

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

February
2019

Featured Events

Woods & Wildlife Conferences

- Feb. 23, 2019
- **Register on-line**
- Register by mail:
 - Culpeper
 - Roanoke

On-line Woodland Options for Landowners

- March 4 – May 24
- On-line
- Register on-line
- Register by mail

EmpowerU! Advocating Invasive Species Management

- February 15,
Farmville
- February 16,
Blacksburg
- March 8,
Providence Forge
- March 9, Madison
- Register on-line
- Register by mail

Beginning Landowner Retreats

- March 14-16,
Appomattox
 - Register
on-line

Good morning Forest Landowner e-Update Subscribers,

Earlier this week, I attended the [Virginia Forest Health Professionals'](#) annual conference. As always, I came away with a great deal of new information to share!

First, did you know you can nominate an exotic invasive plant to be on the [Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service's noxious weed list](#)? While we have about [90 exotic invasive plant species](#) in Virginia, only 8 are on this list. The benefit of having an exotic invasive species on this list is that it gives VDACS the authority to stop its movement (and as such, typically its sale). Noxious weeds are defined as: As any living plant, or part thereof, declared by the Board through regulations under this chapter to be detrimental to crops, surface waters, including lakes, or other desirable plants, livestock, land, or other property, or to be injurious to public health, the environment, or the economy, except when in-state production of such living plant, or part thereof, is commercially viable or such living plant is commercially propagated in Virginia. If you are having issues with an exotic invasive you think meets this definition, [nominate it here](#).

I also learned about an exotic invasive insect called the Asian long-horned beetle. This large beetle is extremely destructive, and uses tree species from nine different families as hosts. Because it is such a generalist, this insect has the potential to be the most destructive pest in North America if left unchecked. Fortunately, ALB has only been identified in isolated areas in New York, Massachusetts, and Ohio. The key to preventing the spread of this beetle is early detection. That's where you come in! [Learn about the Asian long-horned beetle](#) (which will be featured in the Spring 2019 edition of You Ain't from Around Here) and [report it if you see it](#). And, as always, don't move firewood.

- Register [by mail](#)
- May 16-18, Galax
- September 19-21, Providence Forge
- Registration opens 2 months prior to programs

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

[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](#)

There is much more – I'll share in the March e-newsletter.

In the meantime, if you want to learn more about your woodlands, please consider joining us for one of our upcoming landowner education events. Find a full listing at the [VFLU Events Calendar](#) and see our featured events below:

[Upcoming Woodland Owner Events](#)

[Tree Farm 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, tour an active Tree Farm, and learn about creating quality wildlife habitat on your land. The event is \$10 per person, which includes your meal.

- February 21
- 3:00
- Porterfield Forest LLC Tree Farm, St. Stephens Church
- Contact Dan Wilson to register – dan@trfva.com, 434-531-0456

[Woods & Wildlife Conferences](#)

These day-long conferences have something for everyone interested in natural resources. The agendas will include topics useful to owners of small and large woodlands, new and experienced owners, and those simply interested in woods and wildlife. These are filling up fast, so register soon to reserve your spot.

- Feb. 23, 2019
- \$45/person; \$80/couple (includes breakfast and lunch)
- [Culpeper](#)
 - Register [by mail](#)
- [Roanoke](#)
 - Register [by mail](#)
- Register [on-line](#) for either
- Registration is limited so sign-up early!

[On-line Woodland Options for Landowners](#)

Learn about your woods and how to keep them healthy and productive - from your computer. This 12-week self-paced

USDA Forest Service

Contact

Jennifer Gagnon

**228 Cheatham Hall
0324**

**Blacksburg, VA
24061**

jgagnon@vt.edu

[540/231-6391](tel:5402316391)

class covers the basics of woodland management. And for those who want more, hands-on activities are also provided. An optional hands-on, in-person field trip in central Virginia will serve as the capstone for the class.

- March 4 – May 24
- On-line
- \$45/family – includes a hands-on field trip and 3 books
- [Syllabus](#)
- Register [by mail](#)
- Register [on-line](#)

EmpowerU! Advocating Invasive Species Management

Have you been working on invasive species issues but feel compelled to do more? Taking part in the EmpowerU Advocacy Training Program will move your invasive species work to the next level!

In this 4 week course, woodland and shoreline owners, master volunteers, and natural resources professionals can grow their skills to meaningfully engage decision makers about invasive species. Through a series of self-paced online learning activities and one in-person workshop, participants will:

- Gain understanding of the roles and levels of government and who to contact regarding invasive species management
- Learn to use skills such as influence, power, persuasion, framing, questioning and listening in interactions with decision makers
- Know where to find reputable information on the status of invasive species in your area
- Create an engagement plan and experience practicing it in a safe, peer-learning environment
- See yourself as a resource to decision makers on invasive species management
- View engagement with decision makers as a norm and encourage others to do it
- Network with other people passionate to make a difference around invasive species

In-person workshop dates and locations (you will choose *one* of these during the registration process):

- Friday, February 15, Prince Edward Extension Office in Farmville, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

- Saturday, February 16, Squires Student Center at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Friday, March 8, New Kent Forestry Center in New Kent, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Saturday, March 9, Madison Extension Office in Madison, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

[Register on-line](#)

[Register by mail](#)

Beginning Landowner Retreats

These 1.5 day-long programs cover the basics of woodland and wildlife management – using classroom, field trip, and hands-on presentations. There will also be plenty of time to interact with natural resource professionals to get all your property-specific questions answered.


- March 14-16, [Appomattox](#)
 - [Register on-line](#)
 - [Register by mail](#)
- May 16-18, [Galax](#)
- September 19-21, [Providence Forge](#)
- Registration opens 2 months prior to programs

And finally, if you want to engage the youth in your family, nominate them to attend Camp Woods & Wildlife. Camp Woods & Wildlife (formerly known as Holiday Lake Forestry Camp) will be held June 17-22, at Holiday Lake 4-H Center near Appomattox. Open to boys and girls ages 13-16, this camp provides field-based learning experiences in forestry and wildlife. Campers explore career paths, make new friends, and learn from natural resource professionals in a beautiful outdoor setting. Nominations are open through April 10 and may be made by any adult not related to the student. For forms and information, visit www.dof.virginia.gov/forestry/camp/. Please contact Ellen Powell (ellen.powell@dof.virginia.gov) if you have any questions.

Hope to see you out and about this winter/spring!

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.