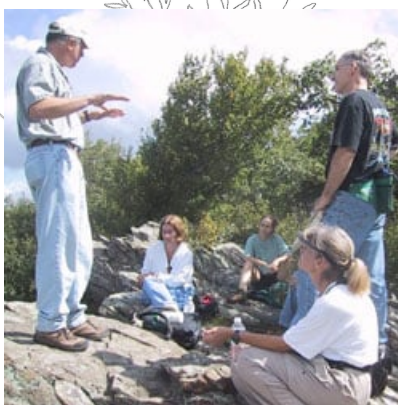




FLORASCOPE

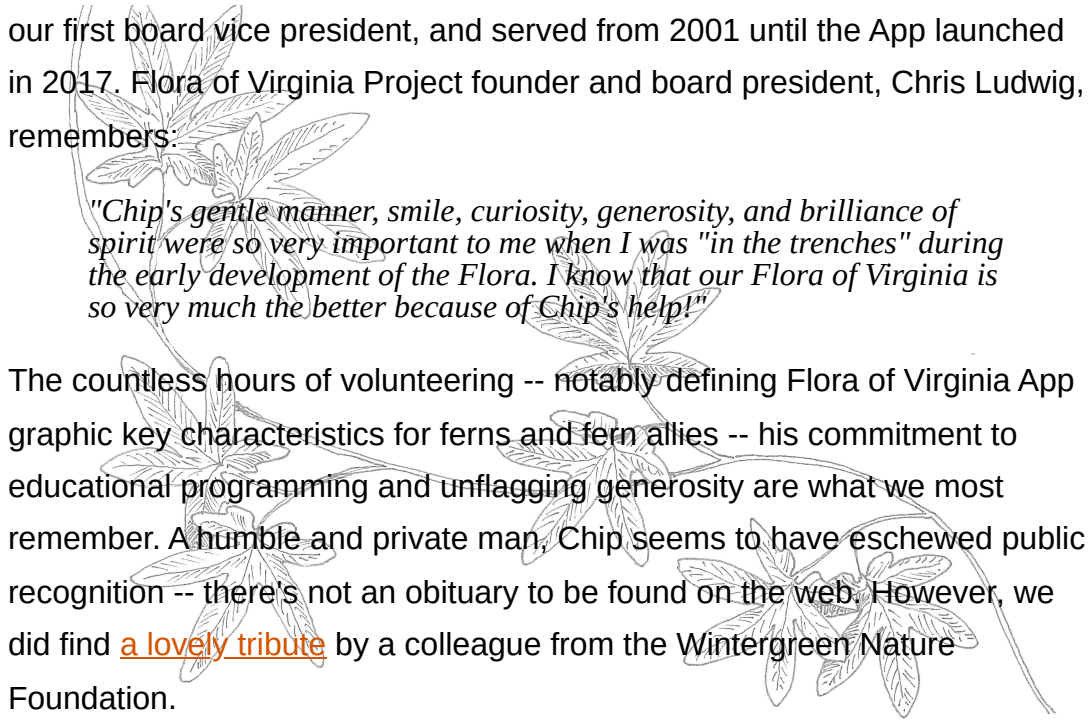
Occasional News from the Flora of Virginia Project



Remembering Chip Morgan

Walter Edward "Chip" Morgan's life was celebrated on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at St. Paul's Ivy Church in Charlottesville. He was remembered as a relentless advocate for the flora and biodiversity of central Virginia as a founder of the Rockfish Valley Foundation and early supporter of the Wintergreen Nature Foundation in addition to the Foundation of the Flora of Virginia Project.

Chip's impact on the Flora was profound. He was one of 40 botanists convened to explore the creation of a *Flora of Virginia* in 2001, was elected



our first board vice president, and served from 2001 until the App launched in 2017. Flora of Virginia Project founder and board president, Chris Ludwig, remembers:

"Chip's gentle manner, smile, curiosity, generosity, and brilliance of spirit were so very important to me when I was "in the trenches" during the early development of the Flora. I know that our Flora of Virginia is so very much the better because of Chip's help!"

The countless hours of volunteering -- notably defining Flora of Virginia App graphic key characteristics for ferns and fern allies -- his commitment to educational programming and unflagging generosity are what we most remember. A humble and private man, Chip seems to have eschewed public recognition -- there's not an obituary to be found on the web. However, we did find [a lovely tribute](#) by a colleague from the Wintergreen Nature Foundation.

Support in Chip's name for the organizations he supported so tirelessly, including the Flora, were suggested at the service. For those who have donated in his memory, thank you!

Roy Fuller

[illegible]

Flora of Virginia data moving to new home

The Flora database is a **MASSIVE** Excel spreadsheet – more than 630,000 cells arranged in 180 columns and more than 3,500 rows – and all updates and changes are executed manually. One brilliant person who retired from the board after more than 20 years of service managed this incredibly time-consuming process. While other board members have stepped in, it is cumbersome, tedious, and rife with opportunities to make errors.

With a generous grant awarded by the Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) the work has begun. To date, we have completed a feasibility study and contracted with the North Carolina Botanical Garden, home of our partners at the Flora of the Southeastern US (FSUS) to build and host a custom database. The first phase -- moving the dichotomous keys -- kicked off in January.

Moving to an institutional platform means we can:

- Make edits and approve updates using functionality, automation and menu commands designed explicitly for the Flora.
- Secure our data against viruses, software obsolescence and human error.
- Remove dependence on individuals to execute, review and approve all manner of edits.
- Seamlessly share data with our partners as appropriate.

This project will ensure that the Flora of Virginia is sustainable, so this incredible resource can support conservation work well into the future.



[Learn more and donate](#)

Keep the Science Current

We need your help to keep this project moving

We launched a Matching Funds Drive on March 20 to match VEE's \$15,000 grant. These funds will secure the Flora's work to manage the project and continue other important initiatives like the Flora Ambassador Program.

Did you know that

April is Virginia Native Plant Month?

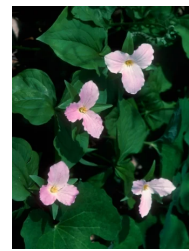
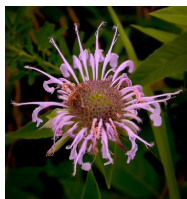
From [Virginia Senate Joint Resolution 278](#)

WHEREAS, it is important to encourage public awareness about the benefits of the Commonwealth's native plants to pollinators and other wildlife, the economy, and the health and sustainability of Virginia's fragile ecosystems;

You can participate by:

- [Buying the Flora of Virginia App.](#)
- [Visiting native plant sales](#) for your spring landscaping needs.
- Participating in [Shenandoah National Park Wildflower Weekend](#) and other outings to learn more about native plants and using the Flora App.
- Following us on social media as we celebrate all month long!

Plants you can expect to find at native plant sales include --



Wild Bergamot; Celandine Poppy; Wild Blue Indigo; Common Milkweed; Large-flowered Trillium

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