

## Botetourt/Rockbridge Counties - Wednesday, October 27

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Fincastle United Methodist Church  
137 S Church St  
Fincastle, VA 24090

Tour begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. Participants will drive their own vehicles.

*From big trees in old counties with rock-bridges and high elevations, this tour will: feature general points of interest, demonstrate stellar wildlife habitat improvement, explore the complexities of hardwood management, witness the magic of state-of-the-art sawmilling, and provide an opportunity to watch robots milk cows!*

**Stop 1: National Champion Honey Locust.** Virginia's robust Big Tree Program chronicles the lives of the known biggest tree of each species in the state. Some of these, like the honey locust in Fincastle, are National Champions! Also featured in the "Remarkable Trees of Virginia" book, the tree is believed to be over 200 years old and reclaimed its National Champion title in 2019.

**Stop 2: Big & Tall (acres and elevation) - Fraley Place.** With approximately 12,000 acres, there are lots of opportunities to do things well and not so well. Hear from the Fraley family about their journey to better wildlife management through better habitat management. Discussions will include the role of timber harvesting, golden-winged warblers and fire to make this property the stellar example it is, with amazing views too!

**Lunch: Ingleside Dairy.** Drink milk while watching the robot harvest it from the cow at Ingleside Dairy. Food will also be available and a quick stop elsewhere on this diversified farm to see trout farming.

**Stop 3: Hardwood Management is... "Hard".** Virginia has a new initiative to make our hardwood forests better to keep oaks and other important species in the mix. At Deacon's woodlot, we will look at a recent harvest and discuss ways to measure success.

**Stop 4: Deacon's Sawmill - From Round to Not...** A tour of this state-of-the-art facility illustrates the competitive nature of this business, the science woven throughout and the importance of forestry to our economy yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Return by 4:00 p.m.

For more information contact:

Adam Downing, [adowning@vt.edu](mailto:adowning@vt.edu), 540-948-6881 or

Bill Worrell, [bworrell@vt.edu](mailto:bworrell@vt.edu), 276-889-8056

Please register by 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 13

**All tours are outdoors and held rain or shine. Please dress appropriately (sturdy shoes, hats, rain gear, insect repellent, sunscreen, etc.).**

## Thank You Sponsors!

- Emerson Logging
- James River Buffer Program
- Marion Brothers Logging
- Virginia Cooperative Extension - Botetourt & Rockbridge Counties
- Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
- Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources and Environment
- Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation



# 45th Annual Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours 2021



*Join other forest landowners and natural resource professionals for an educational and fun day in the woods learning about forest and wildlife management. Check individual tour descriptions for dates and times.*

**SEE BACK PAGE FOR IMPORTANT  
COVID-19 INFORMATION**

These tours promote wise resource management on private woodlands.

You will:

(1) observe science-based management practices; (2) become acquainted with public and private sources of technical and financial management assistance; and (3) network with fellow landowners, natural resource professionals, and others who share your interest in Virginia's natural resources.

Each tour will include stops on multiple properties. See inside for times, departure points, and itineraries.

**October 14 - Cumberland County  
October 19 - Sussex County  
October 27 - Botetourt/Rockbridge  
Counties**

**\*\*A limited number of scholarships are available for K-12 teachers. Please call Jennifer Gagnon 540-231-6391 for details. Awarded first-come, first-served.**

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

### Important COVID-19 Information Please read carefully before registering

- Registration will be limited to ensure adequate physical distancing.
- Currently, we plan on providing transportation for all tours EXCEPT Botetourt/Rockbridge Counties; however, unanticipated limitations on vehicle occupancy may require individual participants to drive themselves. We will notify all participants if this becomes the case.
- We will follow all current COVID-19 procedures as required. These may include wearing face masks/shields.
- Physical distancing will be encouraged.
- Sanitizing materials will be provided.
- **If you feel ill, please cancel your reservation.** Full refunds will be given to anyone who cancels prior to the day of the tour.
- If the COVID-19 situation changes, there may be additional requirements or the tours may be cancelled. Your safety and the safety of our speakers and organizers, are our primary concerns. We will communicate with all participants to keep you up to date.
- Please visit the Virginia Department of Health for more prevention tips: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/prevention-tips/>

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Jennifer Gagnon, VFLEP Coordinator, at 540-315-0615/TDD\* during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. \*TDD number is (800)828-1120.

## Cumberland County - Thursday October 14

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Cumberland State Forest

751 Oak Hill Road

Cumberland, VA 23040

Tour begins promptly at 8:30 a.m.

