



**Virginia
Cooperative
Extension**

Virginia Tech.
Virginia State University

GOOCHLAND COUNTY NEWSLETTER

2022-23 / Winter

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*Fall foliage on a baldcypress.
Image credit: Marilyn Kircus, Lady
Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.*

Virginia Cooperative Extension Goochland County Unit Office

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LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING

Bob Whitehead, Horticultural Program Associate

Conifers are supposed to be evergreen right? The answer is - not always. A few conifers are deciduous and lose their leaves/needles every year like our oaks and maples. Worldwide, there are five genera of conifers that are deciduous. These include the Larches (*Larix*), Bald Cypress (*Taxodium*), Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia*), Golden Larch (*Pseudolarix*) and Chinese Swamp Cypress (*Glyptostrobus*). Several species of larch can be found in the northern portions of the US and Canada. Two species of deciduous conifers are commonly found in southern portions of the US - the Bald Cypress and the Dawn Redwood. These two trees have similar growth characteristics so you have to look at the needles closely to identify them. Bald cypress has short alternate needles while Dawn Redwood has a longer opposite needle arrangement. If you are unfamiliar with these trees and you see them in the fall when most of the foliage is a bronze color, you might think the tree has some awful disease when in fact it is the normal growth habit. They complement the fall color palette and later add winter interest when the bare branches are covered with a thin layer of snow.

Other evergreen conifers lose a portion of their needles in the summer and fall. They are shedding the oldest needles on the inner portions of the tree branches. This is normal. However, if entire branches are brown with excessive needle shed, then this is cause for further investigation. Abiotic environmental stress, Insect pests and/or fungal disease could be responsible for this type of issue. It is always helpful to know the normal growth characteristics of trees and shrubs in your landscape so that you can be prepared to recognize and respond to abnormal issues quickly.

Dawn Redwood and Bald Cypress are large, fast-growing trees that require a large amount of space for the standard species. Some smaller cultivars have been developed that may be good choices for smaller landscapes.

For more information see the following links:

- [Bald Cypress](#) at NCSU Plant Toolbox
- [Dawn Redwood](#) at NCSU Plant Toolbox

We're Hiring! We are hiring a part-time Volunteer Coordinator to assist with the administration of our volunteers, including Master Gardeners and 4-H Volunteers. This 20 hour/week position will be split between the Goochland and Powhatan Offices. To learn more about the job, please contact Nicole Shuman (804-556-5872; nks49@vt.edu).

MANGE IN BLACK BEARS

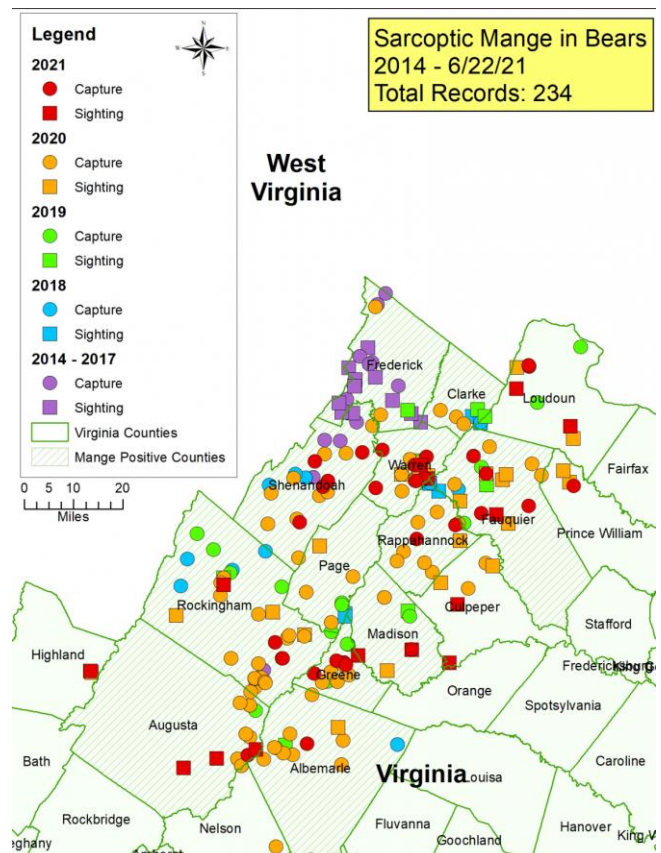
Dr. Jim Parkhurst, Extension Wildlife Specialist

