



Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

Fall 2016

Upcoming Events

- **October 5 & 12, Orange**
Preparing for Generation NEXT
- **October, Statewide**
40th Anniversary - Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours
 - **Essex – Oct. 7**
 - **Lee – Oct. 11**
 - **Prince William – Oct. 14**
 - **Dinwiddie/Nottoway – Oct. 20**
- **October 23, Montpelier Station**
Working Woods Walk
- **October 29, Madison**
Natural Hardwood Charcoal Making Demonstration

Visit the Events Calendar for details!

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Good morning Forest e-Update Subscribers,

I realize it isn't October 1 yet, but I'm SO very excited about the programs we have coming up for you this fall, I just couldn't wait to send this e-newsletter out. Plus, the **Fall 2016 edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update** is available!

What programs am I so excited about? First off, we have a **Focusing on Land Transfer to Generation NEXT Program** at **The Inn at Willow Grove** in Orange. This 2-part program will be held on Oct. 5 and 12th. Dinner is included in the application fee. The importance of this program really hit home with me this weekend as I drove a van of Virginia landowners to the Channels State Forest. The main topic of discussion in the van was about passing land on to the next generation. One landowner said "Nothing tears a family apart faster than land". But wise planning may prevent this from happening. If you are in this situation, please join us in Orange for tips, tools, and talking points to start this important discussion with your family. Both **mail-in** and **on-line** applications are still being accepted.

Second, in case you haven't heard, this October is the celebration of the 40th year of the Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours. These tours are filling up fast, so don't delay **registering**. The tours are featured in articles in the **Virginia Forestry Association's Virginia Forests** magazine, the **Forest Landowner Association's Forest Landowner Magazine**, and the **Richmond Times-Dispatch**. All registrants will receive a special 40th anniversary commemorative gift.

Tour itineraries and mail-in registration are available. On-line registration is open.

- October 7 – Essex County
- October 11 – Lee County

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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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- October 14 – Prince William County
- October 20 – Dinwiddie/Nottoway Counties

In addition, there will be a Working Woods Walk at James Madison's Montpelier on October 23. This Master Naturalist-led walk will feature demonstrations of good woodland management. Include a tour of the newly restored mansion for a full day of history and education.

Finally, take a trip to lovely Madison County on October 29 and learn how to make hardwood charcoal from unwanted species such as tree-of-heaven.

You can find details about all these events on the [Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program's Events Calendar](#).

And, if that isn't enough excitement for one newsletter, here's what you'll find in the [Fall 2016 edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update](#):

- [What's Going on with Bears in Virginia?](#)

By: Jim Parkhurst, Virginia Tech


Black bears are one of the most charismatic animals among all resident fauna of Virginia and, as such, a unique relationship between the general public and bears seems to have emerged. Depending upon whom you ask, this interaction might best be described as a kind of love/hate relationship. Comments recently offered by a Roanoke County property owner provide an effective demonstration of this relationship — "Bears are great! I love seeing them and knowing that they exist here in Virginia, but only if they're not anywhere near my property." This sentiment clearly illustrates the management dilemma biologists charged with managing black bear populations in Virginia now face — how do we, as a society, assure the continued existence of the species without creating hardship for or conflict among stakeholders?

[Read more...](#)

- [The Fragmented Forest](#)

By: Adam Downing, Virginia Cooperative Extension

Those words carry negative undertones. Perhaps I should've chosen a different title like "Forest Bits &



Pieces” or “Checkerboard Forestry” which sound more like an environmentally friendly candy or a board game. Aside from the undertones of the phrase, the fact is that forest fragmentation has both positive and negative consequences. Forest fragmentation is the conversion of forests to non-forest use, leading to a diversity of land uses on former forestland.

Parcelization, the division of large, continuous forest tracts into smaller properties and ownerships, creates the conditions necessary for forest fragmentation.

[Read more...](#)

- **The Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours Celebrate Their 40th Anniversary!**

By: Jennifer Gagnon, Virginia Tech

Way back in 1976 I was far more concerned about reading the complete Nancy Drew Mystery Series than I was about teaching landowners about practicing sustainable forestry. Luckily though, there were natural resource professionals here in Virginia who were interested in teaching this topic to landowners. These folks included Professor Emeritus Harry Haney, John Gunter, retired USDA Forest Service, and Charlie Finley, former Executive Director of the Virginia Forestry Association. Together, with a host of partners from Federal, State, and private forest industry, they developed what we now call the Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours. Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program have organized these Tours for the past 11 years. [Read more...](#)

- **Useful Resources**

Now that the weather is cooling off, you may be looking for fun and educational outdoor activities for you and your family. Here are some suggestions:

- **Nature Activities for Families:** This Project Learning Tree publication has outdoor activities to introduce kids 3 – 15 to nature. Available on-line (free) or in print (\$16.95): <https://www.forestfoundation.org/family-activities-in-nature>
- **Discover the Forest:** The USDA Forest Service has a number of free outdoor activities and videos for children, parents, and teachers. Find

them here:

<http://www.discovertheforest.org/what-to-do/>

- **Dovetail Partners' ForestInfo.org** website has a long list of both indoor and outdoor nature activities for kids.
- If you're planning a fall road trip, you may consider stopping to see some of these destination trees:

<https://roadtrippers.com/trips/14617096?lat=40.80972&lng=-96.67528&z=5>

Phew! After that, we'll be busy working on landowner education programs for 2017!

I hope to see you out in the woods this fall!

Jennifer

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