



# Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

February 2015

## Upcoming Events

- February 21, Culpeper  
**Chainsaws & Firewood: A Weekend Warrior Workshop**
- February 23, Staunton  
**Forest Health Conference**
- Late February -- March TBD  
**Protect Your Woodland Resources**
- March 2, On-line  
**On-line Woodland Options for Landowners**
- March 14, Culpeper  
**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Woods & Wildlife Conference**
- March 21, Providence Forge  
**Walk in the Forest**
- April 1, Wakefield  
**Prescribed Burning on Private Lands**
- April 15-16

## Good morning Forest e-Update Subscribers,

Spring is still a long time away. In fact, every winter I have lived in Virginia, the real weather has arrived in February. I say, bring it on! Of course, on the other hand, I'm looking longingly at the packets of vegetable seeds at Lowes and am terribly tired of flavorless store-bought tomatoes, which I can't seem to stop buying (because any tomato is better than no tomato, right?).

I have a lot of news for you this month -

- The Food and Agriculture Organization has declared 2015 as the **International Year of Soils**. To learn about the importance of our soils, **read this article** from the **Winter 2015 edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update**. Part 2 will be featured in the Spring 2015 edition. Here are some **soil facts** to read in the meantime.
- The **American Tree Farm System** has released their updated **2015-2020 Standards for Sustainability**. These are their guidelines for sustainable forest management. If you are a current Tree Farmer, or are interested in becoming one, this is an important read. The Spring 2015 **Virginia Forest Landowner Update** will feature an article highlighting some of the changes to the Standard.
- The Virginia Department of Forestry has posted their **December 2014 Forest Health Update** report. In this issue, they feature information on beech bark disease, fall cankerworm, jumping oak gall wasp, gypsy moth, and many other forest health issues. Read this, and archived issues **here**.

## Virginia Forestry Summit

- Spring Venture Outdoors!
  - April 24, Alberta
  - May 8, Lynchburg
  - May 15, Halifax

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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- Many readers may recall that in the Winter 2014 edition of the VFLU we featured an article **on the proposed listing of the Northern Bat** as an endangered species. The article examined the potential negative impacts this could have on woodland owners. In response to these concerns, the US Fish & Wildlife Service has proposed instead listing the species as threatened with a 4(d) rule. This would limit restrictions on forest management activities in the range of the northern long-eared bat. Learn what this means and comment on the proposed listing **here**.
- I am very excited to announce we are offering the first ever **VFLEP Prescribed Burning on Private Lands Workshop!** During this day-long program, we'll discuss reasons for using fire as a management tool, laws and safety, weather, and, weather permitting, we'll get hands-on burning experience. April 1, Wakefield Virginia.
- Registration is open for the 2015 offering of **On-line Woodland Options for Landowners** and the **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Woods & Wildlife Conference**. Well over 1,000 landowners have participated in each of these long-running education programs.
- 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](http://www.facebook.com/VFLEP)). Our trivia question for February is posted on the Facebook. 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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