

# FLORASCOPE

Occasional News from the Flora of Virginia Project

## NEW HAT

Ecology, photo mainstay Fleming now a Flora coauthor



We're happy to let you know that Gary Fleming is now a coauthor of the Flora of Virginia. This will not come as a big surprise, since you have enjoyed his keystone chapter in the book and in the app: "The Nature of the Virginia Flora" presents the processes that have shaped the state's diverse flora. His other chapter, "Learning the Virginia Flora: 50 Sites for Productive Field Botany," invites you to hot spots featuring amazing plants and outstanding ecological community types across Virginia's physiographic provinces.

Gary is a senior vegetation ecologist with the Virginia Natural Heritage Program, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, where he has worked since 1992. This made him the one to write the crucial habitat and status sections of the Flora's species descriptions. He is a past president of the Virginia Botanical Associates, which powers the Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora and is a partner of the Flora Project. An accomplished photographer, Gary has contributed most of the plant images you see in the Flora App, and his works are the sole color images in the print Flora, illustrating his "Nature" chapter. He is involved in selecting and writing habitat information for the 150 or so species we'll be adding to the App in the next year and a half. We know you'll share our enthusiasm.

Selfie with Water Tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*) © Gary P. Fleming

## OCCASION

Will you rise to it? We haven't yet met the challenge.

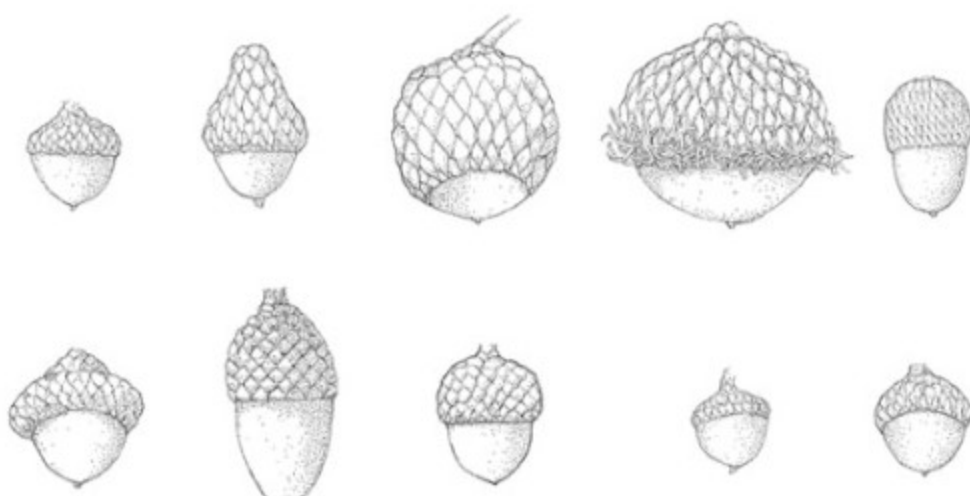


You're going to be amazed to see the number of species covered in the App exceed 3,300 in the next year and a half. You'll have the most current names and taxonomy based on the latest research technology, which sheds light on and sometimes revamps plants' relationships, and adjusted keys that take these changes into account. We are well mobilized in this advance, doing the same kind of work we were doing almost 20 years ago, when we began putting the Flora together. You'll get these improvements right there on your App.

Making this happen carries a hefty price tag. To help, several small foundations together issued an \$8,000 challenge grant during our spring funding drive. That means they will match your donation, dollar for dollar, to a total of \$8,000. We revealed this challenge in May, but we are still \$5,000 short. It's not too late, though! We're hoping you'll run with it as summer promises an autumn with its unique floral and foliar displays. To donate, [click here](#), or write us with your check at Flora of Virginia Project, P.O. Box 512, Richmond, Va. 23218. Thank you!

## UPDATE

New stuff coming for the App by Labor Day Weekend!



An outing in the offing for Labor Day? We'll release a major update to the App in plenty of time for your botanizing weekend. Here's what you'll be getting:

- \* 436 new plant photographs. As a result, 185 species will no longer say NO IMAGE YET AVAILABLE in the Browse screens.
- \* At last, the 35 plates from the print Flora. Including the acorns shown in part above.
- \* The introductory text to the Key to the Families from the print Flora, written with regard to dichotomous keys, but also helpful in the use of the Graphic Key and in understanding relationships.
- \* A new character in the Graphic Key that lets you choose whether it should display only natives, only nonnatives, or all species.
- \* A new page explaining how the Graphic Key can help you pick natives suited to your site.
- \* The tables for "The Nature of the Virginia Flora" chapter.
- \* The 582 species range maps from the Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora that were updated in the past year.

You'll enjoy these new features. As always, let us know how you're liking the App, how you're using it, and, of course, if you find an error. Contact us at [flora@floraofvirginia.org](mailto:flora@floraofvirginia.org).

Illustration: Part of acorn plate, by Lara Call Gastinger © Flora of Virginia Project.  
Photos, from left: Purple Cress (*Cardamine douglassii*) © Gary P. Fleming; Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris* var. *pennsylvanica*) © DCR-DNH, Gary P. Fleming; Henbit (*Lamium amplexicaule*) © Gary P. Fleming; Crimson Clover (*Trifolium incarnatum*) © DCR-DNH, Gary P. Fleming.

