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Virginia Native Plant Society
Conserving Wild Flowers and Wild Places



July 2026 Newsletter



Garden Fireworks!

Spotted Bee Balm *Monarda punctata* by Barbara Brothers

Backpack Project Update



This project is in full swing! We're putting together eight 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](#))

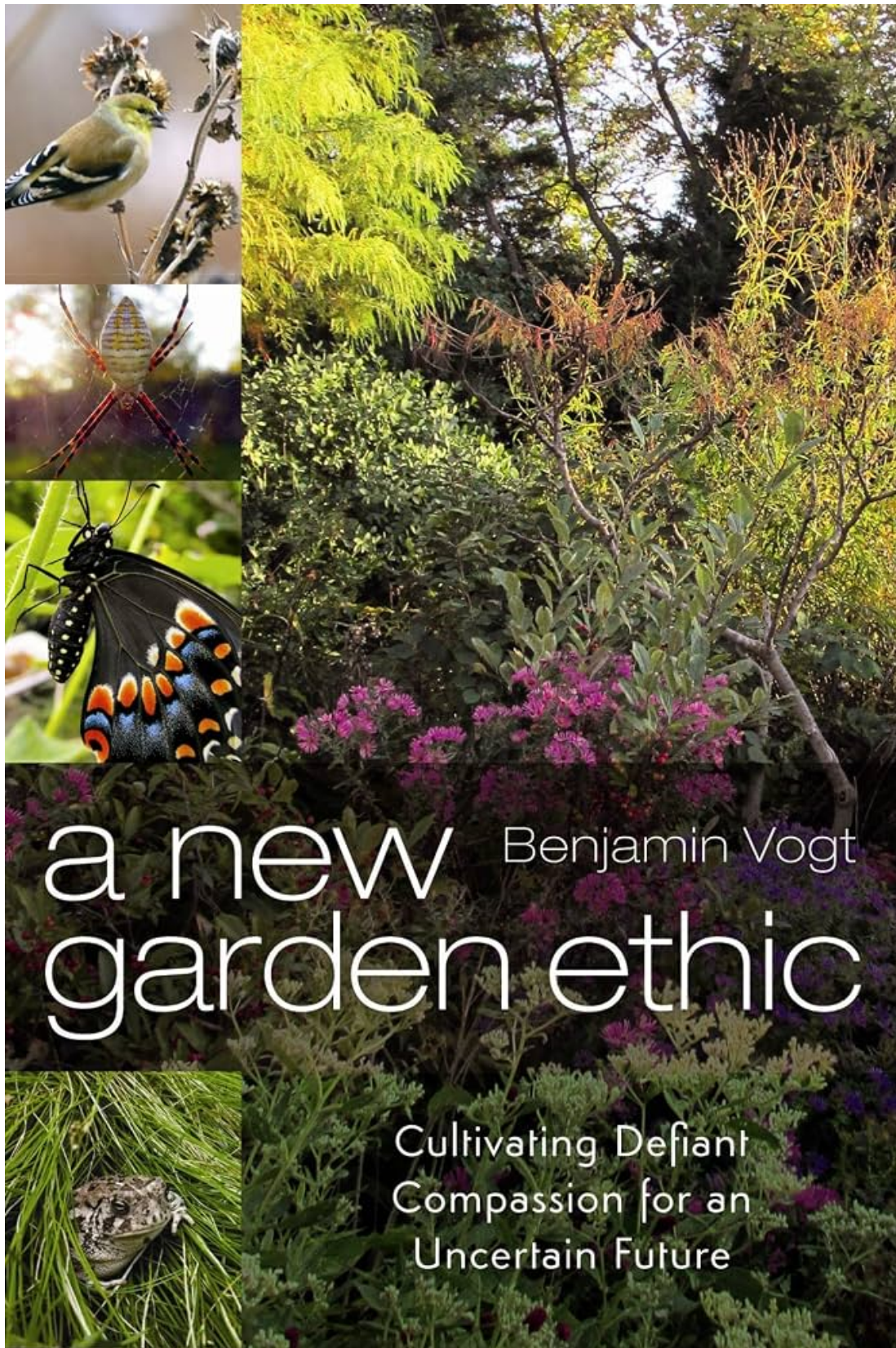
Thanks so much to our community's generosity in bringing this project to life!

Interested in getting involved with this project or becoming a sponsor?

Learn more!

Book Club

The next meeting of the bok club will be July 21st at 7pm, and the book will be [A New Garden Ethic](#) by Benjamin Vogt. Contact [Eunice Sill](#) for more information.



Second Sunday Social

We are continuing our Second Sunday Socials in the education center at the JMU Edith J. Carrier Arboretum going forward. The next one is August 9th. We will be inviting the Headwaters chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists to join us, but the public is still welcome!

NEW! A Community Native Plant Grant

In 2026, for the first time ever, the VNPS Shenandoah Chapter will award a total of \$1,000 to one or more well-defined projects located within the Virginia counties of Augusta, Highland, Page, Rockingham, or Shenandoah that address the VNPS Mission and Goals.

Grants will be awarded to projects that incorporate one or more of the following themes:

- Conserving native plant communities in their natural habitats through conservation and land stewardship practices.
- Educating the public about the value of native plants and how to encourage 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 will be accepted on a rolling basis.

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

Seeking Wildflower Walk Leaders!

We would love to offer some late summer or fall wildflower walks! Do you have a familiar walk where you can identify a few native plants? Consider inviting our members to come appreciate them with you!

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
- Lead a native plant walk or bioblitz
- Volunteer

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

Your Moment of Zen



Barbara Brother photographed this toadstool, waiting for a leprechaun, in her woods.

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

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