

## ADD/CHANGE

An array of new taxa and a fresh look at earlier treatments appeal to authors' knowledge and savvy

Flora of Virginia co-authors have been putting their heads together at "summits" and on conference calls to nail down what additions and changes are needed to make the science of the 2012 Flora current. Let's look at some changes you'll see in the [Flora Mobile App](#) when the big update happens at the end of the year. Authors' decisions take many hours and involve research and reliance on their personal knowledge of the state's flora.



***Myrica gale***  
Sweet Gale, Bog-myrtle  
Family Myricaceae

Flora of Virginia co-author and president Chris Ludwig found the Virginia population of this species in 2018, in The Glades region of the Southern Blue Ridge at around 2,580 ft. reads the [Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora](#). In the East, it mostly reaches no farther south than New Jersey and Pennsylvania, but another disjunct population, in Henderson County, N.C. (south of Asheville), has long been known. Its habitat is wet, mostly herbaceous mafic fen with the sedge *Scirpus expansus* and *Filipendula rubra* (Queen-of-the-Prairie). The Virginia stand is a staminate (male) clone, just 5 m across, says the Atlas. Photograph © DCR-DNH, Gary P. Fleming



***Spiranthes arcisepala***  
Appalachian Ladies'-tresses  
Family Orchidaceae

The range map for this new species will be "skeletal" until the species from which it was recently split, *S. cernua*, can be rethought in light of a 2017 study of an *S. cernua* species complex. *Spiranthes arcisepala* is much like *S. cernua* but has smaller, squatter flowers "with (usually) downwardly falcate lateral sepals," reads the [Digital Atlas](#)—hence the *arcisepala*. Both "inhabit wet, seepy areas," but in addition to some subtish color differences, in Virginia *S. arcisepala* seems restricted to the Appalachians, while *S. cernua* is more widespread. Photograph © Zach Bradford



***Corallorhiza trifida***  
Early Coralroot, Northern Coralroot  
Family Orchidaceae

A specimen of *Corallorhiza trifida* collected in Nelson County is the first legitimate state record, reads the [Digital Atlas](#), though some may recall an earlier, incorrect mapping for Albemarle County. The species occurs near Virginia in West Virginia and Maryland but has a broad distribution farther north, where it may be found in coniferous, deciduous, and mixed woods with microhabitats ranging from seeps or swamps to uplands. Southern populations are usually restricted to cool, moist spots, according to the *Flora of North America*. Photograph © John F. Townsend



***Acer rubrum***  
Red Maple  
Family Aceraceae

You read that right: Aceraceae! In the update of the Flora coming late this year, the Sapindaceae will give back the Maples and the Buckeyes (or more literally, the Horse Chestnuts, Hippocastanaceae), because research has shown they stand more separately than was thought earlier, when they were merged into the (nevertheless closely related) Soapberry family. Contributors must compile a full treatment for those restored families and rejigger the one for a less overarching Sapindaceae, adding to and adjusting the fractal dichotomous keys for those groups. Sometimes, the more things change ... Photograph © Gary P. Fleming

## EX-WAIFS

Many nonnatives that weren't described in the book are being described for the Mobile App

You may know the section in the back of the Flora of Virginia titled "Taxa Not Treated in This Manual." Many were deemed "waifs"—nonnatives known to escape cultivation but that fade away without human help. Some species are now known to be less transitory than was thought in 2011, when the content of the Flora was closed for production. Here are two waifs that will be getting the full Flora treatment in the update to the [Flora Mobile App](#).



***Koelreuteria paniculata***  
Golden Rain Tree  
Family Sapindaceae

Native to northern China, Japan, and Korea, the Golden Rain Tree can reach 40 feet in height, is drought tolerant, isn't fazed by polluted city air—and its showy inflorescence has made it popular. But it escapes and has become established on "roadsides and other open, disturbed habitats statewide," says the [Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora](#). A familiar refrain. The Digital Atlas says it is "more widespread than the current map indicates." Dots will get added. Photograph © DCR-DNH, Gary P. Fleming



***Callicarpa dichotoma***  
Purple Beautyberry, Chinese Beautyberry  
Lamiaceae

Don't be tempted by this oft-hawked beautyberry from China, Japan, and Korea. Go with our similar *C. americana*, native in much of the Coastal Plain. This Asiatic one is escaping cultivation and has been found in "old fields, disturbed forests, and shaded stream banks," says the [Digital Atlas](#). Check out the [Virginia Native Plant Society's](#) online list of native-plant nurseries. Photograph © Gary P. Fleming

## DOTS

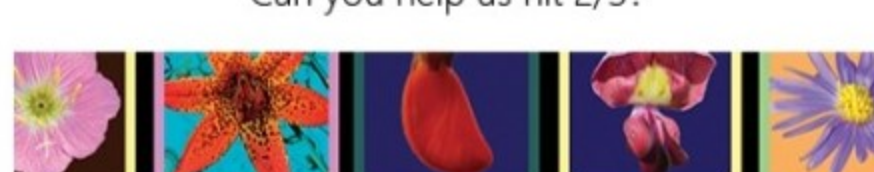
More plant species documented for more Virginia counties



Flora co-author Gary Fleming, above, recently shipped packages of documented 159 specimens to various herbaria. Records collected last year by Gary, a vegetation ecologist with the Virginia Natural Heritage Program, and his colleagues added more than 450 dots to the species range maps of the [Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora](#)—the source of the maps you see in your [Flora of Virginia Mobile App](#). In addition to his chapters in the print Flora and the App, Gary writes the habitat and status descriptions. Photograph © Bland Crowder

## FLAGGING

We're 1/3 of the way to last autumn's goal. Can you help us hit 2/3?



We ask for your help because keeping the Flora current is our premier task. This year we complete a nearly three-year project with a major addition and updates to the [Flora Mobile App](#). Volunteers are strong contributors, but most of the work must be paid. Last fall, we set a goal of \$30,000 for our end-of-year fund-raiser, but we're just 1/3 of the way there. We need more help in our mission to add species and revise species concepts where needed so that your reference to Virginia plants will be the most up-to-date available. These links take you to our fall mailing. Please help us reach the 2/3 mark so we can make these improvements.

**Letter:** [How does environmental consultant Ben Sagara use the Flora App?](#)  
**Brochure:** [See the brochure for our fall appeal.](#)

**Donate:** Print [our donation card](#) and send it to us with your gift. Or [give now with PayPal](#).

Thank you very much!

