

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

January 2024

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- 12:15 every other Friday
- New videos return on January 12
- 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,

Happy New Year to all!

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday break. Our time off was busy, but wonderful, with a new grandbaby and a new dog.

In 2024, this e-newsletter will focus on sustainable forestry. Sustainable forestry consists of management practices that meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Specifically, sustainable forestry integrates reforestation, and the managing, growing, nurturing and harvesting of trees for useful products and ecosystem services such as conserving soil, protecting air and water quality, sequestering carbon, increasing biological diversity, conserving wildlife and aquatic habitats, improving recreational opportunities, and protecting aesthetics.

Each month I will focus on a different aspects of sustainable forest management and I'll provide resources to help you implement them on your land. Specifically, I'll be covering:

1. Commitment to Practicing Sustainable Forestry
2. Compliance with Laws
3. Reforestation and Afforestation
4. Air, Water and Soil Protection
5. Fish, Wildlife, Biodiversity, and Forest Health
6. Forest Aesthetics
7. Protect Special Sites
8. Forest Product Harvests and Other Activities

In the meantime, the Winter 2024 edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update is now available! In this edition:

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

- March 22-24
- Roanoke

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

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- **[From the Mountains to the Coast: A History of Fire in Virginia. Julia DeFeo.](#)**
When we think about wildland fire, many of us immediately jump to the high-intensity, high-severity megafires that are splashed all over the news every year. Out west, these fires are typically driven by a deadly combination of hazardous fuel structure, extreme drought, and intense winds. Here in Virginia, where conditions are usually less extreme, many wildland fires are prescribed in order to meet a land management objective. By choosing when, where, and how to burn, fire practitioners can tailor fire effects to specific goals. Decades of fire ecology research in the eastern US and in the Appalachian region support the use of prescribed fire to promote wildlife habitat diversity, maintain fire-adapted plant communities, reduce hazardous fuels, control forest pests and diseases, and improve water quality. [Read more....](#)

- **[Spotted Lanternfly: Where are We Now?](#)**
The warmth from the bonfire burning infested tree-of[1]heaven branches felt good that cold January morning in 2018 in Winchester, Virginia. A few days earlier, a Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services employee found dead spotted lanternflies (*Lycorma delicatula*) and their egg masses at the base of the now[1]burning trees. On the drive up the day of the burn, the entomologists in the car talked about how we hoped that maybe it would just be confined to one or two trees and easily eradicated. Later, as we walked along the rail lines near the site, it was obvious it had spread. Almost 6 years have passed since we saw firsthand that the spotted lanternfly had established in Virginia. Since that time, we have learned a few things. [Read more....](#)

- **[Events Calendar](#)**

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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](#)

- January 12 – Why Family-Owned Woodlands Matter
- January 26 – I Love it When a Plan Comes Together
- February 9 – Boundary Lines Part 2
- February 16 – Cooking Wood
- March 8 – The Hardwood Initiative
- March 15 – Professional Forestry Assistance
- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)

[2024 Landowner Woods & Wildlife Conferences - REGISTRATION IS OPEN](#)

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](#)
- Culpeper
 - February 24
 - 8:30 – 4:30
 - [Daniel Technology Center](#)
 - [Agenda](#)
 - \$55/person; \$90/couple
 - Register [online](#)
 - Register by mail coming soon

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
- January 30 – Silvopasture: An Introduction and Overview
- 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

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 [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](#)
- 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 nonative invasives](#)

Wishing you a wonderful start to your new year!

Jennifer

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