

A New Story (and Logo Too)

By: Adam Downing, VCE and Mike Santucci, VDOF

Some readers of the *Virginia Forest Landowner Update* are familiar with the Generation NEXT program, as you may be one of the 235 landowners who have participated in the two-day short-course. We hope the other 404,765 family woodland owners in Virginia will consider this topic too, because there is probably nothing more important for the future of Virginia's forest than the future of the families that own two-thirds of it.

The old story has gone something like this: Grandma and Grandpa handed the land down to their four children by dividing it into equal parts; the second generation plans to do the same. This results in many small pieces of woodland that are at high risk of conversion to other uses.

The new story Generation NEXT is helping landowners to tell is the legacy of not only passing on land, possibly in a manner that doesn't break it into smaller pieces, but also the legacy of stewardship and caring for the land. Of those who have completed this short-course, approximately 80% indicate that their land has a much better chance of remaining "Intact, In forest and In the family."

If you haven't given this topic much thought, or don't know where to start, we have two ideas for you to consider:

1. Go to <http://ext.vt.edu/natural-resources/legacy-planning.html> and poke around in the ideas presented there.
2. Join us for an abbreviated version of Generation NEXT, called the [Your Land Your Legacy Program](#), in Roanoke on May 5, the Friday morning workshop after the Forestry Summit. Special guest, Paul Catanzaro from the University of Massachusetts, will be one of the presenters.
3. Stay tuned for three full-length Generation NEXT short-courses across Virginia this year.
 - a. Southwest - Christiansburg, Aug. 22 & 29
 - b. Central - Dates and location coming soon
 - c. Southeast - Dates and location coming soon

Adam Downing is the Northern District Forestry & Natural Resources Agent, 540-948-6881, adowning@vt.edu; Mike Santucci is the Assistant Director for Forest Land Conservation, 434-220-9182, mike.santucci@dof.virginia.gov.

About This Logo



- The colors represent the natural elements -- the woods, the soil, and the water – that family forest landowners manage, conserve, and protect.
- The tree represents the idea of a family forest landowner.
- The "generation NEXT" fonts emphasize the idea of stewarding and passing the family woodland legacy forward to future generations.
- The arrow implies that a legacy, and associated planning is ongoing... a full circle.
- The hand-in-hand is meant to represent multiple generations, and the idea of instilling and nurturing a legacy from one to the next.