

Virginia Cooperative Extension, Goochland Office

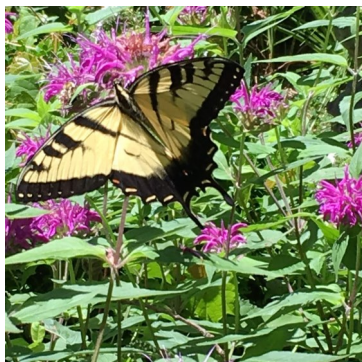
Quarterly Newsletter



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

Fourth Quarter, Fall/Winter 2020



Become a Master Gardener Volunteer

Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who promote environmentally sound horticulture in their communities. If you have an interest in becoming a Master Gardener volunteer, now is the time to complete your application for an opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge about gardening and give back to your community. All applications for the Goochland Powhatan Master Gardener training program for 2021 must be turned in by November 15, 2020. The program offers more than 50

hours of instruction on a broad range of horticultural topics including garden flowers, ornamental trees and shrubs, insect/plant disease identification, weed management, soils and plant nutrition, vegetable gardening, home fruit production, lawn care, and water conservation. Classes will be held twice weekly in the mornings from January through April, via both virtual and socially – distanced in-person sessions. All classes are taught by Virginia Tech extension specialists, agents, and local experts. In exchange for training, participants are asked to volunteer time to their county's Virginia Cooperative Extension program with at least 50 hours of volunteer service within one year following the training to earn their certification as a Master Gardener.

The type of service done by Master Gardeners varies according to community needs, and the abilities and interests of the Master Gardeners. Some Master Gardeners answer telephone requests for information related to gardening while others staff plant clinics or displays at community events. They may help establish community garden projects, work with 4-H youth, or assist their agent with press releases related to gardening. The Master Gardener coordinator in the County Extension office decides how volunteer time can be best utilized. Tuition for the training class is \$140 (cash, check, or credit card).

Limited scholarships are available. Applications can be acquired online at www.gpmga.org or by calling the Goochland Extension Office at 804-556-5841 or the Powhatan Extension Office at 804-598-5640.



GPMGA Class of 2019 at the January 2020 Graduation Luncheon

Horticulture Help Line:

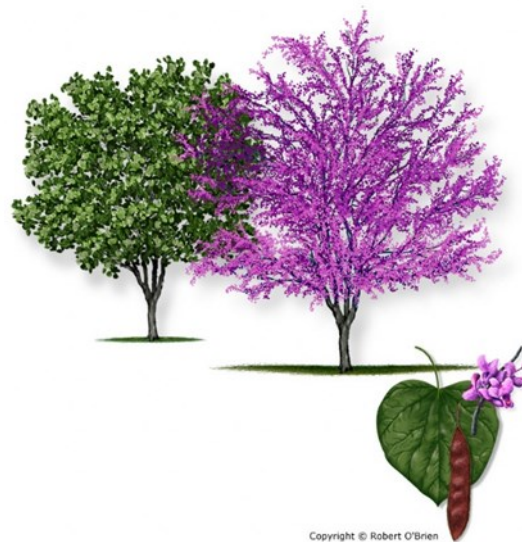
Residents with questions regarding gardens, lawn care, pruning and more are invited to contact the Goochland Extension Office for free advice. The Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardeners are available at the office Thursdays beginning in mid-March through September. You can reach them at 804-556-5874 or stop by the Goochland Extension Office.

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Please note that there is a \$50 returned check fee for any returned checks.

Eastern Redbud Adoption



With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dominion Energy had to scrap plans to hold its Project Plant It, leaving hundreds of eastern redbud tree seedlings without homes. Two-hundred and fifty of these trees will be available for adoption through the Goochland Extension Office on October 23, between 2-6 PM. Reservations are required due to the limited supply, and you can reserve up to 5 seedlings. The seedlings are 12-14 inches tall and will need to be planted the same day you receive them. Reserve yours at: <https://tinyurl.com/redbudadoption>.

Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) is a native tree than can reach a mature height of 20-30 feet, and can grow in full sun to shade, although it will not bloom as abundantly in full shade. They prefer moist but well drained soils, and will appreciate supplemental irrigation during a summer drought, especially if planted in a very sunny spot. Redbuds are tolerant of the slightly acidic soils common in Goochland County. Given their size and their striking spring blooms, they are a good choice for landscaping, and even small yards can accommodate a specimen.

Sources: <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/redbud/>
https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=ceca4

<http://texastreeid.tamu.edu/content/TreeDetails/?id=29>

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification

In the state of Virginia, Private Pesticide Applicators must be recertified every two years. If your Private Pesticide Applicator License expires December 31, 2020 and you have not attended a recertification program in the last two years, you must attend a recertification meeting by February 28, 2021 (60-day grace period) to maintain your present license. However, if you do not become recertified by December 31, 2020 you cannot purchase restricted-use pesticides legally until you recertify during the grace period. If you do not recertify by February 28, 2021, your license will expire and you will have to take the private pesticide test to regain your license. If your license does not expire this year, you can still recertify, and bank the recertification credit, which is good for two years. Up to four years of credit can be banked.

Normally, recertification is done one of two ways. Applicators can attend a recertification class, which local Virginia Cooperative Extension offices host annually, or they can re-take the certification test at a DMV or VCE office. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be a third option: virtual recertification via an online course. The course will be available in two “waves”: the Fall Course from November 2 to December 15, 2020, and the Winter Course from January 4 to February 15, 2021. These courses are go-at-your-own-pace, and can be completed at any point within the time frames listed. If you would like to register, contact Nicole Shuman at 804-556-5872 or nks49@t.edu. If you would like to recertify online, but do not have computer or internet access at home, let your local Extension Office know, and we can assist with accommodations.

An in-person recertification class will be held on December 15 from 5:00 – 8:00 PM at the Goochland Extension Office, 2748 Dogtown Road, Goochland, VA 23063. Pre-registration is required, and social distancing guidelines must be followed. To register, contact Nicole Shuman at 804-556-5872 or nks49@t.edu.

Native Fall Fruit

By: Cathy McCarthy, Goochland Powhatan Master Gardener

Have you recently noticed some local roadside trees with 2 inch orange fruit on their branches? They could be persimmon trees. Persimmons are native trees that produce and ripen their fruit from September to November here in Central Virginia.

The persimmon tree can be found growing wild from Connecticut to Florida, but the tree's botanical name, *Diospyros virginiana*, gives you an idea of how deeply rooted this plant is here in Virginia. In fact, according to Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary, the word 'persimmon' itself is derived from *putchamin*, *pasiminan*, or *pessamin*, from Powhatan, the Algonquian language of the native people of tidewater Virginia, and means "a dry fruit".



Many people do use persimmon fruits for drying or baking purposes as some varieties are astringent until after a frost. The definition of an astringent is a chemical that shrinks or constricts body tissue and tasting an unripe persimmon will definitely put a pucker on your face. However, while you rarely find persimmon fruit in your local grocery store because they don't hold up to commercial shipping and storage requirements, that doesn't make a ripe one any less delicious. If you don't want to wait for frost to sample your harvest, there are several varieties, such as 'NC21' that do not require bletting (frost softening) to become ripe. In addition, some landscape designers recommend persimmons as ornamental small trees due to their fall foliage colors and the aesthetic value of the orange fruits that remain on bare branches after the leaves fall.



Growing persimmons in Goochland for either ornamental purposes or fruit production is typically fairly easy in comparison to some other, more fussy fruit trees. Persimmon basics include:

No spraying required. Beyond watering your trees for their first full year, there is little annual maintenance. Unlike apple or peach trees, persimmons do not require pesticides or fungal treatments as part of their annual care.