Prior to 2014, the incidence of sarcoptic mange in black bears in Virginia was almost unheard of. However, since then, and especially in the last 5-6 years, sightings and confirmed clinical cases of mange have been increasing substantially, especially in counties within the northwest mountain and Shenandoah Valley regions of Virginia. The rapid increase in the number of sightings of afflicted bears and the widening spread of where this parasite-caused skin disease is appearing has captured the attention of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR). So far, DWR does not believe the increase in cases is affecting or limiting the bear population, but data are limited. This is where the agency is asking for assistance. They are asking anyone who sees an afflicted bear or suspects that infested bears have visited their area to submit a report of sighting (preferably with photos and/or GPS coordinates) to the toll-free Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline (855-571-9003) so that the current range and extent of incidence can be tracked. Additional information and guidance on how and what to report is available on the [DWR website](#).

Mange is transmissible to and can be contracted by humans, so direct contact or interaction with an infected individual is not recommended. This has obvious potential implications for those who hunt bears and attempt to process a harvested bear and to those who use dogs during the bear chase season. Recommendations on what those who are in either of these positions should do to avoid or limit exposure or what to do if exposure has occurred are available at the same link provided above. Additionally, recommendations on how to avoid attracting bears close to human-occupied areas need to be followed and deterrent measures may need to be implemented to reduce the likelihood for interaction (see [VCE Publication #420-200](#) for info on reducing interactions with bears).

DWR also has a brochure about mange in black bears available at <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/media/Black-Bear-Mange-Brochure.pdf>.

Symptoms of sarcoptic mange (above) and current distribution in Virginia (below). Images courtesy of Jim Parkhurst.



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Limited Space ~ Fee: \$25
Register using QR code



Se habla español. Teléfono - 804-556-5872;
correo electrónico - nks49@vt.edu;
mensaje de texto - 301-633-0652.

Let's Get Baking!

4-H Holiday Workshop

Open to all youth ages 9-13

**Wednesday and Thursday,
Dec 21-22
9am-12noon**

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Cayla Walker-Goochland VCE Office at (804)556-5873/TDD* during business hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

If you would like to register and cannot scan the QR code, go to <https://tinyurl.com/4Hholidaybaking>



Become a 4-H Volunteer!

Goochland 4-H is seeking adult volunteers who are passionate about positive youth development for the following volunteering opportunities:

- One time/Occasional Volunteer
- Club Leader/Club Volunteer
- 4-H Camp Adult Volunteer (Overnight)

Background screening is required to enroll as a 4-H Volunteer.

NEW REGULATIONS ON THE KILLING OF BLACK VULTURES FOR AFFECTED PRODUCERS

Dr. Jim Parkhurst, Extension Wildlife Specialist

New regulations have come into play that may allow a producer who currently is suffering the effects of depredation caused by Black Vultures to kill up to five Black Vultures per year. The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and the Virginia Office of USDA-Wildlife Services have secured a process (with approval from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency that holds ultimate regulatory authority) by which affected producers can acquire a sub-permit that allows for this lethal take. However, prior to being able to apply for and receive a sub-permit, a producer must provide evidence of having implemented other forms of deterrence that proved unsuccessful. Those wishing to take more than 5 Black Vultures per year must seek a special depredation permit on their own, as that level of take has not been authorized as a part of this negotiated agreement.

This permitting process applies only to Black Vultures, not Turkey Vultures. As such, it will be imperative that producers who participate in the program become very familiar with the characteristics of these two species to ensure proper identification. Given the fact that juvenile Turkey Vultures look very similar to Black Vultures of all ages, any mistake that results in killing a Turkey Vulture would be a federal violation, subject to penalties of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Thus, instituting a "take" effort under this sub-permit will require great care and proper identification of intended targets. Luckily, Turkey Vultures have not yet demonstrated any tendencies toward predatory behaviors, and remain basically scavengers. Because both species often will be found at sites where depredation has occurred, careful attention to behavioral actions displayed during a predation event may be a key distinguishing feature for producers to use to separate the two species.

For additional details, [visit the VDACS website](#). Questions about this new program should be directed to Chad Fox, coordinator of the USDA-WS Vulture Damage Control Program (at 540.381.7387 or chad.fox@usda.gov).

