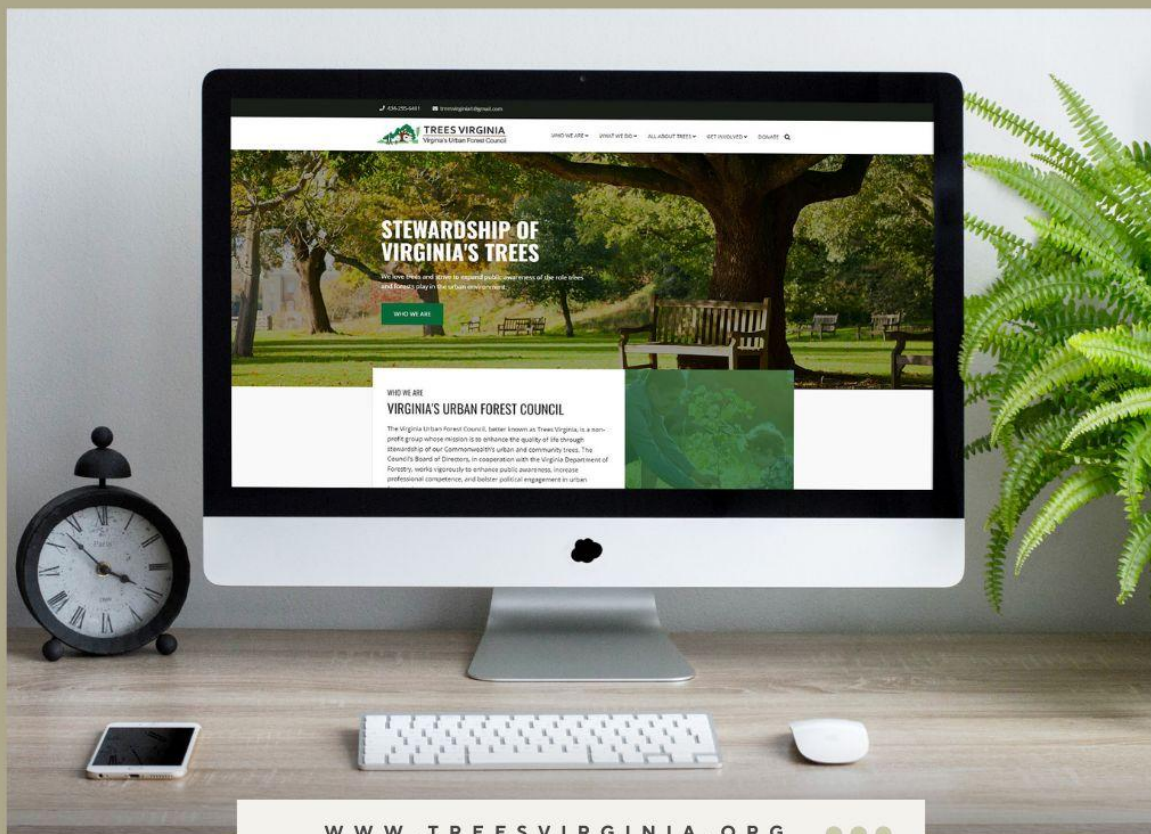


Trees Virginia Newsletter



Issue- 3 / May 4, 2023

website LAUNCH



WWW.TREESVIRGINIA.ORG

Visit New
Website

Welcome to our third edition of the Trees Virginia newsletter.

It has certainly been a beautiful spring so far in Virginia. The flowering dogwoods and redbuds have put on quite the show. **We would like to happily announce the arrival of our NEW WEBSITE, which is launching today!** This new website with its' new bells and whistles will hopefully become a handy destination for people searching for information concerning Virginia's Urban Trees. In this

edition of the newsletter you will find two featured articles about dead trees and their benefits to wildlife along with an article about red maple scale. Also included are the Tree Stewards corner and the Urban Wood column that you should be sure to check out!

Ashley Appling
Trees Virginia President

Featured Virginia Native-Sassafras

Compiled by: Delaney Long

This issue's featured native tree is sassafras albidum (common name sassafras). This medium-sized, deciduous tree is native to much of the Southeastern U.S. and the entire state of Virginia. Its bright green leaves that change color in the fall have three common shapes: ovular, two-lobed, or three-lobed. The two-lobed leaves resemble a mitten. Try crushing a leaf in your hand or breaking a twig in half to catch its spicy-sweet scent that is similar to root beer or fruit loops! Sassafras produces bright yellow-green flowers that appear in Spring and small, dark, ovular fruits that connect to a red stalk and mature in mid-late summer, a favorite food for many birds. The bark of the tree will often look very ridged and have a cinnamon color to it. Sassafras trees can grow as a single stem or in a thicket in full sun or partially shaded conditions. These trees are a low-maintenance, hardy species that would be a valuable addition to any yard, forest, or green space.



[Read More about Sassafras Here.](#)

Featured Invasive Plant- English Ivy

Compiled by: Ann Jurczyk

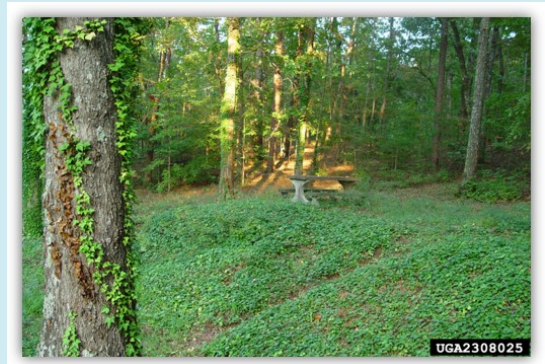
On Virginia's invasive plant list, English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) doesn't rate top billing for the invasive vines category, which includes honeysuckle, kudzu and oriental bittersweet. The difference is that English Ivy is still sold in nurseries, installed by landscapers, and bought by unsuspecting homeowners who think it's a well-behaved groundcover. As someone who spent a lovely Sunday pulling sprigs and runners of English Ivy out of my yard, let me disabuse you of that thought.

