

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

Summer 2021

Vol. 35 No. 3

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- Join us live at 12:15 on [Facebook](#) or on [ZOOM](#)
- July 9 – Hunting Lease Best Practices
- July 16 – Prevent Harm to Urban Trees
- July 23 – Native Flowering Trees
- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)

Legacy Planning Webinar Series

- Fall Series
 - September 8, 9, 15 & 16
 - 3 – 4:30 p.m.
- [Agenda](#)
- All participants will receive a copy of the brand-new [Legacy Planning; A Guide for Virginia Landowners book](#)

Good morning Forest Update Subscribers,

I know, most people love summer. But if you're like me, and hate the heat, and don't have air conditioning, the water is the only place to be. We are fortunate to have a bit of frontage on the Little River, which gives us easy access to kayaking. It's a great way to stay cool while socializing and enjoying the wildlife that live in the forests along the river.

In Virginia, accessing water is easy because we have [49,000 miles of streams](#)! And did you know that forestry is the best land use for keeping these waterways clean?

Tree leaves slow down the speed of rain drops, reducing their displacement (and subsequent erosion) of soil; tree roots hold soil in place; forest soils filter pollutants from rainwater; trees shade and keep water temperatures cool, essential for aquatic species such as trout; and all timber harvests in Virginia are inspected by the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) who strongly encourage the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to keep sediment and debris out of the commonwealth's waterways. Watch these short videos to learn more about [BMP's](#) and [water quality](#).

And, if your land drains into the Chesapeake Bay, resources to help you manage your woods are available from [Forests for the Bay](#) and the [Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](#) (check out their Breakfast on the Bay webinar series below.)

If you have the chance, I highly recommend taking time this summer to enjoy Virginia's water resources!

On another note, for those of you who are certified Virginia Tree Farmers – the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation (VTFF) and the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) want to feature a photo of your Tree Farm in the 2022 VDOF calendar! [Click here for submission details](#). Deadline is July 19th.

- [Register online](#) - \$25/family

Field Trips for 2020 - Winter 2021 Online Woodland Options Participants

- July 30, [Claytor Nature Center](#)
- Aug. 13, [Holiday Lake 4 H Educational Center](#)
- [Register online](#) (previous OWO participants only please)

Summer Online Woodland Options for Landowners

- July 12 – Oct. 1
- \$45/family
- [Syllabus](#)
- [Register online](#)
- [Register by mail](#)

Virginia Forestry Summit

- September 28 - October 2
- Hotel Madison, Harrisonburg
- [Registration opens July 1](#)

Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours

- Cumberland County
- Rockbridge & Botetourt Counties
- Eastern Virginia
- October 2021

[The Summer 2021 edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update Newsletter](#) is now available! This edition focuses on a common wood product harvested by woodland owners: firewood.

- [Firewood Tips from a Warmth-Loving Tightwad](#)
Living on the farm for the last 5 years has yielded some tremendous perks. For the first time in my adult life, I have a glut of firewood. Not enough to sell – I don't produce at THAT level – but it is definitely a glut. [More...](#)
- [You Ain't From Around Here! Moving Firewood is Still a Bad Idea!](#)
Two beetles, a disease complex, a moth, and a leafhopper climb onto some firewood...I'm certain there is a joke here somewhere. But actually, these critters, plus firewood, equal a problem that is no laughing matter! [More...](#)
- [Virginia Tech and the Virginia Department of Forestry Collaborate on Statewide Study of Household Firewood Use](#)
Harvesting and burning firewood are among the best-known and best-appreciated aspects of forest utilization and stewardship. As a forest stewardship tool, firewood harvesting can be used to improve timber stands, reduce wildfire hazards, and eliminate invasive plants and pests. The sale and use of firewood also create a revenue stream from low-grade timber stands or from small forest tracts that cannot support a large-scale timber harvest. [More...](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)

Featured Programs:

We have a number of educational programs coming up for you this summer and fall and will be resuming in-person programming!!! All in-person events will follow all current COVID-19 guidelines. Online registrants will receive a confirmation e-mail one week prior to the program occurring.

See the complete list on our [Events Calendar](#).

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- Join us live at 12:15 on [Facebook](#) or on [ZOOM](#)
- July 9 – Hunting Lease Best Practices

- More details coming in August

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 Implementation Committee](#)

[Virginia Tree Farm Foundation](#)

[Virginia Forestry Association](#)

[Forest Stewardship Program](#)

[USDA Forest Service](#)

Contact

Jennifer Gagnon

- July 16 – Prevent Harm to Urban Trees
- July 23 – Native Flowering Trees
- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)
- YouTube has started advertising on our videos - I have no control over the content of these advertisements nor am I making any money off them. My apologies! Fortunately, they are short.

Field Trips for 2020 - Winter 2021 Online Woodland Options Participants

We are happy to finally be able to offer hands-on, in-person capstone field trips for participants in the 2019, 2020, and Winter 2021 Online Woodland Options for Landowners classes. Registration is free – but you must be a past Online Woodland Options student. Topics will include tree identification, measuring and valuing trees, and a tour of active woodland management practices.

We have two field trip options scheduled:

- July 30, [Claytor Nature Center](#)
- Aug. 13, [Holiday Lake 4 H Educational Center](#)
- Late Fall - [James Madison's Montpelier](#) (Saturday date!)
- [Register online](#)

Once you click SUBMIT on the registration form, your registration is complete. The form will take you to a payment page – simply ignore and close your browser.

[Summer Online Woodland Options for Landowners](#)

This 12-week, self-paced course will allow you to gain an introductory level understanding of basic forest management principles and techniques and to use this understanding to become better land stewards. It is intended for private forest landowners of any acreage; this course is not intended for forest landowners who have substantial experience working alone or with natural resource professionals in the management of their forests. Teachers, local leaders, and interested citizens are also welcome to join.

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An optional end-of-semester field trip will allow students to hone their new skills and interact with one another and natural resource professionals. The 2021 field trip will be held at [James Madison's Montpelier](#) in Montpelier Station this fall.

- Begins July 12
- \$45/family (includes 5 books plus field trip)
- [Syllabus](#)
- Registration closes July 12
- [Register online](#)
- [Register by mail](#)

[Legacy Planning Webinar Series](#)

- Fall Series
 - September 8, 9, 15 & 16
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[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.

- Southwest Virginia
 - August 27-28
 - [Matthews State Forest](#), Galax
 - [Register online](#)
 - [Register by mail](#)
- Southeast Virginia
 - September 23-24
 - New Kent Forestry Center, Providence Forge
 - Registration opens mid-July
- Central Virginia
 - October 22-23
 - [Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center](#), Appomattox
 - Registration opens mid-August

[45th Annual Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours](#)

- Cumberland County
- Rockbridge & Botetourt Counties
- Eastern Virginia
- October dates to be announced
- Registration opens August 1

Upcoming Webinars from our partners

- **Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay – Breakfast on the Bay Webinar Series**
Bring your morning coffee (or tea!) for a virtual, live talk series to learn how your hobbies can be part of the solution for a healthier Chesapeake!
 - July 15, 10:00 – [Tree Talk with Ryan Davis](#)
 - July 24, ;00 – [Brewery Tour with Alewerks](#)
 - July 27, 9:00 – [Waste to Energy with LCSWMA](#)
- Many other topics on demand at the [Forestry Webinar Portal](#)

And if you missed it, the [2021 Woodland Stewards Webinar Series](#) is now available for on-demand viewing. Thanks to the 100's of landowners who joined us live for the webinars.

All the best,

Jennifer

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