

In-tree-guing Databases

By: John Peterson, Virginia Tech

Many readers of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update might recognize me from the last newsletter as Jennifer's husband, the hunter of stink bugs, who was tottering on the very brink of madness. Stink bug hunting is, of course, a free-time pursuit. In my professional life, I work as a Research Technician for the Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation (FREC). While most of my FREC roles are behind the scenes, I am deeply involved with some very public projects that are described below.

First, Virginia Tech Dendrology offers identification information for more than 1,000 North American trees, shrubs and vines. It includes 8,800 images, a clickable map that returns an elevation-sensitive list of possible species, and ID keys to help you identify unknown specimens: <http://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/dendrology/factsheets.cfm>.

Second, the app version of Virginia Tech Dendrology is available for both iPhone and Android devices. The vTree app can provide a list of oaks that can be found where you are standing, or provide a list of trees you will see on your Glacier National Park vacation. Search "vTree" in the app stores or scroll to the bottom of the page provided above.

Third, the Virginia BIG Trees database provides a listing of the largest (by American Forests' points rules) individual trees in the Commonwealth. Sorry for the digression, but people are so competitive that rules had to be developed to define "big." American Forests awards points based on three measurements: trunk circumference in inches + height in feet + ¼ average crown spread in feet. Trees with the highest score are declared champions, and trees within 5 points of each other are co-champions. While points-awarded big tree champions are generally among the tallest, they are not necessarily the tallest trees. In fact, points-awarded champions are often not the most handsome specimens. You'd be surprised at how many national champions can be found in Virginia. Tree enthusiasts will also be surprised at how much time they can while away here: <http://bigtree.cnre.vt.edu/>.

Finally, if you can pardon the pun, these projects have branched into the new and exciting Superlative Tree Database. The Superlative Tree Database is the result of a fruitful (groan) partnership with Bob Leverett, a co-founder of the Native Tree Society (NTS), and Don Bertolette, founder of the Western Native Tree Society. Both are co-founders of the American Forests National Cadre of expert tree measurers, developers of the American Forests Tree-Measuring Guidelines handbook, and think that vTree and the Virginia Big Tree database are (Don's fault this time) tree-rific !!! Bob, Don, and their teams travel around the country to verify American Forests points champions and to measure other large tree specimens. They have collected an impressive amount of accurate superlative tree data over the years – and they are eager to share this data with the world. FREC is now hosting the Superlative Tree Database, which means that it is available to the public. This database is new but rapidly growing as the NTS and cadre members submit their data. There is tree-mendous value in these data (again, sorry).

If you are interested answering such questions as: What is the maximum height for yellow-poplar? What state boasts the tallest black birch? Where is the Eastern white pine with the largest girth? How does the size of the black locust in your backfield compare to other black locusts? visit this new database to see if you have any actual bragging rights! <http://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/NTS/search.cfm>.

And, for the record, I've definitely got the stink bugs on the run.

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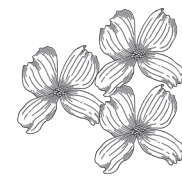
VIRGINIA FOREST LANDOWNER UPDATE

Spring 2017



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Department of Forest Resources &
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Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

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Useful Resources

- If you harvested timber in 2016 and still haven't filed your taxes, don't forget to read 2016 Tax Tips for Forest Landowners – and share it with your tax preparer: www.timbertax.org.
- If you are thinking about harvesting timber this year, first read these publications from Virginia Cooperative Extension:
 - Timber Selling Tips: Forestry Fact Sheet for Landowners: <https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/ANR/ANR-155/ANR-155-pdf.pdf>.
 - So You Want to Sell Timber: <https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/ANR/ANR-154/ANR-154-pdf.pdf>.
- Follow the Virginia Forest Landowner Update on Twitter @VFLEP.
- Like the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program on Facebook: www.facebook.com/VFLEP.

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VIRGINIA FOREST LANDOWNER UPDATE

Events, news, and information promoting the stewardship of Virginia's forest resources.

