

Mecklenburg continued

Stop 4: Buffering Virginia's Largest (human-made) Lake
Forested buffers are an effective way to protect water quality. Learn how buffers are created and maintained.

Stop 5: Wetlands for Wildlife

See how wetland habitats flourish just downstream of the Kerr Dam, as well as wildlife plantings, invasive plant control, and how to calibrate a small-scale sprayer for herbicide application.

Return by 5:00 p.m.

For more information contact: Jason Fisher

jasonf@vt.edu, 434-476-2147

Please register by noon, Wednesday October 4

Warren County, Friday October 20

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Samuels Public Library

330 East Criser Road Front Royal, VA 22630

Tour begins promptly at 9:00 a.m.

Warren County's strategic location of land and water trade routes has made it a happening place for thousands of years beginning with the Native Americans. While every county in Virginia is historic, only one can boast that the oldest known permanent habitations in the eastern United States are located here, along the South Fork of the Shenandoah River.

Stop 1: Wildlife Corridors and 7 Generations Farming

With the Shenandoah National Park behind us, overlooking the South Fork onto the George Washington National Forest before us, we'll experience the wit and will to connect these large, forested tracts for the sake of wildlife travel and maintaining vast open-space for public and private good. The Stinson tract is a 7th generation farm of 337 conserved acres connected to other protected private lands, collectively forming the Overall Corridor, an invaluable resource and fascinating story.

Stop 2. Izaak Walton League of America's Warren County Chapter

An early pioneer in conservation and management of natural resources, the namesake, organization and the local chapter continue to champion conservation and provide opportunities for young and old alike. The organization's local chapter is located on a 19th century farm in beautiful Browntown, VA. We will walk the grounds while discussing pond management, edge habitat, youth development and more concluding with a lunch of traditional favorites in the old farmhouse.

Stop 3: Small Woodlots & Valuable Hardwoods

Much of Virginia's valuable timber is in small hardwood stands. This 25-acre tract is typical of many in history and composition with a landowner wanting to do good. We'll take a deep dive into hardwood silviculture by walking through the new Hardwood Assessment Tool (HAT) developed by Virginia Tech

Warren continued

and the Virginia Department of Forestry. And wildlife is always part of the discussion, even when we're trying to grow valuable timber... hear again how compatible they are and sources of landowner assistance to make good forest stewardship happen.

Stop 4. Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute

What's behind the tall fenced-in property on 3000+ acres of a former US Army Cavalry Remount Station just south of Front Royal? Well, there is a lot, but perhaps the most unique project with applicability for landowners is one of the oldest and largest deer enclosures in the region. It helps us answer the question, "what would our forest look like with less deer?" The world renown researcher Bill McShea will share his latest science on the ecological impacts of deer. This is a rare opportunity, don't miss it!

Return by 4:30 p.m.

For more information contact: Adam Downing,

540-948-6881, adowning@vt.edu

Please register by 4:00 p.m. October 6th

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Virginia Tree Farm Foundation

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 at 540-231-6391 during business hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

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47TH ANNUAL FALL FORESTRY & WILDLIFE FIELD TOURS



Join landowners and natural resource professionals for an educational and fun day in the woods learning about forest and wildlife management.

Check inside for individual tour descriptions, dates, and times - all itineraries are subject to change.

These tours promote wise resource management on private woodlands.

On the Tours 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 other landowners, natural resource professionals, and those who share your interest in Virginia's natural resources. Each tour will include stops on multiple properties.

- **October 6 Bland County**
- **October 11 Essex and King & Queen Counties**
- **October 12 Mecklenburg County**
- **October 20 Warren County**

***Limited scholarships are available for K-12 teachers.**

Call Jennifer Gagnon 540-231-6391 for details.

Awarded first-come, first-served.*

Virginia Cooperative Extension
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**Bland County - with the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation
Friday October 6**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Bastian BP Station
254 Arrowhead Drive Bastian, VA 24314
Tour begins promptly at 8:30 a.m.

Bland is the only county in the United States that is both entered and exited via two of the longest Interstate tunnels in the country. Travel under the mountains to join us to learn more about active woodland management in Virginia's 4th least populated county.

Stop 1: Demeter Tree Farm

The Sargents are sustainably managing over 500 acres for timber, wildlife, and a family legacy. At this half-day stop, we'll hear about the tools they are using to achieve their ownership goals on their certified Tree Farm.

