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## SUMMER TIME:



Spotted Bee Balm (*Monarda punctata*), by Michelle Gooden.

\*Send your native plant photos for possible inclusion in future newsletters to

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## Another plant tour, anyone?!

Who doesn't love looking at all the ways native plants can be used in gardens, yards, meadows, and woodlands? Save the date for a late summer open-house style plant tour on August, 17th from 10a - 2pm. **We are seeking host sites for this tour.** 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 want to showcase a range of planting stages and types from small urban gardens, to fully landscaped yards, those in transition from conventional to native plants, reclaimed meadows, young plantings, and mature to showcase the different life stages and possibilities of planting with natives.

Meadows and gardens featured on the tour should *ideally*:

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

Please [submit your information here](#) if you are interested in hosting a tour site.

We sincerely thank you for your consideration! We can't have a plant tour without tour sites.

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## Walking with the Gatewoods, AGAIN

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Wendy Hill, Bill Howe, June Ratcliffe and Mark Gatewood.

Mark Gatewood reports:

A small but determined group of members met on June 20 to celebrate/endure the first day of summer on the Madison Run Fire Road.

The flora was in transition from late spring to early summer. We found lopseed (*Phryma leptostachya*), pipsissewa (*Chimaphila umbellata*), angelica (*Angelica venenosa*) and flowering spurge (*Euphorbia corollata*) in bloom. Toothed white-topped aster (*Sericocarpus asteroides*) was just coming in. Three species of tick trefoil (*Desmodium* spp) lined the road but were not in bloom. Oddly, a single wavy-leaved aster (*Symphotrichum undulatus*) was in bloom about four months early. We also noted red leaflets appearing on Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*).

We had a brief visit with a large butternut (*Juglans cinerea*), a tree rare in Virginia and becoming more rare throughout its range thanks to butternut canker. The sun was high and coming through gaps in the canopy, so we returned to the parking area and adjourned to our air-conditioned vehicles.

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Everyone was dressed appropriately for the heat with covered shoes, sun shade hats and water. We continually assessed people's comfort levels and cut the distance short. Thanks to all who attended and thanks for all the chat between observations.



Left: pipsissewa (*Chimaphila umbellata*). Right: lopseed (*Phryma leptostachya*).