

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

August 2023

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- 12:15 every other Friday
- New videos return September 1
- Watch new & archived videos on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube Premier](#)

VA Tree Farm Foundation TF Tours

- August 25 - Albemarle
- September 15- Halifax
- October 6 - Bland*
- October 11 - Essex*

*These tours will be combined with the Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours

Advanced Landowner Retreat

- September 8 & 9 - Providence Forge

Generation NEXT Legacy Planning

- September 16 - Charlottesville
- October 20 & 21 - Chatham
- November 9 - Richmond

Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours

- October 6 - Bland*
- October 11 - Essex*
- October 12 - Mecklenburg
- October 20 - Warren

*These tours will be combined with the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation Tours

Visit the [Events Calendar](#) for details!
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Good Morning Forest Update Subscribers,

Each evening I walk my dogs before heading to bed. As we head out the door, I announce to the night "Wildlife - we're coming! (to the tune of John Cougar Mellencamp's Wild Night) to avoid any surprise encounters that will result in excessive barking, chasing, or skunk spraying. In addition to dog joy, these walks provide me with a chance to enjoy a nightly firefly show. On especially dark nights, the fireflies, stars, and occasional lightning from distant storms, light up the sky and the woods. Everything sparkles. I hope you all have been out enjoying your land this summer too!

In addition to enjoying the fireflies, the landowner education team has been busy planning educational programs for you. See below for featured events and find a full listing here:

[Events Calendar](#).

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest videos are shown every other Friday at 12:15 on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube Premier](#)

- Sept. 1 - Forestry Myths
- Sept. 15 - Forest Roads & Driveways (Episode 100!)
- Sept. 29 - The White Oak Family
- Oct. 13 - Chiggers - Mites that Bite
- Oct. 27 - Virginia's Hardwood Initiative
- Nov. 10 - Hellbender Habitat Restoration
- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)

Virginia Tree Farm Foundation Tree Farm Tours

The Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program partners with the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation to offer an annual series of Tree Farm tours. These tours bring woodland owners together to visit an active Tree Farm, learn about the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation, and provide fellowship among those who care about healthy woods and active woodland management. You do not need to be a Tree Farmer to attend.

- August 25 - Middle Mountain Tree Farm, Crozet
- September 15 - Huber Engineered Woods, South Boston
 - \$15/person, \$30/couple
 - Register [online](#)
- October 6 - Bland County*
- October 11 - Essex County*
 - \$TBA
 - Registration opens mid-August

*These tours will be held in conjunction with the Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours

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

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[Forest Management Beyond the Basics: Advanced Woodland Owner Retreat](#)

Developed for those with experience actively managing their woods, the Retreat combines classroom, field trip, and hands-on activities to teach advanced concepts of sustainable woodland management. Past participation in landowner education programs is required.

- September 8-9
- Providence Forge
- [Agenda](#)
- Register [online](#)
- Register [by mail](#)

[Generation NEXT Legacy Planning Workshops](#)

Learn how to pass your land and your legacy on to the next generation while keeping it intact, in forest, and in family ownership.

- Charlottesville
 - September 16
 - All-day
 - \$80 for up to 2 people
 - [Agenda](#)
- Chatham
 - October 20-21
 - Friday evening and all-day Saturday
 - \$90 for up to 2 people
 - [Agenda](#)
- Richmond
 - November 9
 - 6 - 9:00 PM
 - \$40 for up to 2 people
 - Agenda and online registration available in September
- Register [by mail](#)
- Register [online](#)

[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. Past tours have visited seedling nurseries, timber harvesting operations, sawmills, elk habitat, Christmas tree farms, and more.

- October 6 - Bland County*
- October 11 - Essex County*
- October 12 - Mecklenburg County
- October 20 - Warren County
- Registration and itineraries available in mid-August

*These tours will be combined with the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation Tours

From our friends at the University of Maryland:

The Woods in Your Backyard online course

- September 5 - November 14, 2023
- Online
- \$95*
- Register [online](#)

Registration for the next session of our "The Woods in Your Backyard" online course is now open! This self-directed, non-credit course runs 10 weeks. The online format lets you access the content when it's convenient for you, without worrying about attending evening classes or weekend workshops.

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 of small parcels of land (1-10 acres) 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. Activities include how to map habitat areas, understand basic ecological principles about woodland and wildlife, choose and implement a few habitat management projects, and how to set a timetable and record your progress. Online discussion groups will allow participants to interact with others taking the course. A certificate of completion is awarded when all assignments are completed.

Registration is limited to 25 participants.

Visit the Blue Ridge PRISM website for programs on nonnative invasives

*All the best,
Jennifer*

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