

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

February 2025

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- Fourth Fridays at 12:15
- New videos return February 28th
- Watch archived videos on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube Premier](#)

2025 Landowner Woods & Wildlife Conferences

- February 22
(Yes - they are both on the SAME date)
- Blacksburg
- Culpeper

Woodland Owner Retreats

- March 28-29
 - Central Virginia Beginning Retreat, Appomattox
- 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,

My dogs and I enjoyed the bout of wintery weather last month. What is it about snow that fills dogs with such joy? Even my 16-year-old hound bounds through the snow like a puppy. I only wish we had a bit more so we could go sledding.

Winter is also a great time to walk through the woods and look for cool things. I suspect that most of us think big trees are pretty cool. Did you know that [Virginia's Big Tree Program](#) maintains a register of the 3 largest specimens of over 300 native, non-native, and naturalized tree species? The register includes information about each tree's size, location, and unique characteristics. The Virginia Big Tree Program is affiliated with the [National Champion Tree Program](#), which is administered by the School of Natural Resources at University of Tennessee. Virginia has consistently ranked among the top-five states for national champion trees. Virginia has 57 sole champions and 39 co-champions, totaling 96 trees in the national register. This ranks Virginia #1 for total trees, trailed by Florida at 64 trees and Texas at 60 trees. Our success is due in large part to a dedicated group of big tree hunters. You can learn more about hunting big trees from the [Virginia Big Trees website](#).

Important Beneficial Ownership Information Reporting Rule Update

The Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) Reporting Rule requires most small businesses to file their company with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). Small businesses may include LLCs, trusts, and corporations. Many of you may have established one of these business entities for you forest and/or farmland. Please use this link <https://fincen.gov/boi> to learn more. Over the past couple of weeks, there have been updates in ongoing litigation related to this rule. **As of December 26, there is an injunction in effect and companies are NOT currently required to file BOI information with FinCEN.** If you have a small business that qualifies for reporting, but have not yet filed, you can keep up to date with changes here: <https://fincen.gov/boi>. I will also

- [Virginia Cooperative Extension](#)
- [Virginia Department of Forestry](#)
- [Virginia Sustainable Forestry Initiative State Implementation Committee](#)
- [Virginia Tree Farm Foundation](#)
- [Virginia Forestry Association](#)
- [Forest Stewardship Program](#)
- [USDA Forest Service](#)

Contact

Jennifer Gagnon

228 Cheatham Hall 0324

Blacksburg, VA 24061

<https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu>

jgagnon@vt.edu

540/231-6391

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continue to keep you updated in my monthly e-update newsletters. I assure you changes and updates will occur.

Useful Resources

- [Tax Tips for Forest Landowners: 2024 Tax Year](#)
- [State of the Forest 2024: Annual Report on Virginia's Forests](#)
- [Forest Health Review: 2024 Report on the Health of Virginia's Forests](#)

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

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 on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube Premier](#)

- February 28 - Stay Safe in the Woods
- March 28 - The Woods in Your Backyard
- 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](#)

33rd Annual Virginia Association of Forest Health Professionals Conference

This two-day event will provide the latest information on issues affecting forest health in Virginia. Continuing education credits are offered.

- February 20-21
- [Hotel 24](#), Staunton
- \$120/one day; \$175/two days; \$20 virtual
- [Agenda](#)
- Register [online](#)

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 (Yes - they are on the SAME date) - **please register by Friday February 7th**
- [Squires Student Center, Virginia Tech, Southwest Virginia - Blacksburg](#)
- [Daniel Technology Center, Germanna Community College, Northern Virginia - Culpeper](#)
- \$55/person; \$100/couple
- [Conference agendas and mail in registration](#)
- Register [online](#)

Remote Pilot (Drone) Certification Test Prep Workshops

These 2-day workshops will prepare participants with the knowledge necessary to take the FAA Remote Knowledge Aircraft Test (aka Part 107). The workshop provides participants with an overview of federal regulations, best flight operational strategies, and safety.

- February 18 & 20, or March 5 & 7, or June 12 & 13
- Virtual
- \$250
- [Learn more and register online](#)

Introduction to Forest Farming

- March 13
- Orange
- Contact Luke Bello, bellol@vt.edu for details.

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.

- Central Virginia - Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
 - March 28-29
 - [Agenda](#)
 - [Holiday Lake 4 H Educational Center, Appomattox](#)
 - Register [by mail](#)
 - Register [online](#)

- Southwest Virginia - Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
 - May 30-31
 - [Southwest Virginia 4H Education Center](#), Abingdon
- Southeast Virginia - Beyond the Basics: Advanced Woodland Owner Retreat
 - September 5-6
 - [New Kent Forestry Center](#), Providence Forge

Online Woodland Options for Landowners Short Course

This 10-week, self-paced, not-for-credit course is for landowners of any acreage who want to gain an introductory level of understanding of basic woodland management and become better stewards of their land. Registration includes 5 books and an optional in-person field trip.

- April 7 - June 9
- Online/Self-paced
- \$55/family
- [Syllabus](#)
- [Register online](#)
- [Register by mail](#)

Virginia Forestry Summit

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

An Urban Forestry Tour in the Star City of the South

On this tour of Roanoke (and a little of Salem), we will eat lunch at, and tour the grounds of the famous Fishburn Mansion, a 42-room Georgian-revival home built in 1907. We'll learn about using Missouri Gravel Beds to propagate trees, community gardens, and hear from the local tree Stewards.

Next, we'll travel over to Virginia Western Community College, a Bee Campus USA, and have a guided tour of their arboretum.

We'll end the afternoon at Sherwood Memorial Park in Salem where we'll learn about Virginia's Big Tree Program and see Virginia's Champion Atlas cedar. We'll also learn about efforts to protect urban ash trees from the emerald ash borer.

- May 9
- 12:30 - 4:30

- Roanoke
- [Tentative agenda](#)
- Registration opens Spring 2025

[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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