

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

December 2021

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- Join us live every other Friday at 12:15 on [Facebook](#) or on [ZOOM](#)
- [Save the Dates Flier](#)
- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)
- Special video on [chronic wasting disease in Virginia's deer](#)

Carbon Markets for Woodland Owners: A Webinar Primer

- December 15
- 11-12:00
- Online
- Free

2022 Woods & Wildlife Conferences

- February 19 – [Wytheville Meeting Center](#), Wytheville
- February 26, [Daniel Technology Center](#), Culpeper
- Registration open in January
- [Save the dates flier](#)

2022 Woodland Stewards 5-part

Good morning Forest Update Subscribers,

The holidays are here! Which reminds me to extoll the virtues of buying a real Christmas tree to those of you who celebrate the season with one.

I grew up with an artificial Christmas tree. More specifically, I grew up with the top half of an artificial Christmas tree. Each December, mom would put a small table in the corner of our tiny living room, wedged between the front door, the recliner, and the computer desk, and place our half-tree on it. We would spend hours inserting, fluffing, and rearranging the branches, wait impatiently for dad to come home to put the lights on, and then proceeded to hang mom's color-themed ornaments uniformly around the tree. We would finish off our festive masterpiece by hanging as much tinsel as we could, in spite of having 3 cats who insisted on ingesting as much of it as possible. Mom always praised the merits of our artificial half-tree - the easy clean up (no needles on the floor!), the low maintenance (no daily watering!), not to mention the cost savings (a one-time investment!).

Of course, I was always jealous of the large trees my friends had in their homes. But, it should be noted, I never knew anyone with a real tree back then. As with so many items in the 70's, the convenience, long-term cost savings, and the misinformed notion that they were good for the environment, were the foundations of a successful artificial tree marketing campaign. Plus they came in pink - and white! These days, artificial trees are even fancier - with pre-attached and easily adjustable branches and built-in lighting solutions. But we also now know that they are not better for the environment (or for Virginia's economy.)

Real Christmas trees take up and store carbon, make oxygen, stabilize soil, protect water quality, and provide winter cover for wildlife, throughout their 5-10 year life span. When they are discarded after the holidays, they can

Webinar Series – Timber Taxes

- [Flier](#)
- January 18, 25, February 1, 8, & 15
- 1:00
- Free
- [Registration opens in December](#)

Online Woodland Options for Landowners

- March 7 – June 3
- Registration opens January 10

2022 Woodland Owner Retreats

- March 18-19 - Forest Management: Beyond the Basics, [Holiday Lake 4-H Center, Appomattox](#)
- May 20-21 – Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat, [Matthews State Forest, Galax](#)
- September 9-10, Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat, [New Kent Conference Center, Providence Forge](#)
- Registration opens 2 months prior to events
- [Save the dates flier](#)

2022 Legacy Planning
In-person and virtual program schedule coming soon.

be recycled into mulch or used for wildlife habitat. Christmas trees are often grown on poor soils that cannot support other crops. In addition, Christmas trees provide a source of income for the 500 Virginia Christmas tree farms.

When we bought our property, my husband had the foresight to put in a small crop of Christmas trees. Aside from periodic weed control, we haven't done much to manage them, so they have grown slowly. But, ten years later, some are large enough to cut (once again, I find myself living in a house with a tiny living room, so large for us is the equivalent of a half-tree). We're taking our oldest granddaughter to select one this weekend ([one of the many benefits of having a real tree](#)).

If you choose to buy a real tree this year, be sure to shop early. The recession of 2008 resulted in a decreased demand for trees. Fewer trees were planted in subsequent years, resulting in a shortage now. In addition, with folks staying home for the 2020 holidays, demand was particularly high last year. And finally, fires and drought in Oregon, the nation's top Christmas tree producer, has caused a decline in their supply.

Learn more about growing Christmas trees in Virginia here:

- [Fifteen Minutes in the Forest: Christmas Trees and Greenery](#)
- [An Introduction to Growing Christmas Trees in Virginia](#)
- [Species for Christmas Tree Planting in Virginia](#)

If you're looking for something else to celebrate, we're pleased to announce our 2022 calendar of landowner education events. Check out the [Events Calendar](#) and below for details.

