

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

Fall 2020

V 34 NO. 4

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)
- Oct. 2 - Forest Pests: Fall Edition
- Oct. 9 - Tree Pruning Basics
- Oct. 16 - Spruce-fir Forests
- Oct. 23 – Tree & Log Volume
- Oct. 30 - Spotted Lanternfly (tentative)
- Nov. 6 – How Clean is Your Creek?
- Nov. 13 - Forest Soils
- Nov. 20 - Winter Invasives
- Dec. 4 - Holiday Greenery
- [Join us live here](#)

Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours

- October 2 - Halifax - closed
- October 9 - Carroll/Grayson

Good morning Forest Update Subscribers,

Working from home every day has allowed me to appreciate how many people, who are not us, come to our property on a regular basis. We lease our fields to a farmer who cuts hay, so he and his kin are here quite a bit during harvest times. The tree crew was here for more than 2 weeks clearing our powerline. I'm on a first name basis with the UPS driver who stops by several times a week (okay, maybe even daily). But we have something on our property that draws far more visitors: a cemetery.

The cemetery belongs to the Simpkins family, the original settlers of our property (and still some of the main residents of Little Montgomery, where we live). The family maintains the landscaping, decorates the headstones, and visits on a regular basis. I walk the dogs up there once or twice a month and I'm always amazed that it seems to have a life of its own - new silk flowers and wreaths every season, new headstones, neatly cut and trimmed grass.

When we first purchased the property, one of the descendants repeatedly tried to purchase the acre of land surrounding the cemetery (we have a conservation easement, so this was not an option). But his repeated attempts allowed us to get to know him and his stories about being raised on the property. When he passed, we attended his memorial service (interestingly, he had no desire to be buried in the cemetery). We recognized a few of the regular cemetery maintenance crew and met many more who were happy to share their stories with us.

Three years ago, the family had a funeral and burial with over 50 members in attendance. Since the pandemic, even more folks have been out. Just last month, a woman came by to bury the ashes of her recently deceased brother. Last week, a couple came out for the first time ever.

- October 16 - Clarke
- October 23 - King William
- Register [by mail](#)
- Register [on-line](#)

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

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Contact
Jennifer Gagnon

These interactions have been so valuable to us. We have learned so much about our property from these folks. They've been inside our 100-year-old house and described past room arrangements. Turns out, the bedroom was once the kitchen. They explained why we have a full-sized church pew in our barn (apparently there was a family church and when it closed, each family member received a pew, one of which was left in our barn by a previous owner). And they've told us that, even though they were initially put off when we (strangers) bought the property, they are happy that we own it and not only take care of it, but are improving it. Which means so very much to us.

This property is an important touch point for this family. And we are so proud to be able to share it with them and have them share their history with us. Ironically, having a cemetery on our property breathes new life into it. I'll post a photo of the cemetery on the [VFELP Facebook page](#).

I thought October was a fitting time to share this story. If you have a cemetery on your land, I invite you to share it with me either via e-mail or on the Facebook page.

In the meantime, the [Fall 2020 edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update](#) is available. In this edition:

[Chainsaw Safety Tips - What You Need to Know](#)

By: Jason Fisher

During the COVID-19 pandemic, people are spending more time at home. That means many forest landowners and farmers are looking more closely at their woods than ever before. Some are noticing their woods could use a bit of cleaning up and others are interested in activities such as cutting firewood for heating and wood for small-scale sawmilling projects. And these do-it-yourselfers are heading out to the woods with a chainsaw.

[Read more...](#)

[Ensuring Rightful Property Ownership Through the Partition of Heirs Property Act](#)

By: Ebonie Alexander and Parker Agelasto

Editor: This article, published earlier this year by the Virginia Conservation Network, was reprinted with permission from the

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author. Since it was published, the UPHPA has passed and become law in Virginia.

Heirs property refers to land that has been passed down informally from generation to generation. In most cases, it involves landowners who died without a will and the land is owned "in common" by all of the heirs, regardless of whether they live on the land, pay the taxes, or have ever set foot on the land.

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[New and Updated Virginia Cooperative Extension Publications](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

View the [entire newsletter here](#).

Upcoming events

[Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours - in person!](#)

- October 2 - Halifax County - Registration is closed
- October 9 - Grayson/Carroll Counties - Registration closes October 2.
- October 16 - Clarke County - Registration closes October 9
- October 23 - King William County - Registration closes October 16
- [Tour details and register by mail](#)
- Register [on-line](#)
- [Important COVID-19 Information](#)

[Fifteen Minutes in the Forest](#)

[Live at noon on Fridays](#)

- Oct. 2 - Forest Pests: Fall Edition with Neil Clark
- Oct. 9 - Tree Pruning Basics with Karen Snape
- Oct. 16 - Spruce-fir Forests with Bill Worrell
- Oct. 23 - Tree & Log Volume with Jason Fisher
- Oct. 30 - Spotted Lanternfly with Adam Downing
- Nov. 6 - How Clean is Your Creek? with Jennifer Gagnon and Sally Entekin
- Nov. 13 - Forest Soils with Neil Clark
- Nov. 20 - Winter Invasives with Karen Snape

- Dec. 4 - Holiday Greenery with Bill Worrell

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

2021 Woods & Wildlife Conference

- January or February
- Virtual
- Registration will open in December

Invasive plants workshops from our friends at Blue Ridge PRISM

- 1-4:00 p.m.
- On-line
- October 7 - Register [on-line](#)
- October 22 - Register [on-line](#)

Enjoy this magnificent time of year known as the fall!

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