

# Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

**November 2023**

## **Featured Events**

### **Fifteen Minutes in the Forest**

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

### **Generation NEXT Legacy Planning**

- November 9 - Richmond
- March 7 - Virtual

### **Mapping with Drones**

- December 14-15 (Virtual)
- January 4-5 (Virtual)

### **Woods & Wildlife Conferences**

- February 10 - Wytheville
- February 24 - Culpeper

### **Woodland Owner Retreats**

- March 22-23, Appomattox Beyond the Basics Advanced Retreat
- May 3-4, Abingdon Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
- September 20-21, Providence Forge Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat

### **Gather to Grow: A Conference to Honor the Past and Shape the Future of Forest Farming**

Good Morning Forest Update Subscribers,

Along with the arrival of cooler temperatures in the fall is the arrival of the hunting season for white-tailed deer. With [chronic wasting disease](#) detected in Montgomery County, [this year's deer hunting season](#) arrived very early - September 2 to be exact. We have several friends who are allowed to hunt on our land. And for that, I am grateful. But that has not always been the case.

When I was about 7, our neighbor harvested a deer and hung it in his yard. That was the single most traumatic experience of my young life. I was horrified and refused to make eye contact with the neighbor for years. The appeal of killing for sport alluded me; the thought of eating venison tuned my stomach. You see, I was a child of the 1970's and the animated Disney classic Bambi had a major impact on my psyche. In fact, to this day, just reading the synopsis of the movie on the Wikipedia page brings tears to my eyes.

It wasn't until I started taking forestry classes that I began to understand the benefits of hunting for herd and forest health. Too many deer in an area can lead to disease and hunger and takes a toll on native vegetation. Deer browse our gardens, orchards, and hardwood regeneration in the forest. They preferentially browse on native plants (species they evolved with), creating more space for nonnative invasives to grow.

As a landowner, I've witnessed first-hand the problems our increasing deer infestation causes. Deer in the garden, deer in the orchard, deer in the road, deer looking in our dining room window (I'm ok with this one; the dogs, not so much). While I

- March 22-24 - Roanoke

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

### Social Media



[VFLEP](#)



[VirginiaForestLandowner](#)



[@VFLEP](#)

### 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](mailto:jgagnon@vt.edu)

540/231-6391

don't want them all gone nor do I think I'll ever be able to shoot one myself, I do applaud each deer our friends remove from our herd. And I now happily dine on local, high-protein, lean, organic, inexpensive, free-range venison.

You can find the current hunting and trapping regulations for Virginia [here](#).

In other news, we are wrapping up another successful year of landowner education and actively planning for 2024. See below for featured events and find a full listing on our [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](#)

- Nov. 10 – Hellbender Habitat Restoration
- December – Winter break
- New videos resume in early 2024
- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)

#### [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.

- Richmond
  - November 9
  - 6 – 9:00 PM
  - \$40 for up to 2 people
  - [Agenda](#)
  - Register [by mail](#)
  - Register [online](#)
- Virtual
  - March 7
  - 6:30 – 8:30
  - Registration opens late January

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.

## Tree Syrup School

This program is for beginners and experienced producers interested in making their own tree syrup. The program includes a special syrup quality workshop led by Les Ober from Ohio State University Extension. Pre-workshop tours and field activities will be held on November 17. Learn what trees to tap, how to boil and bottle, and how to store and sell your syrup.

- November 17-18
- [Oxbow Center](#), St. Paul
- \$20/adult; \$15/children under 17
- Register [online](#)

## Mapping with Drones

This is an intensive, yet introductory level workshop, and can be considered a 'drone boot camp'. No previous knowledge or experience with drones, sUAS, or GIS is required. Two options available:

- December 14-15
- January 4-5
- Virtual
- \$250
- Register [online](#)

## 2024 Landowner Woods & Wildlife Conferences

These long-running full-day 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.

- Wytheville
  - February 10
  - 8:30 - 4:30
  - [Wytheville Meeting Center](#)
- Culpeper
  - February 24
  - 8:30 - 4:30

- Daniel Technology Center
- Agendas and registration available in January

**Visit the Blue Ridge PRISM website for programs on nonative invasives**

*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](mailto:jgagnon@vt.edu) "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.