

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

Winter 2018

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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**
 - Appomattox
 - March 16-18
 - Registration
- **Southwest**
 - Abingdon
 - August 17-19
- **Southeast**
 - Providence Forge
 - September 28-30

Visit the Events Calendar for details!

Good morning Forest e-Update Subscribers and Happy New Year to you all!

I'm often surprised how often my personal life overlaps with my professional life. You may recall, last year we offered a number of programs on passing your land on to the next generation – while keeping it intact, in family, and in forest. And a major component of doing that successfully is talking to your family about your wishes for the future of your land. Recently, and unexpectedly, I was involved in one of these conversations.

We traveled to western New York for Thanksgiving to be with my husband's family. After 9 hours of driving, we arrived at his parent's house, sat down to a glass wine, and were informed that they had just spoken to an estate planning attorney and had some homework – they had to have “the talk” with their heirs. As an in-law, I quickly removed myself from this difficult conversation. I mean, who wants to tell their family “I want the tractor, some of your land, and your house”, let alone discuss how this is going to be equitably divided among 4 heirs. It's uncomfortable and it's important. I'm not certain anything was settled in this preliminary discussion, but it was a start.

Based on this recent experience, here's my advice to the older generation (the current owners): let your family know in advance that you want to have “the talk”, don't catch them off-guard, try to have all the heirs present at one time, and have a brief agenda to guide you through and keep you on track.

For the heirs, I'm not sure I have good advice other than: your parents really do want to know what you want. So be prepared to speak openly, even if it feels bad. And keep an open mind.

For both parties involved, stay tuned for our 2018 schedule of Preparing for Generation NEXT classes this summer. And by

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Contact

Jennifer Gagnon

228 Cheatham Hall
0324

Blacksburg, VA 24061

<http://forestupdate.fr.ec.vt.edu>

jgagnon@vt.edu

540/231-6391

the end of the year, we'll have a new printed resource on this topic, specifically for Virginia woodland owners.

On another note, in celebration of the new year and renewal (and just in time for the spring planting season), the Winter edition of the newsletter is all about regenerating your forest. Thanks to our partners at the Virginia Department of Forestry for their contributions that made this edition possible.

In this edition:

- [Regenerating Hardwood Forests](#)
Virginia is a hardwood state –approximately 80 percent of our forestland (12.6 million acres) is in hardwood or mixed hardwood-pine forests. They provide critical wildlife habitat, protect water and air quality, offer recreational and aesthetic benefits, and generate a valuable timber resource for landowners and for the industry that harvests lumber and manufactures wood products. While the volume of hardwoods growing in Virginia continues to increase, there are concerns about the future condition of the resource. [More...](#)
- [Regenerating Pine Forests](#)
Pine forests occupy about 20 percent of Virginia's forested acres, and 65 percent of that total is comprised of sustainable plantations. These forests protect water, soil and air quality, and provide wildlife habitat, recreation, and aesthetic benefits. They also contribute significant financial benefits to the landowner, to forest industry, and to the economy of the Commonwealth. [More...](#)
- [Resources for Regeneration](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)

Upcoming Woodland Owner Events

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.

- January 28
- 2:00

- [James Madison's Montpelier](#), Montpelier Station
- \$5.00

14th 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.

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

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

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

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

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