participants. [More information and a registration link here.](#)

**Native Gardening 101 Webinar Series:** Are you new to native plants? New to gardening? Or just having trouble figuring out what to do when? Join us for a three-part webinar series to get you started or help you along in your native plant journey. Ivy will walk us through the basics of what to be thinking about, planning, and doing in each season. Whether you are an experienced gardener or totally new to native plants, join us to learn tips and tidbits for everyone. \*One [registration](#) (\$10) gains you access to all three webinars and their recordings.\*

- Jump Start Your Growing Season – February 17, 2024 @ 10am
- Summer Maintenance Dos and Don'ts – June 8, 2024 @ 10 am
- Fall Maintenance & Planning Ahead – September 7, 2024 @ 10 am

Registration links will be emailed the Friday afternoon before each webinar. Please be sure to [register at least 24 hours in advance](#) to ensure you get the link on time!

**Virginia Native Plant Society, Annual Meeting:** We are excited to announce that this year's VNPS Annual Meeting will be in our service area at the Massanetta Springs Conference Center in Rockingham County from September 20th – 22nd 2024. More information will be available later in the year. If you have any splendid ideas for walks in the vicinity (or stellar people to lead them!), send your suggestions to [Lora](#).

Other events in the works:

- Fall plant swap/sale in Bridgewater, VA.
- Fall webinar series with Dr. Iara Lacher.

We would love to schedule more guided walks and need people to lead them! If you are willing to lead a walk (Cowbane, anyone?), please [email Katy](#) to get something scheduled. All you have to do is let us know when, where, and if we need a sign-up to limit participants and we can put it on the schedule. Thanks for sharing your plant knowledge with the community!

## Harrisonburg Supports “Pollinators in Your Yard”



pollinators in your yard, which included about 20 education stations and one informational talks. On Saturday, March 23, in the downtown Ice House, Harrisonburg Public Works employees Jeremy Harold, Shayna Carter, and Mike Hott presented about the pollinator-friendly initiatives they are working on including a pollinator corridor and the Harrisonburg Conservation Assistance Program. Wes Runion (Harrisonburg Public Works) and Ali Sloop (James Madison University) co-presented about how to reduce reliance on pesticides at home and manage invasive plants, while Anna Maria Johnson (Virginia Master Naturalist & Shenandoah Chapter president) and Dr. Lee Brown (Professor of Ecology, JMU) presented about how to garden in ways that support our native bees and other pollinators. Meanwhile, Virginia Master Naturalist Scott Jost's photographs of native local bees impressed visitors with their charisma.

If you live in Harrisonburg, you might enjoy connecting with Public Works as they continue to implement ecologically friendly practices in city spaces. You might also apply for a cost-share through the [Harrisonburg Conservation Assistance Program](#) if you are considering planting more trees.

During this event, a representative for zoning assured folks that, although Harrisonburg City has a tall grass ordinance, it's fine to garden with native plants as long as it looks "intentional," such as maintaining a path and having garden-like features.

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A nomad bee (genus *Nomada*, approximate size 3/8 inch), browses for nectar on brambles, Appalachian Trail near Milam Gap, Shenandoah National Park.

Photo credit: Scott Jost





Mining bees (genus *Andrena*, approximate size 3/8 inch) on *Geranium maculatum* (wild geranium), Appalachian Trail near Milam Gap, Shenandoah National Park  
Photo credit: Scott Jost