Adapted for local conditions. Persimmons prefer slightly acidic soil (pH of about 6.5) which is typical of our local soil. They also tend to do fine with amended clay soils as long as they are located in a well drained location.

Some varieties require a partner. Many persimmons are dioecious so you will need to plan for at least two trees, a male and a female, to produce fruit. If you only have room for one tree, seek out a variety that is self fertile - consider 'Ruby', 'Yates', or 'Meander'.

Give them some space. And speaking of room, some happy persimmon trees will mature to 40 feet in height and 25 to 30 feet in width so plan for the long term when choosing your planting location. If you would like something smaller, look for the slightly more dwarf varieties.

While the straight species may not be commonly available, local fruit specialty nurseries recommend and sell several cultivated persimmon varieties including 'Ruby', 'Weber', 'Meader', and 'Yates' (only grows to 20 feet tall). If you are considering purchasing a persimmon tree, late September and early October is a great time to shop for and plant this low maintenance native fruit tree. Once you have a persimmon tree the autumn season will become something to look forward to as the chill of our first frost will bring you something sweet from your garden.



Every year, National 4-H Week sees millions of youth, parents, volunteers and alumni come together to celebrate the many positive youth development opportunities offered by 4-H. The theme for this year's National 4-H Week, *Opportunity4All*, is a campaign that was created by National 4-H Council to rally support for Cooperative Extension's 4-H program and identify solutions to eliminate the opportunity gap that affects 55 million kids across America.

With so many children struggling to reach their full potential, 4-H believes that young people, in partnership with adults, can play a key role in creating a more promising and equitable future for youth, families and communities across the country. In 4-H, we believe every child should have an equal opportunity to succeed. We believe every child should have the skills they need to make a difference in the world.

Goochland 4-H will observe National 4-H Week this year by highlighting some of the inspirational 4-H youth in our community who are working tirelessly to support each other and their communities.

"We believe youth perspectives are so important and a solution to eliminating the opportunity gap, because young people come with new ideas and new ways of seeing the world," explains Jennifer Sirangelo, President and CEO of National 4-H Council. By encouraging diverse voices and innovative actions, 4-H believes that solutions can be found to address the educational, economic and health issues that have created the opportunity gap.

One of the most anticipated events of National 4-H Week every year is the 4-H STEM Challenge, formerly known as National Youth Science Day. The theme of this year's event, which is expected to see hundreds of thousands of youth across the nation taking part throughout October, is *Mars Base Camp*. Developed by Google and Virginia Cooperative Extension, *Mars Base Camp* is a collection of activities that teaches kids ages 8-14 STEM skills, including mechanical engineering, physics, computer science and agriculture.

To learn more about how you can get involved, visit <http://www.4-h.org/>.

Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign Oct 7 - 18, 2020

What is the Paper Clover Program?

During the semi-annual event, TSC invites friends and family to support 4-H by donating \$1 at checkout in stores to support sending youth in Virginia to 4-H camp, State 4-H Congress, and other leadership experiences.

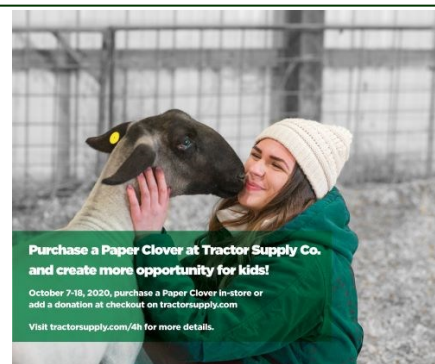
Historically, how much money is raised in Virginia during Paper Clover?

Over the past several years, Virginia has annually raised more than \$75,000 to benefit local programming during the Spring and Fall Campaign.

When is the fundraising campaign?

As a semi-annual event, the Paper Clover Campaign takes place in the Spring and Fall of each year, usually in April and October.

Can people donate online? Yes, customers can make a donation with their purchase both in the app and on TSC's website. These funds are credited to the state as a whole, not individual stores. Customers can also donate in store just like they have in past years.