VIRGINIA FOREST LANDOWNER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Jennifer L. Gagnon, Editor

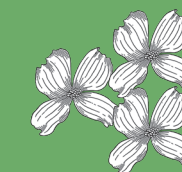
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Sign up to receive the Virginia Forest Landowner Update at: <http://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu>

New Story (and Logo Too)

By: Adam Downing, VCE and Mike Santucci, VDOF

Some readers of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update are familiar with the Generation NEXT program, because you may be one of the 235 landowners who have participated in the two-day short-course. We hope the other 404,765 family woodland owners in Virginia will consider this topic too, as there is probably nothing more important for the future of Virginia's forest than the future of the families that own two-thirds of it.

The old story has gone something like this: Grandma and Grandpa handed the land down to their four children by dividing it into equal parts; the second generation plans to do the same. This results in many small pieces of woodland that are at high risk of conversion to other uses.

The new story Generation NEXT is helping landowners to tell is the legacy of not only passing on land, possibly in a manner that doesn't break it into smaller pieces, but also the legacy of stewardship and caring for the land. Of those who have completed this short-course, approximately 80% indicate that their land has a much better chance of remaining "Intact, In forest and In the family".

If you haven't given this topic much thought, or don't know where to start, we have two ideas for you to consider:

1. Go to <http://ext.vt.edu/natural-resources/legacy-planning.html> and poke around in the ideas presented there.

2. Join us for an abbreviated version of Generation NEXT, called the Your Land Your Legacy Program in Roanoke on May 5 the Friday morning workshop after the Forestry Summit. Special guest Paul Catanzaro, from the University of Massachusetts, will be one of the presenters.
3. Stay tuned for three full-length Generation NEXT short-courses across Virginia this year.

- a. Southwest - Radford, VA, Aug. 22 & 29
- b. Central - Dates and location coming soon
- c. Southeast - Dates and location coming soon

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About This Logo



• The colors (which are green, brown, and blue) represent the natural elements -- the woods, the soil, and the water – that family forest landowners manage, conserve, and protect.

• The tree represents the idea of a family forest landowner.

• The "generation NEXT" fonts emphasize the idea of stewarding and passing the family woodland legacy forward to future generations.

• The arrow implies that a legacy, and associated planning is ongoing... a full circle.

• The hand-in-hand is meant to represent multiple generations, and the idea of instilling and nurturing a legacy from one to the next.

| EVENTS CALENDAR | | | For the most complete listing of natural resource education events, visit the on-line events calendar at http://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu | | |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Contact | Date | Location | Event | Time | Fee |
| DCR | April, May, & June | Virginia's State Parks | A variety of events and activities For a complete list, visit: www.dcr.virginia.gov/parks | Varies | Varies |
| MP | Year-round | State-wide | Virginia Master Naturalist Volunteer basic training www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/chapters.html | Varies | Varies |
| FOSA | April 4 | Boyce | Small Tree Pruning & Care We begin with an introduction to proper pruning & tree care and then move outside for demonstrations and hands-on practice. | 1:00 - 3:00 | \$12 |
| JF | April 6 | Bedford | Emerald Ash Borer and Other Tree Pests - Woodlot Series Join VCE and Bartlett Tree Experts for an update on the status of emerald ash borer and how to protect your ash trees. | 10:00 - 3:00 | \$10*/person; \$15*/household |
| JG | April 8 | Kingsport, TN | Community Resources for Woodland Owners Learn how your woodlands fit into the local, state, and global economies. Hear how actively managing your woodlands can save you money - and maybe even earn you money. | 9:00 - 1:00 | Free* |
| JMM | April 9 | Montpelier Station | Working Woods Walk Explore beyond the Mansion and the lawn to the woods of Montpelier and consider society's dependence on this resource then and now. This Virginia Master Naturalists-led walk will follow a state-of-the-art trail showcasing forest & habitat tending methods. | 2:00 | \$5 |
| KW | April 11, May 9, & June 6 | Blackstone Farmville TBA | Women and Land Conservation Learning Circles Please join the American Farmland Trust for this 3-part program for women, by women. You will learn about conservation planning, assistance for farming, and how to plan your legacy. | 4:30 - 8:30 | \$15* |
| FOSA | April 11 & 13 | Boyce | Wildflower Identification Workshop We'll use Newcomb's Wildflower Guide and the Flora of Virginia to identify spring flowers in the lab and field. Bring lunch, a 10x ocular, and books. Attending both days is encouraged. | 9:00 - 2:00 | \$40 |
| SREF | April 19 May 17 | On-line | SREF Forest Health Webinar Series Southern Pine Beetle Weather Variability & Forest Health | 1:00 | Free |
| HRL | April 15 | Berryville | Garden Talks 2017 Learning Series: Natives in the Garden: Identifying, Plants, and Encouraging Native Trees and Shrubs | 2:00 | Free |
| VFA | May 3-5 | Roanoke | Virginia Forestry Summit Join landowners, natural resource professionals, and loggers for continuing education on a wide variety of forestry-related topics. A special landowner track, including a field trip, will be available this year. And join us on a forester-led hike to the iconic McAfee's Knob on the Appalachian Trail. | Varies | Varies |
| AV | May 15 | On-line | On-line Woodland Options for Landowners Registration opens March 15. Learn the basics of forest management, from setting goals and objectives to developing a management plan, in this 12-week class. | Varies | \$45/family |
| PAFWS | June 13 | On-line | PA Forests Web Seminar: Assessing and Promoting Successful Regeneration in Your Woodland Lack of adequate tree regeneration is one of the top concerns in many woodlands in Pennsylvania and throughout the Northeast. Learn how to evaluate the regeneration in your woods and what types of activities can be used to promote regeneration. | 12:00 & 7:00 | Free |
| If you are a real estate professional or Commissioner of the Revenue, we will be updating our CE program, Real Forestry for Real Estate, this year and expect to have classes scheduled in the fall. Please visit the Landowner Update website later this summer for the schedule (http://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu). | | | | | |
| *meal(s) included in registration fee | | | | | |

