



BritClub News

Vol 24, Issue 2

A MESSAGE TO THE MEMBERS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's message,

Greetings BritClub members, and happy St. George's Day to our English members.

Ok, I'm a little late since it was on April 23rd, but I wonder how many of you knew that anyway, hmmm! I'm looking forward to our next party on May 25th which will be our annual members' meeting, combined with a BBQ. I'm conspiring with another member to spring a surprise so come prepared to eat, drink and be entertained – or to entertain.

This is also the time when the new Board of Directors/Officers are elected for another year.

I have sent out two invitations for folks to put their names forward to join our esteemed board of directors. So far, we have received zero responses! I haven't even heard from the current directors; actually, come to think of it, I haven't applied either.... So, does this mean everyone is just so pleased, with the current management that no change is deemed necessary? Or is everybody just too lazy?

Here is a new method: any member who does NOT attend our party will have their names placed in a hat and the first 10 to be drawn out will be elected to the Board.

So, there is an incentive for you to join the party on the 25th - and we'll have our Board - unless others step forward!

Our Friday luncheons are back on Fridays now and the May lunch will be back to Beckhams for fish and chips on May 31st. They are still considered to be the best in Sarasota.

After this we hunker down for the hot and humid weather to return, especially since El Nino is expected to give way to La Nina. This results in a reduced wind shear - which kept the hurricanes away from us last year and blew them towards the UK. So, we'll face an increased chance of storms heading towards Florida this year, be warned.

I look forward to meeting up with you soon.

Best wishes,

Peter

Peter Stokes, SBC President

BRITCLUB UPCOMING EVENTS

Memorial Day service at Arcadia on May 27th:

Dear all, the annual service of remembrance for the 23 RAF pilot cadets killed while training during 1943/44 in Florida takes place on Memorial Day, May 27th in Arcadia. This is a really nice and interesting experience and some of you expressed an interest in attending the service last year. If you would like more information, please contact me by email at: sarasotabritclub@gmail.com

Cheers,
Peter

BritClub's Annual General Meeting and BBQ

Saturday, May 25th.

Location: Turtle Beach Pavilion, Midnight Pass Road South, Siesta Key (turn left - south - when you enter Siesta Key).

Time: 4:30 PM

Parking: there is plenty of parking in the Turtle Beach public park parking lot, just before you get to the pavilion.

Menu: hamburgers, veggie burgers and hot dogs.

Bring your own beverages, all party supplies will be provided.

If you would like to join us please reply to: sarasotabritclub@gmail.com

Members and guests are welcome, only paid-up members may vote.

OTHER CLUB'S UPCOMING EVENTS

Two messages from Linda Mercurio:

Suncoast Scots

Please join us on Sunday June 30th at the British Open Pub in Venice Florida as we host a friendly Scottish Trivia competition for our attendees.

We will be offering outstanding raffle prizes for you to win including a special bottle of 12year bottle of QE II Scotch that was released in 1978. Yes, a 58-year-old bottle of Scotch for you to win!!

Special raffle ticket pricing for this item will apply.

We will also have other raffle items and some great whiskeys to sample as well.

Seating will be limited and to you will need to RSVP to Linda Mercurio at lindascot5770@gmail.com

All funds raised will go to your 2025 Suncoast Scots Highland Games & Celtic Festival.

See you there!!



On Friday evening May 31st, there will be a Dine to Donate event at Tamiami Tap, as they offer excellent food and drink choices!!

As usual, there'll be great raffle prizes for you to win with the finest samples of liquid kindness for you to sample!

Internationally known, Clover's Revenge will be playing their outstanding tunes!! See you there!!



JUST FOR LAUGHS



ANARCHY
IN THE UK.

