

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

Winter 2025 Volume 39, No. 1

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 2-3
 - 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 and Happy 2025 Forest Update Subscribers,

I hope everyone had a lovely holiday season! Ours was filled with friends and family. And I was even able to do some gardening, including organizing the greenhouse, planting lettuce and spinach seeds, and taking down 80 tomato cages.

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

Be aware that doing an online search for BOI or similar terms may take you to a fake website. I found one that asked for my credit card information and wanted to charge me \$295 to file. There is NO filing fee (unless you are working through your own financial advisor or attorney who may charge you a fee). If you filed online yourself, and paid a fee, you may be a victim of a scam. Please contact your credit card company immediately to report this. Your BOI filing may also not be complete (but again, that is not currently required).

Please feel free to reach out if you have questions.

In the meantime, the [Winter 2025 edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update](#) is now available.

- [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](#)

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In this edition:

Causes of Streambank Erosion and the Importance of Streamside Vegetation.

Streams are a common part of Virginia's landscape. Nearly as common are eroding streambanks (figure 1). Streams naturally meander across valley floodplains by eroding sediment from one bank and depositing it downstream on another bank. However, stream channel erosion rates may accelerate over natural conditions when water velocity increases. Water velocity accelerates when streams are straightened, when upstream development increases stormwater runoff, or when dense forested vegetation along the banks, downed trees in the channel, or large pieces of wood are removed. Additionally, livestock can degrade and trample streambanks. [Read more...](#)

You Ain't From Around Here! There're so Unusual: European Deer Keds (*Lipoptena cervi*).

On a Saturday in early November, my husband sent me a text from [Pandapas Pond](#), where he was leading a tree identification walk for the New River Valley Master Naturalists. It simply said "deer keds" with a link to this Penn State publication: <https://extension.psu.edu/deer-keds>. Apparently, the woods at Pandapas were alive with these insects, a type of biting fly neither of us knew anything about. With over one hundred years of outdoor experience between the two of us, this is a rare occurrence. So of course, I had to do some research. [Read more...](#)

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

- 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)
- [Squires Student Center, Virginia Tech](#), Southwest Virginia - Blacksburg
- [Daniel Technology Center, Germanna Community College](#), Northern Virginia - Culpeper
- Before January 15 - \$50/person; \$90/couple
- January 15 and later - \$55/person; \$100/couple
- [Conference agendas and mail in registration](#)
- 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 2-4
 - [Southwest Virginia 4H Education Center](#), Abingdon
- Southeast Virginia - Beyond the Basics: Advanced Woodland Owner Retreat
 - September 5-6
 - [New Kent Forestry Center](#), Providence Forge

Virginia Forestry Summit

- May 7-9
- [Hotel Roanoke](#), Roanoke
- 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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