Learn more about 4-H's partnership with Tractor Supply, at WWW.TRACTORSUPPLY.COM/4-H.

See what 4-H has to offer for you!! Here is a list of our 4-H Clubs:



The Goochland County 4-H program is growing throughout the county. 4-H provides “learn by doing” opportunities for youth to receive “hands on experiences through work or activities. 4-H is for all youth, both boys and girls between the ages of 5-18 years of age regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, handicap or political affiliation. For further information or questions regarding any of these programs please contact the 4-H office at 556-5841.

Goochland 4-H Shooting Education Club: Ages 9-18

The Shooting Education Club focuses on teaching responsible handling of any firearm, including safety, cleaning and proper storage. The youth will have a chance to compete in several 4-H sponsored shooting event throughout the year. The 4-H club is lead by qualifies, trained 4-H volunteers who are certified instructors in the following disciplines; archery, rifle, shotgun, pistol, air rifle.

4-H Trailblazers & Cloverbuds: Ages 5-18

Youth will learn about a variety of subject areas such as geocaching, photography, science and more. Meetings are usually held in the Central High School Classroom. (2748 Dogtown Road, Goochland, VA 23063).

Great Equestrian 4-H Club: Ages 9-18

The 4-Hers will participate in equine workshops, visit farms and show equine at local 4-H horse shows. This is a competition horse club. The 4-H members meet once a month on the first Tuesday at 6:30pm.

4-H Horse Club: Ages 9-18

The Goochland 4-H Horse Club is an equine club that focuses on learning more about the equine industry. The 4-Hers will participate in equine workshops, visit farms and show equine at local 4-H horse shows. Youth do not need to have a horse to be a member just interest in the equine industry.

Goochland 4-H Livestock Club: Ages 5-18

The Goochland Livestock 4-H club focuses on learning about livestock animals and agriculture. Throughout the year, the youth participate in workshops on different species of livestock; have guest speakers within the industry and show at the local 4-H livestock shows. Youth do not need to have a livestock animal to be a member just an interest. Youth 5-8 years of age, can be a part of this club as Cloverbuds until they reach the 4-H age of 9. This 4-H Club meets once a month on the second Thursday at 6:30 pm at St. Mathews UMC in Goochland.



As a 4-H Volunteer, You can:

- *Lead youth within school-based and after-school programs, camp settings or 4-H clubs.
- *Serve as a chaperone, board member, or judge for a 4-H contest
- *Develop and support community service opportunities for youth to make a difference in Goochland County.
- *Teach youth using research-based university curricula
- *Work with other adults to create fun, new programs for youth.
- *Make a difference in the lives of youth

4-H is a great volunteer opportunity that allows you to share your interests, skills and time available with the youth in Goochland County. Interested in learning more? Contact the Goochland Extension Office at 556-5841 for more information.

“When adults take time to help young people through 4-H, they exert an enormous, positive influence on the lives of youth.”
– Retired General Colin Powell

Beef 360 Discussion Group Meetings

If you raise beef cattle or are interested in raising beef cattle, you are hereby invited to participate in the Goochland-Powhatan Beef 360 Discussion Group. This is a group of local beef producers that meets the third Tuesday of every month to learn together, and from one another. This year has been challenging due to the limitations on gatherings, but through a combination of Zoom and socially-distanced



outdoor meetings, we hope to continue to provide this program in the months to come. A farm visit for October and a Zoom on replacement heifers and cull cows for November are currently planned. If you need assistance participating in Zoom due to either computer access or internet connectivity, accommodations can be provided. To join the Beef 360 Discussion Group, contact Nicole Shuman at 804-556-5872 or nks49@vt.edu.

https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/452/452-129/SPES-176.pdf

https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/452/452-125/SPES-172.pdf

https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/tags.resource.html/pubs_ext_vt_edu:lawns



Virginia Cooperative Extension Home Food Preservation Programs

The number of consumers preserving foods at home continues to increase, as more consumers emphasize greater control over what they eat and where their food comes from. Failure to adequately preserve foods in the

home can result in foodborne illness. Many families don't have the knowledge to safely preserve their food at home. Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) agents provide a variety of opportunities to fill this educational need.

