

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

Fall 2019

Vol. 33 No. 4

Featured Events

Preparing for Generation NEXT

- November 9,
Providence Forge
 - Register by mail
- December 5-6,
Roanoke
 - Register by mail
- Register on-line for either

Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours

- October 11 - Floyd
County
- October 18 -
Charlotte County
- October 25 –
Fredericksburg
/Stafford
- Register on-line
- Register by mail

Tree Farm Dinner

- October 8 –
Mineral
- Register on-line
- Register by mail

Good morning Forest Landowner e-Update Subscribers,

I recently had a visit from one of my best friends from high school. This is someone I've known for 35 years and will always love dearly. But we have spent very little time with each other as adults and it quickly became obvious that our interests have diverged. To my surprise, I realized my friend knows nothing about, nor cares about, plants. From goldenrod, to strawberries, to milkweed, she didn't even notice them until I pointed them out. As we walked around on Sunday, I recalled an article I read a few months back that provided a name for this condition: plant blindness.

The concept of plant blindness was introduced to the literature in 1999 by Wandersee and Schussler in their editorial "Preventing plant blindness" as (a) the inability to see or notice the plants in one's environment; (b) the inability to recognize the importance of plants in the biosphere and in human affairs; (c) the inability to appreciate the aesthetic and unique biological features of the life forms that belong to the Plant Kingdom; and (d) the misguided anthropocentric ranking of plants as inferior to animals and thus, as unworthy of consideration." These things can lead to a lack of interest in conserving plants – the foundation of our existence.

I'm not judging my friend. According to the literature, plant blindness is common because of our brains (unlike animals, most plants are not perceived as a threat, so we tend not to notice them) and our early upbringings. Those of us who started out on a farm (like me) tend to have a stronger appreciation of plants than those growing up in suburban areas (like my friend). And early teachers who focus on animals when teaching biology are also to blame (Jose, Wu, and Kamoun, 2019).

2020 Woods & Wildlife Conferences

- Culpeper
 - Daniel Workforce Center
 - February 22 (tentative)
- Roanoke
 - TBA
 - February 15 (tentative)
- Registration opens in December

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

A start to overcoming plant blindness? Provide early educational plant-based experiences for your kids and grandkids. This can be as simple as introducing them to the wonders of a ripened milkweed pod or a field of goldenrod glowing yellow. Not only can this help prevent plant blindness, it's a great way to engage your younger family members in your property!

In the Fall 2019 edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update:

Talking Timber with a Logger

Adam Downing recently sat down with Buck Morris of Glen Morris and Sons Logging Inc. to talk timber. Buck was the recipient of the Logger Merit Award presented at the 2019 Forestry Summit. Like many loggers, Buck grew up in the logging business and continues to operate a single crew, with his brother, in the Orange County area. Also, like many loggers, Buck closely followed the development of the new Timber Larceny Law that spurred this conversation. [More...](#)

New Virginia Timber Larceny Law Virginia Department of Forestry (Reprinted, with permission, from the VFA Voice)

A new law went into effect on July 1, 2019, related to timber theft. Under the new law, violations are considered a criminal act and come with the possibility of jail and/or monetary penalties. The new Sections of the Code of Virginia are §55-334.2. Larceny of timber; failure to remit payment to owner; penalty, and §55-334.3. Load tickets required for certain sales of timber; penalty. [More...](#)

You Ain't From Around Here! Exotic Invasive of the Quarter: Japanese spiraea *Spiraea japonica*

By: Jennifer Gagnon, Virginia Tech

There's really no denying it. I'm a plant person. Deep in my heart. Plants make me happy. Virginia Tech's Annual Horticulture Club Plant Sale is one of my favorite days of the year. As such, I try to know the name and

Forest Stewardship Program

USDA Forest Service

Contact

Jennifer Gagnon

**228 Cheatham Hall
0324**

Blacksburg, VA 24061

jgagnon@vt.edu

540/231-6391

origin of plants I grow in my yard. When we moved to our property 3 years ago, I noticed a lovely flowering shrub I didn't recognize. I asked my husband, also a plant person, what it was. He laughed because he knew all too well it was the exotic invasive, Japanese spiraea. He was familiar with it from a project he worked on with a graduate student. The student was doing a survey on the pervasiveness of this exotic invasive on Buffalo Mountain, a Natural Area Preserve in Floyd County. Needless to say, I was disappointed. [More...](#)

Upcoming events

For a complete listing of upcoming program, please visit the VFLEP [Events Calendar](#).

Preparing for Generation NEXT

Learn how to pass your land and your legacy on to the next generation, while keeping it intact, in family, and in forest.

Two-day Workshop

- December 5-6
 - [Springhill Suites](#), Roanoke
 - Agenda available in October
 - \$70 for up to 2 people from the same family
 - \$35 for each additional family member
 - [Draft agenda](#)
 - Register [on-line](#)
 - Register [by mail](#)

Half-day Workshop

- November 9
 - [New Kent Forestry Center](#), Providence Forge
 - Agenda available in September
 - \$25 individual; \$15 each additional family member
 - Register [on-line](#)
 - Register [by mail](#)

2019 Tree Farm Dinner

Join Tree Farmers, woodland owners, and natural resources professionals for a half-day tour of a Tree Farm, an opportunity to learn about the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation, dinner, and fellowship with others who care about the land.

- October 8, [Claybrooke Farm](#), Mineral (Louisa County)
- \$10/person – includes dinner
- Register [on-line](#)
- Register [by mail](#)
- Registration closes 5 p.m. tonight!

2019 Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours

Join Virginia Cooperative Extension and partners for a full-day learning about sustainable woodland & wildlife management practice on private lands. This year, we'll also have an urban forest tour (Fredericksburg/Stafford County) on which you'll learn about using urban wood waste, the importance of urban forests, and management opportunities.

- October 11, Floyd
- October 17, Charlotte
- October 25, Fredericksburg City/Stafford Co.
- \$45/person; \$80/couple
- Lunch, refreshments, and transportation are included
- Register [on-line](#)
- Register [by mail](#)

Our friends with [Blue Ridge PRISM](#) also have one more invasive species workshop scheduled this and fall. Learn how to identify common invasive species and control methods.

- November 5, Boyce

The workshop is from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. and costs \$25/person. Visit the [Blue Ridge PRISM website](#) to register.

2020 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

- Culpeper
 - Daniel Workforce Center
 - February 22 (tentative)
- Roanoke
 - TBA
 - February 15 (tentative)
- Registration opens in December

Hope to see you out and about!

Jennifer

References

Jose, S.B., C.H. Wu, and S. Kamoun. 2019. Overcoming plant blindness in science, education, and society. *Plants, People, Planet @ New Phytologist Trust*.

Wandersee, J.H., and E.E. Schussler. 1999. Preventing plant blindness. *American Biology Teacher*. V. 61, No. 2.

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.