



Press release

The Flora of Virginia Project

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER AND CO-AUTHOR J. CHRISTOPHER LUDWIG

RETIRES FROM THE FLORA OF VIRGINIA PROJECT AFTER 22 YEARS

Will continue important work with Flora of the Southeast U.S.



Flora contributors (l to r): Michelle Prysby; Alan Weakley; Joslin Gallatin; Gary Fleming; Sally Anderson; Chris Ludwig; Ann Regn; Bland Crowder; Jan Hodges; Tom Smith

May 15, 2023 — Powhatan, Va. — The Foundation of the Flora of Virginia Project (the Flora) welcomed Flora of Virginia contributors and supporters to celebrate the contributions of Chris Ludwig at a retirement and tree planting event at Powhatan State Park on May 14, 2023.

Chris and co-authors Alan Weakley, John Townsend, and Gary Fleming set out to produce a modern Flora of Virginia grounded in the seminal work done by John Clayton in the *Flora Virginica*, published in 1739. Guided by Chris and founding board member Marion Lobstein, Executive Director Bland Crowder, and his co-authors, countless advisers, contributors, illustrators and volunteers, the [Flora of Virginia](#) was first published in 2012. The launch of [The Flora App](#) followed in 2017.

65th House District Delegate Lee Ware presented [House Resolution No. 346: Commending J. Christopher Ludwig](#). "State, local and federal agencies that are working to protect the Commonwealth's diverse natural communities rely on the Flora App. The tireless effort of Chris and all those who worked to create and now maintain the Flora is essential to the conservation and management of Virginia's amazing and diverse landscapes," said Delegate Ware.

Chris is the Flora's longest serving board member, donating countless hours in recent years to integrating and improving the data and useability of the Flora App. In 2013 Chris and his colleagues were honored by Governor Bob McDonnell and were featured in local and regional media, including on Virginia Public Media's (VPM) program [Virginia Currents](#). More recently, Chris led the charge to form a new board comprised of committed environmental professionals to carry on the foundation's mission. Chris will continue his good work with The Flora of the Southeast U.S., which announced on May 1, 2023 the launch of [FloraQuest: Northern Tier](#). The first region released (four more to follow) covers the 5,800 taxa found from Long Island, NY south and east through New

Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, as well as the southern portions of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois.

About The Foundation of the Flora of Virginia Project

The Foundation of the Flora of Virginia Project is a nonprofit organization that inspires conservation of Virginia's native flora through education, outreach, and production of the Flora of Virginia, in print and electronic formats. To learn more and to donate, please visit our website floraofvirginia.org.

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