Shenandoah Chapter
Conserving Wild Flowers and Wild Places
Virginia Native Plant Society

SHENANDOAH CHAPTER
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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Season's Greetings!

Red Plus Green Equals Christmas

Mark and Betty Gatewood

After struggling through a second summer of prolonged drought, the only good

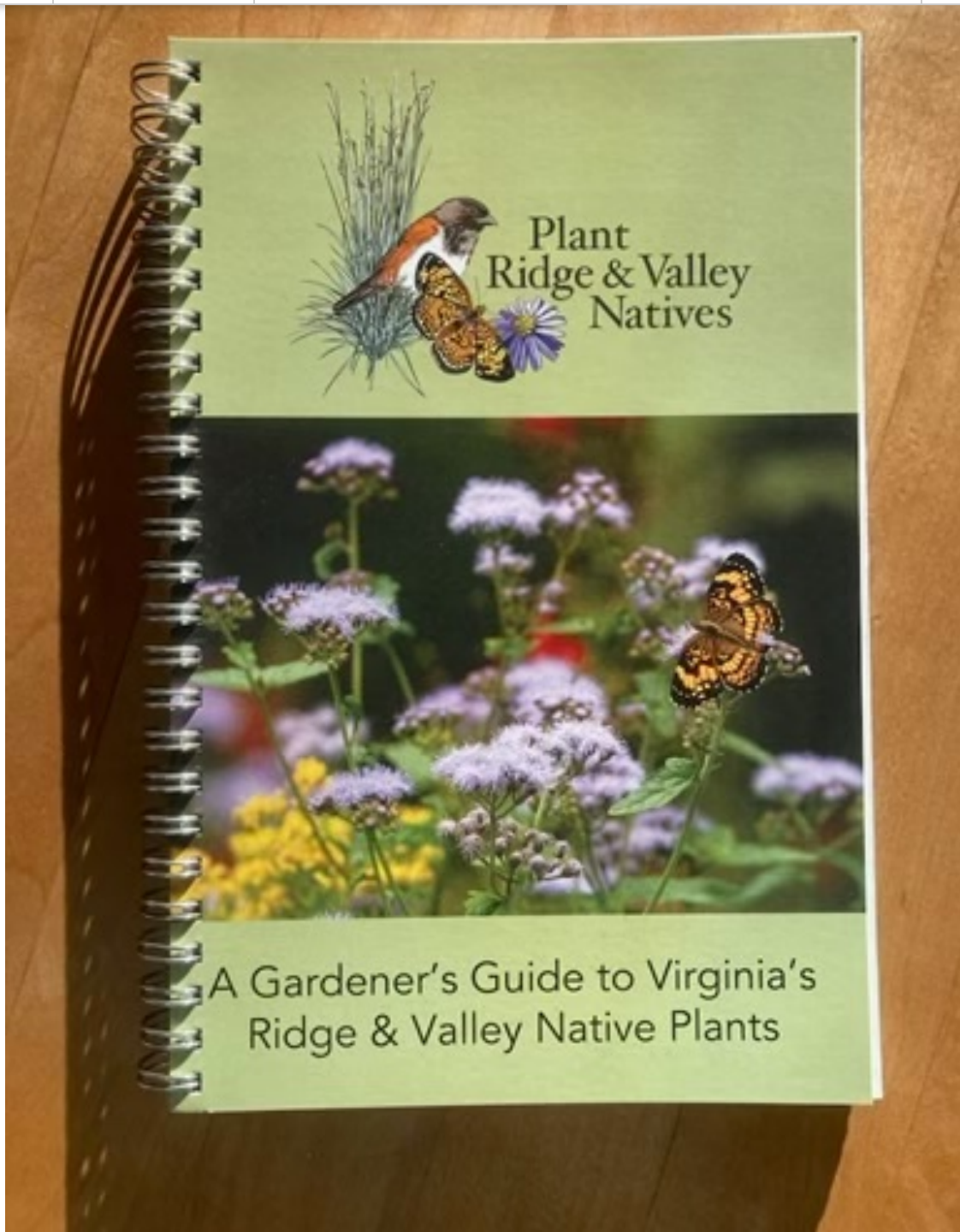maybe Rae Rusnak — told us about Aronia, so we put one in our wagon at the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants sale. Most sources list it as a wetland plant, but the Flora puts it everywhere from wetland to rocky woods, so we planted it on the bank between witch-hazels and Fothergilla.

Surprisingly for a first-year plant, it bloomed and green berries followed. The berries turned to a deep cranberry red, then (minus the one Betty took to get the paint color right) disappeared into the crop of some deserving bird. As the witch-hazels and Fothergilla turned yellow, a few Aronia leaves turned red.

Weird fact: Aronia can be distinguished from anything similar by the presence of trichomes. They're tiny fingers usually found on the mid-rib near the base of the leaf.

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*Send your native plant photos for possible inclusion in future newsletters to shenandoahchapter@gmail.com

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Plant Guide Second Edition!

Second Edition Ridge & Valley Native Plant Guide for Gardeners is available now!
Barbara Brothers

With additional plant entries in each section, some layout improvements, and new plant lists for specific gardening challenges, this revised edition will inspire

have also been added to help you in finding specific species in the book. You can order books at VNPS.org, as well as purchase at various garden centers and shops throughout our region. Go to the site above or check the chapter Facebook page for more specific information on where to purchase the guides. It is a perfect gift for gardening friends who are interested in learning about native plants!

Donate!

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year!

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