

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

**August
2024**

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- Sept. 6 – Using Drones in Forest Management
- Sept. 20 – ROW can be WOW Habitat!
- Oct. 4 – Red Oak Family
- Oct. 18 – TBA
- Nov. 1 – Simple Tools to Measure Your Forest Part 2
- Nov. 15 – A Forester Can Provide A Clear View of Your Forest – Part 2 – Selling Your Timber
- Watch archived videos on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube Premier](#)

Southeast Virginia Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat

- September 20-21
- Providence Forge

Virginia Tree Farm Foundation Tree Farm Tours

- August 23 – Shenandoah
- August 30 – Bland

Generation NEXT Legacy Planning Workshops

- August 9 & 10, Staunton
- October 26, Lynchburg

Timber Cruising for Woodland Owners

- August 16
- Raphine

Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours

- Oct. 3 – Wise
- Oct. 11 – Rockingham
- Oct. 24 – Bedford
- October 25 – Dinwiddie

Good Morning Forest Update Subscribers,

Hopefully many of you have been getting some rain these past few weeks. Here in southwest Virginia, I am breathing a sigh of relief as we are getting enough rain to save the gardens from being utter disasters. Personally, I'm ready to move on to fall and the end of hot and/or sticky weather. Soon, right?

This year the e-update has been focusing on different aspects of sustainable forestry. August's topic is protecting biodiversity during forest management activities. **Biodiversity** is defined by the World Wildlife Fund as "*the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms, like bacteria that make up our natural world.*" While care should be taken to protect all aspects of native ecosystems during management activities, the law requires protection of species that are designated as threatened or endangered (T&E).

An **endangered species** is in danger of extinction throughout most or all its range; a **threatened species** is in danger of becoming endangered throughout most or all its range in the foreseeable future. Both are protected under the federal [Endangered Species Act \(ESA\)](#) and Virginia's endangered species regulations. Of course, by their very nature, T&E species are uncommon, and most landowners do not know if any such species are residing on their land.

Fortunately, there are resources available to help landowners. A good starting place is the newly updated Virginia Cooperative Extension Publication "[Guide to Threatened and Endangered Species on Private Lands in Virginia](#)". This publication provides a simple a process landowners can use to determine if T&E species are living on their land.

If you are lucky enough to have T&E species on your land, federal and state agencies are happy to work with you to help you protect them while implementing your forest management activities.

Learn more about this and other aspects of sustainable forest management at one of our upcoming landowner education programs!

And a final call to participate in Penn State's carbon research:

You are invited to take part in a study seeking to understand landowner views about carbon payment programs in Virginia. This study is conducted by researchers at Virginia Tech and Pennsylvania State University and will be used to inform education and policy decisions about climate smart forestry. No special knowledge or experience is required to take the survey.

Learn more by visiting the [project website](#).

[Click here to sign up for the study.](#) *After signing up, you will receive an invitation code which is required to access either the online survey or request a printed copy.*

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

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Incentive: Upon completing the survey, you will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a **Google Nest Mini (2nd Gen) Smart Speaker** with Google Assistant Voice Control.

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

Featured Events

[Fifteen Minutes in the Forest](#)

The award-winning Fifteen Minutes in the Forest video series features a wide-array of topics and are shown every other Friday at 12:15 on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube Premier](#)

- September 6 – Using Drones in Forest Management
- September 20 – ROW can be WOW Habitat!
- October 4 – The Red Oak Family
- October 18 – TBA
- November 1 – Simple Tools to Measure Your Forest Part 2
- November 15 – A Forester Can Provide A Clear View of Your Forest – Part 2 – Selling Your Timber
- [Watch 100+ Fifteen Minutes in the Forest videos on our YouTube Channel](#)

[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.

- Southeast Virginia Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
 - September 20-21
 - [New Kent Forestry Center](#), Providence Forge
 - [Agenda](#)
 - Register [by mail](#)
 - Register [online](#)

[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.

- Registration is \$20/person; \$35/couple and includes lunch and transportation around the Tree Farm
- Registration closes 10 days prior to event
- August 23 – Shenandoah County
- August 30 – Bland County
 - Tour details and register [by mail](#)
 - Register [online](#)

any other basis protected by law.

Generation NEXT Legacy Planning Workshops

Generation NEXT is an award-winning, nationally recognized educational program that will get you started on the right path to keeping your land intact, in forest, and in family.

- August 9&10
 - [Frontier Culture Museum](#), Staunton
 - \$90 for two family members; \$10 each additional family member
 - Register [by mail](#)
 - Register [online](#)
- October 26
 - [Timberlake Tavern](#), Lynchburg
 - \$80 for two family members, \$40 each additional family member
 - Registration opens in August

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
- 10:30 - 4:00
- \$45/person - includes lunch, angle gauge, and Biltmore stick
- Register [online](#)
- 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 3 - Wise County
- October 11 - Rockingham County
- October 24 - Bedford County
- October 25 - Dinwiddie County
- Tour details and registration available in mid-August

From our friends at University of Maryland Extension:

The Woods in Your Backyard online course - Fall 2024

This self-directed, non-credit course runs 10 weeks from September 9th to November 18th. 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. For more information, visit: https://go.umd.edu/the_course.

- September 9 - November 18, 2024
- \$145/person
- [Register online](#)

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

All the best!

Jennifer

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