Extension routinely holds in-service training for FCS agents and food safety educators on canning and food preservation, in order to meet the demand for food preservation information. Throughout the state, FCS agents also provide a variety of home food preservation workshops designed to teach participants how to safely can, freeze, or dry their own foods. The types of food preservation support provided include:

- General informational canning classes
- Canning demonstrations at community events
- Hands-on boiling water bath canning classes to teach how to safely can high acid foods
- Hands-on pressure canning classes to teach how to safely can low acid foods
- Pressure dial gauge inspections
- Individualize home preserver support via phone/e-mail

For more information about canning classes and support in your area, contact your local FCS extension agent.

Click here for a publication on how to can safely: https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/FST/FST-114/FST-275NPv1.pdf

What's a Radiosonde?**By: Bob Whitehead, Horticulture Associate**

Goochland Extension Office
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Goochland, VA 23063

Phone - 804-556-5841
Fax - 804-424-3185



Visit our website at:
<http://offices.ext.vt.edu/goochland/>

For more programs and information!

Also search Virginia
Cooperative Extension
Goochland on Facebook!

Have you ever wondered about all the crazy weather we have?

Which is more accurate - the European weather model (ECMWF) or the American weather model (GFS)? Well you are not alone! One thing these models have in common - they both require data inputs to run complex algorithms (rule based procedural calculations) on computers to produce local weather forecasts. Scientists in various weather agencies around the world have multiple ways to collect weather observation data. These include Doppler radar, satellite, aircraft, and surface observation sensors. To improve accuracy, weather forecasters need data from all levels of the atmosphere. Helium filled weather balloons have been used as the vehicle for collecting weather data from high levels (up to 100,000+ ft.) for over 80 years. The Radiosonde is a battery powered device tethered to balloons for collecting weather observation data.

Weighing roughly four ounces these devices can collect data on 1) temperature 2) air pressure, 3) humidity, 4) wind speed and direction. After launch, this data is transmitted every second to receiving stations near the launch sites across North America. The ground receiving stations track the position of the device throughout its flight. Radiosondes are simultaneously launched twice a day, 365 days a year from all 92 sites across North America. Additional launches are used to track severe or unusual weather. "Radiosonde observations are used for several purposes including: 1) Input for computer-based weather prediction models, 2) local severe storm, aviation and marine forecasts, 3) weather and climate change research, 4) input for air pollution research, and 5) ground truth for satellite data". Ground truth is a scientific way of saying "direct observation" to support satellite data.

There are two launch sites in Virginia - Sterling, VA (KLWX) and Blacksburg, VA (KRNK). A typical flight lasts about two hours until the balloon reaches a high altitude where the balloon bursts due to differences in pressure inside and outside of the balloon. Using an attached parachute, the Radiosonde returns to earth. So, the next time you are taking a walk in the woods and you notice a bright orange plastic material with an odd-looking Styrofoam container attached, it could be a Radiosonde. The National Weather Service recycles these devices, so if you find one it may have "return instructions" attached. For weather enthusiasts who want more information on this topic, see the following web links:

https://www.weather.gov/lwx/onlinetour_upair1

https://www.weather.gov/upperair/nws_upper

<https://www.weather.gov/chs/upperair>

<https://www.lockheedmartin.com/content/dam/lockheed-martin/rms/photo/meteorological-instrumentation/What-to-do-if-you-find-a-radiosonde.pdf>



Virginia Cooperative Extension

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Find us on Facebook for the **Virginia Cooperative Extension Office - Goochland** and **Goochland 4-H** here:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Virginia-Cooperative-Extension-Goochland-County/197382547017139> &

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Goochland-4-H/192197339215>

