



Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

December 2015

Upcoming Events

- **January 25-26, Blacksburg**
24th Annual Forest Health Conference
- **February 20, Culpeper**
Woods & Wildlife Conference
- **March 9, Roanoke**
Roanoke Tree Care Workshop
- **March 25-27, Cumberland**
Landowner Weekend Retreat
- **April 21-23, Virginia Beach**
Virginia Forestry Summit
- **April 30- May 1, Abingdon**
Landowner Weekend Retreat
- **May 2, On-line**
On-line Woodland Options for Landowners
- **August 26-27, Wakefield**
Landowner Weekend Retreat

Good morning Forest e-Update Subscribers,

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving with friends and family. We escaped the cold and headed south to see family in Florida. My brother took us to Blue Springs State Park where we saw 11 manatees! A rare treat for Virginians indeed! On the way home, we stopped in lovely live oak-filled Gainesville to watch my Florida Gators lose miserably to the Florida State Seminoles in The Swamp. It's been over 20 years since I've been in The Swamp, so despite the loss, it was still awesome. And a great chance to catch up with old friends.

Speaking of friends, the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program is happy to have the Virginia Forestry Association as a long-time sponsor. For those of you who are not familiar with them, here's some highlights of what they do for Virginia's woodland owners:

From the Virginia Forestry Association:

The Virginia Forest Association (VFA) leads a unified effort to attain profitable and sustainable use of forest resources in Virginia. Woodland owners across the state join VFA to support our advocacy efforts that in turn, benefit their interest in managing and caring for their forest land. VFA has served as the champion for the Reforestation of Timberlands Program, Riparian Forest Tax Credit and strengthening of laws to protect landowners from timber trespass and theft.

We were the leader or a co-leader in the passage of the Right to Practice Forestry Act, establishment of a state Cabinet level Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry position, elimination of the Virginia estate tax, and Constitutional Amendment adding eminent domain protections for landowners.

VFA is pleased to have an ongoing partnership with Virginia Tech and the Forestry Extension program in the state. In fact, our Sustainable Forestry Initiative Committee helped initiate

Visit the Events Calendar for details!

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 Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program and establish forestry Extension agent positions serving woodland owners.

VFA also publishes the popular *Virginia Forests* magazine and endorses landowner-related insurance programs beneficial to our members.

For VFA to continue its success in representing forest landowners at federal, state, and local levels, we need your support. You are invited to join VFA on our website at www.vaforestry.org. Feel free to email us at vfa@vaforestry.org or call us at 804/278-8733.

Useful Resources

While **Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2015 Tax Year** from the USDA Forest Service is one of my favorite resources, my absolute FAVORITE resource is the State of the Forest Report from the **Virginia Department of Forestry**. Stay tuned for the release of the 2015 report.

I know many of you have expressed interest in creating quail habitat on your land. You can learn about the progress the Private Lands Biologists have made this past year in their **Bobwhite Bulletin** update.

If you are interested in reading more about trees and forests, the U.S. Government Bookstore has compiled a list of books on these topics. **View the publications here.**

Upcoming Forest Landowner Events:

We're still in planning mode for 2016 – here are some educational events we currently have scheduled – and stay tuned for more!

- **Forest Health Conference**
 - **Inn at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg**
 - January 25-26
- **11th Annual Woods & Wildlife Conference**
 - **Daniel Technology Center**, Germanna Community College, Culpeper
 - February 20, 2016
- **Roanoke Tree Care Workshop**
 - Roanoke (location TBA)
 - March 9
- **Landowner Weekend Retreats**
 - Central Virginia

- **Bear Creek Lake State Park**, Cumberland
 - March 25-27 (registration open in January)
 - Southwest Virginia
 - **Southwest Virginia 4-H Educational Center**, Abingdon
 - April 30 – May 1 (registration open in February)
 - Southeast Virginia
 - **Airfield Conference Center**, Wakefield
 - August 26-28 (registration open in June)
- **Virginia Forestry Summit**
 - Virginia Beach
 - April 21-23
- **On-line Woodland Options for Landowners**
 - On-line
 - May 2

Upcoming Real Estate Professionals Events:

- **Real Forestry for Real Estate (RFRE)**
 - January 14 – New River Valley Association of Realtors Office, Christiansburg. **Registration brochure; agenda.**

All RFRE participants will receive copies of our new publication, **Welcome to the Woods! A Guide for New Virginia Woodland Owners**, to deliver to their land-buying clients.

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**). Due to low participation, I'm putting the trivia contest on hiatus. Stay tuned for details on when it will be resumed.

All the best!

Jennifer

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