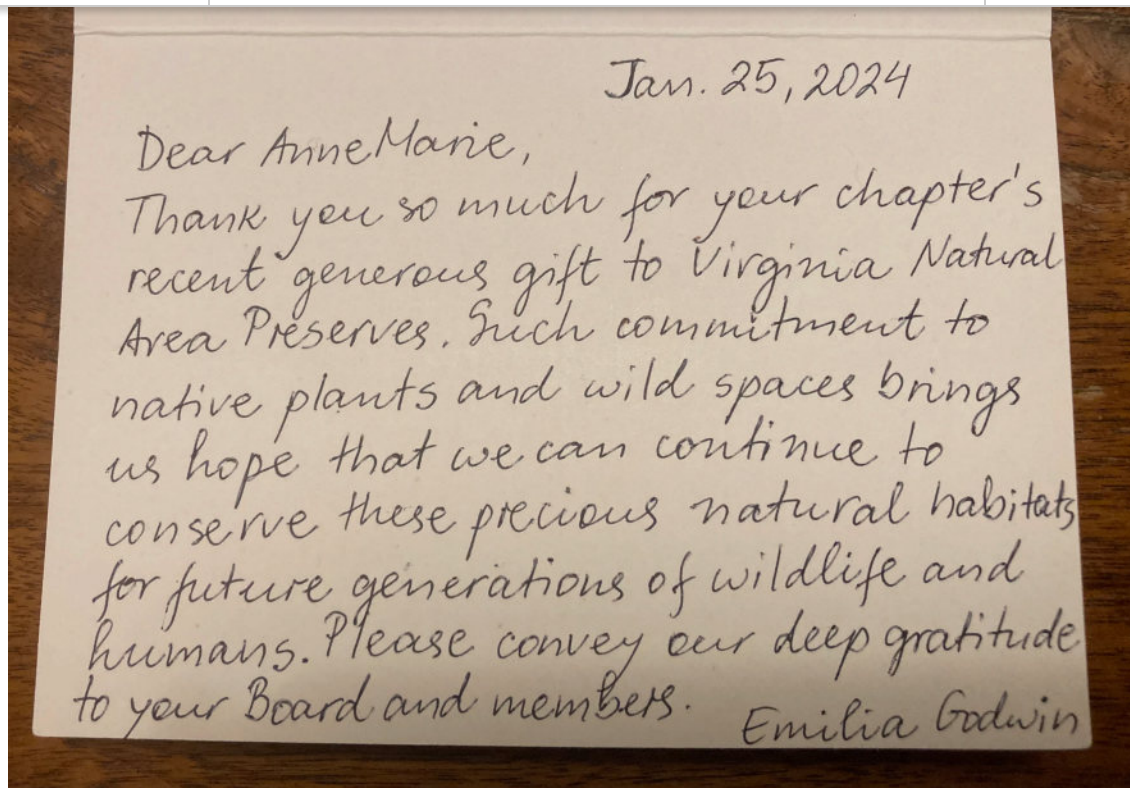


Yellow-faced bees (genus *Hylaeus*, approximate size 5/16 inch) in the plasterer bee family (*Colletidae*) browsing for nectar and pollen on *Rosa palustris* (swamp rose), Blandy Experimental Farm, Clarke County  
Photo credit: Scott Jost

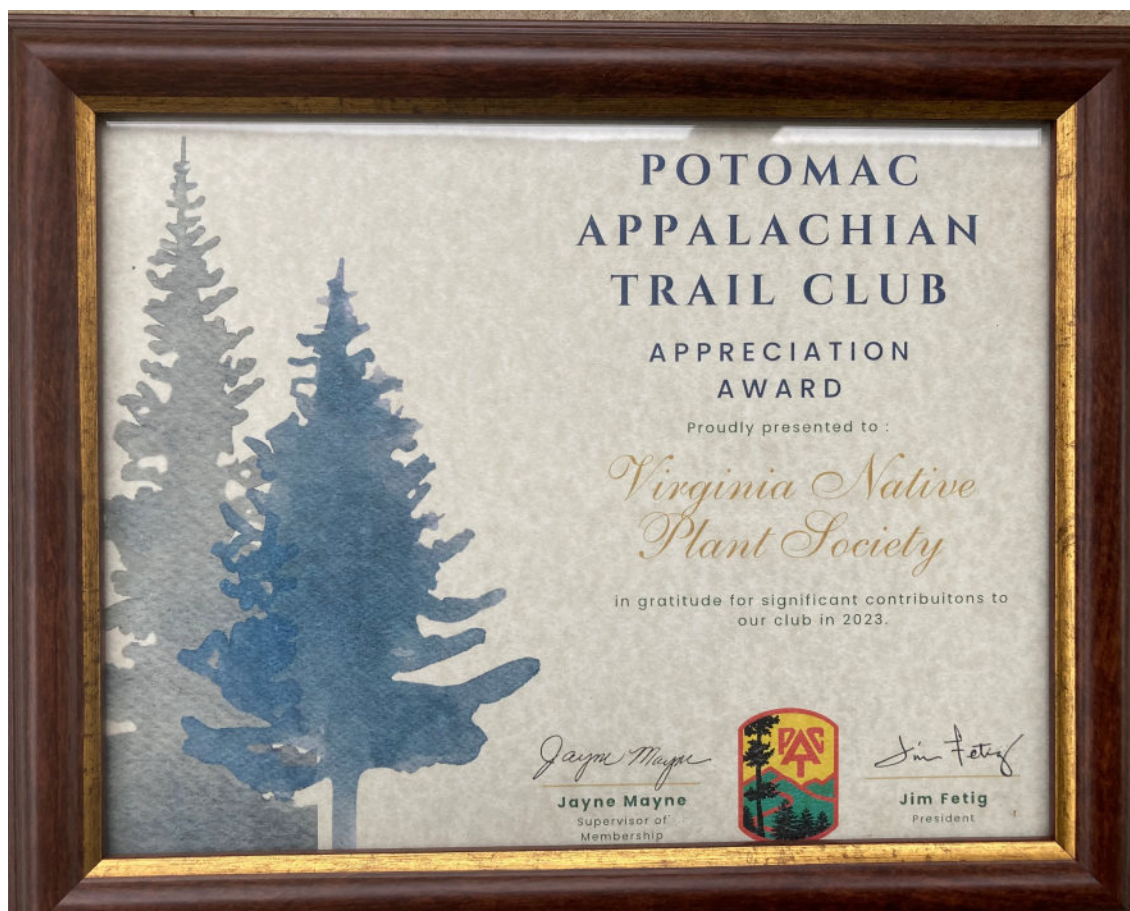
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**Thank you to our volunteers!**





Our chapter got this sweet thank you note from the state-wide Virginia Native Plant Society for contributing to the annual fundraiser, which focused this year on the Virginia Natural Area Preserves.



framed appreciation award for the work we contributed in 2023 toward protecting our rare *Trillium pusillum* var. *virginianum* (Least Trillium) and other shared projects. Since we don't have a permanent space, it's currently displayed in Anna Maria's living room. Thanks to everyone who pitched in to advocate or donate funds toward protecting this special flower. The patch we were concerned about is now protected by large boulders, thanks to the U. S. Forest Service employees who responded with action.



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## Logo Merchandise Now Available!

We are excited to be able to offer merchandise with both our green and purple logo through Bonfire. If you'd like to see more options (tote bag, hat, mug) or different logo-wear items, let us know!

**ABOUT**

Conserving Virginia's wild flowers  
and wild places.



[www.vnps.org/shenandoah/](http://www.vnps.org/shenandoah/)



Classic Unisex Tee  
\$24.00



Premium Unisex Tank  
\$25.00



Classic Long Sleeve Tee  
\$26.00

**Shenandoah Chapter Logo (green)**

[Click here to see what's available!](#)

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







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

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