

## **Landowner Weekend Retreat Program Expands**

The Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Cooperative Extension are continuing to expand their popular Landowner Weekend Retreat Program. This program was initiated in 2008. Through 2012, the Retreat was offered once a year, at the Holiday Lake 4H Center in Appomattox. In 2013, the program expanded to include a Retreat in southeastern Virginia, at the Airfield 4 H Center in Wakefield. And in 2014, we will be offering an additional Retreat in southwest Virginia at the Matthews State Forest in Galax.

The Landowner Weekend Retreat allows family forest owners and their families to immerse themselves in a weekend full of classes, activities, and field trips all focused on providing them with sustainable forestry knowledge. Numerous natural resource professionals from the state, private, and federal sectors provide instruction as well as one-on-one interaction with participants.

Grants from the Ballyshannon Fund, the Practicing Foresters Institute, and the Matthews Foundation allow us to keep the registration fees (which include lodging and food for the weekend) very affordable.

We are still working on the agendas and registration materials for the 2014 Retreats, but the dates have been set. Mark your calendars!

Spring Landowner Weekend Retreat, Appomattox – April 25-27

Summer Landowner Weekend Retreat, Galax – June 28- 29

Fall Landowner Weekend Retreat, Wakefield – September 5-7