

Virginia Forest Landowner Update

Volume 34 Number 3, Summer 2023

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- Is on a break until September 1
- Watch archived videos on [Facebook](#) Or [YouTube Premier](#)

Teaching Trees: Field-Based Professional Development for Middle and High School Teachers

- July 10-11
 - Louisa Co.
- July 26-27
 - Newport News

Tree to Products Program for Teachers

- July 10-13
- Wise

VA Tree Farm Foundation TF Tours

- August 25 - Crozet
- September 15- South Boston
- October 11 - Tappahannock
- SW Virginia TBA

Advanced Landowner Retreat

- September 8-9
- Providence Forge

Generation NEXT Legacy Planning

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

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

Last month I talked about determining your goals, your long-term vision, for your land, and how that helps you better communicate with a natural resource professional. In the [Summer Virginia Forest Landowner Update](#), Extension Forester Karen Snape discusses working with one type of natural resource professional who can help you reach your goals, a consulting forester.

One common goal of many woodland owners is creating/improving wildlife habitat. What you do, or don't do, when it comes to forest management, will result in habitat for some species of wildlife. The key is to implement forest management practices that attract the types of wildlife you want. For example, if you want bobwhite quail and timberdoodles, you need early successional habitat (i.e., grasslands and young forests). The more diverse your property is in terms of tree and shrub species, tree ages, and open versus forested areas, the more types of wildlife you can attract.

Wildlife is, in general, great. Last month I saw a timber rattlesnake for the first time in Virginia (he was very cool). And one morning I looked out the kitchen door to see a turkey hen walking up the driveway. I'm looking forward to seeing her with her poults later this summer.

But you can have too much wildlife. Last year, the groundhog and the rabbits ate all but 1 of my bean plants. The result? One single green bean. They are at it again this year, despite a fence, repellent spray, and mechanical control efforts. Deer, and a family of brown thrashers, are eating my blueberries. Rodents are eating my beet and carrot greens in the greenhouse. And, a couple of weeks ago, our cat was playing with a cricket in the kitchen, which led to the horrific discovery that [hairworms exist](#).

So, when people share their wildlife goal with me, I always warn them - be careful what you wish for! One kind of wildlife you don't want to find on your land is the nonnative invasive species, feral swine. Learn more about these smart, athletic, destructive creatures from this new Extension publication: [Managing Human-Wildlife Interactions: Feral Swine \(*Sus scrofa*\)](#).

The [Summer 2023](#) edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update is now available:

Working with a Consulting Forester

By: Karen Snape, Virginia Tech



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If you're receiving the Virginia Forest Landowner Update newsletter, then you know you should work with a professional forester when harvesting timber. But what does that mean?

There are three types of professional foresters who work with landowners: agency foresters, industry foresters, and consulting foresters. Most agency foresters in Virginia work for the Department of Forestry (VDOF). [Read more...](#)

You Ain't from Around Here! Nonnative Invasive of the Quarter: Silk tree (*Albizia julibrissin*).

By: Jennifer Gagnon, Virginia Tech

For the first fourteen years of my life, I lived in Massachusetts, just north of Boston. The long winters were cold and snowy, and the nights were long. The months following Christmas were an exercise in endurance, simply plodding through the dreary days until spring. One bright spot for the females in my family during these dark days was the annual Boston Flower and Garden Show in March. I keenly recall walking into the darkened convention center with mom, Nana, and a gaggle of aunts, and being dazzled by ostentatious displays of flowering plants. Even with two feet of snow outside, the Flower Show assured us that winter would indeed come to an end. [Read more...](#)

And we have a lot of upcoming educational programs! 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](#)
- September 1 - Forestry True or False
- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)

Online Woodland Options for Landowners Field Trip

This hands-on field trip is the capstone activity for the Online Woodland Options for Landowners Class. We will hone our skill set by practicing tree identification, taking forest measurements, and touring active forest management practices on the largest State Forest in Virginia, the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest. Landowners not enrolled in the online class are welcome to attend for a fee.

- August 5
- 9 - 3:30
- [Holiday Lake 4 H Educational Center](#), Appomattox

- \$25/person for those not enrolled in Online Woodland Options for Landowners (includes lunch)

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
- October 11 (tentative), Managing for Quail on Private Land, Tappahannock
- Southwest Virginia TBA
- \$15/person, \$30/couple
- Register [online](#) (registration opens 8 weeks in advance of each tour)

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
- Tentative 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
- Chatham
 - October 20-21
 - Friday evening and all-day Saturday
 - \$90 for up to 2 people
- Richmond
 - November 9
 - 6 – 9:00 PM
 - \$40 for up to 2 people
- Registration and detailed agendas available 8 weeks prior to program

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 Tazewell County
- October 12 Mecklenburg County
- October 20 Warren County
- SE Virginia TBA
- Registration and itineraries available in August

From the Blue Ridge PRISM

These are Not Your Grandpa's Quail: Blue Ridge PRISM

Summer Quarterly Meeting

Marc Puckett (Small Game Projects Leader and Private Lands Biologist Manager for the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources) will talk about a bird whose call is a beloved sound for many of us. The northern bobwhite aka bobwhite quail (*Colinus virginianus*) is the only quail native to eastern North America. We hear its call much less often now because of a steep decline in the bobwhite quail population, mostly due to habitat loss.

- July 19
- 11:30 - 1:00
- ZOOM
- Free
- [Register online](#)

For Teachers

Teaching Trees: Field-Based Professional Development for Middle and High School Teachers

Participants receive 14 hours of instruction covering sustainable local forest management, forest ecology, and forest products; two SOL-correlated *Project Learning Tree*® modules and related teaching supplies; ideas for incorporating forestry field study into classes. Two sessions are available:

- Louisa County
 - July 10-11
- Newport News
 - July 26-27
- 9 - 4:00
- \$50
- [Register online](#)

Trees to Products Teacher Program

Teachers will tour key forest-industry sites to learn about sustainable forest management. They will also learn how forests provide wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, and the importance of forests in view-shed and water-quality efforts. Participants will see how trees are converted into a variety of everyday products. Teachers will receive Project Learning Tree® certification at the completion of the course. In addition, the Trees to Products program is designed to correlate with the Virginia Standards of Learning for grades K - 12. It awards 30 hours of professional development credits for

participants. Registration fee includes transportation, lodging, and meals.

- July 10-13
- Wise
- \$25
- Register [online](#)

*All the best,
Jennifer*

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