

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

Winter 2022

V. 36 No. 1

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](#)
- February 26, [Daniel Technology Center, Culpeper](#)
- [Registration opens January 6](#)
- [Save the dates flier](#)

2022 Woodland Stewards 5-part Webinar Series – Timber Taxes

- [Flier](#)
- January 18, 25, February 1, 8, & 15
- 1:00
- Free
- [Sign up for webinar reminders](#)

Good morning Forest Update Subscribers,

Happiest of new years to all of you! I hope everyone had a restful and happy break.

Last fall a friend hunted deer on our land. In preparation, he set out several game cameras. He shared the best photos and videos they caught and I so very much enjoyed watching them. I was amazed at how much activity goes on outdoors most days. In addition to a few very large bucks and approximately 10,000 does, we have not 1, but 2, black bears, turkey, raccoons, the best back-scratching tree in the universe, and of course, squirrels. I'll share some of the best photos and videos on the [VFLEP Facebook page](#) this morning.

We've done some wildlife habitat improvements, including planting fruit trees and pine (for thermal cover), and maintaining a pond. But many of the natural features of our property already lend themselves to wildlife habitat, such as river frontage, an abundance of black cherry and walnut trees, many miles of edge habitat, and the surrounding wooded landscape.

But having quality wildlife habitat is not always enough. Some wildlife species are facing serious health problems. You can learn about two of these problems, chronic wasting disease (CWD, a video), and rabbit hemorrhagic virus disease, in the [Winter 2022 edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update newsletter](#). See below for the full content.

On another note, over the years, many of you have expressed an interest in having students conduct research on your property. Here's an opportunity for some of you:

My name is Suzanne Ryan, and I am a graduate student in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech. I am seeking owners of

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](#)
- 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

In-person and virtual program schedule coming soon.

forested tracts in one of these counties: Albemarle, Amherst, Augusta, Botetourt, Greene, Madison, Nelson, Rockbridge, or Rockingham, to participate in a study on the effects of different timber harvest types on forest regeneration. Tracts should be 10 acres or larger and have been partially harvested 10-15 years ago. I would identify tree species and measure stem diameters, tree heights, and sun exposure throughout each tract. There would be no destructive sampling of trees.

If you are interested in learning more about participating in this study, please contact Suzanne at 410-463-2506, ryanblackbirch@vt.edu.

And to welcome in the new year, here is the Winter 2022 edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update (or read the full newsletter here: [Winter2022](#).)

In this edition:

- **2022 the Year of the Hardwood**
By: Michelle Stoll, Virginia Department of Forestry
A common concern among Virginians is that all the hardwood forests are being harvested and replaced with planted pine. And while there is indeed plenty of planted pine in the commonwealth, there are actually more acres in hardwoods today than there were in the 1940s. In fact, total standing volume of hardwoods (what is growing in the woods) has increased from 10 billion cubic feet in 1940 to over 25 billion cubic feet in 2019. And the acreage of hardwoods across Virginia has remained stable in every region from 2001 to 2019. This is good news, because Virginia's hardwood forests provide high ecological, societal, and economic values. [Read more...](#)
- **You Ain't from Around Here! Invasive of the Quarter: Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus 2 (RHDV2)**
By: Jennifer Gagnon, Virginia Tech
As a Virginia woodland owner, you are probably quite familiar with the eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*). Every morning as I drive to work I pass a few (and sometimes follow one as it jumps ahead

2022 Virginia Forestry Summit

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

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

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of me along the road). You may not be as familiar with other rabbits that may be found or have historically occurred in restricted areas of Virginia, such as the Appalachian cottontail (*Sylvilagus obscurus*), marsh rabbit (*Sylvilagus palustris*), Mearn's eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus mearnsii*), Smith's Island cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus hitchensi*) or the nonnative black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), which is actually a hare. In addition to being charming additions to the landscape (when they aren't eating our garden vegetables), rabbits are important indicators of healthy ecosystems. [Read more...](#)

- **[Chronic Wasting Disease ALERT!](#)**
Chronic wasting disease in white-tailed deer is spreading in Virginia. Learn more by watching this video by Katie Martin, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources' Deer/Bear/Turkey Biologist: <https://youtu.be/6ORJ957P3u0>.

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](#)
- January 7 – How Trees Prepare for Winter
- January 21 – Eastern Hellbenders
- [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
- February 26, [Daniel Technology Center](#), Culpeper
- \$45/person; \$80/couple

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- Agendas and registration available January 6
- [Save the dates flier](#)

2022 Woodland Stewards 5-part Webinar Series – Timber Taxes

- [Flier](#)
- January 18, 1:00 – Seeing the Forest for the Trees: An Overview of Forestry Taxes
- January 25, 1:00 – Basics of Timber Basis: Re(setting) the Table
- February 1, 1:00 – Timber Management Expenses and Deductions
- 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](#)

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
- 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

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

2022 Virginia Forestry Summit

- May 3 – 6

- [The Inn at Virginia Tech](#), Blacksburg

Upcoming Webinars from our colleagues:

- January 25, 2:00 - [Evaluating Air Quality Resource Concerns](#)
- Many other topics on demand at the [Forestry Webinar Portal](#)

I hope to see you in 2022!

Jennifer

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