

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

June 2024

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- 12:15 every other Friday
- 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

- [Itineraries](#)

Online Woodland Options for Landowners

- July 1 - September 9
- [Syllabus](#)

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!

Good Morning Forest Update Subscribers,

This year the e-update is focusing on different aspects of sustainable forestry. June's topic is protecting soil and water during woodland management activities. Some activities, such as constructing roads, crossing streams, harvesting timber, and creating firebreaks, have the potential to negatively impact soil and water. Negative impacts occur mainly through soil compaction and erosion. Fortunately, there are science-based guidelines for protecting these resources during and after woodland management activities. These guidelines are called [Virginia's Forestry Best Management Practices \(BMPs\) for Water Quality](#). In most of Virginia, these guidelines are voluntary. But, while implementing BMP's is mostly voluntary, recall from the [March e-Update](#) that Virginia does [have water quality laws in place](#). Implementing BMP's is the best way to not break the water quality laws.

In Virginia, [all logging jobs must be reported to the Virginia Department of Forestry \(VDOF\) within 3 days of the start of the operation](#). The VDOF monitors BMP implementation statewide to ensure that water quality is being protected. Virginia's statewide BMP implementation rate is 95%. If you are planning a management activity that has the potential to have a negative impact on your soil and water, the VDOF is available to assist you with planning (which helps prevent problems), BMP recommendations, and site restoration guidance. [Find your VDOF forester here](#), and [Virginia's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality - Technical Guide here](#).

One commonly recommended BMP is the retention or creation of forested buffers along your waterways (riparian buffers). As such, the

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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,

VDOF is excited to announce the launch of the Riparian Forests for Landowners (RFFL) Program. Working with partners, the program will provide turnkey coverage costs of riparian forest buffer establishment and one year of maintenance to a broad range of landowners. Find out more about the program on the [VDOF website](#).

In Other News

1. **IMPORTANT If you read nothing else in this newsletter, please read this: [New filing rules in place for businesses - if you have an LLC, LLP, business trust, corporation, etc., this may apply to you.](#)**
2. New/revised publications:
 - a. [An Overview of Forest Carbon Credit Programs in Virginia](#) NEW!
 - b. [A Guide to Threatened and Endangered Species on Private Lands](#) - Updated!
 - c. [Trees and Water](#) - Updated!

[Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program 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](#)

- June 14 - TBA
- 15 Minutes in the Forest will be on summer vacation! New videos will return in September.
- [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.

sex (including pregnancy), gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.

- Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
 - September 20-21
 - [New Kent Forestry Center](#), Providence Forge
 - Registration opens July

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
- Register [online](#)
- Register [by mail](#)
 - June 21 - Pittsylvania County
 - July 12 - Sussex County
 - July 26 - Highland County
 - August 23 - Shenandoah County
 - August 30 - Bland County

Online Woodland Options for Landowners

This 10-week self-paced online course teaches the fundamentals of forest management. Upon completion of the class, you can have a draft forest management plan. The class wraps up with an optional end-of-the-semester hands-on field trip on October 12 in Raphine. Registration fee includes 5 books.

- July 1 - September 9 - **note date change**
- Online
- \$55/family
- [Syllabus](#)
- Register [online](#)
- Register [by mail](#)

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, Staunton
- October 26, Lynchburg
- Registration opens in early June

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

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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