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# Dendrology of Stony Creek Farm

*Edinburg, Virginia*

*Chesapeake Bay Watershed*



# Shrubs



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# ***Caprifoliaceae Viburnum prunifolium*** **(Black haw viburnum)**

Range: Native to Mid-Atlantic North American deciduous forests from Pennsylvania and Virginia to Missouri.

Identification: Loose, open growth habit with opposite simple, elliptical leaves. White blooms in bunches form dark blue fruit in late summer.

Common products and uses: Fruit is edible and resembles a dry raisin.



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# ***Ericaceae Rhododendron catawbiense*** **(Catawba rhododendron)**

- Range: Native to southern portion of the Alleghany Mountain range from Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia.
- Identification: Large evergreen bush with big pinkish-purple blooms in clusters. Elliptical, dark green and waxy leaves with a woody stem. Grows in acidic soils.
- Common products and uses: Propagated for ornamental use.



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# *Hamamelidaceae Hamamelis virginiana* (Witch hazel)

- Range: Native to eastern North America
- Identification: Witch hazel is an understory, multi-stemmed shrub with simple, alternate scalloped leaves. Witch hazel is unique in that blooms in the wintertime with showy yellow, slender flowers from November-March.
- Common products and use: Witch hazel is known for its astringent properties. The leaves, twigs and stems are used for skin care. Many ornamental specimens have been propagated of this plant with a variety of flower colors.
- Ecological note: Witch hazel is a host for the cone gall aphid, which creates a cone-shaped gall on the leaves that resemble a witch's hat.



# ***Lauraceae Lindera benzoin* (Spicebush)**

- Range: Native to Eastern North America deciduous forest.
- Identification: A cheerful, bright green understory shrub with alternate, simple smooth leaves. Blooms light yellow in early spring before the leaves emerge. Red seedpod in the fall. Emits a strong, spicy odor when the leaves are crushed; relative of Sassafras.
- Common products and uses: Spice bush produces a red berry that Indigenous peoples used to flavor food and early colonists exported to Europe.
- Ecological note: Deer do not browse spicebush, therefore it is a common understory plant that can cover much of the forest floor.





# **Coniferous trees (Evergreens)**



# ***Cupressaceae Juniperus virginiana*** **(Eastern red cedar )**



- Range: Native to eastern and midwestern North America.
- Identification: Scaly, fibrous grey bark with red coloration. Leaves are prickly short needles and scale-like leaves (on same tree). An open, airy growth habit. Fragrant smell. Small blue-green cones (berry-like) with a sharp and distinctive odor.
- Common products and uses: Wood is a natural insect repellent and is used to line cabinets and clothes chests. Durable lumber used for fence posts. Berries are used for creating gin and other botanical liquors.
- Ecological note: Host to cedar apple rust – a parasitic plant that contaminates apple orchards.

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# ***Pinaceae Pinus strobus*** **(Eastern white pine )**



- Range: Native to Eastern North America from Great Lakes to New England and extending along Alleghany Mountain Range to Carolinas.
- Identification: Beautiful airy tree with large trunk and whorled branches. 5 long needles to each fascicle. White sap on scaly trunk with large, brown pine cones are 4-7 inches long. Reaches well over 100' height.
- Common products and uses: White pine is used as a soft wood tree for timber. It was used by early colonists in boats and many were felled throughout the landscape for this purpose. The needles and resin are medicinal for coughs, respiratory support and wound healing.

