

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

February 2022

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](#)
- [Special video on chronic wasting disease in Virginia's deer](#)

2022 Woods & Wildlife Conferences

- February 19 – [Wytheville Meeting Center, Wytheville](#)
 - [Register by mail](#)
- February 26, [Daniel Technology Center, Culpeper](#)
 - [Register by mail](#)
- [Register online](#)

2022 Woodland Stewards Webinar Series – Timber Taxes

- [Flier](#)
- February 1, 8, & 15
- 1:00
- Free
- [Sign up for webinar reminders](#)

Good morning Forest Update Subscribers,

I love hearing stories about how people have come to own their woodlands. I've learned from chatting with landowners that many of us who have purchased our land have similar stories about finding our particular, just-perfect piece. Here's ours:

We had been searching for a livable house on 20-50 acres somewhere within driving distance of Virginia Tech. We looked at a 50-acre parcel in Shawsville with a 360 view from the top. Unfortunately, the property was riddled with ATV trails. We visited a 20-acre parcel near Floyd with planted white pine, a spectacular view, and a half-built, mostly rotting house that needed to be demolished. Another property in Floyd, also with magnificent views, had a half-mile steeply-sloped driveway that would be impossible to drive up in ice or snow. We found a 15-acre parcel in Giles County bordering the National Forest – with a repossessed home that had been stripped of anything and everything valuable. Some properties would have been ok with me; others were ok with my husband. But after 2 years, we had found none that were perfect and we gave up actively looking.

About a year later, my husband was celebrating his 20th anniversary working at VT and was sitting next to a colleague who was celebrating her 25th. He just happened to mention that we wanted to own some land. And she said something along the lines of: *We own a farm with two houses that that we've been renting out for years now. We may be interested in selling to the right buyers.*

So, we went and looked. It was the first place we pulled up to and both instantly knew - this was it. Good location, fully-functional houses, manageable driveway, great views, and an unexpected and truly wonderful bonus – river access. And fortunately, she considered us to be the *right buyers!* We put off the purchase for a year. And then we

Virginia Association of Forest Health Professionals 30th Annual Conference

- February 14-15
- Staunton/Online
- [Learn more and register](#)

Online Woodland Options for Landowners

- March 7 – June 3
- [Syllabus](#)
- [Register online](#)
- [Register by mail](#)

2022 Woodland Owner Retreats

- March 18-19 - Forest Management: Beyond the Basics, [Holiday Lake 4-H Center](#), Appomattox
 - [Register by mail](#)
 - [Register online](#)
- May 20-21 – Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat, [Matthews State Forest](#), Galax
- September 9-10, Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat, [New Kent Conference Center](#), Providence Forge
- Registration opens 2 months prior to events
- [Save the dates flier](#)

2022 Legacy Planning

made the leap on February 14th, 2010. With no regrets. It was the best decision we ever made.

If you have a story to share about finding (or inheriting) your piece of land, please share – either via e-mail or on our [VFLEP Facebook page](#). I'd love to hear it!

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
- Feb. 4 – Streambank Restoration
- Feb. 18 – Growing Baby Trees
- March 4 – Generation NEXT
- March 18 – American Beech
- April 1 – Basics of tree ID
- April 15 – Searching SW Virginia for Mountain Chorus Frogs
- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)

Woods & Wildlife Conferences

The Woods & Wildlife Conferences provide information, tools, and personal contacts to help private woodland owners keep their woods, and the wildlife that live in them, healthy and productive. A variety of topics are offered to appeal to owners of both small and large tracts, and both new and experienced owners.

- February 19, [Wytheville Meeting Center](#), Wytheville
 - Register by mail
- February 26, [Daniel Technology Center](#), Culpeper
 - Register by mail
- \$45/person; \$80/couple
- [Register online](#)

2022 Woodland Stewards Webinar Series – Timber Taxes

- [Flier](#)
- February 1, 1:00 – Timber Management Expenses and Deductions

In-person and virtual program schedule coming soon.

2022 Virginia Forestry Summit

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

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

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- [USDA Forest Service](#)

Contact

Jennifer Gagnon

228 Cheatham Hall 0324

Blacksburg, VA 24061

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

- February 8, 1:00 – Keeping More of Your Timber Income Following a Timber Sale
- February 15, 1:00 – Coping with Losses from Nature and Chance
- Free
- [Sign up for webinar reminders](#)
- [Broadcast live on the Forestry Webinar Portal](#)

The Virginia Association of Forest Health Professionals 30th Annual Conference

Topics will include: Spotted lanternfly management, laurel wilt, beech leaf disease, benefits of urban forest fragments, woodland health assessments for green industry workers, fire ants, elm zigzag sawfly, fire history of the Southern Appalachians, Asian Longhorned Beetle management in South Carolina, VDACS pesticide safety and more!

Recertification credits available to those attending in person.

Register online

- February 14-15
- [Hotel 24 South](#), Staunton
- \$110 for both days in-person
- Free virtual option also available*
- [Agenda](#)
- [Register online](#)

Online Woodland Options for Landowners

This 12-week self-paced on-line course teaches the fundamentals of forest management. Topics include: Setting management goals and objectives; Forest history; Stewardship and sustainability; Marking your boundary lines, and locating, reading, and understanding your deed; Using maps and photos, Google Earth, and soil surveys; Forest ecology and management; Sources of assistance and planning options.

Upon completion of the program, you can have a draft forest management plan. Natural resource professionals serve as mentors and the class winds up with an optional end-of-the-semester hands-on field trip.

- March 7 – June 3
- [Syllabus](#)
- [Register by mail](#)
- [Register online](#)

jgagnon@vt.edu

540/231-6391

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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.

The Retreats were developed for those new to active woodland management. But we are excited to announce that in 2022 we will offer Forest Management: Beyond the Basics Retreat. This advanced program will take a deeper dive into specific woodland and wildlife management topics as identified by past Retreat attendees.

- March 18-19 - Forest Management: Beyond the Basics, [Holiday Lake 4-H Center](#), Appomattox
 - [Agenda](#)
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2022 Legacy Planning

Dates and locations of in-person and virtual events will be available in January.

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

And from our friends at the [Blue Ridge PRISM](#) - [Meet Your Forester!](#)

Come meet your area forester during the lunch hour! This session is a virtual event during which landowners in the Blue Ridge PRISM service region can connect with their local foresters. There will be a very brief presentation on what services the Virginia Department of Forestry offers to landowners. After which, we will open up the session so that the audience can ask questions about forest management, invasive management, timber harvest, land stewardship, and other related topics.

- February 9th
- 12 - 1:00
- Online
- Free
- [Please pre-register online](#)

All the best,

Jennifer

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