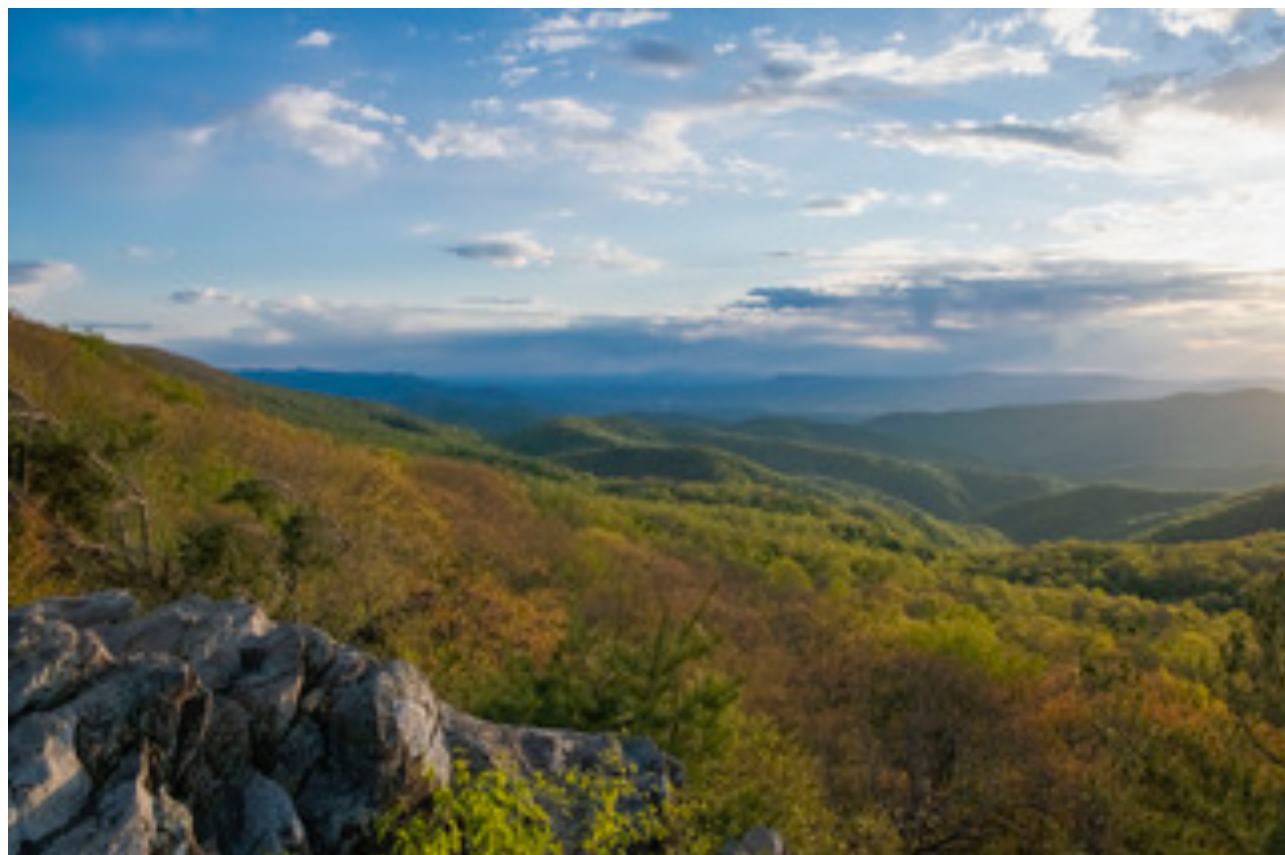
NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Spring in Virginia and North Carolina

It is this time of the year, when leaves turn luscious green and many flowers open to display their beautiful colors.

Only a couple of years ago, Peter and I were so fortunate to see and enjoy the spectacle of blooming wildflowers in Virginia and North Carolina, more precisely: the month of May in the Shenandoah National Park and most of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

In the following pages we share with you a sample of what we saw.



Photography by Olga Stokes.

Written material about flowers was obtained from Wikipedia and multiple other internet websites.

BEAR CORN – CONOPHOLIS AMERICANA



This is perennial parasitic plant (it obtains its nutrition from another plant -the host- without contributing to the benefit of the host); it is native to North America and considered a major staple in the diet of bears in the Smoky Mountains

TRILLIUM GRANDIFLORA



It is said that after being pollinated, the aging flower turns pink to signal to insects that they can move on.

PHILADELPHIA FLEABANE OR COMMON FLEABANE



This aster-like flower is a composite of many smaller flowers, an abundant number of tiny ray florets that make up the flower head. They bloom early in May.

DANDELION



Dandelions are a large genus of flowering plants native to Eurasia and North America, the most common species, however, were introduced from Europe into North America. They are one of the most vital sources of nectar for a wide host of pollinators in early spring.

FLOWERING DOGWOOD - CORNUS FLORIDA



This is a woody, deciduous flowering tree native to southeastern Canada, eastern North America, and eastern Mexico.
It is the State Flower of Virginia and North Carolina.

CERULIA BLUETS - HOUSTONIA



Commonly known as Quaker Ladies or Bluets; it's a perennial plant native to eastern Canada and the eastern United States .

It is found in cliffs, forests, meadows and shores of rivers and lakes.

The flowers measure approximately 1 cm across and have four pale blue petals with a yellow center.

WILD GERANIUM



It is a perennial native woodland wildflower in eastern North America.

Colloquial names are:

Alum root, Alum Bloom and Old Maid's Nightcap.

It grows in dry to moist woods and is normally abundant when found.

The flowers are 2.5-4cm in diameter and have five petals rose-purple or violet-purple in color.



GREAT CHICKWEED - STAR CHICKWEED



Is a spring flowering plant in the carnation family, native to the eastern United States. It's an early spring bloomer and can be found in bottomland forests and rocky slopes. It is endangered in the state of New Jersey.

COMMON BLUE VIOLET

It is native to eastern and central North America; it grows 6" in height and it's found in woods, thickets and along streambeds. It has many solitary flowers 2 cm wide, on slender stalks; its nectar attracts butterflies and bees.



