

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

July 2025/Volume 39 No.3, Summer 2025

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- Fourth Fridays at 12:15
- July 25 – Managing Rock Outcrops for Wildlife
- Watch archived videos on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#)

Tree Farm Lunch Tours

Woodland Owner Retreats

Southeast Virginia Advanced Retreat

- September 5-6
- New Kent Forestry Center, Providence Forge
- Agenda & registration in July

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

Be social!



YouTube



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- [Virginia Department of Forestry](#)
- [Virginia Sustainable Forestry Initiative State Implementation Committee](#)

Good morning Forest Update Subscribers,

On Sunday, June 22, it was 92 degrees at our unairconditioned house. So, although the Little River was still silty from the previous week's rains, our options were float or sit at the house and sweat. We decided to float (our first of the year). And what a float it was!

On the catch vehicle drop off, two teeny-tiny spotted fawns frolicked next to the road. Once on the river, we followed at least 2 [bald eagles](#), saw a [great blue heron](#) and numerous [belted kingfishers](#) fly over, watched a young doe cross in front of our boats, and had a possible black bear sighting.

And the vegetation was not to be outdone. The [hophornbeams](#) were covered with fruit, and [American basswood](#) and [Jerusalem artichoke](#) were in full bloom.

Floating was definitely the right call!

I hope you are enjoying your summer as well!

To add to your enjoyment, the Summer 2025 edition of the [Virginia Forest Landowner Update Newsletter](#) is now available. In this edition:

[NRCS Virginia Golden-winged Warbler Initiative: A Working Lands for Wildlife Program](#)

How did you come to find yourself on your property? Was it handed down by a parent or family member? Did you stumble upon a great deal and take a chance? Were you searching, hunting for just the right spot to put down roots? Or did you relocate for love?

We might ask these same questions of the golden-winged warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), a chickadee-sized migratory songbird that spends its summers nesting in the Appalachian Mountains and upper Midwest into Canada. [Read more...](#)

- [Virginia Tree Farm Foundation](#)
- [Virginia Forestry Association](#)
- [Forest Stewardship Program](#)
- [USDA Forest Service](#)
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[You Ain't from Around Here! Nonnative Invasive of the Quarter: Trifoliate Orange \(*Poncirus trifoliata*\)](#)

Life is funny. I started writing this article a couple of weeks ago never having seen a trifoliate orange in person. Then, we had dinner at the home of some friends this past weekend and on a tour of their property they showed off their nicely planted, well-mulched, trifoliate orange. It was great timing as it gave me the opportunity to take photos for this article. [Read more...](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

Hope to see you in the woods this summer!

Jennifer

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

- July 25 – Salamander Habitat

Watch 100+ 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, 5:00 – 7:30 PM & August 16, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
 - [James Madison's Montpelier](#), Montpelier Station
 - Agenda available in July
 - \$90 for 2 people; \$10 each additional family member
 - 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

Field Skills for Family Woodland Owners Field Trip

This field trip will provide an opportunity to practice tree identification, tree measurements and valuation, and take a tour to see active forest management practices in action. Breakfast, lunch, refreshments, and transportation for the field tour are provided.

- August 2
- 9:30 – 3:30
- [Holiday Lake 4-H Center](#), Appomattox
- Free for current Online Woodland Options Students
 - Please email jgagnon@vt.edu to register
- \$25/person all others
 - Register [online](#)

Southeast Virginia Beyond the Basics: Advanced Woodland Owner Retreat – Focus on Forest Management 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
- [New Kent Forestry Center](#), Providence Forge
- Agenda and registration available mid-July

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.

- August 22 – Dick Porterfield, King & Queen County
- September 4 – Raccoon Creek Pinelands, Sussex County – 2025 Tree Farm of the Year!
- September 15 – Demeter Tree Farm, Bland County – 2024 Tree Farm of the Year!
- September 19 – C. Furnace Lutheran Camp, Shenandoah County
- September 26 – Sowder Tree Farm, Montgomery County
 - \$15/person includes lunch
 - [Agendas and register by mail](#)
 - Register [online](#)

Woods & Wildlife Conference

Join the first-ever south-central Virginia/north-central North Carolina landowner Woods & Wildlife Conference. Modeled after the ever-popular Woods & Wildlife

Conferences in Culpeper and southwest Virginia, this one-day event will consist of concurrent sessions and a tour of the nearby Roseburg Forest Products mill.

- September 20
- [Northampton County Cultural Center](#), Jackson, NC
- \$30/person includes mill tour and lunch
- Registration opens late July

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 17, Frederick County
- October TBA, Virginia Beach
- Agendas and registration available in 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 August

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

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