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# FLORASCOPE

Occasional News from the Flora of Virginia Project

## Sign up now for the Flora of Virginia Ambassador Program

**Did you know that 83% of property in Virginia is privately owned?**



The real work to protect Virginia's spectacular open spaces is teaching our citizens to care about what's in their own backyard. So, we launched the Ambassador Program to train Flora App power users to educate others on using the App to identify natives to protect, invasives to pull, and more.

To date, we have 22 highly trained Ambassadors, offering programs on identification of native and invasive plants in their towns and schools, and at events like the State Fair of Virginia.

## *Ambassador Program Step 1:*

### ***Discover the Power of the Flora of Virginia App Webinar***

ALL ARE WELCOME to join this presentation to learn Flora App basics and more about the Ambassador Program.

**Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025**

**Time: 7:00PM**

This engaging session introduces the Flora of Virginia App, the go-to resource for identifying native, naturalized, and invasive plants in the state. Whether you're a professional botanist or a plant enthusiast, this app is invaluable for tasks like identifying species, delineating wetlands, selecting natives for gardens, or managing invasives in ecosystem restoration projects. And, with our most recent update, you can **Create and customize plant lists for your needs**—whether it's a project-specific shopping list, a collection of your favorite plants, or a shareable record of a trip.

Enhance your fieldwork with the latest botanical science, pinpoint plant ranges, and create accurate species lists with this indispensable tool.

[Register Now!](#)

**Tip:** Be sure to [download the Flora App](#) before the webinar to follow along live on your phone. Let's explore Virginia's incredible plant diversity together!

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## **Virginia Environmental Endowment Supports the Flora of Virginia**

Virginia  
Environmental  
Endowment

## Grant awarded to secure Flora of Virginia data

The Flora of Virginia database is a MASSIVE Excel spreadsheet – 180 columns and more than 3500 rows – and all updates to the Flora App are executed in it manually. This incredibly time-consuming process was managed by one brilliant person who retired from the board after more than 20 years of service. While other board members have stepped in, it is cumbersome, time consuming, and rife with opportunities for errors.

Moving to an institutional platform means we can update through functionality and menus designed for editing and review, improve data security, remove dependence on specific people into the future, and seamlessly share data with our partners. This move will ensure that the Flora of Virginia is sustainable, so this incredible resource can support conservation work into perpetuity.

The Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) understands the importance of this project for the future of the Flora so awarded a \$15,000 grant to kick off our database move project. To help us raise the funding necessary to finish the project, we are asking our supporters to Match the VEE's generous donation.

**Matching Funds Drive will launch on March 20 ✨ the first day of Spring ✨ Please donate!**

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## Will Nelson, our Newest Board Member



You've probably seen the positive impact of Will Nelson on the Flora of Virginia's social media presence. He is a Digital Content Strategist for Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, bringing both content and media expertise to the Flora.

Are you interested in joining the Flora board? We are looking for passionate conservatists like Will who can contribute professional expertise. [If you have an interest, send us an email.](#)

# Support the Flora of Virginia Project

The volunteer Flora of Virginia Project board of directors is committed to keeping the Flora of Virginia, a critical resource at the forefront of plant identification and conservation efforts, current and accessible.

In 2025, with your help, we will:

- Move our data to a secure and sustainable infrastructure that streamlines data updates and enhances data sharing with our partners, like adding Wetland Indicator Status;
- Expand educational outreach through our Flora Ambassador Program and increased representation at statewide events; and
- Enhance the App's functionality to better serve its users.



[Visit our website](#) to learn the many options to donate through the mail, by PayPal, and more.

Your support is essential to helping us to provide resources that professionals, educators, and nature enthusiasts alike rely on to protect Virginia's spectacular biodiversity.

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## Flora of Virginia Project, Inc.

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