# *Pinaceae Tsuga canadensis*

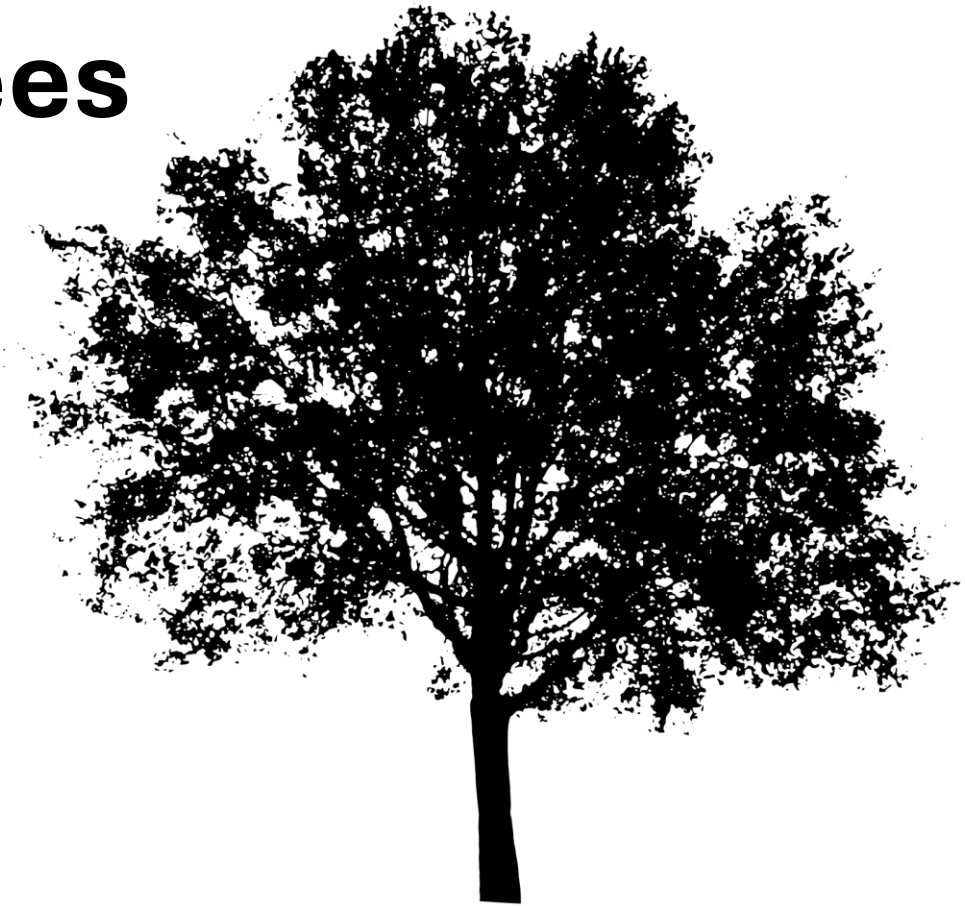
## (Eastern hemlock)

- Range: Native to Eastern North America from Great Lakes to New England and extending along Alleghany Mountain Range to Carolinas.
- Identification: Short, flat, dark green needles that grow opposite along the stem. Small cone green (young) to brown (mature). Older trees have bark with ridges and furrows.
- Common products and uses: Hemlock grows in wet environments, often along creeks and stream banks. It is used for lumber. Indigenous medicine indicates eating the fresh shoots as an emergency food.
- Ecological note: Eastern hemlock has been plagued by the wooly adelgid pest which is killing many of the remaining hemlock stands in North America.





# Deciduous trees



# ***Aceraceae Acer rubrum*(Red maple)**

- Range: Native to Eastern North American forests.
- Identification: Grey, grooved bark with scaly plates. Three to five palmate lobes that turns red in the fall. Red flower clusters are some of first to bloom in spring. Seed is a samara (helicopter). Midstory species.
- Common products and uses – Lumber used for furniture, instruments, and roller rink floors. Sap is suitable for syrup, though not as much sugar content as sugar maple.



# ***Cornaceae Nyssa sylvatica* (Black gum )**

- Range: Native to Eastern North American forests.
- Identification: Mid-story tree; first to turn color typically in late summer. Dark bark and simple, alternate, oblong and smooth leaves. Bright red color. Blocky bark that is irregularly furrowed. Reaches 80 feet in height.
- Common products and uses: Also known as tupelo and recognized for its superb honey production, as referenced in the Van Morrison song.



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# ***Fabaceae Robinia pseudoacacia***

## **(Black locust)**

- Range: Native to Southern Alleghany Mountain range, but naturalized over all of North America.
- Identification: Alternate, pinnately compound leaf with small, ovulate leaflets. Long pendules of white, fragrant flowers. Deeply grooved bark with short thorns. Mid-sized seed pods, light brown.
- Common products and uses: Black locust is an early flowering plant and good source of pollen for bees, which use these flowers to make a light-colored and brightly flavored honey. Black locust is a dense hardwood that is good for hot fires and long-lasting fence posts. It has recently gained recognition as a suitable tree for silvopasture plantings given its dappled shade and nutritious forage and seedpods for livestock.



# *Fagaceae Quercus alba* (White oak)

- Range: Native to Eastern & Central North American forests.
- Identification: Light colored bark with deep grooves. Elongate, alternate leaf with smooth lobes. Acorns is ovoid to oblong with a warty, bowl-shaped cap.
- Common products and uses: Acorns are a key food source for wildlife, and are also edible by humans. The high-quality lumber is valued for a variety of furniture and construction tasks. The bark can be used for tanning.



# *Fagaceae Quercus rubra* (Northern red oak)

- Range: Native to Northeastern and Central North American forests.
- Identification: Grey bark with light red coloration in the furrows. Elongated, alternate, simple leaves with pointed lobes. Rounded acorns have a cap that is flat and thick; looks like a beret. Reaches 90 feet tall.
- Common products and uses: Moderate to fast-growing, it is an important source of lumber and valued as a shade tree.



