The meeting will be a tour of the Community Arboretum on the campus of Virginia Western Community College. The meal will be at the Roanoker Restaurant, five minutes from the Arboretum.

The Community Arboretum is a two-acre educational garden located on the campus of Virginia Western Community College in Roanoke, Virginia. Ten separate gardens and plant collections surround a centrally located amphitheater and are home to approximately 700 labeled plant taxa. The tour will take 40-50 minutes. The Arboretum is wheelchair accessible.

The Roanoker Restaurant has banquet room in which we will be eating. See page 5 for the menu.

Reservations for the tour and dinner are preferred, and should be made by Monday, May 16, two days before the meeting by calling Dr. Natalia Smelkova at 540-365-4362, or e-mail to nsmelkova@ferrum.edu, or regular mail to Garber Hall - 314, 80 Wiley Drive, Ferrum, VA 24088.
The Community Arboretum at Virginia Western Community College

The following was taken from the Community Arboretum Web site at http://www.virginiawestern.edu/arboretum/. Please visit this site for more information and beautiful pictures.

The Arboretum has a garden for everyone! Listed below are a few of the beautiful gardens you can visit at Virginia Western. In addition to these, there are a number of smaller gardens and plant collections including an Annual Garden, Wildflower Collection, and Ground-cover Collection.

Conifer Garden
Over one hundred different cone-bearing trees and shrubs can be found growing in the Conifer Garden. From Dwarf Chamaecypariss to Giant Dawn Redwood, these plants exhibit an incredible variety of size, color, and form. The conifers are grouped by genus, thus forming mini-collections of Taxus, Picea, Cryptomeria, and many more.

Perennial Rainbow Garden
The Perennial Garden borders the west side of the Arboretum and displays 91 hardy herbaceous perennials in a rainbow color theme. When you enter the garden you will see the yellows of Yarrow, Daylily, and Bearded Iris. As you stroll through the garden, you will find dozens of orange flowered plants followed by reds, purples, and blues.

Rock Garden
Located adjacent to the amphitheater's gazebo, the Rock Garden is home to 75 different shrubs and herbaceous perennials. The plantings are completed with rock outcroppings and bordered by intersecting arcs of mortarless stone walls. A pleasing combination of Dwarf Conifers, Butterfly Bushes, Asters, Sedums, and many other plants are on display.

Shade Garden
Beyond the entrance arbor you will discover the Shade Garden filled with 190 different low-light preferring herbaceous perennials, spectacular flowering shrubs and complementary small trees. A few of the plants that can be found in this garden include Hostas, Ferns, Wildflowers, Hydrangeas, Viburnums, Stewartia, Magnolias, and Serviceberry.

Children's Garden
Conveniently located next to the amphitheater, the Children's Garden has become a popular community attraction. Young visitors have two areas to enjoy, a plant zoo and a maze. The zoo is home to 70 different plants with animal names such as Ostrich Fern, Elephant Ear, Zebra Grass, and Lamb's Ear. Two water features act as magnets, attracting the children to the splashing water, goldfish, and of course, Horsetail and Parrot's Feather. The maze is a challenging, large scale puzzle composed of 200 yews covering 1,000 square feet. The children love it!

Herb Garden
This lush herb garden is planted and maintained by the local Herb Society.

Sensory Garden
Come experience a delight to your senses in the Sensory Garden.
Special Roanoker Menu*

Petite Rib Eye Steak, Au Jus
Tossed Salad Bowl and Baked Potato
Hot Roanoker Breads $ 9.99

Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast with a Side Vegetable
Choice of Two Vegetables or Tossed Salad
Hot Roanoker Breads $ 7.79

Grilled Pork Tenderloin with Fried Apples
Choice of Two Vegetables or Tossed Salad
Hot Roanoker Breads $ 8.99

Virginia Seafood Platter
Flounder Fillet, Shrimp and Oysters, Lightly Dusted and Fried
Tossed Salad Bowl and Baked Potato
Hot Roanoker Breads $ 11.99

Vegetable Patch
A Plate Full of Steamed Vegetables
Served with Honey Mustard for Dipping
Hot Roanoker Breads $5.99

*Prices Do Not Include Drink, Dessert, Tip or Tax

Directions to the Community Arboretum at Virginia Western Community College

Coming from the north on I-581 take the Colonial Avenue exit. At the end of the ramp turn left onto Colonial Avenue. Continue for about 0.7 miles, following the signs and passing under the overhead pedestrian bridge. A little past the bridge turn left onto Winding Way. You may park in the parking lot area off of Winding Way across from the Natural Science Center and the Greenhouse. See the maps on the next page.

Coming from the south on I-581 take the Wonju Street exit toward Colonial Avenue. Merge onto Wonju Street and turn left at Colonial Avenue. Continue for about 0.7 miles, following the signs and passing under the overhead pedestrian bridge. A little past the bridge turn left onto Winding Way. You may park in the parking lot area off of Winding Way across from the Natural Science Center and the Greenhouse. See the maps on the next page.

Directions to the Roanoker Restaurant

Go back to Colonial Avenue and turn to the right. The Roanoker Restaurant is about 0.5 miles up Colonial Avenue, on the right. See the maps on the next page.
Check the next issue of the Blue Ridge Chemist for information on the September meeting.