

# Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

*December 2024*

## Featured Events

### Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- Feb. 28 - Stay Safe in the Woods
- March 28 – The Woods in Your Backyard
- Watch archived videos on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube Premier](#)

### 2025 Landowner Woods & Wildlife Conferences

- February 22  
(Yes – they are both on the SAME date)
- Blacksburg
- Culpeper

### Woodland Owner Retreats

- Central Virginia Beginning Retreat
  - March 28-29
  - [Holiday Lake 4 H Educational Center](#), Appomattox
- Southwest Virginia Beginning Retreat
  - May TBA
  - Location TBA
- Southeast Virginia Advanced Retreat
  - September 5-6
  - [New Kent Forestry Center](#), Providence Forge
  - Agenda & registration available in July

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

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Good morning Forest Update Subscribers,

Unbelievable! That's how I feel about the fact that it is December already. Although it's passed quickly, the past year on the farm has been a success. I picked 100 pounds of blueberries, put up 23 quarts of tomatoes, ate all the summer squash I could stand, filled the truck bed with sweet potatoes, and am still making salads with greenhouse lettuce. The drought in early summer resulted in less than stellar green bean and potato crops, and powdery mildew took out our winter squash and pumpkins. This further strengthens our resolve to have a diverse garden – regardless of the weather conditions, if we plant enough variety, we have success with at least some things.

This past year has also taken me all over Virginia. I've had the pleasure of visiting with over 600 woodland owners in 2024. That is by far the best part of my job so thanks to all of you who participate! I look forward to seeing many more of you in 2025.

This year the e-update has been focusing on different aspects of sustainable forestry. We'll wrap up this series with sustainable timber harvesting. I talk to a lot of landowners who don't PLAN to harvest timber; but many often harvest at some point. A harvest may occur to cover unexpected expenses, in response to a natural disaster (like a hurricane, ice storm, or tornado), or in response to a forest health issue (e.g., southern pine beetle infestation). In all cases, the harvests should be conducted in a way that allows for a new forest to either naturally regenerate or to be planted.

Ways to ensure you are happy with your timber harvest include:

1. Hire a forester. A good forester:
  - will write you a timber sale contract
  - can help you protect your soil, water, and wildlife habitats during the harvest



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- will monitor the on-going harvest
- can help ensure a healthy new forest develops after the harvest
- can maximize your profits from the timber sale

- Look for foresters who are members of the [Society of American Foresters](#) and/or [The Association of Consulting Foresters](#)
  - Check references
  - Check to make sure contractors have appropriate insurance
2. Work with an accountant who is familiar with timber sales
    - Learn more at the [National Timber Tax website](#)
  3. Retain all contracts and records from your timber sale for at least 3 years

Here are some additional resources on this topic:

1. [So You Want to Sell Timber](#)
2. [How to Sell Timber \(webinar\)](#)
3. [Timber Selling Tips](#)
4. [Working with a Consulting Forester](#)

#### In other news:

- **A very important reminder about the Beneficial Ownership Reporting Rule - please read this if you own land.**

In September 2022, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) issued the Beneficial Ownership Information Reporting Rule under the Corporate Transparency Act. This rule requires disclosing the identity of beneficial owners of small business entities beginning on January 1, 2024. The need to make these reports will depend upon the nature, size, and form of your business. **If your business (farm, ranch, agricultural operation, woodland) is set up as a legal business entity (such as an LLC, LLP, business trust, corporation, etc.) created through the State Corporation**

**Commission (SCC), secretary of state, or other similar office, the operation is likely subject to the new Reporting Rule.** Beneficial Ownership Information reports must be filed by 1/1/2025 if the entity was created before 1/1/2024 or within 90 days if the entity was formed after 1/1/2024. The fact sheet linked below titled Beneficial Ownership Reporting – Key Questions answers frequently asked questions such as who qualifies as a beneficial owner, what information must be reported, and when to file. Please note that while there is no charge to file, **failure to file required BOI reports may result in fines of \$500.00 a day and/or five years in prison.**

1. [Fact Sheets - An Introduction to Beneficial Ownership Information Reporting](#)
2. [Beneficial Ownership Reporting - Frequently Asked Questions](#)
3. [The FinCEN Beneficial Ownership Information Website](#)

- **Forest Landowner Feedback Needed!**

The Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture would like to hear from forest landowners to learn more about their perspectives on the resiliency of Virginia's Appalachian forests. If you have an interest in or would like to learn more about opportunities for forest and/or wildlife habitat improvement, and own land in western Virginia that includes a minimum of 10 acres of woodlands, We Want To Talk To You! Go to <https://forms.gle/KUGKnwBXZgLLtUdt9> to participate. Questions? Email Liz Brewer at [ebrewer@abcbirds.org](mailto:ebrewer@abcbirds.org).

We are busy planning landowner education events for 2025. We'll have more dates and programs scheduled soon.

Check out our [Events Calendar](#) and see below for upcoming educational opportunities.

**[Fifteen Minutes in the Forest](#)**

The award-winning Fifteen Minutes in the Forest video series features a wide-array of topics and are shown the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month at 12:15 on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube Premier](#)

- February 28 - Stay Safe in the Woods
- March 28 - The Woods in Your Backyard
- [Watch 100+ Fifteen Minutes in the Forest videos on our YouTube Channel](#)

### **33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Virginia Association of Forest Health Professionals Conference**

- February 20-21
- [Hotel 24](#), Staunton
- Agenda and registration coming soon

### **2025 Landowner Woods & Wildlife Conferences**

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.

- February 22 (Yes - they are on the SAME date)
- Before January 7 - \$50/person; \$90/couple
- January 7 and later - \$55/person; \$100/couple
- [Squires Student Center, Virginia Tech](#), Southwest Virginia - Blacksburg
- [Daniel Technology Center, Germanna Community College](#), Northern Virginia - Culpeper
- [Online registration is open!](#)

### **Introduction to Forest Farming**

- March 13
- Orange
- Contact Luke Bello, [bellol@vt.edu](mailto:bellol@vt.edu) for details.

### **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.

- Central Virginia - Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
  - March 28-29
  - [Holiday Lake 4 H Educational Center](#), Appomattox
  - Register [by mail](#)
  - Register [online](#)
- Southwest Virginia - Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
  - Dates coming soon
  - Location coming soon
- Southeast Virginia - Beyond the Basics: Advanced Woodland Owner Retreat
  - September 5-6
  - [New Kent Forestry Center](#), Providence Forge

### **Virginia Forestry Summit**

- May 7-9
- [Hotel Roanoke](#), Roanoke
- Registration opens Spring 2025

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

*All the best!*

*Jennifer*

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