

# Welcome to the Woods!



## Welcome to the Woods!

ANR-136P

A Guide for New Virginia Woodland Owners



 **Virginia  
Cooperative  
Extension**  
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

### Welcome to the Woods!

Let's start with a true or false question: More than half of Virginia is forested, and more than half of these woodlands is owned by individuals and families like you. If you find this statement hard to believe, that's OK, but it is true. As a woodlot owner, you play an important role in keeping Virginia's forests healthy and productive. This is a big responsibility because our forests not only provide timber, they also provide benefits such as wildlife habitat, biodiversity, flood mitigation, carbon storage, and improved water quality and quantity.

While these provisions are nice, you are probably interested in personal benefits for you and your family. So what can you do to

- Increase your family's enjoyment of the property?
- Make your woods a better home for wildlife?
- Ensure your trees are healthy?
- Protect soils and water?
- Increase income opportunities?
- Be a good land steward?

The Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program and its partners are here to help. We provide numerous inexpensive educational opportunities for woodlot owners, covering topics such as

- Woodlot management (1-10,000 acres).
- Wildlife management.
- Nontimber forest products (mushrooms, herbs, etc.).
- Conservation strategies.
- Intergenerational land transfer.
- Investing in your land.
- Timber harvesting.
- Taxes.
- Cost-share programs.

And much more!

And this publication is a great place to get started. Please visit our website, <http://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu>, contact us at 540-231-6391, or return the postage-paid postcard on the back page to learn more about our programs.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Jennifer Gagnon  
Coordinator  
Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program

<http://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu>

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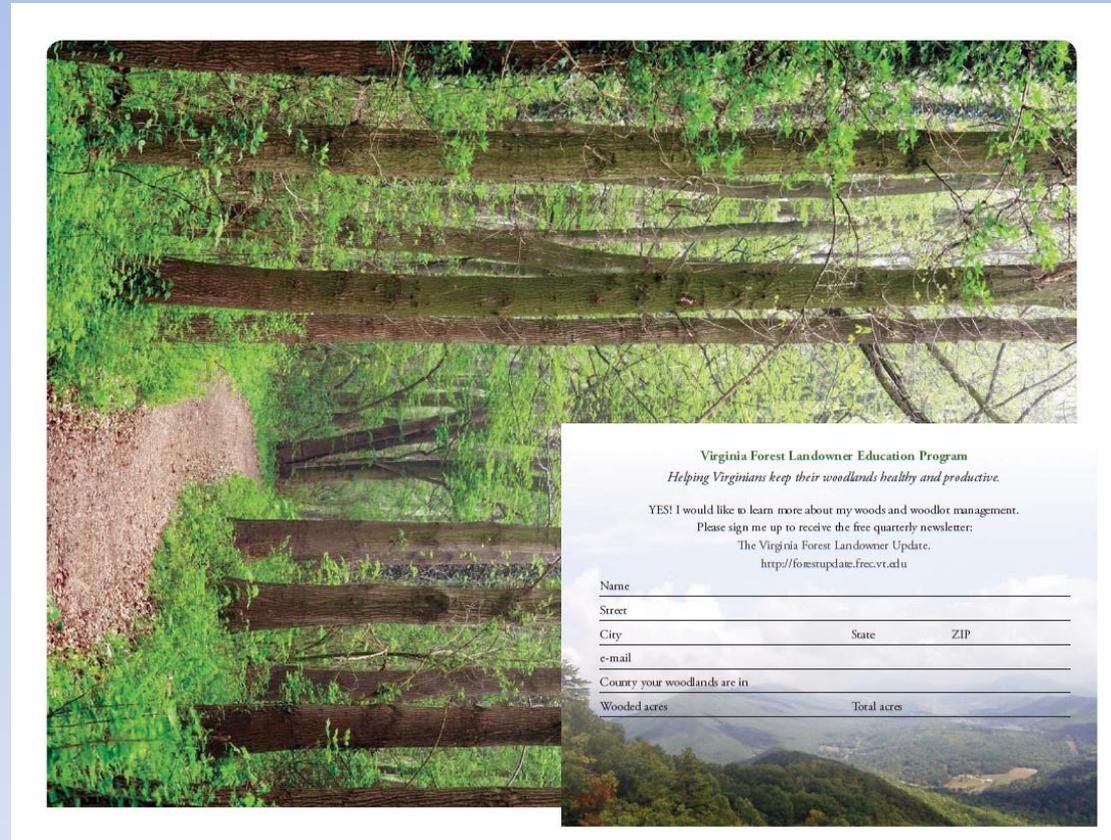
Virginia Forest Landowner Education  
*Helping Virginians Keep Their Woodlands Healthy and Productive*  
Real Forestry for Real Estate

# Welcome to the Woods

- Benefits
- Top Ten Things New Woodland Owners Should Know
  - How Your Woods Work
  - Why Do You Own Property
  - Get To Know Your Property
  - What are the Challenges to Good Woodland Management?
  - Safe Landowners
  - Financial Considerations
  - Woodland Certification
  - Planning for the Future of Your Property
  - Educational Opportunities
  - Assistance

# Welcome to the Woods

- Glossary
- Agency contacts
- Publications
- Websites
- Postcard



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# A Partnership?

- Extension's role:
  - Provide information/answers
  - Provide Welcome to the Woods! Guides
- Your role:
  - Share your knowledge
  - Distribute Welcome to the Woods! Guides
  - Report to VFLEP
- Comments? Suggestions?

