

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

August 2025

Good morning Forest Update Subscribers,

Every night, as soon as I finish dinner and set my fork down, my dogs gather around me and start barking loudly in my face. Why? Because it is time to walk. They have full access to the outside any time after we get home. But they want ME to go with them. My husband calls their behavior bullying. I call it love.

Lately, the timing of this post-dinner constitutional has been just before dusk. And this has allowed me to see bats hunting over the barnyard. While it's hard for me to identify them in the twilight, I'm guessing they are big brown bats. Although populations of some species of bats have plummeted because of [white-nose syndrome](#), populations of big brown bats are doing well. These mammals eat up to 1/3 of their body weight in insects each evening.

The coolest bat sighting I've had was in Trancoso, Brazil. From the hotel balcony, I watched a bat pollinate a banana flower. I've posted my photo of the banana flower (without the bat) on the [VFLEP Facebook page](#).

If you want to learn more about the 17 documented species of bats in Virginia, visit the Virginia Department of [Wildlife Resources Guide to the Bats of Virginia](#).

If your farm and/or forestland was damaged by Hurricane Helene, you may be eligible to apply for a block grant to help you recover your losses. Learn more: <https://dof.virginia.gov/disaster-relief/>.

We have SO many educational programs for landowners coming up in the next few months! I hope to see all of you at one (or more) of them.

Jennifer

Full 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 the 4th Friday of each month at 12:15 PM on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube Premier](#).

- August 22: Stay Safe in the Woods Part 2
- September 26: Creating Vernal Pools
- October 24: Tree Growth
- November 28: After the Storm: Disaster Response
- December 26-January 6: The Twelve Shorts of Christmas

Watch 150+ Fifteen Minutes in the Forest videos on our [YouTube Channel](#).

Generation NEXT Legacy Planning

Discussions about what happens to family forestland when mom and dad die are difficult. A well thought out plan can help things go smoothly. Our experts provide useful techniques to help you plan for the future of your land.

- Legacy Planning Workshop
 - August 15 & 16 (Please register by 5 PM today August 1)
 - [James Madison's Montpelier](#), Montpelier Station
 - \$90 for 2 people; \$10 each additional family member
 - [Agenda](#)
 - Register [by mail](#)
 - Register [online](#)
- Legacy Planning Workshop
 - October 4
 - Farmville
 - Agenda and registration available in August
- Legacy Planning Workshop
 - November 8
 - Norfolk or Hampton Roads
 - Agenda and registration available in September

Virginia Tree Farm Foundation Lunch 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 deadlines are 2 weeks prior to the tour date.

- August 22: King & Queen County
- September 4: Sussex County
- September 15: Bland County
- September 19: Shenandoah County
- September 26: Montgomery County
 - \$15/person includes lunch
 - [Agendas and register by mail](#)
 - Register [online](#)

Beyond the Basics Woodland Owner Retreat: Managing Your Forest for Wildlife

This 1.5-day program will take a deep dive into managing wildlife (both game and non-game species) on your land. Participants will receive classroom, field trip, and hands-on experiences.

- September 5-6 (Please register by August 21)
- [New Kent Forestry Center](#), Providence Forge
- \$65/person, \$130/couple - onsite lodging is available for an additional fee
- Agenda coming soon
- Register [online](#)
- Register [by mail](#)

The Woods in Your Backyard Online Course

Based on the guide of the same name, this course from University of Maryland Extension provides strategies to landowners of small parcels of land (1-10 acres) that improve the stewardship of their property for personal enjoyment and environmental quality.

- September 8 - November 17
- Online
- \$125/person
- Register [online](#)

Woods & Wildlife Conference

Join the first-ever Virginia-North Carolina Woods & Wildlife Conference. Modeled after the ever-popular Woods & Wildlife Conferences in Culpeper and southwest Virginia, this one-day event will consist of classroom sessions and a tour of the Roseburg Forest Products mill.

- September 20 (please register by September 10)
- [Northampton County Cultural Center](#), Jackson, NC
- \$30/person includes refreshments, lunch, and transportation to the mill tour
- [Agenda and 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.

Past tours have visited seedling nurseries, timber harvesting operations, sawmills, pine plantations, cooperages, hardwood forests, arboretums, Christmas tree farms, elk habitat, fisheries, hunting plantations, and more.

- October 2, Henry County
- October 9, Wise County
- October 16, Virginia Beach
- October 17, Frederick County
- Agendas and registration available in mid-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 important for you to understand where these numbers come from. This hands-on class will teach you how a timber cruise is conducted.

- November 7
- 10:30 – 4:00
- [Reynolds Homestead](#), Critz
- Agenda and registration available in September

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

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