Lunch catered by Taste of the Mountains

Stop 2: Bradshaw Firewood

Firewood is a high-value product that can be made from low-value trees. Bradshaw Firewood is a family-owned business that has been in operation since 1989. They process firewood year around and sell it in small bundles or in bulk. At this stop we'll learn about their operation.

Stop 3: Harvesting Timber and Managing Wildlife

Visit a mechanized timber harvesting operation in the Round Mountain area to learn about regeneration harvests. We will see and learn about the forest and wildlife management in this young forest.

Stop 4: Managing for Wildlife - With Fire

Find out about the numerous benefits of using prescribed fire in Appalachian forests.

Return by 5:00 p.m.

For more information contact: Bill Worrell
bworrell@vt.edu, 276-889-8056

Please register by noon, Friday September 29th

Essex and King & Queen Counties - with the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation Wednesday October 11

Meet at 12:30 p.m. at Upper King & Queen Ruritan
186 Walnut Springs Road St. Stephen's Church, VA 23148
Tour begins promptly at 1:00 p.m.

Examples of active forest management for both timber production and wildlife abound in these rural counties.

Stop 1: Young Pine and Hardwoods for Wildlife

Creating a diversity of wildlife habitat across the landscape is a great way to attract a diversity of wildlife species. Learn about the roles both young pine and hardwood forests provide.

Stop 2: Managing a Pine Savannah

Low-density pine forests allow for a diverse understory. And this understory provides benefits to many wildlife species. At this certified Tree Farm, you'll see how a savannah is created...and maintained.

Stop 3: The Return of a Virginia Native - Longleaf Pine

Longleaf pine was once a major component of southeastern forests. Its valuable wood led to extensive harvesting; its requirement for fire led to its replacement with easier to grow species (like loblolly pine). Learn about the resurgence of this lovely tree and how it benefits wildlife on this certified Tree Farm.

Stop 4: Dinner and a Wildlife Talk

A catered dinner will be served at the Upper King & Queen Ruritan. Wildlife biologist Alison Menefee will discuss management activities that attract wildlife, including bobwhite quail. Additionally, she will share current management guidance for the northern long-eared bat.

End by 7:00 p.m.

For more information contact: Neil Clark
neclark@vt.edu, 757-653-2572

Please register by noon, Wednesday October 4

Mecklenburg County, Thursday October 12

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Dick Cross Wildlife Management Area
6282 Bugs Island Road Boydton, VA
Tour begins promptly at 8:30 a.m.

This rural county grows a lot of trees. In fact, Mecklenburg is one of the top ten producers of timber (by volume) in Virginia. Timber harvesting creates habitat, and as such, wildlife thrives here.

Stop 1: Eagle Point Wildlife Management Area

Mecklenburg is fortunate to have several recreational sites maintained by the US Army Corp of Engineers. At Eagle Point we will learn how to grow a hardwood forest by planting pines. It just requires advance regeneration, proper site preparation, and a little good fortune.

Stop 2: Forest Management for Private Woodland Owners

A current Stewardship Plan is a key component of successful forest management. See hardwoods being converted to pine forests on this farm. Stream buffers are also key to protecting watersheds, especially one that flows into a 50,000-acre reservoir.

A locally catered lunch will be served at John H. Kerr Dam

Stop 3: Virginia's Largest (human-made) Lake!

This dam, built in the late 1940's, ends a 39-mile run of the Roanoke River along 800 miles of wooded, cove-studded shoreline in Virginia and North Carolina. There are 26 wildlife management areas on Kerr, totaling over 10,000 acres. Learn how this area benefits fish and wildlife conservation, recreation, forest management, and water supply.

Continued on back

Register and pay on-line:
Visit <https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu>

Or send this form and payment to:

Kathie Hollandsworth
228 Cheatham Hall (0324)
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Checks payable to: Virginia Tech Treasurer

- Bland \$25/person; \$45/couple
- Essex/King & Queen \$25 person; \$45/couple
- Mecklenburg \$45/person; \$80/couple
- Warren \$45/person; \$80/couple
- I am a K-12 teacher**see front of brochure

Registration includes transportation,
lunch, and refreshments.

Name(s) of attendee(s):

Street/P.O. _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Dietary requests _____

Are you a woodland owner?

Yes _____ No _____

Land County _____

Total Acres _____ Wooded Acres _____

2023 Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours