

# Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

Spring 2022

V. 36 No. 2

## 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](#)

### Forest Landowner Extravaganza!

- May 5
- 12:30 – 5
- Register [online](#)

### Forest Carbon Symposium

- June 1
- 8:30 – 3:00
- Register [online](#)

### 2022 Woodland Owner Retreats

- May 20-21 – Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat, [Matthews State Forest, Galax](#)
  - Register [online](#)
  - Register [by mail](#)
- September 9-10, Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat, [New Kent](#)

Good morning Forest Update Subscribers,

Spring is here and our lovely spring ephemerals are emerging and blooming. Learn more what's blooming in your woods from our Fifteen Minutes in the Forest videos from April 2020 and 2021:

- [Early Spring Bloomers](#)
- [Early Spring Bloomers 2](#)

I'm headed out to go scouting for these on Sunday.

We now have over 1,000 subscribers and more than 70 Fifteen Minutes in the Forest videos posted on the [Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program's You Tube Channel](#), with new videos live every other Friday at 12:15 on the [VFLEP Facebook Page](#).

On another note, if you own at least 10 acres of forestland, researchers at Pennsylvania State University are conducting a private landowner survey to help guide state policies and inform future extension programming about prescribed burning across the eastern US. Your input in this study is very important to understand the value of prescribed burning on private forestlands in Virginia. ***If you would like to participate in the survey, please visit the website [www.sites.psu.edu/firesurvey/](http://www.sites.psu.edu/firesurvey/).***

The Year of the Hardwood continues with the Spring edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update newsletter. In this edition:

### [The Troubles with Virginia's Hardwoods](#)

By: David Carter, Virginia Tech

I've been asked to share the grim and ghastly challenges Virginia's hardwood forests face. Our hardwood forests, or more broadly, our natural forests, have a lot of issues: a decline in timber quality; widespread conversion toward mesic species; nonnative invasive plants, pests, and diseases; and the looming threat of climate change.

[Conference Center, Providence Forge](#)

- Registration opens 2 months prior to events
- [Save the dates flier](#)

### **2022 Legacy Planning**

- Southwest Virginia
  - May 5
  - Blacksburg (part of the Forest Landowner Extravaganza!)
  - [Register online](#)
- Central Virginia
  - August 26 & 27
  - South Boston
- Southeast
  - November TBA
  - Providence Forge
- Virtual
  - Sept. 8, 9, 14, & 15

Registration opens 6 weeks prior to event.

### **2022 Virginia Forestry Summit**

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

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

[Follow us on Facebook](#)

Twitter @VFLEP

Addressing these issues is doable. But, addressing these issues will require you, the landowner, to invest money into your forest and not likely see a return on that investment in your lifetime. That's rough. What's more, even if you are willing and able to do the work, you may not be able to find a contractor. Let's try to address these issues one at a time and talk about what you, as a landowner, can do about them. Among all this bad news, there is good news, I promise. [Read more...](#)

### **Plant Virginia Natives: An Initiative Grounded in Collaboration**

By: Virginia Witmer, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program and Nicole Hersch, New River Valley Regional Commission

Virginians are increasingly hearing that planting natives will help improve the environment – especially habitat for declining pollinator and bird populations – but many are not sure where to start. Plant Virginia Natives is a collaborative initiative network of partners engaged in state-wide and regional strategies to increase the knowledge, use, and availability of native plants. The Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM) Program introduced, coordinates, and funded the initiative through grants from NOAA since 2008. Virginia CZM is a network of state agencies and coastal localities, with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality as the lead agency. Regional marketing campaigns and partners across the commonwealth add additional support and resources to the project. [Read more...](#)

Check out the [Events Calendar](#) and below for our upcoming landowner education events. All current COVID-19 precautions will be followed at in-person events.

### **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
- April 1 – Basics of tree ID
- April 15 – Searching SW Virginia for Mountain Chorus Frogs

Subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#)

### VFLEP Partners & Sponsors

- [Virginia Cooperative Extension](#)
- [Virginia Department of Forestry](#)
- [Virginia Sustainable Forestry Initiative State Implementation Committee](#)
- [Virginia Tree Farm Foundation](#)
- [Virginia Forestry Association](#)
- [Forest Stewardship Program](#)
- [USDA Forest Service](#)

### Contact

Jennifer Gagnon

228 Cheatham Hall 0324

Blacksburg, VA 24061

<https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu>

[jgagnon@vt.edu](mailto:jgagnon@vt.edu)

540/231-6391

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its 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, military status, or any other basis protected by law.

