



Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

Spring 2015

Vol. 29, No. 2

Upcoming Events

- April 15-16,
Charlottesville
Virginia Forestry
Summit
- Spring Venture
Outdoors!
 - April 24,
Alberta
 - May 8,
Lynchburg
 - May 15,
Halifax
- May 13
6th Annual CPS
Vegetation
Management Day,
Wakefield
- July 11-12, Abingdon
SW Forest
Landowner
Weekend Retreat
- August 28-
30, Wakefield
SE Forest
Landowner
Weekend Retreat
- October 3-4,
Cumberland
Central Forest
Landowner
Weekend Retreat

Good morning Forest e-Update Subscribers,

Sorry for the delay – I know it's April 3rd, not April 1st! But I was on the road and without decent Wi-Fi. Better late than never, right?

Tomatoes and peppers are planted in the greenhouse; romaine lettuce is in the garden. Bees were alive and well at the beginning of February, but alas, -14 degrees later in the month was too much for them. So I am without honeybees for the time being. Which, truthfully, will make gardening more pleasant (no more wearing all white to weed and being chased out by guard bees after 30 minutes). And, best of all, no more mowing in the bee suit! An absolutely miserable activity in mid-summer. I'm keeping my equipment and will resume this hobby once we're living out on our farm.

Wednesday I had the absolute pleasure of working with our partners at the **Nature Conservancy** to hold a prescribed burn class in Wakefield – an activity I haven't participated in since I moved to Virginia. We had a great day, a successful burn, and all participants had a chance to use the drip torch. I'll be posting photos on the **VFLEP Facebook** page shortly. Look for more of these hands-on classes soon.

The Annual Woods & Wildlife Conference last month was a great success with over 150 folks in attendance. Presentations from the conference will be posted on the Landowner Update website in the coming weeks. So even if you weren't able to join us in Culpeper, you can still access the information presented.

In the spring edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update:

Visit the Events Calendar for details!

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Learn about cost-share programs, forest management options, buy seedlings, and find your local forester.

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Contact

<http://forestupdate.fr.ec.vt.edu>

jgagnon@vt.edu

540/231-6391

228 Cheatham Hall
0324

Blacksburg, VA 24061

- **The Forest Foundation (Part 2)**

By: Adam Downing, Virginia Cooperative Extension

In Part 1 of The Forest Foundation, which appeared in the Winter 2015 edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update, I wrote about soil properties such as texture and pH. In addition to these two properties, soil science also explores and quantifies parameters such as depth and drainage. **More...**

- **You Ain't From Around Here! Exotic Invasive of the Quarter: Mile a Minute Vine**

By: Tina MacIntyre, VDACS

Introduction/Damage

Mile a minute vine (MAM; *Persicaria perfoliata*, formerly *Polygonum perfoliatum*) invades a variety of habitats including disturbed areas, openings in forests, orchards, nurseries, streamside herbaceous wetlands, upland meadows, forest edges, and roadsides. It can grow 20 feet in a season, so you can see how it got its name. The MAM vine will create monocultures, crowding out native plants, and can easily overwhelm small trees, seedlings, shrubs, and small structures. **More...**

- **Virginia Tree Farm Program Update**

By: ShannonMcCabe, Virginia Forestry Association/Virginia Tree Farm Committee

Each time you receive this newsletter, you see the diamond-shaped American Tree Farm System (ATFS) logo on the back panel. Do you recognize it? Do you know what it represents? If you are one of over 1,300 Virginia Tree Farmers, you probably recognize the logo from the large green and white sign displayed on your property. What does it mean to you? Similar questions were asked at a recent meeting of Tree Farmers and other ATFS leaders from around the country. Responses were varied but one common theme emerged: pride. **More...**

- **Did You Know...**

And in other forestry-related news:

- Ramp season is upon us. Don't know anything about ramps? Here's **a good article**, complete with some

recipes. The Forest Service is working on developing models to examine the vulnerability of these plants to climate change and other stressors. And they need your help identifying occurrences in their native range. If you have an iPhone, you can take a photo of a known ramp location and upload it to this site:

<http://www.inaturalist.org/>. The Forest Service can then collect these data to model ramp habitat. You and your iPhone can become citizen scientists and help with a good cause!

- The super-cold February experienced in Maine has resulted in 97-99% mortality of hemlock woolly adelgid. Good news, but maybe only temporarily because surviving adelgids don't need to have their eggs fertilized, allowing them to reproduce quickly. Read the **story here**. No word on if Virginia's February weather was harsh enough to make a dent in our adelgid populations.
- There are now over 30 million white-tailed deer in the US. Once deer populations exceed 20 animals per square mile, they can have serious negative impacts on forest vegetation. The recently published Forest Service report, **White-tailed deer in Northeastern Forests: understanding an Assessing Impacts**, documents the impacts these animals are having on the health of our woodlands and provides guidance on how to determine if deer are negatively impacting the health of your land.
- Registration is also open for the 2015 **Virginia Forestry Summit** to be held April 15-17 at the Boar's Head Inn in Charlottesville. Join landowners, natural resource professionals and loggers for this 2-day program packed with learning opportunities. This year's program will feature a four-part full day General Session on Wednesday:
 - Part I: Focus on Loggers. Speakers to include Dr. Scott Barrett, Virginia Tech; Dr. Dale Green, University of Georgia; and Don Taylor, Sustainable Resource Systems LLC.
 - Part II: Focus on Virginia Resource Assessment & Landowner Survey. Speakers to include Dr. Steve Prisley and Will Saulnier, Virginia Tech.
 - Part III: Focus on Future Outlooks and Investments. Speakers to include Michael Kelly,

Forest Investment Associates; Pete Stewart;
Forest2Market; Marshall Thomas, F&W Forestry.

- Part IV: Focus on Industry Perspectives. Speakers to include John Luke, Jr., MWV; Thomas Mende, Klausner, and others.

Thursday will feature workshops, tours as well as the annual Forestry Summit Reception and Awards Banquet. Friday offerings will include additional training opportunities. SAF CFE credits will be available.

Events Calendar

Read this e-newsletter on-line.

Don't forget, follow the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program on Twitter (@VFLEP) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/VFLEP). Our trivia question for April will be posted on the Facebook page at 11 am today, April 3rd. Be with first newsletter reader with a correct answer, and win a VFLEP ball cap!

All the best!

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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