

Trees Virginia Newsletter
Fourth Edition
October 17, 2023



Our Mission: To enhance the quality of life through the Stewardship of our Commonwealth's urban and community trees.



Welcome to our fourth newsletter!

Fall is certainly under way with its cool evenings and crisp mornings. As summer transitioned into fall, Trees Virginia put on the quite the show helping to sponsor and organize the Waynesboro Trees Workshop, an exciting Tree Steward Symposium in Fredericksburg, and the SEVA roundtable in Virginia Beach. Some highlights of these programs included presentations about preservation of trees on the National Mall in Washington D.C., the Oklahoma City Survivor Tree, and a discussion of the Maryland and Delaware Tree Stewards community tree programs. Make sure to check out our website so you don't miss our future programs!

In this edition of the newsletter our featured native will be the yellow poplar, along with discussion concerning the ubiquitously invasive privet. An exciting article concerning a fall tree planting will also be a must read. Updates from the tree stewards and the urban wood program will round out this newsletter. I would like to thank all of you for your continuing support and wish y'all a wonderful last few months of 2023!

Ashley Appling

Trees Virginia President

Virginia Native- Tulip Poplar

Compiled by: Adam Downing

Photo: Jason Fisher

A Popular Tree Paradox

*A tree in the Old Dominion,
you've surely seen, maybe a million!
It's not poplar but yet popular,
and it's no ways a conifer.
Of angiosperms it's the tallest,*

*its flowers among the biggest.
A tree most common, aka popular,
this tree is the Tulip poplar.*

Tulip poplar is not a true poplar (*Populus*) but a member of the Magnolia family (*Magnoliaceae*). It is also known as tulip-tree, yellow-poplar, and poplar. Common throughout Virginia, it is fast-growing, straight-formed and grows exceedingly well on good soils such as in cove and lower slope sites. Its straight trunk, narrow crown, excellent natural pruning, nectar production and height make it an attractive and useful tree for many uses to include timber, silvopasture, alley-cropping and honey. Sometimes known as canoewood, tulip poplar was used by Native Americans for dugout canoes. Native Americans also used bark from roots to make a tonic to treat heart conditions, fevers, rheumatism and digestive ailments. In the late 1800s, inner bark root extract was used in a heart stimulant and stem bark extract was used to treat rheumatism and dyspepsia.[4] This sun-loving tree can grow up to 130 feet tall with a life span of 100 – 200 years. Due to its fast growth, many large tulip-trees are mistakenly regarded as old-growth when they are in actuality well shy of a century old. A large double-stemmed tree near me had to be removed following a lightning strike. In counting the rings, I was surprised to learn it was only 40 year's old but each stem was easily 2' in diameter. High quality sites can support these trees growing well over an inch in diameter annually. Due to its potential size, as a yard or street tree, it needs to have plenty of room to fill and would not be good in planting spaces with limited overhead or soil volume. Where there is room, this quickly becomes a majestic tree with beautiful flowers, uniquely shaped leaves, and a stature deserving of its noble sounding scientific name: *Liriodendron tulipifera*.



Invasive Plant- Chinese Privet

Compiled by: Kevin Sigmon

Photo: Delaney Long

This shrub, Chinese privet (*ligustrum sinense*), was introduced to the U.S. in the 1850's for ornamental landscaping. Having escaped into the wild, it now occupies a considerable portion of our woodland understory plant population. This invasive not only grows quickly but is a heavy seed producer and once consumed and spread by wildlife, primarily birds, can dominate the forest floor and choke out native vegetation. One article states that over 3 million acres of southern forests now have been invaded by privet. It is classified as a shrub or small tree, typically growing up to 12' tall. Its late spring white blossoms are very fragrant. The plant is evergreen to semi-deciduous (it's very conspicuous in the winter months among other bare stemmed plants) with 1-2 inch long light green leaflets oppositely arranged on a long branch. Privet not only spreads by seed but also by root suckering. Privet thrives in both moist and dry sites and can handle both shade and sun. Once established, it can form an near impenetrable thicket. It is commonly found around old home sites, fencerows, and woodland edges. Controlling the establishment and spread of this plant is a major management concern. It's best to attack it while it's small and before the seeds are produced. Young plants can easily be pulled up by hand although a small plant established by suckering will be much more difficult to pull due to the well established root system. Mowing and cutting will aid in the spread of the plant but it will not

