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Shenandoah Chapter
Conserving Wild Flowers and Wild Places



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Beauty:



Trillium undulatum, commonly called painted trillium at Reddish Knob, by Steven David Johnson.

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

New Board Members Needed!

There are **two openings** on the board, and we need your help to fill these positions!

The board meets most months via Zoom for about an hour with occasional in-person meetings.

As our chapter has grown, we're ready to add another position: **volunteer coordinator**! This position would help to coordinate and schedule volunteers for

In June, Ivy Makia will be relocating to North Carolina to pursue a master's in horticulture. While we couldn't be more proud or excited, we're sad to lose Ivy. Her position of **Outreach and Conservation** entails connecting with members and the greater community at talks and tabling events, promoting conservation events on social media and our website, and supporting fellow board members at various events.

If you are interested in either of these positions, please email us at ShenandoahChapter@gmail.com.

*Note also that our regular elections will take place in August/September. According to our bylaws, terms are for two years, and board members may serve up to two consecutive terms in the same position. August 2025 will mark the end of the first term for all our original board members!

Our Shenandoah Ivy



By Anna Maria

Ivryne “Ivy” Makia has played a remarkable role in the Shenandoah Chapter since 2021. I (Anna Maria) got to know her while working on the first edition of the Plant Ridge & Valley Natives guide, during which Ivy generously shared her knowledge of native plants in preparing the plant information. I quickly recognized that she not only had an ample supply of plant knowledge, but that she had wonderful graphic design skills, communication/writing skills,

...to implement so many good ideas, from starting her own business to promoting events and activities at the Edith J. Carrier arboretum. Ivy is a true collaborator and clear communicator. She joined the board as our Outreach Coordinator a little over a year ago. Most recently, she supplied me with materials and a lesson plan so I could volunteer to teach about 200 students (in shifts of about 20 at a time!) at Cub Run Elementary School about plants and pollinator relationships as part of their Earth Day education program.

I am so excited for and proud of my dear friend Ivy. Although she is from Florida by birth, I feel she has become a true Shenandoah Valley native over these past four years because of her caring relationships with both the local plant and human communities in our area. It will be a loss to me personally and to the chapter when she moves to North Carolina to study for a master's in horticulture, but I know this is a great growth opportunity for her and for the plant community. She will always be welcome back as our own Shenandoah Ivy!