WINTER WEED SCOUTING: POISON HEMLOCK

Nicole Shuman, Extension Agent

Last spring and summer, I couldn't help but notice an abundance of poison hemlock in Goochland, frequently along roadways and in unmaintained fields.

Poison hemlock, *Conium maculatum* L., is a member of the same family as Queen Anne's lace and giant hogweed. While giant hogweed has received some media attention, it is not present in Goochland County. Poison hemlock's white blooms may cause people to mistake the plant for Queen Anne's lace despite the plant's large size. It is not as large as giant hogweed, but it shares some of the plant's toxic characteristics. It is poisonous to livestock if grazed and may give some people a rash if it comes in contact with their skin.

Poison hemlock is not native to the United States, although there are some native look-alike species. Poison hemlock will have purple splotches on its stem. Because it produces abundant seeds and spreads readily, I encourage controlling the plant if you find it on your property, even if you don't farm. It can cause plenty of problems for your agricultural neighbors!

Poison hemlock is a biennial, and overwinters as a rosette. Treating in March is best, when second-year plants are still in the rosette stage and easily controlled with herbicides. Being in the carrot family, it's controlled with most any herbicide labeled for pasture/hayfields, such as DuraCor, Crossbow, and 2,4-D + dicamba (Weedmaster). Spot treatment is an option for small populations of this weed. Spray guns can make reaching plants on a hillside much easier. With any herbicide, read and follow all label directions.



Poison hemlock flowering.
Image credit: William & Wilma Follette, USDA NRCS. 1992.

Agriculture, Natural Resources and Horticulture Upcoming Programs

Recertification Class for Private Pesticide Applicators

December 13, 2022

5:00 to 8:00 PM

This class will provide certified private applicators with the necessary credit to maintain their certification. However, it is open to anyone with an interest in applying pesticides safely and correctly. Class will be held on at the Goochland Extension Office, 2748 Dogtown Road, Goochland, VA 23063. For more information, contact Nicole Shuman at 804-556-5872 or nks49@vt.edu.

Gardening 101

January 18 – March 22, 2023

6:00 to 8:00 PM

No volunteer commitment, just the education. Learn the basics of vegetable & herb gardening, soils, insects, pruning, native plants and many other horticulture topics in ten classes taught by our very own Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardener Volunteers. Cost is \$55 for all ten sessions with drop-in options available for individual classes. Classes will be in person and will alternate between two locations in Goochland and Powhatan. Registration and more information can be found online at www.gpmga.org.

February GPMGA Meeting Continuing Education Lecture

February 9, 2023

9:30 to 10:30 AM

Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardener Association Meetings have a continuing education lecture that is open to the public. For the February Association meeting, Betsy Trice will speak on seed saving and storage. The meeting will be held in the Auditorium of the Powhatan Health and Human Services Building, 3910 Old Buckingham Road, Powhatan, VA 23139. www.gpmga.org.

Septic System Best Management Practices for Homeowners

February 15, 2023

6:30 to 8:00 PM

Have a septic system? Ever wonder about it? Come get all your septic questions and learn best management practices to help avoid costly problems down the road. Class will be held at the Goochland Extension Office, 2748 Dogtown Road, Goochland, VA 23063. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/SepticBMP>. For more information, contact Bob Whitehead at 804-556-5868 or whitehd5@vt.edu.



GIVING DAY IS FEBRUARY 15-16

Together we can make a difference in our community! From noon to noon February 15-16, 2023, Virginia Tech is hosting its annual 24-hour Giving Day Challenge to give supporters of the community -- including Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia 4-H -- a chance to come together for a single, impactful day of fundraising. We in Goochland County are excited to join the challenge. Will you support us on [#VTGivingDay](https://givingday.vt.edu/)? Learn more: <https://givingday.vt.edu/>.

SAVE THE DATE!
July 17 - 21, 2023

Goochland 4-H CAMP

- Overnight Residential Camp
- Open to all youth ages 9-13
- @ Jamestown 4-H Center
- Air-conditioned lodging
- Situated on the James River

**Registration Opens
JANUARY 31, 2023**



If you would like to be notified when registration opens, please email Cayla Walker at caylaks98@vt.edu with your name, your youth's name, and their age as of September 30th 2023.

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