

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

Winter
2020

Vol. 34 No. 1

Featured Events

2020 Woods & Wildlife Conferences

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

Good morning Forest Landowner e-Update Subscribers, Happy 2020 to all of you! We finally made it up to the Adirondacks for the holidays. The weather was mild, so we were able to get in some hiking. It's always a challenge to be in a new ecosystem and try to identify the local trees. Many I did know, but just wasn't used to seeing in such abundance or so large. These included yellow birch and sugar maple, which look shockingly alike when they are 30 inches in diameter and don't have any leaves. And red maple and sugar maple – good grief. Always good to exercise your brain on vacation though.

Now back to landowner programming for 2020. We have a lot of educational opportunities scheduled and many more to come. Plus, the Winter 2020 edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update is now available!

In the [Winter 2020 edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update](#):

[Love the Environment? Become a Virginia Master Naturalist!](#)

By: Sallie Gillman, Virginia Master Naturalists

The Virginia Master Naturalist (VMN) Program is a statewide corps of volunteers contributing to natural resource education, citizen science, and stewardship. After program participants graduate from a basic training course, they join with others to work on projects and provide education related to helping the environment. [More...](#)

[Virginia State Riparian Buffer Tax Credit](#)

By: Jessica McGlynn, Catalynics LLC

Did you know you may qualify for a state tax credit if you leave a riparian buffer on your final harvest or

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
 - [New Kent Forestry Center](#)
 - September 25-26
- [On-line registration](#) opens 2 months prior to event

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

thinning? Through the Virginia State Riparian Buffer Tax Credit Program

(<http://www.dof.virginia.gov/tax/credit/riparianbuffer/index.htm>), if you leave a minimum 35-foot riparian buffer and have either a Stewardship Plan, Tree Farm Plan, or a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP 106), you can earn up to a \$17,500 tax credit. The buffer can be managed (at least 50% of basal area must be retained) but must be retained for 15 years. Through this program, you will not only earn a tax credit, but the streamside buffers you leave will protect water quality, stabilize soil, and may also create wildlife habitat. The program is good for your pocket and good for water and wildlife. [More...](#)

News from the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation

By: John Matel, Virginia Tree Farm Foundation

New certification fees

I have been a certified Tree Farmer since I bought my first forest land in 2005. Being a certified Tree Farmer is important to me. In fact, it is so important that I have served as the President of the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation (VTFF) for the past 4 years. Until now, this program has been free in Virginia, even as many other states instituted various fees. However, now Virginia will be following suit. [More...](#)

You Ain't From Around Here! Exotic Invasive of the Quarter: Wine Raspberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*)

By: Jennifer Gagnon, Virginia Tech

Funny how sometimes the most obvious things get overlooked. One obvious exotic invasive that I have overlooked, at least in terms of education and outreach, is the wine raspberry. Perhaps I subconsciously avoided calling it out because I truly believe it is the most delicious of the exotic invasives. Nothing says summertime more loudly than a bowl full of freshly picked blackberries and wine raspberries. The brilliant red raspberries contrast beautifully with the dark blackberries. And baked into muffins - yum-o! They are also pleasant to pick - their canes are more flexible and have small slender prickles instead of the woodier more rose-like thorns found on other members in the *Rubus* genus. Unfortunately, the Virginia Department of

[The American Tree Farm System](#)

[Virginia Forestry Association](#)

[Forest Stewardship Program](#)

[USDA Forest Service](#)

Contact

Jennifer Gagnon

**228 Cheatham Hall
0324**

Blacksburg, VA 24061

jgagnon@vt.edu

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

Conservation and Recreation has this member of the rose family listed as a highly invasive species. [More...](#)

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 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 coming soon
- Register [on-line](#) for either

[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
 - [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



Follow the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program on Twitter ([@VFLEP](https://twitter.com/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.