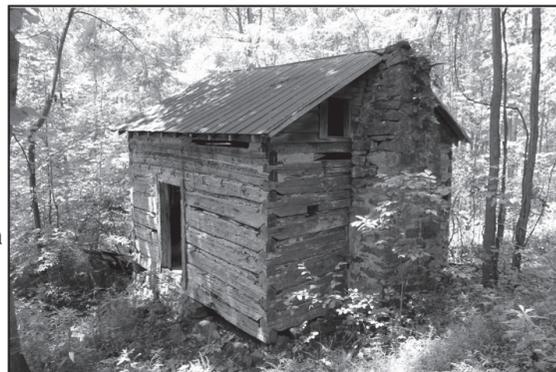


the property owner, as well as providing free advice regarding preservation. Our regional office, staffed by archaeologist Tom Klatka and me, covers 32 counties and 12 cities in southwestern Virginia (see map). Tom and I are both veterans of the agency, well accustomed to assisting callers and making requested site visits. Tom is a University of Virginia-trained regional authority in both historic and prehistoric archaeology, and is well known, in part, for his expertise with recordation and preservation of cemeteries. I am a Radford University and Virginia Tech graduate with deep interest in historic masonry and traditional building techniques such as log construction.



This long-forgotten log house, on a wooded tract in Bedford County, proved to be a significant find. It is now recorded in the DHR archives as the Page House. Photo by: Mike Pulice, DHR.

If you have structures or sites you'd like to know more about, such as the age or significance, or need advice toward stabilization, repair, protection, historic designation, or rehabilitation tax credits, please call or send an email to:

Mike Pulice
Architectural Historian, Western Region
540-387-5443
michael.pulice@dhr.virginia.gov

Tom Klatka
Archaeologist, Western Region
540-387-5396
tom.klatka@dhr.virginia.gov

Dear Virginia Woodland Owners,

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce you to The Virginia Forestry Association (VFA). The VFA is the leading advocate for forestry and the private forest landowner in the State of Virginia. Over 700 private landowners are members of the VFA.



This year the VFA was successful in striking down budget proposals in the General Assembly that would have reduced funding for our Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) and the Reforestation of Timberlands Fund (RT). RT is a critical program that provides funding to private landowners and promotes reforestation of our timberlands.

In addition to political involvement, the VFA supports and promotes forestry through landowner workshops and produces a quarterly magazine that supports landowner education. VFA also partners with the Society of American Foresters and the Association of Consulting Foresters to host an Annual Forestry Summit. The Summit provides education and networking opportunities for natural resources professionals and landowners.

I invite you to check out the Virginia Forestry Association's website at www.veforestry.org. You will find useful information about "What's Happening in Virginia Forestry Today," current forestry issues, and news about the most recent legislative session. You can also join VFA on line. Just click on the Membership tab.

There are many other reasons for you and your family to become members of the Virginia Forestry Association, too many to list here. However, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jennifer Gagnon at 540-231-6391, jgagnon@vt.edu.

Thank you again for considering a membership with the Virginia Forestry Association,

William Snyder
VFA Membership Chair

VIRGINIA FOREST LANDOWNER UPDATE

SUMMER 2017
Virginia Cooperative Extension
Department of Forest Resources &
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Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
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Useful Resources

- A Big-Picture View of the Invasive Plant Problem (USDA Forest Service): <https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/compass/2016/01/05/a-big-picture-view-of-the-invasive-plant-problem/>.
- How to Increase Monarch Butterfly Populations: <http://xerces.org/monarch-nectar-plants/>.
- USDA approves \$250K to be used to help Socially Disadvantaged Landowners improve the management of their woodlands. Priority will be given to landowners in the following counties: Brunswick, Dinwiddie, Greenville, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Sussex and Southampton. Contact your local NRCS office to see if you qualify: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/va/home/>.
- Follow the Virginia Forest Landowner Update on Twitter @VFLEP.
- Like the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program on Facebook: www.facebook.com/VFLEP.

