

**New Fellow
Marion Blois Lobstein**



Marion Blois Lobstein has been named a Fellow of the Virginia Academy of Science. Her contributions to the advancement of knowledge in botany have merited national and regional recognition. She has been honored several times for her career in teaching and has served the Academy in a variety of leadership positions since she became a member in 1972.

As an independent botanical consultant since 1989, Marion has conducted workshops, natural history tours, botanical surveys, and manuscript reviews. In 1986 she performed research on *Hydrilla verticillata* for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Among her publications are *Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area* (co-author, Johns-Hopkins University Press, 1995); three botanical checklists – *Summer and Fall Wildflowers of Northern Virginia*; *Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Northern Virginia*; and *Spring Wildflowers of Northern Virginia* -- articles in *Castanea* and the *Virginia Journal of Science* (co-author); and a video – *Spring Wildflowers of the Mid-Atlantic Region* (co-author). In 1992, the U.S. Postal Service issued a wildflower commemorative set in sheets of 50 different stamps; Marion reviewed the photos for the USPS book published to accompany the stamps. Two of her photographs, one of bluets and the other of rue anemones, were included in the book: *Wildflowers: A Collection of U.S. Commemorative Stamps*.

To many of her associates in the Academy, Marion's most noteworthy contribution in the field of botany has been her work over the past two decades on a *Virginia Flora*. The most recent such compendium to date has been John Clayton's classic *Flora Virginica*, published in 1739. Long an objective of the Academy, materials for a new *Flora* are now being prepared for publication. Marion has played a leading role in coordinating a variety of Virginia scholars and organizations to bring this endeavor to fruition with publication scheduled for 2007. In addition to co-chairing the Academy's Virginia Flora Committee, Marion serves on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Flora Project, a 501(c)3 corporation, which oversees the book's publication and solicits private contributions for the project. It is fair to say that a *Virginia Flora* would never have gotten to this point without the enduring leadership and dedication of Marion Blois Lobstein.

An exemplary educator, Marion Lobstein has taught in the Virginia Community College System since 1974 when she began teaching at the Loudoun campus of Northern Virginia Community College. She is currently Associate Professor at NVCC, Manassas Campus where she has taught Biology since 1976. Other teaching positions include the University of Virginia's Blandy Experimental Farm (since 1983) and the Smithsonian Institution's Resident Associates Program.

From 1997-99, Marion held an NVCC Education Foundation Grant to direct students in the production of a CD-ROM on the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay: "Welcome to the Chesapeake Bay: an Introduction to an Ecosystem." She was honored as Teacher of the Year by the NVCC Alumni Association in 1990, received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the NVCC Educational Foundation in 1993, and was named to *Who's Who among American Teachers* in 1994, 1996, and 1999. In 1993, the State Council for Higher Education for Virginia honored Marion with the SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award.

An active member of the Academy's Botany Section, Marion has served as Section Representative to Council since 1992. She was elected Academy Treasurer in 1998, and reelected through 2001, when she began her first two terms as the Academy's Vice-President. She has served on the VAS Virginia Flora Committee since 1996, as a member of the Executive Committee, and as Program Chair for the 80th and 81st Annual Meetings, at Hampton University and the University of Virginia, respectively. In 1995 Marion authored the Academy Conference's "Resolution on the Importance of Laboratory Work in Science Education."

A member of the Botanical Society of Washington since 1984, Marion was elected Vice President in 1987 and President in 1988. She has worked in the Virginia Native Plant Society since 1983 including terms on the Board of Directors and Botany Chair of the Prince William County Chapter. From 1998, Marion served on the Boards of Directors of the Foundation of the State Arboretum (Blandy Experimental Farm) and the Virginia Association for Biological Education. Other professional memberships include the Southern Appalachian Botanical Club and Nature Conservancy.

Marion received the Bachelor of Science in Education in Biology from Western Carolina University in 1968. She earned the MAT with a concentration in Botany from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 1972 and her M.S. in Biology from George Mason University in 1984.

Congratulations to Marion Blois Lobstein, Fellow of the Virginia Academy of Science.