

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

April 2025

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- Fourth Fridays at 12:15
- April 25: Bobcats in the Bush
- Watch archived videos on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube Premier](#)

Woodland Owner Retreats

- May 30-31
 - Southwest Virginia Beginning Retreat, Abingdon
- September 5-6
 - Southeast Virginia Advanced Retreat, New Kent

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

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Good morning, Forest Update Subscribers,

Well, it's spring. As a cold-weather lover, I can't say that I am looking forward to months of temperatures above 40, but I know many (perhaps most) of you are happy about the change. I've started cleaning up my pollinator gardens, the vegetable gardens (yes plural, we now have 3!) are almost ready to be tilled, and I have lettuce and spinach in the greenhouse. In addition, the plums, pears, and nectarines are all blooming. So, enjoy the warmth while you read [the Spring edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update newsletter](#).

In this edition:

Generation NEXT: Legacy Planning for Forest and Farm Owners

Fifteen years ago, Mike Santucci, Virginia Department of Forestry, and Adam Downing, Virginia Cooperative Extension, recognized the need to reach Virginia's woodland owners with a palatable approach to legacy planning. Legacy planning is planning for the future of your woodland after your death. It means working out the legal and financial estate plan to pass on your woodland and also working with your heirs to pass on knowledge and a love of the land. [Read more...](#)

Beneficial Ownership Reporting Rule Update

You Ain't From Around Here! The Two-horned Trapa: A Wingless Devil that can Fly

Two-horned trapa (*Trapa bispinosa*) is an invasive aquatic plant that poses a significant threat to waterways in the United States. First identified in Pohick Bay, Virginia, in 2014, it was initially mistaken for the highly invasive Eurasian water chestnut (*Trapa natans*). While similar in appearance and growth patterns, two-horned trapa produces two-horned seed pods, unlike the four-horned pods of the Eurasian water chestnut. [Read more...](#)

- [Virginia Forestry Association](#)
- [Forest Stewardship Program](#)
- [USDA Forest Service](#)

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4 PM Burning Law

Events Calendar

We have a busy spring schedule of landowner events for you to choose from!

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

The award-winning Fifteen Minutes in the Forest video series features a wide-array of topics and are shown the 4th Friday of each month at 12:15 PM on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube Premier](#)

- April 25 – Bobcats in the Bush
- May 23 – Brush Piles
- June 27 – Before the Storm
- [Watch 100+ Fifteen Minutes in the Forest videos on our YouTube Channel](#)

Majestic Trees of Montpelier

Specimens include trees that were alive during the Madison period and some of their younger but still massive neighbors planted as late as the 1900's.

- April 12
- 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- [Montpelier Station](#)
- \$18
- Register [online](#)

Virginia Forestry Summit

- May 7-9
- [Hotel Roanoke](#), Roanoke
- Registration opens Spring 2025

An Urban Forestry Tour in the Star City of the South

Join us to visit the Fishburn Mansion, Virginia Western's Arboretum, and Sherwood Memorial Park.

- May 9
- 12:30 – 4:30 PM
- Roanoke
- \$30 – includes lunch and transportation
- [Agenda](#)
- Register [online](#)

Generation NEXT Deep Dive: The Family Factor

Discussions about what happens to family forestland when mom and dad die are difficult. Our experts share tips on how to make these conversations go smoothly.

- May 13
- 6:30 – 8:30 PM
- Webinar
- \$10/family
- Register [online](#)

Protecting Family Land: Legacy Planning for Farm and Forest Owners

Learn strategies for passing your forest and farmland on to your heirs in ways that save you money and keep the land intact and in rural use.

- May 15 & 22
- 6:30 – 9:00 PM
- Abingdon
- \$20/person, includes dinner
- Register [online](#)

National Deer Association (NDA) Learn and Burn

This course will provide students the opportunity to learn about the history, benefits, planning, preparation, and implementation of prescribed fire by participating in a live burn (weather permitting).

- May 17
- Spring Hill
- \$250 (includes NDA membership)
- Register [online](#)

16th Annual Vegetation Management Workshop

This workshop for natural resource professionals and landowners covers land and weed management tips from a variety of professionals. Continuing education credits will be offered.

- May 20
- 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Colonial Heights
- \$75 (includes lunch)
- 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. Registration opens 8 weeks prior to events.

- Southwest Virginia - Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
 - May 30-31
 - [Southwest Virginia 4H Education Center](#), Abingdon
 - \$60/person, \$120/couple - includes 5 meals
 - On-site lodging available for an additional \$30/person/night
 - Register [by mail](#)
 - Register [online](#)

- Southeast Virginia - Beyond the Basics: Advanced Woodland Owner Retreat
 - September 5-6
 - [New Kent Forestry Center](#), Providence Forge
 - Registration opens this summer

Teaching Trees for Teachers

A 2-day training for middle and high school teachers who wish to incorporate forestry into a science or agriculture curriculum. The workshop focuses on local forest ecology, management, and products, and includes real-world, field-based activities for students. Class includes 14 hours of instruction, two SOL-correlated Project Learning Tree modules and related supplies, and ideas for incorporating forestry field study into classes.

- July 16-17, Raphine, register [online](#)
- July 30-31, Providence Forge, registration coming soon
- \$25 (lodging reimbursement is available to those travelling outside the area)
- Contact Ellen Powell, ellen.powell@dof.virginia.gov

**Visit the Blue Ridge PRISM website for programs
on nonnative invasives**

I look forward to seeing you in person this year!

Jennifer

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