

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

May 2021

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- Join us live at 12:15 on [Facebook](#) or on [ZOOM](#)
- May 7 – Green Salamander
- May 14 - Early Spring Bloomers 2
- May 21 - The Simple Act of Planting a Tree
- Short break
- July 9 – Hunting Lease Best Practices
- July 16 – Prevent Harm to Urban Trees
- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)

Legacy Planning Webinar Series

- 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,

As I began work on this newsletter on Earth Day last week, I took a short break to bring a wheelbarrow full of firewood up to the house. Because we had the woodstove going. At the end of April. Not unheard of, of course. I'm sure we all recall the two hard freezes we had in May last year. Hopefully we can avoid that this year!

This got me to thinking about how fortunate we are to be able to heat with wood. For many of us who own land, firewood is an inexpensive and plentiful resource. We always have wood from fallen trees, dead trees, trees removed during timber stand improvement cuts, invasive species removal, and friends have even dropped wood off at the house. But how does cutting/using firewood benefit the earth?

Most often, firewood is obtained by cutting dead, unhealthy, undesirable, and nonnative invasive species. This improves the overall health of the woods, a common management goal for woodland owners.

Additionally, wood is a renewable source of energy. And while carbon dioxide is released when the wood is burned, is taken back up by trees that are still growing and converted back into wood.

Also, wood is local – at least it should be! [Firewood should not be moved across great distances to help prevent the transport of diseases and insects.](#) A good rule of thumb is to avoid moving firewood more than ten miles from where it was cut or collected. This can help prevent the human-aided spread of tree-killing diseases and insects, such as the emerald ash borer.

And for those who don't own land, you may gather down and dead wood from the National Forest – with a [Fuel Wood Permit](#). Keep in mind, this wood is for personal use only and cannot be resold.

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

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

[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
- Details coming soon

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

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Puts university knowledge into the hands of people.

The [Summer 2021 edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update newsletter](#) (available June 1) will feature a more detailed article about cutting and preparing firewood on your land. In the meantime, you can learn more from these sources:

- [Don't Move Firewood](#)
- [Firewood Harvesting as a Forest Management Tool](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions and Directions for Gathering Wood on the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests](#)
- [Producing Firewood from your Woodlot](#)
- [Virginia Department of Forestry - Firewood](#)
- [Wood Heat for Your Home: Does It Pay Off?](#)

I also want to make you aware of two NEW resources available to you. First, we're pleased to now be able to share with you [historic stumpage prices](#) on the Virginia Forest Landowner Update website! These values will be updated quarterly. The page is brand new, so any suggestions on making it more user friendly are welcome.

Second, our friends and partners, the [Virginia Department of Forestry, have a brand new website!](#) This user-friendly interface will help you find the information and assistance you need to manage your woods. [Check it out.](#)

Featured Programs:

We have a number of educational programs coming up for you this spring/summer and hope to resume in-person programming in August. See the complete list on our [Events Calendar](#).

[Fifteen Minutes in the Forest](#)

- Join us live at 12:15 on [Facebook](#) or on [ZOOM](#)
- May 7 – The Green Salamander – Bill Worrell
- May 14 - Early Spring Bloomers 2 (watch [Early Spring Bloomers 1](#)) - Jennifer Gagnon
- May 21 - The Simple Act of Planting a Tree - Adam Downing
- After May 21 we will take a short break
- July 9 – Hunting Lease Best Practices
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[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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Virginia Cooperative Extension Programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative

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[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.

Topics Covered Include:

- Setting management goals and objectives
- Writing a management plan
- Using aerial photos, topographic maps & soil surveys
- Determining boundary lines
- Forest ecology and management
- Working with natural resource professionals

Students completing all the advanced activities will finish the class with a draft forest management plan. Additionally, a group of mentors, consisting of natural resource professionals and experienced landowners, will interact with students weekly via discussion boards.

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 the Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center in Appomattox when COVID regulations permit.

- Begins July 12
- \$45/family
- [Syllabus](#)
- [Register online](#)

action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.

- [Register by mail](#)

[Legacy Planning Webinar Series](#)

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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

- May 5, 12:00 – [Emerald Ash Borer: Where Do We Stand?](#)
- May 11, 12:00 & 7:00 – [Regenerating Hardwood Forests: Managing Competition, Deer, and Light](#)
- June 8, 12:00 & 7:00 – [Forest Legacy Planning: Moving Towards the Decision Point](#)
- Many other topics on demand at the [Forestry Webinar Portal](#)

And if you missed them, the [Spring Legacy Planning Webinar Series](#) and the [2021 Woodland Stewards Webinar Series](#) are now available for on demand viewing. Thanks to the 100's of landowners who joined us live for the webinars.

[Legacy Planning Webinar Series](#)

- \$25 - [register online](#) for access to the spring (on demand) sessions
- \$35 - [register online](#) for BOTH the spring (on demand) and fall (live) sessions

2021 Woodland Stewards Webinar Series (free)

- [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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