

Preface for Volume 9

Since the publication of *Flora of North America* volume 7 (the sixteenth volume and the last one covering vascular plants published in the *Flora* series) in late 2010, the membership of the Flora of North America Association [FNAA] Board of Directors has undergone changes. Guy Baillargeon and James S. Miller have retired from the board. New board members include: Kerry A. Barringer (Taxon Editor), Gerry Moore, and Elizabeth H. Zacharias. As a result of a reorganization finalized in 2003, the Board of Directors of FNAA succeeded the former Editorial Committee; for the sake of continuity of citation, authorship of *Flora* volumes is still to be cited as “Flora of North America Editorial Committee, eds.”

Prior to the completion of volume 9, the tome containing the second half of mosses for the flora area – volume 28 and seventeenth in the series – was published earlier in 2014. In total, volumes 27 and 28 treat 1402 species in 333 genera classified in 81 families for the flora area.

The initial editorial process was done at the Canada center, Université de Montréal. The final editorial processing for this volume of the *Flora* was undertaken at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. Pre-press production for the volume, including typesetting and layout, plus coordination for all aspects of planning, executing, and scanning the illustrations, was done at the St. Louis center. Other aspects of production, such as art panel composition plus labeling and occurrence map generation, were carried out in Gaston, Oregon, and Miami, Florida, respectively.

Line drawings published in this volume were executed by three very talented artists: Barbara Alongi prepared illustrations for Crossosomataceae and *Mespilus* (Rosaceae); Marjorie C. Leggett illustrated Picramniaceae, Rosaceae (except those for *Mespilus* and *Rosa*), and Staphyleaceae plus she prepared the color frontispiece depicting *Crataegus okanaganensis* var. *okanaganensis* (Rosaceae); and John Myers illustrated species of *Rosa* (Rosaceae), plus he composed and labeled all of the line drawings in this volume.

Starting with volume 8 published in 2009, the circumscription and ordering of some families within the *Flora* have been modified so they mostly reflect that of the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group [APG] rather than the previously followed Cronquist organizational structure. The groups of families found in this and future volumes in the series are mostly ordered following E. Haston et al. (2007); since APG views of relationships and circumscriptions have evolved, and will certainly change further through time, some discrepancies in organization will occur. Volume 30 of the *Flora of North America* will contain an overall index to the published volumes.

Support from many institutions and by individuals has enabled the *Flora* to be produced. The team that authored the account of *Amelanchier* (Rosaceae) extends special thanks to the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station and the National Science Foundation.

The Flora of North America Association remains deeply thankful to the many people who continue to help create, encourage, and sustain the *Flora*.