



# FLORASCOPE

Occasional News from the Flora of Virginia Project

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## Looking Back, Moving Forward

The Flora of Virginia Project has achieved so much since its inception in 2001. The objective of the volunteer board of directors was clear – produce a modern Flora of Virginia honoring the original, published in 1739 by John Clayton. That simple goal took ten years to accomplish, with the publication of the [Flora of Virginia](#) in 2012. Guided by board president Chris Ludwig, founding board member Marion Lobstein, and Executive Director Bland Crowder, the book includes approximately 3,200 taxa in 200 families and features 1,400 captioned, scaled, and botanically accurate illustrations. **Chris retires this summer, [learn how we are celebrating his decades of service.](#)**

Almost immediately, the need for [an app version of the Flora](#) became apparent. The ability to carry the more than 1,500 pages of data and content in your pocket would be transformational, and so the next phase began. The app launched in September 2017 and despite COVID a significant update was completed in 2020. The founding members passed the baton to the new team in 2021 to steward the evolution of the project.

The primary objective will always be to keep the data up to date and accurate, and of value to ecology professionals and enthusiasts alike. We are currently working to integrate Natural Communities data and information about native plant communities and look forward to sharing more ecological information in future editions. Florascope will be published bi-monthly, providing updates on app enhancements, and information and education about important work to protect and restore Virginia's native flora.

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## [Meet the Team](#)



### **Jennifer Norwood, Executive Director**

Jenny joined the team earlier this year to manage the business of the Flora of Virginia Project. She brings a wealth of experience in communications, marketing and community engagement, most recently as the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Director of External Affairs and Partnerships. Her brilliant daughter and the app are helping her family restore former pasture in Nelson County.

**Jan Hodges, Administration**

Jan joined the Flora Project in 2011 to prepare illustrations for publication of the print Flora, then stayed on to support the Flora in innumerable ways. She studied at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science where she was on the Marine Advisory Services' education staff. Jan is also an artist specializing in environmentally themed conceptual art and is pursuing her Extension Master Gardener's certification.

**Caitie Cyrus, President**

*Project Manager at Verdantas*

Caitie is an environmental consultant who specializes in designing native pollinator-friendly habitats for solar facilities throughout the United States. She was an author of the Virginia Pollinator-Smart Solar Program and is an active member of the Virginia Native Plant Society and the Virginia Association of Wetland Professionals.

**Conley McMullen, Vice President**

*Professor of Biology at James Madison University and  
Director of the JMU Herbarium*

Conley's classes and research focus on the systematics, pollination biology, floristics, and conservation of plants in the eastern United States and the Galápagos Islands. He has served on a number of boards and is an honorary research associate of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and an elected governing member of the Charles Darwin Foundation.

**Irvine Wilson, Treasurer**

*Natural Area Protection Specialist, Virginia Natural Heritage Program (retired)*

Irv worked for the Virginia DCR more than 30 years, starting as a State Parks interpreter, later as conservation planner for the Natural Heritage Program. In retirement he gardens, whacks invasives and photographs natives on his family's property along the Chickahominy Swamp.

**Sally Anderson, Secretary**

*Past President of the Virginia Native Plant Society*

Sally served as President of the Virginia Native Plant Society for nine years and continues on the board while also serving on the board of the Piedmont Chapter. Sally is a regular volunteer at the Nancy Larrick Crosby Native Plant Trail at Blandly Experimental Farm and is a Virginia Master Naturalist.

**Ryan Huish**

*Associate Professor of Biology and Herbarium Curator, UVA's College at Wise*

Ryan's research interests incorporate an interdisciplinary approach to addressing basic and applied questions in ethnobotany, ecology, and plant conservation. He and his family are stewards of Appalachian Cove Forest Farm and Homestead, where they practice various agroforestry principles.

**Jordan Metzgar**

*Curator, Virginia Tech Massey Herbarium*

Jordan's work at the Massey Herbarium involves researching the ecology and distribution of various ferns and other southeastern U.S. plants and sharing his botanical knowledge and enthusiasm for natural history through community outreach and volunteering. His favorite plant is the Walking Fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum*).

**Ashley Moulton**

*Land Conservation Specialist, Capital Region Land Conservancy*



In addition to her work for the Conservancy, Ashley founded Moulton Hot Native Plants, sustainably raising Virginia natives and consulting with landowners on natural resource management practices. Ashley is the publicity chair for the Virginia Native Plant Society.



### **Ann Regn**

*Communications Manager, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (retired)*  
As director of the Virginia Office of Environmental Education, Ann worked to include environmental concepts into Virginia's Science standards. She founded the Jefferson Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, is active with the Rivanna Master Naturalists, and is using the Flora app to restore a right-of-way on her property.



### **Joey Thompson**

*Vegetation Ecologist, Virginia Natural Heritage Program*  
Joey has been a naturalist for as long as he can remember; he is now pursuing his passion for native plants and conservation as Vegetation Ecologist at the Virginia Natural Heritage Program. He is Education Chair for the Virginia Native Plant Society and is a member of the Virginia Botanical Associates. Joey is a native of Richmond where he lives with his wife, son, and beagle.



### **Andrea Weeks**

*Professor of Botany at George Mason University and Director of the Ted Bradley Herbarium*

Andrea teaches undergraduate courses in plant biology and conducts research in angiosperm systematics. Since 2014 she has led a National Science Foundation-funded initiative to digitize Virginia herbaria, which has made more than a quarter million herbarium specimens discoverable through the SERNEC Symbiota portal.



### **Eli Wright**

*Senior Environmental Scientist and Arborist, Dramby Environmental Consulting*  
Eli is an environmental consultant and project lead in wetland delineations, wetland permitting, and protected species assessments. His master's research focused on the success of planted trees on wetland-mitigation sites in the Virginia Piedmont. He currently serves on the executive board of the Virginia Association of Wetland Professionals.

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## Your Support

The Flora of Virginia is evergreen, requiring ongoing attention to keep data up-to-date and to add new features and functionality. We rely on the generous donations of our users and supporters to get our work done.

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**The Flora of Virginia Project, Inc.**

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