Women Landowners Network and Learn About Conservation Stewardship By Kim Woodwell and Jim Baird, American Farmland Trust

While women always have been a critical part of farming and land ownership, with our growing rural population, they are now becoming crucial decision-makers as farmland changeover, succession and predetermined numbers. As open opportunities, such as women are often owned by one or inheritors of women, women are taking on roles as active landowners and women-only decision makers. The trend is expected to continue on the next two decades, with approximately 11 million acres of land owned by women, and millions of it transferred to women.

People increasing in number, women can be encouraged to provide landowners with the resources to be successful stewards of the land. According to a USDA report, Women’s Voices, Women’s Choices (2016), women are participating in non-farming landowners, leading and managing their land through practices and programs. Women are participating with conservation agencies and other social who have been involved in women by women in the conservation.

Women Landowners Network and Learn About Conservation Stewardship

The “Women and Land Workshop” held on Friday, March 11, 2016, was an opportunity and since 2011 has been working to expand the effort to engage and empower women landowners across the country. The Virginia Forest Stewardship Program (VFSP) and the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) joined forces to put on this workshop. The “Women and Land Workshop” included a set-up workshop that Virginia’s new Century Forest Program. This program recognizes Virginia families whose properties have been in the same family for 100 years or more, and include 20 continuous acres of managed forest, No bin land or by managed by a descendant of the original owner, and have a documented history of timber harvests on the property. There were also a few other topics, including fire management and how to use fire as a tool to manage your woodlands and keep them healthy. Both of these articles can be found on the VFLU archived issues. The “Women and Land Workshop” included a set-up workshop that Virginia’s new Century Forest Program. This program recognizes Virginia families whose properties have been in the same family for 100 years or more, and include 20 continuous acres of managed forest, No bin land or by managed by a descendant of the original owner, and have a documented history of timber harvests on the property. There were also a few other topics, including fire management and how to use fire as a tool to manage your woodlands and keep them healthy. Both of these articles can be found on the VFLU archived issues.

According to the women in the Women, Food and Agriculture Network, more than 50 percent of the women who signed the letter take a conservation action within six months of completing the Learning Circle. AFT is keenly interested in this work nationally and is sponsoring Learning Circles in several locations, including one that focused on “The Woman and Land Workshop” held in March in Rockingham County. AFT believes that rethinking traditional approaches to outreach can be an effective way to engage and empower women landowners to become more knowledgeable and confident about conservation issues, practices, and programs. The participants’ questions and interests drive the conversation, as the technical staff educate about best practices and available resources in soil and water conservation.

Additional information about “Women and Land” and upcoming events can be found at www.vflu.org. Additional support for the Women and Land Workshop program comes from the Prince George County Trust, Virginia Environmental Endowment, the Virginia Department of Forestry, the USDA Forest Service Stewardship Program, and the Estate of Jean Shadwell.

Kim Woodwell in the Virginia Women and Land Project Coordinator, bwoodwell@farmland.org, landowners are essential to keeping working lands in production.

Kim Woodwell in the Virginia Women and Land Project Coordinator, bwoodwell@farmland.org, landowners are essential to keeping working lands in production.

Kim Woodwell in the Virginia Women and Land Project Coordinator, bwoodwell@farmland.org, landowners are essential to keeping working lands in production.

Kim Woodwell in the Virginia Women and Land Project Coordinator, bwoodwell@farmland.org, landowners are essential to keeping working lands in production.

Kim Woodwell in the Virginia Women and Land Project Coordinator, bwoodwell@farmland.org, landowners are essential to keeping working lands in production.

Kim Woodwell in the Virginia Women and Land Project Coordinator, bwoodwell@farmland.org, landowners are essential to keeping working lands in production.
The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is an exotic invasive that has been in Virginia for quite a while now. I've put off writing about it because I traditionally focus on invasive species that damage forests. However, I suspect many woodland owners are like me, and not uninterested in BMSB’s presence, but also realize that it probably has nothing directly impacting your forest properties.

If you are a real estate professional or Commissioner of the Revenue, please visit the Landowner Update website for a schedule of our continuing education classes, Real Forestry for Real Estate. (http://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu).

EVENT CONTACTS
13th Annual Woods & Wildlife Conference
Jennifer Gagnon
804/786-1712
jgagnon@vt.edu; 540/231-6391.

Biological control methods are also being explored. Most of our native stink bug populations are kept in check by egg parasites. One such approach is called trap cropping. This approach capitalizes on the idea of BMSBs invading crop perimeters first. Species of stink bugs attracted to the perimeter are then baited with attractant pheromones. BMSBs will invade these areas and stay there through the growing season. This trap crop area is then baited with attractant pheromones. BMSBs will invade these areas and stay there through the growing season. Once the eggs hatch, there are between 3-5 instar or nymph stages. The nymphs develop on tree leaves or under the bark of the tree. The nymphs eventually become adults and fly out of the tree. The adults then fly to other trees and lay eggs in cracks and crevices. The nymphs then hatch and begin the cycle again. The nymphs also feed on trees, many spend the winter in our cozy homes. Typically, the infestation begins the following spring and can continue throughout the growing season. Damage

MARKETING LOCATION
Virginia's State Parks

If you are interested in participating, please contact Jennifer Gagnon at jgagnon@vt.edu; 540/231-6391.

Virginia's State Parks and other Virginia state parks offer a variety of natural resources and opportunities for public use. These resources include forests, wildlife, water bodies, and recreation areas. The state parks provide a variety of recreational activities such as hiking, camping, fishing, boating, and picnicking. The state parks also play an important role in the conservation of natural resources. The state parks are managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VDCR). For more information about the state parks, please visit the VDCR website (http://www.vcpr.state.va.us).