

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

September 2022

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- Sept. 9 – Healthy Hunting
- Sept. 23 – Digital Mapping & GPS
- Join us live every other Friday at 12:15 on [Facebook](#), [ZOOM](#), or [YouTube Premier](#)

2022 Legacy Planning

- Southwest
 - Oct. 27
 - 8:30 – 4:00
 - Galax
- Southeast
 - November 2
 - 6 - 9:00 p.m.
 - Providence Forge
- Virtual
 - Sept. 8, 9, 14, & 15
 - 3 – 5:00
- Register [online](#) for all programs
- Register [by mail](#) for all programs

Good morning Forest Update Subscribers,

Summer is winding down and the students have returned to campus. It's the best time of the year! However...

The land adjacent to us is for sale. It's an odd-shaped parcel with a condemned trailer on it. We don't think it's going to sell quickly. Which is fine. Except that it's ruining our lives. I suppose it's not the parcel itself that is ruining our lives. It's the "Land For Sale" sign posted outside our gate. Apparently, this gives everyone the right to come down our driveway to "check things out" because "they haven't been down here in forever." The increase in visitors is really quite a phenomenon.

Turns out, now that we live in the woods, at the end of a half-mile long gravel road, we have less privacy than when we lived in a subdivision. Even before the Land For Sale sign went up, we had lots of traffic. I wrote about some of this traffic, like the UPS drivers (we have 3 and we know them all by name) and the family who maintains the cemetery on our place, in the [Fall 2020 e-Update](#). But we've also had porch pirates, a carful of teens looking for the "dude in the white house", people hauling kayaks to put in the river (we don't have public river access), the game warden wanting to verify that we don't have public river access, and the sheriff "testing his response time". One day a couple of ladies walked up to the house from the river. They were staying with a friend who lived on the next road over and had become hopelessly lost on a hike.

Anyway, I'm not REALLY complaining. In fact, some of the visitors are really nice. It's just different than I expected. And although I'm cautious about a new random neighbor, at least the Land For Sale sign would come down.

Speaking of living in the woods, here are a couple of news items that may impact you.

Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours

- Oct. 7 – Amelia-Henrico-Powhatan
- Oct. 14 – Smyth & Washington
- Oct. 28 - Louisa
- [Full itineraries](#)
- [Register online](#)
- [Register by mail](#)

Tree Farm Foundation Tours

- Oct. 6 – Franklin
- Oct. 21 – Mecklenburg
- [Register online](#)
- [Details and register by mail](#)

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

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- [Virginia Tree Farm Foundation](#)
- [Virginia Forestry Association](#)
- [Forest Stewardship Program](#)
- [USDA Forest Service](#)

- **Farm Use Tags** –Beginning July 1, 2023, all unregistered farm use vehicles will need to display a permanent farm use plate (for a cost of \$15). In addition, they must be insured under a general liability policy that includes personal injury liability insurance and property damage liability insurance, under a policy of motor vehicle insurance, or under an umbrella or excess insurance policy. [Learn more.](#)
- **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in deer:** Virginia now has 3 CWD Management Areas. In these Areas, there are additional hunting regulations and hunting seasons have been extended. Learn more from the [Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources website](#), and video: [Chronic Wasting Disease in Virginia's Deer.](#)

Upcoming Landowner Education Programs

We have a bounty of landowner education programs coming up this fall. Check out the [Events Calendar](#) for a complete listing.

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- Fifteen Minutes in the Forest videos are shown every other Friday.
- Join us live at 12:15 on [Facebook](#), [ZOOM](#), [YouTube Premier](#)
- Sept. 9 – Healthy Hunting
- Sept. 23 – Digital Mapping
- Oct. 7 – Silvo-poultry Update
- Oct. 21 – Golden-winged Warbler
- Nov. 4 – Autumn Leaf Color
- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)

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. Online registration opens 8 weeks prior to each event.

