



# Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

January 2016

## Upcoming Events

- **January 25-26,  
Blacksburg**  
24<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Forest Health  
Conference
- **February 20,  
Culpeper**  
Woods &  
Wildlife  
Conference
- **March 9,  
Roanoke**  
Roanoke Tree  
Care Workshop
- **March 18-20,  
Cumberland**  
Landowner  
Weekend  
Retreat
- **April 20-22,  
Virginia Beach**  
Virginia  
Forestry  
Summit
- **May 2, On-line**  
On-line  
Woodland  
Options for  
Landowners

### Good morning Forest e-Update Subscribers and the happiest of New Years to you!

This year we harvested our first Frasier fir Christmas tree, one of several we planted 4 years ago. It's tiny, but we grew it. Of course, if you had a Christmas tree, January 1 means it's time to un-decorate and dispose of it (a thankless task indeed, made more tolerable this year because my tree was so tiny!).

Here are some tips on repurposing your tree (recycled from last year):

- <http://msucares.com/news/print/fcenews/fce09/091210tree.html>
- <http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/photos/0,,20331935,00.html>
- <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/ea/images/pubback4.pdf>
- <http://www.thereadystore.com/diy/5749/what-to-do-with-your-christmas-tree-after-christmas/>

If any of you grind up your tree and use it as a natural thickener for foods (a suggestion in the last article linked above), by all means, feel free to share this experience with me!

This past year I had the opportunity to see so many of you at programs across Virginia. And one thing that struck me was that many of you said "Oh, you're the one that sends me all those e-mails". Ok, I hear you. I definitely don't want to inundate your in-box. So for 2016, I'm going to a bi-monthly e-newsletter format - that means only 6 e-mails a year. Because I certainly don't want you to tire of me!

The new year also means it's time for the Winter 2016 edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update Newsletter. View the newsletter in its entirety [here](#), or read the individual articles below:

- **Shortleaf Pine: An Opportunity for Landowners in Virginia**  
Mike Black, Shortleaf Pine Initiative

#### Overview

Shortleaf pine forests and associated habitats once covered a vast area of the continent from the piney woods of eastern

- **August 26-28, Wakefield**

**Landowner Weekend Retreat**

- **Sept. 23-25, Abingdon**

**Landowner Weekend Retreat**

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**

### Contact

**Jennifer Gagnon**

Texas and Oklahoma to the eastern seaboard from New Jersey to Florida. Shortleaf pine dominated significant portions of its historic range due to its adaptation to frequent fire return intervals that were common for thousands of years until the loss of open range and subsequent fire suppression efforts. Shortleaf pine not only provided outstanding forest products for dimension lumber, poles and paper, but also excellent wildlife habitat, particularly in stands with adequate sunlight to the ground and frequent fire return intervals. The loss of these open forest habitats has led to significant declines in both plant and wildlife populations and range that are dependent on these early successional forests. [Read more...](#)

- **You Ain't From Around Here! Exotic Invasive of the Quarter: Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)**

**Jennifer Gagnon, Virginia Tech**

This quarter, we'll take a look at water hyacinth. According to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, this species isn't officially in Virginia; but the USDA PLANTS Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System shows it being reported in Augusta County, Hampton, and Virginia Beach, so it may very well be unofficially here.

I'll be honest, when I began writing this article, I was totally uninspired and apathetic about water hyacinth. Aside from learning how to identify it during an aquatic plant lab in dendrology in the summer of 1997, I had little knowledge of it. This all changed as I started research for this article. Turns out, water hyacinth does not lack for interesting details. In fact, because of this plant, we almost had hippopotamuses in Louisiana. More on that shortly. [Read more...](#)

- **Calendar of Events**

- **Useful Resources**

- The [2015 State of The Forest](#) report from the Virginia Department of Forestry is now available!!
- **Dovetail Partners** provides authoritative information about the impacts and trade-offs of environmental decisions, including consumption choices, land use, and policy alternatives. Check out one of their latest publications: *American Chestnut: A Primer on an Eastern Forest Icon*, [http://www.dovetailinc.org/report\\_pdfs/2015/dovetailamericanchestnut1015.pdf](http://www.dovetailinc.org/report_pdfs/2015/dovetailamericanchestnut1015.pdf).

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- **Forests for the Bay** promotes healthy forests and good forest management in the states surrounding the Chesapeake Bay. Sign up for their newsletter and learn more about their program at: <https://www.forestsforthebay.org/index.cfm>.  
Read more...

#### Upcoming Forest Landowner Events:

We're in full swing for 2016. Here is a list of upcoming landowner education events:

- **Forest Health Conference**
  - **Inn at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg**
  - January 25-26
- **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Woods & Wildlife Conference (registration is open!)**
  - **Daniel Technology Center**, Germanna Community College, Culpeper
  - February 20, 2016
- **Roanoke Tree Care Workshop**
  - Roanoke (location TBA)
  - March 9
- **Landowner Weekend Retreats**
  - Central Virginia (registration is open!)
    - **Bear Creek Lake State Park**, Cumberland
    - March 18-20
  - Southeast Virginia
    - **Airfield Conference Center**, Wakefield
    - August 26-28 (registration open in June)
  - Southwest Virginia
    - **Southwest Virginia 4-H Educational Center**, Abingdon
    - Sept. 23-25 (registration open in July)
- **Virginia Forestry Summit**
  - Virginia Beach
  - April 20-22
- **On-line Woodland Options for Landowners**

- On-line
- May 2

**Upcoming Real Estate Professionals Events:**

- **Real Forestry for Real Estate (RFRE) (registration is open!)**
  - 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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**<http://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu/newsletter/archives/index.html>**

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