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- Fifteen Minutes in the Forest videos are shown every other Friday.
- Join us live every other Friday at 12:15 on [Facebook](#) or on [ZOOM](#)
- [Save the Dates Flier](#)

2022 Virginia Forestry Summit

- May 3 – 6
- [The Inn at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg](#)

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

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Contact

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- December 3 – Wood Ducks in the Woods
- December 17 - Mistletoe
- January 7 – How Trees Prepare for Winter
- January 21 – Eastern Hellbenders
- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)

Carbon Markets for Woodland Owners: A Webinar Primer

Over the course of 2021 a lot has changed in the world of carbon markets, especially as they pertain to owners of smaller woodlots. In this webinar, we will cover the fundamentals of carbon markets and provide up to-date resources for those that want to learn more.

- December 15
- 11-12:00
- Online
- Free
- [Visit the Events calendar to register](#)

Mapping with Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones)

This is an introductory 3-day workshop for Extension agents, private industry folks, natural resource professionals, government employees, educators, Realtors, landowners, etc. No previous experience or knowledge is necessary.

- January 11-13, 2022 (registration closes Dec. 11)
- \$200
- [Learn more](#)
- [Register online](#)

Woods & Wildlife Conferences

The Woods & Wildlife Conferences provide information, tools, and personal contacts to help private woodland owners keep their woods, and the wildlife that live in them, healthy and productive. A variety of topics are offered to appeal to owners of both small and large tracts, and both new and experienced owners.

- February 19, [Wytheville Meeting Center](#), Wytheville
- February 26, [Daniel Technology Center](#), Culpeper
- Agendas and registration available in January
- [Save the dates flier](#)

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2022 Woodland Stewards 5-part Webinar Series – Timber Taxes

- [Flier](#)
- January 18, 1:00 – Seeing the Forest for the Trees: An Overview of Forestry Taxes
- January 25, 1:00 – Basics of Timber Basis: Re(setting) the Table
- February 1, 1:00 – Timber Management Expenses and Deductions
- February 8, 1:00 – Keeping More of Your Timber Income Following a Timber Sale
- February 15, 1:00 – Coping with Losses from Nature and Chance
- Free
- [Registration opens in December](#)
- [Broadcast live on the Forestry Webinar Portal](#)

Online Woodland Options for Landowners

This 12-week self-paced on-line course teaches the fundamentals of forest management. Topics include: Setting management goals and objectives; Forest history; Stewardship and sustainability; Marking your boundary lines, and locating, reading, and understanding your deed; Using maps and photos, Google Earth, and soil surveys; Forest ecology and management; Sources of assistance and planning options.

Upon completion of the program, you can have a draft forest management plan. Natural resource professionals serve as mentors and the class winds up with an optional end-of-the-semester hands-on field trip.

- March 7 – June 3
- Registration opens January 10

2022 Woodland Owner Retreats

Our Retreats are hosted by the Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Cooperative Extension. They are geared towards landowners who are new to forest management, provide information on both hardwood and pine forests, offer chances for interaction with natural resource professionals from various agencies in Virginia, as well as with other landowners, provide information on estate planning, management planning and certification,

and provide hands-on experience with tree identification, forestry equipment, and more.

The Retreats were developed for those new to active woodland management. But we are excited to announce that in 2022 we will offer Forest Management: Beyond the Basics Retreat. This advanced program will take a deeper dive into specific woodland and wildlife management topics as identified by past Retreat attendees.

- March 18-19 - Forest Management: Beyond the Basics, [Holiday Lake 4-H Center](#), Appomattox
- May 20-21 – Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat, [Matthews State Forest](#), Galax
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2022 Legacy Planning

Dates and locations of in-person and virtual events will be available in January.

2022 Virginia Forestry Summit

- May 3 – 6
- [The Inn at Virginia Tech](#), Blacksburg

Upcoming Webinars from our colleagues:

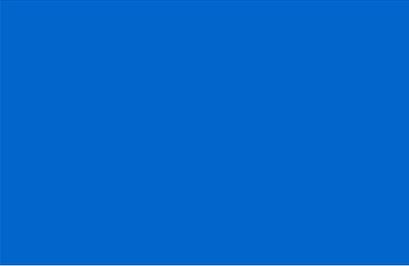
- December 15, 2:00 - [Forest Health in the South: Preparing for Future Challenges](#)
- January 25, 2:00 - [Evaluating Air Quality Resource Concerns](#)
- Many other topics on demand at the [Forestry Webinar Portal](#)

The happiest of holidays to everyone! See you in the new year!

Jennifer

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