As of this writing, associations considered provisional (nonstandard) are not served on NatureServe Explorer. A "Provisional" classification unit is a candidate for acceptance in the International Ecological Classification Standard, but has not yet been comprehensively reviewed. This provisional association is a synonym for a community type in the Natural Communities of Virginia and the description is provided for user's of that classification.

Data source: NatureServe. 2010. International Ecological Classification Standard: Terrestrial Ecological Classifications. NatureServe Central Databases. Arlington, VA. Data current as of March 10, 2010.

CEGL008473–*QUERCUS ALBA - NYSSA SYLVATICA* SEASONALLY FLOODED FOREST [PROVISIONAL]
White Oak - Blackgum Seasonally Flooded Forest
White Oak - Blackgum Seasonally Flooded Forest **Classif. Resp.: Southeast**

ELEMENT CONCEPT

Summary: This type includes forests in Virginia and Kentucky. These are seasonally flooded shallow depressions dominated by *Quercus alba* and *Nyssa sylvatica*. The documented Virginia site is located near Frozen Knob on Peters Mountain, Alleghany County, in the Ridge and Valley province. More information is needed.

ELEMENT DESCRIPTION

Environment: At the Peters Mountain site, a sag in the underlying bedrock, probably related to ancient catastrophic slope failure and landsliding (Harbor 1996), is expressed as a broad, concave, midslope bench at 863 m (2830 feet) elevation. The lowest portion of the bench supports a seasonally flooded, semi-forested depression wetland covering about 0.2 hectare (0.5 acre). High water marks on trees (32, 44, and 50 cm [13, 17, and 20 inches]) indicate periodic flooding of significant depth, and aerial photographs taken in early spring clearly show such inundation. However, no surface water was observed during growing season field visits to this site, and it is not clear whether the flooding regime is regular but very short duration, or irregular and intermittent. We suspect that growing season inundation of this wetland is highly irregular and intermittent. Moreover, hydrophytic plants are nearly lacking, suggesting that the very strongly acidic (mean pH = 4.6) grayish to yellow-gray silt loam substrate is a non-hydric soil with reasonable internal drainage during most of the growing season. Most likely, this habitat represents a former "sag pond" that has filled with sediment over geologic time.

Vegetation: Physiognomic characterization of this association is problematic. The wetland grades from an open herbaceous center through a *Quercus alba*-dominated woodland to surrounding mixed oak and oak-hickory forest. The overall or "average" expression is a woodland. Individuals of *Quercus alba* up to 81 cm (32 inches) dbh and 204 years old overwhelmingly dominate the stand. *Acer rubrum* is a constant but minor canopy and subcanopy associate. *Malus coronaria* and *Nyssa sylvatica* comprise most of the very open understory and shrub layers. The herbaceous flora is relatively homogeneous throughout the wetland, although total herb cover drops from 25-40% in the open center to <5% in the canopied portion. The most characteristic herbaceous species are *Agrostis perennans, Carex annectens, Dichanthelium villosissimum, Hypoxis hirsuta, Lysimachia lanceolata, Oxalis grandis, Polygonum hydropiperoides, Smilax glauca,* and *Viola hirsutula*.

Dynamics: Heavy grazing, presumably by deer and/or turkey, was noted on both woody seedlings and herbaceous plants at the Peters Mountain site.

Description Author: G.P. Fleming **Status:** 3 **Version:** 18-Feb-2010

ELEMENT GLOBAL RANK & REASONS

GRank: GNR **GRank Review Date:** 3-Sep-2002
GReasons: This conceptual placeholder type cannot be ranked until its concept and range are clarified and better defined.
Ranking Author: M. Pyne **Version:** 3-Sep-2002

ELEMENT DISTRIBUTION

Range: This provisional association accommodates the states and/or ecoregions in the portion of the alliance's range not covered in other existing associations. This presently (February 2010) includes Virginia and Kentucky.