Jarman Gap Wildflower Walk - April 26, 2025

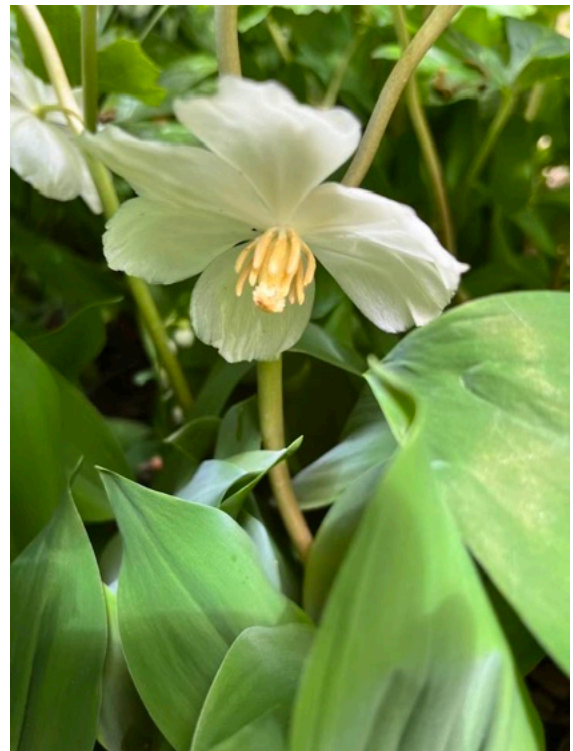
Text and photos by Sharon Landis

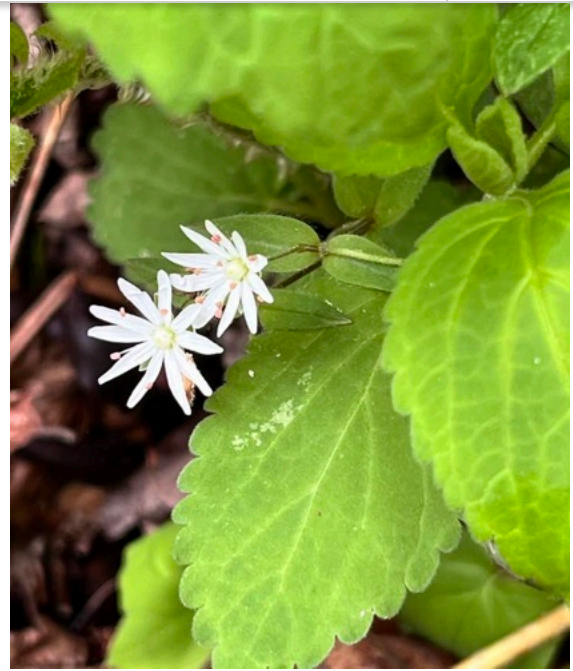
A group of wildflower admirers walked with Shenandoah Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, led by Mark and Betty Gatewood, to Jarman Gap /AT Moorman River Trail in search of the Showy Orchis. This walk wasn't a bird walk, but some of us were also birders. We saw/heard Black and White Warblers, American Redstarts, Hooded Warblers, Wood Thrushes, Goldfinches, Ovenbirds, vireos, and more; my tally included 16 wildflower blooms. I didn't hear the official count number.

False Hellebore, Goat's Beard, Wild Lettuce, Bloodroot, Puttyroot, False Solomon's Seal, and beautiful Maidenhair Ferns.

The day was beautiful with sunshine, friendly plant chatter, and meeting AT through hikers. A couple we met, Bluebird and Drifter, trail names, got engaged on the trail; we gave them a round of applause!

Along the way, we learned about Emma "Grandma" Gatewood, the first woman to hike the entire Appalachian Trail. We also learned a vocabulary word: myrmecochory, a common but often ignored plant-animal interaction for primary seed dispersal by ants. Three common native plants that ants help to spread their seed are Bloodroot, Trillium, and Wild Ginger. Ants carry the seeds containing a glob of fat or other nutrition to their nests; they eat the nutritious part and leave the seeds behind to sprout.





Mark Gatewood's after-action report:

26 April 2025. Eleven members including M & B gathered at Jarman Gap. After introductions, Betty handed out copies of the Wildflower of the Year brochure and bookmarks with her painting of showy orchis. Skies cleared as we headed down the South Fork Moorman's River Road to the Appalachian Trail and the discoveries began. At the AT, we gave the group a history of the AT in Shenandoah National Park.

We met several through-hikers, including "Bluebird" and "Drifter" who had gotten engaged at the beginning of their hike at Springer Mountain and showed off her ring.

We botanized a short section of the AT along Moorman's River and found a full spectrum of spring ephemerals including the star of the show, the showy orchis. The group also found three plants that Betty and I had not seen: jack in the pulpit, putty-root and brook lettuce (*Micranthes micranedifolia*). I heard one member exclaim "This is fun!" So, I think they had a good time.

A big 'Thank You!' to Mark & Betty Gatewood for leading this walk and to Sharon Landis for the write up.

Upcoming Events

- **Guided Walk at Augusta Springs Wetlands**, May 24, 10am. Join Mark and Betty Gatewood at [Augusta Springs Wetlands in the George Washington National Forest](#). While this is not a wildflower hotspot, there are ponds, wetlands, and upland forests making it a great place to enjoy the beginning of spring. More information on our website [here](#).
- **Nature Journaling and Botanical Art Workshop**, May 31 from 10am - 2pm. *Cancelled for low enrollment. Will reschedule in the Fall.*
- **Habitat Connectivity for the Spineless: Fragmentation Hurts Invertebrates**, June 3rd at 7pm. This free event by [Wild Virginia](#) is a webinar about habitat fragmentation and invertebrates. More information and registration information [here](#).
- **Bee Friends**, Thursday, June 5, 7-8:45pm at Silver Lake Mill in Dayton. Anna Maria will be talking about gardening for bees.
- **VNPS Virtual Book Club**, contact [Eunice Sill](#) for more information. June 17, 7pm via Zoom. *Entangled Life*, by Merlin Sheldrake.
- **Doctor's Orders: Black Heritage / Native Plant Walk**, June 14 at 10am. Event through [Shenandoah Valley Conservancy](#) (Ridge & Valley Plant Guide partner organization). Team up with Shenandoah Black Heritage Project and herbalist Ruby Daniels, owner of Creasey Jane's Herbal Remedies, to learn about medicinal plants used within the African-American community. We will explore Zenda, a black heritage site. SVC would love to have people knowledgeable about native plants on this walk! [RSVP here](#).
- **Clean Water Advocate Training**, application deadline June 27th. This free online education program through [Wild Virginia](#) is designed to equip and empower individuals, communities, and organizations to protect Virginia's water quality. The program provides participants with fundamental knowledge of federal and state water protection laws, regulatory processes,