CONTACT OUR SPONSORS AND STATE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

					
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VIRGINIA FOREST LANDOWNER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Jennifer L. Gagnon, Editor
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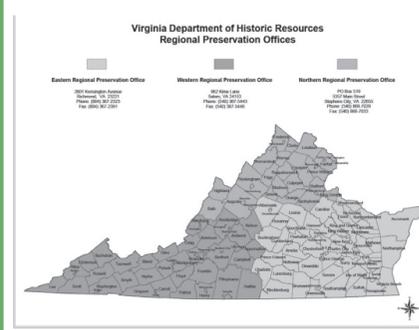
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Sign up to receive the Virginia Forest Landowner Update at: <http://forestupdate.freec.vt.edu>

Discovering and Preserving Virginia's History
By: Mike Pulice, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR), a state agency headquartered in Richmond, has three regional offices housing its Community Services Division—in the City of Salem (Western Region), Stephens City (Northern Region), and Richmond (serving Eastern Virginia). The agency's mission is to foster, encourage, and support the stewardship of Virginia's significant historic architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources. In large part, DHR is a regulatory agency that reviews environmental studies for state and federal projects to assess the potential impacts of projects on significant historic resources, e.g., buildings and sites; and also approves applications for state and federal tax credits designed to incentivize the rehabilitation of significant historic resources. Among other important programs, the department also has a preservation easement program through which donors elect to preserve their properties well into the future by precluding major alteration, demolition, and development in perpetuity.



One of the main priorities of DHR's regional offices is to support the Virginia Historic Landmark and National Register of Historic Places designation programs. Regional offices provide guidance to applicants, review and edit documents, and present nominations to state review boards. Register designations are mainly honorific, placing no restrictions or obligations on property owners; yet they tend to foster greater awareness and appreciation of historic places, result in eligibility for rehabilitation tax credits, and put significant

properties on the radar screen for local, state, and federal agencies that are undertaking or funding projects in the area, so that they can be afforded some degree of protection.

DHR regional offices also support DHR's Survey and Planning and Threatened Sites programs, which provide funds for investigation, recordation, and inventory of historic resources throughout the Commonwealth. Regional Office staff members make site visits for documentation purposes and to interpret and inform property owners about historic resources on their lands and programs in which they might participate. Site visits may be requested by anyone and there is no fee. Very often, staff are called upon to provide assessments of building construction dates and to provide guidance toward repair, rehabilitation, or restoration. Calls about cemeteries are common, and some DHR staff members can provide extensive guidance toward research and care of cemeteries on private lands.

As an architectural historian with an archaeology background, working out of the Western Regional Office in Salem, I try to make the most of opportunities to document historic sites on private lands that would not be accessible without invitation from

EVENTS CALENDAR			For the most complete listing of natural resource education events, visit the on-line events calendar at http://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu		
Contact	Date	Location	Event	Time	Fee
DCR	July, Aug., & Sept.	Virginia's State Parks	A variety of events and activities For a complete list, visit: www.dcr.virginia.gov/parks	Varies	Varies
MP	Year-round	State-wide	Virginia Master Naturalist Volunteer basic training www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/chapters.html	Varies	Varies
ABFFC	July 12-14	Morgantown, WV	The Future of Ginseng and Forest Botanicals This 3-day symposium will provide a forum to bring together a diverse array of stakeholders involved in the management and regulation of forest botanicals in Appalachia.	All day	Varies
EP	July 19-20	Charlottesville	Teaching Trees This 2-day professional development workshop will introduce middle and high school science teachers to pine and hardwood forestry, sustainable forest management, and forest products.	8:30 - 4	\$50
ABFFC	Aug. 11-13	Wise	Forest Site Assessment and Planning This field-based workshop will include assessing site suitability for forest farming, propagation, and Good Agricultural Practices training.	11:00 Friday - 1:00 Sunday	Varies
JG	Aug. 18-20	Abingdon	SW Virginia Beginning Landowners Weekend Retreat This weekend retreat program was designed for those new to landownership or new to managing woodlands. A combination of classroom, field trip, and hands-on activities will introduce participants to the concepts of good woodland management in a relaxed atmosphere.	Sat. 8 - 7:30; Sun. 8 - 1	TBA
JG JF NC	Aug. 22 & 29 Oct. 17 & 24 Nov. TBA	Radford Pittsylvania SE Virginia	Preparing for Generation NEXT Are you prepared to pass the environmental and heirloom values rooted in your forest to the next generation? By researching and planning ahead of time, you can ensure your wishes are met and minimize the financial costs and emotional challenges while securing your woodland legacy.	12 :30 - 7	TBA
JG	Sept. 22-24	Providence Forge	SE Virginia Beginning Landowners Weekend Retreat See SW Virginia Beginning Landowners Weekend Retreat above for details.	Sat. 8 - 7:30; Sun. 8 - 1	TBA
SPI	Oct. 3-5	Galloway, NJ	4th Biennial Shortleaf Pine Conference Join natural resource professionals and landowners by New Jersey's own Pine Barrens. The conference will feature sessions by 20+ shortleaf experts and an in-person look at forest restoration and land management practices.	All day	\$125 full conference
AD BW JF NC	October	Augusta Pulaski Buckingham Suffolk	Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours Join fellow landowners, natural resource professionals, and interested citizens on tours of active woodland & wildlife management. Details available in July. Locations are tentative.	8:00 - 4:30	TBA*
*meals included; **meals and lodging included					
EVENT CONTACTS					
Contact	Name/Affiliation	Phone	e-mail/website		
DCR	Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation	804/786-1712	www.dcr.virginia.gov		
MP	Michelle Prysby	434/872-4580	www.virginiamasternaturalist.org		
ABFFC	Appalachian Beginning Forest Farmer Coalition	http://www.appalachianforestfarmers.org/			
EP	Ellen Powell	434/977-6555	ellen.powell@dof.virginia.gov		
JG	Jennifer Gagnon	540/231-6391	jgagnon@vt.edu		
JF	Jason Fisher	434/476-2147	jasonf@vt.edu		
NC	Neil Clark	757/653-2572	neclark@vt.edu		
SPI	Shortleaf Pine Initiative	http://shortleafpine.net			
AD	Adam Downing	540-948-6881	adowning@vt.edu		
BW	Bill Worrell	276/889-8056	bworrell@vt.edu		