BIRD'S FOOT VIOLET - MOUNTAIN PANSY

Viola Pedata is native to sandy areas in central and eastern North America. Two primary color forms exist: . "concolor" which is solid pink-lilac lavender and . "bicolor" in which the superior petal is deep red-purple, and the other petals are similar, to the concolor variety.



SMOOTH AZALEA - SWEET AZALEA



Rhododendron Arborescens is an erect loosely branched woody deciduous shrub in the Blueberry family, native to Eastern North America.

The genus name derives from the Greek words “rhodo” which means rose and “dendron” meaning tree. The flowers bloom from late spring to early summer and attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

This plant is poisonous to humans.

AMETHYST KISS - SPIDERWORT



Tradescantia is a genus of 85 species of herbaceous perennial wildflowers native to the Americas, from southern Canada to northern Argentina. The flowers can be white, pink, purple or blue.

Spiderwort is a long blooming Tradescantia; it produces large clusters of rich purple blooms accented with yellow tipped stamens from early summer to fall. It can be found individually or in clumps in wooded areas and open fields.

YELLOW LADY'S SLIPPER



Also known as Moccasin Flower, is an orchid native to North America. It is widespread, ranging from Alaska, south to Arizona and Georgia. It grows in fens, wetlands, shorelines, and damp woodlands. The flowers are a bright yellow pouch with greenish to reddish sepals that twist upward in spirals, and petals up to 10 cm high x 10 cm wide.

Deer love to eat this plant.



PINK LADY'S SLIPPER



This orchid plant has a single flower stem topped by a spectacular moccasin shaped flower. It invests a lot of energy to produce this lovely flower to entice pollinators to assist with the cross pollination the plant is unable to achieve on its own.

The queen Bumble Bees are strong enough to muscle their way through the narrow entrance, but once inside, they can't exit the same way because the edges of the entryway are curved inward, making the exit impossible. The only way out is at the back of the slipper, through a snug passage past the flower's reproductive parts: first, the bee must brush against the stigma and deposit the pollen she may be bringing for pollination to occur, second, the bee will brush against an anther, from which a pollinium package will be attached to its back. Then, freedom! But no nectar for the bee since she cannot access the packed pollen to eat.



FLAME AZALEA - RHODODENRDRON CALENDULACEUM



The Orange Flame Azalea shrub is native primarily to woodland slopes and mountain balds in the Appalachian Mountains from Pennsylvania to Georgia. It blooms like fire in Roan Mountain Round Bald, a high-altitude meadow (5826') where the Appalachian Trail crosses its summit on the border of North Carolina and Tennessee. The flowers are rich in nectar, they appear from late spring to mid-summer and attract pollinators.

This plant is poisonous to humans.





Sunset, at Shenandoah National Park, Virginia.



Hope you enjoyed it!

Olga

MORE NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Paul and Diana's eclipse trip

Having experienced the 2017 eclipse in the Smoky Mountains, we were determined to make the most of the recent total eclipse, particularly since the next one will not be seen in the US until 2045!

So we loaded the dog and cat onto our Winnebago RV, nicknamed TaTa (the license plate reads TTFN), and set off on a 2,250 mile round trip to Arkansas. The path of totality was predicted to pass diagonally across the country from Texas to Maine, and we figured that Arkansas was as close as anywhere to Sarasota. In addition, we have had good experience with campgrounds there, and while big crowds were forecasted in the big cities in Texas, Arkansas is a hidden gem.

In searching Google for campgrounds along the path of totality, we came across several Army Corps of Engineers sites on lakes around the State. The ACOE builds and maintains dams on the big rivers out West, and most of them have organized campgrounds. While they don't have swimming pools and playgrounds, they are generally very pleasant and affordable. Cottonshed Park was our choice, and on the morning of October 6 last year I was at the computer at 8 am to book our campsite 6 months ahead.

We planned the trip to take 4 days, at around 250 miles a day. The first two days were at State Parks in Florida, then at two commercial parks en route. Cottonshed is on a large lake much used by local fishermen, who all had expensive boats with large engines, we were definitely the 'City Slickers' amongst the anglers. However, our campsite was outstanding, and with our Starlink to connect to the internet, we were all set with Netflix and movies in the evenings.



We spent 3 nights on the campsite, and enjoyed every minute. The highlight, of course, was the eclipse, which was every bit as spectacular as promised. The day turned dark, it cooled down, and the stars came out. Here is a video of the event

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/M7dvqMTXHgrELXCD7>

Our once in a lifetime event was over in 4 minutes, and next day we packed up and started our 4 day trip home. Well worth the effort!

FINAL THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

Dear BritClub members:

As we head into another hot and muggy summer, why not beat the heat by attending an upcoming BritClub event? As mentioned above, our Annual General Meeting is taking place on May 25th and is a wonderful way to catch up with all your old friends and make some new ones!

And don't forget that Sarasota British Club is on Facebook! The Club's logo is the profile picture. Check out numerous photos from recent events! (Why not "friend" us for another way of keeping in touch with the Club?)

Many thanks to the members who have contributed to this edition with photographs and written material.

Your Newsletter Editor,



John Burdette