[See Event Contacts on page 4](#)

Spring is in the Air...is Zika in Virginia's Mosquitoes? By: Andrew Vinson, Virginia Tech

Spring is upon us! Or at least, it has definitely been feeling that way lately. I recently went to a conference for Forest Health Professionals and listened to a talk on mosquitoes and the Zika virus, and this unusually warm weather makes me think that it would be good information to pass along as spring approaches.

Mosquitoes have always been a summer nuisance, but it was this past summer that the Zika virus became an issue. There are two different species of mosquito in Virginia that can transmit this disease, the yellow fever mosquito (*Aedes aegyptii*) and the Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*). The Asian tiger mosquito is the more common of the two, and the most likely to be pestering you outside. The mosquitoes of both species lay eggs in standing water. These eventually hatch into larvae that feed on microorganisms and other organic matter in the water until they pupate and mature into adults. The adults will then fly away to feed and mate. A female mosquito will lay eggs up to five times in her life (a few weeks to a month), with more than 100 eggs laid each time.

The Zika virus became an issue last season as people traveled to areas outside of the U.S. and were infected by the mosquitoes there. These people then traveled back to the U.S. (including Virginia) where they were diagnosed with the disease. In most cases, there are not very many life-altering symptoms. In fact, in 75% of cases, the patients show no signs or symptoms at all. Those that do get sick can display symptoms of fever, rash, red eyes, and joint pain. These usually lasts several days to a week. However, issues do arise with pregnancies and birth. The virus has been known to cause cognitive and physical birth defects among infants born to women infected with the virus. Humans act as a sink for the virus, and it can be transferred by mosquito bites, sex, blood transfusions, or spread from a mother to her baby during pregnancy. Research also suggests that there is a relationship between the Zika virus and Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), a rare disorder that can cause muscle weakness or paralysis.

Currently, avoiding countries where Zika is an issue is the primary way to avoid coming in contact with the virus. As of February 2017, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that there were 113 symptomatic cases of Zika virus in Virginia, which makes up about 2% of the national number of cases. None of these cases were transmitted by local mosquitoes, which means that everyone infected by the virus received it by travelling to another country, or it was passed to them some other known way. As of this time, the only two locations in the U.S. where the Zika virus has been spread by local mosquitoes are Texas and south Florida. Zika has been reported abroad across most of Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Singapore, Cape Verde, and the Pacific Islands. A full list of countries with active Zika transmission can be found on the CDC website. If you are considering travelling abroad this year the CDC recommends that you take precautions to limit your exposure, and get tested for the Zika virus if symptoms of the disease develop or if you are pregnant.