eradicate it. Large plants can be cut and a cut stump herbicide treatment can be used for control. Basal stem herbicide applications can be used. Broadcast foliar herbicide applications (Glyphosate, Triclopyr) have been effective but extreme care must be used to minimize off-target damage. Fire may kill the parent plant but you can expect vigorous re-sprouting. At this time, there are no known biological controls. Once privet has been removed from an area, a native plant population (Rhododendron, Mapleleaf Viburnum, American Beautyberry, Northern Spicebush) needs to be established as quickly as possible to minimize the re-invasion of privet. It will most likely return to the site but hopefully in small numbers that will be easy to control.



Featured Article -

"Harrisonburg Urban Forestry Program leaps forward with fall tree planting"

Read on about Harrisonburg's Urban Forestry Program and their collaboration with Keister Elementary School to plant trees. This is part of the city's ongoing effort to increase greenery in the urban landscape, as well provide more environmental and health benefits to the community.

[Full Article Here](#)

Tree Steward Corner

The first Tree Steward Symposium to be held in person since the pandemic was held in Fredericksburg on September 22. Many Tree Stewards from across Virginia came to participate in this opportunity to learn and share. The event was also planned for the following day, joining Tree Fredericksburg's annual Plant and Play event. Unfortunately, Hurricane Isabel had a dampening effect and this day had to be cancelled; however, the Friday event was unstoppable! Thank you to all who presented and participated; it was a very informative and rewarding



Photo: Delaney Long

Tree Steward Symposium Summary

Molly O'Liddy with Virginia Department of Forestry, welcomed the gathering and noted that, unfortunately, I could not be there due to a recent case of Covid.

Lara Johnson, Trees Virginia Board/VDOF, and Anne Little, Tree Fredericksburg, gave a presentation on Track It Forward and the importance of tracking volunteer hours. They were followed by David Close, Virginia Cooperative Extension, speaking about volunteerism. Several Tree Steward leaders presented on specific topics: Brenda Frank, President of Fairfax Tree Stewards, spoke about the status of 501(c)(3) organizations and their roles. Nora Palmatier, President of Arlington/Alexandria Tree Stewards, who spoke about

Symposium. Read the summary for more details of the event.

Martha Orton
Trees VA Tree Steward
Representative

**Discover more about
local Virginia Tree
Steward groups**

working with local governments. Next, Craig Highfield, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, addressed other volunteer programs in the region. Dave Pohlman, President of Richmond Tree Stewards, also spoke about various aspects of Tree Steward Training programs.

Throughout the day, several tree stewards volunteered to do a short interview for the tree steward manual videos. The footage filmed at the event is still being edits, but you can find the rest of the tree steward manual videos [here!](#)

Martha Orton

Urban Wood Column

Compiled by: Joe Lehnen

The University of Virginia's Urban Wood Program has had a banner fall semester! As some of you probably read in the recent VA Urban Wood Newsletter, UVA's School of Architecture has offered a 3-credit hour undergrad course entitled SARC-5500, Design-Mill-Build-Reflect. This course will provide students the opportunity to design a timber-frame structure, gain hands-on experience in sawmilling, timber-frame construction, and finally analyze the project, recommending any process or construction improvements. All of the lumber used by the class are from trees that were salvaged from removals on the UVA Grounds. As you might imagine, to have lumber available for this course and other School of Architecture projects, logs need to be sawn into boards! UVA Sawmilling offers "sawmill days" to any student who wishes to participate, utilizing Instagram and other social media platforms to advertise the event and register students.



For more information about the UVA Urban Wood Program, visit their [webpage](#) and [instagram](#).

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