



Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

April 2016

Upcoming Events

- **April 20-22, Virginia Beach**
Virginia Forestry Summit
- **Spring Venture Outdoors!**
 - **April 29, Halifax**
 - **May 6, Lynchburg**
 - **May 21, Alberta**
- **May 2, On-line**
On-line Woodland Options for Landowners
- **May 5, Franklin**
The Growing Interest in Longleaf Pine
- **The Woods in Your Backyard**
 - **May 6, Warrenton**
 - **May 13, Winchester**
 - **May 20, Charlottesville**
 - **June 10, Rockingham County**
- **May 12, Chesterfield**
 - **7th Annual Crop Production Services**

Good morning Forest e-Update Subscribers,

Spring has suddenly sprung! Here in the New River Valley, the **callery pears** are in full bloom (despite them being a stinky and invasive tree, they are very pretty right now), as well as the redbuds, forsythia, flowering quince, and star magnolia. Isn't it amazing how few of these trees we even notice when they aren't blooming? Honestly, any other time of the year I'd never guess that 90% of the midstory vegetation on my land is redbud – but there's no denying that in the spring.

To celebrate the season, the **Spring 2016 Virginia Forest Landowner Update** is now available. This issue is bursting at the seams! View the full issue [here](#) or read the individual articles below:

- **Backyard Woods**

When I think of the word “woods” I immediately go to a place in my mind where I spent a lot of time in my first 1.5 decades of life. It was a very unremarkable little patch of woods between our yard and a drainage ditch. Knowing what I know now, it was “nothing,” but to me it was pretty special because I could explore, hide, build and discover. This little halfacre patch of woods was important to me. [Read more...](#)

See our list of **upcoming events** (The Woods in Your Backyard) on this topic.

- **You Ain't From Around Here! Exotic Invasive of the Quarter: Spotted Lanternfly**

Although I wasn't planning on continuing with species which aren't currently in Virginia, I came across this little beauty in my reading and couldn't resist. So, here is the story of a lovely, but destructive, leafhopper called the

Vegetation Management Workshop

- August 26-28, Wakefield
SE Landowner Weekend Retreat
- September 23-25, Abingdon
SW Landowner Weekend Retreat
- October, Statewide
40th Anniversary - Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours
 - Prince William
 - Dinwiddie
 - Tazewell/Buchanan
 - Middle Peninsula

Visit the [Events Calendar](#) for details!

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Virginia Forestry Association

Forest Stewardship Program

USDA Forest Service

spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) which has been found in Pennsylvania. [Read more...](#)

- **The Growing Interest in Longleaf Pine**

Join the North Carolina Forest Service, the Virginia Department of Forestry, and partners for a day-long workshop featuring all things longleaf pine! Learn about the history of longleaf pine forests in the most northern part of its range, Southeastern Virginia and Northeastern North Carolina, and its significance in the cultural and natural histories of these two fine states. [Read more...](#)

- **Let's Wave this Good-bye: An Update on Wavyleaf Basketgrass**

An article in this newsletter ([Spring 2014. V. 28 No.2](#)) exposed this plant to Virginia landowners. Since then we've learned a few things. It is not, as previously thought, an escaped plant from a living basket arrangement. While there are some similarities, it is a distinct species as determined from genetic testing. Its name has been some source of debate that has now been settled. As of January 13, 2016 it is *Oplismenus undulatifolius* (Ard.) P. Beauv. [Read more...](#)

- [Useful Resources](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)

And one more late-breaking item not in the newsletter:

- **An Elk Management Plan For Southwestern Virginia**

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) is developing an Elk Management Plan for Southwestern Virginia to provide guidance on how to address the complex management challenges and issues related to desirable population levels, locations, recreation (including hunting), human-elk conflicts, economic impacts, and habitat conservation. The plan's focus will be areas of southwestern Virginia where elk are currently present or might move during the plan's 10-year period.

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Partnering with the Virginia Tech Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, VDGIF is incorporating diverse stakeholder values and biological guidance from wildlife professionals to develop the plan's goals, objectives, and strategies. Starting this spring, the first phase of plan development uses focus group meetings and surveys to provide opportunities for public input, identify prominent issues, and gain better understanding of Virginian's views toward elk. After this initial phase, attention shifts to developing the comprehensive elk management plan based on stakeholder values, survey results, and other scientific data. A draft plan is expected to be available for review by all citizens by summer 2017.

For more information regarding the planning process, [visit here](#).

Visit the [VFLEP Events Calendar](#) for a complete listing of upcoming landowner events.

Real Estate Professionals

Have you handed out all of your *Welcome to the Woods! A Guide for New Virginia Woodland Owners* books? If so, you can either [share this link to a digital version](#) with your land-buying clients or [request to have print copies](#) sent to you.

Follow the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program on Twitter ([@VFLEP](#)) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/VFLEP).

All the best!

Jennifer

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