



Press release

The Flora of Virginia Project

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM *FLORA OF VIRGINIA*
ON EXHIBIT AT BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM

BOYCE, Va.—Native plants take center stage in an exhibition of illustrations from the upcoming *Flora of Virginia* open through August at the State Arboretum of Virginia at the University of Virginia's Blandy Experimental Farm. A grand opening of the exhibition will be held Sunday, July 11, from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

The *Flora of Virginia* will be the first manual of all Virginia's plants since 1762's *Flora Virginica*. It will be published in 2012 by the Foundation of the Flora of Virginia Project Inc., based in Richmond. This modern flora will be 1,400 pages long and describe more than 3,500 species native to or naturalized in Virginia, of which 1,400 will be illustrated with pen-and-ink drawings.

Three artists were commissioned to illustrate the *Flora of Virginia*, and all are represented in the show. Lead illustrator Lara Call Gastinger, of Charlottesville, has a B.A. degree in biology from the University of Virginia and an M.S. degree in plant ecology from Virginia Tech. She has exhibited her work widely and received the gold medal for botanical art at the Royal Horticultural Society's February London Flower Show in 2007. Her website is laracallgastinger.com.

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Michael Terry, of Richmond, illustrating the grasses, rushes, and sedges, holds a B.S. degree in biology from James Madison University and an M.S. degree in botany from the University of Richmond. His paper, “A Flora of Powhatan County, Virginia,” was published in the September 2007 issue of *Castanea: The Journal of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society*. His website is *materry.com*.

Roy Fuller, of Fancy Gap, is illustrating the ferns and fern allies for the *Flora*. With degrees in business, he worked in finance before beginning doctoral research at Wake Forest University on the molecular systematics of two neotropical genera of blueberries. He now operates a laboratory that performs bacteriological testing of public water systems.

All illustrations in the show portray plants native to Virginia, including the sweet bay (*Magnolia virginiana*), tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), dune sandspur (*Cenchrus tribuloides*), common running-cedar (*Diphasiastrum digitatum*), Kates Mountain clover (*Trifolium virginicum*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*).

The *Flora of Virginia* will be a key reference for botanists, university students, naturalists, educators, gardeners, and natural resource professionals. For more information, please visit *floraofvirginia.org*.

To learn more about Blandy Experimental Farm, including directions, please visit *www.virginia.edu/blandy*.