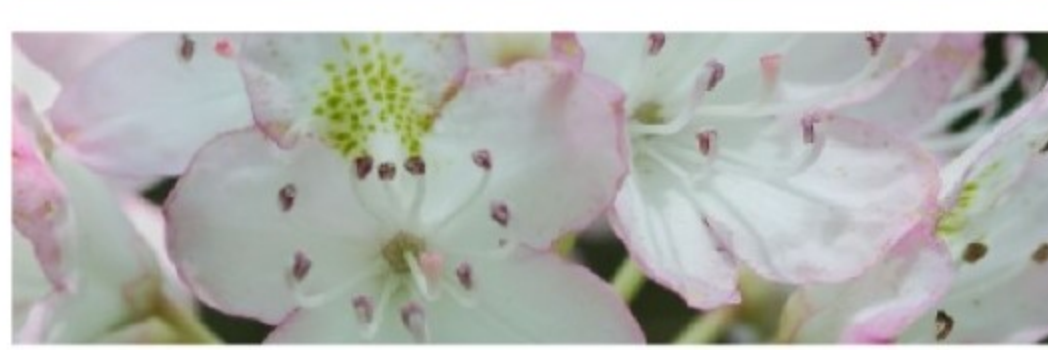


FLORASCOPE

Occasional News from the Flora of Virginia Project



Transition

A changing of the guard is under way as the Flora Project embarks on decade No. 3! Our talented, busy board of directors served longer than folks usually serve on a board—some for most of these 20 years, from the early days of the millennium, when the Project came into being. Some of us are moving on, some will continue, and others are sticking around for a bit to smooth the transition and share our experience. If anything's in store, it's excitement. There will be more of the usual, but what new work awaits? Stay tuned as we keep on keeping the science current, with renewed energy and great possibilities. Join us as we anticipate what the next 20 years will hold!

Rhododendron maximum, Great Laurel, Ericaceae © DCR-DNH, Gary P. Fleming



The Flora Project

For a small 501(c)(3) foundation, we have a powerful team, starting with our co-authors, Alan Weakley, Chris Ludwig, Johnny Townsend, and Gary Fleming, who provide content. Our part-time executive director manages our business functions, is our editor, and coordinates our efforts with the developer of the Flora of Virginia Mobile App. A flora assistant often works with us. What we do is overseen by our volunteer board. Standing committees direct finance and audits, development and marketing, and education and outreach. Ad hoc committees and volunteers come together to help us with specific projects, like the print Flora, the App—and our very future.

Phlox divaricata, Wild Blue Phlox, Polemoniaceae © DCR-DNH, Gary P. Fleming



Partners

We have terrific partners, and we owe them gratitude for helping the Flora Project in many ways. First, of course, are the individual, organizational, and corporate donors and the grant programs, without whose assistance we would not be able to function. Equally important are our designated partner organizations, with which we constitute a strong network of plant and ecological support for Virginia: the Virginia Natural Heritage Program (our scientific, philosophical, and physical home), the Virginia Native Plant Society, the Virginia Botanical Associates (who manage the Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora), the Virginia Academy of Science, and Richmond's Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Together we are a force in science and conservation for Virginia. And we're proud to be in such company.

Cardamine douglassii, Purple Cress, Brassicaceae © Gary P. Fleming



Data + Images

The Flora Mobile App has brought you tons of new material to help you in your work and your enjoyment of plants. Most obvious are the photographs, which we could not have afforded to put into the book. And having the range maps out of the Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora is superhelpful. We can thank the Virginia Botanical Associates for these important features, as well as regularly updated knowledge of species habitats and statuses. The Virginia Natural Heritage Program's rare- and invasive-plant data sets insert their information, as applicable, into species descriptions. And we just added lots of new botanical illustrations.