You ARE From Around Here! Opportunistic Native Species of the Quarter: Poison Ivy By: Jennifer Gagnon, Virginia Tech

Each quarter I find inspiration for selecting a species to write about for this column. I found this quarter's inspiration in my own backyard. Those of you who receive my monthly e-Update know I have an on-going battle with the exotic invasive English ivy in my flower beds. What I didn't share was that another ivy was also lurking in the flower beds....the poison kind. Unfortunately, since it was before leaf-out, I wasn't aware of its presence as I rototilled through the root systems. Wearing shorts and a tank top. The next morning, I was aware.

I'm no stranger to poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*). As a kid, I refused to wear shoes in the summer – resulting in months of poison ivy-covered feet. I've worked in areas where the poison ivy/oak reach heights of over 5' by August. I've shared an office with herpetology technicians who spent late winter days innocently digging through poison ivy roots to create pitfall traps, and regretfully heading to the Baker County Health Clinic for steroid shots the next. I routinely get poison ivy from petting my dogs. I know I am allergic. I know it can get bad. But never in my life have I experienced the type of reaction I had this spring. I finally gave in and went to the doctor. She took one look and said "You need steroids." Inspiring, right?

Plants like poison ivy are native but act invasive. Depending on where you live in Virginia, the list of these types of plants can include Virginia creeper, trumpet creeper, black locust, eastern redcedar, redbud, sweetgum, wild grapes, Virginia pine, and blackberry. I'm sure many of you can add to this list. But how can this be? Aren't all native plants good plants? While I'll argue I'd much rather have an infestation of native Virginia creeper than exotic multiflora rose (of course, I have both, so no need to choose), natives that act invasive can be damaging and costly.

My tendency is to call these species native invasives. However, according to the USDA NRCS, only exotic or introduced plants can be called invasive. They call invasive-acting native plants opportunistic native plants. Since everything in the world needs an acronym, let's call them ONPs. An ONP is a native plant that is able to take advantage of disturbance to the soil or to existing vegetation and spreads quickly and out-competes other plants on the disturbed site. Using this definition, all ONPs are not bad. In fact, many ONPs are great for reclaiming disturbed sites, protecting soils, and providing wildlife habitat after a disturbance. A year-old clearcut filled with blackberries comes to mind.

But some ONPs can be problematic for woodland owners. For this article, I'll just focus on my recent nemesis, poison ivy. Poison ivy is in the *Anacardiaceae* (cashew) family (which also includes mango and sumacs). Poison ivy's scientific name is quite descriptive. *Toxicodendron* means poison tree; *radicans* means bringing forth roots, a reference to the hair-like aerial roots that grow on the twigs.



Opportunistic native plants on my property include eastern redcedar, Virginia creeper, and poison ivy. Photo by: Jennifer Gagnon, Virginia Tech.