To protect yourself from mosquito bites in general, there are several key things to keep in mind. First, mosquitoes rarely fly more than 1,000 feet from the water source in which they were hatched. Bird baths, old tires, buckets, and drain pipes around your property hold standing water in which female mosquitoes can lay their eggs. For this reason, you are actually more prone to being bitten by mosquitoes around your house than in the forest (although we all know this is not always the case!). Sources of standing water should be emptied regularly to reduce the risk of mosquitoes. This includes sources of water that you may not see regularly or think of as being a home to mosquitoes, such as holes in trees and corrugated black drain pipes that hold small amounts of water in their ridges.



The Asian tiger mosquito (Aedes albopictus) carries the Zika virus and is the species Virginia residents are most likely to come in to contact with. Photo by: Susan Ellis, Bugwood.org.

[Zika cont. on page 4](#)

[Zika cont. from page 3](#)



There are a wide variety of readily-available and effective mosquito repellants on the market. Be sure to follow the directions on the label when applying. Photo by: Whitney Cranshaw, Bugwood.org.

If working or recreating outdoors, be sure to wear loose-fitting clothing that covers the arms and legs. Mosquitoes can easily penetrate clothing, so loose-fitting clothes reduce the risk of them biting through to the skin. Insect repellents that contain active ingredients such as DEET and Picaridin are very effective at holding off mosquitoes and are relatively easy to find in most hardware stores and supermarkets. Insect-repelling sprays work the best at keeping mosquitoes at bay, while wristbands and mosquito-repelling plants may not be as effective. By taking these precautions at home, on your forested property, and travelling abroad, you can reduce your risk of being bitten by mosquitoes and have a happy and healthy summer season.

More information about the Zika virus can be found on the CDC and Virginia Department of Health websites, at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika> and <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/zika>. If you're interested in learning more about mosquitoes and mosquito control in Virginia, check out <http://www.mosquito-va.org>.

Andrew Vinson is a Forestry Extension Associate in the Department of Forest Resources & Environmental Conservation, josephav@vt.edu, 540/231-6494.

Gypsy Moth Quarantine Expanded

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) has expanded the Virginia Gypsy Moth Quarantine (2VAC5-330) to include the county of Wythe. This action became necessary after surveys indicated an increase in gypsy moth populations in Wythe County. Once established, the gypsy moth has the potential to spread to uninfested areas, either through natural means or through the artificial movement of infested articles. The quarantine is intended to prevent the artificial spread of this pest. Under the terms of the quarantine, trees with roots, shrubs with roots, (except if greenhouse-grown throughout the year), logs and pulpwood, (except if being moved to a mill operation under a compliance agreement), firewood, mobile homes and associated equipment, and cut Christmas trees are prohibited from moving out of the quarantined area unless articles are certified as gypsy moth-free. Businesses moving regulated articles should contact VDACS at: Phone: (804) 786-3515; Hearing Impaired: (800) 828-1120.

| EVENT CONTACTS | | | |
|----------------|--|---|---|
| Contact | Name/Affiliation | Phone | e-mail/website |
| DCR | Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation | 804/786-1712 | www.dcr.virginia.gov |
| MP | Michelle Prysby | 434/872-4580 | www.virginiamasternaturalist.org |
| FOSA | Foundation of the State Arboretum of Virginia | 540/837-1758 x 224 | http://blandy.virginia.edu/our-foundation/online_payments |
| JF | Jason Fisher | 434/476-2147 | jasonf@vt.edu |
| JG | Jennifer Gagnon | 540/231-6391 | jgagnon@vt.edu |
| JMM | James Madison's Montpelier | 540/672-2728 x 450 | www.montpelier.org |
| KW | Kim Woodwell | 540/333-3681 | kwoodwell@farmland.org |
| SREF | Southern Region Extension Forestry | NA | www.sref.info/ |
| HRL | Handley Regional Libraries | NA | information@handleyregional.org |
| VFA | Virginia Forestry Association | 804/278-8733 | www.vaforestry.org |
| AV | Andrew Vinson | 540/231-6494 | josephav@vt.edu |
| PAFWS | PA Forest Webinar Seminar | http://ecosystems.psu.edu/research/centers/private-forests/outreach/pa-forests-web-seminar-center | |