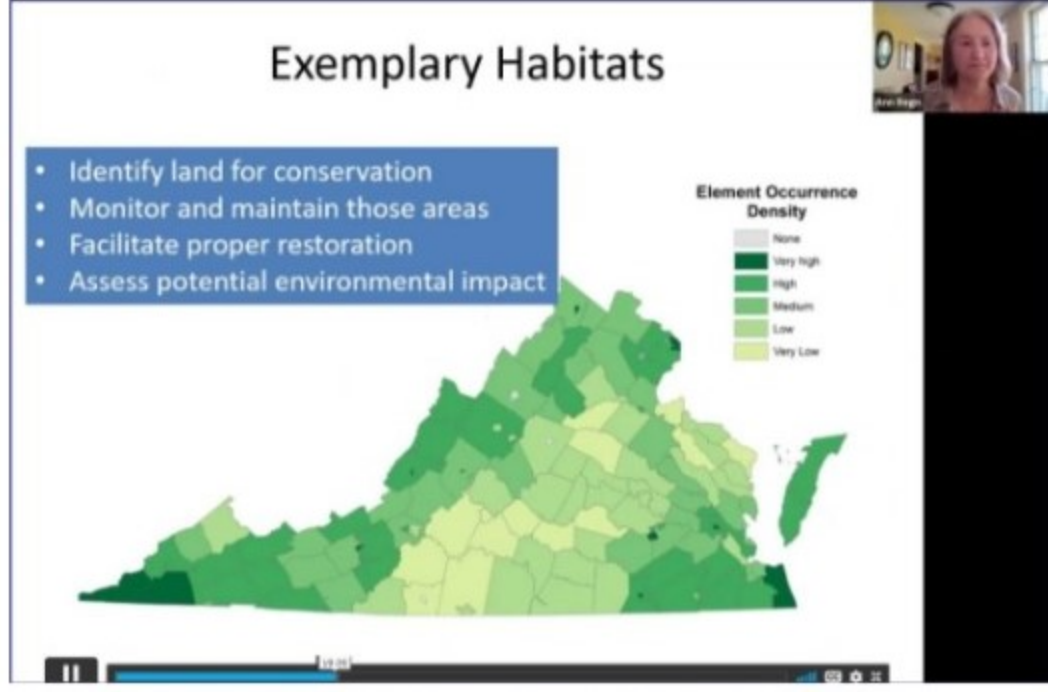


FLORASCOPE

Occasional News from the Flora of Virginia Project

Check Our 7 Free Educational Videos!



In her presentation, "Habitats," Ann Regn addresses not only plants but also ecological relationships, the bedrock of conservation.

Now the **Flora of Virginia Project** is getting you even closer to Virginia plants—with seven new video modules that make the Flora easier to follow and to understand. The modules, designed and produced by the Flora Board's Education Committee, are suitable for a range of audiences and learners. And they're free.

The modules cover the following topics, each linked to its online video presentation:

1. [Tour of the Flora](#)
2. [Using the Flora App](#)
3. [Basic Botany](#)
4. [Taxonomy](#)
5. [Keying](#)
6. [Plant Families](#)
7. [Habitats](#)

"These modules are a convenient way to share information on using and enjoying the Flora of Virginia—with a much broader audience than we could reach at only in-person presentations," said Marion Lobstein, who cochaired the committee behind the videos.

For Lobstein, a professor emeritus of biology at Northern Virginia Community College, Manassas, where she taught from 1976 to 2011, reaching such an audience is a dream come true. "The modules can be used by educators, Virginia Native Plant Society members, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners—really anyone who's interested in identifying and appreciating the beautiful and diverse plants of Virginia," she said.