The most obvious problem with poison ivy is that all parts of the plant, aside from the pollen, are toxic to humans (and perhaps a few other primates). Approximately 75% of humans have a reaction to urushiol, the oil found in poison ivy. The oil doesn't actually burn your skin. Instead, urushiol binds to proteins found in cell membranes. This interferes with the cell's ability to communicate with other cells. This fools your immune system into regarding your own skin cells as foreign. The rash is a result of your immune system attacking your skin cells. This is known as a cell-mediated immune response. Some lucky people are immune and will never have a reaction. However, repeated exposure to urushiol can cause some to lose their immunity and others to become even more sensitive. This is a result of our immune systems getting better at recognizing and attacking the oil-infected cells.

More severe cases of this cell-mediated immune response, like mine, can send victims to the doctor. I estimate my treatment cost me \$100 (co-pay, steroids, giant bottle of TechNu*, 2 tubes of anti-itch ointment, and rubbing alcohol). So societally, there's a cost.

Controlling poison ivy on your property also comes with a cost. Poison ivy can take over a newly disturbed site, blanketing the ground and climbing up trees. It reproduces both sexually (by seeds – spread by animals) and asexually (from root sprouts). I read a story about a 6-acre historic site in New Jersey that was covered with poison ivy. The manager's solution was to hire 11 Nubian goats, eaters of poison ivy, at a cost of about \$12,000 for 6 months. If you choose to go the chemical route instead, you quickly realize herbicides aren't cheap either.

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Of course, poison ivy isn't all bad. In fact, the fruits are a great source of food for many wildlife species including birds, deer, and insects. The leaves turn a brilliant red early in the fall. And the pollen is a major component of honey. So removal efforts should be concentrated in areas where you or your family are most likely to come into contact with it. The poison ivy in remote areas can be left alone.

How to identify poison ivy:

Form: Typically a woody, hairy, perennial vine that either carpets the ground or climbs up trees; may also be in the form of a small shrub. Some poison ivy plants climb right away and others do not. Individual populations of these plants often contain a mix of climbing and non-climbing plants.

Leaves: Alternately arranged compound leaves made up of three leaflets (so the saying "leaves of three, let it be" would be more accurately stated as "leaflets of three..."); leaf margins can be smooth, wavy, toothed, or lobed. Shiny green above, paler below.

Flowers: Small, yellowish-green, in clusters; bloom late spring into early summer.

Fruits: Greenish-white, round drupes, ¼" in diameter, hanging clusters, ripe in late summer.

Twigs: Slender gray to red-brown, slightly fuzzy or smooth, slender aerial roots; older twigs become densely covered with aerial roots and look hairy.



The shape of poison ivy leaflets varies quite a bit, from oak-shaped (left) to smooth (center). But, they will always occur in threes. Small aerial roots tend to give poison ivy vines a hairy look (right). Photos (from left to right) by: Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Mark Czarnota, University of Georgia, and the Ohio State Weed Lab, The Ohio State University.

How to control poison ivy:

Mechanical: For light infestations, individual plants can be dug up. Wear long sleeves, pants, and gloves for this activity (trust me!). Wash your clothes with an urushiol-removing formulation. Products that shield your skin, like Ivy Block*, are also available. You may also repeatedly cut plants back to ground level. Repeated cutting will deplete root resources and eventually eliminate sprouting.

Chemical: Use an herbicide that contains glyphosate (apply 2 weeks before or 2 weeks after full bloom), or triclopyr (apply after leaves are fully expanded in spring and before leaf color changes), or a 3-way herbicide that contains 2, 4-D amine, dicamba and mecoprop (apply in late spring/early summer). These will also kill desired species, so use sparingly. To minimize effects on desired species, you may cut the vines and paint the cut surfaces or paint the herbicide mixture directly on the leaves. If no desirable species are present, you may broadcast spray. Repeated applications may be necessary.

Biological: Goats may be a good option for you. There are a few rent-a-goat options available. Since goats also eat many desirable species, have an assessment done to help ensure these are protected.

Right now, I am very keen on the idea of buying some goats to come clean up our hedgerows and edges. We have problems in these areas, not only with ONPs, but also with exotic invasives such as Japanese honeysuckle and multiflora rose. Of course, this will add more animals to our household and make finding a pet sitter even more difficult.

One last poison ivy story. There are a number of rites of passage for forestry students. One of them is dendrology class (tree identification). A favorite pastime of dendrology instructors is to have students identify a large tree covered in poison ivy. As the instructor stands back and laughs maniacally, students will unwittingly examine the poison ivy leaves, thinking they belong to the larger tree. Thankfully, my dendrology instructor was kind enough to stop students from actually tasting the leaves.

Jennifer Gagnon is an Extension Associate in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation; 540-231-6391; jgagnon@vt.edu.

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