

VENOMOUS SNAKES OF GEORGIA

presents: **Venomous Voice: Volume 12** **September ~ October**

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As Fall gears up there will be several changes to Georgia's snake population. Snakes are ectotherms and for the most part can not regulate their own body temperature very well. Movement is drastically effected by this need to regulate body temperature. Many species will go into estivation during the peak of summer. This is when it becomes too hot to move around comfortably. They will

seek out a cool safe spot and wait for temperatures to cool down (sort of a reverse hibernation). September through mid October it will become cooler (high 60's,70's - low 80's) and these species will become more active. With this temperature change it will also get cool enough for more daytime movement and sun basking. **Expect many of Georgia's snake species to increase activity. Expect more snake and human encounters!!**

If you would like to receive Snake Warnings like this one, for your area contact me at GeorgiaVenomous@Gmail.com to be added to our mailing list.

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Popular late summer early fall babies: (Non-Venomous)

(left to right) "Black" racer, Ring neck snake, Corn snake





Popular late summer early fall babies: (Non-Venomous)

(top left to right) King snake, Coachwhip snake, Garter snake

ALL NON-VENOMOUS Juveniles (adults may appear different)

Early to mid fall is also when a lot of species will give birth. Depending on the specie and size, sometimes this could mean up to 2 dozen or more babies. Juveniles will be dispersing to find their own territories and trying to avoid being eaten. **These inexperienced young snakes will often cross our paths.** Juveniles will be around 8-10-12 inches (depending on species) and may appear different in color/shape as the adults. **Venomous snakes are born with fully functional venom glands, venom ducts and fangs.** **The main purpose for venom is to acquire food.** **Please use caution around any snake despite its size.**

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1st is a juvenile Copperheads, 2nd is an adult
Copperhead (**VENOMOUS**)

*<remember we are still in a Copperhead
Warning for another 3 - 5 weeks>*

Copperheads are one of the most widespread and healthy populated venomous snakes in the U.S. Causing more bites in the wild than any other specie in North America. Fall is when most are born. Juveniles can appear slightly different than adults. Juveniles may look bluish/grey to a brown/tan/copper when first born and will have a bright yellow/white tip on their tails. As adults they lose this caudal lure and the tail takes a darker brown color. Adults in the wild are usually 2-3 feet in length and are heavily bodied. When threatened a Copperhead may bolt or strike in random directions (sometimes toward you). They like yard debris and wood piles. ALL snakes will follow the food (rodents, etc.) so you can find them anywhere you would be likely to find mice, etc. (crawl spaces, vegetable/flower gardens, around bird feeders, outside pet bowls, garbage cans, etc.).

If you encounter one **DO NOT TRY TO KILL IT**. 76% of all bites in the U.S. happen at home and 80% on the hand or forearm from people attempting to harass, capture or kill the snake. **You are NOT faster than the snake**. Call someone to come and remove it ([770-479-0329](tel:770-479-0329) **FREE** inside Cherokee and Pickens Counties) or simply leave it alone. Now that it has seen you (a large predator) it will most likely find another/safer spot to be.



Early Fall is a time of harvest for many Georgia farmers and agriculture businesses. As workers begin to pull crops from the fields an increase in snake movement is likely. While snakes DO NOT harm the crops, they do eat the disease spreading rodents that can consume sometimes as much as 30% of the harvest. Can you imagine paying \$20.00 for a loaf of bread or \$35.00 for a Big Mac? Without snakes, rodents would be in plague proportions and simple things like corn and wheat would skyrocket. [Snakes reduce our dependency on expensive and harmful pesticides and poisons.](#) Several species will mate in early to mid Fall. This means males may become more active in their search for a female. Males can and will travel several miles in this search. When they find another male they will combat each other for mating rights. This is more or less a wrestling match between the two to see who can pin the other down. The loser moves on to continue his search.

SUMMARY:

Late summer and early fall is a great time for snake activity. Whether due to climate change, giving birth, crop harvest or looking for love, Georgia's snakes will be on the move. Expect more human to snake encounters. [Learn to identify the snakes in your area.](#)



The most common Fall snake encounter is: when people are raking leaves and doing yard work around their homes. Be **EXTREMELY CAREFUL** when reaching into leaf or wood piles. Always wear gloves and long pants with thick shoes and socks. If you uncover a snake in the yard, move away from the snake. Remember the strike range for most adult venomous snakes in Georgia is longer than any handle on a rake, etc. **LEAVE IT ALONE** and call someone with the proper equipment and training to come and remove it. They can also give you some pointers as to what may be attracting snakes to your property. The vast majority of Georgia's snakes are **NON-VENOMOUS** and perform an irreplaceable service as well as being protected by law. Call and give Wildlife a chance.

Free Snake Removal for Cherokee and Pickens Counties

770-479-0329vm or 404-574-3185 cell

(a fuel charge may apply elsewhere)

Enjoy your Fall!!

God Bless and stay safe - Patrick

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You know you must like snakes when, you have more mice than ice in the freezer!!