How does it escape?

Left unchecked, English Ivy will out-compete native plants that provide needed food for birds and pollinators. English Ivy's juvenile stage grows horizontally. The adult stage starts when it goes vertical – climbing trees, fences, masonry and then blooming and seeding. Birds eat the seeds and poop them out, which is why English ivy can spread miles away.

How to control it?

When a sprig shows up yards away from a vine, it's probably from seed and will come up roots and all



readily. If you see horizontal runners, these are usually coming off a larger plant. Gently pull to follow to the source and see whether it's sent offshoots that also need to be pulled. Encourage your neighbors to work with you – vigilance is key to success and neighboring properties have to be on board to fully eradicate it. Dispose of the pulled pieces in a manner that doesn't allow them to escape and spread. Once it starts climbing, the best removal method is to cut through the vine, being careful not to cut into the tree. Squirt the cut immediately with a glyphosate-based herbicide. These are systemic – meaning the plant uptakes and translocates it to the roots.



For more information about management of all invasive species [click here.](#)

For more information about invasive species in Virginia's forests, [click here.](#)

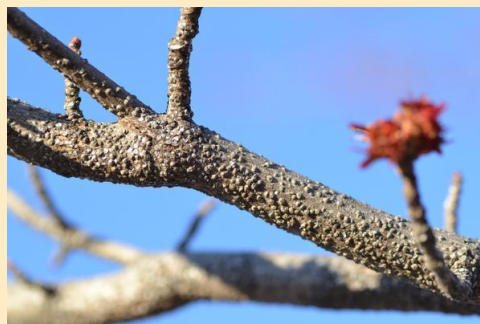
FEATURED ARTICLES



The Destiny of Dead Trees

Learn more about the safe retention of dead and dying trees to ensure the future of cavity-nesting wildlife and to enrich forest diversity.

[Read Full Article](#)



Red Maple Scales

Be aware of "gloomy scales" and their impacts on common native tree species. They are found more abundantly in urban areas than natural areas and can rob trees of needed nutrients if not addressed.

[Read Full Article](#)

Urban Wood Column

Compiled by: Joe Lehnen

Upcoming Events:

Northern Virginia

For the past 18 months, the Virginia Urban Wood program has been partnering with Virginia Tech and the *More Than a Fraction Family Foundation* on the Merry Tree Project. The Merry Tree was a large white oak that once stood on the Smithfield Plantation property upon which some of the VA Tech campus is built. This historic oak tree, which was severely damaged by a storm in 2020, had great meaning and value to the Fraction family, descendants of the enslaved peoples of Smithfield. Thankfully Jamie King, the Virginia Tech campus arborist, had the foresight to save the wood from this historic tree so that it could later be used for a higher purpose. The VDOF has assisted with the planning, processing and documentation of this project. The project will continue in 2023 and beyond with the production of a video about the creation of the sculpture, and locally crafted items from the remaining wood for the Fraction family. To the right are photos of the original Merry Tree and the sculpture which was erected near the Virginia Tech Duck Pond.



Urban Forest Round Table

'All About Oaks' Discussing
Decline, Management &
Regeneration

Date: May 30, 2023

Time: 9:00 am -2:30pm

Location:

Wetland Studies & Solutions, Inc.
5300 Wellington Branch Drive
#100, Gainesville, VA 20155

[Click here for more details & registration](#)

Spring Planting Reminder-



Right Tree, Right Place!

Planting the proper species in the proper location is a key influencer of your tree's health and success.

Considering Factors:

- shade benefits
- proximity to structures
- soil type
- and more!

Click the post below:

[Right Tree, Right Place](#)

You can also try out the USDA Forest Service's i-Tree tool to help you determine maximum tree benefits and best planting location.

Click the post below:

[Try the Tree Benefits i-Tree Tool](#)

Tree Stewards are definitely getting into gear for Springtime!

Training classes are only part of the activities going on in preparation for spring. Fairfax Tree Stewards have launched an excellent new training program, which will help invigorate the group with new members who will complete the course in April.



Historic Rivers and Peninsula Master Naturalists initiated a joint training program and report that they have found advantages in “cross pollination.” The program benefits from having 19 college level instructors, who provide training in their specialties. This is the first Master Naturalist Tree Steward group. For Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards, planting a variety of native trees in an area park has been a great project. They also have been pruning in five public parks and removing invasive plants in three parks. Their tree nursery, located the grounds of the Dept. of Forestry, is thriving. They also held a successful sale of native trees from their nursery on April 15. Richmond Tree Stewards have made a very strong recovery after their fiscal sponsor dissolved. They have had many worthy and notable projects and also acquired their own 501(c)(3) status. Among Richmond Tree Stewards’ accomplishments are: over 1,000 hours of pruning, training 42 new Tree Stewards, giving away 2,000 native trees in a tree give-away event, and continuing their restoration work at Belle Isle, spending over 600 hours removing invasive plants and planting native trees.

Martha Orton
Tree Steward Representative
Trees Virginia Board

**For more upcoming events, workshops and articles,
VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE!**

A special '**Thanks**' to
Bluecloud Studio for
assisting us with our
website update!

**Donate to Trees
Virginia**



Trees Virginia | 900 Natural Resources Dr, Charlottesville, VA 22903

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