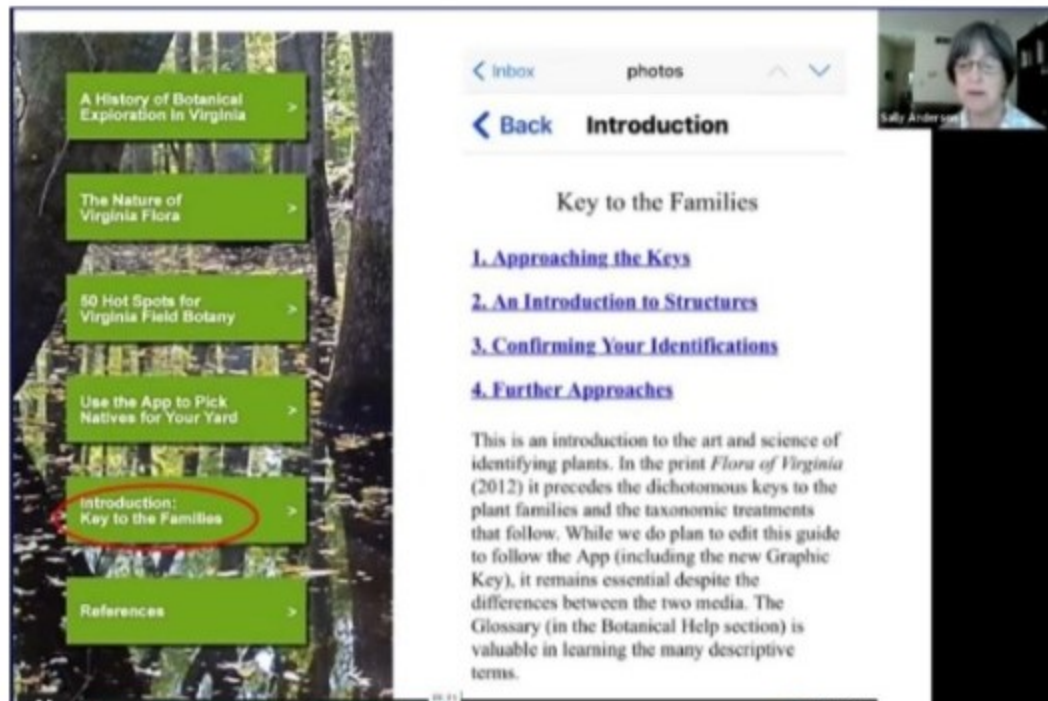
Committee cochair Ann Regn, communications manager with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and a well-known Virginia environmental educator, worked to ensure alignment with Virginia standards of learning and herself created the module on habitats, illustrated above. Lobstein is a charter member of the Flora Board, formed in 2001, and Regn joined soon thereafter. Lobstein retired from the board as Vice President in June.

"Each presentation stands alone," Regn said, "but together they provide a comprehensive approach to understanding and using the Flora." The videos are hosted on the online platform Vimeo. "Each lasts about an hour and is divided into three or more sections. Time stamps and descriptions let viewers navigate to a specific topic or area of interest. And each module links to resource materials for deeper investigations."

The modules' creators are also the presenters: Lobstein, Regn, Board Secretary Sally Anderson, adviser and former Board member Michelle Prysby, and Flora Assistant and former Recording Secretary Jan Hodges. Instrumental was guest participant Linda Wilcox, Virginia native-plant enthusiast (and Lobstein's former student) now living in Indiana. Volunteer Mark Murphy edited the videos for online presentation, including the use of closed captioning, which will allow an even broader reach, and the addition of introductory and closing music.

As well as accessing the modules from our site, you can find the full set at the Vimeo Showcase [Flora of Virginia Educational Videos](#). Additional modules are illustrated below, in screen captures from the videos.

Happy teaching, learning, and botanizing!



In "Using the Flora App," Sally Anderson discusses plant identification. The App offers both traditional dichotomous keys and an innovative Graphic Key.



Using a maple branch, Jan Hodges illustrates the importance of leaf arrangement in "Basic Botany."



In "Keying," Michelle Prysby uses the Dandelion to illustrate why the Asteraceae are also called Compositae and the importance of their usual—but not universal—composite set of ray and disk flowers in identifying them.



In "A Tour of the Flora," Marion Lobstein traces the development of Virginia floras from 1762's *Flora Virginica* (99.99% in Latin) to the Flora of Virginia (2012) and the Flora of Virginia Mobile App (2017, with a major update in 2020). These modules are a milestone of the Flora Project's education and outreach mission.

To give to the Flora of Virginia Project, please click [here](#).
The Flora Project is a 501(c)(3) public charity.

