

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

SPRING 2018

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Featured Events

Learn and Burn: Prescribed Burning on Private Lands

- May 10 (Rain date May 17), Wakefield
- Register by mail
- Register on-line

Backyard Woods Workshops

- May 10 & 17, Potomac Falls
- May 12, Leesburg
- Register on-line
- Register by mail

Spring Venture Outdoors Tree ID Series

- May 18, Halifax
- May 24, Lynchburg
- Register on-line
- Register by mail

Visit the [Events Calendar](#) for details!

VFLEP Partners & Sponsors

Good morning Forest e-Update Subscribers,

I'm learning that the arrival of vegetable seeds in the mail is far less exciting when your garden is an untilled mud puddle because it had a foot of snow covering it only a week ago. Our farm was very close to the epicenter of last week's storm – just east of the center of the bullseye indicating 10-15" of snow. But it melted quickly and I can now enjoy the spring, fully satisfied with the winter. Hopefully all of you have your power restored (we were without for 5 days) and didn't suffer too much tree damage.

We have a large Norway maple in our front yard ([described here](#)) and we have been threatening to cut it down for a year now. During this storm it signed its own death warrant – dropping a large branch on top of the house. Somehow it didn't puncture the tin roof. But it's far too scary to remain. I'll post photos of the removal party (scheduled for April 7th) on the VFLEP Facebook page.

In the meantime, the spring edition of the [Virginia Forest Landowner Update Newsletter](#) is now available!

In this edition:

- [Oak Decline in Virginia](#)

Why are my oaks dying? This is one of the most common questions we receive in the Virginia Department of Forestry's Forest Health Program. If we're lucky, there is an obvious answer such as defoliation by an invasive insect or chemical damage by herbicide sprayed on adjacent crops. Nine times out of ten, however, the answer is not so easy and this is when we reference "oak decline." [Read more...](#)

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

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- [You Ain't from Around Here! Exotic Invasive of the Quarter: Porcelain-Berry](#)

“DO NOT, I REPEAT DO NOT BUY THIS PLANT!!! And if you see your local nurseries selling it please notify them that it is an INVASIVE MONSTER. IF YOU CAN IDENTIFY IT, RIP OR CLIP IT. Regardless of your zone, do not even take the chance. Here in the New England/ Tri-State area it is wreaking havoc and displacing thousands of acres of native, beautiful habitat EVERY YEAR. It is utterly horrifying to myself (a botanist and horticulturalist). [Read more...](#)”

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

News & Resources

It's tax time! If you sold timber in 2017, be sure to review [Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2017 Tax Year](#) (and share a copy with your tax preparer). You can also watch the free webinar, [Timber Tax Filing for the 2017 Tax Year](#).

Got an Ash? The Virginia Department of Forestry is offering a 50% cost-share program to help landowners and organizations (non-profits, schools, HOAs, municipalities) treat their Ash trees to prevent death by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). To begin the application process, download the PDF describing the process from the Forest Health section here: <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/health/index.htm> and fill out Form 6.5 (<http://www.dof.virginia.gov/forms/index.htm>) with the help of your local forester. Two workshops are scheduled this spring to provide more information on this program. See below for details.

Upcoming Woodland Owner Events

My goodness! Extension and our partners have so many landowner programs scheduled this spring. Honestly I cannot recall a time in the past 13 years when I've had so many to advertise. Below is a subsample – for a complete listing visit the [Events Calendar](#).

**Blacksburg, VA
24061**

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Working Woods Walk

Venture into the Montpelier Demonstration Forest on a two-hour hike with experts in forest conservation. Learn about conservation and cultivation strategies that generate mutual benefit to man and nature.

- April 8
- 2:00
- [James Madison's Montpelier](#), Montpelier Station
- \$5
- Register [on-line](#)

Invasive Plant Identification and Treatment Methods

Join [Blue Ridge PRISM](#) to learn to identify and treat some of the most common and destructive invasive plants in north central Virginia.

- April 10 or May 15
- 6:30 – 8:30
- Albemarle High School, Charlottesville
- \$20
- Register [on-line](#)

Virginia Forestry Summit – Brilliant Achievements, Bold Horizons

Non-VFA members: please consider attending this event! With a full registration, VFA will give you a free 1-year membership (offer applies only to first-time members).

