



## Help Digitize Virginia's Herbaria

*This is a reintroduction of a VMN project approved by the chapter in 2016.*

Using the Notes from Nature portal, you can help transcribe the information from scanned-in plant labels so that it can be digitally available to naturalists, researchers, and others. It's a good stay-at-home, on-your-own-computer project, so a good one for the winter.

### *Current Expedition: Treasures of the LFCC Herbarium*

The purpose of the project is to transcribe the label information from herbarium specimens collected in Virginia. Herbarium specimens are archivally prepared, pressed and dried plants (native and non-native) gathered and identified by taxonomic experts. Label information includes the species name, the precise location of its collection and its associated habitat, as well as when and by whom it was collected. Every species treatment in the Flora of Virginia and the vast majority of occurrence records on the Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora are based on Virginia-collected herbarium specimens.

While there are a number of different collections being transcribed on Notes from Nature, we ask that **VMN volunteers focus solely on the Virginia collections or expeditions**. The current 'expedition' that is posted is called "Treasures of the LFCC Herbarium". In 2019, the LFCC herbarium was transferred to George Mason University for curation and permanent archival care.

To streamline transcription, they have already captured country, state/province and county data as well as collector-number.

If you are new to this project, watch the webinar that was recorded in October 2016 called "Digitizing Virginia's Herbaria for Research and Education", available about 3/4 of the way down the [VMN CE webinar page](#). You will also find additional instructions with the video recording on that page.

Once you understand the project and the instructions go to the [Notes from Nature](#) website and look for PLANTS, ACTIVE PROJECTS, SOUTHEASTERN U.S BIODIVERSITY and the "Treasures of the LFCC Herbarium" button.

Lise Maring is the NNMN Chapter project lead and questions and problems can be directed to her. Use email [ldm1366@outlook.com](mailto:ldm1366@outlook.com). Lise said that she considers this to be a very worthwhile project in that some of this data might actually be useful in long-term studies involving climate change. However, keep in mind that at this point in this project, much of the time spent transcribing is spent in deciphering the collectors' handwriting and looking up geographical locations. Just need to be aware of that.

*Chapter approved:*

CS Wildlife and Flora Monitoring, Digitizing Virginia's Herbaria

Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists  
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