

# Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

April 2024

## Featured Events

### Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

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

### Landowner Retreats

- Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
  - May 3-4
  - Abingdon
- Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
  - September 20-21
  - Providence Forge

### Online Woodland Options for Landowners

- July 2 – September 9
- [Syllabus](#)

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

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Good Morning Forest Update Subscribers,

This year the e-update is focusing on different aspects of sustainable forestry. This month, the topic is **compliance with laws**. It's important that forest management activities you conduct on your land are in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws and ordinances related to forest management. Compliance with forest laws:

1. **Protects Your Investment:** By following regulations, you safeguard the long-term value of your forested property.
2. **Maintains Healthy Ecosystems:** Forests provide clean air, water, and habitat for wildlife. By adhering to laws, you help preserve these vital functions.

Some (but not all) important laws to be familiar with include:

### Federal:

- [Clean Air Act](#)
- [Clean Water Act](#)
- [The Endangered Species Act](#)

### Virginia:

- [4 PM Burn Law](#) (February 15 – April 30)
- [Virginia Silvicultural Water Quality](#)
- [Virginia Debris in Stream](#)
- [Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Ares](#)
- [Notification of Timber Harvests](#)

Your locality may have additional laws or ordinances as well. The Virginia Department of Forestry has [a list of pertinent forestry laws](#) and your [local forester](#) can advise you as well.

- [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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#### In Other News

[The Spring 2024 Edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update is now available!](#)

#### In this Edition:

##### **Current Research on Forest Carbon Programs in Virginia** **By Stella Zucchetti Schons Do Valle**

This summer, a group of Virginia Tech researchers will be reaching out to woodland owners across Virginia asking for volunteers to participate in a research project about forest carbon programs in the state. Entitled Forest Carbon Contracts: Landowner Preferences and Spillover Effects, our project is funded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (United States Department of Agriculture). The objectives of the project are (1) to further understand what types of forest carbon programs and contracts are preferred by Virginia woodland owners and how these preferences change for underserved woodland owners, and (2) to determine the implications of these programs on Virginia carbon sequestration and water production in the state. [Read more....](#)

- Interested in participating in a survey about forest carbon programs in Virginia? Please contact Stella Schons at [szschons@vt.edu](mailto:szschons@vt.edu)

##### **The Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative** **By Cliff Drouet**

The surface coal mining industry in the United States has been around since the early 1850's. In the early 1900's, individual states in the Appalachian region started to pass legislation that required companies to restore mine sites back to their original topography and to establish vegetation to control soil erosion. These early measures stemmed from problems with soil erosion,

landslides, sedimentation, and pollution of wells and streams. Over time, however, mining engineers, mine inspectors, and landowners realized that the nonnative grass species planted on the mine sites weren't doing a good job of preventing erosion gullies. This led to nationwide research to determine better restoration methods. [Read more...](#)

### [Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program Events Calendar](#)

#### **In Other News:**

Researchers at Virginia Tech are recruiting private owners of hardwood forests that:

- are least 10 acres and
- are located along or west of Virginia's Blue Ridge.

Woodland owners will be asked to:

- use an online tool to learn about crop tree release, a management strategy to improve the health and productivity of hardwood forests;
- conduct a basic tree inventory on 1 acre of their hardwood forest;
- mark (using flagging) individual crop trees (to increase growth and improve health);
- flag trees competing with the crop trees.

Upon completion of these tasks, the research team from Virginia Tech will visit these properties to determine how well the tool was able to teach crop tree release techniques to woodland owners. Woodland owners will also complete a short online survey to share opinions and suggestions about the online tool and their experience with crop tree release.

If you are interested, please complete this [short survey](#) by April 30<sup>th</sup> and one of our researchers will contact you.

## 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](#)

- April 5 - Scouting for Signs of Wildlife
- April 19 - I Love it When a Plan Comes Together
- May 3 - Wild Turkeys in the Timber
- May 17 - A Wildlife Smorgasbord
- May 31 - Simple Tools to Measure Your Forest
- June 14 - To be Announced
- [Flier](#)
- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)

### A Tour of Urban Wood in Hooville

Take a walk on the urban side and learn how trees and wood are used in an urban setting. Tour the tallest mass timber building on the east coast, the Apex Plaza, visit the most majestic trees on the UVA Grounds, hear about the new Forest Patches Project, and learn about UVA Sawmilling.

- April 25
- 12 - 4:30
- \$25/person, includes lunch and transportation
- Register [online](#)

### Virginia Forestry Summit

Join landowners and natural resource professionals from across Virginia for this educational and networking event.

- April 23-25
- [Boar's Head Resort](#), Charlottesville
- Register [online](#)

### **Landowner Retreats**

Landowner Retreats are co-hosted by the Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Cooperative Extension. Retreats provide information on hardwood and pine forest management, legacy planning, management planning, and more. They combine classroom, field trip, and hands-on activities to teach concepts of sustainable woodland and wildlife management.

- Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
  - May 3-4
  - [Southwest Virginia 4 H Educational Center](#), Abingdon
  - Register [by mail](#)
  - Register [online](#)
- Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
  - September 20-21
  - [New Kent Forestry Center](#), Providence Forge
  - Registration opens July

### **Online Woodland Options for Landowners**

This 10-week self-paced online course teaches the fundamentals of forest management. Upon completion of the class, you can have a draft forest management plan. The class wraps up with an optional end-of-the-semester hands-on field trip. Registration fee includes 5 books.

- June 5 - August 11
- Online
- \$55/family
- [Syllabus](#)
- Register [online](#)
- Register [by mail](#)

### **Timber Cruising for Woodland Owners**

Hiring a professional forester is the best way to ensure an accurate accounting of your timber volume and value. And it's also important for you to understand where those numbers come from. This hands-on

class will teach you why and how timber cruises are conducted.

- August 16
- McCormick Farm, Raphine
- \$45/person - includes lunch, angle gauge, and Biltmore stick
- Registration opens in June

[Visit the Blue Ridge PRISM website for programs on nonnative invasives](#)

**And from our friends at the University of Maryland Extension:**

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

This course promotes the stewardship of small parcels of land for the personal enjoyment of the owners and improved environmental quality for society. If you own 1 to 10 acres in the Eastern United States that is forested or has unmowed natural areas, this course is for you. It is for you if you have a mowed lawn area that you want to turn into a woodland. It is also for you if you are a land manager or part of a group that manages natural areas, such as a preserve or a community woodland.

- April 8 - June 17
- \$95
- Register [online](#)

*All the best!*

*Jennifer*

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