



## LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Sandra Gioia Treadway  
Librarian of Virginia

### *Flora of Virginia* Exhibition Open at the Library of Virginia

**Contact: Janice M. Hathcock** **For Immediate Release**  
**804-692-3592**

Discover the power of the flower. Delve into Virginia's natural environment through *Flora of Virginia*, an exhibition featuring colorful illustrations from the Library of Virginia's collections and beyond. *Flora of Virginia* opens on Monday, March 17, 2014, at the Library of Virginia and is presented in collaboration with the Flora of Virginia Project Inc. The exhibition explores the science and art of the 2012 *Flora of Virginia*, the first flora of the commonwealth published in 250 years. Photographs, pen-and-ink drawings, sculpture, fossils, and illustrated volumes will complement the exploration of Virginia's flora.

On display will be original artwork by Lara Call Gastinger, Lou Greiner, and Jackie Bailey Labovitz as well as a 1754 edition of Mark Catesby's *Natural History* and plant specimens. Institutional lenders include Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Oak Spring Garden Library, the Virginia Museum of Natural History, the College of William and Mary, the Petersburg Garden Club, Mountain Lake Biological Station (University of Virginia), the Ramsey-Freer Herbarium of Lynchburg College, the University of Richmond Herbarium, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Nature Conservancy, and the Flora of Virginia Project Inc.

Published in 2012, the *Flora of Virginia* identifies and describes 3,164 plants native to or naturalized in Virginia. Plant descriptions feature the latest scientific classification and naming, synonyms—which are simply scientific names that were applied in the past to a species, illustrations, step-by-step keys for identification, and an extensive list of references. Where botanists use language to describe a plant, a botanical artist uses pen, ink, pencil, or watercolor to help the reader visualize the plant. The *Flora* continues a long tradition of merging science and art by combining technical scientific text with delicate black-and-white drawings of plants. Botanists and artists alike use dried and mounted plant specimens for research. Collecting and preserving specimens for study has a long history in Virginia, and *Flora of Virginia* will highlight the work at Mountain Lake Biological Station (University of Virginia), the Lee Memorial Park herbarium (Petersburg Garden Club), and herbaria around the commonwealth to document Virginia's native plants.

The Library will offer a series of programs to complement the exhibition. Among the programs are:

**April 18, 2014 | 5:30–7:30 PM**

**Lecture and Tasting:** Fifth-generation apple grower Tom Burford discusses his new book, *Apples of North America*, followed by a hard-cider tasting provided by Albemarle Cider Works.

**April 24 2014 | Noon–1:00 PM**

**Illustration Demonstration:** Lara Call Gastinger, one of the *Flora in Virginia* illustrators, demonstrates the use of pen and ink, watercolor, and other media in the accurate rendering of plant life. Attendance limited to 35. Free, but attendees are encouraged to register by calling 804-692-3719.

**May 3, 2014 | 11:00 AM–3:00 PM**

**Family Day:** The Central Virginia Botanical Artists present a variety of ongoing interactive activities including a plant dissection, demonstrations, needle arts, and leaf rubbing, among others.

**-MORE-**

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**June 19, 2014 | Noon–1:00 PM**

**Lecture:** Donna Ware, professor emeritus at the College of William and Mary, discusses the history of botany in Virginia.

**September 5, 2014 | Noon–1:00 PM**

**Illustrated Lecture:** Robert Llewellyn discusses his book *Seeing Flowers*, a visual feast that highlights more than 300 garden flowers through the use of large macrophotographs.

Please check our web calendar ([www.lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar.asp](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar.asp)) for information about other exhibition-related events. This exhibition is made possible in part by the Virginia Native Plant Society and the Library of Virginia Foundation.