

FLORASCOPE

Occasional News from the Flora of Virginia Project

HARK!

Thinking spring wildflowers? Let this inspire you!

Some 20 years ago, Marion Lobstein, then a professor of biology at Northern Virginia Community College, Manassas, and her students John DeMary and Suzanne Lohr produced a 48-minute video titled *Spring Wildflowers of the Mid-Atlantic Region*. The video received a 1998 Telly Award for excellence in nonnetwork productions, and now the Virginia Native Plant Society is offering it on its YouTube channel. Click below to watch. Marion, retired from NVCC, is Vice President of the Flora of Virginia Project's Board of Directors and still does plenty of teaching, much of it focusing on the Flora.



Spring Wildflowers of the Mid-Atlantic Region

BUZZ!

Boost Heritage Bee Research at a New GoFundMe Page.



Aware that the Virginia Natural Heritage Program's bee research needs more funding, a member of the Virginia Board of Conservation and Recreation has created a GoFundMe page to support the work. Tasks include documenting native bee species and their habitats, studying the problems they face, and planning how best to manage their populations and maintain their ecological roles. Virginia's bee list includes at least 470 species, 450 of them native. In 2017, the Rusty-patched Bumblebee became the first native bee in the continental United States to be listed as federally endangered, and, with more than 20 records, Virginia's is the largest known population east of the Mississippi. The Virginia Natural Heritage Program is a division of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the key partner of the Flora of Virginia Project. [Click](#) to support this effort. (Pictured is the Rusty-patched Bumblebee, *Bombus affinis*, courtesy Sam Droege, USGS Bee Lab)

FIXED GLITCH

Our donation page is working again.

The DONATE page on our site had been plagued for longer than we realized. One issue was that it got hacked last fall and appeared to be vending Canadian pharmaceuticals. We had the site professionally de-hacked and thought it was working all right. Then, last week, a friend of the Flora e-mailed to let us know that he had tried to donate \$1,000 online, but the donation module kept changing it to \$1.00. So we fired that donation plug-in and installed a different one, and it seems to be working well. Our apologies for the problems!

FAIRE!

Pick Natives with the Flora App at Blandy's Garden Fair.



Mother's Day weekend, beat a verdant path to Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, for its 30th Annual Garden Fair, benefiting the Foundation of the State Arboretum. That's Saturday, May 11, and Sunday, May 12, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., come rain or come shine. Many nature and naturalist organizations will be there, and you'll be able to buy native plants, annuals and perennials, small trees, berry bushes, garden art, and fine items for house and garden.

Don't forget to stop by the Flora Project's space at the fair. We'll be demonstrating how to use the Flora Mobile App to select plants for a spot on your land, and with some of the attributes you desire (color, type, height, etc.). Bring your phone or tablet with the App installed, and an idea or two! Then shop for the plants the App came up with. You're sure to find some, and you can talk to the folks who sell natives!

Click for [more information on the Spring Fair](#), including parking.

