

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

Fall 2024

Vol. 38 No. 4

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- Oct. 4 – Red Oak Family
- Oct. 18 – Sweetgum – Love it or Hate it?
- Nov. 1 – Simple Tools to Measure Your Forest Part 2
- Nov. 15 – A Forester Can Provide A Clear View of Your Forest – Part 2 – Selling Your Timber

- Watch archived videos on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube Premier](#)

Online Woodland Options for Landowners Field Trip

- October 19
- McCormick Farm, Raphine

Generation NEXT Legacy Planning Workshop

- October 26, Lynchburg

Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours

- Oct. 11 – Rockingham
- Oct. 24 – Bedford
- October 25 – Dinwiddie

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

Social Media



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Good Morning Forest Update Subscribers,

Our thoughts are with all the folks in Virginia dealing with the aftermath of hurricane Helene. If you need help, please visit [VAemergency.gov](#) or call 211 to speak to someone and be connected to resources. The folks at the [Forest Landowners Association](#) have provided some resources that may be useful specifically to woodland owners affected by the storm:

1. **USDA's Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP):** Provides funding to restore private forestland after natural disasters.
2. **FEMA's disaster relief programs:** Offer various forms of assistance for recovery efforts.

This year the e-update has been focusing on different aspects of sustainable forestry. This month I'm going to talk about managing for forest aesthetics. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, aesthetics is "*the quality of beauty something or someone is said to have.*" In the case of forest aesthetics, this applies to the visual impact of management activities. We know the visual impacts of forest management activities, timber harvests in particular, can seem less than beautiful to landowners and the public. In fact, over the years I've heard many landowners describe a recent clearcut as "*it looks like a bomb went off!*" or "*it looked like Mars!*" Of course, those of us



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- **Forest Stewardship Program**
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familiar with forest management recognize that this is only a temporary condition – that within a year most people won't even recognize that a timber harvest occurred. We also know that what looks unappealing to us, looks like beautiful habitat to many species of wildlife that rely on forest disturbances for cover and food. But the public doesn't always understand this. So, managing to minimize visual impacts of management activities can provide a more visually appealing experience for everyone.

Managing for forest aesthetics during a timber harvest does not need to be costly. Examples include:

- placing log truck landings out of public view
- putting in a bend in the logging access road to block the view of the management activity
- installing roads and harvest boundaries along contour lines and timber types
- revegetating roads with wildlife friendly plants
- leaving a buffer strip of trees along roads

If you are planning to harvest timber on your land, talk to your logger about managing for forest aesthetics.

Here are some additional resources on this topic:

- [A Guide to Logging Aesthetics: Practical Tips for Loggers, Foresters, and Landowners.](#)
- [Georgia's Best Management Practices for Forestry, Section 7](#)
- [Forest Stewardship Planning for Beauty and Enjoyment](#)

It is officially fall which means the [Fall Edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update](#) is now available. [Read the full newsletter online.](#)

In this edition:

New Virginia Department of Forestry Program Provides Free Riparian Buffers

The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) has a new program that provides landowners free, flexible riparian forest buffer installation plus one year of maintenance. Riparian forest buffers are transition areas that protect streams, creeks, or other water features by capturing sediment, nutrients and pollutants in the soil before they reach the water. [Read more...](#)

You ARE From Around Here! What Happens when a Large, Charismatic, Native, Herbivore Becomes an Ecological Nuisance?

By: Jennifer Gagnon, Virginia Tech

The other day I looked out my dining room window and quietly watched a large buck, not more than 10 feet away, graze on our almost ripe nectarines. After a few minutes I yelled "SCRAM - GET". He paused mid-chew, gave me a blank stare, then continued with his meal. Turns out, there was no need to be quiet. He is one of three large bucks roaming around our place this summer. [Read more...](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

I also encourage you to attend one of our upcoming landowner education programs:

[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](#)

- October 4 -The Red Oak Family
- October 18 - Sweetgum - Love it or Hate it?
- 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](#)

Online Woodland Options for Landowners Field Trip

This in-person, hands-on field trip is the capstone to the annual Online Woodland options for Landowners class. We will cover tree identification, using forestry equipment to measure trees, and see examples of sustainable forestry & wildlife management practices. You do not need to be in the online class to participate.

- October 19
- McCormick Farm, Raphine
- 9:15 - 3:30
- [Agenda](#)
- Free to all past and present Online Woodland Options students (e-mail jgagnon@vt.edu)
- \$25/person all others - register [online](#)
- Lunch provided

[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.

- October 26
 - [Timberlake Tavern](#), Lynchburg
 - \$80 for two family members, \$40 each additional family member
 - [Agenda](#)
 - Register [by mail](#)
 - Register [online](#)

[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 11 – Rockingham County – **registration extended until Monday October 7 at noon.**
- October 24 – Bedford County
- October 25 – Dinwiddie County
- \$45/person; \$80/couple – includes lunch and transportation for the tour
- Register [online](#)
- Itineraries and register [by mail](#)

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
- [Squires Student Center, Virginia Tech](#), Southwest Virginia – Blacksburg
- [Daniel Technology Center, Germanna Community College](#), Northern Virginia – Culpeper
- Agendas and registration available in December

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

All the best!

Jennifer

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