

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

February 2024

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

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

Woods & Wildlife Conferences

- February 10
 - Wytheville
- February 24
 - Culpeper

2024 Woodland Stewards Webinar Series

- January 30 – March 5
- Virtual

Generation NEXT Legacy Planning

- March 7
- Virtual

Landowner Retreats

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

Good Morning Forest Update Subscribers,

As promised, this year I'm going to focus on different aspects of sustainable forestry. This month, the topic is: **Commitment to Practicing Sustainable Forestry**. Before you can practice sustainable forestry, you must commit to doing it. What this commitment entails will vary depending on you and your land. But most natural resource professionals agree that a key component to making this commitment is obtaining a written forest management plan for your land.

What exactly is a forest management plan? A forest management plan states your goals for the future of your forest, describes the current conditions of your forest, and includes a list of activities to help you achieve your goals. The complexity of your plan will depend on the size of your land and the intensity of your management. Plans can be simple, including only a list of your goals, a collection of maps, a description of your trees (age, species, condition), and a list of activities; or they can be more in-depth, like a [Forest Stewardship Plan](#), suitable for those of you who are doing a lot of active management (like timber harvesting).

Our plan falls somewhere in between. It was written about 5 years ago by a group of Virginia Tech forestry students for their senior capstone project.

The first step in the development of a forest management plan is to determine your land ownership goals. Goals are general statements about how you want your land to be in the future and do not include a timeline or any specifics of how or when you

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

- March 22-24
- Roanoke

Online Woodland Options for Landowners

- July 2 – September 9
- Syllabus
- Registration opens May 1

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

are going to reach them. Examples of common forest owner goals include:

1. I want to have a healthy forest.
2. I want to see lots of wildlife.
3. I want a peaceful place to retire.

For more information on determining your goals, with real life examples, watch this short video: [Management Goals and Objectives](#). Once your goals are set, you should work with a forester and/or wildlife biologist who can help assess the current condition of your forest and develop a list of activities to help you achieve your goals. You can find your local forester here: <https://dof.virginia.gov/> and your local wildlife biologist here: <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/media/dmap-map.pdf>.

Of course, just having a plan does not improve conditions in the forest. The plan needs to be followed to be effective. Next month I'll share helpful tips for finding technical and financial assistance to help you implement your forest management plan. You can learn more about different aspects of creating and following a plan by attending one of our upcoming landowner events below as well.

Our plan is currently a bit dusty – there just aren't enough hours in the day. Hopefully, once we retire, we can complete more projects.

- [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](#)

- February 9 – Boundary Lines Part 2
- February 16 – Cooking Wood
- March 8 – The Hardwood Initiative

228 Cheatham Hall 0324

Blacksburg, VA 24061

<https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu>

jgagnon@vt.edu

540/231-6391

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.

- March 15 – Professional Forestry Assistance
- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)

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](#)
 - [Agenda](#)
 - \$55/person; \$90/couple
 - Register [online](#)
 - Register [by mail](#)
 - **Registration closes Friday February 2 at 5:00 p.m.!**
- Culpeper
 - February 24
 - 8:30 – 4:30
 - [Daniel Technology Center](#)
 - [Agenda](#)
 - \$55/person; \$90/couple
 - Register [online](#)
 - Register [by mail](#)
 - **Registration closes Friday February 9 at 5:00 p.m.!**

2024 Woodland Steward Webinar Series: Focus on Silvopasture

This free webinar series will teach you how to establish, manage, and fund silvopasture systems. Established producers will share their experiences.

- Virtual
- 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EST
- Free

- February 6 – Thin Your Way to a Silvopasture System: Establishing Silvopasture in Existing Forest or Woodlands –
- February 13 – Planting Your Way to a Silvopasture System: Silvopasture Establishment in Open Pastures or Fields
- February 20 – From Forage to Livestock: Managing Animals in a Silvopasture System
- February 27 – Moving Towards a Silvopasture System: Getting Started and Finding Help
- March 5 – Silvopasture Producers Share Their Experiences and Answer Questions

Legacy Planning Workshops

- Generation NEXT Land Transition Planning
 - March 1
 - 9 – 12:00
 - Rappahannock Church of Christ, Warsaw
 - \$25/family
- Generation NEXT Land Transition Planning
 - March 1
 - 6 – 9:00
 - Cook's Corner Office Complex, Saluda
 - \$25/family
- Generation NEXT Legacy Planning Workshop: Land Conservation Tools Deep Dive

Learn about the conservation tools available to help you pass your land and your legacy on to the next generation while keeping it intact, in forest, and in family ownership.

 - Virtual
 - March 7
 - 6:30 – 8:30
 - \$10/family – includes a copy of the award-winning book: Legacy Planning: A Guide for Virginia Landowners

- Register [by mail](#)

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.

- Beyond the Basics Advanced Retreat
 - March 22-23
 - [Holiday Lake 4 H Educational Center](#), Appomattox
 - [Agenda](#)
 - Register [online](#)
 - Register [by mail](#)
 - **Basic knowledge of woodland management is required**
- Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
 - May 3-4
 - [Southwest Virginia 4 H Educational Center](#), Abingdon
 - Registration opens March
- Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
 - September 20-21
 - [New Kent Forestry Center](#), Providence Forge
 - Registration opens July

[Visit the Blue Ridge PRISM website for programs on nonnative 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 "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.