Good morning Forest Update Subscribers,

Once again, we’ve reached the end of another year. Time does indeed fly. We are busy scheduling our 2015 forest landowner education events and will have a full line-up for you early next year. Look for programs on timber cruising, selling your timber, and prescribed burning. And a return of our ever-popular programs, such as the Woods & Wildlife Conference, On-line Woodland Options for Landowners, Weekend Retreats, and Preparing for Generation NEXT.

I wish everyone a bright and merry holiday season with those you love.

Some useful information for forest landowners:

- **The USDA Forest Service has a new website** – check out their new look and learn more about this multi-faceted agency that protects and manages 154 national forests and grasslands in 44 states and Puerto Rico and is the world’s largest forestry research organization.

- In the Fall 2014 edition of the *Virginia Forest Landowner Update*, we featured a story on the American Chestnut Foundation’s restoration efforts. If this is a topic that interests you, you can learn about the role the USDA Forest Service’s National Forest System is playing in these restoration efforts.

- Sticking with the National Forest theme, the George Washington National Forest has released its final Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the forest. Read all about the plan here.

- Many of you are familiar with the Virginia Department of Forestry’s (VDOF) field guide: *Common Native Trees of Virginia*. But what about identifying that shrubby vegetation in your woods? Now you can use the VDOF’s new id guide, *Common Native Shrubs and Woods Vines of Virginia* to help you. Available for $3 from the VDOF.
website (or purchase both books for $5!! – a great holiday gift idea!)

- Read Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2014 Tax Year (especially if you’ve implemented any management activities or harvested timber). If you don’t do your own taxes, be sure to share this with your accountant.

- Registration for the Annual Woods & Wildlife Conference will open in late January 2015. You may recall, this conference was cancelled last February due to 23 inches of snow falling in some areas of Virginia. This year, let’s hope for more favorable weather conditions!

Follow the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program on Twitter (@VFLEP) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/VFLEP). Our trivia question for December is posted at 9 a.m. on the 1st of the month on the Facebook page. Be with first with a correct answer, and win a VFLEP ball cap! If you haven’t done so already, stop by the page to view photos from our 2014 Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field tours.

See you next year!

Jennifer

This e-newsletter has been posted on-line. It can be viewed at: http://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu/newsletter/archives/index.html

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