All programs are \$25/person; \$40/family
Register [by mail](#) for all programs
Register [online](#) for all programs

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

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- 3 – 5:00
- [Agenda](#)
- Southwest
 - Oct. 27
 - 8:30 – 4:00
 - [Matthews State Forest](#), Galax
 - [Agenda](#)
- Southeast
 - November 2
 - 6-9:00 p.m.
 - [New Kent Forestry Center](#), Providence Forge
 - Agenda coming soon

[New Christmas Tree Growers Workshop](#)

Kyle Peer, Superintendent - Reynolds Homestead Forest Resources Research Center, and Tim Williams, owner of Spruce Rock Farm, will discuss getting started with Christmas tree production, including seedling selection, planting techniques, farm layout, and shearing. We will also discuss applying pesticides and herbicides safely.

- Sept. 10
- Spruce Rock Farm, Brightwood
- \$15/person; \$20/couple
- [Register by mail](#)

[Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours](#)

Join landowners, natural resource professionals, and other outdoor lovers for day-long tours that explore a variety of sustainable forestry and wildlife management practices. Tours visit private, public, and industry-owned lands.

- October 7 – Amelia-Henrico-Powhatan Counties
- October 14 – Smyth & Washington Counties
- October 28 – Louisa County
- [Full itineraries](#)
- Register [online](#)
- Register [by mail](#)

[Virginia Tree Farm Tours](#)

First, VFLEP is excited to announce that the Tree Farm Tour series will be resumed this fall. Two tours (that include lunch) are scheduled. The first will provide a rare opportunity for a behind-the-scenes tour of an operating sawmill. Most people do not get the opportunity to see first-hand how their trees are made into solid wood products. The second tour will be of a privately-owned Tree Farm in Mecklenburg County.

- Thursday October 6 – Franklin Lumber

- Friday October 21 – Wright Forestry LLC, Mecklenburg County
- \$10/person includes lunch
- Register [online](#)
- Tour details and register [by mail](#)

Learn to Burn: Using Fire to Manage Your Land

Back by popular demand! Whether you are a single tract landowner or manage thousands of acres, prescribed fire training should be part of your land management plan. Burning should be conducted in such a way to ensure that your management objectives will be met, while minimizing the likelihood for escaped fire and smoke liability. This one-day workshop will outline benefits of using fire as a management tool on your property, where to go and who to contact when you need assistance, and how burns are conducted safely and successfully. You will also have the chance to actively participate in a prescribed burn (conditions permitting).

- November 10
- [Randolph Park](#), Dublin
- 9 – 5:00
- \$15 – includes lunch
- Registration opens in September

Programs being offered by partner organizations:

[The Woods in Your Backyard Online Course](#)

This self-directed, non-credit course from our friends at University of Maryland Extension runs 10 weeks from September 6th to November 15th and is applicable for woodland owners in Virginia.

The course will help landowners convert lawn to natural areas and enhance stewardship of existing natural areas. Based on the guide of the same name, the course provides strategies to landowners and managers of small parcels of land that improve the stewardship of their property for personal enjoyment and environmental quality. It uses a hands-on learning approach to help participants develop and implement a plan for their property.

- Sept. 6 – Nov. 15
- Online
- \$95
- [Register online](#)

Blue Ridge PRISM

Blue Ridge PRISM's 2022 Workshops are a blend of two virtual sessions and an optional in-person field session. Register for the virtual sessions or a field session or both!

- **Introduction to Invasive Plants and Identification**
 - October 12
 - 1 – 3:00
 - Virtual
 - \$10
 - Register [online](#)
- **Control of Invasive Plants**
 - October 13
 - 1 – 3:00
 - Virtual
 - \$10
 - Register [online](#)
- **In-Person Field Session**
 - October 15
 - 12:30 – 3:30
 - Pen Park, Charlottesville
 - \$25
 - Register [online](#)
- **Fall Meeting – Homegrown National Park with Doug Tallamy**
 - October 18
 - 11:30 – 1:00
 - Virtual
 - Free
 - Please [preregister](#)

Hope to see you this fall!

Jennifer

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