- **Working Together: How Neighborhood Associations Can Address Invasive Plants**, July 16th, 11:30am – 1pm. During this free webinar by [Blue Ridge PRISM](#), a panel of three neighborhood association leaders will share how their communities address invasive plants in their neighborhoods. They will share stories, discuss the hurdles, and give tips on how to organize and train a group to work together as a community. More information and registration [here](#).
 - **Wildflower walks!** We would love to offer more guided walks this spring and summer. If you would like to lead a walk, please [contact Katy](#).
 - **Fall Native Plant Tour**, September.
 - Please consider hosting! Short interest [survey here](#).
 - Direct all questions to [Katy](#).
-

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Potting Party**, anyone?!
 - We are looking for a few volunteers to help pot up plant divisions from some overflowing member gardens. These will be grown out over the summer and available at future sales/swaps.
 - Locations in Waynesboro and Staunton.
 - This needs to happen in the next few weeks before it gets too hot.
 - Contact [Katy](#) if you'd like to help.
- Member Katie Rhodes, inspired to look for opportunities to add more native plantings in our communities, has obtained permission to turn an area at the Bridgewater 7/11 into a **native garden**! Not only will this improve the aesthetic appeal of the lot, but it's an excellent opportunity for a high visibility native planting in the community. If you are interested in learning more or helping out, please contact [Marty](#).

[Katy, Lora, and Anna Maria](#) at Earth Day Staunton at 11:00. Learn to identify and remove invasive plants that threaten the health & enjoyment of this beautiful natural area Spaces limited to 10. [Register here](#).

Spring Successes: Native Plant Tour & Plant Sales

Our spring plant tours were a success! This event took place on May 3rd and 4th and featured 4 sites on Saturday and 5 on Sunday, with locations stretching from Broadway to Waynesboro. We hope you were able to stop by a property to see how others in our area are working with native plants. If not, we hope you can make it to a tour in the future.

Host Jennifer Lewis reported that she had about 25 people stop by her Waynesboro property, “I had a great time” Jennifer said, “a great turn out on Sunday... I gave away a ton of native plants!” *Thanks for hosting, Jennifer!*

We are very grateful to all our hosts for allowing people to peruse their properties! If you're interested in hosting in the future (we're aiming for an early September tour), please contact [Katy](#).

Thank you to all the hosts!!

This spring, we had four sales events, including two book sales and two plant sales. Katy, Lora, and Anna Maria represented the chapter and sold plant guides at two events, Harrisonburg Pollinators in your Your Yard & Seven Bends Grand Opening. Barbara Brothers represented the chapter at Stone Soup Books for a plant sale event, and many of us sold plants at Earth Day Staunton. Between these four events, we raised over \$1,000 for the chapter to support our activities and save for future reprinting costs.

Thank you to all our plant sale volunteers! Whether you donated plants or helped out on the day of sale, we could not have done it

Glass Hollow Fire

From Little Bluestem:

The Glass Hollow Fire has come and gone, leaving about 120 acres lightly scorched. The fire mostly raced through zones of leaf litter and Mountain Laurel scrub, and did not crown- thank goodness! While quite a lot of deadfall was charred, much of the duff was only lightly singed. The shrub layer experienced heavy burning and singeing throughout. Mountain Laurel can grow up to five times faster than usual after a burn, so we expect a great deal of dense regrowth in the next year. Flames also passed through a grove of Table Mountain Pine, a locally uncommon species which requires fire for their seeds to germinate.

