

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

Summer 2024

Volume 38 Number 3

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- On summer break until Friday September 6
- 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

- July 12 - Sussex County
- July 26 - Highland County
- August 23 - Shenandoah County
- August 30 - Bland County

Generation NEXT Legacy Planning Workshops

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

Timber Cruising for Woodland Owners

- August 16
- Raphine

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

Social Media

Good Morning Forest Update Subscribers,

This year the e-update has been focusing on different aspects of sustainable forestry. We'll take a break from this topic this month since we have a lot of other news to share. But next month we'll get back to it and discuss identifying and protecting threatened & endangered species.

In the meantime, my fruits and vegetables and I are thankful to finally be getting a bit of rain at the farm. Despite the dry conditions, I'm having a record year for blueberry production – over 90 pounds picked so far! In fact, all the fruit crops look great, with nectarines, peaches, plums, grapes, apples, pears, black raspberries, and wine raspberries (I know, non-native) producing copious amounts. And the drought has resulted in the tastiest tomatoes I can recall. Delicious!

News Items

1. Changes to Virginia's Farm Use Vehicle Program take effect July 1, 2024. [See how this could affect you.](#)

2. **Are you a woodland owner? Are you interested in climate change or getting paid to store carbon?**

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.

How to Participate:

- a) **Learn more by visiting the [project website.](#)**
- b) **[Click here to sign up for the study.](#) After signing up, you will receive an invitation code which is required to access either**



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the online survey or request a printed copy.

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. If you prefer a print copy of the survey, please contact Kripa Neupane directly at kripa.neupane@psu.edu.

[The Summer 2024 Virginia Forest Landowner Update is now available. In this edition:](#)

- [What is a Wetland and Why Should you Care?](#)

Do you have a wetland on your property? How would you know? It can be tricky to determine, as wetlands are neither fully terrestrial nor fully aquatic and may be flooded for a short term, an entire season, multiple seasons, or permanently. [Read more...](#)

- [The Beneficial Ownership Information Reporting Rule May Apply to YOU!](#)

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. [Read more...](#)

- [Prescribed Fire Assistance for Woodland Owners](#)

The Virginia Prescribed Fire Council is pleased to announce the creation of Virginia's first Prescribed Burn Association (PBA). PBAs are a very simple concept: neighbors help neighbors conduct prescribed fire on private lands. PBAs help meet the demand for labor and equipment on burn days, establish firebreaks,

religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.

and make connections to education and resources, as momentum for more fire on the ground across the southeast grows. [Read more...](#)

- **[Blue RIDGE Invasive Plant Survey](#)**
Blue Ridge PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) is surveying a broad group of participants to better understand what invasive plant species have been, or are becoming, a problem for Virginia homeowners, farmers, commercial property owners, and natural area stewards. We need your help to identify which invasive plants you are seeing locally and are most concerned about. [Take the survey.](#)
- **[Events Calendar](#)**

[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](#)

- 15 Minutes in the Forest is on summer vacation! New videos will return September 6th.
- 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
- July 12 - Sussex County
- July 26 - Highland County
- August 23 - Shenandoah County
- August 30 - Bland County
 - Tour details and register [by mail](#)
 - Register [online](#)

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 August

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

Blue Ridge PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) is surveying a broad group of participants to better understand what invasive plant species have been or are becoming, a problem for Virginia homeowners, farmers, commercial property owners, and natural area stewards.

The PRISM needs your help to identify which invasive plants you are seeing locally and are most concerned about. Please fill out the [Invasive Plants of Virginia Survey](#).

All the best!

Jennifer

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