

# FLORASCOPE

Occasional News from the Flora of Virginia Project



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the Flora  
of Virginia  
Project

Illustrations: *Clethra alnifolia* (above), by Lara Call Gastinger; *Schoenoplectiella purshiana* (below), by Michael A. Terry © The Foundation of the Flora of Virginia Project

A word from Chris Ludwig,  
Flora Project president



You  
make  
the Flora  
possible

Dear Friend,

Our big update to the Flora will be released this week, and it's a milestone I'm very proud of.

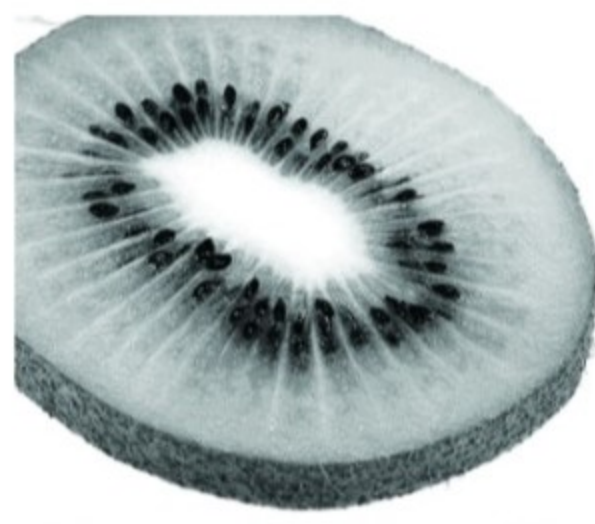
We've added many naturalized taxa, added species discovered here since 2012; reconfigured some taxa in light of DNA studies; and welcomed a number of species new to science.

Then, the keys needed adjustment. We've also added habitat and status information and provided maps and photos. And co-author Gary Fleming has updated his landmark chapter, "The Nature of the Virginia Flora."

But our work's already lining up for 2021: a regular update in the spring; replacing some photos with better ones; and adding botanical illustrations that our volunteers have gleaned from the literature.

We still need your help to keep doing what we do. Give generously as this year draws to a close. Donate from our site, or print the donation card below and mail it to Flora of Virginia Project, P.O. Box 512, Richmond, Va. 23218.

And thank you again for keeping the Flora current!



Sneak  
peek

## Featured in this week's major update

**Welcome Actinidiaceae** and their well-known member, Kiwifruit, *Actinidia chinensis* var. *deliciosa* (above).

**Split from** the Sapindaceae are Aceraceae (Maples) and Hippocastanaceae (Horse Chestnuts, a.k.a. Buckeyes).

**Immortalized again**, Colonial botanist John Clayton, now with a new genus, split off *Osmunda*, and one species: *Claytosmunda claytoniana*, the familiar Interrupted Fern.

**Myrica returns**, as Sweet Gale (*Myrica gale*) is found here. The Bayberries and Wax Myrtle remain in *Morella*.

**A trifecta of cacti!** We now have three taxa of Prickly-pear in Virginia: *Opuntia humifusa*, *O. cespitosa*, and *O. mesacantha* ssp. *mesacantha*.

**Doublet of new Bluets**, Roan Mountain Bluets (*Houstonia montana*) and Small-anthered Bluets (*H. micrantha*).

**Download from our site a detailed list of what's new in this update. The list can also be found in the About/Contact Us section of the App once you've downloaded the update.**

## Your Donation

Please join the Flora of Virginia team with as generous a gift as you can make. Complete this form and return it to us, with your gift, in the enclosed envelope. Or give online, at [floraofvirginia.org](http://floraofvirginia.org).

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**\$1,000 or more** Either (a) 1 copy of the print *Flora of Virginia* or (b) 1 pair of reproductions of *Flora* illustrations completed in watercolor by chief artist Lara Call Gastinger (for selections, see DONATE menu on our site).

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Thank you!

