

# Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

Winter  
2021

V 35 No. 1

## Featured Events

### Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)
- Jan. 8 – Managing a Hardwood Forest Part 1
- 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,

The happiest of new years to you! Let's all hope 2021 brings much more health and joy to everyone.

With not being able to travel much last year, I really started thinking more about what home means. I've now officially lived in Virginia longer than I have lived anywhere else (15.5 years to be exact). I've been to every county in the commonwealth. I've visited more private woodland properties than I can remember (thanks to all of you who have hosted a program!). I've traveled so much, I can answer pressing questions such as:

Which Subway is better? The one in Fishersville or the one in Greenville?

Where can I find an Elvis coin pusher game along I-81?

Who makes the best sandwiches in Madison County?

Where can I buy the best peanuts?

How do I get the best view of the Peaks of Otter?

Where is the closest Kroger/Wegmans/Publix/Panera?

And all this knowledge leads me to knowing one thing for sure– Virginia is my home. This is where I am supposed to be. And I'm so grateful and I am anxiously awaiting the day when I can start getting around again. There is so much beauty in Virginia, from the cypress swamps in the southeast, to the rolling Piedmont hills, the blue Ridge Mountains, and the hollers of the far southwest. I encourage you this new year to appreciate the beauty that is all around us here in the commonwealth. We are very lucky to live here and to call this place home.

In the meantime, the Winter 2021 edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update is now available. In this edition:

[The Coyote \(\*Canis latrans\*\) in Virginia](#)

**By: Jim Parkhurst, Virginia Tech**

## 2021 Woodland Stewards Webinar Series

- Feb. 2 – Woodland Management by Objectives: Taking Stock & Making Plans
- Feb. 9 - The Digital Toolbox for the Woodland Owner: There's an App for That!
- Feb. 16 – Safety Tips for Working in Your Woods.
- Feb. 23 – Getting Started Managing Your Land
- 1:00 p.m.
- Registration opens in mid-January

## 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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Originally native to western Canada, Mexico, and the central prairies and arid southwest of the U.S., the coyote (*Canis latrans*) has gradually expanded its range to include all U.S. states, except Hawaii, as well as much of Central America (Figure 1). This expansion coincided with, and likely was facilitated by, the human-enhanced demise of most other large predator species throughout this range. During the early 1900s, coyotes originating from the northern prairies moved north and east through southern Canada, where they encountered and interbred with gray wolves (*Canis lupus*), before heading into New England, the eastern Great Lakes region, and ultimately into the mid-Atlantic area (Figure 2). Similarly, coyotes originating from the southern plains moved east through the southeastern states, where they encountered and interbred with red wolves (*Canis rufus*). These two founding populations ultimately merged here in Virginia beginning in the 1950s. Coyotes were also brought to and released in Virginia (illegally) by hunt clubs and managers of commercial penned hunting operations. Today, coyotes have dispersed across all of Virginia and populate every county.

[Read more...](#)

### **You Ain't from Around Here! Invasive of the Quarter: Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe* ssp. *micranthos*)**

**By: Jennifer Gagnon, Virginia Tech**

This summer I walked around the farm feeling quite pleased with myself. The bee balm I had been planting in my herb gardens had spread so very nicely all throughout my pollinator gardens and even into the hay fields. What a marvelous friend to pollinators I had become. My smugness was quickly subdued when I realized it wasn't bee balm at all. In fact, it wasn't even a native species. It was actually spotted knapweed, an invasive species. And then I truly understood the overwhelming despair so many landowners with invasive species experience. How would I even begin to control this mess? [Read more...](#)

### **Events Calendar**

Until we can resume offering in-person programming, we are sticking with (mostly) virtual. We have a number of educational programs coming up for you this winter/spring:

[View the printable newsletter.](#)

## Subscribe to our YouTube Channel

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### 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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## Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

### Live at noon on Fridays

- Jan. 8 – Managing a Hardwood Forest Part 1– Jennifer Gagnon & David Richert
- Jan. 15 – Managing Pines – Adam Downing & Matt Dowdy
- Jan. 22 – Winter Tree ID – Jason Fisher
- Jan. 29 – Forest Soils Part 2 – Neil Clark
- Feb. 5 – Weird Trees – Karen Snape
- Feb. 12 – Tree Syrup – Bill Worrell

[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

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

- Feb. 2 – Woodland Management by Objectives: Taking Stock & Making Plans
- Feb. 9 – The Digital Toolbox for the Woodland Owner – There’s an App for That!
- Feb. 16 – Safety Tips for Working in Your Woods
- Feb. 23 – Getting Started Managing Your Land
- 1:00 p.m.
- Free
- Check the [VFLEP Events Calendar](#) for details on accessing the webinar

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### **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
  - Registration opens June

### **Upcoming Webinars from our partners**

- Jan. 27 - March 24 - [The Woods in Your Backyard Webinar Series](#)
- Feb. 8, 8:00 – [Virtual Conference on Heirs' Property & Sustainable Forest Management](#)

Happy New Year!

Jennifer



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