



Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

Winter 2017

Volume 31 Number 1

Upcoming Events

13th Annual Woods & Wildlife Conference

- February 25, Culpeper

Emerald Ash Borer and Other Tree Pests

- March 23, Lynchburg
- March 30, Monroe
- April 6, Bedford

Virginia Forestry Summit

- Roanoke, May 3-5

Preparing for Generation NEXT Workshop

- Roanoke, May 5

Beginning Landowner Weekend Retreats

- Appomattox, March 17-19
- Abingdon, August 18-20
- Providence Forge, September 22-24

On-line Woodland Options for Landowners

- Spring 2017

Visit the Events Calendar for details!

VFLEP Sponsors

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Good morning and Happy New Year Forest e-Update Subscribers,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and went outside with your families to celebrate the beauty of this time of year. The new year provides us with an opportunity to begin thinking about the future of our land. So I ask you:

What's next for your woods?

Will it be the wedge that "drives your family apart" or is it the "glue to hold the family together"?

If you haven't considered this, or if you aren't sure how to answer, we invite you to a special landowner workshop being held as part of the Forestry Summit at Hotel Roanoke on May 5th. The workshop will feature Paul Catanzaro from the UMass Amherst Department of Environmental Conservation, as well as an attorney and CPA experienced in the intergenerational transfer of family woodlands. Landowners will be exposed to, and inspired by, the concepts and tools presented related to keeping their woods intact, in forest, and in the family. When it comes to Virginia's forestland, there is no greater opportunity to conserve this essential resource than planning to ensure the next generations' engagement. Furthermore, there is much to be gained, or lost, for the family itself.

Mr. Catanzaro is one of the nation's premier experts in family forest ownership and coiner of the term "Conservation Based Estate Planning". He is a member of the Family Forest Research Center and a recipient of a national award for his integrated research and extension work which focuses on land transfer. This workshop is sponsored by Virginia Cooperative

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

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Extension, Virginia Department of Forestry, the Virginia Forest Landowner Program, and the Virginia Forestry Association, with a grant from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

A few interesting natural resource items in the news of late:

1. The [2016 Annual State of the Forest](#) report from the Virginia Department of Forestry is now available. This useful document will provide you with current information on forest health, forest management, wildfire data, and much more.
2. [Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2016 Tax Year](#) is available from the USDA Forest Service. If you sold timber this year, this is a must read for you and your tax preparer.

And, finally, the [Winter 2017](#) Issue of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update Newsletter is now available. In this issue:

- **Women Landowners Network and Learn About Conservation Stewardship**

While women have always been a critical part of farming and land stewardship, with our aging rural population, they are now becoming landowners in unprecedented numbers. As new operators, widows, or inheritors of land, women are taking on roles as owners and decision makers. This trend is expected to continue over the next two decades, with approximately 240 million acres of land predicted to change hands, and much of it transferred to women. [Read more...](#)

- **You Ain't From Around Here! Exotic Invasive of the Quarter: Brown Marmorated Stink Bug**

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 exotic invasives that damage forests. However, I suspect many woodland owners are like me, and not only have woods, but also have gardens and/or orchards. In which case, the BMSB is probably bugging you, even if it's not directly impacting your forest trees. [Read more...](#)

- **Be Safe; Be Firewise**

The recent drought and the subsequent wildfires present a good opportunity to remind everyone that when it comes to woodland management, fire can be a friend and a foe. In the

Summer 2015 edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update, we featured an article on how to develop a plan to protect your property from wildfires. That article was followed up in Fall 2015 with an article on 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 newsletter page: <http://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu/newsletter/archives.html>; For more information on how to make your landscape Firewise, visit:

<http://dof.virginia.gov/fire/firewiseva/>. [Read on-line.](#)

- **Virginia's Century Forest Program**

The Summer 2016 edition of the VFLU included a write-up about Virginia's new Century Forest Program. This program recognizes Virginia families whose properties have been in the same family for 100 years or more, include at least 20 contiguous acres of managed forests, are lived on or managed by a descendant of the original owners, and have a documented history of timber harvests or other forest management activities. [Read more...](#)

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

Our list of upcoming landowner education events is quickly growing. Here's what we have scheduled so far:

13th Annual Woods & Wildlife Conference

- February 25, [Daniel Technology Center](#), Germanna Community College, Culpeper
- An event for new or experienced owners of woodlands small or large!

Emerald Ash Borer and Other Tree Pests – Woodlot Series

- March 23, [Central Virginia Community College](#), Lynchburg
- March 30, [Monroe Education Center](#), Monroe
- April 6, [Claytor Nature Study Center](#), Bedford

2017 Virginia Forestry Summit

- May 3-5, [Hotel Roanoke](#), Roanoke
- There will be a special landowner track Thursday morning, a landowner field trip Thursday afternoon, and a 4-hour Friday morning workshop on how to keep your land intact, in forest, and in the family.

2017 Beginning Landowner Weekend Retreats

- March 17-19, Central Virginia, [Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center](#), Appomattox
- August 18-20, Southwest Virginia, [SW VA 4-H Educational Center](#), Abingdon
- September 22-24, Southeast Virginia, [New Kent Forestry Center](#), Providence Forge

Preparing for Generation NEXT – dates and locations coming soon!

- May 5th - Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke
- Northern Virginia
- Central Virginia
- Southeast Virginia
- Southwest Virginia

On-line Woodland Options for Landowners

- Registration will open in early 2017
- Class will begin Spring 2017

More events will be posted when available on the [Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program's Events Calendar](#).

Best wishes for a wonderful New Year!

Jennifer

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