We're all very excited to see which dormant species emerge from the seed bank in the wake of the burn, and how the survivors adapt to the new conditions. Many thanks especially to the Forest Service Firefighters for their particular care in corralling the blaze with respect for the regeneration of the land.









Text and images are credited to [Little Bluestem](#).

A Spring Liverleaf Transplant

Also from Little Bluestem



A neighbor down the hollow recently let us know that last year she had spotted some beautiful wildflowers growing in along the creek near where another neighbor was in the midst of new driveway construction. Some of the plants had likely already been smothered or killed. After she showed us pictures, I recognized the plants she was especially concerned about as *Hepatica americana* (AKA Liverleaf or Liverwort). This plant happens to be one of my favorite spring ephemerals (although unlike many other ephemerals, their leathery foliage actually persists all year, visible to the observing eye if not covered by leaf duff). I love this plant so much that I have a special song just for them. Under normal circumstances I wouldn't dream of digging up any *Hepatica* I found in the woods, no matter how much I adore them. However, in this case, transplanting some from this zone to the sanctuary/refugia at Little Bluestem seemed like the best course of action to give them a better chance of survival. As a happy side effect, having them closer in proximity will not only bring more gladness to our hearts but also make it a bit easier to attempt the finicky process of collecting seeds.

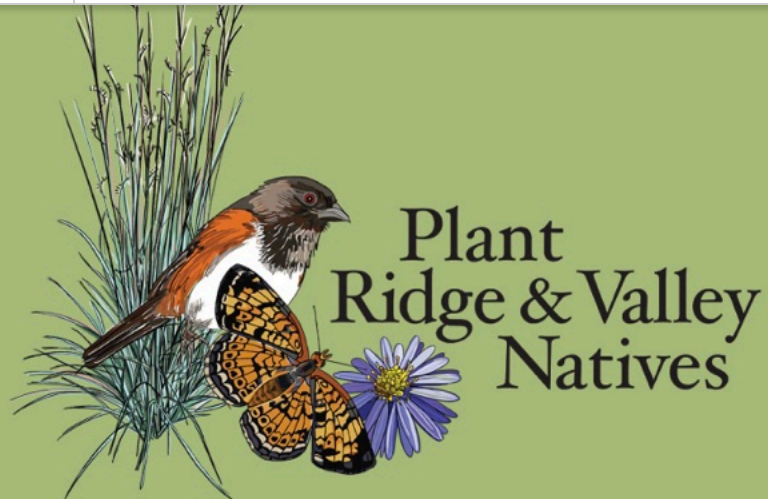
On an overcast day in Mid-March with a good rain forecast for the following day, we dug over 30 plants from this beautiful creekside laden with moss and stones. Several weeks later, I can now report with relief that they seemed to tolerate the transplant well and are blooming beautifully. We joyfully welcome this new friend to the sanctuary. **If you know of other areas where native plants would benefit from relocation due to habitat destruction, please don't hesitate to reach out to us!**

As is the case with several other spring ephemerals, *Hepatica* has a mutualistic relationship with ants, who help with their seed dispersal. The *Hepatica* achenes

an ant is a nutritious treat, so they carry the seed with tasty appendage home to the nest to share with their family. The seed then gets deposited into nicely aerated anthill soil after they've enjoyed their meal. For my purposes in seed collection, this means that once the seedheads of *Hepatica* start to mature and bend towards the ground- if I want to get these achenes at the perfect time before the ants do- I'll need to attach little mesh baggies around the seedheads to catch and protect the seeds when they fall. If this labor of love is successful, sometime in the next few years our nursery will be able to share and spread the offspring of these rescued *Hepatica americana*!

Text and images are credited to [Little Bluestem](#).

Ridge & Valley Native Plant Campaign!



A Gardener's Guide to Virginia's Ridge & Valley Native Plants

The Ridge & Valley Native Plant campaign encourages our members to support local plant nurseries that stock our native plants.

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ridge & valley, go to [Shenandoah Ecology](#).

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