

# Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

February  
2018

## Featured Events

### 14th Annual Woods & Wildlife Conference

- February 24
- Culpeper
- Registration

### On-line Woodland Options for Landowners

- On-line
- February 12
- Registration

### Beginning Landowner Weekend Retreats

- Central
  - Appointments

Good morning Forest e-Update Subscribers,

I'm off in Albuquerque attending the National Tree Farm System's Annual Meeting. Not only am I visiting a new state (I only have 7 left), but I'm also learning how we can strengthen the [Tree Farm Program in Virginia](#). If you are interested in learning how to become part of the Tree Farm Program, stay tuned for upcoming Tree Farmer events later this year.

In the meantime, I am thrilled to announce VFLEP's first ever drone workshop – Taking Forest Management to New Heights Using Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS, drones). This 4-hour program will provide you with the basics of using a UAS, provide a live flying demonstration, and show you how to use/interpret the data collected.

I'm equally excited to announce VFLEP's 2<sup>nd</sup> Prescribed Fire workshop. We first held this workshop in April of 2015 and it was a huge success, with over 35 landowners in attendance. Thanks to our partners at the Nature Conservancy, everyone who wanted to had a chance to carry a drip torch and start some fire. Learn the whys and hows of safely burning your woods, and get some hands-on experience at this day-long program.

Please see [Upcoming Woodland Owner Events](#) below for details on these and other upcoming events

## Useful News & Resources

- **Let's start off with the bad news.** The spotted lanternfly has been detected in Frederick County, VA. Please be on the lookout and report any sightings. Learn about this exotic invasive pest of grapes, peaches, and hops here: <https://ext.vt.edu/agriculture/commercial-horticulture/spotted-lanternfly.html> and here: [https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu/content/dam/forestupdate\\_frec\\_vt\\_edu/newsletter/archives/2016/30\\_2/SpottedLanternfly.pdf](https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu/content/dam/forestupdate_frec_vt_edu/newsletter/archives/2016/30_2/SpottedLanternfly.pdf)
- **Now some good news: Got an Ash?** The Virginia Department of Forestry is launching a 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). For more information about EAB,

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visit [emeraldashborer.info](http://emeraldashborer.info) and keep an eye out for workshops in March/April 2018. If you know you have an ash tree and want details about the cost-share program, please contact Meredith Bean (EAB Coordinator) Phone: 434-220-9034 or Email: [meredith.bean@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:meredith.bean@dof.virginia.gov)

- [2017 State of the Forest](#) (Virginia Department of Forestry)
- [Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2017 Tax Year](#) (USDA Forest Service)
- [Invasive Forest Plants of the Mid-Atlantic](#) (Penn State)
- [The Lumber Industry Responds to the Rise of Mass Timber](#) (related to VFLEP's Fall article on CLT)

## Upcoming Woodland Owner Events

### 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Woods & Wildlife Conference

Over 1,300 Virginia woodland owners have attended this annual conference. A variety of break-out sessions are offered to appeal to both new and experienced owners, as well as owners of both small and large woodlots. Spaces are filling up fast!!

- February 24, 2018
- 8:30 – 4:30
- [Daniel Technology Center, Germanna Community College, Culpeper](#)
- \$45/person; \$80/couple – includes lunch
- [Register On-line](#)
- [Register by Mail](#)

### On-line Woodland Options for Landowners

This 12-week self-paced class is geared for those interested in deepening their understanding of woodland management and participating in hands-on management activities.

- Class begins February 12, 2018
- Hands-on in-person field trip April 14, James Madison's Montpelier
- \$45/family
- [Register On-line](#)
- [Register by Mail](#)

### Beginning Landowner Weekend Retreats

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## Taking Woodland Management to New Heights

- Amherst
- March 30
- Registration opens in Feb.

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

## VFLEP Partners & Sponsors

Virginia Cooperative Extension  
*Puts university knowledge into the hands of people.*

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.

- Central Virginia
  - March 16-18, 2018
  - [Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center](#), Appomattox
  - Individual, No Lodging - \$50 Couple, No Lodging - \$90 Individual, Sat. Lodging - \$75 Couple, Sat. Lodging - \$140 Individual, Fri. & Sat. Lodging - \$100
  - All meals included Saturday and 2 meals included Sunday
  - [Register On-line](#)
  - [Register by Mail](#)
- SW Virginia
  - August 17-19, 2018
  - [SW Virginia 4-H Center](#), Abingdon
  - Registration opens in June
- SE Virginia
  - September 28-30, 2018
  - [New Kent Forestry Center](#), Providence Forge
  - Registration opens in July

## Woods in Your Backyard Workshop

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. Topics: Forest Ecology, Enhancing Wildlife Habitat, Tree & Shrub ID, Converting Lawn to Natural Areas, Invasive Plant Identification and Control, Native Plants, Pollinators, and Birds, Forest Farming (e.g., Growing Shiitake Mushrooms)

- March 24
- 8:30 - 4:00
- [Virginia Public Safety Training Center](#), Hanover

**Virginia  
Department  
of Forestry**  
*Learn about cost-  
share programs,  
forest  
management  
options, buy  
seedlings, and find  
your local forester.*

**Virginia  
Sustainable  
Forestry  
Initiative  
State  
Implementati  
on Committee**

**The American  
Tree Farm  
System**

**Virginia  
Forestry  
Association**

**Forest  
Stewardship  
Program**

**USDA Forest  
Service**

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6391**

- \$20/first person; \$10/each additional person
- [Register On-line](#)

### **Taking Woodland Management to New Heights Using Unmanned Aerial Systems**

- March 30
- Scott Family Tree Farm, Amherst
- Registration opens in February

### **Prescribed Burning on Private Lands: A Workshop for Virginia Woodland Owners**

- TBA (April/May)
- [Airfield Conference Center](#), Wakefield
- Registration opens in February

### **Virginia Forestry Summit**

- May 1-4
- Richmond
- [Registration opens in March](#)

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 in 2018!

Jennifer

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

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