The Virginia Tree Farm Committee has been busy working to grow and improve the quality of the Program. We are wrapping up a year-long planning process to enhance Program resources and tools and make recommendations about its future.

What’s going on in Virginia, specifically?

The Virginia Tree Farm Committee fact sheets have worked to grow and improve the quality of the Program. We are wrapping up a year-long project to improve the quality of the Virginia Tree Farm database by making it more useful to all Virginia Tree Farmers with a prompt to updated contact and Tree Farm information, in addition to providing materials to help ensure their Tree Farms meet the standards and criteria for Virginia Tree Farm status. So far, we have 8,500 tree farms on the Virginia Tree Farm database.

Did You Know...

• Virginia’s 4 p.m. burning law is in effect February 15 – April 30; learn more: http://www.dof.virginia.gov/laws/4pm-law.htm.

• The Virginia Forest Landowner Update has a Twitter feed? Follow us: @VFLEP

• The Department of Forestry website has a Facebook trivia contest – on the first of each month, be the first to answer a forestry-related trivia question, and win a prize.

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Virginia Tree Farm Program Update By: Shannon McCabe, Virginia Tree Farm Program

Each year, the Virginia Tree Farm Program (VTFP) hosts the Virginia Tree Farm of the Year Awards. The 2015 Virginia Tree Farm of the Year Award goes to the Backyard Project. Do you recognize it? Do you know what it represents? If you are one of over 3,380 Virginia Tree Farmers, you probably recognize the logo. The Backyard Project is a recent Virginia Tree Farm of the Year Award from the Virginia Tree Farm Program. It is the result of a recent meeting of Tree Farmers and other ATFS leaders from around the country. Responses were varied but one common theme emerged. True Tree Farmers are proud to manage their property with stewardship in mind for current and future generations. As Administrator for the Virginia Tree Farm Program, I am proud to work among this strong network of individuals doing everything they can to improve the environment and better understand our natural world before it is too late. We hope you will join our network and stay informed about our current activities.

What are the 2015-2020 Standards of Sustainability? Anyone not familiar with the 2015-2020 Standards of Sustainability may not have realized that the program of standards approved by the American Forest Foundation (AFF) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and implemented by the Virginia Tree Farm Program (VTFP) goes into effect January 1, 2015. As explained by a recent meeting of Tree Farmers and other ATFS leaders from around the country. Responses were varied but one common theme emerged. True Tree Farmers are proud to manage their property with stewardship in mind for current and future generations. As Administrator for the Virginia Tree Farm Program, I am proud to work among this strong network of individuals doing everything they can to improve the environment and better understand our natural world before it is too late. We hope you will join our network and stay informed about our current activities.

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