- April 29 – Vernal Pools
- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)

### [2022 Virginia Forestry Summit](#)

Join landowners and natural resource professionals in beautiful Blacksburg for a week of learning and fellowship. A special Landowner Extravaganza is being planned for the end of the Summit. Stay tuned for details!

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

### [Forest Landowner Extravaganza!](#)

Join us in Blacksburg after the Virginia Forestry Summit for an afternoon of fellowship and learning. Participants will enjoy a catered lunch and have the chance to win fabulous door prizes (Stadium Woods oak seedling, autographed copy of Remarkable Trees of Virginia, a year's membership to VFA). After lunch, choose from 5 educational opportunities.

- Preparing for Generation NEXT Workshop
- Tree Identification and Forest Ecology at Pandapas Pond
- Agroforestry Options at the Catawba Sustainability Center
- A Tour of Virginia Tech's Urban Forest
- On-going research and Innovations in Forest Products

Transportation will be provided for off-campus activities.

- Virginia Tech, Blacksburg
- May 5
- 12:30 – 5:00
- \$10/person for Summit attendees; \$15/person all others
- [Learn more](#)
- [Register online](#)

### [Forest Carbon Symposium](#)

Forest carbon markets are expanding rapidly in the commonwealth. If you are a forester, landowner, county leader, or just interested in this topic, please consider attending the first ever Forest Carbon Symposium hosted by the Virginia Department of Forestry.

In this symposium, you will learn about the importance of forest carbon markets, what this market means to Virginia, and what opportunities are available for our state's forestry community.

- June 1, 2022
- 8:30 - 3:00
- [Holiday Inn Staunton Conference Center](#), Staunton
- \$30 per person, includes lunch
- [Register online](#)

### **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.

- May 20-21 – Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat, [Matthews State Forest](#), Galax
  - [Agenda](#)
  - [Register online](#)
  - [Register by mail](#)
- September 9-10, Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat, [New Kent Conference Center](#), Providence Forge - Registration opens 2 months prior to event
- [Save the dates flier](#)

### **Forest Farming: In Focus A Deeper Dive Webinar Series**

- [April 24 – Goldenseal and other NTFPs](#)

### **2022 Legacy Planning**

Join the Generation NEXT Team and experienced conservation, legal, and financial advisors to learn how to pass your land on to the next generation while keeping it intact, in forest, and in family. Registration opens 6 weeks prior to each event.

- Southwest Virginia
  - May 5
  - Blacksburg (part of the [Forest Landowner Extravaganza!](#))
  - \$10/person for Summit attendees; \$15/person all others

- [Learn more](#)
- [Register online](#)
- Central Virginia
  - August 26 & 27
  - South Boston
- Southeast
  - November TBA
  - Providence Forge
- Virtual
  - Sept. 8, 9, 14, & 15

### **Teaching Trees**

This 16-hour professional development workshop for middle and high school teachers, will be held July 13-14 in Louisa and Albemarle counties. In this fun and unique two-day workshop, teachers receive training in Project Learning Tree, take a tour of local working forests, and practice field activities they can use with students. Topics include sustainable local forestry, tree identification, forest ecology, and forest products.

The cost is \$50, which includes lunch both days, several PLT modules, and overnight accommodations on July 13 for those who need them. And, the full cost will be refunded to teachers who attend the entire training! Registration will begin in March. For more information, contact Ellen Powell at 434-975-0475 or [ellen.powell@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:ellen.powell@dof.virginia.gov).

- [Register online](#)

All the best,

Jennifer

**This e-newsletter is posted on-line at:**

<https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu/newsletter/archives/index.html>

**To subscribe, please visit:**

<https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu/newsletter/signup/index.html>.

**To unsubscribe, please send an e-mail to [jgagnon@vt.edu](mailto:jgagnon@vt.edu) "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.**