Ranunculus caricetorum, Northern Swamp Buttercup, Ranunculaceae © Gary P. Fleming



Concepts

Plants have been renamed since before Linnaeus rethought his label on a pressed specimen collected in the Virginia colony by John Clayton. They didn't know about DNA, but the Flora of Virginia does. Being cutting-edge in taxonomy and nomenclature makes ours the top reference on our state's plants. At the end of 2020 we incorporated a number of revised species concepts, the biggest update since the book came out in 2012. We don't know what's next, but after another round or two like that one, a second print edition is a possibility. For now, we're publishing via the App. And the App data will allow automated assembly of the text for any new edition.

Symphyotrichum pilosum, Frost Aster, Asteraceae © Gary P. Fleming



Change

The Virginia flora doesn't sit still. The proof is 2020's major update. Many plants formerly deemed waifs were described and added to the keys. Molecular genetics revamped many assignments and names. And new plants were discovered. Here are some stats on those changes: Species added, **192**. Species names changed, **284**. Species deleted, **6**. Natives renamed, **74**. Genus names changed, **11**. Genera deleted, **13**. New genera from splits, **39**. Genera added when nonnatives included, **35**. Genera added with new species, **1**. Family names changed, **3**. Families deleted, **0**. New families from splits, **10**. Families added when nonnatives included, **3**. We track change. We keep it current.

Mitchella repens, Partridge-berry, Rubiaceae © DCR-DNH, Gary P. Fleming



Habitats

Everybody gets something different from the Flora of Virginia, but universal values are that it is couched in ecology and is indispensable to conservation and environmental exploration in Virginia—and indeed much of the East. You make this true, whether you're a herbarium curator, a landscaper, a plant systematist, a citizen scientist, a restoration ecologist, or an avocational botanist. The fascination of habitat doesn't just help answer questions as to why what is where—it's also becoming part of our appreciation of plants. Understanding relationships and ecological requirements complements the wonder we feel as we experience our diverse plant life.

Sedum pulchellum, Widow's Cross, Crassulaceae © DCR-DNH, Gary P. Fleming



Learn, Teach

After publication, our board shifted toward a stronger focus on education, and we have nearly completed a suite of seven modules based on the Flora and the Flora App. Not only are we packaging ready-to-use PowerPoints that educators can use to introduce plants and habitats to students from middle school up. We've also gotten creative during the time of Covid. Interest in plants has remained high despite it, and we filled the bill with online presentations that also let us test our modules. Recorded Zoom webinars are going online, with the help of the Virginia Native Plant Society's tech gurus. Stay tuned! Education is wide open for future attention.

Solidago sempervirens var. *sempervirens*, Seaside Goldenrod, Asteraceae

© DCR-DNH, Gary P. Fleming



You Can Help

Please help the Flora Project continue to stay in step with the changes that inevitably come in plants and in people. We don't want to miss a beat in our mission to bring you a state-of-the-science Flora. **To give instantly** on PayPal from our site, click here: <https://floraofvirginia.org/donate/donations/>. (There had been problems with our donation page, but all is well now!) Your donation may qualify you for a **premium** in extra expression of our thanks for your gift. See below for more information, and, to see what premiums are available, click here: floraofvirginia.org/donate/our-gift-to-you/. If you qualify, just use the comment box in the online donation form to tell us which premium you'd like. (If you prefer, **mail your gift** to Flora of Virginia Project, P.O. Box 512, Richmond, VA. 23218. Be sure to enclose a note to tell us your choice of premium.) *Thank you for stepping up!*

Fagus grandifolia, American Beech, Fagaceae © DCR-DNH, Gary P. Fleming



Your Gift

Depending on your level of giving, you may qualify for a premium that we will send you to show our further appreciation for your support.

\$100–\$499 A set of 10 Flora note cards, featuring illustrations from the book.

\$500–\$999 One license for the Flora of Virginia Mobile App. Please specify Android or iOS.

\$1,000 or more Either a) 1 copy of the Flora of Virginia book or b) 1 pair of reproductions of Flora illustrations completed in watercolor by chief illustrator Lara Call Gasteringer.

Helianthus divaricatus, Woodland Sunflower, Asteraceae © DCR-DNH, Gary P. Fleming

A recent glitch in our donation page has been fixed. Thanks to a donor for pointing it out to us!

