



Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

June 2016

Upcoming Events

- **June 10, Rockingham County**
The Woods in Your Backyard
- **June 11, Castlewood**
Screening of America's First Forest. Carl Schenck & the Asheville Experiment
- **August 4-6, Staunton**
Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association Annual Meeting
- **August 5-7, Floyd**
Blue Ridge Woodland Growers Two-Day Medicinal Plant Forest Farming Training
- **August 26-28, Wakefield**
SE Landowner Weekend Retreat
- **August 26-28, Mountain City, TN**
Appalachian Sustainable Development Two-Day Medicinal Plant Forest Farming Training
- **September 13 & 20, South Boston**

Good morning Forest e-Update Subscribers,

In this month's e-newsletter, I want to introduce you to two great new resources available to you on-line. Exploring these websites may be the perfect activity for these long rainy El Niño days!

1. **Appalachian Beginning Forest Farmer Coalition**

Forest farming is an agroforestry practice which cultivates medicinal, edible, decorative, and handicraft crops under a forest canopy that is managed to provide shade levels and habitat which favor growth and enhance production. Forest farming supplies marketable non-timber forest products. The coalition hopes to establish an inclusive Appalachian Beginning Forest Farmer Coalition; educate, train, and support beginning forest farmers; and improve forest farm inventory and medicinal plant habitat management services for beginning forest farmers.

2. **Southern Region Extension Forestry's Forest Health Website**

This site provides contact information for forest health professionals in each of the southeastern states, scientific publications on numerous weeds, insects and fungi that affect forest health, as well as publications on general forest health concerns. And, while There is also a listing of upcoming events (mainly for forest health professionals).

And, while I'm on the topic of forest health, a quick update on the spring **Exotic Invasive of the Quarter, the spotted lanternfly**. Eric Day, Manager of Virginia

Preparing for Generation NEXT

- **September 23-25, Abingdon**

SW Landowner Weekend Retreat

- **October 5 & 12, Orange**

Preparing for Generation NEXT

- **October, Statewide**

40th Anniversary - Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours

- **Essex – Oct. 7**
- **Lee – Oct. 11**
- **Prince William – Oct. 14**
- **Dinwiddie/Nottoway – Oct. 20**

Visit the [Events Calendar](#) for details!

VFLEP Sponsors

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Puts university knowledge into the hands of people.

Virginia Department of Forestry

Learn about cost-share programs, forest management options, buy seedlings, and find your local forester.

Virginia Sustainable Forestry Initiative State Implementation Committee

The American Tree Farm System

Virginia Forestry Association

Forest Stewardship Program

USDA Forest Service

Tech's Insect Identification Lab, would like you to bring any suspected spotted lanternfly specimens to your local Extension office for identification (instead of sending it to the folks in PA). You can find the location of your county Extension office here:

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/offices/>

Are you interested in joining the effort to develop a blight-resistant American chestnut? If so, the American Chestnut Foundation could use your help through June 15th at [Meadowview Research Farms](#) in Meadowview. Volunteers are needed to inoculate 7,000 trees. [Read more about these inoculation efforts](#); contact [Matt Brinckman](#) if interested in volunteering.

Finally, there's some big forestry news from the Governor's office. In April, Governor McAuliffe signed into law a bill to enact a **Century Forest Program** that honors Virginians who have owned and managed forestland for more than 100 years. For a property to be designated a century forest. It must have been in the same family for 100 years or more, include at least 20 contiguous acres of managed forests, be lived on or managed by a descendant of the original owners, and have a documented history of timber harvests or other forest management activities.

If you think your forestland qualifies, application forms should be available from the Virginia Department of Forestry in July.

Forest landowner learning opportunities abound this summer! See the sidebar for featured programs. Visit the [VFLEP Events Calendar](#) for a complete listing of upcoming events.

If you are a Tree Farmer, actively enrolled in the [American Tree Farm System/Virginia Tree Farm Program](#), or very interested in becoming one, check out our [series of dinner meetings](#) this fall.

Real Estate Professionals

Have you handed out all of your *Welcome to the Woods! A Guide for New Virginia Woodland Owners* books? If so, you can either [share this link to a digital version](#) with your land-buying clients or [request to have print copies](#) sent to

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you (please be sure to tell me how many copies and where to send them).

Follow the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program on Twitter (**@VFLEP**) and Facebook (**www.facebook.com/VFLEP**).

All the best!

Jennifer

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