- May 1-4
- Richmond
- [Register on-line](#)

Quail Management Workshop

- May 8
- Grace Church Parish Hall, Jarratt
- 8:45 – 3:30
- Free – please register at 757-653-2572 by April 30th

Emerald Ash Borer Workshops

Learn about the emerald ash borer and the resources available to homeowners and landowners dealing with this and other exotic invasive pests.

- [Managing Emerald Ash Borer and Other Tree Pests in our Woodlands](#)
 - \$5/person; \$10/household
 - April 26
 - 1 – 4:00
 - [Miller Park](#), Lynchburg
 - Register [by mail](#)
 - Register [on-line](#)
- [Emerald Ash Borer – What are my Treatment Options?](#)
 - Free
 - May 9
 - 1 – 4:00
 - [Ivy Creek Natural Area](#), Charlottesville
 - May 14
 - 1 – 4:00
 - [Claytor Nature Study Center](#), Bedford
 - Register [by mail](#)
 - Register [on-line](#)

Learn and Burn: Prescribed Burning on Private Lands

This one-day workshop will outline benefits of using fire as a management tool on your property, where to go, and who to contact when you need assistance, and how burns are conducted safely and successfully. You will also have the chance to actively participate in a prescribed burn (weather permitting). Register early – participation is limited to 30.

- May 10 (Rain date May 17)
- 9 – 5:00
- [Airfield Conference Center](#), Wakefield
- \$15 - includes lunch
- Register [by mail](#)
- Register [on-line](#)

Woods in Your Backyard Workshops

Small lots are a big deal. The vast majority of landowners in Virginia own less than 10 acres. By enhancing wooded areas or creating natural areas on your lot, you can enjoy recreation, aesthetics, wildlife and improved water quality and the air you breathe. Owners of even just a few acres can make a positive difference in their environment through planning and implementing simple stewardship practices learned at this workshop.

- **May 10 & 17**
 - 6-9:00 p.m.
 - [Cascades Library](#), Potomac Falls
 - Free
 - Register [on-line](#)
 - Register [by mail](#)
- **May 12**
 - 9 - 2
 - [Rust Library](#), Leesburg
 - Free – includes lunch
 - Register [on-line](#)
 - Register [by mail](#)

Spring Venture Outdoors Tree ID Series

Are you a forest landowner who wants to know more about your trees? Each spring Virginia Cooperative Extension offers one-day short courses on management options for forestland in Southside Virginia and this year for the first time we will focus on tree identification – where it all begins! After lunch there will be an update on invasive plants and insects and a short field trip.

- 10 – 3:00
- \$20/person; \$30/couple
 - May 18
 - Wedgewood Golf Center, Halifax
 - May 24
 - [CVCC Campus](#), Lynchburg
- Register [on-line](#)
- Register [by mail](#)

Natural History of the Great Smoky Mountains Course

This is a three-credit course offered by the Virginia Tech Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation. People who are not degree-seeking Virginia Tech students may still participate in the course as special, non-degree students; an

application process to Virginia Tech for that status is required.

- August 4-11
- Great Smoky Mountain National Park
- See [flier for details](#)

If you're interested in the Great Smoky Mountains or the southern Appalachians in general—the water, air, land, people, plants, wildlife, and more—consider the Virginia Tech course, **Natural History of the Great Smoky Mountains**, August 4-11, 2018. This is a three-credit course offered by the Virginia Tech Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation. People who are not degree-seeking Virginia Tech students may still participate in the course as special, non-degree students; an application process to Virginia Tech for that status is required. For more information about the course, contact Alan Raflo at (540) 231-5463 or araflo@vt.edu.

Beginning Landowner Weekend Retreats

New landowners and those new to woodland management, join VDOF and VCE for a weekend of classroom lectures, hands-on activities, and field trips that will help you get started with keeping your woods healthy and productive. On-site lodging is available.


- **SW Virginia**
 - o August 17-19, 2018
 - o [SW Virginia 4-H Center](#), Abingdon
 - o Registration opens in June
- **SE Virginia**
 - o September 21-23, 2018
 - o [New Kent Forestry Center](#), Providence Forge
 - o Registration opens in July

For a full listing of events, visit the [Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program's Events Calendar](#).

I look forward to working with all of you!

Jennifer

Follow the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program on Twitter ([@VFLEP](#)) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/VFLEP).



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