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June 2026 Newsletter





May Highlight:

Ridge & Valley Native Plant Tours!

Thank you to the 16 gardens that hosted our annual spring **Ridge & Valley Native Plant Tours!**

One of the tour hosts, Charlie Wilfong wrote this part of his garden (pictured above): "I'm really starting to love this combination. Yarrow, prickly pear, wild Petunia. This hell strip only ever receives rain for watering and these three love it. Honorable mention to the prairie drop seed and butterfly weed -- they also love this spot."

Charlie also wrote about the tours themselves: "Wow! We could not have asked for better weather for our spring garden tour this year. Blue skies, warm temps and what a turnout! We would like to extend a special thanks to all those who welcomed guests into their gardens with such warmth. From young gardens to established landscapes, each gardener has their own unique style and palette to paint their vision with. Thirteen different property owners volunteered their time and gardens so others could enjoy and maybe get some extra inspiration, thank you.

"And to our visitors, thank you for being respectful and delightful guests. From children to seasoned, your enthusiasm and curiosity brings a smile to our faces. There is no tour without you."

Heuchera americana (American Alumroot): Photo essay by Steven David Johnson

The American alumroot flowers in our garden are only about 2-3 mm wide, but they draw in tiny sweat bees all day long!





New Library Partnership - How to Get Involved!



We are excited to announce a new project we are working on this summer in partnership with Massanutten Regional Library (MRL) — and we could use your help!

We'll be putting together 8 native plant backpacks to donate to MRL branches across Rockingham, Harrisonburg, and Page counties. Our backpacks will contain tools and resources to help folks begin their very own native plant garden. These backpacks will be a part of the existing “Library of Things” — a collection of non-traditional materials available for library patrons to borrow, just like books! We're excited to be adding to this collection! (For more info on MRL's “Library of Things”, check out their [existing collection](#))

How can I support this project? — choose your level of involvement

1.

Donate gently used tools — We will need 8 trowels and 8 weeders (the small, handheld kind)

2.

Sponsor a backpack in full for \$110 — This will cover the cost of the backpack itself, resources included in the backpack, and backpack upkeep

3.

Sponsor a backpack in part — choose your level of support

4.

Join the Library Projects Committee — We are looking for 2-4 volunteer community members to help us bring this project (and an accompanying mobile exhibit) to life this summer (approximate time frame: June-August).

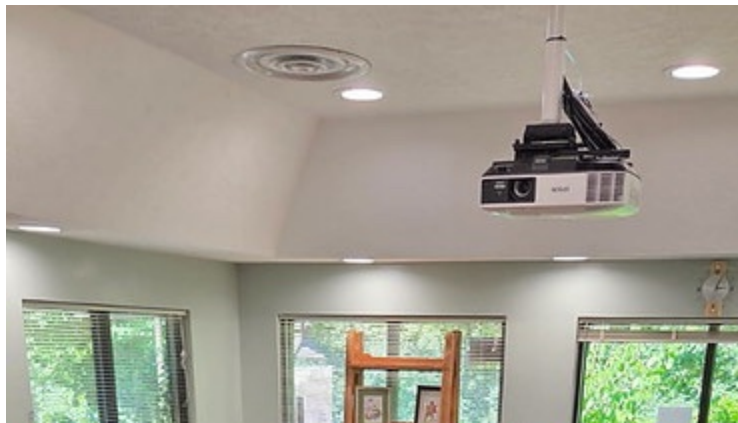
5.

Share your book recommendations! — As part of this project, we are creating a book recommendations list in partnership with MRL. We'd love your suggestions! You can share those via this [Google form](#).

We're very excited to be partnering with MRL to bring more native plant resources and education to our community. If you'd like to be involved in any of these ways, or if you have any questions, please contact our Technology and Education Chair Rebecca Clark at RNCLARK25@gmail.com

Second Sunday Social

We had fun on Sunday, June 14th, testing the PLOT Native Plant Game with creator Briana Miller at the EJC Arboretum at JMU. We welcomed familiar faces and new ones, sharing our passion for native plants, pollinators, and related themes!



them.

- Establishing gardens, preserves, or parks that incorporate native plants.
- Projects that incorporate public education or consistent, current and long-term public access will be given priority.

Grant proposals must be submitted by 11:59 PM on July 8th, 2026.

For application requirements and to apply, download the application at <https://vnps.org/shenandoah/community-native-plant-grant/>

Choose your Perfect Level of Chapter Engagement

- Subscribe to the newsletter
- Follow and participate on social media (Instagram and Facebook)
- Attend Second Sunday Plant Social (every month in person)
- Join as a full voting [member](#) through VNPS
- Volunteer

Reach out to us at [Shenandoah Chapter](#) to see how you can level up your engagement.

Your Moment of Zen



Katy Melton Simpson photographed this *Passiflora incarnata* (Passionflower vine) with a friend, possibly a pigweed flea beetle (*Disonycha glabrata*). Native to Rockingham and Augusta counties.

Send us your favorite native plant photos for possible inclusion in the next newsletter!



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