

Spring.
Awakening.

Where the Blue
Ridge Comes
Alive



Artwork Courtesy of Em Stamey

May 1 - 3, 2026

We Welcome You

Now in its 43rd year, the Spring Awakening, formerly the Spring Wildflower Symposium, is an immersive weekend event celebrating the region's remarkable flora and mountain ecosystems. Designed for nature enthusiasts, scientists, educators, students, and outdoor adventurers, the event features:

- Guided natural history walks and field trips
- Field workshops and lectures
- Expert-led presentations in botany, ecology, geology, ornithology, and more
- Networking with community members and environmental professionals
- Opportunities for stewardship engagement booth sales

We look forward to meeting new faces and seeing those of you who make this annual pilgrimage.

Instructors

Chuck Bailey Ph.D., His Greatness,

Professor of Geology, William & Mary

Flip Coulling Botanist & Executive Director

of Nature Camp, Vesuvius, VA

Dom Ciruzzi Ph.D., Assistant Professor of

Geology, William & Mary

Harmony Dagleish Ph.D., Associate

Professor of Biology, William & Mary

Shawn Dash Ph.D., Biologist, Hampton

University

Mary Jane Epps Natural Areas Biologist,

Virginia Natural Heritage Program

Emily Ferguson Botanist, Master

Naturalist, Tree Steward, and Beekeeper

Kevin Howe Aquatic Ecologist, Active

Master Naturalist

Shawn Kurtzman Research Biologist, The

Conservation Management Institute

Elizabeth Long Ph.D., Ecologist, Executive

Director, TNFW

Josh Palumbo Forester, TNFW

Ashley Peele Ph.D., Science Integration

Coordinator, Appalachian Mountains Joint

Venture

Suzanna Stone Teacher, Clinical Herbalist,

Founder of Owlcraft Healing Ways

Johnny Townsend Senior Botanist, Virginia

Department of Conservation and

Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage

Carolyn Velletri Nature Artist and Author,

TNFW volunteer

Accommodations

Registration includes event access and Saturday boxed lunches; lodging is **not** included. For discounted accommodations at Wintergreen Resort, call 800-926-3723 and ask for the *Spring Awakening* package.



Thank You

We would like to thank all the countless volunteers who help make this event the success it is. It truly would not be possible without their time and energy! Thank you to Bank of the James, Farfields Farm & Nursery and the Horwitz Family for their generous financial support! Also, a special thank you to Wintergreen Resort for providing lodging for our instructors and lunches for all attendees!

The Nature Foundation at Wintergreen

The Nature Foundation at Wintergreen (TNFW), a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, promotes the understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural history of the central Blue Ridge of Virginia. All proceeds from this event benefit The Nature Foundation at Wintergreen. TNFW is a membership organization.

Program Schedule

Friday, May 1st

3:00 - 5:00 pm

Walk Welcome Back to the Blue Ridge
Ferguson *Moderate*

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Welcome Mixer with Instructor
Meet & Greet

Saturday, May 2nd

*Repeated activities are noted ***

7:00 - 9:00 am

Walk Birding in the Blue Ridge
Peele

8:00 - 10:00 am

Walk Appalachian Spring Wildflowers
Townsend

Walk Backyard Medicine: Healing
Properties of Our Common, Wild,
Abundant Weeds
Stone **

9:00 - 11:00 am

Walk Unique Geology of Wintergreen
Bailey

Walk Flora of the Blue Ridge
Epps

Lecture Poisonous Mushrooms in Virginia
Howe **

10:15 - 12:15 pm

Walk Bug Hunt
Dash

Walk Salamanders: Our Native Amphibians
Kurtzman

Walk Tree I.D.
Palumbo

11:15 - 12:15 pm

Lecture The Life and Times of Appalachian Oaks
Coulling

Lecture The Microbiome & Milkweed
Dagleish



12:15 - 1:15 pm

LUNCH BREAK

1:15 - 2:15 pm

Lecture Adventures in Plant Geography: What Grows Where and Why?

Townsend

Lecture Watching Over Our Birds: Population Trends Powered by Citizen Science

Peele

1:15 - 3:15 pm

Walk Backyard Medicine: Healing Properties of Our Common, Wild, Abundant Weeds

Stone **

Walk Appalachian Oaks

Coulling

Walk Hydroecological Processes of Trees

Ciruzzi

2:15 - 3:15 pm

Lecture Climate in the Blue Ridge: From Deep Time to Tomorrow

Bailey

2:15 - 4:15 pm

Wkshp Seeing Nature Like An Artist

Velletri

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Scaled Creatures of the Blue Ridge

Kurtzman

3:30 - 5:30 pm

Walk Exploring Plant Relationships with Insects and Fungi

Epps

Walk Butterflies In Bloom

Long

4:30 - 5:30 pm

Lecture Poisonous Mushrooms in Virginia

Howe **

Lecture The Mixed Blessings of Garden Insects

Dash

5:30 - 7:00 pm

DINNER BREAK

7:00 - 8:00 pm

Lecture Trees as Living Environmental Sensors

Ciruzzi (Keynote)

Sunday, May 3rd

8 am - until

Exploratory Exploring Vernal Pools at
Maple Flats

Bailey & Long

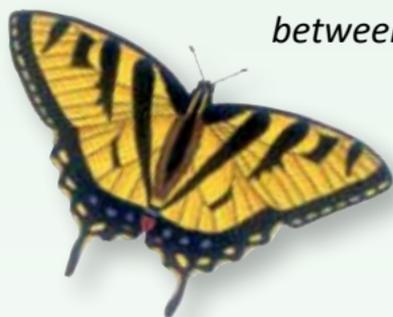


**Schedule subject to change

Native Plant Demonstration

May 2nd, 9 am - 3 pm

Join us at TNFW's Native Plant Demonstration during the Spring Awakening event! Our dedicated Plant Propagation volunteers will be available to answer your questions and take orders for native plants. An inventory of available plants will be provided at the information booth. *Orders can be collected on **Sunday, May 3rd** at the greenhouse, located at 725 Beech Grove Rd, Roseland, VA 22967 between **10 am - 12 pm.***



Program sign-ups will be online. An email with walk and workshop sign-up links will be sent the week of Wildflower. Please ensure your registration includes a valid email address.

2026 Spring Awakening Event Registration

Name(s):

(Please print for nametags)

Address:

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (day) _____

Email _____

Registration

(includes a boxed lunch from Wintergreen Resort)

TNFW Member Registration ____ X \$130 = \$ _____

TNFW NON-Member Registration _____ X \$150 = \$ _____

Scholarships for educators are available.
Contact Amanda Winegar for information (434) 325-7451.

Total Payment Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to:
The Nature Foundation at Wintergreen
Discover, MasterCard, Visa and American Express accepted.

Card# _____ Exp: _____

CVV _____ Zip: _____

Signature _____

Please complete this registration form and return to:

The Nature Foundation at Wintergreen

Route 1, Box 770

Roseland VA 22967

register online at www.tnfw.org