

FLORASCOPE

Occasional News from the Flora of Virginia Project

BRAVO, GARY!

DCR names ecologist, Flora co-author Fleming its 2020 Employee of the Year



Gary Fleming with a just-collected Clarke County record specimen of Baltic Rush, *Juncus balticus* var. *littoralis*. Photograph by Irvine T. Wilson.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation in January named Gary P. Fleming its Employee of the Year for 2020. Gary, a co-author of the Flora of Virginia, is a plant ecologist with DCR's Virginia Natural Heritage Program and a past president of the Virginia Botanical Associates, which manages the Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora.

Fleming's "passion for conservation, steadfast enthusiasm for field work, and vast knowledge of Virginia's flora and ecosystems have led to his unparalleled contributions to the work of DCR," said department director Clyde Cristman. "Gary has recorded over 2,250 observations of rare species and significant natural communities and collected, identified, and curated over 18,000 vascular plant voucher specimens." DCR is the key and founding partner of the Flora Project.

Fleming contributed two of the essential and very popular chapters in the Flora, "The Nature of the Virginia Flora," which he revised for the major December update to the Flora Mobile App, and "Learning the Virginia Flora: 50 Sites for Productive Field Botany." He also wrote and updates the habitat and status information in the Flora's species descriptions and took the vast majority of the color photographs that we are fortunate enough to be able to present in the App. He was officially named a coauthor of the Flora in 2019.

MERCI, VNPS!

Fund raiser for the Flora Project knocks it out of the park, thrashing goal of \$25K

A great round of applause and a hearty thank-you to the Virginia Native Plant Society, from which we recently received a gift of \$26,943.45, strongly exceeding its goal of \$25,000.

The gift comprises many individual and chapter donations and represents the results of the Society's 2020 annual fund raiser. Special thanks are due Nancy Vehrs, president; Sally Anderson, second vice president and the Society's representative on the Flora Project Board; Peggy Troyer, fund-raising director; Ashley Moulton, publicity director; and Mark Murphy, website manager. Thanks, of course, to the individual and chapter donors.

Further thanks, too, because many VNPS members also donated to our own fall appeal. We are so grateful!

The Society is a designated partner of the Flora Project and a leadership supporter.

ILLUSTRATIONS

642 species in the App get a botanical illustration, thanks to a team of Flora volunteers



Balsam Fir, *Abies balsamea*. From USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. 3 vols. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Vol. 1: 63.

The descriptions of another 642 taxa in the Flora of Virginia Mobile App will soon have a botanical illustration, in light of an imminent update. This is possible because of work by a group of Flora volunteers to mine the USDA PLANTS database for most of the new line drawings. The lion's share of the illustrations originated in Britton and Brown's *Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States, Canada, and the British Possessions* (1913).

Michael Arrowood, Heather Barrar, Tina Blackmon, the late Gaylan Meyer, Nicky Staunton, Sandra Schwartz, Ed Smith, Linda Wilcox, and Susan Yager did their work in 2016, and we are sorry it took this long to incorporate the illustrations they found. Thanks also to Flora co-author Johnny Townsend, who vetted these illustrations, not always an easy call the way names have changed in the past 100+ years.

More thanks are due users and colleagues who have found a few goofs and glitches, which are being corrected with this update. We hate to make mistakes, but we love it when you find them.

As always, update your App when you're near a good wifi source.

DONATE NOW!

If you'd like to give to the Flora Project and help us do what we do, please [click here](#) to go to our site, where you can give via PayPal. And thank you!

