

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

February
2020

Featured Events

2020 Woods & Wildlife Conferences

- Roanoke
 - [Hollins University](#)
 - February 15
 - [Agenda](#)
 - Register [by mail](#)
- Culpeper
 - [Daniel Technology Center](#)
 - February 29
 - [Agenda](#)
 - Register [by mail](#)
- Register [on-line](#) for both

Woodland Stewards Webinar Series

- Feb. 6, 13, 20, & 27
- Viewing locations:
 - [Fauquier VCE](#)
 - [Goochland VCE](#)
 - [Halifax VCE](#)
 - [Russell VCE](#)
 - [Southampton VCE](#)
 - [Wise VCE](#)
- Call the viewing location to register

On-line Woodland Options for Landowners

- On-line from the comfort of your home
- March 2
- [Syllabus](#)

Good morning Forest Landowner e-Update Subscribers, I'll be the first to admit it – I'm mad at this winter. It's been gray, wet, and windy. But no snow to speak of. BORING. I know not everyone loves white mud, but it does brighten up the world a bit. And I have new snow pants I want to wear.

Gray, wet, and windy make it tough to get excited about going outside. But here are some ideas for engaging with your woods, even in the winter.

1. Walk your property boundary lines. Deciduous trees have dropped their leaves, giving a better line of sight, the weather is cool, making walking rugged terrain easier, briars are less fierce, poison ivy is beaten back, and ticks and mosquitoes are hibernating (although I found a deer tick on one of my pups just last week).

Look for dead/dying boundary trees that need to be replaced, refresh your paint marks as needed, and see what forest management activities your neighbors are engaging in.

Also look for any woodland health issues such as patches of dead trees. If you think there is a health issue, [contact your local forester](#). You can learn more about new and emerging forest health issues at the [2020 Woods & Wildlife Conferences](#).

2. Winter is also a good time to take a look at your woodland management plan. Your management plan should be treated like a living document. It will need to be updated periodically. Some things that may need to be updated include: maps, aerial photos, your list of management activities, and forest health concerns.

If your plan is relatively new, you can make updates by simply adding notes. If your plan is

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

Beginning Woodland Owner Retreats

- Appomattox
 - [Holiday Lake 4H Educational Center](#)
 - March 20-21
 - Register [on-line](#)
 - Register [by mail](#)
- Galax
 - [Matthews State Forest](#)
 - May 15-16
- Providence Forge
 -
 - September 25-26
- [On-line registration](#) opens 2 months prior to event

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

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Learn about cost-share programs, forest management options, buy seedlings, and find your local forester.

Virginia Sustainable Forestry Initiative State

10 or more years old and a lot has changed, you may want to [talk to your forester](#) about getting a new one.

If you've never had a plan or don't know why you need one, you can learn more at the [Central Virginia Beginning Woodland Owners' Retreat in March](#).

3. If you plan to do any prescribed burning this year, winter is a good time to refresh your firebreaks (as long as the soil isn't too soggy). And speaking of prescribed burning, the [Virginia Prescribed Fire Council has a new publication for landowners](#). Also, we will be offering a prescribed fire class for landowners in Galax this spring. Dates will be available in the March e-Update.
4. Engage your family in the land. A fun woodland activity this time of year is to search for deer sheds. Most deer in Virginia cast off their antlers sometime between January and March. Another fun (and challenging!) activity is winter tree identification. Some useful resources to help you include:
 - a. Winter Tree Finder: A Manual for Identifying Deciduous Trees in Winter, by May T. and Tom Watts
 - b. Winter Weed Finder: A Guide to Dry Plants in Winter, by Dorcus S. Miller
 - c. VTree identification App for [Android](#) and [Apple](#)

Stay safe, stay warm, wish for a little snow for me, and have fun!

Upcoming events

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

2020 Woods & Wildlife Conferences

These day-long conferences have something for everyone interested in natural resources. The agendas

[Implementation Committee](#)

[Virginia Tree Farm Foundation](#)

[Virginia Forestry Association](#)

[Forest Stewardship Program](#)

[USDA Forest Service](#)

Contact

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will include topics useful to owners of small and large woodlands, new and experienced owners, and those simply interested in woods and wildlife.

- February 15
 - [Hollins University](#), Roanoke
 - 8:30 - 4:30
 - \$45 per person; \$80 per couple
 - Register [by mail](#)
 - [Agenda](#)
- February 29
 - [Daniel Technology Center](#), Culpeper
 - 8:30 - 4:30
 - \$45 per person; \$80 per couple
 - Register [by mail](#)
 - [Agenda](#)
- Register [on-line](#) for either
- Watch a [promo on WDJB](#)

[Woodland Stewards Webinar Series](#)

- Feb. 6, 13, 20, & 27
- Viewing locations:
 - [Fauquier VCE](#) - Tim Mize - 540-341-7950
 - [Goochland VCE](#) - Nicole Shuman - 804-556-5841
 - [Halifax VCE](#) - Jason Fisher, 434-476-2147
 - [Russell VCE](#) - Bill Worrell, 276-889-8056
 - [Southampton VCE](#) - Neil Clark, 757-653-2572
 - [Wise VCE](#) - Phil Meeks, 276-328-6194
- Fees vary by location
- Contact individual offices to register
- [Learn more about the overall program](#)

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

This 12-week, on-line, self-paced class will teach you the basics of woodland management. Topics include: tree ID, woodland ecology, sustainability, soils, mapping, and silviculture. Registration fee includes 3 books and a hands-on field trip.

- On-line from the comfort of your home
- March 2
- \$45 per family
- Register [on-line](#)
- Register [by mail](#)

- [Syllabus](#)

[Beginning Woodland Owner Retreats](#)

These entry-level programs cover the basics of keeping your woods and wildlife healthy and productive, while working towards meeting your ownership goals. A combination of classroom, field trip, and hands-on activities are used to explore these concepts of sustainability. Registration fees include 5 meals, all materials, and transportation to the field trip. On-site lodging is also available if desired.

- Appomattox
 - [Holiday Lake 4H Educational Center](#)
 - March 20-21
 - Individual, No Lodging - \$40
 - Couple, No Lodging - \$70
 - Individual, Thurs. & Fri. Lodging - \$90
 - Couple, Thurs. & Fri. Lodging - \$170
 - Register [on-line](#)
 - Register [by mail](#)
- Galax
 - [Matthews State Forest](#)
 - May 15-16
- Providence Forge
 - [New Kent Forestry Center](#)
 - September 25-26
- Registration opens 2 months prior to event

Hope to see you out and about this new year!

Jennifer


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