

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

March
2021

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- Join us live at 12:15 on [Facebook](#) or on [ZOOM](#)
- March 5 – Reforestation Planting
- March 12 - Sapsuckers
- March 19 – Invasive Plants IV
- March 26 - A Virtual Mill Tour
- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)

Legacy Planning Webinar Series

- Spring Series*
 - April 7, 8, 14, & 15
 - 3 – 4:30 p.m.
- Fall Series*
 - September 8, 9, 15 & 16
 - 3 – 4:30 p.m.
- [Agendas](#)
- All participants will receive a copy of the

Good morning Forest Update Subscribers,

Another rainy year here on our mud farm. Which is at the end of a gravel road that we have a deeded right of way for. There are 3 occupied dwellings on the road before you get to our place and we own a tractor. So, by default, we are responsible for the majority of road maintenance, including trash and branch pickup. When we purchased this land, never in my wildest dreams did I think we would spend such a high percentage of our income on gravel and (my husband's) time on road maintenance. We are in fact, the "road crew."

One neighbor drives a school bus and keeps it at their house. Not surprising, school busses are extremely rough on a gravel road. Another neighbor is staunchly opposed to any road maintenance being done. She prefers a rough road that slows down traffic, reducing the amount of dust. While her dislike of dust (and speeders) is understandable, we feel that the large gravel we use actually reduces dust. And the third neighbor has free-range dogs. They are very sweet dogs (one went for walks with me every day last summer), and they chase delivery trucks. So we go through periods when our packages are left near the mailboxes at the end of the road, or tied to the cattle fencing along the side of the road, or just don't get delivered at all.

That being said, we have good relationships with these folks and they are overall good neighbors. But these details were certainly unexpected when we moved in! It's also underscored the importance of properly constructing roads in the first place.

I'm certain many of you are dealing with road damage from all this rain. So, in case you are the road crew, like us, here are some resources for building and/or maintaining gravel and forest roads.

brand-new
[Legacy Planning; A Guide for Virginia Landowners](#)
book

- [Register online](#) - \$25/family for each series; \$35/family if you register for both the Spring and Fall Series
- Register by mail coming soon

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

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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](#)

- [Dirt and Gravel Road Best Management Practice Guide](#), from the Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District;
- [Virginia's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality](#), Virginia Department of Forestry;
- [A Guide for Forest Access Road Construction and Maintenance in the Southern Appalachian Mountains](#), from the North Carolina Forest Service;
- [Forest Roads](#), from Clemson University, a self-paced, online course designed to provide valuable information on how to correctly design, construct and maintain forest roads (\$125);
- From Penn State Extension: [Maintain Forest Roads to Prevent Erosion and Protect Water Quality](#)

We are also moving towards spring, and time for the ephemeral plants to start emerging. Learn more about these [early spring bloomers in the inaugural episode of Fifteen Minutes in the Forest](#) from last April. Hard to believe, but we now have more than 40 of these videos posted on the [Virginia Forest Landowner education Program's You Tube Channel](#), with new videos live every Friday at 12:15 on [the VFLEP Facebook Page](#).

Here are other educational landowner events we have coming up:

[Events Calendar](#)

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

[Fifteen Minutes in the Forest](#)

Live at 12:15 on Fridays on [Facebook](#) or [ZOOM](#)

- March 5 – Reforestation Planting – Jason Fisher
- March 12 - Sapsuckers - Neil Clark
- March 19 - Invasive Plants IV - Karen Snape
- March 26 - A Virtual Mill Tour - Bill Worrell

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

[Legacy Planning Webinar Series](#) – **Register for both the Spring and Fall Series and Save \$\$**

- Spring Series*
 - April 7, 8, 14, & 15
 - 3 – 4:30 p.m.

[Virginia Tree Farm Foundation](#)

[Virginia Forestry Association](#)

[Forest Stewardship Program](#)

[USDA Forest Service](#)

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 - 3 – 4:30 p.m.
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- All participants will receive a copy of the brand-new [Legacy Planning; A Guide for Virginia Landowners](#) book
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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. Dates are tentative pending COVID-19 developments. **Please note the Central Virginia Retreat has been rescheduled for October.**

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

[Upcoming Webinars from our partners](#)

- March 6 - November 9 - [2021 Spring and Fall Landscaping with Virginia Natives Webinar Series](#)
- March 10, 1:00 - [Invasive Grasses in the Southeastern United States](#)
- March 16, 10:00 - [21st Biennial Southern Silvicultural Research Conference](#)
- March 17, 2:00 - [Beneficial Invertebrates in Our Soils](#)
- March 23, 2:00 - [Hydrology, Biology, and Ecology of Springs](#)

Administrator, 1890
Extension Program, Virginia
State University,
Petersburg.

- March 31, 2:00 - [Wetlands and Pollinators: How Water Quality Practices Can Benefit Pollinators](#)
- 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.

- [Woodland Management by Objectives: Taking Stock & Making Plans](#)
- [The Digital Toolbox for the Woodland Owner: There's an App for That!](#)
- [Safety Tips for Working in Your Woods](#)
- [Getting Started Managing Your Land](#)

All the best,

Jennifer

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