



Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

AUGUST 2015

Upcoming Events

- **August 12-14, Roanoke**
Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association Annual Conference
- **August 28-30, Wakefield**
SE Virginia Beginning Landowners' Weekend Retreat
- **September 14 & 21, Natural Bridge**
Family Forestland Short-course: Focus on Land Transfer to Generation NEXT
- **October 3-4, Cumberland**
Central Virginia Beginning Landowner's Weekend Retreat
- **Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours**
 - **October 8 – Franklin/Southampton County**
 - **October 16 – Nelson County**
 - **October TBD – Wythe/Smyth Counties**

Visit the Events Calendar for details!

Good morning Forest Update Subscribers,

Picture this: Gainesville Florida, July 1988. Three generations of women embark on a journey to the University of Florida for Family Preview Weekend. The youngest one was super-excited and terrified at the same time; grateful for the presence of her two mentors. The youngest one was me; the mentors, my mom and grandmother.

Attending Virginia Tech's Orientation this summer with my oldest daughter (who is majoring in forestry!) brought back many fond memories of that weekend. And caused me to reflect on how much has changed. Both my mom and grandmother are gone; now I am the mother. Back then, everything I owned (including a bike), plus both of my parents, fit in to the family K-car. These days, I seriously doubt a 27' moving van would be large enough.

Our world keeps changing – faster everyday it seems. And the same is true in your woodlands. Some changes are small, like an acorn falling, while others, like a timber harvest, are large. That's why it's important to walk your land regularly. Most changes won't require any action on your part. But others, like insect and invasive problems, might. The earlier you find a problem, the easier and less expensive it is to control. Take advantage of the occasional cooler days as we move towards fall by taking a hike in your woods to look for changes. Note these on your plan and take appropriate action when needed.

Some forestry-related information:

VFLEP Sponsors

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Puts university knowledge into the hands of people.

Virginia Department of Forestry

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

Virginia Sustainable Forestry Initiative State Implementation Committee

The American Tree Farm System

Virginia Forestry Association

Forest Stewardship Program

USDA Forest Service

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- The 2016 Hunting & Trapping Regulations are now available from the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries. **Download and review** them to stay safe and legal this hunting season.
- I'm sure most of you are aware of **the exotic invasive species hemlock woolly adelgid**, which has caused a great deal of mortality in Carolina and eastern hemlocks. Researchers from the USDA Forest Service, the University of Vermont, and Oregon State University, are working on a promising biological control which may, at least, help reduce the numbers of woolly adelgids. **Read more.**
- Shortleaf pine forests and associated habitats once covered a vast area of the continent, stretching from eastern Texas to Oklahoma and along the eastern seaboard from New Jersey to Florida. The open canopies of these forests allowed ample sunlight to reach the ground, resulting in a wide diversity of understory species and wildlife. Today, however, beetle outbreaks, changes in timber management, altered fire regimes, and disease have resulted in over 50% of the former shortleaf pine acreage being lost. The Shortleaf Pine Initiative is a new effort to reverse this trend. Find out how you can get involved in the restoration effort:
 - **The Shortleaf Pine Initiative website**
 - **Shortleaf Pine: An Option for Virginia Landowners**
- Speaking of restoration, join the **American Forest Foundation** on August 20th for a free webinar on **Monarch Butterfly Recovery**.
- Finally, the printed copies of our new publication, Welcome to the Woods! A Guide for New Virginia Woodland Owners, are now available. If you are a new woodland owner, or new to woodland management, **download a copy** or send **me an e-mail** to request a printed version.

Upcoming Forestry Education Events:

As with every fall, Virginia Cooperative Extension has LOTS of opportunities for you to learn more about your woodlands. Please consider joining us for one of these upcoming events:

- If you are a Christmas Tree Grower or interested in networking with folks who are, plan on attending the **Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association's Annual Conference August 12-14 in Roanoke.**
- Thinking about the future of your land? Who will manage it after you are gone? Do they share your conservation values? These are tough issues. Learn how to talk about them with your family at the **Family Forestland Short-course: Focus on Land Transfer to Generation NEXT in September in Natural Bridge.**
- If you are a new woodland owner, or someone new to managing your woodlands, join us for one of our two upcoming **Beginning Landowner Weekend Retreats**, Classroom, field trips, and hands-on activities will teach you the basics. A wealth of resources will be provided to get you started.
- And, as always, we are extremely proud to offer, for the 39th consecutive year, the **Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tour series**. Registration for all tours will open mid-August. This year's tour locations and dates are as follows:
 - October 8 – Franklin/Southampton County
 - October 16 – Nelson County
 - October TBD – Wythe/Smyth Counties
- Visit the **VFLEP Events Calendar** for a complete listing of upcoming landowner events.

Follow the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program on Twitter (**@VFLEP**) and Facebook (**www.facebook.com/VFLEP**). The trivia question for August will be 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! I'm seeing lots of folks sporting these stylish caps!



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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