

SW Virginia Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat

Thank you for registering for the SW Virginia Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat. After reviewing this information, if you have any questions about this event, please contact Jennifer Gagnon at 540-231-6391 or 540-315-0615 (cell).

Persons with disabilities who will require any special accommodations or assistance to participate in this retreat should discuss their needs with Jennifer before August 13.

Dates/Times

August 27-28

A schedule (subject to minor changes) is enclosed. Please note that check-in for people lodging is between 6:30 – 8:00 on Thursday, August 26th. The program begins at 7:30 on Friday. The program ends after lunch on Saturday.

Location

The Retreat will be held at Matthews State Forest, just west of Galax, VA. The office sits just off Rt. 58/221. The USPS address is 106 Forestry Lane, but BEWARE – Google does not recognize this address, so please use the directions that follow, or you will end up quite lost somewhere near the NC border! You may also enter GPS coordinates for the building: 36.642701, -80.957758.

Directions: From the east, take US 58/ US 221 through the town of Galax, and turn right into the driveway across from Wild Turkey Lane. You should see a VDOF office sign at the entrance. The office is at the top of the hill. (From the west, take 58/221 toward Galax, and before entering town, turn left across from Wild Turkey Lane into the office driveway.) The office phone number is 276-236-2322.

Lodging

Lodging will be at the Matthews State Forest. Check in will be between 6:30 – 8:00 on Thursday. All rooms have a private bathroom. Linens, pillows, and towels are provided.

Meals

The following meals are included in the program, for both lodging and commuting participants: Friday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Saturday breakfast and lunch. Snacks and water will be provided for the field portions of the Retreat.

Medical Issues

Please complete the enclosed medical form and bring it with you. You may place the form in an envelope labeled with your name, to remain sealed unless there is an emergency. However, if you have a condition we may need to know about ahead of time, please let us know during registration. Note that there will be some walking on the Saturday field trip, but walks will not be long or strenuous.

We are following current Virginia Tech guidance for COVID-19. This means masks will be required indoors regardless of vaccination status (except when eating and drinking). In addition, masks will be required while riding in the van for the field trip on Saturday morning. We will be able to accommodate a couple of personal vehicles on the field tour for those not comfortable riding with others in a van. I will let you know if anything changes in the next week.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Department of Forestry 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.

SW Virginia Beginning Woodland Owners' Retreat August 27-28, Matthews State Forest, Galax, VA

Thursday August 26

6:30 – 8:00	Check in for lodging Note – dinner on your own	Matthews State Forest Office
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Friday August 27

7:30 – 8:15	Breakfast and Check-in	Matthews State Forest Office
8:15 – 8:30	Welcome and Introductions	Ellen Powell Virginia Department of Forestry
8:30 – 8:45	Setting Your Goals	Jennifer Gagnon Virginia Tech
8:45 – 9:30	Forest Management Planning	Chris Sullivan Virginia Department of Forestry
9:30 – 9:45	Break	
9:45 – 10:45	Timber Sales	Lou Brossy Consulting Forester
10:45 – 11:30	Wildlife Habitat Management	Andy Rosenberger Natural Resources Conservation Service
11:30 -12:30	Lunch	
12:30 – 4:00	Tour of Matthews State Forest	Zach Olinger Virginia Department of Forestry
4:00 – 4:15	Break	
4:15 – 5:15	Growing Shiitake Mushrooms	Bill Worrell Virginia Cooperative Extension
5:15 – 6:15	Dinner	
6:15 – 7:15	Optional Movie: Green Fire – Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for our Time	

Saturday August 28

7:30 – 8:00	Breakfast	
8:00 – 8:15	Debrief from tour	Ellen Powell Virginia Department of Forestry
8:30 – 10:00	Tree ID	Ellen Powell Virginia Department of Forestry
10:00 – 10:15	Break	
10:15 – 11:45	Measuring and Valuing Your Trees	Jennifer Gagnon Virginia Tech
11:30 – 11:45	Evaluations and Wrap-up	Jennifer Gagnon Virginia Tech
11:45	Lunch	

Thank you and safe travels home!

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Health/Emergency Form
(Please bring with you to the program)

Event/ Date: SW Virginia Beginning Woodland Owners' Retreat August 27-28, 2021

Name _____ Male ___ Female ___

Telephone # (____) _____ Email _____

Address _____

1. Do you have any health conditions or special circumstances we should be aware of?
Please include any medications, allergies, or chronic illnesses:

2. Please list any special dietary needs:

3. Whom should we notify in case of an accident or emergency?

Name _____ Relationship _____

Address _____

Telephone # (____) _____

4. Please provide the name of your health/ accident insurance carrier(s) and the appropriate policy certificate number(s):

Name of Carrier _____

Policy # _____

Name of Carrier _____

Policy # _____

Photo Release

The program sponsors occasionally use photos of programs for promotional use and reporting. If you **do not** wish to have pictures of you used in this manner, please let one of the organizers know.

What to Bring

- Comfortable clothes, including something suitable for walking in the woods. Long pants, and long socks you can tuck them into, are recommended, for protection from ticks and chiggers. Please check the weather forecast and bring appropriate clothes for the weather, including rain gear if needed.
- Closed-toed shoes or boots
- Toiletry articles (soap, shampoo, deodorant, shaving items, toothbrush, etc.)
- Any medications you require
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Water bottle

What NOT to bring:

- Pets
- Firearms or ammunition
- Unnecessary valuables (*The Matthews State Forest and the program presenters are not responsible for lost or stolen items.*)

Smoking

Smoking is allowed in designated areas only and is not allowed in buildings.