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# ***Juglandaceae Carya glabra*** **(Pignut hickory)**



- Range: Native to Mid-Atlantic, Southeastern and Central North America.
- Identification: Alternate, pinnately compound leaf with an odd number of serrated leaves; often scaly bark that peels away from the trunk. Leaves turn bright yellow in the fall. Smooth, pear-shaped green nut. Can reach 100 feet of height.
- Common products and uses: Hickory wood is well regarded for smoking meat. The nut can be eaten as food for pressed into oil akin to a native-sourced olive oil. Durable wood is used as lumber for a variety of purposes.

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# *Juglandaceae Juglans nigra* (Black walnut)

- Range: Native to Mid-Atlantic and Central North America.
- Identification: Alternate, pinnately compound leaf; finely serrated and turns yellow in the fall. Even number of leaves (unlike hickory which has an odd number). Bright green nuts turn dark brown when they fall. Furrowed bark.
- Common products and uses: Nut is regarded as a delicacy with a unique and distinctive flavor used in baking and other culinary practices. The wood is used in fine cabinetry due to its dark heartwood. The fresh husk of the nut is used for dyeing fabric/wool and also medicinal as a de-wormer and anti-fungal agent.



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# ***Lauraceae Sassafras albidum*** **(Common sassafras)**

- Range: Native to Eastern North American forests.
- Identification: Tall and thin, mid-story tree that reaches 60 feet tall. Distinctive, alternate, simple leaves with three unique leaf shapes – oval, mitten and trident. Sharp and spicy smell when leaf is crushed. Dark red berries emerge in fall.
- Common products and uses: Common culinary plant of Indigenous peoples and early European settlers. Sassafras root is used for root beer and medicine. Leaves are used in cooking to thicken stews, similar to okra in gumbo.



# ***Magnoliaceae Liriodendron tulipifera*** **(Tulip poplar)**

- Range: Native to Eastern North American forests.
- Identification: The tallest deciduous tree of Eastern North America. Tulip poplar grows very straight and very tall at over 100' height. It has smooth, light grey bark with wide t-shirt shaped leaves (orbicular with a notched center). Flowers are distinctive – large, light yellow with a deep orange center. They are often found on the ground under the tree. Seed resembles a magnolia seedpod, however lighter in color and shape.
- Common products and uses: Lumber use for framing, furniture and construction.



# ***Oleaceae Fraxinus pennsylvanica*** **(White ash)**



- Range: Native to Eastern North America, extending into central Canada.
- Identification: Opposite, pinnately compound leaf with elliptical shape and serrations. Light green, elongated single-winged seed pod. Corky ridges of gray to brown bark. Reaches 70 feet in height.
- Common products and uses: Hard wood is used for many purposes, including production of baseball bats and basket making.
- Ecological note: At risk from Emerald Ash Borer, which has had a real impact on white ash populations in recent decades.

# ***Plantanaceae Platanus occidentalis*** **(American Sycamore)**

- Range: Native to Mid-Atlantic, Southeastern and Central North America
- Identification: Tall, wide and impressive tree with striking white bark that peels back in camouflaged layers of tan, green and brown. Sycamore grow along streams and riverbanks - their silhouettes stand out during the winter. Large, light green palmate leaf with a fuzzy texture. Woolly seed ball that floats and is dispersed by water.
- Common products and uses: Moderately hard wood used for garden stakes, crates and other similar products.





# Fruit trees



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# ***Ebenaceae Diospyros virginiana*** **(American persimmon)**



- Range: Native to Southeastern North American forests.
- Identification: Mid-sized understory tree with distinctive, dark bark that features a hexagonal pattern. Smooth, alternate, shiny leaf that turns yellow. Bright orange fruit forms and turns black when ripe in the late fall.
- Common products and uses: Persimmon fruits are very sweet and delicious (if harvested at the correct time) – they are eaten fresh, in pudding, and are a traditional ingredient in many foods to Indigenous peoples of this region.

# ***Rosaceae Malus spp. (Apple)***

- Range: Native to Eurasia, naturalized throughout North America thanks to Johnny Appleseed and other intrepid pioneers.
- Identification: Grey, smooth bark becoming scaly with age. Alternate, simple leaves; finely serrated. Showy white blooms and large pomes for fruit.
- Common products and uses: Fruit used for a variety of culinary purposes such as sauces, pies, fruit leather, cider, and fresh eating. Apple wood is well-regarded for smoking meat.



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# ***Rosaceae Prunus cerasus* (Sour cherry)**

- Range: Native to Africa, Asia and Europe; Naturalized throughout North America
- Identification: Dark, shiny red to grey bark with horizontal striations. Alternate oval leaf with serrated margins. White flower petals yield clusters of bright, red fruit.
- Common products and uses: Fresh fruit used for baking in pies and other confectionary items.



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