*The Cumberland State Forest Office, also known as the Trenton House, is listed in the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. The main house was constructed by Dr. John Trent in 1815. The Cumberland State Forest is Virginia's second largest at 16,169 acres. The forest is managed for multiple uses including timber, wildlife, recreation, water quality, biodiversity, research, and demonstration. The original properties that make up Cumberland State Forest were purchased by the federal government in the 1930's under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. The land was leased by the state of Virginia in 1939 and the State Forest was established.*

**Morning stops: Cumberland State Forest, which has been a classroom for demonstrating hardwood management for over 80 years.**

**Stops 1 & 2: Pine and Hardwood Management.** At these stops you'll learn about the benefits of management planning and working with a professional. We'll discuss the process of biological succession and how forests mature. Next, we'll learn about suitable management options for 4 types of forests: mature loblolly pine, sapling- sized loblolly pine, young hardwoods, and 60-year-old hardwoods.

**Stop 3: More Pine and Hardwood Management.** Stop 3 continues the discussion of management options available to woodland owners, including thinning and crop tree release, and how these techniques can be used for wildlife management. We'll also discuss options for controlling the emerald ash borer.

**Lunch: Winston Lake.** Southern style meal from Fish'in Pig.

**Afternoon stops: From Clean Water to Mature Timber. Privately owned woodland.**

**Stop 4: Growing Forests for Clean Water.** Forested buffers protect water quality, reduce erosion, and provide wildlife habitat. Hear about the James River Buffer Program and the Buffer Consortium, as we explore a vital component of forest stewardship.

**Stop 5: Mature Hardwood.** When (if) you decide to harvest, learn what you need to know about your "golden" timber. Speakers will cover selling mature hardwood, the life span of hardwoods, and challenges with advanced regeneration.

**Stop 6: Mature Loblolly Pine and Open Fields (if time allows).** Find out how to create habitat for small game and birds.

**Return by 5:00 p.m.**

**For more information contact:**

**Jason Fisher, [jasonf@vt.edu](mailto:jasonf@vt.edu), 434-476-2147**

**Please register by 4:00 p.m., Thursday, September 30th**

## Sussex County - Tuesday October 19

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Garland Gray Forestry Center

19127 Sandy Hill Road

Courtland, VA 23837

Tour begins promptly at 9:00 a.m.

**Stop 1: Bayyyybeee Pines, do do, do do da do: Garland Gray Nursery.**

This nursery produces over 32 million pine seedlings a year to restock areas that have been harvested. These are primarily loblolly pines of varying grades, though some shortleaf pine, longleaf pine, and Atlantic white cedar are also being raised here in efforts to restore those species in appropriate areas. Here we can see how the seeds are planted and cared for until they are sorted, sold, and distributed.

**Stop 2: Big Woods State Forest and Wildlife Management Area/Piney Grove Preserve - Virginia's Hardwood Initiative.** We will hear from the Virginia Department of Forestry about Virginia's Hardwood Initiative. This is a new initiative, but will see some of the early steps taken in this process.

**Stop 3 : From Trash to Treasure: Log Deck Refurb for Wildlife.**

Just a small jaunt down the lane will take us to areas where the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources is doing work to refurbish log loading decks to benefit wildlife.

**Lunch: Airfield 4-H Center** catered by Nanny's BBQ

**Stop 4: Fire Pong: Fire From Above.** We will be able to witness a demonstration of how drones are being used to ignite fire for prescribed burning as well as different monitoring uses.

**Stop 5: Perceptive Perspectives.** Land managers face a diverse range of choices of what to do with acreage over a long time horizon with a resource that is ever-changing. This roundtable wrap-up will offer some ideas of small things that we can do today, to work toward achieving long-term goals decades from now.

**Return by 4:00 p.m.**

**For more information contact:**

**Neil Clark, [neclark@vt.edu](mailto:neclark@vt.edu), 757-653-2572**

**Please register by 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 8th**

### See back for Botetourt/Rockbridge Counties tour details

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.



**Register and pay on-line!**

**Visit <https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu>**

**Or send this form and check made payable to**

**Virginia Tech Treasurer to:**

**Kathie Hollandsworth**

**228 Cheatham Hall (0324)**

**Blacksburg, VA 24061**

**Registration fees include lunch and refreshments.**

**All tours are \$25/person; \$40/couple**

- Cumberland County**
- Sussex County**
- Botetourt/Rockbridge Counties**
- I am a K-12 teacher\*\*see front of brochure**

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street/P.O.** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_

**State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dietary needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Land County** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Acres** \_\_\_\_\_ **Wooded Acres** \_\_\_\_\_