

# Virginia Forest Landowner Update

Winter 2015

Vol. 29 No. 1

## Upcoming Events

- February 23, Staunton  
Forest Health Conference
- February – March  
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 15-16  
Virginia Forestry Summit
- Spring Venture Outdoors!
  - April 24, Alberta
  - May 8, Lynchburg
  - May 15, Halifax

## Good morning and Happy New Year Forest Update Subscribers,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with friends and family. We recently moved my 90 year old grandmother to Virginia from south Georgia, so my brother and his wife came up from Florida to celebrate Christmas. Aside from a bunch of southerners wearing winter coats from circa 1984 complaining about how cold it was (the Montgomery County wind showed up in full-force to welcome them!) we had a great time.

I'll be the first to admit though, I find putting away Christmas decorations to be bothersome and depressing. To make this gloomy task more enjoyable, here are some ideas for repurposing your Christmas tree (these only pertain to **real trees, not the plastic ones**):

- Help out woodland critters:  
<http://www.fws.gov/southeast/ea/images/pub/bck4.pdf>
- Recycle:  
<http://msucares.com/news/print/fcenews/fce09/091210tree.html>
- And more creative ideas:  
<http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/photos/0,,20331935,00.html>

Once you've finished cutting your Christmas tree into coasters, visit **Virginia Cooperative Extension's** redesigned website. The goal was to make it easier for Virginian's to find the information they need. Let us know what you think.

And, finally, my favorite publication every year, the VDOF Annual State of the Forest Report for

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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2014: <http://dof.virginia.gov/print/aboutus/SOF-2014.pdf>.

We have many spring educational opportunities scheduled (see sidebar) and more to come!

The new year brings the first 2015 edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update Newsletter. View the entire newsletter here:

<http://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu/newsletter/current/index.html>.

## In the Winter 2015 Virginia Forest Landowner Update:

- **The Forest Foundation (Part 1)**

I withstand an amazing amount of abuse. Sometimes it's just too much and I'm lost. The dirty names I've been called... yet people can't live without me. So many dump their problems on me. I was here before you, and I will be here after you, and I am all over the world. What am I?

[Read more...](#)

- **You Ain't From around Here! Exotic Invasive of the Quarter: Cogongrass**

Early detection (ED) species are exotic invasive plants that have not yet been documented in Virginia, but are found in nearby states. In 2014, we featured an article about one of these ED species, wavyleaf basketgrass. Considering early detection is often the key to keeping these species from becoming overwhelming and expensive problems, I've decided to focus on additional ED species in this column throughout 2015. So in the coming year, look for stories on some of these plants: beach vitex, tropical soda apple, giant salvinia, water hyacinth, and waterwheel.

[Read more...](#)

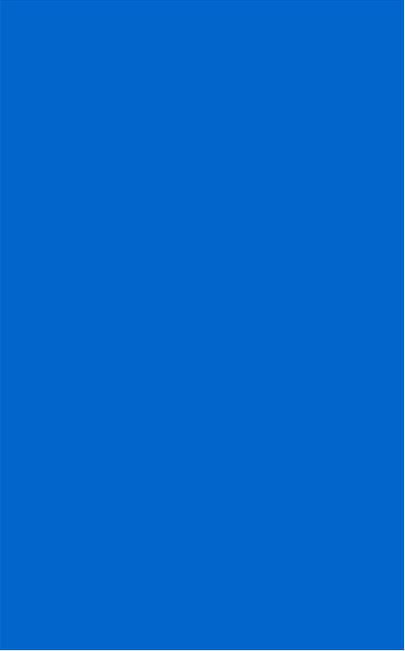
- **Cost-share Updates**

- **Useful Resources**

- **Events Calendar**

## **Read the full newsletter here.**

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 January was posted on the Facebook page on January 1 –



but you can still participate in the contest. 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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