

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

Fall 2018

Volume 32 No. 4

Featured Events

Preparing for Generation NEXT 2- Day Workshops

- November 1-2,
Abingdon
- Register on-line
- Register by mail

Tree Farm Dinners

- November 8,
Suffolk
- Register on-line
- Register by mail

Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours

- Oct. 5, Buchanan
County
- Oct. 12 Sussex
County
- Oct. 19
Fluvanna/Goochla
nd Cos.
- Register on-line
- Register by mail

Woods & Wildlife Conferences

- Feb. 23, 2019
- Culpeper and
Roanoke
- Registration opens
in December

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

Good morning Forest e-Update Subscribers,

When I was in graduate school at the University of Florida, I was a teaching assistant for several undergraduate classes. Essentially, teaching assistant = driver of 12 passenger vans full of students. At first I was nervous, but eventually I gained confidence. And soon I found out that driving the van meant NEVER getting stuck sitting in the back seat – something tremendously beneficial for those of us who get carsick. But never did I imagine that the ability to drive a 12-passenger van would turn out to be one of the most useful things I learned in graduate school. As an Extension professional, I drive folks around in vans all the time!

I knew I was a highly-accomplished van driver on a Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tour in Bath County in 2006. I was driving the second van in a caravan of 4 headed up a steep mountain. The van in the lead was unable to crest the hill and there was no place to turn around. Meaning I had to back the van, full of woodland owners, down the side of a mountain. And I did it. Successfully. Ever since, there has been no mountain, no mud hole, no slippery slope, no narrow road, I couldn't successfully navigate. Until the Tree Farm Dinner in Crozet last month.

This very soggy summer left the roads on the Tree Farm, although grassy, fairly mushy. And, not famous for their surefootedness, the vans could not gain any traction at the bottom of the hill. This resulted in 3 vans stuck in mud. Fortunately, the landowners were able to tow us out using their 4 Runner. And all of the participants were great sports about getting covered in mud and not returning to eat dinner until 8 p.m. Unfortunately, my perfect van-driving record is now marred. I suppose that was bound to happen.

VFLEP Partners & Sponsors

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

Jennifer Gagnon

**228 Cheatham Hall
0324**

If you care to experience my van driving first-hand, please consider joining us on one of our Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours this month. We have 3 coming up – please note registration for the October 5th tour in Buchanan County closes at 4 p.m. THURSDAY Oct. 4th.

In the meantime, the Fall 2018 Forest Landowner Update is now available. In this issue:

Pollinators of the Forest

By: Celia Vuocolo, Piedmont Environmental Council

North America has over 4,000 bee species that call it home. From the tiny *Perdita minima* (at less than 2 millimeters) to the colorful blue and green *Augochloropsis anonyma*, our continent supports a wide diversity of native bees. About 400 bee species have been found in Virginia. Our native bees have evolved with local ecosystems over time, developing intricate relationships with the flora that fill our landscape. Native bees are found everywhere (in fields, gardens, overgrown hedgerows, woodlands, and along roadsides). They facilitate the reproduction of indigenous plants, which in turn supports wildlife and ecological functions that humans rely on. Research shows that native bees effectively pollinate many commercial crops like tomatoes, blueberries, and squash, sometimes even more effectively than non-native honey bees. Understanding how these valuable pollinators use our landscape can help guide conservation efforts and farming practices. But there is still much that is unknown about how native bees use Virginia's most common land use — forests! [Read more...](#)

When Poison is Profitable

By: Adam Downing, Virginia Cooperative Extension

Poison...the word may conjure up images of skulls and crossbones or the old green Mr. Yuk faces of yester-year. Poison, however, is much broader than this. Technically speaking, the sun is poison if our skin is exposed to it for too long; but in the right doses, it's a great source of Vitamin D. In the context of caring for your woods, poison can be a very good thing for the health of your forest. Let's shift away from using the word poison,

**Blacksburg, VA
24061**

<https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu>

jgagnon@vt.edu

540/231-6391

which has a negative connotation, to a (perhaps) slightly less triggering word - pesticide. [Read more...](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

Upcoming Woodland Owner Events

Below is a sample of upcoming landowner education programs. For a complete listing visit the [Events Calendar](#).

Preparing for Generation NEXT

Learn how to pass your land, and your legacy, to the next generation, while keeping it Intact, In Family, and In Forest.

- November 1-2, [SW Virginia Higher Education Center Abingdon](#)
 - \$70 for up to 2 family members; \$35 for each additional family member
 - Includes materials, 2 lunches and 1 breakfast
 - Register [on-line](#)
 - Register [by mail](#)

Tree Farmer Dinners

Tree Farmer dinners are for all interested landowners. You DO NOT need to be a Tree Farmer to attend. Learn what the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation is all about and tour an active Tree Farm. Dinner is \$10 per person, which includes your meal.

- November 8th Suffolk (this is a rescheduled date)
- [Agenda](#)
- Register [on-line](#)
- Register [by mail](#)

42nd Annual Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours

Spend a lovely fall day in the woods with fellow woodland owners and natural resource professionals learning about active woodland and wildlife management practices.

- October 5 – Buchanan County (Come hear the elk! **Registration is open until 4 p.m. Thursday Oct. 4th.**)
- October 12 – Sussex County
- October 19 - Fluvanna/Goochland Counties

- Register [on-line](#)
- Register [by mail](#)

For a full listing of events, visit the **Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program's Events Calendar**.

I look forward to spending some fall days with all of you!

Jennifer

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

This e-newsletter is posted on-line at:
<https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu/newsletter/archives/index.html>

To subscribe, please visit:
<https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu/newsletter/signup/index.html>.

To unsubscribe, please send an e-mail to jgagnon@vt.edu "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.