

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

May 2022

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- [Save the Dates Flier](#)
- April 29 – Vernal Pools
- May 13 – Femelschlag Update & Hardwood Management
- May 27 – Forest Pests of Economic Importance
- June 10 – Red Imported Fire Ants
- June 24 – Tree ID Beyond the Basics
- Join us live every other Friday at 12:15 on [Facebook](#) or on [ZOOM](#)
- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)

2022 Woodland Owner Retreats

- May 20-21 – Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat,

Good morning Forest Update Subscribers,

Years ago, we camped along the [Rogue River](#) in Oregon. I recall getting up in the middle of the night and being stunned by the number and brightness of the stars. It was unlike any sky I've ever seen here in the humid east. In fact, that starry night sky ranks as one of the top ten best things I have ever seen.

The closest I've come to seeing that level of starriness in the east is when I take my dogs for their bedtime walk in the winter, when the sky is dark and clear. Over the years, however, I've noticed more lights popping up on the horizon. First, was the next door neighbors with a bright streetlight. Then, the lights from a new grocery store and hotels on the outskirts of a growing Radford. New homeowners across the river installed floodlights. And finally, I believe streetlights have gone up along the road across the river. The result of all this light? My stars are rapidly fading.

Light pollution is a global problem. You can learn more about it from the [New World Atlas of Artificial Sky Brightness](#), and use an [interactive globe](#) to see where the problem is most severe. Excessive light pollution has negative impacts on human, wildlife, and plant health. [These negative impacts](#) include disrupting our sleep patterns, disorienting migratory birds and turtles, altering seasonal plant growth, and [wasting energy](#).

Now, I fully recognize the importance of lighting around our homes. It's dark out in the country and sometimes we need to walk to the trash cans or to our cars after sunset. And I know our home contributes to light pollution. We have tried to minimize our contribution as much as possible by installing just a few motion-activated lights strategically placed so we don't break our legs, but [they are older LEDs, that emit a blue light, which contributes significantly to light pollution](#).

Matthews State Forest, Galax

- Register [online](#)
- Register [by mail](#)
- September 9-10, Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat, [New Kent Conference Center](#), Providence Forge
- Registration opens 2 months prior to events
- [Save the dates flier](#)

Forest Carbon Symposium

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

13th Annual Vegetation Management Workshop

- May 12
- 8:30
- Colonial Heights
- [Register online](#)

2022 Legacy Planning

- Central Virginia
 - August 26 & 27
 - South Boston
- Southeast
 - November 2
 - 6-9:00 p.m.

There are groups working on keeping dark places dark, such as the [International Dark Sky Association](#). And companies [are working on better ways to light the places that need to be lit](#). But, light pollution, like so many environmental issues, is hard to fix. Because, while we want to see our stars, having a grocery store just 9 miles down the road saves gas and sure is convenient.

If you want to get out and see some great stars, here is a list of [Virginia State Parks that are designated as Dark Sky Parks](#).

On another note, grants are now available to help you implement your silvopasture and/or forest farming projects. Learn more and apply at the [Appalachian Beginning Forest Farmer Coalition](#).

We have a number of landowner education programs coming up. Check out the [Calendar of Events](#) for a complete listing. Below are some featured 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 29 – Vernal Pools
- May 13 – Femelschlag Update & Hardwood Management
- May 27 – Forest Pests of Economic Importance
- June 10 – Red Imported Fire Ants
- June 24 – Tree ID Beyond the Basics
- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)

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.

- Providence Forge
- Virtual
- Sept. 8, 9, 14, & 15

Registration opens 6 weeks prior to event.

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

[Follow us on Facebook](#)

Twitter @VFLEP

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

- 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](#)

[13th Annual Vegetation Management Workshop](#)

This full day workshop covers land and weed management with a diverse group of more than 200 people from the forestry, wildlife, invasives, utility rights of ways, industrial, and aquatics weed markets. More information about this program, including the agenda, can be found [here](#).

- May 12
- 8 – 4:15
- [Keystone Truck & Tractor Museum](#), Colonial Heights
- \$50 - includes lunch
- Register [online](#)

[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.

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.

- Central Virginia
 - August 26 & 27
 - South Boston
 - Register by mail
 - Register online
- Southeast
 - November 2
 - 6-9:00 p.m.
 - Providence Forge
- Virtual
 - Sept. 8, 9, 14, & 15

Blue Ridge PRISM Workshops

Summer Invasive Plant Workshops

- Online (plus optional in-person field session on May 14)
- May 10 & May 12
- 1 – 3:00
- \$10 (field session is \$50 additional)
- Learn more and register [online](#)

In-person Field Session

- [Pen Park](#), Charlottesville
- May 22
- 12:30 – 3:30
- \$25
- Learn more and register [online](#)

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.

- [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
"Unsubscribe" in the subject line.**