

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

December
2020

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)
- Dec. 4 - Holiday Greenery
- BREAK
- Jan. 8 - Managing Hardwoods
- Jan. 15 – Managing Pines
- Jan. 22 – Winter Tree ID
- Jan. 29 – Forest Soils Part 2
- Feb. 5 – Weird Trees
- Feb. 12 – Tree Syrup
- [Join us live here](#)

On-line Woodland Options for Landowners

- Jan. 11 – April 2
- \$45/family
- Syllabus
- Register [on-line](#)
- Register [by mail](#)

Good morning Forest Update Subscribers,

I just reread what I wrote in December 2019's e-Update and realized I took this space to reflect on what I was grateful for over the past year. And I think, in a year like 2020, recalling what was good is more important than ever. So here goes. I'm grateful for:

- My family and their health
- Having a beautiful place to work from remotely
- My 3 dogs for being most excellent co-workers
- Yoga and running which have kept anxiety at bay
- A great gardening season
- Being pushed out of my comfort zone (learning new technologies and redesigning programs to work virtually)
- Working more closely than ever with my colleagues
- Zoom, for allowing me to see other people's faces almost every day
- And of course, to all of you for reading my newsletters and sharing your own stories with me!

Speaking of virtual programs, if you weren't able to join us in-person for this year's Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours, no worries! I created a virtual tour that features one stop from each of the tours. You can [watch it now](#) on the [VFLEP YouTube Channel](#).

The virtual tour stop at the Matthews State Forest features Grayson County Extension Agent Kevin Spurlin talking about Christmas tree production. Did you know that Grayson County is one of the top 5 Christmas tree producers in the country? Learn more about the benefits (to landowners and to the environment) of using a real Christmas tree versus an artificial one [in this article from Adam Downing](#). And be sure to join Bill Worrell [for Fifteen Minutes in the Forest this Friday](#) for more on Christmas trees and the greenery industry in SW Virginia.

2021 Woodland Stewards Webinar Series

- Feb. 2 – Determining Your Goals
- Feb. 9 - The Digital Toolbox for Woodland Owners: There's an App for That!
- Feb. 16 – Safety Tips for Working in Your Woods.
- Feb. 23 – How to Start Doing Things on Your Property
- Details available in mid-December

2021 Woods & Wildlife Conference

- February 19-20
- Virtual
- \$25/Household
- [Agenda](#)
- Register [on-line](#)
- Register [by mail](#)

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

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Finally, I know many of you have missed visiting Virginia Tech this fall. And, although it's not the same as a visit, we do have 2 new forestry-themed videos that were recorded on campus: [Managing Virginia Tech's Urban Forest](#) and [A Virtual Tour of Virginia Tech's Stadium Woods](#). Check them out to get your Blacksburg fix!

Upcoming events **Events Calendar**

We have plenty of educational opportunities coming up as well. Registration is now open for the [2021 Woods & Wildlife Conference](#) and the [2021 On-line Woodland Options for Landowners](#) class. See below for details.

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest **Live at noon on Fridays**

- Dec. 4 - Holiday Greenery with Bill Worrell
- Jan. 8 - Managing Hardwoods
- Jan. 15 – Managing Pines
- Jan. 22 – Winter Tree ID
- Jan. 29 – Forest Soils Part 2 – It's Alive!
- Feb. 5 – Weird Trees
- Feb. 12 – Tree Syrup

[Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#). And please subscribe!

On-line Woodland Options for Landowners

This 12-week, self-paced course covers the basics of woodland management. Topics include a history of forestry in Virginia, soils, mapping, sustainability, management, and resources. Optional advanced activities take you out onto your property to create maps, determine property boundaries, and look for clues to historical uses of your land.

- Jan 11 – April 2
- \$45/family
- [Syllabus](#)
- Register [on-line](#)
- Register [by mail](#)

2021 Woodland Stewards Webinar Series

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

Virginia Tree Farm Foundation

Virginia Forestry Association

Forest Stewardship Program

USDA Forest Service

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Join natural resources professionals from across the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast to learn how to actively management your forest.

- Feb. 2 – Determining Your Goals
- Feb. 9 – The Digital Toolbox for Woodland Owners – There’s an App for That!
- Feb. 16 – Safety Tips for Working in Your Woods
- Feb. 23 – How to Get Started Doing Things on Your Property
- Details available in mid-December

2021 Woods & Wildlife Conference

This popular conference has topics of interest for new and experienced owners of both large and small woodlots. Presentations will cover sustainable woodland and wildlife management activities.

- February 19-20
- Virtual
- \$25 per device/terminal
- [Agenda](#)
- Register [on-line](#)
- Register [by mail](#)

Beginning Woodland Owner Retreats

Join the Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Cooperative Extension for these 1.5 day immersive experiences into sustainable woodland and wildlife management. A combination of indoor presentation, hands-on activities, and field trips make these educational and fun. Dates are tentative pending COVID-19 developments.

- Central Virginia
 - March 18-19
 - [Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center](#), Appomattox
 - Registration opens in January
- Southwest Virginia
 - TBD
 - [Matthews State Forest](#), Galax
 - Registration opens February
- Southeast Virginia
 - September 23-24
 - [New Kent Forestry Center](#), Providence Forge

Polytechnic and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.

- Registration opens June

Upcoming Webinars from our partners

- Dec. 7, 12:00 – [Intermediate Stand Management Options for Pines & Hardwoods](#)
- Dec. 8, 12:00 – [Managing Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Ecological Integrity Alongside Traditional Forestry](#)
- Dec. 9, 12:00 – [Invasive Species in Southern Forests: Problems and Solutions](#)
- Dec. 10, 12:00 – [Beneficial and Pest Insects in our Forests: Management Recommendations](#)
- Dec. 11, 12:00 – [Water Quality Best Management Practices & Watershed Management](#)
- Dec. 30, 8 – 5:00 – [Conference on Heirs' Property and Sustainable Forestry Management](#)
- Jan. 27 - March 24 - [The Woods in Your Backyard Webinar Series](#)
- Feb. 8, 8:00 – [Virtual Conference on Heirs' Property & Sustainable Forest Management](#)

Happy holidays and here's to a wonderful (or at least normal-ish) 2021!

Jennifer

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