

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

June 2025

Featured Events

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- Fourth Fridays at 12:15
- June 27 - Before the Storm
- 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 June

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

Be social!



YouTube



VFLEP Partners & Sponsors

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

Good morning Forest Update Subscribers,

Thankfully most, if not all of us, have gotten some (or more than some) rain. This has helped a bit with allergies. In addition, the rain has resulted in mushrooms popping up everywhere on our farm.

There is an old oak stump along the road I use to walk the dogs to the river. Last year I was thrilled to find my favorite mushroom, a large chicken of the woods, growing on it. This year, I was even more thrilled to find 3 growing on it.

Now, I am overly cautious when it comes to foraging for wild mushrooms. But I feel comfortable eating chicken of the woods because they are quite distinctive and don't have any close look-alikes.

There are seven different species of chicken of the woods (*Laetiporus* spp.) in North America. Four are found east of the Rockies. They all have shelf-like growth and all but one are bright orange. These mushrooms are both saprobic (living on dead wood), and parasitic (attacking live hosts).

Chicken of the woods has a texture and flavor similar to chicken and can be used as a meat substitute. Like tofu, it absorbs flavors wonderfully. My husband sautés it with an obscene amount of butter. And, as you might expect, it tastes delicious. I just tell myself that the benefits (antioxidants among others) outweigh the butter.

If you haven't eaten a chicken of the woods, I highly recommend it. But of course, be sure you have a correct identification before you toss a wild mushroom in your stir fry!

You can learn more about chicken of the woods and other mushrooms from the [New River Valley Mushroom Club](#), [Blue Ridge Mycological Society](#), [iNaturalist](#), and [Virginia Master Naturalists](#).

- [USDA Forest Service](#)
- [Contact](#)
Jennifer Gagnon
228 Cheatham Hall 0324
Blacksburg, VA 24061
jgagnon@vt.edu
540/231-6391

Happy foraging and I look forward to seeing you in-person this year!

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

- June 27 – Before the Storm
- July 25 – To be announced

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.

- Deep Dive: The Family Factor
 - June 4
 - 6:30 – 8:30 PM
 - Webinar
 - \$10/family – includes a print copy of [Legacy Planning: A Guide for Virginia Landowners](#)
 - Register [online](#)
- Legacy Planning Workshop
 - August 15 & 16
 - Orange County
 - Agenda and registration available in June

[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 – 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
- Registration starts in 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

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

Agendas and registration available in August.

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

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, sex (including pregnancy), gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.

This e-newsletter is posted on-line at:

<https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu/newsletter/archives/index.html>

You received this message because you are subscribed to the forestupdate-g@vt.edu Google Group.

To subscribe, please visit: <https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu/newsletter/signup/index.html>

To unsubscribe from this group, email forestupdate-g+unsubscribe@vt.edu